



## **LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

### **ASSESSMENT REPORT MAY 2025**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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### GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
AP	Active Partnership
ASC	All Stars Cricket
BAFA	British American Football Association
BC	Bowls Club
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
CC	Cricket Club
CFS	County Facilities Strategy
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media & Sport
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
GMA	Grounds Maintenance
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh & Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LMS	Last Man Stands
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MUGA	Multi use games area
NC	Netball Club
NGB	National Governing Body of Sport
NHS	National Health Service
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RDO	Rugby Development Officer
RFU	Rugby Football Union
S106	Section 106 Agreement
SASSOT	Sport Across Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent
SCCB	Staffordshire County Cricket Board
SE	Sport England
TBTT	Transforming British Tennis Together
TC	Tennis Club

### PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

#### 1.1: Introduction

- 1.1 Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been commissioned by Lichfield District Council to undertake a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). This report (known as the Assessment Report, which is the first of two published documents) presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities within the District and is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports).
- 1.2 Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:
- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
  - ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
  - ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views
  - ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy
  - ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date
- 1.3 Stages A to C are covered in this report, with stage D covered in the proceeding strategy document and Stage E ongoing once the work has been adopted. This relates to the ongoing work that will be required when the PPOSS has been approved and adopted.
- 1.4 For "non-pitch" sports, Sport England's 'Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide (ANOG) is followed. This has a similar staged approach:
- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
  - ◀ Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand
  - ◀ Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together
  - ◀ Application: Application of an assessment
- 1.5 The PPOSS will replace the existing study for Lichfield District, which was completed in 2020. A PPOSS has a lifespan of three years, although this can be increased if it is regularly updated.

#### 1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

##### Why the strategy is being developed

- 1.6 Since completion of the previous PPOSS, there have been changes to the existing provision, with investment into pitches and supporting infrastructure and demand increasing. As such, a robust and up-to-date assessment is required to capture the status of current facilities and evidence Lichfield District's needs and opportunities.
- 1.7 Lichfield District Council is currently working on a new Local Plan after withdrawing its previously planned version from examination in October 2023. The Local Plan will seek to make sure the District provides homes, jobs, community facilities and services to meet the needs of the population in a sustainable way, whilst also protecting and enhancing the environment and heritage. The PPOSS will form a key element of the evidence base to support its development and adoption, contributing to ensuring that its policies are compliant with the requirement articulated in Paragraph 103 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), updated in December 2024.

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- 1.8 One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with Paragraph 103 stating that:

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

- 1.9 Paragraph 104 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:
- a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
  - b) 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
  - c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use
- 1.10 Paragraphs 106, 107, and 108 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

#### ***Lichfield District 2050 Strategy***

- 1.11 The Lichfield District 2050 Strategy is a call to action for everyone; a collective commitment to make the District the most confident, prosperous, active and green part of the Country by 2050. This is through delivery of four key priorities:
- ◆ Confident communities – the place where people across the UK aspire to live
  - ◆ Prosperous communities – enabling Lichfield, Burntwood and village to flourish
  - ◆ Active communities – making Lichfield District the most active in the UK
  - ◆ Green communities – creating the greenest District in the Country

Most pertinent to the PPOSS, in relation to physical activity, the following aims are included:

- ◆ Physical activity has increased, with people being more active, more of the time, showing a demonstrable improvