

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Playing Pitch Strategy

Final Report

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INTRODUCTION

This Playing Pitch Strategy forecasts the future needs for pitch sports up to 2031, and takes into account the housing requirements identified in the emerging Local Plan. It also considers the current and future provision needs of outdoor tennis and outdoor bowls.

The Playing Pitch Strategy follows the Sport England methodology set out in their Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance 2013. Its production has involved the local clubs and leagues, Sport England, the Football Association at both regional and county level (Leicestershire and Rutland County FA), the England and Wales Cricket Board, Leicestershire County Cricket Community team, the Rugby Football Union, England Hockey, Rounders England, and Harborough District Council.

The assessment methodology for outdoor tennis and outdoor bowls follows the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG), including consultation with the local clubs and national governing bodies, as well as Harborough District Council.

A key driver for the production of this document is to deliver an evidence base which can support the development of planning policy for the emerging Harborough Local Plan. The strategy will help the council and its partners to:

- Understand provision needs now and in the future.
- Determine planning applications.
- Ensure that the management and maintenance of sports facilities is appropriate and sustainable.
- Prioritise local authority capital and revenue investment, including S106 and any future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- Prioritise and support bids for external funding to assist in the delivery of sporting infrastructure.
- Identify the role of the education sector in supporting the delivery of community sporting facilities.
- Contribute to the aims and objectives of improving health and well-being, and increasing participation in sport.

Achieving this will guarantee the effective delivery of sport and leisure services across the district and ensure that a network of sports facilities is in place to cater for the current and future population.

The Playing Pitch Strategy part of this report primarily considers the needs of football, cricket, rugby and hockey as rounders is only a relatively small sport in the area. There are no rugby league clubs in the area and no other significant pitch sports which need to be included.

SECTION 1: A PITCH STRATEGY FOR HARBOROUGH

- 1.1 The Playing Pitch Strategy specifically considers the impact of the proposed housing contained within the emerging Local Plan. The forecast populations have been developed from bespoke modelling work undertaken for the strategy, and take into account both the proposed housing and what is likely to happen to the existing population.
- 1.2 Sub areas have been specifically designed and agreed for this strategy as there is no simple fit with any of the other sub areas being used by the district council. The sub areas also needed to reflect the practical experiences of the sports across the district to take account of:
- the distance and travel time to sports sites.
 - the need to assess the supply and demand relating to the anticipated housing growth in each area of the district.
- 1.3 The sub areas have been agreed with the national governing bodies, with the district council, and with Sport England.

The protection of playing pitches

- 1.4 All of the playing field sites, tennis courts and bowls greens in the district are required to be protected in accordance with paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy (Communities and Local Government, 2012) which states:

“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”.
- 1.5 The Strategy has the following key objectives.

Objective 1 - To protect the existing supply of playing pitch facilities, outdoor tennis courts and bowls greens, where it is needed for meeting current or future needs.

Objective 2 - Secure tenure and access to sites for clubs through a range of solutions and partnership agreements and maximise community use of education sites where there is demand.

- 1.6 The Playing Pitch Strategy shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of

shortfalls now or in the future. Where there are lapsed, disused, underused, or poor quality sites, these should also be protected from development or replaced. The Local Plan should therefore specifically protect playing fields across the district.

- 1.7 A number of pitch sites are being used in Harborough but do not have security of use, particularly the school's sites as there are no formal joint use agreements. A priority for these sites is to ensure that the long term security of community use is achieved, both for the pitches and changing provision. In some circumstances, the national governing bodies may be able to help to negotiate and engage with the site owner or manager. In relation to school sites, Sport England has produced guidance (Use Our School), online resources and toolkits to support negotiations (Sport England , 2017).

Financial sustainability and sports development

- 1.8 In order to achieve financial sustainability, local sports clubs will need to be supported by partners including the Council, national governing bodies and the County Sports Partnership across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working for example with volunteer support agencies and local businesses. As part of club development there will be a need to encourage clubs to develop sound business as well as sports development plans. Most clubs would also benefit from considering management models, including registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) or as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). There are benefits of both routes, and individual clubs would need to decide their best option. The national governing bodies have some tailored guidance, such as that produced by the RFU (RFU, undated). Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally, whether volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.
- 1.9 Some clubs who currently hire their facilities may also be able to consider, should the opportunity arise, becoming more responsible for their facilities. Should asset transfer options be considered, any club must have a full business plan to ensure the proposal is financially sound, in the short, medium and long term.
- 1.10 On-going sports development is therefore an essential requirement for the delivery of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), in addition to the facility elements.

Methodology

- 1.11 There are six main sections to the strategy, one for each of the main pitch sports: football, cricket, rugby and hockey, plus outdoor tennis and outdoor bowls. The methodology for the assessment of the pitch sports follows the requirements of the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance from 2013 (Sport England, 2013), see Figure 1.

Figure 1: Sport England approach to developing a playing pitch strategy



- 1.12 All of the clubs involved in pitch sports, tennis and outdoor bowls were consulted using web based surveys, supplemented as necessary with email and hard copy survey forms. The NGBs were active in supporting and encouraging clubs to respond to the survey requests.
- 1.13 Nortoft visited and assessed each site using the non-technical pitch survey templates contained in the Sport England guidance in 2015 and early 2016 for the pitches, both grass and artificial turf. These non-technical assessments have been checked against both the comments received from the clubs and national governing bodies as part of the PPS process, and updated as necessary to reflect any changes. The national governing body for each sport signed off the pitch information at Stage B of the strategy process.

- 1.14 The site quality assessments for bowls and tennis courts were against templates agreed by the Lawn Tennis Association and the national bowls governing bodies, as appropriate.
- 1.15 The clubs and teams information is for the winter 2016/17 for football, rugby and hockey, and for summer 2016 for cricket. The clubs' information for tennis and bowls is for summer 2017. The clubs, teams and sites lists have also been agreed with each of the national governing bodies as part of Stage B.

Scope of the brief

The sports

- 1.16 The Playing Pitch Strategy considers the sports of football, cricket, rugby union, hockey and rounders, plus outdoor tennis and outdoor bowls. There are no other community pitch sports in Harborough district which require specific consideration.

Sites used by the community

- 1.17 The agreed brief for the project was to primarily focus on those sites with community use. Sites which do not currently allow, and are not interested in encouraging community use are therefore excluded from the audit and assessment. These include some independent schools, most primary schools, and prisons. Should these playing field sites become available in the future, then they should be assessed for quality, quantity and accessibility (along with any ancillary facilities) at that time. An assessment should then be made as to whether, or how far, they can meet the current or assessed future needs of the local area.

Cross boundary movement

- 1.18 Harborough district has some cross-border movement of players in each of the pitch sports with the most obvious being around Leicester. Each of the sports specific sections consider the impact of this cross-boundary movement in the different sub areas of the district.

Pricing policies

- 1.19 The issue of hire costs of pitches and ancillary facilities has not emerged in the strategy process as a key issue for most of the pitches. The only time this has been specifically raised is in relation to the hire charge by Welland Park Academy for hockey use.

Playing fields on education sites

- 1.20 Playing fields are an important facility across education at; primary, secondary and many special schools. They are protected by the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework, as are community playing fields.

- 1.21 Every school in the district was contacted and asked about the pitch provision they have, whether they are available for community use, and if so, if they are used. The results of the consultation are given in Appendix 7 and integrated into the relevant assessment sections of this report.
- 1.22 Although only some primary schools responded to the survey, there are no primary schools which are regularly used by the community for pitch sports. These sites have not been included within the Site by Site Summary table, Figure 69, Section 13.

Dormant secure community use sites

- 1.23 There are a small number of sites which used to be marked out for pitch sports which are now unused. These sites are included within the site by site list but not within the assessment except in relation to their ability or otherwise to meet the forecast long term needs of the community.

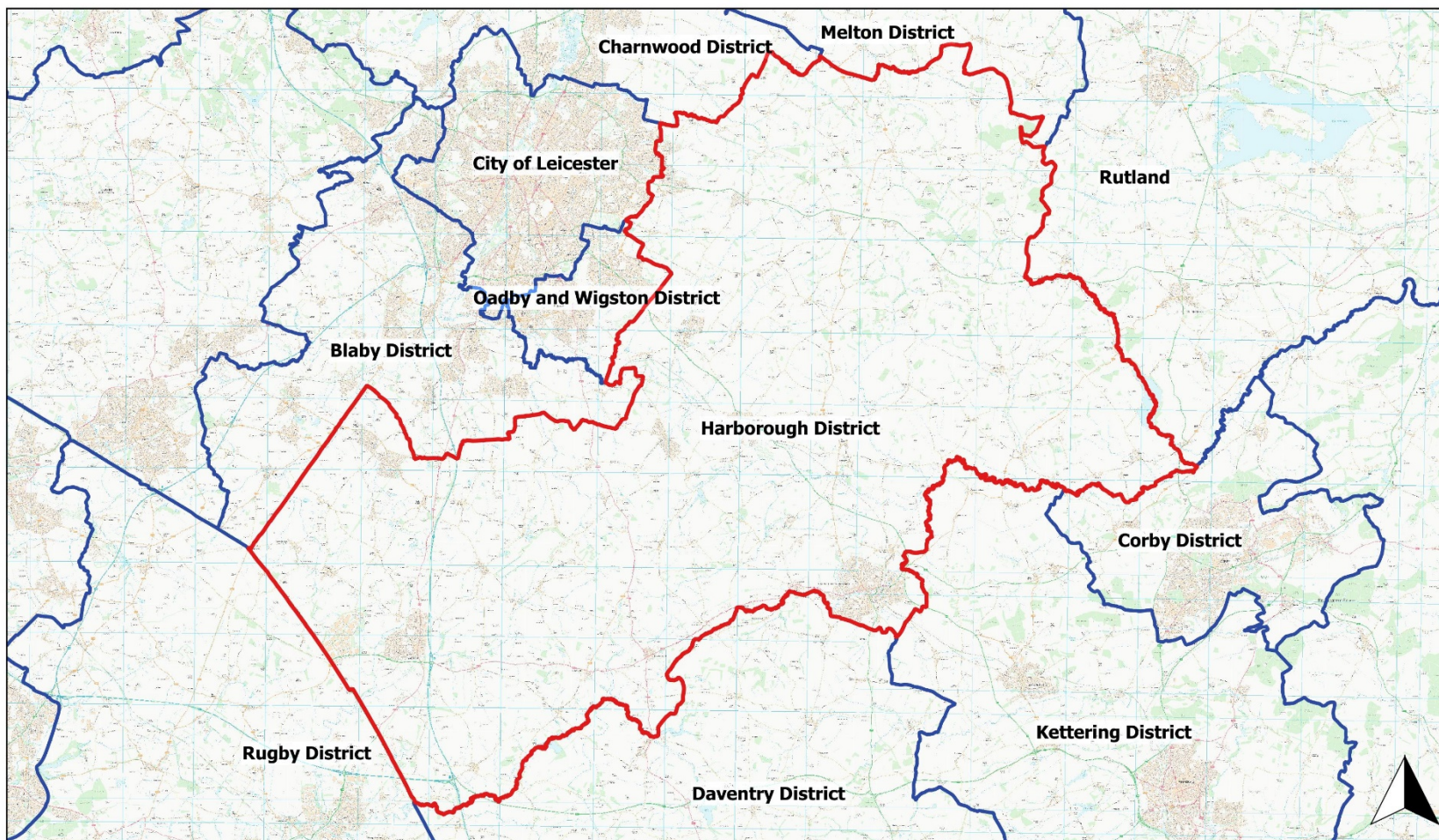
SECTION 2: PROFILE OF HARBOROUGH

- 2.1 This section of the strategy provides a profile of the district, with more detail provided in Appendix 1.

Introduction to the district

- 2.2 Harborough District covers an area of 238 square miles of rural south and east Leicestershire, a map of the district is provided at Figure 2.
- 2.3 The district's central location means that it has good access to regional and national transport links. The M1 passes through the district in the west whilst the M6/A14 is located to the south. Other main routes include the A6, A47 and A508 which between them provide links to Leicester, Northampton, Kettering and Corby.
- 2.4 The district's population is split between the two market towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth, the large villages of Broughton Astley, Great Glen, Kibworth and Fleckney, and Bushby, Thurnby and Scraftoft which are part of Leicester's Principal Urban Area. Just under a third of the district's population live in the smaller rural settlements, 71 of which have a population of less than 500 people.
- 2.5 Overall the district is one of the least deprived areas in England and the least deprived district in Leicestershire. However, Central Market Harborough has been identified as a neighbourhood which suffers multiple deprivations. There are also significant barriers to housing and services in the more rural parts of the district, which have very limited public transport. Car ownership levels are high, with almost half of households having more than one car.
- 2.6 People in Harborough are generally healthier than Leicestershire averages, and significantly better than national averages. They are also more active, confirmed by every Active People Survey undertaken by Sport England between 2005 and 2016.
- 2.7 In Harborough district, the majority of residents are middle-aged, economically active, and relatively affluent. They are mainly attracted to sports such as swimming, cycling and gym, but also play football and tennis. There are however a relatively high number of older residents, particularly in the rural areas, some of which play bowls.
- 2.8 A fuller explanation of the market segmentation findings is given in Appendix 1, along with more details about how the levels of activity in Harborough compared to the national and regional averages and benchmark authorities.

Figure 2: Map of Harborough with its surrounding districts



 **Harborough Playing Pitch Strategy**
Harborough and surrounding authorities

 Harborough district boundary
 Surrounding authority boundary

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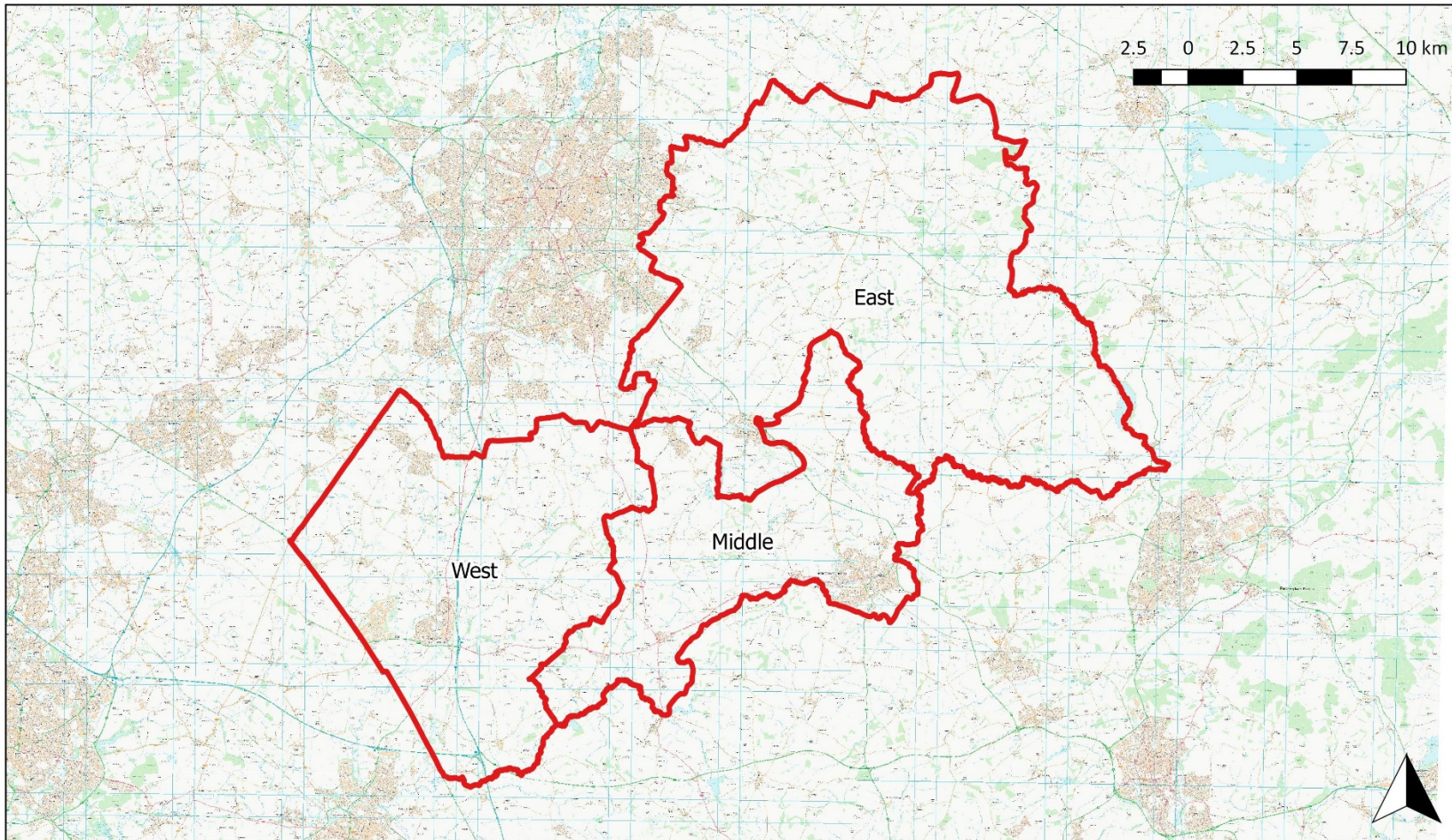
Strategy sub areas

2.9 The sub areas used in this playing pitch strategy recognise that there is no simple fit to any other sub areas being used by the District Council, and the new sub areas also needed to reflect the practical experiences of sports participants across the district. There is also a need to reflect the characteristics of the district, with the two market towns with their sports provision, the influence of the Leicester fringe, and the strategic development areas in the district.

2.10 The agreed strategy sub areas are mapped in Figure 3. In summary these are:

- West sub area: Lutterworth, Broughton Astley and surrounds
- Middle sub area: Market Harborough and surrounds
- East sub area: Kibworth, edge of Leicester and surrounds

Figure 3: Strategy sub areas



Harborough Playing Pitch Strategy

Proposed MSOA based Sub Areas

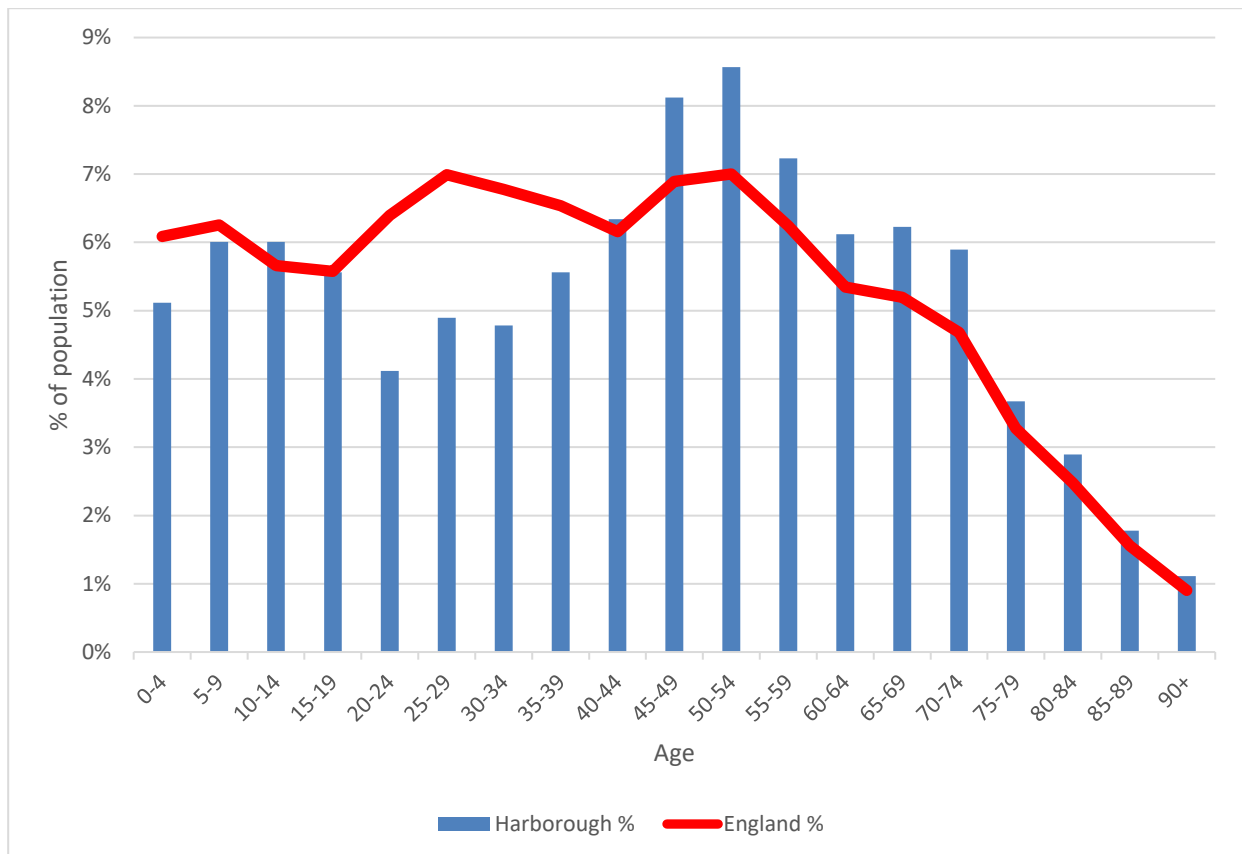
 Harborough MSOAs based Sub Areas

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Current population

2.11 The population of Harborough in 2017 is estimated by ONS to be around 89,900. The current population structure shows a much higher percentage of those aged 45-74 years than the national average, whilst there are much lower numbers of people aged 20-39 years, and in those aged 0-4 years, see (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Harborough current population structure compared to England
(Source: ONS)



Population forecasts

2.12 The ONS population forecasts for Harborough include some housing growth, but not the amount being proposed in the emerging Local Plan, which is due to reach its pre-submission stage in September 2017. It has therefore been necessary to develop a bespoke population methodology to underpin this playing pitch strategy, the steps of which and outcomes have been agreed by Harborough District Council.

2.13 The starting point for these future population estimates are the current ONS estimates for each of the Middle Super Output Areas for 2014 combined into the sub areas. The balance in the population across the district by sub area, based on the MSOA estimates in 2014 were:

- Middle sub area: Market Harborough and surrounds – 40.79%

- West sub area: Lutterworth, Broughton Astley and surrounds – 31.83%
- East sub area: Kibworth, edge of Leicester and surrounds – 27.38%

2.14 Harborough District Council has advised that the housing in the following proposed strategic development areas (SDA) and housing allocations from the draft housing trajectory of May 2017 should be added to the ONS population forecasts, with the number of houses completed by each milestone date of 2021, 2026 and 2031 being:

- Middle

North West Market Harborough SDA			Overstone Park			East of Blackberry Grange			Arnesby Rd and Fleckney			Burnmill Farm		
2021	2026	2031	2021	2026	2031	2021	2026	2031	2021	2026	2031	2021	2026	2031
329	600	571	62	335	201	0	14	335	0	181	117	0	90	0

- West

East of Lutterworth SDA		
2021	2026	2031
0	412	1088

- East

Scraptoft North SDA		
2021	2026	2031
0	524	676

2.15 The modelling for the above sites uses a housing multiplier of 2.3, with a population structure reflecting a typical sustainable urban extension, as tested in Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes. The SDA sites are consequently expected to have a much higher proportion of young families, and very few older people.

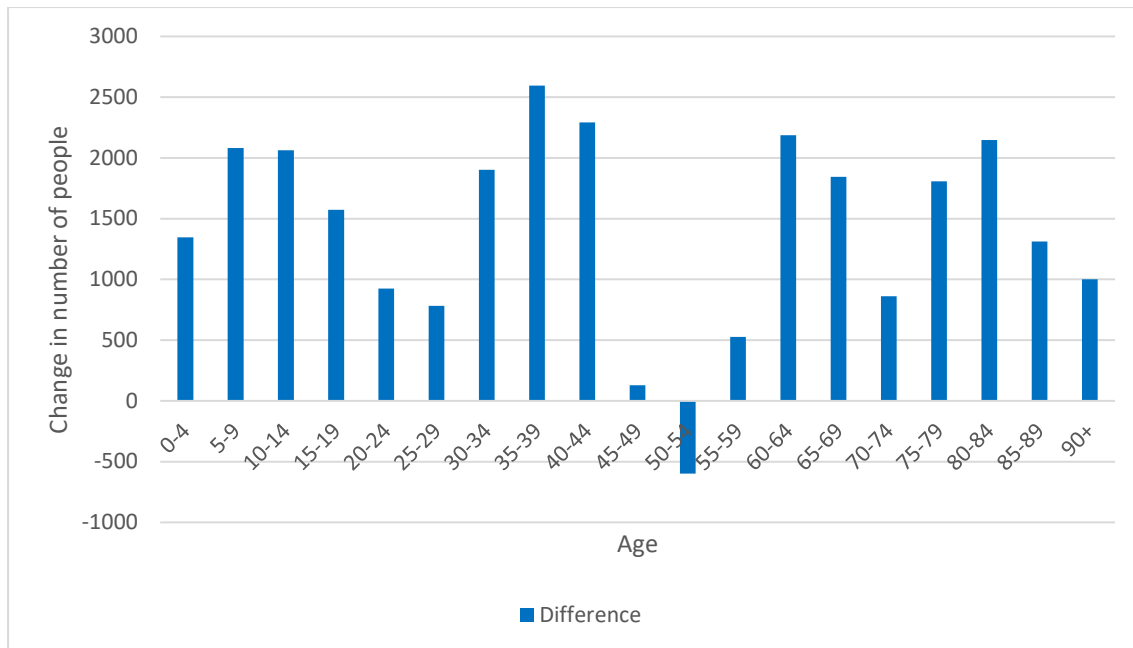
2.16 With the inclusion of the new growth from the strategic housing areas, the population of the authority as a whole is expected to rise to around 116,673 by 2031, with about 44% in the Middle sub area, 30% in the West, and 26% in the East. The summary of the district wide population and sub area populations for 2017, 2021, 2026 and 2031 is provided in Figure 5. These forecasts underpin the estimated future demand for each of the sports during the period up to 2031.

Figure 5: Harborough population up to 2031

		Populations at 2017, 2021, 2026, 2031															
		2017				2021				2026				2031			
		Middle	West	East	District	Middle	West	East	District	Middle	West	East	District	Middle	West	East	District
Males	0-4	979	764	657	2400	1028	764	657	2449	1221	847	750	2817	1373	931	769	3073
	5-9	1142	891	767	2800	1185	891	767	2843	1409	969	852	3230	1778	1142	971	3891
	10-14	1142	891	767	2800	1262	955	821	3038	1425	995	873	3293	1769	1139	973	3882
	15-19	1061	828	712	2600	1090	828	712	2629	1301	922	806	3028	1555	1013	868	3436
	20-24	816	637	548	2000	754	573	493	1820	845	594	519	1959	1118	723	621	2462
	25-29	938	732	630	2300	975	732	630	2337	1028	707	624	2360	1234	792	665	2691
	30-34	857	668	575	2100	1029	764	657	2450	1264	849	752	2865	1475	911	766	3151
	35-39	979	764	657	2400	1028	764	657	2449	1396	943	833	3173	1786	1114	947	3847
	40-44	1101	859	739	2700	1142	859	739	2740	1357	934	821	3112	1811	1151	985	3946
	45-49	1468	1146	986	3600	1290	987	849	3126	1329	950	828	3108	1625	1069	920	3614
	50-54	1550	1210	1040	3800	1530	1178	1013	3721	1416	1040	904	3360	1560	1071	919	3551
	55-59	1346	1050	904	3300	1477	1146	986	3609	1525	1155	997	3678	1479	1065	919	3463
	60-64	1101	859	739	2700	1274	987	849	3110	1477	1124	971	3573	1596	1182	1014	3793
	65-69	1142	891	767	2800	1106	859	739	2704	1292	991	854	3137	1507	1136	979	3622
	70-74	1061	828	712	2600	1146	891	767	2804	1080	831	717	2628	1278	970	833	3081
	75-79	653	509	438	1600	899	700	602	2202	1073	830	715	2618	1014	774	666	2453
	80-84	489	382	329	1200	531	414	356	1301	779	605	521	1906	914	704	606	2224
	85-89	245	191	164	600	286	223	192	700	368	286	246	901	535	414	357	1306
	90+	122	95	82	300	163	127	110	400	204	159	137	500	286	223	192	701
		Total	18192	14196	12211	44600	19194	14642	12595	46431	21789	15733	13721	51244	25694	17523	14970
Females	0-4	897	700	602	2200	987	732	630	2349	1139	783	695	2617	1291	868	714	2873
	5-9	1061	828	712	2600	1063	796	685	2543	1287	873	770	2930	1655	1046	889	3591
	10-14	1061	828	712	2600	1180	891	767	2838	1303	900	791	2993	1647	1044	891	3582
	15-19	979	764	657	2400	967	732	630	2329	1178	826	724	2728	1432	917	786	3136
	20-24	693	541	465	1700	672	509	438	1620	723	498	437	1659	996	627	539	2162
	25-29	857	668	575	2100	893	668	575	2137	987	675	597	2260	1153	728	610	2491
	30-34	897	700	602	2200	1029	764	657	2450	1223	817	725	2765	1434	879	739	3051
	35-39	1061	828	712	2600	1151	859	739	2749	1437	975	860	3273	1745	1082	920	3747
	40-44	1224	955	821	3000	1223	923	794	2940	1439	997	875	3312	1852	1183	1012	4046
	45-49	1509	1178	1013	3700	1331	1019	876	3226	1411	1014	883	3308	1707	1132	975	3814
	50-54	1591	1241	1068	3900	1571	1210	1040	3821	1457	1072	931	3460	1560	1071	919	3551
	55-59	1305	1019	876	3200	1518	1178	1013	3709	1607	1219	1052	3878	1520	1096	946	3563
	60-64	1142	891	767	2800	1233	955	821	3010	1558	1188	1026	3773	1637	1214	1042	3893
	65-69	1142	891	767	2800	1106	859	739	2704	1251	959	827	3037	1589	1200	1034	3822
	70-74	1101	859	739	2700	1227	955	821	3004	1121	863	744	2728	1278	970	833	3081
	75-79	693	541	465	1700	899	700	602	2202	1155	893	769	2818	1095	837	721	2653
	80-84	571	446	383	1400	653	509	438	1601	820	637	548	2006	1036	799	688	2524
	85-89	408	318	274	1000	449	350	301	1100	531	414	356	1301	657	510	439	1606
	90+	286	223	192	700	326	255	219	800	408	318	274	1000	531	414	356	1301
		Total	18478	14419	12403	45300	19480	14865	12786	47131	22034	15924	13885	51844	25816	17618	15052
	Total	36670	28615	24615	89900	38674	29506	25381	93562	43824	31657	27606	103087	51510	35141	30021	116673

2.17 Across the district as a whole and across each of the sub areas there is expected to be an increase in the number of people in every age group except for those aged 50-54 years. Figure 6 illustrates this growth.

Figure 6: District wide population change 2017-2031



2.18 This population change suggests that the limited growth, with its aging population expected to occur in the more rural areas of the district, is more than balanced out by the planned housing growth in the proposed SDAs and housing allocations.

2.19 The strategy therefore needs to consider if there is justification for additional sports facilities or playing pitches, as well as priorities for investment on existing sites. Within the proposed SDAs and housing allocations there is also a need to consider both the capacity and accessibility of the existing and potential sports facilities and pitches. This will help to determine what provision needs to be on site, and what off-site contributions should be expected of the developers.

2.20 Where new provision is required on site, it will be essential that sufficient and suitable land and facilities are provided in accordance with the Council’s policy and supplementary planning guidance requirements.

SECTION 3: THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

3.1 The overall approach towards the playing pitch strategy has started with the underlying characteristics of Harborough District and its anticipated growth up to 2031. The next step has been to consider the existing policies and drivers, including those from Government and objectives for sustainable development and improved health and well-being, and their local interpretation such as via the emerging Local Plan and neighbourhood plans, as well as other local relevant strategies. This section summarises the key documents and further details of each are given in Appendix 2.

National planning policies

3.2 These planning policies provide the overall structure for planning policy which is then developed further within the local context.

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

3.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Communities and Local Government, 2012) sets out the Government's national planning policies for new development. They aim to create the homes and jobs that the country needs while protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment. The NPPF requires local assessments to be made of sport, recreation and open space, and key policies for both provision and protection of facilities and spaces, and key paragraphs include:

- Paragraph 70: positive planning for the provision and use of shared space including community facilities and sports venues to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.
- Paragraph 73: justification of provision needs to be set out within up to date assessments.
- Paragraph 74: the protection of existing open space, sports and recreational buildings including playing fields, with specific policy exceptions.
- Paragraph 156: setting the strategic priorities for “the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities”.
- Paragraph 178: the duty for authorities to co-operate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, including sport and recreation.

National Planning Practice Guidance

3.4 National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) is a suite of guidance information which is regularly updated, added to and amended. This information is designed to support the interpretation of the NPPF policies. Topics include Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities, Health and Wellbeing, and the Natural Environment amongst others.

National framework for sport and physical activity

- 3.5 The national sports strategy from the Government and the responding Sport England national strategy provides high level justification for the emerging recommendations and the identification of priorities within each of the strategies. A major theme across all of the national guidance is the objective of getting more people more active, and encouraging an active lifestyle from the earliest ages, in a large part to improve the health and wellbeing of the communities.

H M Government Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation

- 3.6 This wide-ranging detailed strategy (Dept. for Culture, Media & Sport, 2015) was launched in December 2015 with the aim to change the way in which sport is considered, from simply how many people take part, to what people get out of participating and what more can be done to encourage everyone to have a physically active lifestyle.
- 3.7 The funding decisions of the Government are now being made on the basis of the social good that sport and physical activity can deliver, not simply the number of participants.

Sport England: towards an active nation, strategy 2016-2021

- 3.8 Sport England launched its latest five-year national strategy in 2016 (Sport England, 2016). It responds to the Government's Sporting Future strategy, and as such has a stronger focus on reaching those who are least active, and helping to deliver the wider Government's strategy's outcomes.

Local planning policies

- 3.9 The local planning policies identify the location and extent of the housing growth across Harborough along with other overarching policies, such as transport and provision of employment land. The area specific plans and policies provide detailed information about very local issues and proposals.

Core Strategy (2006 -2028)

- 3.10 The Core Strategy (CS) (Harborough District Council, 2017) was adopted in November 2011 and sets out the long-term vision and objectives for Harborough up to 2031. The key policies of relevance to this strategy are:
- Policy CS1: the overall spatial strategy for the district, seeking to retain the unique rural character whilst ensuring that the needs of the community are met through sustainable growth and access to services. This also envisaged the development of at least 7,700 dwellings between 2008 and 2028.

- Policy CS8: includes the protection of existing open spaces and sport and recreation facilities of value; allowing re-location of poorly located spaces and facilities; requiring new provision where justified associated with new developments.

3.11 The masterplan for the North West Market Harborough SDA identifies a village green/recreation ground in the centre of the site. This is due to be delivered in Phase 1. The area is approximately 6.6 ha and has the capacity to provide several pitches including a cricket pitch. A community hall is also required.

Harborough New Local Plan (Under Preparation)

3.12 The pre-submission version is expected to be published in September 2017, leading to adoption in October 2018. The new proposed strategic development areas (SDAs) and housing allocations, proposed in the Local Plan pre-submission report, have been included within the assessment of future need in this strategy, along with the assessment of the housing already committed or allocated.

3.13 These policies have been considered within the assessment of the strategies, and in the emerging recommendations, and the details are given in para 2.14.

Planning Obligations Developer Guidance Note (2016)

3.14 The Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (Harborough District Council, 2017) was adopted September 2016 and published January 2017. It sets out the range of infrastructure, services and facilities that the Council will normally seek to secure via planning obligations in relation to development proposals within the district.

3.15 Playing pitches are covered under “Outdoor sport facilities”.

3.16 There are two supporting documents associated with this SPD:

- Provision for Open Space, Sport and Recreation 2015 which provides details of the arrangements for assessing contributions to open space; and
- Assessment of Local Community Provision and Developer Contributions (October 2010) which provides additional evidence to support the case for developer contributions to local indoor community and sports facilities.

3.17 The SPD states that proposed development will be assessed against the existing levels of provision within the accessibility thresholds contained in the document ‘Provision for Open Space Sport and Recreation, 2015’ in order to determine the need for additional provision.

3.18 The document ‘Provision for Open Space Sport and Recreation, 2015’ provides information on local standards for open space provision following an assessment of recreational provision in accordance with the provisions of the NPPF. It contains an approach to determining the level of contributions towards open space, sport and

recreation facilities that will be sought from developers applying for new residential development where needed to make development acceptable. The level of contributions will be periodically reviewed to ensure that they are accurate and will be calculated for each development from a detailed assessment of the range of existing open space in the area. This will give confidence to developers that they are not being asked to contribute towards open space typologies where there is an existing oversupply.

- 3.19 The SPD notes that a playing pitch strategy is to be prepared in 2016/17 to also inform future requirements (this strategy).

Community Infrastructure Levy

- 3.20 Progress on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is currently on hold whilst national policy is clarified. The implications on this for the playing pitch strategy are that development contributions will be sought through planning conditions including S106.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 3.21 The following Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted ('made up') or are close to being so. The key relevant priorities from these plans are summarised below, and more detail for all neighbourhood plans is provided in Appendix 2.

Broughton Astley (Made)

- 3.22 The plan (Broughton Astley Parish Council, 2015) identifies a lack of sports facilities and particularly opportunities for young people. There are therefore proposals for the provision of additional facilities, and ideally the provision of a new leisure centre of similar size to the Harborough and Lutterworth leisure centres. Site 1B is the preferred site location for this new provision, land adjacent to the Thomas Estley Community College, with the new provision being run as a joint use facility. This would include an AGP, though the size and surface is not specified. The Parish Council will also seek to purchase additional land in order to increase the number of formal sports pitches and changing rooms to meet the needs of local clubs and groups. Developers' contributions will be sought towards this new provision.
- 3.23 Other new pitch provision expected as part of the provision includes 2 adult size football pitches with parking, changing and storage.
- 3.24 The Site 1 Leisure Centre is proposed to be delivered in the period up to 2029, and the Recreational Facilities this site by 2022. Recreational space on Site 2 is expected to be delivered by 2017.

Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan (Made)

- 3.25 A lack of a formal playing field for general community use was identified as a key need for the village (Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Group, 2014). The preferred site for this would be located close to The Coplow Centre, which has a thriving cricket club.

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan (Made)

- 3.26 There are no specific new provision policies in this plan, but there is a policy to protect the existing facilities (Foxton Parish Council, 2016).

Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan (Made)

- 3.27 There is a general policy for the improvement, remodelling or enhancement of sports and recreation provision (Scraptoft Parish Council, 2015).

Hungarton Neighbourhood Plan (Made)

- 3.28 The plan notes that the existing multi-use games area which is marked out for tennis is well used. Existing sport and recreational facilities are protected (Hungarton Parish Council, 2017).

Great Easton (Made)

- 3.29 There are no specific policies relating to the provision of new playing fields. Existing sport and recreational facilities are protected (Great Easton Parish Council, 2017).

Great Glen (Made)

- 3.30 There are no specific policies relating to the provision of new playing fields. Existing sport and recreational facilities are protected however and developer contributions towards improvements at existing facilities are requested (Great Glen Parish Council, 2017).

The Kibworths (Made)

- 3.31 Protection and enhancement of existing facilities are identified in the plan policies, namely CSA4 and CSA6 (Kibworth Neighbourhood Planning Group, 2017).

Lubenham (Made)

- 3.32 There are no specific policies relating to the provision of new playing fields. Existing sport and recreational facilities are protected (Lubenham Parish Council, 2017).

North Kilworth (Made)

- 3.33 Policies NK2, NK10 and NK12 of the neighbourhood plan support the provision of new or improved community facilities and open spaces. Existing sites (including playing fields) are protected (North Kilworth Parish Council, 2017).

Neighbourhood Plans at Examination stage

- 3.34 There are three other neighbourhood plans at examination stage: East Langton, Great Bowden and Houghton on the Hill.

SECTION 4: ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES

- 4.1 Artificial grass pitches (AGPs) are becoming an increasingly important element of pitch sport provision and although each sport has its own preferred surface, there are significant levels of cross-over between the sports and the surfaces that they use, particularly where there is only a limited availability of 3G football turf pitches. For this reason, this section of the strategy provides an overview of artificial grass pitch provision across the authority, with more detailed consideration being given to these types of pitches within the individual sports sections of the report.
- 4.2 AGPs have the advantage of being able to be used much more intensively than grass pitches but also their use can mean that: the quality of the grass pitch stock can be relatively improved as there is less overall use, particularly for training; the pitches can be used for several different age groups; less physical space is required than would be needed for grass pitches; and the sports are able to attract and retain new players with the “cleaner” environment compared to grass. AGP surfaces are used by all of the pitch sports, but each sport has its preferred surface, and the use by cricket is limited to artificial turf strips, usually forming a small part of a cricket square with the remainder being natural turf.
- 4.3 AGPs are considered within each of the sports specific sections of this strategy, but it is useful at this point to provide an overview of AGPs and their use, which can be almost unlimited across a week, so long as the surface is effectively managed and repairs undertaken when necessary. The carpet of AGP pitches needs to be replaced around every 8-10 years, but this in part will depend on the amount of use and the maintenance regime in place.
- 4.4 Of the pitch sports, the most notable change in the technical requirements over recent years is for hockey, as all community club hockey is now played on AGPs and this must be on an AGP which meets the specifications laid down by England Hockey or the international governing body (FIH). At the other end of the spectrum is cricket, where most match play is still mainly on grass strips, but an AGP strip (or NTP, non turf pitch for cricket) can significantly increase a club’s ability to host matches, particularly for the younger age groups. However league matches for cricket often require natural grass, so the potential value of artificial surfaces for cricket is limited.
- 4.5 Football as a sport is increasingly using AGPs for both training and matches, and the Football Association (FA) is seeking to develop sufficient AGPs with a football turf surface to enable every football team to have the opportunity to train on an AGP at least once a week. An increasing number of mini and junior matches are also being played on these types of pitches, as they are used as a “central venue”, but all age groups can play matches on AGPs where these meet the technical requirements of the FA.
- 4.6 The RFU strategy for investment into 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and

education sites. The RFU is currently assessing eligibility and viability of sites for a full size rugby specification pitch, but this is likely to be outside of the district.

- 4.7 AGPs are often considered good revenue generators so they can be an important source of income for schools, clubs and leisure centres. However all too often insufficient money is set aside to re-carpet the pitch at the end of its lifespan so issues arise in terms of maintaining and retaining the facility, particularly in areas where demand for AGPs is largely already satisfied and there is limited “latent” demand for AGP space. As the community market for AGPs is not inexhaustible, all proposals for AGPs should have a rigorous business plan to demonstrate their viability in the longer term if they are dependent on revenue from the community.

AGP design and activities for hockey, football and rugby

- 4.8 There are three main types of AGPs: sand based/sand filled; 3G; and water based. Although there can be some limited training use of the non-preferred pitch types by other sports, all matches are expected to take place on the relevant pitch type.

Hockey surfaces

- 4.9 The minimum pitch size for club hockey including runoff is 101.4 x 63m, with the basic pitch size being 91.4 x 55m. England Hockey’s Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (England Hockey , 2016) provides an overview of the surface type and the recommended playing level for the surface, see Figure 7.

Figure 7: England Hockey policy on surface types

Category	Surface	Playing Level	Playing Level
England Hockey Category 1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	Essential International Hockey - Training and matches.	Desirable Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards
England Hockey Category 2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	Desirable All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)

England Hockey Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential All adult and junior club training and league Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools** Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	Desirable
England Hockey Category 4	All long pile (3G) surfaces	Essential None	Desirable Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available. *

* EH recommends an appropriate ball to meet the standards of the player and the surface

** EH school competition provision is likely to change in September 2017 when this guidance may be updated. It is likely that some lower levels of competitive school hockey provision within the EH competition structure will be allowed on 3G AGPs.

Football surface

4.10 Football AGPs are required to be the minimum following sizes:

	Recommended size including run off (m)
Mini-soccer U7/U8	43 x 34
Mini-soccer U9/U10	61 x 43
Youth football U11/U12	79 x 52
Youth football U13/U14	88 x 56
Youth football U15/U16	97 x 61
Youth football U17/U18	106 x 70
Over 18 (senior ages)	106 x 70

4.11 Where there is an existing pitch which is being re-carpeted, then the FA may accept a smaller dimension for the 11v11 game to allow these pitches to be reused without the major costs which would otherwise be associated with extending the pitch dimensions.

4.12 3G or rubber crumb with football turf pitches usually have a long pile although there are different 3G pile lengths, mainly ranging from about 40-65mm. The choice for

particular sites will depend on the mix of uses programmed to be on the pitch and not all 3G surfaces are suitable for football matches.

- 4.13 A 3G football turf pitch which appears on the FA's national register can be used for match play in all competitions at the FA's National League system Step 7 and below, including Women's and Youth Football. At Step 6 and above, these pitches must be tested by the FA annually, or for Step 7 and below, every three years and can either be "approved" as meeting the FA's (lower) or the Federation Internationale de Football Association's (FIFA) (higher) standards. There are currently no registered match pitches for football in the district. All new FA supported pitches are now required to meet the quality specification for the register.

Rugby surface

- 4.14 3G or rubber crumb with rugby surface is typically required to have a pile length of 60 mm and a shock pad.
- 4.15 To be used for matches an AGP must meet the Rugby Turf Performance Specification issued in 2015, World Rugby Regulation 22 (RFU, 2017). These pitches need to be retested every 2 years to retain their accreditation. All full size Regulation 22 pitches are recorded on the RFU register and the information about each includes the expiry dates of certification.
- 4.16 Regulation 22 pitches can also be used for football matches as the specification also meets that of FIFA.

The demand for AGPs

- 4.17 AGPs are seen as a major benefit for schools, both in the public and independent sectors. Many schools therefore have aspirations for AGPs as do the higher and further education sectors.
- 4.18 The majority of community demand for AGP time comes from football training and the small-sided senior game. Some of the small-sided game is unaffiliated and run independently from the Football Association, either on full sized pitches which have been divided up, or on small sized pitches (or in sports halls). Of the two, the small sided pitch complexes can be more attractive to adult players, particularly where they are supported by high quality ancillary facilities.
- 4.19 Where there is limited access to 3G AGPs, football training often takes place on a short pile hockey pitch. If a new 3G pitch is then made available, the training demand for football switches to the new site, which can have a significant impact on the revenue generation at the original site, but has the advantage of increasing programming time for hockey.
- 4.20 With the FA's desire to have many more 3G pitches available for community football, and the relatively low participation by hockey in many areas, pitch providers often

consider switching the site from a hockey surface (which was previously the most common type) to a 3G surface when the facility needs re-carpeting.

- 4.21 Due to these pressures, the FA and England Hockey (EH) have agreed, as part of this strategy process, which sites should be retained for hockey, and which could be re-carpeted to 3G. The outcome of these agreements appear in the site-by-site recommendations in Figure 69.
- 4.22 If new AGPs are proposed to be built on existing grass pitches, the loss of the grass pitches and the impact upon the grass playing field stock should also be given detailed consideration, both in relation to summer and winter sports.
- 4.23 Sport England has developed parameters for the assessment of the supply and demand for AGPs as part of their Facilities Planning Model. These parameters are useful in understanding the overall picture of use of these types of facilities, including the peak periods, how far users travel, and the balance of demand across the sports. These are shown in Figure 8.

Current provision of AGPs

- 4.24 Within Harborough there are currently 12 artificial grass pitches of various types and sizes which are made available to the community. The pitches are listed in Figure 9 and mapped in Figure 10.
- 4.25 There are 4 large size hockey surface pitches in the district available for community use, of which 2 are available on Saturday mornings, but all of which are available on Saturday afternoons and Sunday. The hockey clubs and their home sites are:

Site	Club
Leicester Grammar School	Leicester Ladies Hockey Club Leicester Mens Hockey Club
Lutterworth College	Lutterworth Hockey Club Welford Hockey Club
Welland Park Community College	Market Harborough Hockey Club

- 4.26 There is one full size 3G football turf pitch on the FA register in the district plus one small size pitch at Kibworth which is also on the FA register, and one pitch due to be tested for inclusion on the FA register, at Fleckney. In addition, there are 4 small size 3G pitches at Lutterworth Football Academy and one at Dunton Bassett (Dunton & Broughton FC).
- 4.27 There is also one small size sand based pitch at Tugby.
- 4.28 There are no WR22 rugby surface pitches.
- 4.29 All of the artificial pitches in Harborough are of at least standard quality, though the pitches at Welland Park Academy, Tugby and Lutterworth College are around 10 years old or more, and will therefore require resurfacing in the near future.

Future provision of AGPs

- 4.30 The current known proposals for AGPs in the district are at Harborough Town Football Club, and at Broughton Astley on a new playing field area owned by the parish council and adjacent to Thomas Estley Community College.
- 4.31 Harborough Town FC have just received a Football Foundation award to convert their stadia pitch to 3G, which will be sited adjacent to the existing pitch. This new facility already has planning permission.
- 4.32 Broughton Astley Parish has identified in their Neighbourhood Plan the need for an AGP, probably developed in association with the school. The size and surface of the proposed provision are not identified in the Plan, but the proposal is firming up as a full size 3G football turf pitch. This proposal has the support of the FA, and is considered by them and Sport England to be more deliverable and better for football than a full size 3G pitch at one of the main club sites in Lutterworth town.

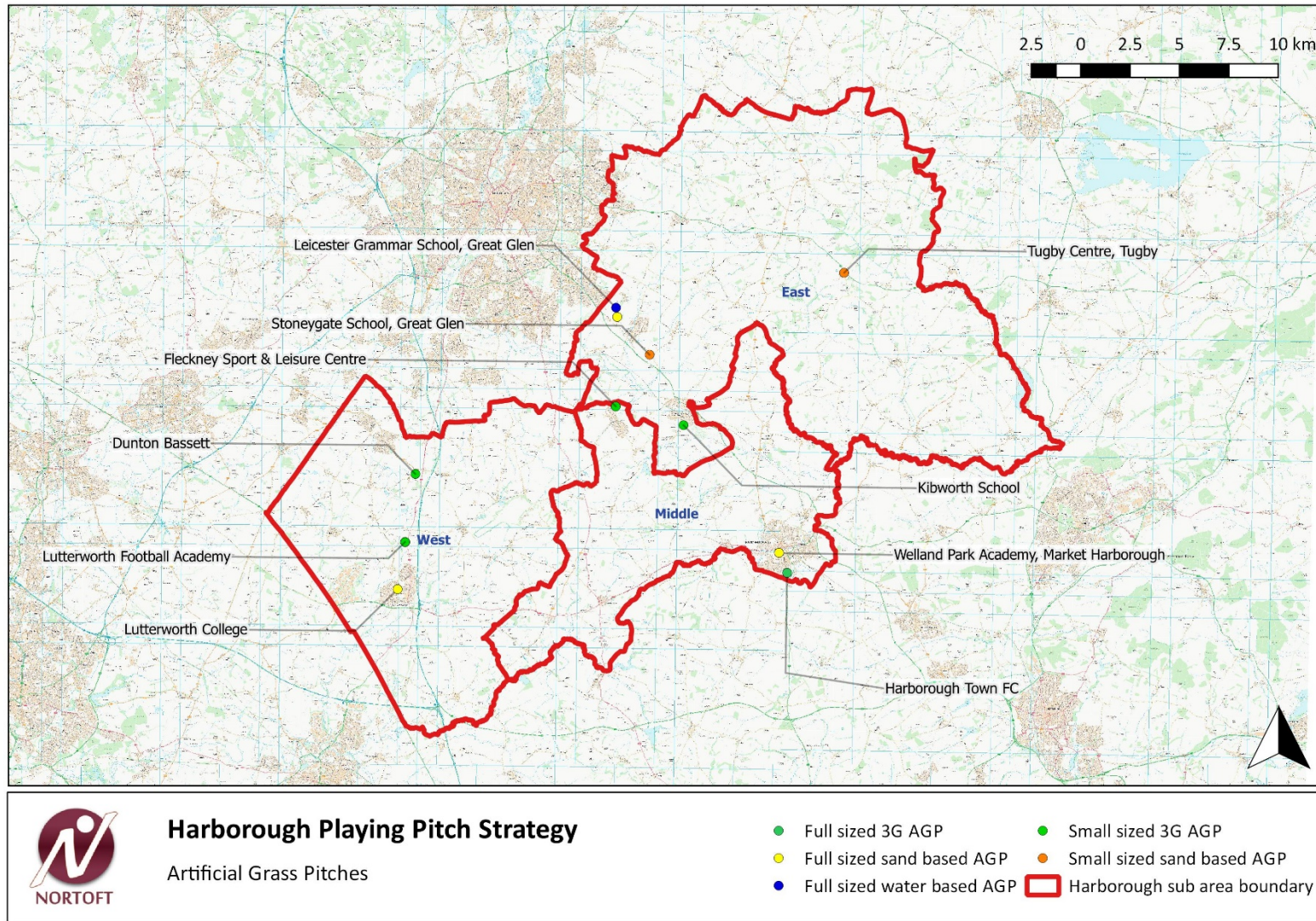
4.33 As each sport has its own needs for artificial pitches in the future, these are considered in detail within each sport section, with recommendations for provision where appropriate.

Figure 9: AGPs in Harborough list

Site Name	AGP type	Pitch size (m)	Secure community use	Age of surface/ date refurbished	Floodlit	Changing available	Pitch quality	Site control	Community hours available per week	Community hours available per week in PP (max. 34)
Dunton Bassett (Dunton & Broughton FC)	3G	25 x 16	Y	2015	Y	Y	Good	Club	Mon-Fri: to 21.00; Sat to 20.00, Sun to 19.00	34
Northampton Road, Market Harborough [Harborough Town FC, Bowdens Park]	3G (FA register)	107 x 71	Y	2008	Y	Y	Good	Club	all	34
Fleckney Sport & Leisure Centre	3G (due for testing for inclusion in FA register early in 2018)	46 x 35	Y	2017	Y	Y	Good	LA	all	34

Kibworth School	3G (FA register)	60x40	Y	2015	Y	Y	Good	School	Mon-Fri: 17.00-22.00, Sat-Sun: 10.00-16.00	32
Leicester Grammar School, Great Glen	Sand Dressed	110x65	Y	2008	Y	Y	Good	Independent School	Mon-Fri: 18.00-21.30, Sat 12.00-18.00, Sun: 09.00-18.00	23
	Water Based	110x65	Y	2008	Y	Y	Good	Independent School	Mon-Thurs: 18.00-21.30, Sat 12.00-18.00, Sun: 09.00-18.00	23
Lutterworth College	Sand Filled	97x61	Y	2001	Y	Y	Standard	School	all	34
Lutterworth Football Academy	3G	30x20	Y	2010	Y	Y	Good	Commercial	all	
	3G	30x20	Y	2010	Y	Y	Good	Commercial	all	
	3G	30x20	Y	2010	Y	Y	Good	Commercial	all	
	3G	30x20	Y	2010	Y	Y	Good	Commercial	all	
Stoneygate School, Great Glen	Sand Dressed	43x35	N	n/a	N	N	Standard	Independent School	Private use only	
Tugby Centre, Tugby	Sand Filled	35x20	Y	2007	Y	Y	Standard	Community organisation	all	34
Welland Park Academy, Market Harborough	Sand Filled	102x63	Y	2008	Y	Y	Standard	School	all	

Figure 10: Artificial Grass Pitches map



SECTION 5: FOOTBALL

- 5.1 Football is a significant pitch based sport in Harborough, with 177 community teams (almost all male) across the age groups. The full list of teams and club is given in Appendix 3.
- 5.2 It should be noted that this assessment refers only to community football, and does not address football at schools, either curricular or extracurricular. Neither does it include professional teams.

Demand for football

- 5.3 Nationally around 3 million people aged 14+ years took part in football at least once a month during the period October 2015-September 2016 (Sport England , 2016). This rate of participation has declined from the Sport England survey in 2012-13. Around 92% of participants are male, and about 35% are aged under 24 years, with only about 1% of players aged over 45 years. There has been a slight decrease in the number of people playing football of any type since 2007, from 7.58% of adults over 16 years playing once a month, to 6.39%.
- 5.4 The Football Association's (FA) '*National Game Strategy 2015 - 2019*' (2015) has a number of targets with important implications for the organisation of football and its facility needs at grassroots level. In particular, it seeks to:
- Boost female youth participation by 11% by 2019.
 - Increase the number of over 16s playing every week by over 200,000, by offering a variety of formats by 2019.
 - Create 100 new '3G' artificial football turf pitches and improve 2,000 grass pitches by 2019.
 - Develop 'Football Hubs' in 'areas where pressures on the local game are greatest'. The aim of the new programme is to create a new sustainable model for football facilities based around '3G' pitches and high quality grass pitches on Hub Sites.
 - Ensure that 50% of youth football and mini-soccer pitches are played on '3G' pitches by 2019.
- 5.5 The Football Association's National Facilities Strategy 2015 – 2019 vision for facilities can be summarised as:

Building: new facilities and pitches in key locations to FA standards in order to sustain existing participation and support new participation.

Protecting: ensuring that playing pitches and facilities are protected for the benefit of current and future participants.

Enhancing: investing in existing facilities and pitches, ensuring that participation in the game is sustained as well as expanded.

5.6 The FA Charter Standard Club Programme was established to provide recognition that clubs are well run and sustainable, with child protection and safety being paramount. It also recognises a club's commitment to coaching, player and coach development and the raising of standards of behaviour in the game. The FA Charter Standard Club Programme has four levels:

- FA Charter Standard Club (Youth)
- FA Charter Standard Adult Club
- FA Charter Standard Development Club
- FA Charter Standard Community Club

5.7 The Charter Standard Clubs are expected to have at least one team in a league and have a school-club link. The Charter Standard Development Clubs may either be youth and adult or only provide for youth. They are expected to have at least 5 teams and a club development plan. The Charter Standard Community Clubs are expected to have at least 10 teams in an area such as Harborough and to run teams in each age category. They are also expected to have a detailed club development plan.

5.8 The Charter Standard and above clubs in the district in 2017 are:

- Borough Alliance
- Broughton Astley United
- Dunton & Broughton United
- Dunton & Broughton United Juniors
- Glen Villa Juniors
- Harborough Town Juniors
- Houghton Rangers Junior
- Kibworth Town
- Lutterworth Town Juniors

Pitch sizes and age groups

5.9 In 2012 the FA developed a set of recommended pitch sizes, pitch markings and goal post sizes for different age groups, and these were set out in The FA Guide to Pitch and Goalpost Dimensions (Football Association, 2012). The FA has since been working with leagues and pitch providers to try to ensure that all matches are now played on the recommended size pitch.

5.10 In Harborough there were some teams which were still playing on pitches of the "incorrect size" for the season 2016-17. For the purposes of the modelling, if it

appears that there is no pitch of the correct FA dimensions on a site that the team is known to play at, then the team has been allocated to the next nearest size pitch.

- 5.11 There are some occasions when the 5v5 and 7v7 pitches are simply marked out on a weekly basis with cones rather than be permanently marked out on a site. Where such mini soccer use has been recorded but there were no marked pitches on a site at the time of the audit, a pitch of the correct size has been added to the site record for completeness.
- 5.12 The pitch dimensions, taken from the FA Guide are given in Figure 11.

Figure 11: FA recommended pitch sizes

Type	Type	Recommended size without runoff (metres)		Recommended size including runoff (meters)		Area of pitch with runoff (hectares, rounded)
		Length	Width	Length	Width	
Mini Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37	27	43	33	0.14
Mini Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55	37	61	43	0.26
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73	46	79	52	0.41
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82	50	88	56	0.49
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91	55	97	61	0.59
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100	64	106	70	0.74
Over 18 (adult age)	11v11	100	64	106	70	0.74

Football demand in Harborough

- 5.13 During the 2016/17 season there were 176 affiliated community teams in the district playing football on grass pitches in the following forms of the game: mini soccer 5v5 and 7v7; 9v9 youth football; 11v11 youth football; adult football; and the football pyramid Steps. This is the expressed demand for the game in the authority area.
- 5.14 Some of the 9v9 and a small number of youth 11v11 football in the district is played as mixed teams. However the playing pitch model only allows mixed teams to be included at the mini-soccer age groups. Therefore where a team is identified as a mixed team at the youth ages, then 75% of the team is assumed to be male and 25% female, and added to the relevant team count.
- 5.15 The agreed FA team numbers for the season 2016-17, including the treatment of the mixed teams are the basis for the Playing Pitch Strategy and its recommendations are given in Figure 12. The season 2017-18 has seen a growth in the number of registered teams, to a total of 214, an increase of 38 teams. This change in team numbers is mostly at the larger clubs, and these account for 27 of the new teams, particularly; Kibworth Town/Kibworth and Smeeton Juniors (9 teams), Lutterworth Athletic/Youth (7 teams), and Dunton & Broughton United/Rangers (5 teams). The

implications of the change in team numbers, and age groups, should be part of the annual review (Stage E) of the Playing Pitch Strategy, at which time the investment needs at key sites can be updated if required.

- 5.16 There is one adult team using a 5v5 pitch for walking football during midweek. This has been treated as part of the demand for the pitches of this size, but is not included in the team generation rate modelling (TGR) as this applies to the 11v11 format of the game.

Figure 12: Harborough football teams 2016-17

	Age	Team age group	Total number of teams of age/sex	Teams for PPS modelling
Mini-soccer 6-7 yrs - mixed	6 -7 yrs	u7 & u8	31	31
Mini-soccer 8-9 yrs - mixed	8 -9 yrs	u9 & u10	30	30
Youth football 9 v 9 - boys	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	13	21
Youth football 9 v 9 - girls	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	2	5
Youth football 9 v 9 - mixed	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	11	
Youth football 11 v 11 boys	12-15 yrs	u13 to u16	50	52
Youth football 11 v 11 girls	12-15 yrs	u13 to u16	1	2
Youth football 11 v 11 mixed	12-15 yrs	u13 to u16	2	
Men's football	16-45yrs	u17+	38	38
Men's walking football	16-45yrs	u17+	1	0
Women's football	16-45yrs	u17+	0	0
TOTAL			177	176

Import and export of demand

- 5.17 A key question asked in the survey is the home locations of the members. It is clear that there are cross-boundary movements across several of the boundaries of the authority, but this is mostly with Oadby & Wigston and Leicester, though there are a small number of players coming in to the district from Kettering, Corby and Rutland. Interestingly the clubs responding who are located in Market Harborough, including the very large Harborough Town FC report that almost all of the players come from Harborough. The large Dunton & Broughton club based at Broughton Astley also reports that almost all of its players live within the district.

- 5.18 Houghton Rangers is the only large club identifying that the most players from outside of the district, with 80% of their players coming from Leicester.

Temporal demand – the peak demand

- 5.19 The peak demand for pitches is a critical factor in assessing how many pitches of each size are required in order to meet the match demand for a local area. If for example,

almost all of the matches for an age group are played at the same time, there will be a very high peak of demand for the corresponding pitch size, but almost no match demand at other times in the week. Conversely, if the matches are more evenly spread across kick off days, this will mean that the pitches can be used for matches at least twice a week. A spread of kick-off days therefore maximises the use of the available pitch stock for matches, meaning that less playing field area is potentially required.

5.20 In Harborough almost all mini soccer and youth football is played on a Sunday. Only the senior game is more evenly spread, with about 2/3rds of the matches taking place on a Saturday. Figure 13 provides a summary of this temporal demand, which is then used in the Playing Pitch Model to assess the balance between supply and demand for pitch space at peak time.

Figure 13: Temporal demand

Age group	Age	Team age group	Pitch size	Total number of teams of age/sex	Number of teams playing on the relevant pitch size	Peak kick off day	% games being played in the peak time on this pitch size
Mini-soccer 6-7 yrs - mixed	6 -7 yrs	u7 & u8	5v5	31*	32	Sunday	90%
Mini-soccer 8-9 yrs - mixed	8 -9 yrs	u9 & u10	7v7	30	30	Sunday	93%
Youth football 9 v 9 - boys	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	9v9	12	26	Sunday	96%
Youth football 9 v 9 - girls	10-11yrs	u11 & u12		2			
Youth football 9 v 9 - mixed	10-11yrs	u11 & u12		11			
Youth football 11 v 11 boys	12-15 yrs	u13 to u16	11 v 11 Youth	50	53	Sunday	91%
Youth football 11 v 11 girls	12-15 yrs	u13 to u16		1			
Youth football 11 v 11 mixed	12-15 yrs	u13 to u16		2			
Men's football	16-45yrs	u17+	11 v 11	38	37	Saturday	65%
Women's football	16-45yrs	u17+		0			

* In addition, there is one adult walking football team using this size of pitch, playing midweek.

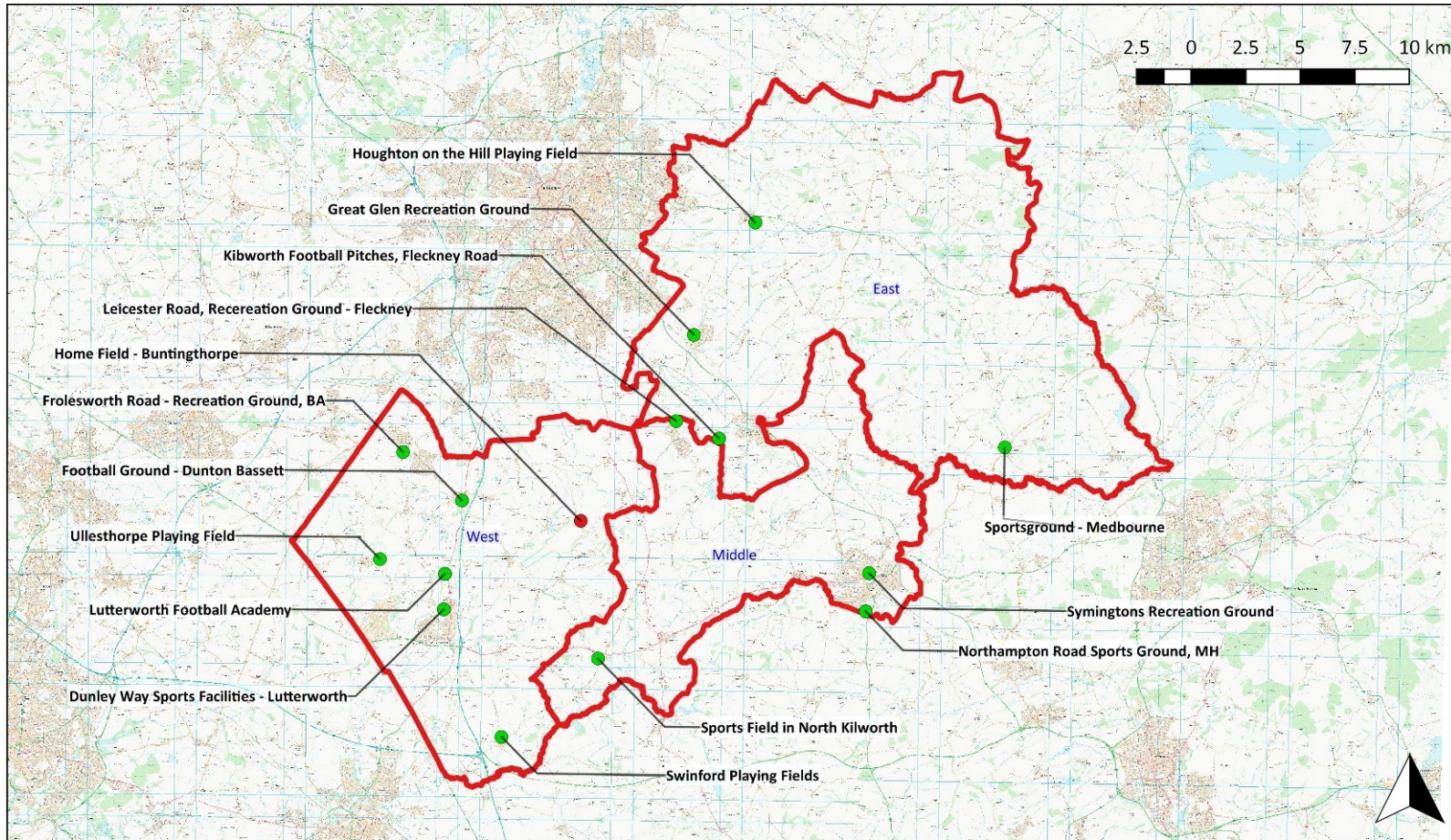
Current supply of grass pitches

- 5.21 During the 2016/17 football season there were pitches of all recommended sizes in the district being used by the community. The table in Figure 14 summarises these, and they are mapped in Figure 15, Figure 16, and Figure 17.
- 5.22 In addition, but excluded from the table and maps are those pitches on school sites which have no community use. The maps suggest that the pitches are well spread geographically.
- 5.23 This table suggests that overall a high proportion of the football pitches in Harborough are on secure sites.

Figure 14: Pitches used by the community in 2016/17

Age group	Pitch	Recommended size without runoff (metres)		Area of pitch with runoff (hectares, rounded)	No of pitches used by the community	No of pitches used by the community in secure community use
		Length	Width			
Mini Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37	27	0.14	9	9
Mini Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55	37	0.26	12	11
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73	46	0.41	9	8
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82	50	0.49	18	13
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91	55	0.59		
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100	64	0.74	21	20
Over 18 (adult age)	11v11	100	64	0.74		

Figure 15: Adult pitch sites season 2016/17





Harborough Playing Pitch Strategy
Adult Football

Security of community use

- Secured
- Unsecured
- Harborough sub area boundary

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Figure 16: Youth football pitch sites season 2016/17

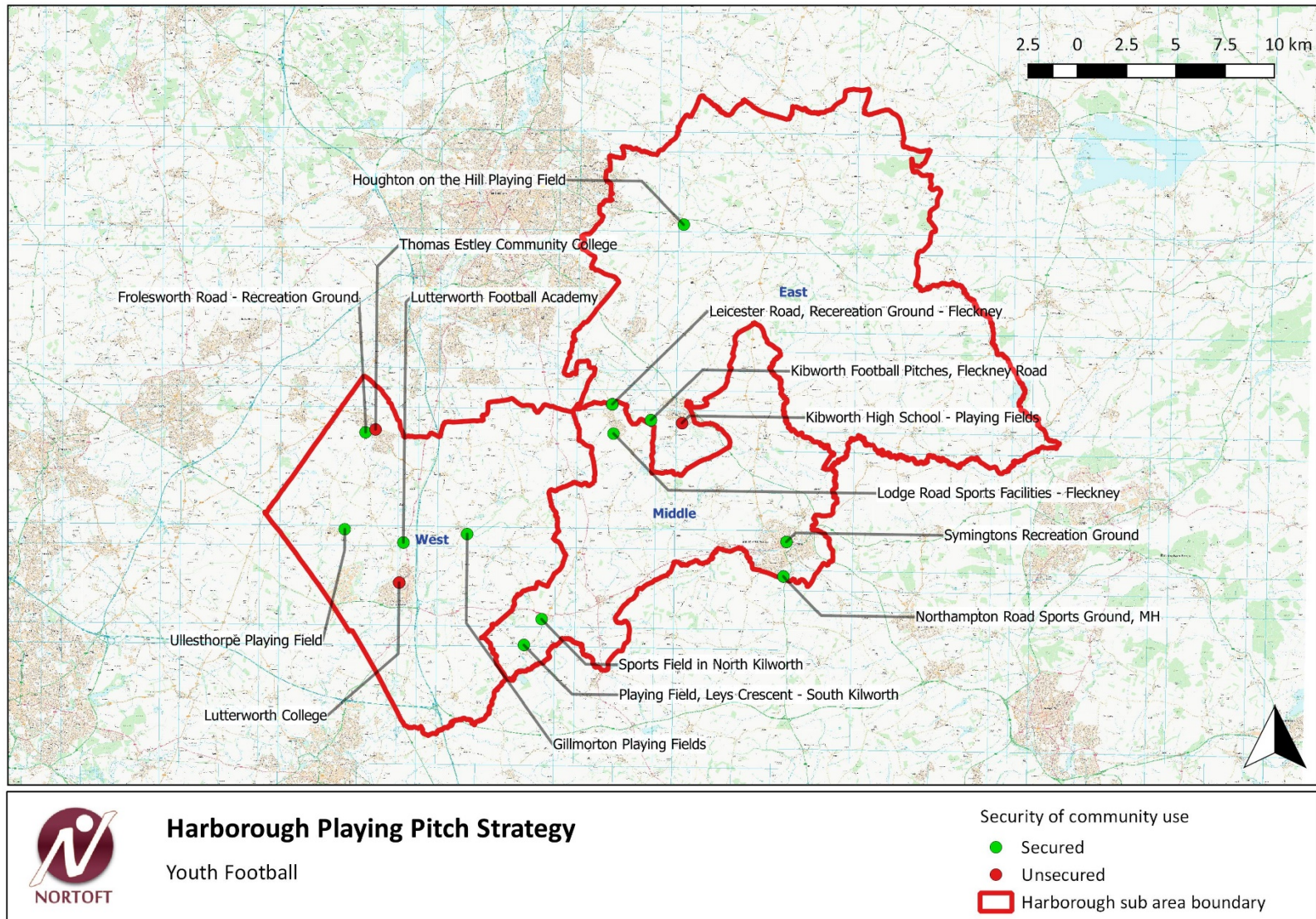
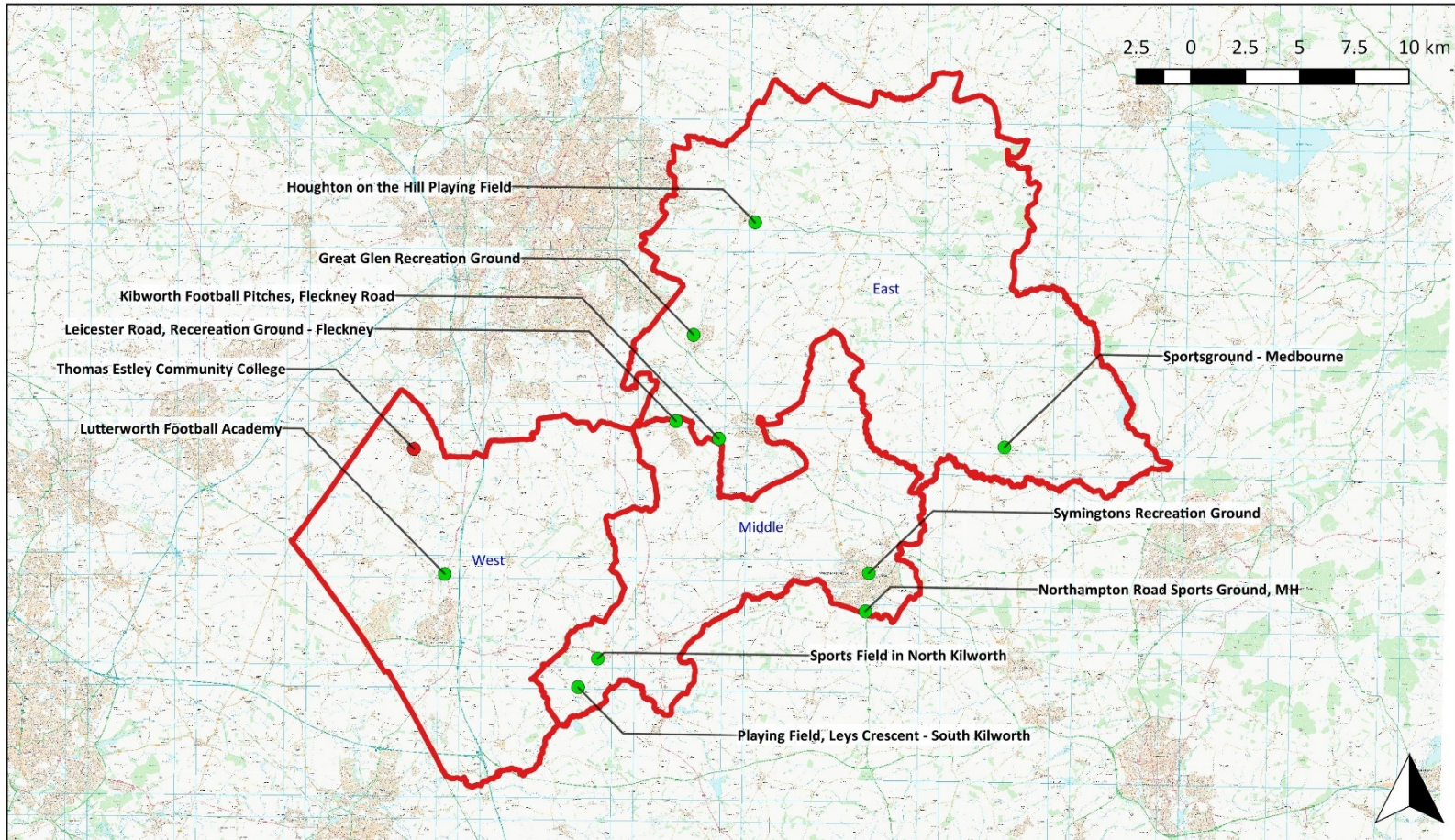


Figure 17: Mini Soccer pitch sites season 2016/17





Harborough Playing Pitch Strategy
Mini Soccer

Security of community use

- Secured
- Unsecured
- Harborough sub area boundary

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5.24 The number of pitches in secure community use by sub area is provided in Figure 18.

Figure 18: Pitches in secure community use by sub area

Sub Area	Mini 5v5	Mini 7v7	Youth 9v9	Youth 11v11	Adult 11v11
Middle	4	4	5	8	7
West	2	1	1	4	7
East	2	6	2	1	6

5.25 The four sites which are used by the community for football but which are not in secure community use are given in Figure 19; three are education sites, and one is a private site.

Figure 19: Grass football sites not in secure community use

Site	Pitches used by the community	Sub area
Kibworth High School	2 x 11v11 Youth	East
Lutterworth College	2 x 11v11 Youth	West
Thomas Estley Community College	5v5, 7v7, 9v9, 11v11 Youth	West
Home Field, Bruntingthorpe	11v11	West

Stadia sites

5.26 The term “stadia” covers a wide range of facility levels, from a relatively simple fenced pitch with toilets but no other spectator provision or floodlights, up to a major professional club stadium. The requirements for the football pitch and site depend upon the level at which a club is playing, and this is set out in the FA’s Ground Grading requirements, a summary of which is provided in Appendix 4. The teams playing at the lower Step numbers are higher in the football pyramid and the Ground Grading requirements are more demanding. The list of teams playing in the FA National League System and require “stadia pitches” in the district are given in Figure 20.

5.27 Unless the stadia sites in the district are made available for community use they are not specifically covered in this assessment. However because they are important for the game at the higher levels of the player pathway the full list is provided below.

Figure 20: Clubs with stadia pitches

Club	National League System Step	Ground
Harborough Town	Step 5	Bowdens Park, Northampton Rd, Market Harborough
Lutterworth Athletic	Step 6	Weston Arena, Bitteswell
Lutterworth Town	Step 6	Lutterworth Town, Dunley Way
Medbourne	Step 7	Medbourne Sports Ground

Pitch quality

5.28 The quality standard for each pitch used by the community has been assessed through a site visit, consultation with the FA, clubs and the district council. The estimated carrying capacity for each of the pitches is derived from the agreed quality standard for each pitch and the guidance criteria for pitch carrying capacity, a copy of which is given in Figure 21.

Figure 21: Pitch carrying capacity for football

Agreed pitch quality rating	Adult football	Youth football	Mini soccer
	Number of match equivalent sessions a week		
Good	3	4	6
Standard	2	2	4
Poor	1	1	2

5.29 It should be noted that the playing pitch guidance criteria from Sport England does not specifically take into account the impact of weather on the football season, such as snow cover or frozen ground. This will have an impact on both the number of matches which are able to be played on a pitch, and often the length of the season if postponed matches are rescheduled. It is therefore important to retain some spare capacity in the pitch stock generally to enable flexible management of sites and bookings.

5.30 Where pitches are in parks or amenity green spaces they tend to suffer more than closed sites from dog fouling and damage from unauthorised or other uses.

5.31 The quality of the changing and ancillary provision on each site has also been assessed using the guidance templates.

Current provision of artificial grass pitches

- 5.32 There are currently the following pitches with a 3G football turf surface:
- Northampton Road, Market Harborough – full size, FA register pitch
 - Kibworth School – small size, FA register pitch (60 x 40m)
 - Lutterworth Football Academy – 4 x small size pitches (30 x 20m)
 - Fleckney – small size 3G pitch (46 x 35m) resurfaced from sand in October 2017. Awaiting testing early in 2018 for inclusion on FA register.
- 5.33 There is also a small size 3G pitch at Leicester Grammar School, but this only has private use by the school.
- 5.34 These sites are mapped in Figure 22 with 20 minute drive times by car for large size pitches and 15 minutes for the small size pitches. Also mapped are the 3G pitches outside of the authority which the clubs say they are using for training. The map shows that almost all of the Middle and East sub areas of the authority have access to a full size 3G pitch, within or outside of the authority. The West has good access to small size 3Gs but more limited access to full size 3G pitches, with Lutterworth town at the edge of the catchment of Rugby Town Juniors on the south side of Rugby.
- 5.35 The pitches are generally aging, with only the Kibworth School pitch being built within the last 5 years and Fleckney small size pitch being re-carpeted in 2017. The Northampton Road pitch is 9 years old, though it meets the FA register standards. The small size pitches at Lutterworth Football Academy are 7 years old. All of the 3G pitches are floodlit and have secure community use.

Sites under threat

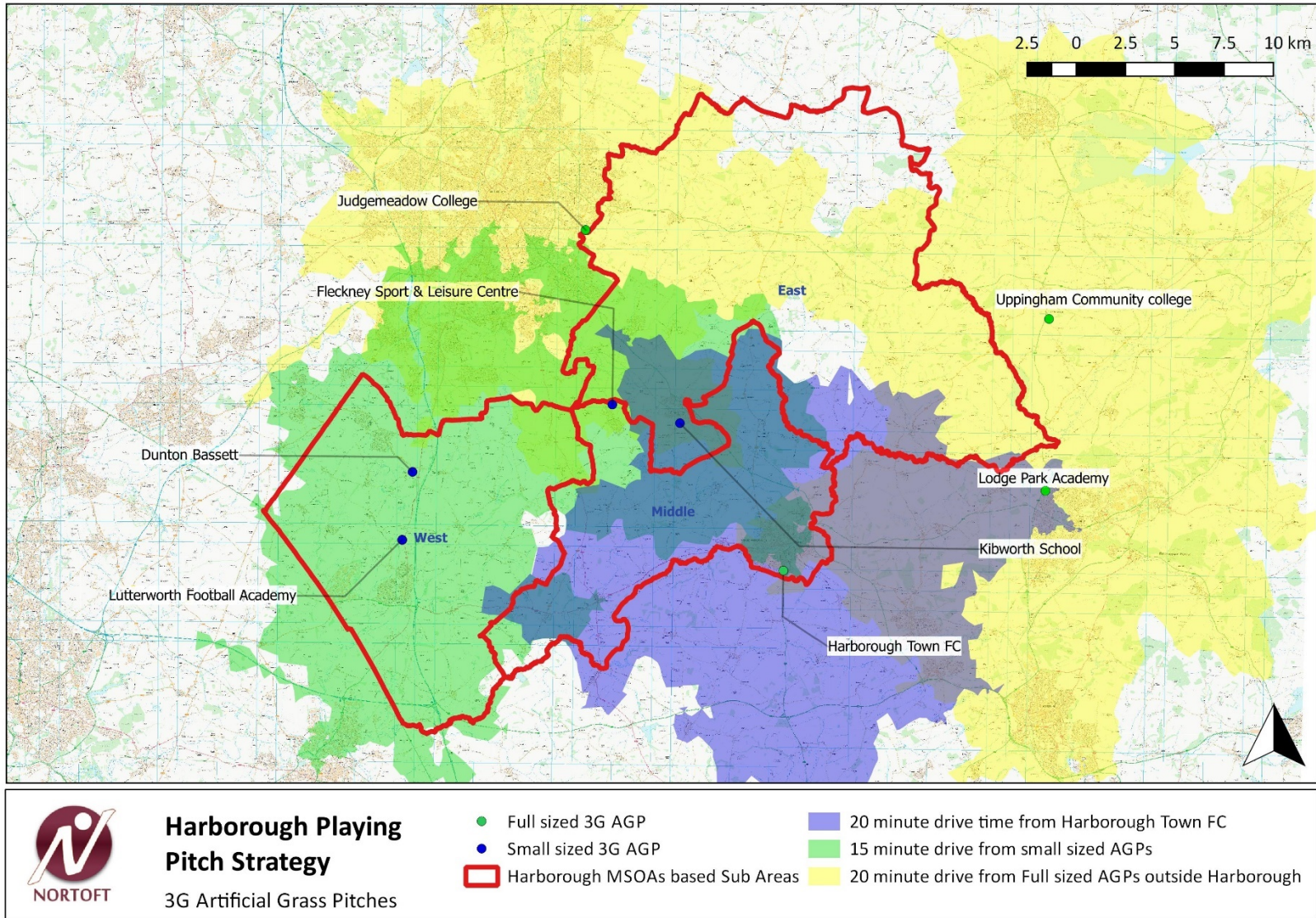
- 5.36 The NPPF (Communities and Local Government, 2012) protects playing fields from development unless there is a clear surplus of provision or the loss is mitigated by other factors. There are no sites in current community use in Harborough which are known to be at risk.

Football use of school sites

- 5.37 All of the secondary schools, Leicester Grammar, and most primary schools have some football pitch provision. However only Thomas Estley College is available for use and used. Kibworth, Robert Smyth and Welland Park all need additional pitch space to meet their curriculum requirements. Some primary schools have a pitch, but the survey returns suggest that these are not always of a “standard” size. Some primary schools might consider letting their pitches, but this would require additional site management (at significant cost) which is likely to make any hire too expensive. Even where the primary schools say that their pitches are currently available, they are not being used for matches.

5.38 The details of football provision on each school site and the use by the community is given in Appendix 7.

Figure 22: 3G map with travel times



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Consultation findings

5.39 The following comments are a summary of the general comments received in the formal playing pitch strategy process from the clubs and providers. Where issues or comments on quality have been raised about particular sites or locations, these have been incorporated into the site by site table in the report (Figure 69).

Club comments

5.40 All of the clubs involved in football in the district were consulted using a web based survey approved by the Football Association based on the Sport England Guidance. A survey return was provided by clubs representing 78% of the teams in the district.

5.41 The overall picture of the club network in Harborough is of a relatively small number of large clubs, with very few small, mainly adult clubs. The larger clubs are:

Club name	Number of teams
Borough Alliance Juniors	10
Dunton & Broughton United / Rangers	20
Fleckney Athletic / Athletic Juniors	19
Glen Villa / Juniors	6
Harborough Town / Juniors	46
Houghton Rangers / Junior	8
Kibworth Town/ Kibworth & Smeeton Juniors	14
Lutterworth Athletic / Youth	20
Medbourne / Junior	8
North Kilworth Junior & Youth	8

Key findings

5.42 The following are some of the key findings from the web based club survey returns.

- The travel time to the clubs suggests that the mini and youth teams draw from a very local area, with only the seniors travelling further. It is likely that most of the seniors would not travel from one town to another to play:
 - Minis – most up to 2 miles, but 5 miles is usually the maximum
 - Youth – most up to 5 miles
 - Seniors – most up to 10 miles
- Most clubs draw the majority of their players from within Harborough district, but with notable inflows of players from Leicester to Houghton, and from Corby to Medbourne.
- The change in the number of teams by age group has varied in the past 3 years:
 - The number of mini teams and youth team has generally increased, and this is particularly the case for the larger clubs.

- The number of senior teams has remained fairly constant, but there have been some changes between the clubs.
- Most of the clubs expect to see an increase in the number of mini and youth teams. Houghton Rangers, Harborough Town and Kibworth Town are expecting an increase in the number of men's teams. Harborough Town and Kibworth & Smeeton Juniors anticipate the development of senior women's teams in the next 5 years.
- The clubs with waiting lists are: Harborough Town, Dunton & Broughton (minis and 9v9), and Kibworth & Smeeton Juniors. Borough Alliance and Harborough Town encourages new members into their training squads, but there can be a wait to join the teams.
- A lack of coaches and a lack of volunteers are amongst the most common problems hindering the growth of the clubs.
- There is a general desire for more 3G pitches.
- A high proportion of the training takes place on AGPs, of varied sizes, within and outside of the authority. Most of these have a 3G surface.
- Two of the smaller clubs expressed concern that the smaller clubs who hire their pitches are being ousted by the larger clubs, particularly in relation to the provision at Harborough Leisure Centre.

Specific club issues and aspirations

Borough Alliance, Market Harborough

5.43 The club is outgrowing its pitches at Symington's and four teams currently train elsewhere, at local primary schools. The clubhouse is described as "old and shabby" and the site attracts a lot of anti-social behaviour. The club wishes to develop a 3G pitch which can help to provide for their teams, bring more people onto the site during the evenings, and as revenue generator.

Dunton & Broughton, Dunton Bassett

5.44 General pitch improvements required. Clubhouse needs new showers, walkway and car parking.

Lutterworth Town

5.45 Floodlighting required for the stand.

Houghton Rangers, Houghton on the Hill

5.46 Aspiration for a 3G pitch.

Harborough Town, Market Harborough

5.47 Planning permission has been granted for a 3G stadia pitch and a funding award has been made towards it from the Football Foundation. The new club lease (May 2017) relocates some of the youth pitches to one area of Northampton Road. A new car park is required to support increased use, again funding secured via S106.

Kibworth & Smeeton Juniors

5.48 Proposal for either extended or new site with new pitches and with new clubhouse to replace old portacabins. Juniors to merge with senior Kibworth team.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

5.49 The Football Association (FA) is the national governing body for football in England, and its local association is the Leicestershire Football Association. The County FA officers have actively supported the consultation with the clubs, and have been involved with the study process.

5.50 There is no specific football facility strategy for Harborough but this report will inform the FA's own future priorities for investment via their sister body, the Football Foundation.

5.51 The Football Association's National Facilities Strategy places heavy emphasis on the development of new 3G AGPs and on the resurfacing of some of the existing AGPs to 3G from sand filled/dressed, but only where there is a strategic priority for football and surplus provision for hockey. The objective is to give every team the opportunity to at least train on a 3G pitch, and the FA estimated for this strategy that the equivalent of one large size 3G pitch is needed for every 42 teams in an area.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

5.52 A review of the adjacent authorities PPS reports shows that:

- Leicester: the playing pitch strategy of June 2017 specifically considers both the demand/supply situation within the city and the issues within the Greater Leicester Area, which includes the Scraftoft area of Harborough district. For football, the strategy concluded that there were few cross-boundary issues as there was sufficient provision within Leicester City. Within the city, the larger club sites are those which are being overused, whilst the City Council run sites tended to have spare capacity. There was an estimated need for 2-3 additional full size 3G pitches.

The Harborough strategy confirms that the importation of players from Leicester is fairly limited, with the notable exception of Houghton Rangers, based at Houghton on the Hill. This club also uses three sites in Leicester for training.

- Charnwood: the authority is currently producing a playing pitch strategy.

None of the Harborough clubs have players living in Charnwood district, and none of the clubs use sites in Charnwood for either home matches or training. There are therefore no significant cross boundary considerations with this authority.

- Melton: the playing pitch strategy was completed in 2014. The assessment concluded that overall there were sufficient adult pitches available to meet the current and future demand, but that there would be a slight shortfall in youth pitches and a need for 2 additional mini pitches in the long term. No reference is made to Harborough in the assessment.

None of the Harborough clubs have players living in Melton district, and none of the clubs use sites in Melton for either home matches or training. There are therefore no significant cross boundary considerations with this authority.

- Rutland: the 2016 strategy concluded that there was sufficient pitch space for football up to 2036 if the existing pitch stock is retained. There is no requirement for additional 3G pitch provision. No significant cross-boundary movement of players is identified in the strategy.

In the Harborough strategy, only Medbourne records any players from Rutland, making up about 40% of the club. This club is the only one using sites in Rutland; Uppingham Community College for training.

- Corby: the draft 2014 pitch strategy considered the impact of the planned growth to 2031. The estimated future additional need was for 31 junior and 9 senior pitches, plus improvements at the existing sites, particularly in relation to the ancillary facilities.

The Medbourne senior and junior clubs draw a high proportion of their members from Corby (half of the seniors), and this club uses Lodge Park 3G pitch in Corby as their training base.

- Kettering: the 2011-2021 strategy makes a number of site specific investment proposals to increase and enhance football provision in the borough. These are all within the towns and not on the immediate boundary of Harborough, and are therefore unlikely to have a significant impact on the supply/demand balance for football on the southern edge of the district.

There is some, but limited, cross-boundary movement with Harborough, with the small (single senior team) Little Bowden and Royalists clubs drawing a small proportion of their members from Kettering. A very small number of players from

Kettering also go to Medbourne. None of the Harborough clubs use sites in Kettering for matches and training. There are therefore no significant cross-boundary issues.

- Daventry: the district's PPS is currently in development. There are no significant cross-boundary issues identified in the draft strategy in relation to football.

This very limited cross-boundary movement between the authorities is confirmed by the fact that none of the Harborough clubs have members from Daventry district, and none use sites in Daventry for matches or training.

- Rugby: the 2015 strategy identified that there was currently a surplus of pitch space in the town, but the quality of the parks sites were poor. The large Rugby Town Juniors site close to the Daventry border had and was continuing to expand and to attract high numbers of players. A full size 3G football turf pitch has recently been developed on this site. No significant issues were identified in relation to cross-boundary movement of players with Harborough.

This very limited cross-boundary movement between the authorities is confirmed by the fact that none of the Harborough clubs have members from Rugby borough, and none use sites in Rugby for matches or training.

- Blaby: the authority undertook an audit of its pitch sites as part of an open spaces assessment in 2015, but this did not forecast forwards the balance in supply/demand. At the time there appeared to be an approximate balance in the supply/demand for youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches, and spare capacity for both seniors and minis. The strategy suggested some site specific improvements.

Three of the clubs in Harborough district draw a small number of players from Blaby, but less than 5% of their membership; Dunton & Broughton, Kibworth & Smeeton, and Gilmorton Juniors.

The cross-boundary movement for training is also limited, with only Dunton & Broughton using Countesthorpe College and Stoney Standon Memorial Park AGPs for some of their training.

- Oadby & Wigston: the authority does not have a current playing pitch strategy.

Six of the Harborough clubs report having members living in Oadby & Wigston, with the largest proportion being Kibworth and Kibworth & Smeeton Juniors, which have around 15% of their members from this borough. Houghton Rangers also attract around 10% of their members from the borough.

None of the clubs however use sites in Oadby & Wigston for either matches or training.

- 5.53 This strategy review suggests that the most significant cross-boundary movement is with Leicester and with Oadby & Wigston. Players from both of these authorities are coming into Harborough, and sites in Leicester are used by one club for training. There is a small amount of cross-boundary movement with Blaby, Kettering, Corby and Rutland, and almost none with Rugby, Daventry, Melton and Charnwood.
- 5.54 There are no significant proposals impacting upon clubs or sites within the adjacent districts which are close enough to the Harborough boundary to be of significance in this strategy.

Assessment of current supply/demand

Market Segmentation

- 5.55 The Market Segmentation tool from Sport England suggests that 3 of the larger market segments in the district currently take part in football. It also suggests that, for adults, there is probably limited potential to significantly increase the rates of football participation in the district as football is seen as a less attractive sport than some other activities, such as golf.
- 5.56 This contrasts with the growth in football amongst young people, particularly for girls. This interest is likely to be reflected in a continuing trend towards more youth and girls teams in the future.

Playing pitch model

- 5.57 There are two elements to consider when assessing the balance between the supply and demand for football pitch space in the district:
- Pitch availability at peak times – the number of pitches required for football at the different FA recommended pitch sizes, in order to cater for matches.
 - Pitch capacity - the ability of natural grass pitches to provide for matches, training and other activity over a week or over a season. This is most often determined by their quality.

Grass pitch availability at peak time

- 5.58 The Sport England guidance sets out the required approach towards modelling of grass pitch sports, using Team Generation Rates, the temporal demand for the sport (the number of matches at peak time), pitch quality and the availability of pitches of the required size. The current spare capacity based on the known usage at each site at peak time is given in the table in Figure 69.
- 5.59 The sites shaded green have some spare capacity at peak time, and the number of matches which could be additionally accommodated on each site are identified. In practice, where this is 0.5, this is one match every fortnight, or potentially one extra

team could be accommodated on the site for matches. If the number is 1, then this means that two extra teams could use the pitch as their home match site.

- 5.60 There are clearly some sites which are being over-used or very close to capacity, these are marked in red in Figure 69. The site which is most overused is the Northampton Road site used by Harborough Town with its numerous teams, with apparent overuse of all of the pitch sizes except the senior pitch. However as there is a full size 3G FA register pitch on this site, most of the mini games will in practice be played on the surface, reducing the pressures on the site. The Lutterworth Football Academy appears to be fully used at peak time, with some pitches being overused. Symington Recreation Ground in Market Harborough is slightly overused at peak time. At Fleckney, the Leicester Road pitches are also under pressure, with some being overused.
- 5.61 The following peak time capacity assessment is considered at the sub area level to assess how well the supply meets the demand. This assessment includes all pitches, including those with no security of use at the school sites. Of the non-secure sites, the Thomas Estley Community College at Broughton Astley is the most important, providing a number of pitches for community use, and being heavily used.
- 5.62 The table in Figure 23 suggests that at peak time there is a notable shortage of pitch space across most of the pitch sizes in the Middle sub area of the district, and there is really only extra pitch space for the senior game in any part of the district. Least well provided for are the 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11 Youth formats.
- 5.63 If any of the non-secure school sites were to be lost to community use, then this would have a negative impact on the sport.

Figure 23: Football spare peak time match capacity by sub area in 2016-17 (all sites)

Sub Area	Mini 5v5	Mini 7v7	Youth 9v9	Youth 11v11	Adult 11v11
Middle	0.5	-6.5	-4	-5	4
West	0	-1.5	-0.5	2	3.5
East	1.5	1	0	2.5	2.5

Grass pitch capacity across the week

- 5.64 The next question is whether, even if there is sufficient capacity at peak time to potentially host additional teams, the quality of the pitches are good enough to withstand additional use. This part of the assessment adds up all of the use of a pitch across a week, both matches and training, and then compares it to the expected carrying capacity (based on the assessed quality from the site audit, see Figure 21). The spare capacity based on known usage for each pitch on each site is shown in Figure 69.

- 5.65 Figure 24 provides a summary of the spare capacity across the week in the number of match equivalents as at 2016-17. The school sites which allow for community use are included in this assessment but scored at 0 for the overall capacity across the week as the schools themselves use the pitches for curricular and extra curricular activities.
- 5.66 The findings suggest that several of the formats of the game across the district have only limited spare capacity across the week (shaded orange) and that in the East sub area there is a lack of capacity for the senior game.

*Figure 24: Football total spare capacity by sub area in 2016-17
(all sites)*

Sub Area	Mini 5v5	Mini 7v7	Youth 9v9	Youth 11v11	Adult 11v11
Middle	11.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	6.5
West	10.5	4	4.5	6.5	2
East	5.5	16	1.5	0.5	-0.5

Artificial grass pitches (AGP)

- 5.67 If an AGP meets the technical specification of the FA, it can be registered and can be used for matches as well as training. There are currently two FA registered pitches in the district, a full size pitch at Harborough Town and a small one at Kibworth School. The old sand based pitch at Fleckney has recently been resurfaced to 3G, and it is anticipated that this will also be included in the FA register once testing has been completed in early 2018. There are also a number of small size 3G pitches in the district as well as pitches in Leicester, Corby and Rutland which are used by some clubs.
- 5.68 The football clubs in Harborough district are also using sand based pitches for training, in particular the Welland Park pitch in Market Harborough and the one at Lutterworth College.
- 5.69 There is no simple equation which equates an AGP to match provision, but it could be assumed that one adult match could be played each of Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning and afternoon. However for the junior and mini games, one large pitch (100 x 64m excluding runoffs) can be marked out for 2 x 7v7 pitches and/or 2 x 9v9 pitches (meeting the FA minimum size) or 4 x 5v5 pitches, enabling concurrent and consecutive matches to be played.
- 5.70 The impact of providing a full size FA register pitch and making it accessible for all age groups for matches and training is therefore very significant but depends on: the number of hours and days of the week it is available for community (club use); the

provision of floodlighting; changing and car park provision; and whether the hire charges for club use are affordable for all age groups.

Facilities Planning Model for AGPs

5.71 The Sport England Facilities Planning Model for AGPs considers only large size pitches. The key parameters based on national research which lie behind the Facilities Planning Model (FPM) provide a useful guide to the ways in which AGPs are used: the dominance of football overall, the much higher percentage of male users than female, and the rapid fall off in users with age, see Figure 25.

Figure 25: FPM AGP parameters

	Parameter	Comments																					
Participation -% of age band	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>0-15</th> <th>16-24</th> <th>25-34</th> <th>35-44</th> <th>45-54</th> <th>55+</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>3.37</td> <td>7.72</td> <td>4.93</td> <td>2.71</td> <td>1.26</td> <td>0.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>3.16</td> <td>2.70</td> <td>0.94</td> <td>0.46</td> <td>0.18</td> <td>0.07</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Male	3.37	7.72	4.93	2.71	1.26	0.17	Female	3.16	2.70	0.94	0.46	0.18	0.07	
	0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+																	
Male	3.37	7.72	4.93	2.71	1.26	0.17																	
Female	3.16	2.70	0.94	0.46	0.18	0.07																	
Frequency – Visits Per Week in the Peak Period	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>0-15</th> <th>16-24</th> <th>25-34</th> <th>35-44</th> <th>45-54</th> <th>55+</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>1.81</td> <td>1.67</td> <td>1.27</td> <td>1.06</td> <td>1.07</td> <td>0.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>1.02</td> <td>1.45</td> <td>1.34</td> <td>1.31</td> <td>1.21</td> <td>1.32</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Male	1.81	1.67	1.27	1.06	1.07	0.97	Female	1.02	1.45	1.34	1.31	1.21	1.32	Football 75.2% Hockey 22.7% Rugby 2.1%
	0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+																	
Male	1.81	1.67	1.27	1.06	1.07	0.97																	
Female	1.02	1.45	1.34	1.31	1.21	1.32																	
Peak Period	Monday-Thursday = 17.00 – 21.00 Friday = 17.00 – 19.00 Saturday = 9.00 – 17.00 Sunday = 9.00 – 17.00 Total Peak Hours per week = 34 hrs Total number of slots = 26 slots Percentage of demand in peak period = 85%	Mon-Friday = 1 hr slots to reflect mixed use of activities –training, 5/7 a side & Informal matches Weekend = 2 hrs slots to reflect formal matches.																					
Duration	Monday - Friday = 1 hr Saturday & Sunday = 2 hrs																						
At one time capacity	30 players per slot Mon to Fri; 25 players per slot Sat & Sun 30 X 18slots = 540 visits 25 X 8slots = 200 visits Total = 740 visits per week in the peak period	Saturday and Sunday capacity to reflect dominance of formal 11-side matches i.e. lower capacity																					
Catchments	Overall catchment for all users 82% travelling 20 minutes or less during week – within a distance decay function of the model Users by travel mode 81% Car borne 15% Walk 4% Public Transport																						

5.72 Sport England produced an FPM report in December 2016 which considered the provision for football. As the model only considers large size pitches, the following were included:

- Harborough Town, Bowdens Park, 3G
- Leicester Grammar School, sand dressed
- Lutterworth College, sand filled
- Welland Park Community College, sand filled.

5.73 The key points from the FPM report are:

- Taken together, this gives a rate of provision of around 0.45 pitches per 10,000, which is higher than the regional average at 0.35 and that for Leicestershire as a whole at 0.39.
- The FPM estimates that the total demand for AGP space for football is the equivalent of 1.8 full size pitches, giving a theoretical surplus provision of 1.19 pitches as a total across the district.
- The satisfied demand is estimated to be about 95%, a little higher than the regional average but similar to Leicestershire as a whole. Of this satisfied demand, 29% is exported. Most users travel by car.
- The unmet demand is around 71 visits per week in the peak period, of which about 2/3rds is due to a lack of capacity.
- The pitches are used at an average of 77% at peak time, with a high proportion of the visits being made by people outside of the district.
- The Local Share is well above the average rate either nationally or regionally, and is also higher than the Leicestershire average.

5.74 The FPM report should be considered in the light of the findings from the audit, club survey and assessment, plus the fact that the smaller size pitches have not been included in the FPM report, a key feature of the district. Together these factors suggest that there is even better access to facilities available for football than the FPM report suggests. There is clearly the export of demand elsewhere, to several of the surrounding districts, but the import of demand is much lower than the FPM suggests, as only one of the clubs report high levels of imported players.

FA model for 3G AGP provision

Football training

- 5.75 The FA has an aspiration that each football team should have access at least one hour a week to a 3G AGP for training, and they have developed their own model to calculate the amount of 3G AGP pitch space required. The FA model assumes that the 3G AGPs are available from 6pm-10pm midweek and 9am-5pm on weekends, and that the pitches are available for club training as follows (Figure 26).

Figure 26: FA 3G AGP model training hours

Pitch size and nature	Number of hours available for club training
Full size	42
Stadia	28
60 x 40 m	18
Multi Use Games Area	12
Commercial 5 a side centres	10
Pro club indoor and outdoor facilities	0

- 5.76 This model was based on research undertaken in 2012 by Sport England. It found that on average 51% of usage is by sports clubs (when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch per hour) if a site is fully open during the weekday evenings and at weekends, with hours of operation as above. A full size 3G AGP on average has 111 training slots per week, with 42 slots available for community club training (or matches).
- 5.77 The model therefore incorporates both the commercial/pay and play use of a pitch and community club use. The FA advise that all planned 3G AGPs with high levels of community use but which are yet to have a formal programme of use identified, should be assumed to have 42 training slots available for community club training.
- 5.78 The model also helps to identify how many more hours are required in each local authority to potentially provide every affiliated club with the opportunity to train for one hour per week. The FA has agreed that the number of affiliated teams playing in Harborough was 176 community teams in 2016-17. As such, the FA was seeking 176 training slots of 1 hour each on 3G pitches, or 4.2 full size 3G pitches.
- 5.79 If the current and proposed provision of 3G pitches across the district is considered, then, using the FA model there are currently 132 training slots available, or sufficient space for 75% of the teams to train for one hour a week. If both the new stadia pitch at Harborough Town and a full size 3G football turf pitch at Broughton Astley adjacent to Thomas Estley Community College were developed, this would provide total of 202 training slots, see Figure 27.

Figure 27: FA 3G model training slots

Site Name	Pitch size (m)	Size sufficient for matches for age group up to	Age of surface/ date refurbished	Training slots based on FA model
Dunton Bassett (Dunton & Broughton FC)	25 x 16	None – too small	2015	12
Northampton Road, Market Harborough [Harborough Town FC, Bowdens Park]	107 x 71	Senior	2008	42
Fleckney Sport & Leisure Centre	46 x 35	5v5	2017	12
Kibworth School	60x40	7v7	2015	18
Lutterworth Football Academy	30 x 20	None, too small	2010	12
	30 x 20		2010	12
	30 x 20		2010	12
	30 x 20		2010	12
Proposals: Harborough Town	107 x 71	Senior	proposed	28
Broughton Astley adjacent to Thomas Estley College	107 x 71	Senior	proposed	42
Current total				132
Current plus proposed total				202

5.80 In terms of cross-boundary movement, several of the clubs use sites outside of the district, and only a small number use grass pitches for any training. Although there is a clear desire for more 3G pitches for training, and aspirations for such pitches on a number of sites, all of the clubs report that booking slots on AGPs is easy, suggesting that there is actually a reasonable supply of facilities.

5.81 The 3G pitches are supplemented by the sand based pitches, and football teams also use the hockey surface pitches at Welland Park and Lutterworth College.

Football matches

5.82 The FA is placing an increasing focus on the opportunity for community clubs to use 3G AGP pitches for matches. These pitches need to conform to the requirements of the FA Register and need to be retested every 3 years. The fact that there is only one full size pitch on the FA 3G Register in the district means that sanctioned league fixtures are limited. However the 3G pitch at Harborough Town is clearly supporting a number of mini fixtures which would otherwise be played on grass.

5.83 The training needs of the clubs at the present time are reasonably well met by the provision of both 3G and sand based AGPs, so the key question is to whether the provision of an additional 3G pitch would help to reduce the pressures on key sites. Harborough Town has an aspiration for an additional stadia pitch, primarily to reduce the pressures on the grass pitches on their site. This is also the case with the Borough Alliance site at Symington’s.

Assessment of Future Needs

5.84 The assessment of the future needs for football is based on a combination of:

- team generation rate modelling results. These forecast growth in the sport, using team generation rates (TGRs), which in turn are based on: the current rates of participation in the sport across the age groups and sexes; the anticipated growth in each sport, again across the different age groups and sexes; and the changes in the population for each area of Harborough over time.
- the quality and availability of the existing grass pitches for both matches and training.
- the technical requirements of football in relation to 3G AGPs.
- the capacity of the existing sites to meet future demand, both grass pitches and AGPs.

TGR modelling

5.85 The basis for modelling the future demand for football was agreed with the FA and is:

Figure 28: Football- agreed participation rate increases

		Cumulative growth percentage from 2017		
		2021	2026	2031
Minis	2.5% pa to 2019, then 1.25% thereafter	10.0%	16.3%	22.5%
Youth boys	1% pa to 2019, then 0.5% pa thereafter	4.0%	6.5%	9.0%
Youth girls	0.25% pa to 2019 then 0.88% thereafter	2.5%	6.9%	11.3%
Men	0% pa	0%	0%	0%
Women	0.25% pa to 2019 then 12.5% pa thereafter	25.8%	88.3%	150.8%

5.86 This means that the Team Generation Rates change over time, see Figure 29. This table gives the number of teams expected to be generated per 1,000 population of the relevant age group/sex.

Figure 29: Team Generation Rates to 2031

	Age Groups	Team age group	TGR rates (number of teams per 1,000 population of that age group/sex)			
			2017	2021	2026	2031
			Mini-soccer 6-7 yrs - mixed	6 -7 yrs	u7 & u8	14.35
Mini-soccer 8-9 yrs - mixed	8 -9 yrs	u9 & u10	13.89	15.28	16.15	17.01
Youth football 9 v 9 - boys	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	18.08	18.80	19.26	19.71
Youth football 9 v 9 - girls	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	4.57	4.68	4.88	5.08
Youth football 11 v 11 boys	12-15 yrs	u13 & u16	23.41	24.35	24.93	25.52
Youth football 11 v 11 girls	12-15 yrs	u13 & u16	0.74	0.75	0.79	0.82
Men's football	16-45yrs	u17 +	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66
Women's football	16-45yrs	u17 +	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

5.87 The TGRs can be written another way, the population in the age group needed to generate one team. The following is for 2017, and can be used with the Sport England pitch calculator to determine the amount of demand likely to arise from any new development over time. It should be noted that there were no women's teams playing in Harborough district during 2016-17 but some players are likely to be travelling outside of the district to play, so a nominal figure has been given, equivalent to the generation 1 team.

Figure 30: Team Generation Rate for Pitch Calculator

	Age Groups	Team age group	Number of people in age group needed to generate one team
Mini-soccer 6-7 yrs - mixed	6 -7 yrs	u7 & u8	70
Mini-soccer 8-9 yrs - mixed	8 -9 yrs	u9 & u10	72
Youth football 9 v 9 - boys	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	55
Youth football 9 v 9 - girls	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	219
Youth football 11 v 11 boys	12-15 yrs	u13 & u16	43
Youth football 11 v 11 girls	12-15 yrs	u13 & u16	1360
Men's football	16-45yrs	u17 +	376
Women's football	16-45yrs	u17 +	14260

5.88 The outcome of the modelling is given in Figure 31. The key findings from the modelling are:

- Across the authority as a whole there is expected to be around an additional 100 teams by 2031.
- There will be extra teams in each sub area for each age group, reflecting both the increase in population and increase in participation for most groups.
- The greatest growth will be in the mini and youth level, with the growth, as there is expected to be higher rates of participation per 1,000 population, as well as growth reflecting the increase in population.
- The Middle sub area is likely to see the greatest growth up to 2031, of 53 teams.
- The West sub area is likely to see around 24 teams up to 2031.
- The East sub area is likely to see approximately 20 extra teams up to 2031.
- Although there are no women's teams at this time and the modelling does not anticipate this, there are likely to be several teams in the future, linked to the largest clubs.

5.89 The next step in the modelling is to consider if the pitch capacity identified earlier in the report, by peak period and across the week, is capable of meeting this changed demand in the period up to 2031.

Figure 31: Football- estimated number of teams to 2031

Age Groups	Team age group	Number of teams within age group				
		2017	2021	2026	2031	
District						
Mini-soccer 6-7 yrs - mixed	6-7 yrs	u7 & u8	31	34	41	53
Mini-soccer 8-9 yrs - mixed	8-9 yrs	u9 & u10	30	33	40	51
Youth football 9 v 9 - boys	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	20	23	25	31
Youth football 9 v 9 - girls	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	5	5	6	7
Youth football 11 v 11 boys	12-15 yrs	u13 & u16	52	57	64	77
Youth football 11 v 11 girls	12-15 yrs	u13 & u16	2	2	2	2
Men's football	16-45yrs	u17 +	37	39	44	52
Women's football	16-45yrs	u17 +	0	0	0	0
			176	193	222	273

Middle sub area

Mini-soccer 6-7 yrs - mixed	6-7 yrs	u7 & u8	13	14	18	24
Mini-soccer 8-9 yrs - mixed	8-9 yrs	u9 & u10	12	14	17	23
Youth football 9 v 9 - boys	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	8	9	11	14
Youth football 9 v 9 - girls	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	2	2	3	3
Youth football 11 v 11 boys	12-15 yrs	u13 & u16	21	24	28	35
Youth football 11 v 11 girls	12-15 yrs	u13 & u16	1	1	1	1
Men's football	16-45yrs	u17 +	16	16	19	24
Women's football	16-45yrs	u17 +	0	0	0	0
			72	80	97	125

West

Mini-soccer 6-7 yrs - mixed	6-7 yrs	u7 & u8	10	11	12	15
Mini-soccer 8-9 yrs - mixed	8-9 yrs	u9 & u10	10	10	12	15
Youth football 9 v 9 - boys	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	6	7	8	9
Youth football 9 v 9 - girls	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	2	2	2	2
Youth football 11 v 11 boys	12-15 yrs	u13 & u16	16	18	19	23
Youth football 11 v 11 girls	12-15 yrs	u13 & u16	0	1	1	1
Men's football	16-45yrs	u17 +	12	12	13	15
Women's football	16-45yrs	u17 +	0	0	0	0
			56	60	67	80

East

Mini-soccer 6-7 yrs - mixed	6-7 yrs	u7 & u8	8	9	11	13
Mini-soccer 8-9 yrs - mixed	8-9 yrs	u9 & u10	8	9	10	13
Youth football 9 v 9 - boys	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	6	6	7	8
Youth football 9 v 9 - girls	10-11yrs	u11 & u12	1	1	2	2
Youth football 11 v 11 boys	12-15 yrs	u13 & u16	14	15	17	19
Youth football 11 v 11 girls	12-15 yrs	u13 & u16	0	0	0	1
Men's football	16-45yrs	u17 +	10	10	12	13
Women's football	16-45yrs	u17 +	0	0	0	0
			48	52	59	68

Scenario options for meeting this demand

Football match demand – grass pitches?

- 5.90 Figure 32 considers whether the existing spare match capacity of the grass pitch stock can meet the expected demand from the new population by 2031. This shows that the Middle sub area, which contains Market Harborough and a number of planned developments, would need an extra 12.6 ha of pitch space to cater for the needs of the teams, if these were to be met on grass pitches. This amount of pitch space equates to almost 19 ha of playing field space for football, to allow for the ancillary facilities as well.
- 5.91 The other sub areas theoretically have sufficient space to meet the needs of their planned growth, but this would depend on whether there is the willingness and ability to remark some senior pitches to other sizes. There also needs to be consideration as to whether there is sufficient pitch capacity within a 2 mile radius for minis, and 5 mile radius for youth football of a major development, in order to ensure that the pitches are accessible to the new communities.

Figure 32: Football grass pitch demand/supply up to 2029 by sub area

	Number of teams within age group				Number of matches per week (Number of teams / 2)				Number of matches being played at peak time				Change in peak time pitch requirements (number of matches)			Spare match capacity of existing pitch stock 2016/17	Balance in peak time supply/ demand mach pitch space in 2031	Additional area of pitches required incl run off (ha)
	2017	2021	2026	2031	2017	2021	2026	2031	2017	2021	2026	2031	2021	2026	2031			
District																		
Mini-soccer 6-7 yrs - mixed	31	34	41	53	16	17	21	26	14	15	18	24	1.4	4.5	9.7	2	-7.7	1.1
Mini-soccer 8-9 yrs - mixed	30	33	40	51	15	16	20	25	14	15	18	24	1.4	4.5	9.7	-7	-16.7	4.3
Youth football 9 v 9 - boys	20	23	25	31	10	11	13	15	10	11	12	15	1.2	2.5	5.0	-4.5	-10.7	4.4
Youth football 9 v 9 - girls	5	5	6	7	2	3	3	4	2	3	3	3	0.3	0.5	1.2			
Youth football 11 v 11 boys	52	57	64	77	26	29	32	38	23	26	29	35	2.6	5.9	11.6	-0.5	-12.4	7.3
Youth football 11 v 11 girls	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.1	0.2	0.4			
Men's football	38	39	44	52	19	19	22	26	12	13	14	17	0.2	1.9	4.6	10	5.4	-4.0
Women's football	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
																		13.1
Middle sub area																		
Mini-soccer 6-7 yrs - mixed	13	14	18	24	6	7	9	12	6	6	8	11	0.7	2.4	5.2	0.5	-4.7	0.7
Mini-soccer 8-9 yrs - mixed	12	14	17	23	6	7	9	12	6	6	8	11	0.7	2.4	5.2	-6.5	-11.7	3.0
Youth football 9 v 9 - boys	8	9	11	14	4	5	5	7	4	5	5	7	0.6	1.3	2.7	-4	-7.4	3.0
Youth football 9 v 9 - girls	2	2	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	0.1	0.3	0.7			
Youth football 11 v 11 boys	21	24	28	35	11	12	14	18	10	11	13	16	1.2	3.1	6.4	-5	-11.6	6.8
Youth football 11 v 11 girls	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.1	0.2			
Men's football	16	16	19	24	8	8	10	12	5	5	6	8	0.2	1.2	2.7	4	1.3	-0.9
Women's football	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
																		12.6
West																		
Mini-soccer 6-7 yrs - mixed	10	11	12	15	5	5	6	8	4	5	6	7	0.4	1.1	2.5	0	-2.5	0.3
Mini-soccer 8-9 yrs - mixed	10	10	12	15	5	5	6	7	4	5	6	7	0.4	1.1	2.5	-1.5	-4.0	1.0
Youth football 9 v 9 - boys	6	7	8	9	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	0.4	0.6	1.2	-0.5	-2.0	0.8
Youth football 9 v 9 - girls	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.1	0.1	0.3			
Youth football 11 v 11 boys	16	18	19	23	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	0.7	1.4	2.8	2	-0.9	0.5
Youth football 11 v 11 girls	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.1			
Men's football	12	12	13	15	6	6	7	8	4	4	4	5	0.0	0.3	1.0	3.5	2.5	-1.8
Women's football	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
																		0.9
East																		
Mini-soccer 6-7 yrs - mixed	8	9	11	13	4	5	5	7	4	4	5	6	0.3	1.1	2.1	1.5	-0.6	0.1
Mini-soccer 8-9 yrs - mixed	8	9	10	13	4	4	5	6	4	4	5	6	0.3	1.1	2.1	1	-1.1	0.3
Youth football 9 v 9 - boys	6	6	7	8	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	0.3	0.6	1.0	0	-1.27	0.52
Youth football 9 v 9 - girls	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.1	0.1	0.2			
Youth football 11 v 11 boys	14	15	17	19	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	0.6	1.4	2.4	2.5	0.05	-0.03
Youth football 11 v 11 girls	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.1			
Men's football	10	10	12	13	5	5	6	6	3	3	4	4	0.0	0.4	0.8	2.5	1.68	-1.24
Women's football	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
																		-0.4

Football match demand – AGPs?

- 5.92 In relation to matches, the FA model has been used to assess the need for, and the potential impact of 3G pitches. This is worked through in Appendix 5 for the forecast number of teams for each sub area, and the outputs summarised in Figure 33 below.
- 5.93 The key determining factor is the high percentage of mini, 9v9, and youth matches which are held at the same time. This means that there is a very high peak demand for the pitches, and that only a small proportion could be accommodated on AGPs, even if more were to be made available.

Figure 33: Number of 3G pitches required to meet match demand

Format of game	Middle	West	East
Mini 5 v 5 and 7 v 7	5.4	2.4	3.0
Youth 9 v 9	2.1	2.0	1.4
Youth 11 v 11	7.2	5.7	4.8
Adult	4.2	2.3	2.8

- 5.94 It is clearly unrealistic to provide this number of pitches, so the priority is to identify those sites where the provision of a 3G pitch would reduce the negative impact of overuse of the grass pitches. On this basis, the highest priorities for new provision of full size 3G AGPs with football turf are:
- Harborough Town, Northampton Road, Market Harborough
 - Broughton Astley
- 5.95 Harborough Town FC has recently been awarded a grant from the Football Foundation. The Broughton Astley pitch is supported by the FA as a priority, but this does not commit the Football Foundation to funding.

Meeting the needs of the future

Middle sub area

- 5.96 The only additional planned grass pitch provision is in relation to the North West Market Harborough SDA which will have a village green/recreation ground. The area is approximately 6.6 ha, but it is not clear how much will be made available for pitches, what constraints there may be, and which sports.
- 5.97 Even if all of the potential area of 6.6 ha was provided for football, there is a clear need to provide substantial extra grass pitch space in the Middle sub area of the authority. Most of the required additional pitch area will be for the 9v9 and youth formats, as much of the mini game could be played on the 3G pitches, particularly if an additional full size pitch was developed in the area with full community use.

- 5.98 All of the SDAs should therefore be required to provide additional pitch space for football. This should be on-site for North West Market Harborough SDA, Overstone Park, and East of Blackberry Grange. Other developments should contribute to new provision off site, or towards improvements at existing sites to increase their carrying capacity.
- 5.99 The development of one additional full size 3G FA register pitch should be a priority, with the likely preferred site to be Northampton Road, Market Harborough.

West sub area

- 5.100 Due to the current surplus capacity of 3.5 senior pitches, theoretically the current pitch area could meet the future needs up to 2031. However, not all of this spare capacity is available within the required accessibility, which should be 2 miles for minis and 5 miles for youth football. The East of Lutterworth SDA should therefore be expected to provide additional football pitches on site.
- 5.101 The development of one additional full size 3G FA register pitch should be considered and the emerging proposal for a pitch at Broughton Astley, which will also be used by Thomas Estley College, is the preferred option and appears to be the most deliverable.

East sub area

- 5.102 As with the West sub area, the East has theoretically sufficient capacity to meet the needs of football up to 2031. However again, not all of this spare capacity is available within the required accessibility, which should be 2 miles for minis and 5 miles for youth football. The Scraftoft North SDA should therefore be expected to provide additional grass football pitches on site.
- 5.103 An AGP is not proposed for Scraftoft because of its location in relation to other AGPs in Leicester.

Criteria for new pitch provision

- 5.104 The amount of demand for football directly generated by a development will be calculated based on the anticipated population and the team generation rates (see Figure 29). Where grass pitch sites are to be provided, it will be essential that they are:
- multi-pitch (football, but potentially also with other sports e.g cricket where the pitches themselves are kept separate)
 - have good quality playing surfaces
 - have good quality changing provision
 - flat and do not easily become waterlogged in the winter
 - be free of informal public use i.e. are fenced
 - easily accessible to the community

- club centred
- financially sustainable.

5.105 Where any new 3G pitch is proposed, the FA will seek to ensure that the proposal is sustainable and would wish to ensure that any planning permission has a planning condition requiring a formal community use agreement. This should include the following:

- Sites should be available for community (club hire) at weekends during the daytime for matches.
- Pricing policies for matches at weekends should be put in place. The price charged for matches should be similar to the hire charge for football matches on grass pitches in local authority ownership (parish, town or district). For the senior game this will be for sites with changing provided.
- New 3G pitches with a football turf surface must be tested and subsequently FA registered.
- New 3G football turf pitches should be retested every 3 years, and remedial works undertaken as necessary to retain the FA register status.
- The establishment of a sinking fund to enable carpet replacement as necessary. The FA recommends a sinking fund of approximately £25,000 per annum (at 2017 prices).

5.106 The existing stadia sites should be retained, and additional stadia sites allowed to come forward as needed to support the growth of the game.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES

5.107 The following questions and their answers are taken from the Sport England Guidance and provide a useful summary of the current and future provision for football in Harborough.

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

5.108 Football in Harborough is characterised by a small number of large clubs, with the largest, Harborough Town having 46 teams, almost 26% of all the football teams in the district. The main clubs' sites are largely club controlled, and the small number of single team clubs appear to be marginalised, finding bookings difficult.

5.109 The pattern of participation is similar to the county and national picture, with most players being male across all of the age groups and the majority of teams are in the mini and youth age groups. Girls football is increasing, but most play in mixed teams. In the season 2016/17 there were no senior women's teams in the district.

5.110 Most of the clubs draw their members primarily from Harborough district, with only Houghton Rangers/Juniors identifying that most of their members live outside of the district, in this case from Leicester.

5.111 A very high percentage of mini and youth football matches take place at the same time, meaning that there is a high peak demand for match pitch space. Only the senior game is more evenly spread, with around 65% of matches at peak times.

5.112 Most training takes place on AGPs, using small and large size pitches, both 3G short piles and sand based/dressed. Several teams use AGPs outside of the district for their training.

5.113 There appears to be a strong growth in the game, with an increase the number of teams from 176 in the season 2016-17 to 214 registered in 2017-18.

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

5.114 There is just a sufficient number of grass pitches in secure community use for most of the age groups across most of the district, but there is little in the way of spare capacity. The Middle sub area is least well provided in relation to the 7v7 through to the 11v11 Youth formats, but there are also shortfalls at peak time in the West, even taking into account pitches on school sites which are not in secure community use.

5.115 There is one full size AGP which is on the FA Register, and one small size suitable for 5v5 and 7v7. These are used for both matches and training.

5.116 As almost all training takes place on AGPs, the determining factor for pitch space is the peak demand.

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

- 5.117 There is a lack of secure pitch sites in the West, where Thomas Estley Community College and Lutterworth College are both important in the network of sites used by the community.
- 5.118 The agreed pitch quality for most of the pitches in the district is “Standard”. However there are poor quality pitches at:
- South Kilworth
 - North Kilworth
 - Dunley Way, Lutterworth
 - Symington Recreation Ground, Market Harborough
 - Northampton Road, Market Harborough
 - Medbourne
 - Kibworth
 - Frolesworth
 - Great Glen
 - Houghton on the Hill
 - Bruntingthorpe
- 5.119 If these could be improved, this would help the overall capacity for football across the week, although not address the lack of capacity at peak time.
- 5.120 The only good quality pitches are at Lutterworth Football Academy, and the senior pitch at Northampton Road.

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

- 5.121 There is expected to be additional teams in all of the district as there is major housing growth planned around Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Scraftoft. Most of this demand will be in the mini and youth elements of the game where there is expected to be both an increase in rates of participation and growth caused by new housing. The girls’ and women’s game is expected to grow particularly strongly, but this is from a low base and the actual number of teams by 2031 is still expected to be relatively small compared to the male game.

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

- 5.122 There will be insufficient pitch space to cater for the planned growth in Market Harborough, and although theoretically there may be sufficient capacity in the Lutterworth and Scraftoft areas to meet the demand, the location of the housing developments compared with the existing pitch sites, means that new provision should be made on site for each of the SDAs.

5.123 The current proposed stadia pitch at Harborough Town FC and at Broughton Astley adjacent to Thomas Estley College should be developed.

What actions may be required to ensure provision can meet both the current and future demand?

5.124 The priorities are:

- Retain and improve the stock of grass pitches and AGPs
- Provide additional grass pitch space in each of the SDAs
- Provide two full size 3G FA Register pitches:
- Stadia pitch at Harborough Town FC, Northampton Road, Market Harborough
- Broughton Astley adjacent to Thomas Estley College school.

Recommendations for football

Protect

5.125 Protect all existing playing field sites in Harborough District and maintain the pitches and ancillary facilities at least at standard quality.

Enhance

5.126 Address the site by site needs as identified in the sites table, see Figure 69.

5.127 Seek off-site provision towards investment needs where on-site provision is not appropriate within a development.

Provide

5.128 Provide additional grass pitch space in each of the SDAs, using the relevant Sport England Pitch Calculator template to assess demand.

- Confirm the sport and pitches to be provided at North West Market Harborough SDA, within the identified area of 6.6 ha.
- Confirm the on-site provision in the East of Lutterworth SDA of 1 adult, 2 youth and 2 mini pitches.
- Confirm the on-site provision at Scraftoft North of 1 adult, 2 youth and 2 mini pitches.

5.129 Provide additional grass pitch space in each of the larger housing developments, using the relevant Sport England Pitch Calculator template where the demand generates a requirement for a number of pitches.

5.130 Provide two full size 3G FA Register pitches:

- Stadia pitch at Harborough Town FC, Northampton Road, Market Harborough
- Broughton Astley adjacent to Thomas Estley College.

SECTION 6: CRICKET

- 6.1 The Sport England Active People Survey (Sport England , 2016) research suggests that nationally about 324,400 adults aged 14+ years played cricket at least once a month during the year October 2015-September 2016. The national rate of participation has declined slightly since the 2012-13 survey. Of those playing cricket regularly, about 93% are male, and 7% are female. About 66% of the adult players are aged 16-34 years, with 29% aged between 35-54 years, and only 5% aged 55 years and over.
- 6.2 Leicestershire have over 9500 players playing frequently in formalised cricket across the county. Over 70% of these players play for more than 6 weeks in the season. All Stars Cricket was introduced in 2017 and it is anticipated that over 60 clubs in Leicestershire will run All Stars sessions with approximately 20+ 5-9 year olds taking part in each centre.

Cricket demand in Harborough

- 6.3 This study refers to community cricket. In summer 2016 there were 18 cricket clubs with 105 teams arising in the district. The cricket teams and clubs are listed in Appendix 6 together with their home grounds and the days that the teams play their matches.
- 6.4 The district is a major importer of cricket players, particularly from Leicester, Blaby and Oadby and Wigston. The attractiveness of cricket to the district and within means that the rates of participation appear to be significantly higher than might otherwise be expected. Although not directly comparable, Cherwell district also has relatively high levels of participation in cricket, but appears to have less importation of players. The table in Figure 34 compares the rates of participation of the two authorities. It shows that there are 3.5 men’s teams in Harborough per 1 team in Cherwell, and 2.5 boys teams. The girls’ and women’s game is also much higher in Harborough district.

Figure 34: Participation rates compared to Cherwell, Oxfordshire

Age / sex	Teams generated per 1000 population of that age group		Ratio
	Cherwell	Harborough	
Junior cricket - boys	2.5	6.1	2.5
Junior cricket - girls	0.1	0.16	1.7
Men’s cricket	0.9	3.11	3.5
Women’s cricket	0.1	0.1	1.2

- 6.5 The district does not appear to have a notable “pop up” team demand which has emerged as an issue in more urban authorities, particularly those with a high Asian population. These “pop up” teams tend to be groups of individuals meeting in a parks environment to play a single game. They are not affiliated, do not have any regular

matches or play in the same place. Often they will use an area of a park which is not specifically set out or managed for cricket. As “pop up” teams are not an important aspect of the sport in Harborough, they are not specifically considered within the strategy.

Temporal demand

- 6.6 The peak demand for cricket pitches is a critical factor in assessing how many pitches are required in order to meet the demand from a local area. If most of the matches are played on the same day, there will be a very high peak of demand and a high number of pitches will be needed. Conversely if the matches are more evenly spread across the week, then relatively fewer pitches are required to cater for the demand, so long as they are of good quality, large enough, and well maintained. Figure 35 gives a summary of when the teams play and the peak time.

Figure 35: Cricket teams and when they play

	Number of teams	Temporal (peak demand)
Adult men’s teams	64	Saturday 58%
Adult women’s teams	2	Sunday 100%
Boys’ & mixed teams	39	Various
Girls’ teams	1	Sunday

- 6.7 In Harborough the peak demand is on Saturday with 58% of adult teams playing then. Of the 38 teams playing on Saturdays, only four teams are not playing very regularly, based at Gilmorton, Gumley and Swinford.
- 6.8 The rest of the cricket matches are well distributed across the week, with the junior games which are taking place mostly on weekdays, but with no specific match day.

Current supply of cricket pitches

- 6.9 There are 23 cricket pitches available for community use, but one is unsecure and currently unused, one is secure and unused, and one has a single track road crossing the outfield (Gumley) and the outfield is also grazed by cows. The Gumley site is however still used for league matches.
- 6.10 Each site has one pitch with the exception of Kibworth CC with two. Houghton & Thurnby use two sites but the other clubs play on a single site. The sites are mapped in Figure 37.
- 6.11 The map shows there is a wide geographical spread of cricket facilities across the district, with sites located both in or close to the main towns and in the more rural areas.

6.12 The number of cricket pitches in community use by sub area is provided in Figure 36.

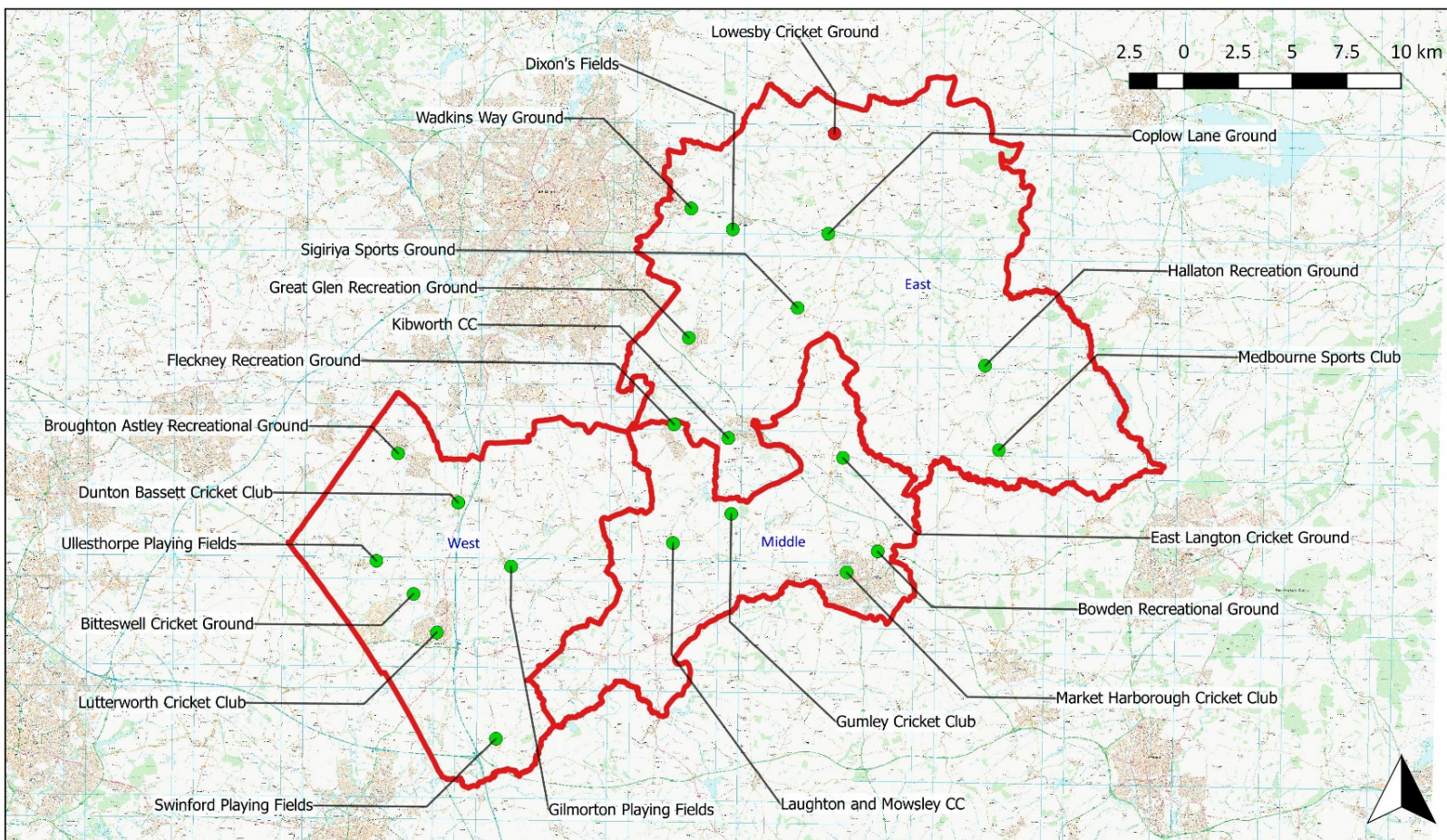
Figure 36: Cricket pitches by sub area

Sub Area	Number of pitches available
Middle	6 (including Gumley)
West	7
East	10

Assessment of current supply/demand

- 6.13 The quality standard for each pitch has been assessed through a site visit and consultation with the clubs and Leicestershire County Cricket Community team. The estimated carrying capacity for each of the pitches is derived from the agreed quality standard for each site and England Cricket Board guidance criteria for pitch carrying capacity.
- 6.14 All of the sites used for community cricket, are either standard or good quality. However the road running through the outfield at Gumley means that there would be some restrictions if the club was to move up the leagues.
- 6.15 For junior cricket, the strip length is different from those of the adult games. If the natural turf strips are used for the junior game, it cannot be safely reused for the adult game. Only those clubs with non-turf strips (NTP) in addition to natural turf are therefore able to cater reasonably easily for junior players in addition to their seniors.

Figure 37: Cricket pitches in 2016 map





Harborough Playing Pitch Strategy
Cricket

Security of community use

- Secured
- Unsecured
- Harborough sub area boundary

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Who plays where

6.16 The map in Figure 37 uses the site name rather than the cricket club name, particularly where the sites is used for more than one sport or club. The following

Figure 38: Cricket, who plays where

Site	Sub Area	Users
Bitteswell Cricket Ground	West	Bitteswell CC
Bowden Recreational Ground	Middle	Bowden CC
Broughton Astley Recreational Ground	West	Broughton Astley CC
Coplow Lane Ground	East	Billesdon CC
Dixon's Fields	East	Houghton & Thurnby 3rd XI, U13H, U11 Hardball
Dunton Bassett Cricket Club	West	Dunton Bassett CC
East Langton Cricket Ground	Middle	Langtons CC
Fleckney Recreation Ground	Middle	Fleckney Village CC
Gilmorton Playing Fields	West	Gilmorton Village CC
Great Glen Recreational Ground	East	Great Glen CC
Gumley Cricket Club	Middle	Gumley CC
Hallaton Recreation Ground	East	unused
Kibworth CC	East	Kibworth CC
Laughton and Mowsley CC	Middle	Laughton & Mowsley CC
Lowesby Cricket Ground	East	unused
Lutterworth Cricket Club	West	Lutterworth CC
Market Harborough Cricket Club	Middle	Market Harborough CC
Medbourne Sports Club	East	Medbourne CC
Sigiriya Sports Ground	East	Illston Abbey CC
Swinford Playing Fields	West	Rowland United CC , Tilton & Lowesby CC
Ullesthorpe Playing Fields	West	Lutterworth Womens 1st XI
Wadkins Way Ground	East	Houghton & Thurnby CC

Cricket provision on school sites

6.17 Only Leicester Grammar School has natural grass turf cricket provision, and of the secondary schools, only Lutterworth College and Robert Smyth have an artificial strip. None of the site are available for community use for cricket. The details of the cricket provision on each school site and the use by the community is given in Appendix 7.

Consultation findings

- 6.18 The following comments are a summary of the general comments received in the formal playing pitch strategy process from the clubs and providers. All of the clubs involved in cricket in the district were consulted using a web based survey approved by the ECB and based on the Sport England Guidance.
- 6.19 Where issues or comments on quality have been raised about particular sites or locations, these have been incorporated into the site by site table in the report (Figure 69).
- 6.20 Five of the 18 cricket clubs responded to the survey representing 49 of the teams, or 46% of the teams. The clubs which provided a return were: Great Glen, Houghton & Thurnby, Kibworth, and Market Harborough.

Club comments

Key findings

- 6.21 There has been no increase in the number of men's teams over the past 3 years, and Houghton & Thurnby has seen a decrease. However the junior game is stronger with increase in team numbers in Great Glen, Houghton & Thurnby and Market Harborough. Kibworth has stayed the same size for juniors and Medbourne has seen a decrease.
- 6.22 Kibworth does not anticipate growing in size over the next 5 years, but the others anticipate growth, particularly at the junior level.
- 6.23 The catchment area of the club varies with its size and success, with both junior and senior members at Kibworth members travelling more than 10 miles to the site, whilst Great Glen, Houghton & Thurnby and Market Harborough's catchments for juniors is a maximum of about 5 miles. The seniors tend to travel slightly further.
- 6.24 Almost all of the clubs draw members from other authority areas. Market Harborough and Medbourne clubs have the highest percentage of members drawn from Harborough district, whilst Houghton & Thurnby only has about 35% of its members from the district. Most of the cross boundary movement in association with the clubs responding to the survey is with Oadby & Wigston, Leicester, Blaby and Rutland.
- 6.25 Most of the clubs access sport halls for indoor training, but Kibworth uses the City Cricket Academy in Leicestershire. Only Market Harborough report any issues with sufficient access to indoor training, but Great Glen comments that use of the Leicester Grammar school facilities is expensive.

- 6.26 None of the clubs responding had any specific site improvement proposals, though Great Glen noted that it may need to improve its square, sightscreens and possibly required a scoreboard.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 6.27 Leicestershire County Cricket Community team and the ECB have both been actively engaged with the PPS process.

National Cricket Strategy

- 6.28 The England and Wales Cricket Board's strategy for 2016 -2020 '*Cricket Unleashed*' (2016) contains the following priorities of relevance:

- **Clubs and leagues:** The following will be prioritised:
 - Promoting player-driven formats of the game in our leagues and clubs.
 - Providing more opportunities to play across the whole league structure.
 - Delivering a new club affiliation core offer.
 - Delivering new training opportunities for coaches, officials and grounds staff.
 - Delivering a volunteer offer to drive recruitment, retention and recognition.

- **Kids:** The following will be prioritised:
 - Developing an ability-based pathway for children aged 5-12 for adoption in clubs, schools and youth organisations.
 - In partnership with Chance to Shine, expanding the reach of the game into all schools across the country through a combination of bat and ball opportunities, a national teacher ambassador program and curriculum-aligned classroom resources.
 - Creating a seamless transition across the age groups and different formats to reduce the current drop out at key ages.
 - Promoting shorter pitch lengths for younger age groups.

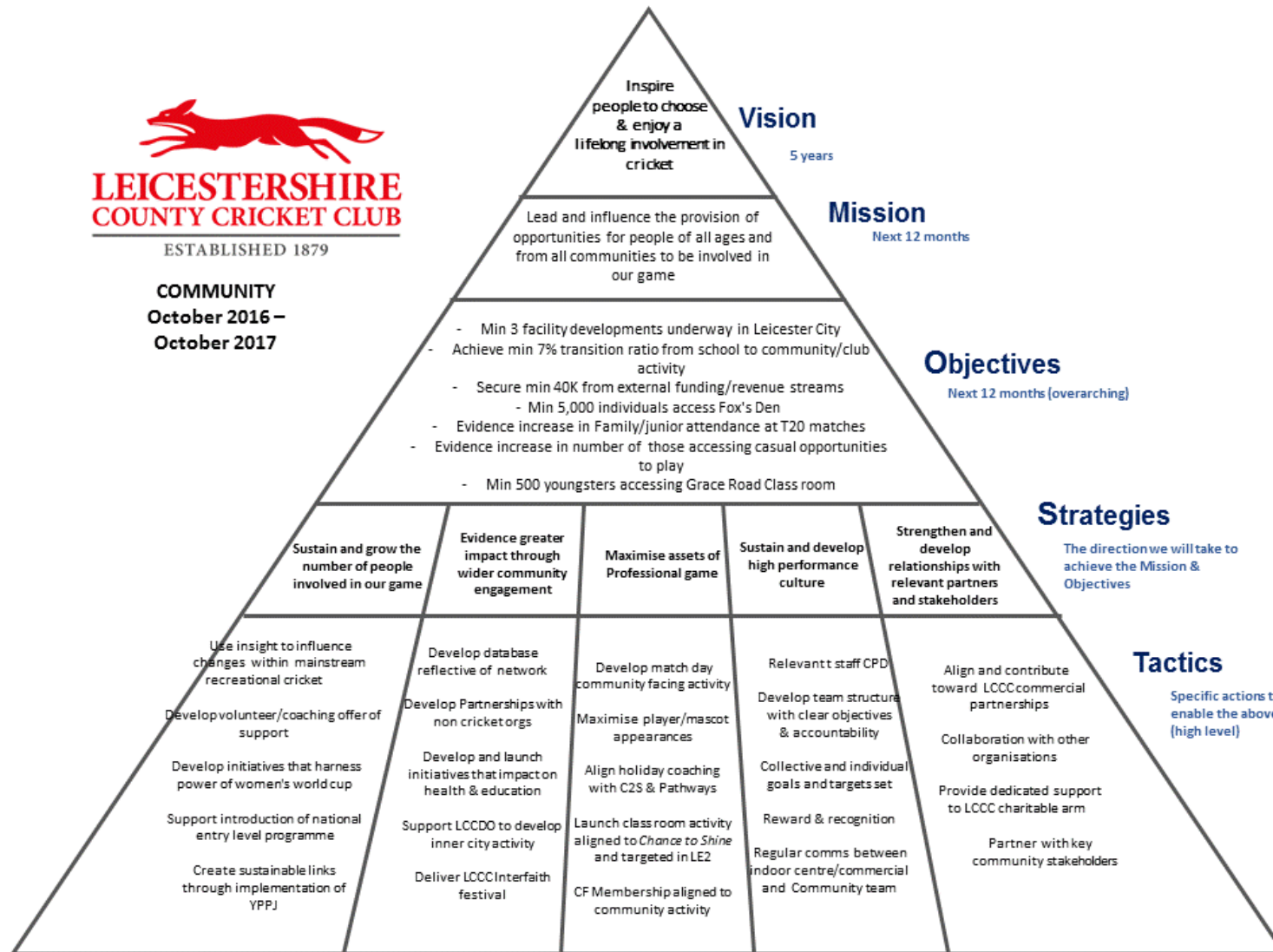
- **Communities:** The following will be prioritised:
 - Implementing inclusion and engagement strategies to deliver welcoming environments and opportunities for players of diverse backgrounds.
 - Prioritising additional investment in coaches for women's, girl's, multicultural groups and disability cricket.
 - Increasing the opportunities for people with a disability to take part and play cricket at all levels.
 - Maximising the impact of hosting International Cricket Council (ICC) global events to inspire a more diverse participation base to play cricket.

- Delivering and investing in cricket programmes that are specifically designed to bring communities together and improve physical and mental wellbeing.
- **Casual:** The following will be prioritised:
 - Delivering simple and enjoyable casual cricket offers.
 - Developing a 5 or 6-a-side version of cricket, played on artificial wickets to engage players at all ages and levels.
 - Supporting innovation such as Last Man Stands, Indoor, Tape-ball and Beach Cricket.
 - Creating a year-round participation programme using artificial wickets, indoor centres and other indoor spaces to allow all-year round play.
 - Driving availability of bats and balls for unstructured play.

Leicestershire and Rutland Strategic Planning

6.29 The Leicestershire County Cricket Community team response to the ECB strategy is summarised in their strategic framework priorities, see Figure 39 (Leicestershire County Cricket Club , 2016). There are general objectives relating to increasing participation including the women’s game and transition from school to club, but there are no specific targets for Harborough.

Figure 39: Leicestershire cricket framework priorities



Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

6.30 A review of the adjacent authorities PPS reports shows that:

- Leicester: the playing pitch strategy of June 2017 specifically considers both the demand/supply situation within the City and the issues within the Greater Leicester Area, which includes the Scraftoft area of Harborough District. The strategy identifies that there is a major export of teams from Leicester to the adjoining areas, primarily to Charnwood, though no teams are specifically identified as being exported to Harborough. The cricket sites in Leicester are generally poor quality which limits their use for league games. The priorities for investment are therefore to improve both existing sites and to increase the number of pitches in the city as the PPS has identified a shortfall of 6 pitches.

The Harborough strategy confirms that the importation of players from Leicester is significant, particularly for Houghton & Thurnby which has more than a third of its players from Leicester. There are however no whole teams or clubs playing in Harborough which arise from Leicester. Given the extent of the problem with cricket in Leicester, even if the new and improved provision proposed in the PPS is achieved, it is likely that the export of players to Harborough will continue into the long term.

- Charnwood: the authority is currently producing a playing pitch strategy.

The import of players from Charnwood is very small, and none of the clubs use sites in Charnwood for either home matches or training. There are therefore no significant cross boundary considerations with this authority.

- Melton: the playing pitch strategy was completed in 2014. It concluded that although there was a shortfall of one pitch to meet future demand in the Central Melton area and two pitches in West Melton, that with spare capacity elsewhere there is sufficient pitch space to meet all future needs. No reference is made to Harborough district within the strategy.

None of the Harborough clubs has players living in Melton district, and none of the clubs use sites in Melton for either home matches or training. There are therefore no significant cross boundary considerations with this authority.

- Rutland: the 2016 strategy concluded that there was sufficient pitch space for cricket up to 2036 if the existing pitch stock is retained. No significant cross-boundary movement of players is identified in the strategy.

In Harborough, Medbourne (10%), Houghton & Thurnby (5%), and Market Harborough (5%) have members who live in Rutland. Other than this, there seems to be little cross-boundary movement between the authorities for cricket.

- Corby: the draft 2014 pitch strategy considered the impact of the planned growth to 2031. The estimated future additional need was for 8 extra cricket pitches by 2031.

None of the clubs responding to the survey said that they had any members from Corby, and there is no use of any indoor facilities in Corby by these clubs. The level of cross-boundary movement between the authorities for cricket therefore seems insignificant for this strategy.

- Kettering: the 2011-2021 strategy suggests that the existing cricket clubs are improved, but does not suggest any new sites.

None of the clubs responding to the survey said that they had any members from Kettering, and there is no use of any indoor facilities in that borough by these clubs. The level of cross-boundary movement between the authorities for cricket therefore seems insignificant for this strategy.

- Daventry: the district's PPS is currently in development. There are no significant cross-boundary issues identified in the draft strategy in relation to cricket and the assessment concluded that there were sufficient pitches to meet all future needs of the district.

None of the clubs responding to the survey identified that they had any members from Daventry district, and none used sites in Daventry for matches or training. Cross-boundary movement is therefore not a significant issue to consider in the Harborough strategy.

- Rugby: the 2015 strategy recommended one additional cricket site to cater for the planned growth, with the preferred option being the Rugby Radio Station site. No significant issues were identified in relation to cross-boundary movement of players with Harborough, though a small number of players are likely to travel to the Lutterworth clubs and to Rowland United.

This very limited cross-boundary movement between the authorities is confirmed by the fact that none of the Harborough clubs responding to the survey have members from Rugby borough, and none use sites in Rugby for matches or training.

- Blaby: the authority undertook an audit of its pitch sites as part of an open spaces assessment in 2015, but this did not forecast forwards the balance in supply/demand. At the time there appeared to be spare capacity overall across the district, though 2 sites were overused. The strategy suggested some site specific improvements.

Four of the five clubs responding to the survey in Harborough said that that had a small number of players from Blaby, with the highest percentage being Great Glen at around 10%. None used sites in Blaby for matches or training. This

suggests that cross-boundary issues with this authority are not significant for the Harborough strategy.

- Oadby & Wigston: the authority does not have a current playing pitch strategy.

Four of the five clubs responding to the survey in Harborough said that they had a number of players from Oadby & Wigston, with the highest percentage being Kibworth at 25%, with Houghton & Thurnby at 20%. None of the clubs however use sites in Oadby & Wigston for either matches or training. Given the attractiveness of the Harborough cricket clubs it is likely that the import of players into the district will continue in the long term.

- 6.31 This strategy review suggests that there are some significant levels of importation of players into Harborough from; Leicester, Oadby & Wigston and Blaby.

Modelling

Market Segmentation

- 6.32 Sport England's Market Segmentation modelling shows that the 'Philip' segment (Comfortable Mid-Life Males) are the most likely group to play cricket in Harborough, although the 'Tim' segment (Settling Down Males) and 'Ben' (Competitive Male Urbanites) may also be interested.

Playing pitch model

- 6.33 The Sport England guidance sets out the required approach towards modelling of grass pitch sports, using Team Generation Rates, the temporal demand for the sport (the number of matches at peak time), and the availability of pitches of the required size.

Peak time capacity

- 6.34 The number of teams playing on a Saturday, the peak time, in 2016 was 37, so the peak time demand for pitches if all the teams played every weekend is 18.5 pitches. There were 23 pitches in community use available, but one was unsecure and one was Gumley with its unusual outfield.
- 6.35 The current supply/demand balance at peak time for each of the pitches across the sub areas is provided in Figure 40. This suggests that there is spare capacity of between 1.5 and 2 matches available in each sub area at peak time. However this includes the unused sites in the East, where there may be some practical difficulties in restabilising use, especially in the longer term even though in 2016 the sites were being maintained at "standard" quality.
- 6.36 If the unused sites were not able to be brought back into use and assuming the Gumley pitch remains restricted in its use, this means that there is no current spare

capacity at peak time in most of the district, the exception being in the West sub area.

Figure 40: Cricket peak time spare capacity by sub area

Sub Area	Number of pitches spare at peak time (Saturday)	Sites with spare capacity at peak time	Comment
Middle	1.5	Loughton & Mowsley CC Gumley	Pitch constraints
West	1.5	Ullesthorpe Gilmorton	
East	2	Hallaton Lowesby	Unused site Unused private site

Ground capacity across the season

6.37 In terms of the number of strips required to cater for the demand, the calculation needs to take into account both the availability of natural turf and non turf pitch strips available in the district.

6.38 There are currently:

- 212 natural turf strips in total, but 19 of these were on the unused sites, so there were a total of 193 strips in used in 2016. The total agreed carrying capacity based on quality of the sites was for 937 matches, or excluding the unused sites, a total of 893 matches.
- 1 junior natural turf strip (Bitteswell), with a capacity of 4 matches.
- 14 non turf pitch strips on 14 different sites all of which were in use, of 840 matches.

6.39 The total senior match demand in 2016 if every team recorded (66 teams) was to play every week for a 20 week season is 660 matches, so there is easily sufficient capacity for all of the senior teams to play all of their matches on grass.

6.40 There are a total of 40 junior teams, so their total match demand if every team played every week is 400 matches. There is therefore easily sufficient capacity as a whole if the juniors use the non turf pitch strips for some matches, and some space on some sites for juniors to potentially use the spare capacity on natural turf.

- 6.41 At the individual site level, the management of the ground will in part determine whether there is sufficient capacity, as well as the actual size of the site. For example, if a non turf strip is well maintained and is used for most of the junior games and some lower league adult matches, then the pressure on the natural turf is much less.
- 6.42 There are some sites where the amount of use appears to be greater than the capacity of the site (number of strips available and/or their quality). The sites under pressure are given in Figure 41.
- 6.43 It is clear that some sites, at least theoretically, have too little natural turf strip provision to host all of their adult matches. Reducing the number of matches played on each natural turf strip would help to improve and retain the pitch quality.
- 6.44 It is clear that those clubs with a non turf strip have much higher total capacities, and it may be that some of the adult teams are using these strips rather than natural turf. Options to increase the capacity of the sites in Figure 41 will be priorities for the future, potentially including the size of the squares, improving the quality of the squares, or providing an artificial strip.

Figure 41: Cricket sites under pressure

Sub area	Club	Total site capacity – balance for season	Balance per season for adult matches on natural turf	Balance per season for junior matches on junior natural turf or non turf strip	Non turf strip on site
West	Luttterworth CC	-10	30	-40	N
Middle	Langtons CC	24	-6	30	Y
East	Billesdon CC	46	-4	50	Y
East	Medbourne CC	8	-12	20	Y
East	Houghton & Turnby CC, Wadkins Way	-30	0	-30	N
West	Rowland United CC, Tilton & Lowesby CC	-40	-30	-10	N

Ancillary facilities; nets and clubhouses

- 6.45 All of the clubs have at least a basic changing facility, and the clubhouses range from large and high quality as at Kibworth, to small and basic, with the least good being the Loughton & Mowsley CC site, which appeared to be used very little in 2016.

6.46 Several of the clubs have practice nets and a summary of the site audits is given in Figure 42.

Figure 42: Site summary for practice nets

Club/site	Comment
Billesdon CC, Coplow Lane Ground	Single net, standard quality but some issues e.g. surface debris
Bitteswell CC	Single net, some issues including holes in net, and moss or materials in the surface
Bowden CC, Bowden Recreational Ground	Two nets, standard quality
Dunton Bassett CC	Two nets, standard quality
Gilmorton CC, Gilmorton Playing Fields	Single net, poor quality
Houghton & Turnby CC, Wadkins Way	Two nets, poor quality (unsafe) and redundant
Kibworth CC	Two nets, excellent quality
Langtons CC, East Langton	Two nets, standard quality
Lutterworth CC	Multiple nets, excellent quality
Market Harborough CC	Four nets, excellent quality

Assessment of Future Needs

6.47 The assessment of the future needs for cricket is based on a combination of:

- Team generation rate modelling results. These forecast growth in the sport, using team generation rates (TGRs), which in turn are based on: the current rates of participation in the sport across the age groups and sexes; the anticipated growth in each sport, again across the different age groups and sexes; and the changes in the population for each area of Harborough over time.
- the quality and availability of the existing pitches.
- the technical requirements of cricket.
- the capacity of the existing sites to meet future demand, both using natural turf and artificial turf strips.

TGR modelling

6.48 The basis for modelling the future demand for cricket was agreed with the Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Board and the ECB and is:

Figure 43: Cricket- agreed participation rate increases

		Cumulative growth percentage from 2017		
		2021	2026	2031
Male	0.5% pa	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%
Female	10% pa	50.0%	100.0%	150.0%

6.49 This results in an increasing team generation rate (TGR) across the strategy period for the different age groups and sexes, see Figure 44. These are the number of teams which are generated per 1,000 population of that age group/sex and include the imported players. These TGR rates can be used to inform the Sport England Pitch Calculator to estimate the amount of cricket team demand likely to arise from a single development.

Figure 44: TGR rates for cricket to 2031

	Age Groups	TGR rates			
		2017	2021	2026	2031
Junior cricket - boys	7-18yrs	6.10	6.25	6.40	6.55
Junior cricket - girls	7-18yrs	0.16	0.25	0.33	0.41
Men's cricket	18-55yrs	3.11	3.18	3.26	3.34
Women's cricket	18-55yrs	0.10	0.14	0.19	0.24

6.50 Written another way, the number of people needed to generate one team in given in Figure 45. This is starting point for the Sport England Pitch Calculator.

Figure 45: Population needed to generate one team in 2017

	Age Groups	Population needed to generate 1 team in 2017
Junior cricket - boys	7-18yrs	164
Junior cricket - girls	7-18yrs	6080
Men's cricket	18-55yrs	332
Women's cricket	18-55yrs	10400

6.51 The application of this modelling to the district, which includes the imported players, results in terms of team forecasts is given in Figure 46. This suggests that there will be some growth in the number of cricket teams up to 2031 across the district as a whole, and that this will be significant, with 46 extra teams by 2031. Most of this growth will be in the boys and men's cricket, despite the high rate of participation growth for the girls' and women's game.

6.52 There is likely to be growth in each of the sub areas, but the Middle sub area will see more growth than elsewhere, with up to 26 extra teams by 2031.

Figure 46: Cricket - number of teams to 2031 including imported players

		Number of teams within age group			
		2017	2021	2026	2031
Age Groups					
District					
Junior cricket - boys	7-18yrs	40	43	49	59
Junior cricket - girls	7-18yrs	1	2	2	3
Men's cricket	18-55yrs	64	65	71	85
Women's cricket	18-55yrs	2	3	4	6
		107	112	127	153
Middle					
Junior cricket - boys	7-18yrs	16	18	21	27
Junior cricket - girls	7-18yrs	0	1	1	2
Men's cricket	18-55yrs	26	27	31	38
Women's cricket	18-55yrs	1	1	2	3
		44	47	55	70
West					
Junior cricket - boys	7-18yrs	13	13	15	17
Junior cricket - girls	7-18yrs	0	0	1	1
Men's cricket	18-55yrs	20	20	22	25
Women's cricket	18-55yrs	1	1	1	2
		34	35	38	45
East					
Junior cricket - boys	7-18yrs	11	12	13	15
Junior cricket - girls	7-18yrs	0	0	1	1
Men's cricket	18-55yrs	18	18	19	21
Women's cricket	18-55yrs	1	1	1	1
		29	30	34	38

6.53 If the same analysis is done but using Cherwell’s team generation rate as a way of assessing the demand likely to arise from Harborough’s own population, this gives a very different picture. This suggests that the cricket growth for Harborough alone would be more likely to be in the order of 6 men’s teams, 8 junior boys’ teams, 2 women’s and 2 girls’ teams. This would suggest that a total of two extra cricket pitches might be needed to cater for the additional demand arising from within the district, in the period up to 2031.

	Age Groups	Number of teams within age group			
		2017	2021	2026	2031
Junior cricket - boys	7-18yrs	16	17	20	24
Junior cricket - girls	7-18yrs	1	2	2	3
Men’s cricket	18-55yrs	18	18	20	24
Women’s cricket	18-55yrs	1	1	2	3
		36	38	44	54

Cricket match demand – all demand

6.54 The assessment so far has shown that the most critical need for cricket is the number of pitches which are required at peak time for the men’s game, rather than an overall issue of site capacity. About 58% of the men’s matches are played on a Saturday, so the next step in the assessment is to consider how far the existing pitch stock can meet the demand expected by 2031. This assessment is given in Figure 47 and includes the imported players.

6.55 The assessment effectively shows that there will be a need for additional cricket pitches by 2031 to cater for the demand, and that most of this new demand will arise from the Middle sub area, which will require an extra 5 cricket pitches by 2031. Gumley is also in this area but is only used for a small number of matches each year. Ideally a new replacement site should be found for this club, as the ground does not meet the ECB pitch requirements. This means that the Middle sub area needs to have 5 extra cricket pitches planned, of which one should be in/close to Gumley, and the others linked to the proposed housing growth in this area.

6.56 The West and East sub areas theoretically have sufficient capacity to meet the long term needs of cricket up to 2031. A key consideration for provision in both of these areas however will be the accessibility of the existing cricket sites to the new housing growth, and whether the existing sites within the accessible travel time have spare capacity.

6.57 In the West sub area, the priorities will be to ensure that the capacity of the existing sites are maximised.

6.58 The two unused pitches in the East sub area are at Hallaton and Lowesby. The Hallaton site is about 9 miles from the centre of Market Harborough, and 12 miles from the Scraftoft area. This site is therefore probably too far away from either

developments around Market Harborough or at Scraptoft to meet the needs of the new residents in these areas.

- 6.59 The privately owned site at Lowesby which was also unused in 2016, is about 15 miles from Market Harborough and 6 miles from Scraptoft (15 minutes). This site, if secured and retained in use, might meet a small proportion of demand arising from the proposed Scraptoft North SDA. However as its future cannot be guaranteed, it should be assumed that the site will not be available in the long term.

Figure 47: Cricket pitch demand/supply up to 2031 by sub area

Age Groups	Number of teams within age group				Number of matches per week (Number of teams / 2)				Number of matches being played at peak time				Change in peak time pitch requirements (number of matches)			Number of pitches available and used	Balance in supply/demand for pitches at peak time by 2031 (pitches in use in 2016)	Number of unused pitches in 2016	
	2017	2021	2026	2031	2017	2021	2026	2031	2017	2021	2026	2031	2021	2026	2031				
District																			
Junior cricket - boys	7-18yrs	40	43	49	59	20	21	25	29	5	5	6	7	0	1	2	21	-4	2
Junior cricket - girls	7-18yrs	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	1	1			
Men's cricket	18-55yrs	64	65	71	85	32	33	36	42	19	19	21	25	0	2	6			
Women's cricket	18-55yrs	2	3	4	6	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	3	0	1	2			
		107	112	127	153														
Middle																			
Junior cricket - boys	7-18yrs	16	18	21	27	8	9	11	13	2	2	3	3	0	1	1	6	-5	0
Junior cricket - girls	7-18yrs	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1			
Men's cricket	18-55yrs	26	27	31	38	13	14	15	19	8	8	9	11	0	1	4			
Women's cricket	18-55yrs	1	1	2	3	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1			
		44	47	55	70														
West																			
Junior cricket - boys	7-18yrs	13	13	15	17	6	7	7	9	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	7	0	0
Junior cricket - girls	7-18yrs	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Men's cricket	18-55yrs	20	20	22	25	10	10	11	12	6	6	6	7	0	0	1			
Women's cricket	18-55yrs	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
		34	35	38	45														
East																			
Junior cricket - boys	7-18yrs	11	12	13	15	5	6	6	7	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	8	2	2
Junior cricket - girls	7-18yrs	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Men's cricket	18-55yrs	18	18	19	21	9	9	9	11	5	5	5	6	0	0	1			
Women's cricket	18-55yrs	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0			
		29	30	34	38														

Cricket match demand – Harborough demand only

- 6.60 If the reduced TGR rates are applied to better estimate the growth in cricket up to 2031 from the Harborough population alone, then the growth in the number of teams in the Middle sub area changes to:
- 4 extra men’s teams
 - 4 extra boy’s teams
 - 1 extra women’s team
 - 2 extra girls’ teams
- 6.61 There is no firm basis for the estimate, but this suggests that the demand by 2031 arising from the population living in Harborough could be closer to one pitch. As there is already a deficit of cricket pitch space in the area, a new pitch will be required to meet this demand.
- 6.62 The other demand will be generated across the West and East sub areas, but there is sufficient capacity in the existing sites to meet this need.

Meeting the needs of the future

Middle sub area

- 6.63 The only additional planned grass pitch provision is in relation to the North West Market Harborough SDA which will have a village green/recreation ground. The area is approximately 6.6 ha, but it is not clear how much will be made available for pitches, what constraints there may be, and which sports. If possible, cricket should be provided on site, but if not on site, there will be a need to provide for a pitch with its ancillary facilities off-site.
- 6.64 This area has a high level of participation and has a relatively high level of imported players. If all of the demand is to be met, there may be a need to plan for three further cricket pitches, with if possible, a double-pitch site plus a single site. As further deliverable cricket sites and funding for them have not yet been identified, the initial priority is for Leicestershire County Cricket Community team and the ECB to work with the clubs and leagues to increase the capacity of the existing sites, particularly for Langtons CC.
- 6.65 Gumley should be supported to relocate to an appropriate new site close to Gumley, as a replacement for their current site, which does not meet the expectations of the ECB.

West sub area

- 6.66 The proposed East of Lutterworth SDA lies within a 5 mile drive catchment to several clubs and sites including Lutterworth, Gilmorton, Swinford, Dunton Bassett, and

Bitteswell. There is currently capacity for 1.5 extra matches at peak time i.e. 3 additional senior teams.

- 6.67 The priorities for this area are to invest in the existing sites to help them to respond to the additional demand, rather than the provision of a new cricket pitch. Lutterworth CC, and Swinford Playing Fields which hosts both Rowland United CC and Tilton & Lowesby CC are the two sites which need most urgent support in this regard. The Swinford site is however private, so any investment would need to be linked to a formal community use agreement.

East sub area

- 6.68 The modelling suggests that there is sufficient capacity in the East sub area to meet the long term needs of the additional population. However the current strategy work from Leicester and Charnwood suggest that cricket is a major sport in the city but with little provision. There are major flows of players and teams into Charnwood, and this is also the case for the existing Harborough clubs closest to the city.
- 6.69 There are two unused cricket sites in the sub area, but these are too far from the planned growth around Scraftoft to be accessible.
- 6.70 It is therefore proposed that one new cricket pitch with ancillary facilities is developed as part of the Scraftoft North SDA, and that the existing sites close to the area are invested in, to increase their carrying capacity. These are Dixon's Field (Houghton on the Hill) and Wadkins Way (Bushby).
- 6.71 The other sites which need urgent support to look at ways in increasing capacity is also needed for Billesdon CC and Medbourne CC.
- 6.72 Harborough District Council also recognises that there may be an opportunity in the Scraftoft North SDA or close by to deliver a second cricket pitch to meet the needs of Leicester residents, on land controlled by Leicester City Council. This second pitch should also be developed, but with funding provided by the City Council or other external partners.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES

- 6.73 The following questions and their answers are taken from the Sport England Guidance and provide a useful summary of the current and future provision for cricket in the district.

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

- 6.74 The sport is strong in Harborough district and a number of the clubs attract a significant number of players from outside of the district, particularly from Leicester and Oadby & Wigston.

- 6.75 There has been a growth in the junior game, but this contrasts with the adult participation, which has remained fairly constant over the last few years.
- 6.76 There is a good geographical spread of cricket pitches across the district.

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

- 6.77 All of the cricket pitch sites used by the community are in secure community use. There are also two unused sites, one of which is privately owned. None of the sites are at schools.
- 6.78 There is just sufficient pitch provision to meet the needs of the game at peak time, which is a Saturday for the adult game. However there are high levels of activity at several sites across the rest of the week. Over half of the sites have artificial turf strips, which are important to enable the clubs to have sufficient capacity, particularly for the junior game.

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

- 6.79 The agreed quality of the cricket pitches is either “good” or “standard” and there is clubhouse provision on all sites. The quality and size of the clubhouses vary, from large and relatively new, to small and only providing basic facilities.
- 6.80 Some of the sites are shared with football, which impacts upon the game, both in terms of the overlapping seasons, and the quality of the outfield.
- 6.81 The outfield at Gumley is crossed by a single track road, so the site does not meet ECB expectations, though it is used for lower league matches.

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

- 6.82 There is expected to be a significant increase in demand for cricket in the period up to 2031, around 46 teams, but this includes the imported players from Leicester, Blaby and Oadby and Wigston. The increase in demand is spread across all of the sub areas but most is in the Middle sub area, which includes Market Harborough.
- 6.83 There are no known planned new cricket sites, but there may be opportunities to plan additional provision linked to housing growth. The North West Harborough SDA has around 6 ha of playing field area planned into the development, but it is not yet known if cricket will be provided. This assessment confirms that new pitch provision is required.

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

- 6.84 The Middle sub area may require a total of 4 additional cricket pitches by 2031 to meet the demand at peak time, to cater for both the resident players and those who are imported into the district. Although 1 pitch may be provided at North West Harborough, there is no other planned provision or identified deliverable sites with potential funding for the others. The initial priority is therefore for the Leicestershire County Cricket Community team and the ECB to work with the clubs, site owners, and leagues to find ways of maximising the sustainable use and increasing the capacity of the existing sites to meet the demand, particularly at Langtons CC. This work can then help confirm what extra provision will be required in terms of new pitches and sites by 2031.
- 6.85 In addition, there is also a need to provide a replacement pitch for Gumley.
- 6.86 The West sub area has sufficient provision to meet the needs of the planned growth, so the priorities here are to invest in the quality of the existing sites, particularly those within the accessible distance of the planned East of Lutterworth SDA. Improved quality should enable these sites to meet the additional demand arising in the area. The priorities for investment to increase capacity are Lutterworth CC and Swinford playing fields which provide for Rowland United CC, and Tilton & Lowerby CC.
- 6.87 The East sub area has two unused pitches, but one of these is unsecure and neither are close enough to Market Harborough or to the Scraftoft area to meet the demand arising from planned housing developments. The concurrent playing pitch strategy work at Leicester and Charnwood has identified a major lack of provision for cricket in Leicester and a high level of outflow of teams and players, particularly into Charnwood. The degree of deficit of provision in Leicester itself means that the importation of players from Leicester to Harborough is likely to continue into the long term. It is therefore proposed that the sites in Houghton on the Hill (Dixon's Fields) and Bushby (Wadkins Way) are priorities for investment to enhance their capacity.
- 6.88 A cricket pitch is required to meet the needs of the new population in the Scraftoft North SDA, and should be provided on site. However there is an identified major shortfall in cricket provision in Leicester, and a second pitch should be provided within the development to cater for this additional need. The deliverability and funding of this proposed second pitch is still to be confirmed.

What actions may be required to ensure provision can meet both the current and future demand?

- 6.89 The existing sites should generally be retained and enhanced where needed.
- 6.90 The pitch provision at North West Market Harborough SDA should be confirmed, and a cricket pitch provided on-site. If not provided on site, a new site will need to be provided off-site.
- 6.91 Leicestershire County Cricket Community team and ECB should explore ways of extending the capacity of the existing sites, particularly those which could serve new developments, to confirm options, costs and deliverability. This work should also help to confirm what additional pitch provision there needs to be within the Middle sub area by 2031. The priorities for this work are:
- Billesdon CC
 - Dixon's Fields (Houghton & Thurnby CC)
 - Langtons CC
 - Lutterworth CC
 - Medbourne CC
 - Swinford playing fields (Rowland United CC, Tilton & Lowesby CC)
 - Wadkins Way (Houghton & Thurnby CC)
- 6.92 A replacement pitch is required for Gumley.
- 6.93 Two pitches should be planned into the Scraftoft North SDA. One pitch expected to meet the demands of the new residents, and one pitch to be provided to meet the exported demand from Leicester. The location, funding and deliverability of both pitches is still to be confirmed. However there is justification for the costs to be met by Leicester City Council for the second pitch as the proposal is to meet their identified shortfall of cricket pitch space.

Recommendations for cricket

Protect

- 6.94 The existing sites should generally be retained and enhanced where needed.

Enhance

- 6.95 Leicestershire County Cricket Community team and ECB should explore ways of extending the capacity of the existing sites, particularly those which could serve new developments, to confirm options, costs and deliverability. This work should also help to confirm what additional pitch provision there needs to be within the Middle sub area by 2031. The priorities for this work are:

- Billesdon CC
- Dixon's Fields (Houghton & Thurnby CC)
- Langtons CC
- Lutterworth CC
- Medbourne CC
- Swinford playing fields (Rowland United CC, Tilton & Lowesby CC)
- Wadkins Way (Houghton & Thurnby CC)

6.96 A replacement pitch is required for Gumley.

6.97 The East of Lutterworth SDA and other developments, except for the North West Market Harborough and Scraftoft North, should contribute off-site towards improvements at the existing accessible cricket sites.

Provide

6.98 The pitch provision at North West Market Harborough SDA should be confirmed, and a cricket pitch provided on-site. If not provided on site, a new site will need to be provided off-site.

6.99 Two pitches should be planned into the Scraftoft North SDA. One pitch expected to meet the demands of the new residents, and one pitch to be provided to meet the exported demand from Leicester. The location, funding and deliverability of both pitches is still to be confirmed. However there is justification for the costs to be met by Leicester City Council for the second pitch as the proposal is to meet their identified shortfall of cricket pitch space.

SECTION 7: RUGBY UNION

- 7.1 There are three rugby union clubs in Harborough, two large clubs and one small, with a total of 37 teams.
- 7.2 Participation in rugby once a month, for people aged 14+ years is around 355,100 (Sport England , 2016) and there has been an increase in participation since 2012-13. Earlier research from Sport England for the period ending October 2009, showed that around 95% of participants are male. The sport is mainly played by younger people, with about 84% being under the age of 34. The take up across the socio-economic groups is approximately even, with a slight weighting to the NS SEC9 group which includes students, and to the more affluent groups. There are high rates of club membership for this sport, which reflect the way in which the sport is played.

Rugby demand in Harborough

- 7.3 The following clubs and teams information was agreed by the RFU in May 2017 (Figure 48).

Figure 48: RFU rugby team numbers 2017

Club	Mini Midi U12	Youth Boys U13-U18	Youth Girls U13-U18	Adult men	Adult women
Lutterworth	6	5	2	3	1
Market Harborough	7	5	3	3	0
Aylestone St James	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	13	10	5	8	1

- 7.4 The Aylestone St James club also hosts the De Montford University teams. It acts at the main home match site for the 2nd and 3rd men's teams and for the women's team. These teams also train on the site on Mondays. As this use is regular across the season, the demand has been added to the site within the assessment.

Temporal demand – the peak demand

- 7.5 The peak demand for pitches is one of the key factors in assessing how many pitches are required in order to meet the demand from a local area. In community rugby the seniors play on Sundays mornings, and the women play on Sunday afternoons. The university matches are all played on Wednesday afternoons.
- 7.6 As the junior teams play on adult size pitches, whilst the mini play across the adult pitches or on separately marked out mini pitches, the peak demand usually relates to the number of adult men's teams in a club. However, this could reflect the number of junior teams if these are playing on a weekly basis.

7.7 Rugby is different from both cricket and football, in that the training impact on the pitches is very significant, as all training takes place on the rugby club sites, and usually on the pitches which are also used for matches.

Current provision

7.8 The rugby club sites are mapped in Figure 50, and it is clear that there is one club in each sub area. The pitches provision on each site is given in the table below, Figure 49.

Figure 49: Rugby club pitch provision

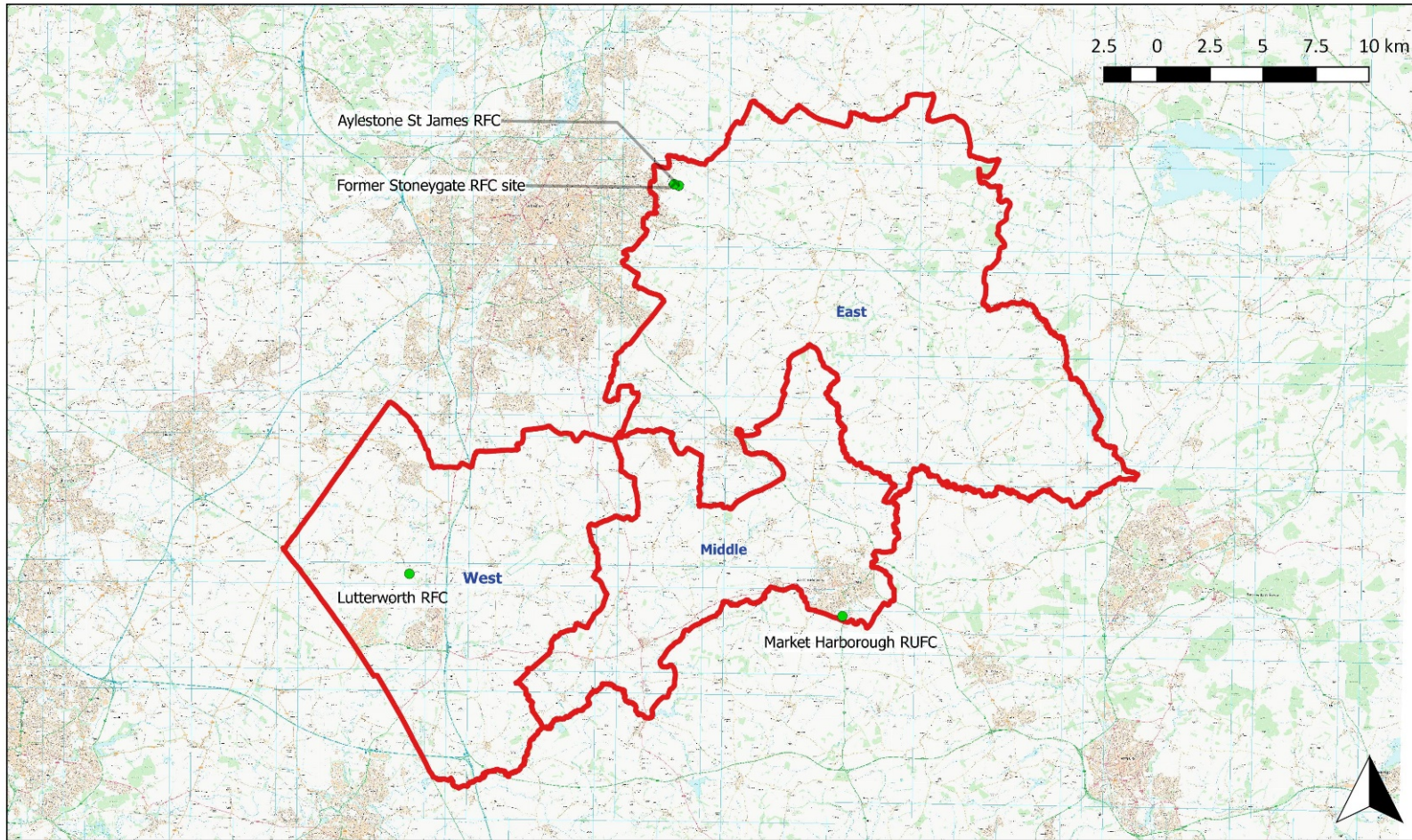
Club	Number of senior floodlit pitches	Number of senior non-floodlit pitches	Other provision
Lutterworth	1	2	Pitches at other sizes: 12x20 12x20 35x24 30x60 29x55
Market Harborough	2.5 (3 rd pitch lit only on one side)	4	Pitches at other sizes: 22x40 22x40 12x20 12x20 12x20
Aylestone St James	2.5 (3 rd pitch lit only on one side)	0	

7.9 All of the sites are in secure community use and are directly controlled by the rugby clubs themselves. None of the rugby activity takes place away from the club sites, with the exception of very occasional use by Market Harborough of the Robert Smyth Academy site.

7.10 The Lutterworth club and Aylestone St James have the freehold of their sites, but the pitches at Market Harborough are split in ownership between the club and Harborough District Council, although the club manages and effectively controls the whole site.

- 7.11 In addition to these community club sites, there is the old Stoneygate RFC site which is immediately adjacent to the Aylestone St James site, and is now solely used for training by the professional club, Leicester Tigers RFC. This site is close to, but outside of the Scraftoft North Strategic Development Area.
- 7.12 There are currently no rugby specification AGPs in the district, and none are planned.

Figure 50: Rugby pitch sites



 **Harborough Playing Pitch Strategy**
Rugby

 Harborough Rugby
 Harborough sub area boundary

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Pitch quality

7.13 The RFU pitch carrying capacity identifies the number of match equivalent sessions that a natural grass pitch can sustain without any adverse impacts. It is based on both the drainage and maintenance regime of the pitch (Figure 51).

Figure 51: RFU pitch carrying capacity

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

7.14 The quality of the pitches is based on the non-technical quality assessment from the playing pitch strategy guidance, and supplemented by maintenance and drainage information from the clubs and through consultation with the RFU. The reasonable pitch quality in Harborough means that most pitches can withstand at least 2 sessions per week, and some are better, at 3 sessions per week, see Figure 52.

Figure 52: Pitch quality scores

Community Club	Pitch size	Pitch floodlit	Pitch database rating	Weekly pitch capacity	Changing accommodation
Lutterworth	Snr	Yes	D3/M1	3	Yes Additional changing required
	Snr	No	D3/M1	3	
	Snr	No	D1/M1	2	
	5 x other small	No	D1/M1		
Market Harborough	Snr	Yes	D2/M1	2.5	Yes Extension to clubhouse commitment.
	Snr	Yes	D2/M1	2.5	
	Snr	Yes	D2/M1	2.5	
	Snr	No	D1/M1	2	
	Snr	No	D1/M1	2	
	Snr	No	D1/M1	2	
	5 x other small	No	D2/M1		
Aylestone St James	Snr	Yes	D2/M1	2.5	Very poor. Major refurbishment required.
	Snr	Yes	D2/M1	2.5	
	Snr	Yes	D2/M1	2.5	

Former Stoneygate site (used by Leicester Tigers)	Snr	Yes	D2/M1	2.5	No. Disused
	Snr	No	D2/M1	2.5	

Rugby provision on school sites

7.15 Some of the secondary schools and independent schools in the district have rugby pitches on their sites, but other than for the Robert Smyth Academy, none are available for community use, and the Robert Smyth pitch is only used on an occasional basis by Market Harborough RFC. Kibworth, Robert Smyth and Leicester Grammar all require additional rugby pitch space for curriculum needs, as does Welland Park which occasionally uses the pitches at Market Harborough RFC for their matches. The details of rugby provision on each school site and the use by the community is given in Appendix 7.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 7.16 All three clubs responded to the club survey, giving a 100% response rate.
- 7.17 Each of the three clubs draw most of their members from within about a 5 mile radius from their sites. Almost all of the members come from within the district, with the exception of Aylestone St James which has 40% of members from Leicester.
- 7.18 There have been major problems with the clubhouse at Aylestone St James which has meant that there has been a huge fall in their membership, and relocation of many players to other clubs, including Market Harborough and Lutterworth. It is not therefore possible to clearly differentiate between the general trends in the growth of women's and girls' rugby and the relocation of some players from Aylestone St James.
- 7.19 The key issues faced by the clubs as given in their feedback are summarised below.

Lutterworth

7.20 The club has had a steady membership other than an increase in the girls' game. It anticipates growing by one extra girls team. A key issue restricting their development is a lack of volunteer time, but the club is also restricted on their site and needs additional training space and grass pitches. They also require additional changing facilities and car parking.

Market Harborough

- 7.21 There has been a decrease in each of the teams other than for women's and girls, and the club identifies a lack of funds and the cost of facility hire as key issues. The club however anticipates growing by 2 men's teams and 1 women's. The club would like extra training facilities as it currently uses both the Harborough Town 3G pitch and the dome at the Leisure Centre for training.
- 7.22 The club has secured funding towards a clubhouse extension, pitch drainage works and new floodlights but the enhanced power supply to the new lights costing an estimated £50,000 has not yet been secured. This lack of power is the critical restriction on the club's ability to extend their training options on site. There is also a need for additional car parking.

Aylestone St James

- 7.23 This club has major problems with their clubhouse roof, which is yet to be addressed. As a result of the clubhouse problems, the club has seen a major fall in its membership, and loss of the girls and women players. If the clubhouse issues can be addressed and a gym is added to the building, the club anticipates growing again with the following additional teams: 1 x men, 1 x women, 1 x colt, 2 x boys, 1 x girls and 4 x mini.
- 7.24 The club notes that its site is currently used by a number of other minor sports including: lacrosse, korfbal, and frisbee.
- 7.25 No other pitch sports are marked out on this site. The site is immediately adjacent to the Stoneygate RFC site, now used by the professional club Leicester Tigers for some training, since the relocation of Stoneygate to Uppingham (in Rutland) in 2015.
- 7.26 Two of the De Montfort university men's rugby teams are based at the site, as is the women's team.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 7.27 The RFU National Facilities Strategy 2013-2017 summary provides an overview of the facility priorities for the sport. The detailed specific investment decisions are made by the RFU Constituent Bodies, but all club projects are prioritised in partnership with the RFU professional staff (the Area Facilities Manager and Rugby Development Officer) and with the Leicestershire Rugby Union. The project assessment reviews the merits of each project against the readiness to deliver, including such things as security of tenure, partnership funds, planning consent, and the anticipated return on investment i.e. growth of participation and ability for the club to operate on and off the field.
- 7.28 The RFU has a national AGP programme (Rugby 365) with the objective of installing 100 AGPs for Rugby Union before 2020. Of these, it is intended that there will be 60

‘Rugby Turf’ AGPs which are to be positioned at clubs which experience pitch capacity issues and sit within close proximity of other rugby clubs with similar pitch capacity challenges, but where there is a good opportunity to grow participation. The remaining 40 AGP pitches are intended to be delivered through a contribution towards the overall cost of the construction of the AGP for, in return, a certain number of hours secured for rugby union use. These AGP’s are known as ‘Rugby Share’.

7.29 Where an AGP is developed on a club site, rugby union usage will be prioritised for the host club and surrounding rugby playing organisations including other clubs, schools, colleges, and university. It is expected that commercial activity will be limited.

7.30 The full delivery of the investment programme is expected to be completed by September 2019. An AGP is currently being constructed at Leicester Forest RFC in Blaby, and further venues will be considered in the future.

7.31 The RFUs facility investment summaries for the clubs are:

Lutterworth	Additional pitches
Market Harborough	Car parking improvements / increase and social space refurbishment
Aylestone St James	New roof for clubhouse and changing room refurbishment

Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

7.32 A review of the adjacent authorities PPS reports shows that:

- Leicester: the playing pitch strategy of June 2017 does not identify major cross boundary issues with the city’s surrounding authorities. The strategy proposes that there should be additional pitches at one community club site and for De Montfort University.

The Harborough strategy confirms that the importation of players from Leicester is only important for the currently small Aylestone St James club, which has about 40% of its members from the city. It seems likely that the export of players to Harborough will continue into the long term, particularly if the club is able to expand again.

- Charnwood: the authority is currently producing a playing pitch strategy.

There does not appear to be any importation of players from Charnwood and there are no cross-boundary considerations with this authority.

- Melton: the playing pitch strategy was completed in 2014. It concluded that there are sufficient pitches to meet the demand but the available spare capacity is not suitable for Melton RFC's needs.

There does not appear to be any importation of players from Melton and there are no cross-boundary considerations with this authority.

- Rutland: the 2016 strategy concluded that there was sufficient pitch space for rugby up to 2036. No significant cross-boundary movement of players is identified in the strategy.

There does not appear to be any importation of players from Rutland and there are no cross-boundary considerations with this authority.

- Corby: the draft 2014 pitch strategy considered the impact of the planned growth to 2031. The estimated future additional need was for 3 extra rugby pitches.

There does not appear to be any importation of players from Corby and there are no cross-boundary considerations with this authority.

- Kettering: the 2011-2021 strategy suggests that the priority for rugby is the improvement of Kettering Rugby Club, and the longer terms securing of a new larger site for this club.

Market Harborough estimates that about 5% of its members come from Kettering, so the level of cross-boundary movement between the authorities for rugby therefore seems insignificant for this strategy.

- Daventry: the district's PPS is currently in development. There are no significant cross-boundary issues identified in the draft strategy in relation to rugby and the assessment concluded that there were sufficient pitches to meet all future needs of the district.

Market Harborough RFC estimates that about 5% of its members come from Daventry, so the level of cross-boundary movement between the authorities for rugby therefore seems insignificant for this strategy.

- Rugby: the 2015 strategy identified 6 clubs within the borough. There would be sufficient capacity for the short-medium term if football use of one site could be relocated. In the long term there may be justification for an additional club site on the Radio Station site. These proposals would not impact on rugby in Lutterworth.

Lutterworth RFC estimates that about 1% of its members come from Rugby, so the level of cross-boundary movement between the authorities is insignificant for this strategy.

- Blaby: the authority undertook an audit of its pitch sites as part of an open spaces assessment in 2015, but this did not forecast forwards the balance in supply/demand. At the time there appeared to be spare capacity at 3 rugby club sites but that 2 sites were overused. The main priorities were for improved changing provision.

There does not appear to be any importation of players from Blaby and there are no cross-boundary considerations with this authority.

- Oadby & Wigston: the authority does not have a current playing pitch strategy.

There does not appear to be any importation of players from Oadby & Wigston (1% to Lutterworth) and there are no cross-boundary considerations with this authority.

- 7.33 This strategy review suggests that the only cross-boundary issues relate to the Aylestone St James club in the north of the district. The importation of players from Leicester is likely to continue into the long term at this club because of its location.

Assessment of current supply/demand

Market Segmentation

- 7.34 The Market Segmentation tool from Sport England does not pick up on rugby because of the relatively low level of participation compared to other sports. However at both the national and Leicestershire levels, the Market Segmentation results show that the largest group playing rugby are the 'Ben' segment (Competitive Male Urbanites) which are men aged around 18-25 years, followed by the 'Tim' segment (Settling Down Males) aged 26-45 years, and the 'Jamie' segment (18-25 years). The 'Philip' segment is also interested in the sport and these are the Comfortable Mid-Life Males, aged 46-55 years. None of the other market segment groups are notably active in rugby.

Playing pitch model

- 7.35 In considering the balance between the supply and demand for rugby pitch space in the district, there are two elements, and the assessment is based on the season 2016-17:
- Pitch availability at peak times – the number of pitches required for matches
 - Pitch capacity - the ability of natural grass pitches to provide for matches, training and other activity over a week or over a season. This is most often determined by their quality.

7.36 Information about the rugby club sites has been collated via the site audit and has been agreed by the RFU. Although the peak match demand determines the number of pitches required to meet the match requirements of the club, just as important for rugby is the impact of training which is mainly on the grass pitches. Both are therefore taken into account in the modelling, see Figure 53.

Figure 53: Capacity of rugby sites based on audit

Site	No. of pitches	Capacity (per week of full size pitches)	Training demand jrs & snrs (per week)	Match demand all (per week)	Balance (per week) in number of matches/training sessions
Lutterworth	3	8	5.5	7	-4.5
Market Harborough	7	15.5	5.5	7.3	2.8
Aylestone St James	3	7.5	2	2	3.5

7.37 This modelling suggests that both Market Harborough and Aylestone St James currently have sufficient pitch space across the week, but that Lutterworth RFC is significantly short of pitch space, particularly as only one pitch is floodlit and serves all of the midweek training needs at the club. This view is confirmed by the survey return from the club itself.

7.38 The spare capacity at Market Harborough is actually slightly higher as some of the training takes place at the adjacent Harborough Town FC 3G football turf pitch. The pitch does not however comply with the specifications for rugby.

Assessment of future needs

7.39 The assessment of the future needs for rugby pitches is based on a combination of:

- Team generation rate modelling results. These forecast growth in the sport, using team generation rates (TGRs), which in turn are based on: the current rates of participation in the sport across the age groups and sexes; the anticipated growth in each sport, again across the different age groups and sexes; and the changes in the population for each area of Harborough over time.
- The quality and availability of the existing grass pitches for both matches and training.
- The capacity of the existing sites to meet future demand.
- Retention of the university use of Aylestone St James as in 2017-18.

TGR modelling

- 7.40 The basis for modelling the future demand for community rugby was agreed with the RFU and is 0.21% growth per annum across all age groups and both sexes. This gives a cumulative growth percentage up to 2031 of:

2021	2026	2031
1.1%	2.1%	3.2%

- 7.41 The university use of Aylestone St James is not directly related to the growth in the community game and is unlikely to be influenced by housing growth in the area. The current demand from the university is therefore retained in the assessment but not increased over the years.
- 7.42 This results in an increasing team generation rate (TGR) across the strategy period for the different age groups and sexes, see Figure 44. These TGR rates are the number of teams expected to be generated by 1,000 people of that age group and sex.

Figure 54: TGR rates for rugby to 2031

	Age Groups	TGR rates			
		2017	2021	2026	2031
Mini/midi -rugby - mixed	7-12yrs	2.78	2.81	2.84	2.87
Junior rugby - boys	13-18yrs	2.50	2.53	2.55	2.58
Junior rugby - girls	13-18yrs	1.69	1.71	1.72	1.74
Men's rugby	19-45yrs	0.63	0.63	0.64	0.65
Women's rugby	19-45yrs	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08

- 7.43 The TGRs can be written another way, the population in the age group needed to generate one team. The following table (Figure 55) is for 2017, and can be used with the Sport England pitch calculator to determine the amount of demand likely to arise from any new development over time.

Figure 55: Team Generation Rate for Pitch Calculator

	Age Groups	Number of people in age group needed to generate one team
Mini/midi -rugby - mixed	7-12yrs	360
Junior rugby - boys	13-18yrs	400
Junior rugby - girls	13-18yrs	592
Men's rugby	19-45yrs	1593
Women's rugby	19-45yrs	12820

- 7.44 The application of this modelling to the district results in the teams forecasts is given in Figure 56. The modelling suggests that overall across the district there will be an

increase of around 6 mini teams, 3 junior boys teams, 2 girls teams, 3 men's teams and that the women's game will remain unchanged. The women's and girls' game is likely to be underrepresented in this modelling as this is the fastest growing aspect of the sport. However, it is growing from a low base so the numbers of teams will still be small.

- 7.45 The growth in team numbers at each club is based on the current team numbers plus the expected growth in teams based on the population change in the relevant sub area, i.e. to estimate the growth in the mini game at Market Harborough RFC, the anticipated growth for 2021, 2026 and 2031 (shaded boxes) is added to the current number of teams at this age group.
- 7.46 Under this model, the uneven distribution of teams across the district would be expected to continue into the long term, and the growth at Aylestone St James would only be expected to become apparent in 2026 as the new population becomes established in the Scraftoft area.
- 7.47 This modelling should be kept under review both as part of the annual Stage E update of the playing pitch strategy, and in the full review in approximately 5 years. Aylestone St James RFC hopes to rejuvenate the club once the clubhouse building has been improved, but this will also depend upon the success of sports development programmes at the club.
- 7.48 The next step is to consider whether there is sufficient capacity at the existing sites to meet the needs forecast through the TGR modelling plus an additional allowance for the growth in the women's and girls' game.
- 7.49 The table in Figure 57 estimates the number of pitches which might be required by 2031 to meet the demand, based on the modelling in Figure 56. For the Aylestone St James site, it has been assumed that the current university use will continue as at present.
- 7.50 This theoretical modelling suggests that based on the expected overall growth in the game and the change in population across the district that additional pitch space will be needed at both Market Harborough (2 pitches) and Lutterworth (4 pitches).
- 7.51 The development plans for both Market Harborough and Lutterworth anticipate them growing at least as fast as the modelling predicts. As well as local demand, they are well placed to draw players from the rapidly growing areas close to the clubs; Market Harborough RFC is
- 7.52 The RFU is particularly concerned about Lutterworth RFC and considers that there is an urgent need for additional pitches on this site. The modelling confirms this view.
- 7.53 The annual reviews of this strategy at Stage E and the longer term refresh will be able to confirm how the pattern of demand is changing between the clubs in the district.

7.54 This modelling does not include the Stoneygate site which is now being used by Leicester Tigers for training.

Figure 56: Rugby - forecast teams to 2031 based on actual team numbers

	Age Groups	Forecast number of teams within age			
		2017	2021	2026	2031
Whole district					
Mini/midi -rugby - mixed	7-12yrs	15	16	18	21
Junior rugby - boys	13-18yrs	8	8	10	11
Junior rugby - girls	13-18yrs	5	5	6	7
Men's rugby	19-45yrs	8	8	9	11
Women's rugby	19-45yrs	1	1	1	1
		37	38	44	51

Forecast number of teams within age group based on actual team numbers			
2017	2021	2026	2031

Middle					
Mini/midi -rugby - mixed	7-12yrs	6	7	8	10
Junior rugby - boys	13-18yrs	3	3	4	5
Junior rugby - girls	13-18yrs	2	2	3	3
Men's rugby	19-45yrs	3	3	4	5
Women's rugby	19-45yrs	0	0	1	1
		15	16	19	24

Market Harborough RFC			
7	8	9	11
5	5	6	7
3	3	3	4
3	3	4	5
0	0	0	0
18	19	22	27

West					
Mini/midi -rugby - mixed	7-12yrs	5	5	5	6
Junior rugby - boys	13-18yrs	3	3	3	3
Junior rugby - girls	13-18yrs	2	2	2	2
Men's rugby	19-45yrs	3	3	3	3
Women's rugby	19-45yrs	0	0	0	0
		12	12	13	15

Lutterworth RFC			
6	6	7	7
5	5	5	6
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	4
1	1	1	1
17	17	18	20

East					
Mini/midi -rugby - mixed	7-12yrs	4	4	5	5
Junior rugby - boys	13-18yrs	2	2	3	3
Junior rugby - girls	13-18yrs	1	1	2	2
Men's rugby	19-45yrs	2	2	2	3
Women's rugby	19-45yrs	0	0	0	0
		10	10	12	13

Aylestone St James RFC			
0	0	1	1
0	0	0	1
0	0	0	0
2	2	2	3
0	0	0	0
2	2	3	5

Figure 57: Rugby future supply/demand balance to 2031

	Extra number of teams	Extra match demand	Extra training match equivalents	Total pitch demand match equivalents	Current spare capacity in match equivalents	Balance in match equivalents by 2031	Number of extra pitches required by 2031
Market Harborough							
Mini/midi	4	1	0	1	2.8	-3	2
Junior boys & girls	3	1.5	1.5	3			
Adult men & women	2	1	1	2			
Lutterworth							
Mini/midi	1	0.25	0	0.25	-4.5	-6.75	4
Junior boys & girls	1	0.5	0.5	1			
Adult men & women	1	0.5	0.5	1			
Aylestone St James							
Mini/midi	1	0.25	0	0.25	3.5	1.25	0
Junior boys & girls	1	0.5	0.5	1			
Adult men & women	1	0.5	0.5	1			
University men	0	0	0	0			
University women	0	0	0	0			

Meeting the needs of the future

7.55 The rugby assessment is summarised in Figure 58, which then identifies the priorities for future investment for community rugby.

Figure 58: Rugby club site recommendations

Club / site	Number of senior floodlit pitches(F) & non-floodlit (N)	Assessment findings based on audit	Proposal
Lutterworth	1 F 2 N 5 other small size	Pitch session capacity 8. Pitches used to capacity in part due to high mini numbers. Club seeking to extend site to provide additional pitches and training area, more car parking. Extended training also required.	Priorities are for: Additional pitches and training area Additional changing Additional car parking Floodlighting of additional pitch
Market Harborough	3 F 4 N 5 other small size	Pitch session capacity 15.5. Current surplus of 6.5 sessions per week. Capacity for 5.5 matches on Sat pm. Club seeking to increase floodlit area which can be used at the same time. Requires more car parking. Needs improved social space.	Priorities are for: Improved power to new area of playing fields to enable simultaneous floodlighting. Additional car parking. Clubhouse improvements. Long term: Additional pitch capacity equivalent to 2 grass pitches.
Aylestone St James	3 F	Pitch session capacity 7.5. Current surplus capacity of 2 as site also used by university teams. Require substantial refurbishment or replacement of clubhouse.	Priority is: Require substantial refurbishment or replacement clubhouse

7.56 All of the rugby club sites are required to meet the future demand for the game, and all require some investment to ensure that they are capable of doing so. The investment needs are:

- Market Harborough RFC: pitch improvements, extended power supply to the pitches for floodlighting, more car parking, and extended clubhouse to provide more changing. In the longer term this club will require additional pitch space or pitch capacity the equivalent of 2 pitches by 2031.
- Lutterworth RFC: additional pitch space, floodlighting of pitches, extended changing, and additional car parking.
- Aylestone St James: substantial refurbishment of the clubhouse and site improvements, potentially addition of gym.

7.57 The assessment suggests that the Stoneygate site, adjacent to Aylestone St James, is not expected to be required to meet the needs of community rugby in the area. However, there is a deficit in cricket pitches and also an anticipated shortfall in football provision in the area. The site is therefore required to be retained long term, or if developed, mitigation will be required off site.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES

7.58 The following questions and their answers are taken from the Sport England Guidance and provide a useful summary of the current and future provision for rugby in Harborough.

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

7.59 Rugby activity across the district has remained stable over recent years with the only real increase in demand arising from the women's and girls' game.

7.60 All of the community rugby union activity takes place on three club sites in the district. The sites are controlled by the clubs and they are responsible for their management.

7.61 The pitches are mostly above the RFU "standard" quality, and can sustain 2.5-3 match equivalent sessions per week. Market Harborough however has drainage issues on some of the pitches it uses.

7.62 The current success of the clubs across the district is variable. Lutterworth has 5 teams more than the district-wide average would suggest; more minis and juniors, and a women's team. Market Harborough again has more minis and juniors than the district wide average would suggest. These two clubs compare to Aylestone St James, which is facing major site issues with its clubhouse, and is currently only running 2 senior men's teams, when it would normally also be expected to be running 7 teams at the mini and junior levels.

- 7.63 Alyestone St James considers that it has lost members to both Market Harborough RFC and to Lutterworth RFC, though other accessible clubs outside of the district may also have attracted members or potential members from this club.

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

- 7.64 All of the sites are in secure community use, and at present there are no major shortfalls in capacity at Market Harborough or Aylestone St James. However this is not the case at Lutterworth, which is significantly short of pitch space, the equivalent of 2.25 pitches deficit. This club also needs more car parking and more changing space.
- 7.65 The Aylestone St James site is currently being used as a home site by two men's teams and one women's team from the De Montfort University. This means that they are both training and playing matches there.
- 7.66 The old Stoneygate RFC site which is immediately adjacent to Aylestone St James is being used by the professional club Leicester Tigers for training. It does not have any community use at the present time.

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

- 7.67 Several of the pitches have a higher carrying capacity than the RFU standard of 2 per week, even though the maintenance levels are either standard or poor.
- 7.68 Each of the clubs has a clubhouse but there are major issues with the building at Aylestone St James. These problems with the clubhouse have had a serious impact on the size of the club and it has reduced to 2 senior teams.
- 7.69 Both Market Harborough and Lutterworth need extended changing rooms and more car parking.

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

- 7.70 There will be an increase in demand for rugby as the population in the area grows. The rate of growth is expected to be highest amongst women and girls, but the teams for the female game will remain relatively low.

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

- 7.71 There is no requirement for a new club site, but there is a need to increase the capacity at Lutterworth RFC, and in the longer term at Market Harborough RFC. Lutterworth RFC is the highest priority as it is already being used over capacity and requires additional pitch space, car parking and changing rooms.

What actions may be required to ensure provision can meet both the current and future demand?

- 7.72 There is a need for improvements at the existing sites:
- Middle sub area – Market Harborough RFC: extended clubhouse to provide more changing, and more car parking, upgrade electricity supply to enable simultaneous floodlighting. In the longer term, increase the capacity of the site equivalent to 2 pitches by 2031.
 - West sub area – Lutterworth RFC: additional pitch space (minimum of 2 pitches in 2018, rising to 4 by 2031), floodlighting of pitches, extended changing, and additional car parking.
 - East sub area- Aylestone St James: substantial refurbishment of the clubhouse and site improvements, potentially addition of gym.
- 7.73 Housing developments should therefore contribute to the club site within the relevant sub area to deliver the improvements required.
- 7.74 The Stoneygate site is not required for community rugby, but there is an anticipated deficit of both cricket and football pitches in the area in the period up to 2031. The site should therefore be retained. If developed, then mitigation measures are required with the re-provision of the same quantum of playing field area.

Recommendations for rugby

Protect

- 7.75 Maintain and retain the existing club sites: Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Aylestone St James.
- 7.76 Retain the Stoneygate site which is currently being used for training by Leicester Tigers. Should the site be proposed for development, full mitigation will be required.

Enhance

- 7.77 Lutterworth: extend site to provide minimum of 2 additional pitches and car parking. Provide additional floodlighting and changing provision. Plan further site extension of 2 pitches by 2031.
- 7.78 Market Harborough: upgrade the power supply to enable simultaneous floodlighting of site. Extend car parking and improve social provision. In the longer term increase the capacity of the site by the equivalent of 2 additional grass pitches.

- 7.79 Aylestone St James: replace or substantially refurbish clubhouse including changing. Provide new gym space.
- 7.80 All housing developments in Harborough district should contribute off site to rugby to the nearest rugby club to increase their capacity, either or both to pitches and ancillary facilities.

SECTION 8: HOCKEY

8.1 Nationally around 208,000 people aged 14 and over played hockey at least once a month during the period October 2015-September 2016 (Sport England , 2016). England Hockey club affiliation data shows that there were 129,957 club members during season 2016-17 an increase of 13% from 2012-13 season. Junior membership has grown by 22% from 45,235 to 58,026 since 2012-13 season.

Hockey demand

8.2 During the season 2016/17 there were about 784 hockey players registered with England Hockey for Leicestershire, plus 71 players of Welford Hockey Club which uses Lutterworth but draws all of its members from Northamptonshire. The combined affiliated numbers for Leicestershire as provided by England Hockey for 2016-17 are given in Figure 59. This shows that there are three large clubs, with one much smaller. There are a large number of players aged 16 and under, including at the u10 age group. The younger players do not play regularly in teams, so are not well represented in the team statistics used for the playing pitch model.

Figure 59: Hockey affiliated members 2016-17

	M 5-10	F 5-10	M 11-13	F 11-13	M 14-16	F 14-16	M 17-18	F 17-18	M 19-21	F 19-21	M 22-25	F 22-25	M 26-35	F 26-35	M 36-45	F 36-45	M 46+	F 46+	Total
Leicester Ladies HC	0	42	0	35	0	43	0	16	0	11	0	21	0	19	0	9	0	8	204
Leicester Mens HC	15	10	15	10	15	15	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0	15	0	5	0	180
Lutterworth HC	4	9	3	16	0	13	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	56
Market Harborough	28	24	37	15	13	31	10	3	9	14	16	11	31	26	22	21	16	17	344
	47	85	55	76	28	102	30	21	29	27	36	35	51	47	37	32	21	25	784

8.3 The total number of teams playing at these clubs in 2016-17 were 9 men's teams, 11 women's teams, 0.5 junior boys and 2.5 junior girls teams. Where a club runs a mixed team these have been equally divided between males and females. The details about each club, where they play and how much they use their home sites is given in Figure 60. It should be noted that Welford Hockey Club plays at Lutterworth, and is therefore an exported club.

Figure 60: Hockey clubs and sites

Club	Home site	Number of teams				Total membership	Changing	Club own social facilities	Comments
		Men	Women	Junior boys	Junior girls				
Lutterworth	Lutterworth College		1			56	Yes	No	
Market Harborough	Welland Park Community College	4	4	0.5	0.5	344	Yes	No	Use pitch approx 5.5. hours during week and would like to increase, but unable to book due to football. School has sometimes withdrawn facility access on Sundays, causing problems for junior matches. Pitch over 10 years old with a number of maintenance problems. Pitch netting too low. Expensive hire charges. Club has outgrown its site.
Leicester Ladies	Leicester Grammar – water based and sand		6		2	204	Yes	No	High proportion of members from outside district. Use pitches approx 8.5 hours for training.

	dressed pitches								Club at capacity. High quality pitch only hired to community hockey. Pitches over 10 years old.
Leicester Mens	Leicester Grammar	5				180	Yes	No	High proportion of members from outside district.
Welford	Lutterworth College	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	71	Yes	No	Imported team seeking to relocate back to Daventry district. Use pitch approx 1.5 hours for training and 1.5 hours for matches. Pitch quality reported as standard.
		9.5	11.5	1	2.5	855			

Temporal demand

8.4 The peak demand for pitches is a critical factor in assessing how many pitches of each are required in order to meet the demand from a local area. For hockey, all of the senior matches are played on a Saturday except for some cup matches, whilst the junior matches and some training takes place on Sundays. There is also some training on mid-week evenings.

Current supply of hockey pitches

8.5 Community hockey is now solely played on short pile AGPs, of which the highest quality standard is water based, followed by sand dressed and then by sand filled. Other AGP surfaces can be used for limited hockey training, but this is not recommended by the national governing body, primarily for reasons of safety and playing experience.

8.6 There are a small number of full size hockey pitches in the district, all of which host community clubs:

- Leicester Grammar – water based
- Leicester Grammar – sand dressed
- Lutterworth College – sand filled
- Welland Park Academy – sand filled

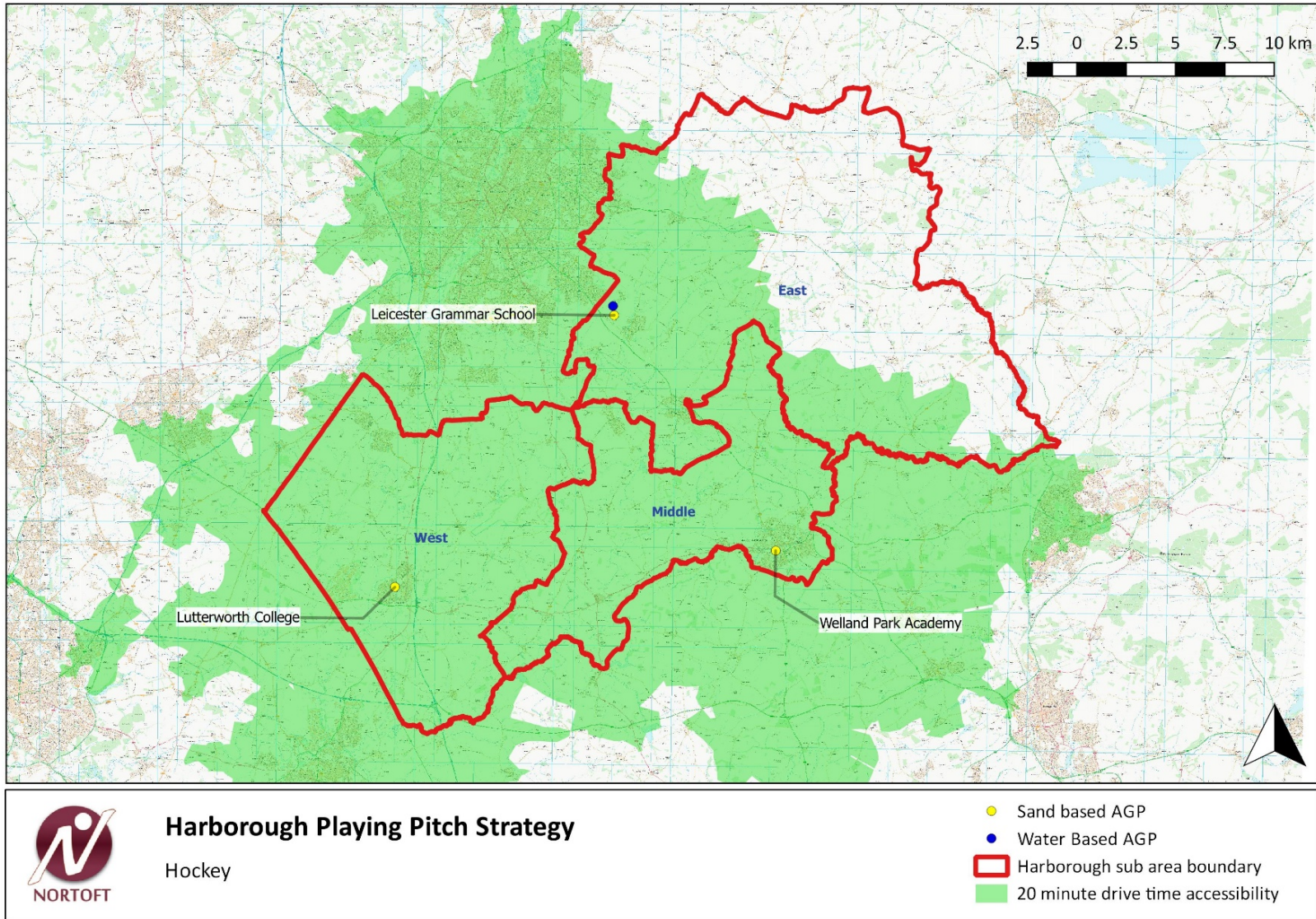
8.7 The sites are mapped in Figure 61, and because of the spread of the sites, most of Harborough has access to a hockey club site, either within or outside of the district. Least well provided-for is the rural east side of the authority, but this area has access to clubs at Melton and Oakham.

8.8 The age of the pitch carpet is also an important issue, as several are over 10 years old, and most of the others are aged between 5 and 10 years. The Leicester Grammar school pitches are high quality and all of the pitches are about 10 years old or more. The pitch at Lutterworth has had reducing levels of maintenance which has resulted in more problems with the pitch.

8.9 None of the current hockey sites have club social facilities, though all have changing provision.

8.10 The Leicester Grammar school pitches are only available for hire to hockey. The site with its two pitches host Leicester Ladies HC and Leicester Men's HC but are also used for county hockey tournaments. The pitches are not available on Saturday mornings, so their availability for community matches is restricted.

Figure 61: Hockey sites map



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Consultation findings

8.11 All of the clubs involved in hockey in the district were consulted using a survey approved by England Hockey and based on the Sport England Guidance. Most of the club comments are integrated into the report, but where specific additional information has been provided by the club, this is summarised below.

Club comments

8.12 Each of the clubs were given an opportunity to respond to the club survey, with the contact supported by England Hockey. Feedback has been received from all of the clubs except from Leicester Mens HC.

Market Harborough

8.13 About 90% of the members come from Harborough with the remainder from all of the surrounding districts. The club has grown over the last 3 years, both in seniors and juniors.

8.14 There are a number of issues with the quality of the pitch, including its size and issues linked with the aging of the pitch and the fact that it is on a school site.

8.15 The costs of pitch hire are very high, the club reporting that the charges are greater than the water based pitches at Leicester Grammar or Moulton College.

8.16 The club feels that it has outgrown the facility and that it is of a lower standard than the most other hockey club sites. The club requires new facilities and is beginning to actively pursue the options which might be available.

Leicester Ladies

8.17 This club has stayed the same size over the last 3 years and has no plans to develop further as they are at full capacity. The pitches at Leicester Grammar are high quality.

Lutterworth Hockey Club

8.18 This club has seen a fall in seniors but an increase in juniors over the last 3 years. It did not provide any comments about its issues, future proposals or quality of the pitch.

Welford Mixed Hockey Club

8.19 The Welford Mixed HC is a displaced club, using Lutterworth College for its matches. The club estimates that 95% of their members are from Daventry district, so are keen to move back to a facility closer to home if a new pitch is developed.

8.20 The club's juniors train on small size AGPs in Daventry district.

- 8.21 The club also needs a clubhouse facility as they currently use a pub, which is unsuitable for young players.
- 8.22 The club anticipates growing by one senior mixed team which will play at Lutterworth.
- 8.23 Previously the club had used the pitch at Welland Park Academy in Harborough, but this became too expensive and the Harborough HC was competing for time. The club therefore moved.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 8.24 Hockey's success at the Rio Olympics has generated major new interest in the game, with a high number of new enquiries to clubs which is resulting in new membership. It is too early to determine how this legacy will develop in the future, but this update reflects the higher growth in the game than previously experienced.
- 8.25 England Hockey's document 'The Right Pitches in the Right Places' is the governing body's facilities strategy. It suggests that there should be a number of steps in assessing hockey provision including an assessment of supply and demand, the strategic considerations, the type/level of use, and standard of play. Nationally over 80% of the total current pitch provision is on education sites (schools, Further Education, or Higher Education).
- 8.26 England Hockey has provided the clubs, teams, and sites information for the clubs in Harborough.
- 8.27 It was understood that Leicester Ladies had recently signed a lease for 2-3 years, but that there was a potential for their relocation back to Leicester. This relocation is not confirmed as there are complex site issues. The strategy should assume that they are remaining at Leicester Grammar unless/until the relocation is confirmed.
- 8.28 Leicester Men's HC are also based at Leicester Grammar. The club has close links to the school and seem likely to continue to be based there in the long term.
- 8.29 It was uncertain whether Leicester Grammar would enable other regular club bookings should Leicester Ladies relocate. This should not therefore be assumed.
- 8.30 England Hockey has met with Welland Park Academy about the issues faced by the Market Harborough hockey club. The hire charges are very high, the pitch is aging, and the club is now at capacity for its adult teams. There did not appear to be a solution which the school would consider in terms of charges.
- 8.31 England Hockey is of the view that even if capacity was made available at Leicester Grammar School (due to the relocation of Leicester Ladies), that this would not be an accessible option for the club, as the drive time between sites is approx 18 -20 minutes. The options to be considered are:

- support should be offered towards the school pitch resurfacing of Welland Park which could then be tied to an improved S106 agreement to address the hire charge issue and security of use.

and

- Robert Smyth Academy should be explored as an option for a new sand dressed (hockey surface) pitch, again with potentially S106 monies towards cost and to ensure security of use.

or

- The proposed pitches at Farndon Fields could be required to be delivered as a full size hockey surface pitch.

8.32 England Hockey noted that the two small clubs using Lutterworth College (Lutterworth HC and Welford HC) are now working more closely than previously, particularly in offering junior hockey. As there is no capacity for these clubs elsewhere in the district, it is important that the hockey surface pitch should be retained until/unless alternative hockey provision is provided in close proximity to Lutterworth.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

8.33 A review of the adjacent authorities PPS reports shows that:

- Leicester: the playing pitch strategy of June 2017 identifies that there is spare capacity for hockey on the sites in Leicester and only very limited growth is expected in the future. The strategy specifically identifies that Leicester Ladies would like to relocate back into the city to a site with a single pitch. The strategy therefore proposes that a priority for investment should be to provide a new hockey club site for the club.
- Charnwood: the authority is currently producing a playing pitch strategy.

There does not appear to be any importation of players from Charnwood and there are no cross-boundary considerations with this authority.

- Melton: the playing pitch strategy was completed in 2014. It concluded that there was no imported or exported demand from the district, and that there is sufficient supply of pitches to meet all future needs.

The feedback from the clubs in Harborough suggests that there is no significant importation of players from Melton and there are no cross-boundary considerations with this authority.

- Rutland: the 2016 strategy concluded that there was sufficient pitch space for hockey up to 2036. There is only one hockey club with two teams within the local authority area based at Oakham School. They are not anticipating growing any further so therefore their needs are met now and in the future.

There does not appear to be any significant importation of players from Rutland and there are no cross-boundary considerations with this authority.

- Corby: the draft 2014 pitch strategy considered the impact of the planned growth to 2031 and concluded that no additional provision was required.

There does not appear to be any significant importation of players from Corby and there are no cross-boundary considerations with this authority.

- Kettering: the 2011-2021 strategy makes no reference to hockey.

Market Harborough HC estimates that about 1% of its members come from Kettering, so the cross-boundary issues are insignificant for this strategy.

- Daventry: the district's PPS is currently in development. There are no significant cross-boundary issues identified in the draft strategy in relation to hockey.

The primary issue is the potential relocation of the small Welford HC back into Daventry district, but this is dependent on the development of a new hockey pitch suitable for club use in Guilsborough area. At the present time, this aspiration seems unlikely to be fulfilled.

- Rugby: the 2015 strategy identified that Rugby is a major centre for hockey, and it is likely that the very large Rugby & East Warwickshire HC will be drawing members from the West sub area of the district.

The success of the Rugby & East Warwickshire club is likely to be drawing members from the Lutterworth area and some of the West sub area. This export of players is likely to continue into the long term.

- Blaby: the authority undertook an audit of its pitch sites as part of an open spaces assessment in 2015, but this did not forecast forwards the balance in supply/demand. At the time there appeared to be spare capacity equivalent to 2 pitches at "facilities in neighbouring areas". No investment priorities were identified.

It is likely that some players from Blaby are members of the Leicester Ladies or Leicester Men's clubs using Leicester Grammar.

- Oadby & Wigston: the authority does not have a current playing pitch strategy.

It is likely that some players from Oadby & Wigston are members of the Leicester Ladies or Leicester Men's clubs using Leicester Grammar.

8.34 This strategy review suggests that there is a high level of importation of players to the Leicester Grammar school site, but that there is probably export of hockey

players from the west to Rugby. The Leicester playing pitch strategy specifically refers to a proposal to relocate Leicester Ladies back to Leicester by the provision of a new site. Whether this is deliverable, and on what timescale, is uncertain. No mention is made of Leicester Mens' HC in the Leicester strategy.

8.35 There are no other significant cross boundary issues.

Assessment of current supply/demand

Market Segmentation

8.36 The Market Segmentation tool from Sport England does not identify hockey because of the relatively low level of participation compared to other sports. However at the national level, the Market Segmentation results show that the largest groups playing hockey are the 'Ben' segment (Competitive Male Urbanites) which are men aged around 18-25 years, followed by the 'Tim' segment (Settling Down Males) aged 26-45 years, the Chloe segment (Fitness class friends, aged 18-15 years) and then the 'Philip' segment (Comfortable Mid-Life Males aged 46-55 years).

Playing pitch model

8.37 In considering the balance between the supply and demand for hockey pitch space in Harborough, there are two elements, and the assessment is based on the season 2016-17:

- Pitch availability at peak times – the number of pitches required for matches for seniors on Saturdays, and for juniors on Sundays.
- Pitch capacity - the ability of the AGPs to provide for training over a week. This can be determined by the operator's programming of a site.

Used and spare capacity of the current club sites

Peak time capacity

8.38 The used capacity of the existing pitches in Harborough can be assessed from the teams information for each club, based on a maximum of 4 matches per day per pitch. Figure 62 gives the results and shows that there is no spare capacity at either Leicester Grammar or Welland Park Academy, but that there is space at Lutterworth College.

Figure 62: Capacity of the existing network of hockey pitches

Home site	Clubs playing on this site	Number of teams				Total number of teams playing on site	Number of matches per week seniors	Spare capacity in number of matches (max 4 matches per pitch) on Saturday	Number of matches per week juniors	Spare capacity in number of matches (max 4 matches per pitch) on Sunday
		Men	Women	Junior boys	Junior girls					
Leicester Grammar water based sand dressed	Leicester Ladies	5	6	0	2	13	5.5	0 (matches restricted to Saturday afternoons)	1	3
	Leicester Men's									
Welland Park Academy, Market Harborough	Market Harborough	4	4	0.5	0.5	9	4	0	0.5	3.5
Lutterworth College	Welford	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	71	2	2	0.25	3.75
	Lutterworth	0	1	0	0	42				

Facilities Planning Model

- 8.39 Sport England produced a Facilities Planning Model report for hockey in December 2016. The key findings from this report were:
- The number of hockey pitches per 1,000 is 0.05, more than double the average for the East Midlands region and higher than the average for Leicestershire.
 - The estimated demand for hockey from the Harborough population is 0.5 pitches in total.
 - About 94% of the demand is satisfied, mostly within the authority.
 - The authority is a net importer of demand, with this equating to about 73.5% of the usage of the pitches.
 - The local share of hockey pitches is well above the national average.
 - The pitches are being used to full capacity.
- 8.40 The FPM report does not appear to fully reflect the findings of the audit, particularly the high number of players coming from within Harborough to the Market Harborough and Lutterworth clubs. The feedback from the clubs using Leicester Grammar is awaited, but it is expected that about 20% of their membership is drawn from within the district. The total demand for hockey in the district is therefore probably higher than the FPM report estimates.
- 8.41 The pitches at Leicester Grammar are used by the school on Saturday mornings so the match times available for the community game are restricted to the afternoons. This means that these pitches are also full to capacity for matches.
- 8.42 The pitch at Welland Park Academy is also at capacity, as estimated by the FPM report. However the pitch at Lutterworth College is used much less for hockey than the FPM suggests.

Assessment of Future Needs

- 8.43 The assessment of the future needs for hockey is based on a combination of:
- Team generation rate modelling results. These forecast growth in the sport, using team generation rates (TGRs), which in turn are based on: the current rates of participation in the sport across the age groups and sexes; the anticipated growth in each sport, again across the different age groups and sexes; and the changes in the population for Harborough over time.
 - The quality and availability of the existing hockey surface AGPs for both matches and training.
 - The capacity of the existing sites to meet future demand.
- 8.44 The location of the Leicester Grammar school site and the nature of two users, Leicester Ladies HC and Leicester Men's HC suggests that about 80% of the membership of these two clubs is arising from outside of Harborough district. If the

modelling treated all of the members of these clubs as if they were from Harborough, then this would significantly skew the forecasts for the future, overestimating the amount of demand for hockey that would be likely to arise. For this reason, a figure of 20% of the memberships of both of these clubs has been used in the TGR modelling, the estimated percentage of the clubs' membership which arise from Harborough.

TGR modelling

- 8.45 The basis for modelling the future demand for hockey was agreed with England Hockey, Harborough District Council and Sport England and is 0.5% per annum for each age group and both sexes up to 2031. This gives the cumulative growth of:

2021	2026	2031
2.5%	5%	7.5%

- 8.46 This means that the Team Generation Rates change over time, see Figure 63. This is the number of teams expected to be generated per 1,000 population of the relevant age group/sex.

Figure 63: Hockey - Team Generation Rates to 2031

	Age Groups	TGR rates			
		2017	2021	2026	2031
Junior boys	11-15 yrs	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.19
Junior girls	11-15 yrs	0.35	0.36	0.37	0.38
Senior men	16-55 yrs	0.23	0.24	0.24	0.25
Senior women	16-55 yrs	0.28	0.29	0.30	0.31

- 8.47 The TGRs can be written another way, the population in the age group needed to generate one team. The following is for 2017, and can be used with the Sport England pitch calculator to determine the amount of demand likely to arise from any new development over time.

Figure 64: Team Generation Rate for Pitch Calculator

	Age Groups	Number of people in age group needed to generate one team
Junior boys	11-15 yrs	5520
Junior girls	11-15 yrs	2844
Senior men	16-55 yrs	4328
Senior women	16-55 yrs	3510

8.48 The outcome of the modelling is given in Figure 65.

Figure 65: Estimated number of teams to 2029, hockey

	Age Groups	Number of teams within age group			
		2017	2021	2026	2031
Junior boys	11-15 yrs	1	1	1	1
Junior girls	11-15 yrs	1	1	1	1
Senior men	16-55 yrs	5	5	6	7
Senior women	16-55 yrs	6	6	7	8

8.49 This suggests that there is likely to be 2 extra teams for men and 2 extra teams for women by 2031, or the equivalent of 0.5 extra pitches for matches. This extra demand is likely to be spread across the whole of the authority as it will largely reflect the locations of the new housing, with the majority of the demand arising in the Market Harborough area.

Options for meeting this additional demand

8.50 The hockey guidance within the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance suggests that only 4 matches can be hosted on a single AGP on one day. In Harborough the seniors have their matches on Saturdays and the juniors have their matches on Sundays.

8.51 The only spare capacity for hockey is at Lutterworth, but this site would only be able to respond to the growth in demand arising from that sub area of the authority. There is no spare capacity at either Welland Park Academy in Market Harborough or at Leicester Grammar School.

8.52 Given that most of the housing growth is around Market Harborough the priority for any new provision will be in the town. At the present time there are no potentially identified sites for an additional hockey surface AGP.

8.53 Should the Leicester Ladies HC move a number of their teams to Leicester however, then either this will release capacity at Leicester Grammar School for the Harborough demand to largely be accommodated there, or could conversely increase the demand at Market Harborough HC if the new Leicester Ladies site becomes too far away for players to travel to.

Meeting the needs of the future

8.54 The highest priority for the future is to retain the club hockey use at the existing sites. There is a fairly urgent need to replace the carpets at Welland Park Academy and ideally at Lutterworth College, ideally bringing these sites up to current England

Hockey standards. There will also be a medium-term need to replace the carpets at the independent Leicester Grammar School.

- 8.55 The options for the future for hockey in Harborough depend upon:
- whether Leicester Ladies relocates out of the district in the short-medium term, and if it does, the response of Leicester Grammar school, namely if they are prepared to continue letting the facility to community hockey clubs.
 - If Welland Park school is prepared to review its hire charges, probably linked to the resurfacing of the AGP for hockey and a formal community use agreement.
 - If a further hockey pitch can be provided in Market Harborough, most likely to be at Robert Smyth Academy or possibly at Farndon Fields.
- 8.56 Any public investment support to improve the existing facilities should be subject to a formal joint use agreement to secure the long term community use.
- 8.57 There is estimated to be sufficient future demand for 0.5 extra hockey pitch to meet the need for senior matches by 2031, which means that one extra pitch of this type will be required. However if the growth in hockey is higher, with retention of the high numbers of juniors into the senior game, then the demand for match space will increase.
- 8.58 Given the issues and lack of capacity identified by the Market Harborough HC, then a new additional hockey pitch for the Market Harborough area to be delivered as soon as possible, would be justified. However, any pitch would be unlikely to be fully utilised by hockey even in the long term, as the demand would be primarily for Saturday matches and a small amount of use on Sundays and mid-week. Any new facility would need to be built to the England Hockey standards, including dimensions and floodlight quality, but it would then be available for football use outside of the times booked for hockey.
- 8.59 There are no planned new secondary schools for Market Harborough, but there is an identified need to expand the capacity of the existing schools. One way of expanding the capacity would be the provision of an AGP. The school in Harborough without an AGP at this time is Robert Smyth Academy. If the school was considering an AGP, then this would be the best option for delivering a new hockey pitch for the community, though the school itself does not regularly play hockey matches and the identified pitch needs really relate to football and rugby.
- 8.60 If the Robert Smyth Academy option is not deliverable, then an alternative site should be identified and planned for, certainly until the Leicester HC situation becomes clearer. An alternative option would be for a new pitch on the Farndon Fields development site.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES

8.61 The following questions and their answers are taken from the Sport England Guidance and provide a useful summary of the current and future provision for hockey in Harborough.

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

8.62 The hockey clubs, particularly the larger ones, attract players from a wide area, and 20-30 minutes travel time is not unusual, particularly for the senior players at the larger clubs. Most of the Harborough area has access to a hockey club within 20 minutes travel time, either within or outside of the district.

8.63 There is one imported club, Welford HC which plays at Lutterworth College but whose members come from Daventry district.

8.64 There are only 3 sites with a total of 4 hockey pitches in Harborough, and each site has resident hockey clubs. The Leicester Ladies HC is actively considering relocating to within Leicester City, but this is not confirmed and would be likely to be after at least 3 years.

8.65 There is no spare capacity at Leicester Grammar School (2 pitches) or at Welland Park Academy, though there is some space at Lutterworth College.

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

8.66 The sites at Leicester Grammar and Welland Park are fully used on a Saturday and this is restricting club growth. There are high hire charges at Welland Park for hockey use, which would limit the use by the club, even if there is spare pitch capacity.

8.67 The Lutterworth Club is small and shares its pitch with Welford HC, imported from Daventry district.

8.68 None of the sites have formal long term use agreements, though Leicester Grammar operates on a lease arrangement with the resident clubs, Leicester Ladies and Leicester Men's.

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

8.69 All of the surfaces are aging and management issues are reported at both Lutterworth College and Welland Park which are impacting on the pitch quality. The pitch quality at Leicester Grammar is good, and the site is used for county hockey matches in addition to club matches and training.

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

8.70 The estimated additional demand arising from Harborough district by 2031, at 0.5 pitches for matches on Saturdays, may turn out to be an underestimate if the increase in the junior game is transferred into the senior game. However any growth in the sport will be dependent upon the provision of a new hockey pitch, as there is no capacity on the two main hockey sites in the district, and the Lutterworth site is both too far away and insufficiently attractive to new players to meet this new demand.

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

8.71 The lack of capacity is restricting the ability of the clubs to meet the current demand, and there are no other sites in the district with large size hockey surface pitches.

8.72 Leicester Ladies is exploring a new, second site in Leicester, but this is at an early stage. If the club relocated some of its use from Leicester Grammar then this may provide some spare capacity on that site to meet the new demand. However it is possible that the Leicester Ladies HC would instead expand to operate on two sites, effectively still leaving no spare capacity on the Leicester Grammar School site.

8.73 The Market Harborough HC is at capacity on its site at Welland Park Academy, and this pitch no longer fully meets the match pitch requirements of England Hockey. Furthermore there are some site issues which impact on the club's ability to operate. The pitch issues on this school site need to be addressed, and should include a review of the hire charges for hockey, which are currently comparatively high. A formal community use agreement could potentially be linked to public investment in the pitch for re-carpeting.

8.74 One additional match specification hockey surface AGP is required for Harborough. The preferred option is for a hockey surface pitch to be developed at Robert Smyth Academy. If this is not possible, an alternative may be a new pitch at Farndon Fields.

8.75 The Lutterworth College hockey pitch requires resurfacing. This should be to a hockey surface except if suitable alternative provision for the hockey clubs becomes available in close proximity to Lutterworth. In this case, with the agreement of England Hockey, the pitch could be re-carpeted to 3G football turf.

What actions may be required to ensure provision can meet both the current and future demand?

8.76 The priority actions relate to:

- The replacement and upgrading of the carpet at Welland Park Academy, linked to a review of the joint use agreement, including hire charges.

- The securing of community use at each of the club sites.
- The development of one additional hockey surface pitch in Market Harborough, with the preferred option as Robert Smyth Academy. If a pitch on this site is not deliverable, then an alternative may be Farndon Fields. Both options would require a full feasibility study, particularly as the concept of a hockey pitch at Robert Smyth has not yet been discussed with the school.
- Re-carpeting of Lutterworth College with hockey surface.

Recommendations for hockey

8.77 Keep the network of hockey pitches and the demand from the hockey clubs under review. Review future pitch supply options and any 3G conversions for Market Harborough and Lutterworth with England Hockey.

Protect

8.78 Protect all existing hockey surface pitches unless suitable alternative provision is agreed with England Hockey.

Enhance

8.79 Re-carpet the existing pitch at Welland Park to hockey surface meeting the technical match pitch specifications of Category 2 criteria of England Hockey. Link to a formal community use agreement which secures use for the community and also limits the hire fees.

Provide

8.80 Develop one additional full size hockey surface pitch to Category 2 England Hockey match standards. The preferred option being Robert Smyth Academy, but alternatively potentially at Farndon Fields. Both would need to be subject to a feasibility study and the support of partners, and if at the school it would also need a community use agreement.

SECTION 9: ROUNDERS

- 9.1 There are two leagues operating in Harborough, the largest is the Market Harborough and District Ladies Rounders League. This league has two divisions each with 7 teams from around the area, but not all with their home sites in Harborough itself. Leicestershire Ladies Rounders League has one team from Harborough, the Broughton Foxes, based at the Broughton Astley Recreation Ground.

- 9.2 The rounders season runs from April to September and the clubs use playing fields which are marked out for winter sports at other times. No other site specific issues have arisen that are not covered elsewhere in the strategy.

SECTION 10: CALCULATIONS FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

10.1 Figure 67 uses the Sport England Pitch Calculator to assess the amount of demand expected to arise from each of the strategic development areas by 2031. These are based on:

- The total population of the strategic development areas by 2031, based on the agreed approach towards the modelling (see Appendix 8), and the anticipated populations for each of the three areas by 2031. It should be noted that the current planned housing numbers are the same for the North West Market Harborough SDA as the East of Lutterworth SDA.
- The current Team Generation Rates (TGRs) for Harborough for each of the sports.
- The agreed rate of participation growth for each sport up to 2031, as used for the TGR calculations.

10.2 The pitch sizes for each football, cricket and rugby are provided for easy reference in Figure 66.

Figure 66: Pitch size: football, cricket, rugby

Sport	Pitch	Pitch dimensions (m) incl run off	Pitch area
Football	Adult	106 x 70	0.74 ha
	Youth	97 x 61	0.59 ha
	Mini	61 x 43	0.26 ha
Cricket	Adult (9 wickets)	111.6 x 115.8	1.29 ha
Rugby	Adult	154 x 80	1.23 ha

10.3 As the playing pitch provision in mitigation for development is addressed through S106, the following tables consider what pitch demand is expected to be generated in each of the three SDAs. It should be noted that all pitch provision (or equivalent contributions off site) will also be required to be provided with appropriate ancillary facilities including clubhouse/changing pavilion and car parking, which are not costed into these standard templates derived from the Sport England model. Land values are also additional to these costs as are any abnormal site costs.

10.4 Although this Sport England model has only been applied to the SDAs in the tables below, a similar approach can be used to assess the demand expected to arise from any significant housing development in the area.

Figure 67: Strategic development areas – pitch calculations

North West Market Harborough (1,500 homes, population 3,312)

Total =	6.57	pitches at a capital cost of	£651,102	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£129,543
Adult Football =	0.74	pitches at a capital cost of	£57,161	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£13,254
Youth Football =	2.14	pitches at a capital cost of	£136,583	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£31,519
Mini Soccer =	2.08	pitches at a capital cost of	£37,901	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£8,746
Rugby Union =	0.25	pitches at a capital cost of	£26,322	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£6,190
Rugby League =	0.00	pitches at a capital cost of	£0	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£0
Hockey =	0.13	pitches at a capital cost of	£92,777	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£3,161
Cricket =	1.22	pitches at a capital cost of	£300,358	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£66,673

East of Lutterworth (1,500 homes, population 3,312)

Total =	6.57	pitches at a capital cost of	£651,102	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£129,543
Adult Football =	0.74	pitches at a capital cost of	£57,161	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£13,254
Youth Football =	2.14	pitches at a capital cost of	£136,583	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£31,519
Mini Soccer =	2.08	pitches at a capital cost of	£37,901	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£8,746
Rugby Union =	0.25	pitches at a capital cost of	£26,322	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£6,190
Rugby League =	0.00	pitches at a capital cost of	£0	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£0
Hockey =	0.13	pitches at a capital cost of	£92,777	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£3,161
Cricket =	1.22	pitches at a capital cost of	£300,358	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£66,673

Scraptoft North (1,200 homes, population 2,650)

Total =	5.26	pitches at a capital cost of	£520,960	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£103,650
Adult Football =	0.59	pitches at a capital cost of	£45,735	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£10,605
Youth Football =	1.72	pitches at a capital cost of	£109,283	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£25,219
Mini Soccer =	1.67	pitches at a capital cost of	£30,326	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£6,998
Rugby Union =	0.20	pitches at a capital cost of	£21,060	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£4,953
Rugby League =	0.00	pitches at a capital cost of	£0	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£0
Hockey =	0.11	pitches at a capital cost of	£74,233	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£2,529
Cricket =	0.98	pitches at a capital cost of	£240,323	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£53,346

Note: sizes of pitches

Sport	Pitch	Pitch dimensions (m) incl run off	Pitch area
Football	Adult	106 x 70	0.74 ha
	Youth	97 x 61	0.59 ha
	Mini	61 x 43	0.26 ha
Cricket	Adult (9 wickets)	111.6 x 115.8	1.29 ha
Rugby	Adult	154 x 80	1.23 ha

SECTION 11: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

Maximising health and well-being outcomes

- 11.1 Harborough District Council and its partners have a clear stated objective of improving the health and wellbeing of the communities across the district, set out in well-established key corporate documents. The network of pitch sports facilities will be an essential element in the delivery of these health and wellbeing objectives.
- 11.2 This playing pitch strategy has considered the current patterns of participation in the pitch sports across all the communities in the district, and across all providers, and forecasts forwards the anticipated needs up to 2031 based on the expected future population, its age structure, and socio-economic characteristics. The facility proposals reflect what is expected to be required to meet these needs across the district up to 2031.

Maximising cost-effectiveness

- 11.3 The facility recommendations are expected to be the most cost-effective and deliverable route of achieving the pitch sport facilities required. This is based on a recognition that the theoretically most cost-effective options may not actually be deliverable, because of factors outside of the control of the Council, and a recognition that the Council itself does not fully control any of the facilities across the district. Each element in the Action Plan should however have as the starting point the most cost-effective option as the preferred option, moving to the more expensive as needed.
- 11.4 A fundamental principle for the provision of community accessible leisure facilities are that they must be financially sustainable. It is also essential that any public investment into school sites should be linked to a legal agreement securing community use for an appropriate length of time, usually at least 25 years, either via a planning obligation or other mechanism.
- 11.5 If a new school is to be delivered as part of a large housing development and it is proposed to have dual/joint use pitches, then the Local Plan should incorporate a land requirement (to be provided at no cost) for the community sports elements. Where grass pitches are proposed to be made available for community use in addition to school use, then there must be sufficient additional pitch space provided, over and above the education need, to enable this use to be sustainable on pitches which are of “standard” quality.

Working across authority boundaries

- 11.6 There are cross-boundary movements of players for all the pitch sports, particularly around Leicester and the Leicester fringe. The planned housing growth on the boundaries of Harborough but outside of the district will exacerbate this cross-boundary movement.

11.7 In these areas, there is a need to co-operate with neighbouring authorities, and it would be appropriate to develop mechanisms to address developers' contributions and wider infrastructure planning by working strategically across boundaries. To be avoided are both the duplication of facilities, and a failure to provide sufficient to meet the demand expected to arise. Such outcomes would fail to deliver the necessary infrastructure to support health and wellbeing, and/or be much more expensive and less financially sustainable in the long term.

Securing provision of sport through development

11.8 A key output from the playing pitch strategy is the securing of sports provision through development. For the largest or most strategic sports facilities, the Local Plan should specifically provide policy guidance, for example within the site requirements of allocated sites.

11.9 The securing of new playing field provision can include both on-site provision through master-planning and planning obligations, and the securing of developers' contributions to off-site provision. These contributions will need to be secured through S106 contributions.

11.10 The securing of these planning obligations, including contributions, will need to meet the three CIL tests (CIL Reg 122 and National Planning Policy Framework para 204). These are where the contribution is:

- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms
- Directly related to the development
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development

11.11 The first step is to develop a robust and up-to-date evidence base for sporting provision need. This strategy provides this evidence and can be used to determine the nature, location and level of the pitch sports facility needs that may be generated from new developments.

Approach on the introduction of CIL

11.12 In the future should CIL be considered for Harborough, it will be important to ensure that any sporting provision to be placed on the CIL Reg 123 list (e.g. on an infrastructure project delivery list) is project specific so it does not unnecessarily restrict the use of planning obligations (e.g. it avoids, where possible, restrictions due to 'Pooling' constraints). The Reg 123 list should be focused on high-level priority project(s) of a strategic nature that CIL has potential to deliver, rather than a long list of projects that CIL is very unlikely to fund. This will allow the potential for other less strategic projects to be funded smaller developments through S106/planning obligations.

- 11.13 Generic infrastructure projects need to be avoided on the CIL Reg 123 infrastructure list, because this restricts the potential for planning obligations to be used as it would be caught up in CIL pooling and/or S106/CIL 'double-dipping' restrictions.
- 11.14 Should a development cause, and need to mitigate, the loss of a sports facility, then this will be in addition to any CIL Reg 123 list requirement.
- 11.15 Where the wording of the Reg 123 list allows for the use of planning obligations, it will be important to ensure that any obligations sought are based on a tailored approach to each development, using this strategy's evidence base (and/or other robust up-to-date planning policy) to justify the needs arising from the development, and how these are to be met. This could be through an approved site master-plan, Development Briefs in the Local Plan, a Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document, or other policy approach, where these are appropriate to the proposed development.

Assessing if contributions are justified

- 11.16 The steps include:
- identifying the development's expected population;
 - assessing the demand from the development, based on the additional population, for different pitch types, and over the plan period. This may include the use of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator, or other robust methods which help identify demand and identify costs;
 - identifying if the demand can be met by existing facilities (where these have a sufficient capacity, are accessible, and acceptable quality);
 - if the demand cannot be met by existing facilities then use the local evidence base and/or consult with relevant stakeholders about the best approach to meeting these needs;
 - identifying the costs of the new or extended facility, or other quality improvements to increase an existing facility's capacity; and
 - then applying the costs proportionate to the development's population.
- 11.17 Although the population of a single development (e.g. on a small site or an individual stage of a larger site) may not in itself generate the need for a pitch, it will still generate additional demand which should be quantified and be met. Other contributions could then be sought from other applications, and/or from other sources such as grant aid, to enable the delivery of the facility.
- 11.18 There may also be specific facility needs identified in the strategy which are required to be provided on a development site, as this may be the most deliverable opportunity. This may include a multi-pitch site with clubhouse and parking, or other facilities which potentially have a wider catchment than the development site itself, or where the development itself generates the whole or a large proportion of the facility need.

11.19 The following tests will be used to assess whether the existing provision within an area can provide for the demand generated by a development, or whether a new facility may be needed. This information can be used to guide whether provision should be on-site or off-site, and to guide the maximum distance to existing facilities which potentially have capacity to meet the new demand generated from the development. For example, there may be an overall surplus of one pitch type in the district, but none located within the appropriate catchment area of a development, or what is available is not accessible, so a new facility may need to be provided.

11.20 The tests relate to Quantity, Accessibility and Quality, as follows:

Quantity

11.21 The quantity requirements are based on the demand generated by the development. The Pitch Calculator should be used for this purpose.

Accessibility

11.22 The accessibility requirement includes:

- the acceptable travel distance to a pitch facility based on known travel patterns for different sports
- and for potentially available facilities/pitches:
- the hours that it is available to the community (would usually need to be available evenings and weekends)
- the access policies (who can use and how, booking processes)
- pricing
- security of community access.

Quality

11.23 The quality requirement relates to the quality, design, layout and specification of facilities. Facilities that are proposed to be provided should reflect current best practice, including current quality guidance from Sport England and National Governing Bodies. This should apply to refurbishments and extensions as well as to new build proposals, and to the pitches as well as the buildings.

11.24 The age and condition of a facility will impact upon quality as generally the older the facility is, the less attractiveness it is to users, and so has less capacity to meet the demand generated from a development.

Policy for contributions

11.25 Planning policy should ensure that the provision of justified facilities is delivered, either on-site, or off-site. Contributions can be justified towards the provision of land, ancillary facilities including buildings, and maintenance.

- 11.26 The cost for maintenance should be sought for both on-site and off-site provision, unless it can reasonably be argued that normal operational income should cover this. Where appropriate, costs towards a sinking fund and for land purchase should also be sought, depending on the facility type and how it is to be used. These are detailed below.
- 11.27 Where a facility is required on-site, this may include requiring delivery through a planning policy and a masterplan approach for the whole area (e.g. a new Local Plan specifies the facility needs for a given housing growth area). This can ensure that enough suitable land is planned from the outset, and provided at no cost. This is particularly important where there is a need for a large sports land-take, as for playing fields.
- 11.28 Planning policy should seek to ensure that where sites are developed in phases or through multiple applications, and where the sports provision is required on-site, that this provision is required to be co-ordinated and delivered by the landowners/developers. In some circumstances, a single site for one or more pitch sports serving all the development or all its phases, can be required.
- 11.29 The timing and delivery of the new sports facility should be considered in relation to development phasing to achieve a balance between ensuring the facility is in place in time to meet the needs of the residents, avoiding pressure being placed on existing facilities, and the financial viability of both the facility and the wider development.
- 11.30 Where there are separate developments in the close geographical area, e.g. around a town, that taken together generate a need for a whole facility, contributions need to be made towards new facility provision or improving an existing facility provision. For new facilities, the planning policy therefore also needs to identify where that facility is to be located, how sufficient land is to be secured, and (where known) the individual developments that need to contribute to it.
- 11.31 This also applies to where there is a need for a larger strategic facility serving a large catchment. This may require the developers to provide the land on-site, or for the local planning authority to identify the land through the Local Plan process.
- 11.32 Where suitable land needs to be provided by developments and has not otherwise been specifically identified in the Local Plan, then:
- Where the investment need is for a new pitch sport facility to meet the demand directly generated by the population of the new development(s), then the developer is expected to meet all of these costs. These include provision, maintenance, in some cases replacement, and land costs.
 - Where the demand generated is for the majority (66% or more) of a facility, then it needs to be provided on site, and all necessary land will be provided by the developer at no cost, as well as the population-related proportion of the cost of the facility.

- Where the demand is for less than 66% of a facility, that is to be provided on-site, then suitable land needs to be planned into the development. However only a proportionate amount of this land will be provided at no cost, and the (leisure) value of the remainder will need to be funded from other sources (e.g. from pooled contributions from other developments, from grants or other sources).
 - Where the land cannot be provided for on-site because of proven master-planning constraints, financial viability or other relevant reasons, then the local authority may negotiate an appropriate alternative contribution, where this also meets the Community Infrastructure Levy tests.
- 11.33 In all cases, there may be reasons for the Council to choose to be flexible in how it applies these policies (e.g. where the need is for part of a facility the Council may require all the land but not ask for a contribution to its provision or maintenance). So long as this fits into a wider planned approach to ensure deliverability, and is CIL compliant.
- 11.34 For on-site or off-site contributions where the facility, or part of the facility, has a short life-span (e.g. artificial grass pitch carpet), that cannot reasonably be expected to be fully funded through normal operational income, then a contribution towards a replacement sinking fund should also be sought. As facilities should be operationally viable if they are to be sustainable in the long term, then in most cases a contribution to a sinking fund should be requested only in special circumstances, and be of a reasonable and fair amount.
- 11.35 Where there is an assessed deficit in the provision of a facility, and there is an existing facility with appropriate community access that could potentially meet the demands generated by the development, but it needs to be upgraded or extended, then contributions may be sought towards such improvements.
- 11.36 Contributions need to meet the CIL tests, and should not exceed or cover what could reasonably be expected to be paid for by normal operational income. The operator (including a school or a club) will need to be supportive of this and comfortable with the timescales for payment of contributions.
- 11.37 There should be flexibility in the allocation of contributions in case the project is delivered via other funding sources ahead of the time the developers' contribution is due to be paid. The wording of the planning obligation/contribution policy should provide for this eventuality by allowing for the monies to be paid to an appropriate alternative sports facility (where this is still justified and CIL compliant).
- 11.38 Sites where contributions (investment) are justified are identified in the Action Plan (Figure 68) and/or in the Site by Site table (Figure 69) in this playing pitch strategy.
- 11.39 To ensure that a contribution can be delivered, there needs to be a realistic timescale for delivering the residential development and the sports facility project, and a

reasonable chance that any shortfall in the funding of the facility can be found from other sources.

- 11.40 In some cases, the nearest current or potential new facility may be across a local authority boundary. In this case it is appropriate for the Council to consider offering S106 funding to such a facility, or find another way in which to delivery such an outcome.

Calculating contributions

Demand

- 11.41 The Sport England Pitch Calculator should be used to generate the amount of expected demand from a development. It takes into account the forecast demographics of the sub area as at 2031, the characteristics of the different pitch sports in the district, and the anticipated rates of growth in the sport by 2031.
- 11.42 There are two versions of the Pitch Calculator, which recognise the different age structures of the populations expected to be resident in the large Strategic Development Areas compared to the smaller development sites. The appropriate Calculator should be used for the relevant development to calculate the level of expected pitch demand.

Pitch Calculator	Developments
Pitch Calculator for Strategic Development Areas (Appendix 9 template)	East of Lutterworth SDA Scraftoft North SDA North West Mkt Harborough SDA
Pitch Calculator for Other Developments (Appendix 10 template)	All other developments

- 11.43 The need for and requirements of a clubhouse/changing pavilion as appropriate for the sport, plus other ancillary facilities such as car parking also need to be identified, costed and be part of the contributions requested.

Accessibility

- 11.44 The expected travel times and therefore accessibility by car to different pitch sports are approximately:

Football	Mini and Youth (U7 – U16)	10 minutes
	Adult	15 minutes
Cricket	15 minutes	
Rugby	20 minutes	
Hockey	30 minutes	

Quality

11.45 The design, layout and construction of pitches and their ancillary facilities, including clubhouse and car parking, should reflect current best practice and pitch quality should be of at least “standard” as defined by the relevant National Governing Body. The clubhouse/changing and other ancillary facilities such as car parking provision should meet Sport England and the relevant National Governing Body standards. This applies to refurbishment as well as to new build proposals.

Costs

11.46 To calculate the scale of a developer’s financial contribution for the provision of a pitch facility which has been identified as being justified and appears in the strategy project list, the Sport England Pitch Calculator can be used for the pitch elements.

11.47 This calculator is based on the costs of developing pitches and their lifecycle costs in the district. However, if there are robust and up-to-date local facility or project costs, then these may be used instead, particularly where the project is to enhance the existing facility provision.

11.48 The cost of land area, maintenance and sinking funds, where justified, should be calculated and included in the contributions expected from the developer. Where there are known robust local costs, these should be used in preference for these elements. However, where such local costs are not available, these may be based on either the Pitch Calculator or on national governing body costs advice.

11.49 In addition to the Pitch Calculator derived costs:

- when a land cost is justified, this will also need to be included in the developers’ contributions, based on the local market cost for the relevant sport/leisure land use.
- there may be a need to add the cost of other local and site-specific costs (e.g. abnormal ground conditions, site access needs, landscaping, acoustic fencing etc).
- there will be a need to provide/contribute to a clubhouse/changing pavilion and ancillary facilities including car parking as appropriate to the sport(s) being provided. Sport England’s Facilities Costs Guidance can be used as an indication of the costs.

11.50 It should be noted that all costs should be date related, and inflation should be taken into account. For example, if a facility is to be delivered in three years’ time, an appropriate inflation index, such as BCIS or Spons Building Costs Indices, should be applied.

SECTION 12: PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- 12.1 Harborough District Council and its partners will treat this assessment and the strategy recommendations as a rolling document and will aim to undertake a number of action points arising from it. The first priority for implementation will therefore be an action plan which is led and coordinated by the District Council on an interdepartmental basis, and will involve the key stakeholders. This will be based around the draft Action Plan in Figure 68 and the Site by Site Table in Figure 69. The projects in the Site by Site Table have been widely consulted upon with appropriate parties including the pitch sport national governing bodies, clubs, providers, and the District Council. The Action Plan in Figure 68 includes generic actions needed by the District Council and its partners, and those projects which do not have a specific location.
- 12.2 The Site by Site Table a is based on the needs evidenced by this strategy assessment, and in particular the potential impact of the housing proposals including the Strategic Development Areas within the emerging Local Plan. As the housing numbers are firmed up and the planned delivery of playing pitch sites and investments progress, there will be a need to update this strategy, which should be done on an annual basis, in line with Stage E of the Sport England Guidance.
- 12.3 The projects identified in the Site by Site Table will frequently be for the District Council's partners to move forwards, and it is recognised that not all projects may be deliverable, or may need longer to come to fruition. The table therefore needs to be regularly reviewed and updated to keep it current.
- 12.4 The impact of potential housing over the boundaries of the district will need to be considered as part of the annual Action Plan update, as the pitch sites in the district may come under further pressures. In these circumstances, there will need to be cross local authority boundary planning for sports provision, and the agreement if appropriate, to share some developers' contributions to extend the capacity of the sites affected.
- 12.5 The annual review of the Action Plan and Site by Site Table will provide an overview of the confirmation of the deliverability of the projects, and allow for alternative options to be identified if the preferred site/location is not possible. It also sets the priorities for the District Council and its partners for the next 3 years, recognising that not every action and every project can be completed at once.
- 12.6 The assessment of the feasibility and deliverability of the individual projects identified will usually require close partnership working and feasibility studies, including detailed costing and business planning. The outcomes of these actions will help to confirm the draft project list, and in turn inform the annual review.

Keeping the strategy robust and up-to-date

- 12.7 Along with ensuring that the PPS is used and applied, a process should be put in place to keep it robust and up to date. This will expand the life of the PPS and provide confidence to continue to both use it and attach significant value and weight to its key findings and issues, along with its recommendations and actions.
- 12.8 Sport England advocates that the PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.
- 12.9 The annual review should highlight:
- How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
 - How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
 - Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high-quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
 - Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
 - Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Action Plan

Figure 68: Action Plan

Facility / Site Proposal	Action required	Lead organisation(s)	Key partners	Date for action and potential delivery date
Forward and development planning				
Strategic housing areas	<p>Ensure that the strategic development areas have planned playing field provision as recommended by the Playing Pitch Strategy.</p> <p>On site to include the following pitches, with ancillary facilities such as changing provision and car parking for:</p> <p>East of Lutterworth SDA:</p> <p>1 adult football 2 youth football 2 mini football</p> <p>Scraptoft North SDA:</p> <p>1 adult football 2 youth football 2 mini football 2 cricket</p> <p>Confirm pitch mix and provision proposed in the North West Market Harborough SDA. This should include both football pitches and one cricket pitch.</p> <p>Off-site provision for the SDAs (with the exception of Scraptoft North) in relation to cricket, rugby and hockey, and for all other development sites.</p> <p>Confirm that off-site investment options are a suitable option, and deliverable.</p>	HDC	FA ECB (LRCB) Sport England	Urgent, on-going
Other developments	Assess the demand expected to be generated by other developments	HDC		Urgent, on-going

	using the Sport England Pitch Calculator and secure on either on or off site provision/contributions as recommended by the Playing Pitch Strategy.			
Planning applications	Ensure that all approved new development provides the necessary sports provision.	HDC		Urgent, on-going
Major housing developments close to Harborough	Respond to formal consultations and keep under review housing proposals close to the Harborough boundary. Seek to develop mechanisms for sharing developers' contributions where there is a clear impact on Harborough sites, and further investment to enhance capacity is justified.	HDC	Sport England	Urgent, on-going
Cricket provision	Seek to enhance the capacity of the existing cricket sites. If it is not possible to increase the current capacity sufficiently by a combination of improved maintenance, extended squares (additional strips) or high quality artificial strips, plus good quality practice nets, it will be necessary to provide 3 additional cricket pitches in the Middle sub area (inclusive of a pitch at North West Market Harborough SDA). If additional provision is justified, identify sites for 3 pitches in the Middle sub area in addition to the delivery of the pitch at North West Market Harborough SDA.	LRCB ECB HDC	HDC LRCB ECB	Year 1-2 Year 3
Harborough Leisure Centre redevelopment	Ensure that any sale of land does not adversely impact on the football or rugby use of the adjacent playing fields. As part of any proposals, increase car parking for both clubs.	HDC	Developer	Year 1-2
Local projects	Ensure that Parish and Town Councils are aware of the project recommendations in the PPS and incorporate into their neighbourhood plans.	HDC		On PPS sign off

SECTION 13: SUMMARY BY SITE

Notes and key for the site summary table

Site control and delivery partners

The site control column shows the organisation responsible for the site. This will usually be the site owner unless it is on a long term (5 years plus) lease e.g. to a sports club.

The delivery partners are those organisations which are expected to lead the projects. Where significant project investment is anticipated, Harborough District Council is included as funding could be allocated from S106 developers' contributions towards the proposal.

A	Secondary school academy
Club	Sports club
Comm	Commercial organisation
Develop	Site developer
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FF	Football Foundation
HDC	Harborough District Council (including via S106)
IS	Independent school
LCCC	Leicestershire County Cricket Community team
PC	Parish Council, local playing field association, village hall charity or similar
Private	Private
RFU	Rugby Football Union
School	Primary school
TC	Town Council
Trust	Leisure Centre operator

Security of use

- S Site with secure community use
- UnS Site without security of use

Quality of changing

The quality of the changing facilities/clubhouse. Usually relevant to whole site.

	Good
	Standard/adequate
	Poor
	No changing/clubhouse on site

Pitch size and type

- Football: as FA pitch sizes
- Cricket: number of natural turf strips within the square, or 1 if AGP only
- Rugby: as RFU pitch sizes, or actual size if smaller
- AGP: dimensions in metres, surface type and floodlit (Yes/No)
 - SD Sand dressed
 - SF Sand filled
 - 3G 3G surface

Pitch quality, and cricket nets quality

Based on the agreed pitch quality from: site audit, user clubs, NGB, authority and pitch providers.

	Good quality pitch/nets
	Standard quality pitch/nets
	Poor quality pitch/nets

Spare capacity across the week/season by matches

This shows how much spare capacity there is across the week/season by number of matches. This calculation takes into account all identified uses of each individual pitch across the week, both matches and training. Where there is more than one pitch of the same size on a site, the assessment is the total spare capacity across those pitches.

The numbering indicates how many additional matches/training sessions could be held on a grass pitch without seriously impacting on the pitch quality, based on the pitch's current agreed quality.

The AGP percentage spare capacity relates to the availability of the AGP across the whole week's peak time for the hours that the pitch is available.

	Site could provide for at least 1 extra training session or match in the week. For AGPs, has more than 20% spare capacity.
	Site has very limited spare capacity, the equivalent of 1 training session/match every fortnight. For AGPs, site has 10-20% spare capacity, or there are known restrictions on use.
	Pitches have no spare capacity, or are overused. For AGPs, spare capacity is at less than 10%.

Peak time balance

- 13.1 This shows the number of additional matches which could be hosted on a pitch at peak time. For AGPs with a hockey surface, this is for hockey. For AGPs with 3G surface, this is for football.

	Pitch could provide for at least 1 extra match each week i.e. it could be the home site for 2 or more extra teams.
	Pitch could provide for one extra match per fortnight i.e. it could be the home site for 1 extra team.
	Pitches have no spare capacity, or are overused. AGPs not available for matches or are unsuitable.

- 13.2 The priorities for the specific projects are identified as High, Medium and Low. These are defined as:

High priority (H)	Facility or project essential for meeting the current and future projected needs of the community across Harborough, particularly for the sports/facilities with high levels of participation, for example football. High priority is also given to projects which will attract those less active, or sited in areas with deprivation.
Medium priority (M)	Facility or project which will help to meet the current and future projected needs of the community across Harborough for the sports/facilities with moderate levels of participation, for example hockey.
Low priority (L)	Facility or project which will help to meet the current and future projected needs of the community across Harborough but where the sport/facilities have low levels of participation, or where the project's aims are already partially addressed by other projects in the area identified at higher levels of priority.

13.3 The phasing of the project investment is:

St	Short term	2018-2021
Mt	Medium term	2021-2026
Lt	Long term	2026-2031

Figure 69: Site by site summary

Middle Sub Area

Site Name	Site control	Security of use	Quality of changing	Football pitch size	Cricket no strips	Rugby pitch size	AGP size, surface, floodlit	Grass pitch quality	AGP/ AGP cricket strip quality	Cricket net quality	Spare capacity across the week (no matches) / season for cricket	Peak time balance	Site issues/ comments	Proposal	Priority and Phasing	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners
Bowden Recreational Ground (Bowden CC)	HDC	S			9						16	0	No spare capacity at peak time.				
East Langton Cricket Ground (Langtons CC)	Comm	S			11						24	0	No spare capacity at peak time.				
Gumley Cricket Club	Private	UnS			6						4	0	Outfield crossed by single track road. Pitch is part of pasture grazed by cows and sheep.	Seek to replace pitch on new site which meets ECB criteria with secure use.	L Lt	£270,000	Club PC LRCB ECB
Fleckney, Leicester Road Recreation Ground	PC	S		11v11							1.5	0.5	Site suffers from vandalism, fly tipping etc. Insufficient car parking. Used by Fleckney Village CC.	Address site management issues.	H St		PC
				11v11 Y						-0.5	-1						
				5v5						6.5	0.5						
				5v5													
				9v9						0	-1.5						
				9v9													
					10					60	0						
												Pitch re-carpeted 2017. Awaiting testing for FA register. Size suitable for 5v5 matches.					
Fleckney, Lodge Road	PC	S		11v11 Y							0.5	0	Site fully used at peak time. Poor quality changing facilities.	Refurbish/replace changing facilities.	H St	tbc	PC Clubs
Market Harborough Cricket Club	Club	S			12						50	0	No spare capacity at peak time.				

Site Name	Site control	Security of use	Quality of changing	Football pitch size	Cricket no strips	Rugby pitch size	AGP size, surface, floodlit	Grass pitch quality	AGP/ AGP cricket strip quality	Cricket net quality	Spare capacity across the week (no matches) / season for cricket	Peak time balance	Site issues/ comments	Proposal	Priority and Phasing	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners		
Market Harborough, Northampton Road Sports Ground (football)	Club	S					107x71, 3G, F, FA Reg						Pitch used both for football and rugby training.	Develop 3G stadia pitch adjacent to existing pitch.	H St	£935,000	Club FA FF HDC		
				11v11								2.5	2.5	Site lacks sufficient car parking.	Extend car parking if leisure centre site redeveloped.	H Mt	tbc	Develop	
				11v11															
				11v11															
				11v11 Y								-1.5	-4						
				11v11 Y															
				11v11 Y															
				7v7									-2						-7
				7v7															
				9v9									0						
9v9																			
Market Harborough, Northampton Road Sports Ground (rugby)	Club	S				Snr					6.5	1.5	Lack funding for upgrading power cabling for floodlighting to rest of site. Shortage of car parking space. Needs improved social space.	Extend electric power to rest of playing field. Extend car park if leisure centre site redeveloped. Improve social space.	H St H Mt L St	Tbc Tbc Tbc	Club Develop Club RFU		
						Snr													
						Snr													
						Snr													
						Snr													
						Snr													
						22x40													
						22x40													
						12x20													
						12x20													
Market Harborough, Symingtons Recreation Ground	HDC	S		11v11							1	1	Clubhouse is poor quality. No spare capacity at peak time and limited during week. Site has significant problems with anti-social behaviour. Adult pitch is poor quality.	Refurbish/replace clubhouse and design to reduce anti social behaviour and vandalism on site. Improve pitch quality.	H Mt	tbc	HDC Club		
				11v11 Y						0.5	-0.5								
				5v5						2	0								
				9v9						0.5	-0.5								
Mowsley, Loughton Lane	Club	S			8						12	0	No spare capacity at peak time. Clubhouse poor quality.	Improve clubhouse.	L Mt	tbc	Club LRCB PC		

Site Name	Site control	Security of use	Quality of changing	Football pitch size	Cricket no strips	Rugby pitch size	AGP size, surface, floodlit	Grass pitch quality	AGP/ AGP cricket strip quality	Cricket net quality	Spare capacity across the week (no matches) / season for cricket	Peak time balance	Site issues/ comments	Proposal	Priority and Phasing	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	
(Loughton & Mowsley CC)																		
North Kilworth Sports & Social Club	Club	S		11v11							1.5	0.5	Poor quality 7v7 pitch. Site relatively lightly used.					
				11v11 Y					1.5	0.5								
				7v7					1.5	0.5								
Robert Smyth Academy, Market Harborough	A	Grass pitches not used by community											School requires additional pitch space to meet curriculum needs, ideally for football and rugby.	Develop Category 2 full size hockey pitch, subject to feasibility assessment and community use agreement with school.	H Mt	£735,000	Academy HDC EH Club	
South Kilworth Playing Fields	PC	S		11v11 Y							1	0	Poor quality 7v7 pitch. Site used at peak time but spare capacity across the week.					
				5v5					3	0								
				7v7					1	0								
Welland Park Academy, Market Harborough	A	UnS									0	0	Pitch aging and expensive to hire. No spare capacity for hockey matches. Also heavily used for football training.	Resurface pitch to England Hockey Category 2. Tie to community use agreement which gives security of use and limits hire charges.	H St	£200,000	Academy HDC Club EH	
		Grass pitches not used by community																

West Sub Area

Site Name	Site control	Security of use	Quality of changing	Football pitch size	Cricket no strips	Rugby pitch size	AGP size, surface, floodlit	Grass pitch quality	AGP/AGP cricket strip quality	Cricket net quality	Spare capacity across the week (no matches) / season for cricket	Peak time balance (number of matches)	Site issues/ comments	Proposal	Priority and Phasing	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners
Bitteswell Cricket Club	Comm	S			9						80	0	Poor quality single net. No spare capacity at peak time though capacity across the week.				
Broughton Astley, Frolesworth Road Recreation Ground	PC	S		11v11							0	0.5	Rounders marked out in summer over football pitches.				
				11v11 Y					1.5	0.5							
					7				68	-0							
Broughton Astley, New site Broughton Way/Cosby Rd/Thomas Estley Community College	PC	S											Site adjacent to Thomas Estley College.	Proposed to have full size 3G football turf AGP with floodlights. To also be used by school.	H St	£935,000	PC Academy Club FA FF HDC
Bruntingthorpe, Home Field	Private	UnS		11v11							0.5	1	Insufficient car parking				
Dunton Bassett, Cricket Ground, Lutterworth Road	Club	S			13						82	0	Poor quality artificial grass strip. No spare capacity at peak time.	Replace artificial grass strip if supports sports development objectives of club.	L Lt	£20,000	Club LRCB HDC
Dunton Bassett, Football Ground, Station Road	Club	S		11v11							-0.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time. Requires pitch improvements. Clubhouse needs replacement showers. Walkway and	Undertake pitch improvement works to increase capacity across the week.	M Mt	Tbc	Club FF FA HDC
										0							
						25 x 16, 3G, F											
													Improve clubhouse.	M Mt	Tbc		
															M	tbc	

Site Name	Site control	Security of use	Quality of changing	Football pitch size	Cricket no strips	Rugby pitch size	AGP size, surface, floodlit	Grass pitch quality	AGP/AGP cricket strip quality	Cricket net quality	Spare capacity across the week (no matches) / season for cricket	Peak time balance (number of matches)	Site issues/ comments	Proposal	Priority and Phasing	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	
													additional car parking needed.	Provide walkway and additional car parking.	Mt			
Gilmorton Playing Fields	PC	S		11v11 Y							2	1	Poor quality single cricket net.					
					7						18	0.5						
Lutterworth Cricket Club	Club	S			16						-10	-0	Site overused both at peak time and across the week.	Seek ways of increasing capacity of site across the week.	H St	tbc	Club LRCB ECB HDC	
Lutterworth College	A	UnS		11v11 Y								2	Used by 2 hockey clubs. Pitch aging and will require resurfacing.	Keep options for re-carpeting under review.	H Mt	Re-carpet as hockey pitch £200,000	Academy Trust Clubs EH	
		UnS		11v11 Y														
		UnS						97x61, SF, F			10	2.5						Or Re-carpet as 3G £370,000
Lutterworth Football Academy	Comm	S		11v11							3.5	0	Commercial site well used at peak time.					
				11v11														
				11v11 Y						1	-1							
				5v5						10.5	0.5							
				5v5														
				7v7						4	-1							
				9v9						4.5	-0.5							
								30x20, 3G, F						Pitches too small for matches				
								30x20, 3G, F										
								30x20, 3G, F										
				30x20, 3G, F														

Site Name	Site control	Security of use	Quality of changing	Football pitch size	Cricket no strips	Rugby pitch size	AGP size, surface, floodlit	Grass pitch quality	AGP/AGP cricket strip quality	Cricket net quality	Spare capacity across the week (no matches) / season for cricket	Peak time balance (number of matches)	Site issues/ comments	Proposal	Priority and Phasing	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners
Lutterworth Town FC, Dunley Way	Club	S		11v11							-1.5	0	Small constrained site with one pitch bounded on three sides by housing. Restricted by planning conditions for floodlight usage. Site not suitable for community 3G pitch provision.	Retain stadia pitch.			
Lutterworth Rugby Club	Club	S				Snr					0	1.5	Club at full capacity. Club seeking to extend site to provide additional pitches and training area and car parking. Extra floodlighting also required. Additional changing required.	Develop site to provide additional pitches and car parking space. Extend clubhouse to provide additional changing.	H Mt	tbc	Club RFU HDC
						Snr											
						Snr											
						12x 20											
						12x20											
						35x24											
						30x60											
		29x55															
Swinford Playing Fields (Rowland United CC, Tilton & Lowesby CC)	Private	S		11v11							2	1	Site used by 2 cricket clubs. Needs increased capacity. No or little used for football.	Invest in site to increase overall site capacity, but as private site would need to be linked to agreement securing community use.	M Mt	tbc	Clubs LRCB ECB HDC
					10					-40	0						
Thomas Estley Community College	A	UnS		11v11 Y							0	0	Site heavily used by community teams, so no spare capacity either at peak time or across the	Support development of full size 3G pitch (see above Broughton Astley site)			
				5v5					0	0							
				7v7					0	0							
				9v9					0	0							

Site Name	Site control	Security of use	Quality of changing	Football pitch size	Cricket no strips	Rugby pitch size	AGP size, surface, floodlit	Grass pitch quality	AGP/AGP cricket strip quality	Cricket net quality	Spare capacity across the week (no matches) / season for cricket	Peak time balance (number of matches)	Site issues/ comments	Proposal	Priority and Phasing	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners
													week. School actively engaged in proposal for 3G football turf pith at new site adjacent, owned by PC. Use is unsecure.				
Ullesthorpe Playing Field	PC	S		11v11							1.5	1	Used by Lutterworth Town CC Women's XI. Spare capacity both for football and cricket.				
				11v11 Y					2	1							
					6				14	1							

East Sub Area

Site Name	Site control	Security of use	Quality of changing	Football pitch size	Cricket no strips	Rugby pitch size	AGP size, surface, floodlit	Grass pitch quality	AGP/ AGP cricket strip quality	Cricket net quality	Spare capacity across the week (no matches) / season for cricket	Peak time balance	Site issues/ comments	Proposal	Priority and Phasing	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners
Billesdon, Coplow Lane (Billesdon CC)	Club	S			9						46	0	No spare capacity at peak time.	Invest to increase capacity of site. Options to be confirmed	L Mt	tbc	Club LRCB ECB
Bushby, Wadkins Way (Houghton & Turnby CC)	PC	S			10						-30	0	No spare capacity at peak time or across the week.	Invest to increase capacity of site. Options to be confirmed	H St	tbc	Club LRCB ECB
Great Glen Recreational Ground	PC	S		11v11							-0.5	0	Site heavily used at peak time and for football across the week. Poor quality adult football pitch. Football pitches on cricket outfield. Needs improved square, sightscreens and scoreboard provision.	Improve pitch quality to minimise impact of football on cricket use.	M St	tbc	PC Clubs FA FF LRCB ECB
				7v7						6.5	0.5						
				7v7													
Hallaton Recreation Ground, E Norton Rd	PC	S			5						20	1	Site unused.				
Houghton on the Hill, Dixon's Field, Stretton Rd	Club	S			8						70	1	Retain site.	Ensure site is capable of responding to increased demand as population in	H Lt	tbc	HDC

Site Name	Site control	Security of use	Quality of changing	Football pitch size	Cricket no strips	Rugby pitch size	AGP size, surface, floodlit	Grass pitch quality	AGP/AGP cricket strip quality	Cricket net quality	Spare capacity across the week (no matches) / season for cricket	Peak time balance	Site issues/ comments	Proposal	Priority and Phasing	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners
														area increases.			
Houghton on the Hill, Weir Lane	PC	S		11v11							1.5	1.5	Some pitches over marked. Pitch quality poor. Some spare capacity at all pitch sizes.	Improve pitch quality to enable site to respond to new demand.	M Lt	tbc	PC Clubs FA FF HDC
				11v11						4	0.5						
				5v5						5	1						
				7v7						0.5	0						
				9v9													
Illston on the Hill, Sigiriya Sports Ground (Ilston Abbey CC)	Club	S			7						65	0	No spare capacity at peak time.				
Kibworth Cricket Club	Club	S			16 11						95	0	High quality site with no spare capacity at peak time, though capacity across the week.				
Kibworth High School	A	UnS		11v11 Y							0	0	No spare capacity at peak time or across the week. Use unsecure.				
				11v11 Y													
		S						60 x 40, 3G, F, FA Reg						Pitch only sufficient size for minis. Not used for matches			
Kibworth, Birds Barn Fleckney Road	Club	S		11v11							1	1	Poor /standard quality pitches. Poor clubhouse.	Improve clubhouse.	H St	Tbc	Club FA FF HDC
				11v11						0.5	0.5						
				11v11 Y						4	1						
				5v5						3	0.5						
				7v7						0.5	0						
				7v7													

Site Name	Site control	Security of use	Quality of changing	Football pitch size	Cricket no strips	Rugby pitch size	AGP size, surface, floodlit	Grass pitch quality	AGP/AGP cricket strip quality	Cricket net quality	Spare capacity across the week (no matches) / season for cricket	Peak time balance	Site issues/ comments	Proposal	Priority and Phasing	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners
Leicester Grammar School	IS	UnS					110x65, W, F						Lease arrangement with hockey clubs. No spare capacity. Not available Sat am.	Keep usage under review. If Leicester Ladies relocate, seek to retain programme time for other community hockey use.	H St	n/a	Independent School EH Clubs
				Grass pitches not used by community													
Lowesby, Church Hill, Cricket Ground	Private	UnS			6						24	1	Unused site				
Medbourne Sports and Social Club, Hallaton Road	Club	S		11v11							-2	0	Intensively used site both for football and cricket with no spare capacity at peak time and limited across the week. Cricket outfield overlapped by football pitches.	Retain pitches at high quality to limit impact of football on cricket.			
				7v7						3	0						
					7					8	0						
Scraptoft, Aylestone St James	Club	S				Snr					6.5	2	Major structural problems with clubhouse. Club has lost high number of players to other clubs.	Replace/refurbish clubhouse. Potentially add small gym. Sports development support to	H St	£900,000	Club RFU HDC
						Snr											
								Snr									

Site Name	Site control	Security of use	Quality of changing	Football pitch size	Cricket no strips	Rugby pitch size	AGP size, surface, floodlit	Grass pitch quality	AGP/AGP cricket strip quality	Cricket net quality	Spare capacity across the week (no matches) / season for cricket	Peak time balance	Site issues/ comments	Proposal	Priority and Phasing	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners
														club to re-establish mini and junior teams, and girls' game.			
Scraptoft, Stoneygate RFC former site	Club	S									1	2	Former Stoneygate RFC site, now used by Leicester Tigers for some training.	Retain site due to lack of playing field space in area. If site developed, off site mitigation should be required for equivalent area of playing fields.	H Mt		
Tugby, Tugby Centre	PC	S					35x20, SF, Y						Site not suitable for matches.				

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GLOSSARY

3G	3G Football or Rugby Pitch (rubber crumb)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CASC	Community Amateur Sports Club
CC	Cricket Club
CS	Core Strategy 2006-2028
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	The Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Federation Internationale de Football Association
FIH	International Hockey Federation
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
HC	Hockey Club
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MSOA	Middle Super Output Area
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Policy Guidance
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFC	Rugby Football Club
RFU	Rugby Football Union
SDA	Strategic Development Area
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SUE	Sustainable Urban Extension
TGR	Team Generation Rate

Definitions relating to demand

Expressed demand

The clubs and teams playing in the authority area, usually affiliated to the county body or national governing body for the sport.

Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area, both matches and training.

Unmet demand

This includes:

- teams able to play matches but have nowhere to train, or vice versa.
- a lack of pitches of a particular size or type.
- where poor quality pitches or ancillary facilities fall below standard of required for play, or the appropriate league requirement.

Latent demand

This is demand that may exist in the area, should there be access to more or better provision. This is usually evidenced by clubs reporting that they have waiting lists for particular age groups.

Demand trends

Local and national demand trends in for the sport, including the views of the potential growth by the national governing body.

Definitions for cricket facilities

Ground/pitch

The whole pitch area including the cricket square and outfield.

Square/table

The fine turf area which is specially mown and managed to give a high quality set of strips (often 6, 9 or 12 strips)

Strip

Single strip of natural turf or artificial turf on which the wickets are placed at either end for a single match

Wicket

The collective name for the 3 stumps and the bails placed at each end of the strip

Site

The ground plus ancillary facilities such as the club house/pavilion, car parking etc



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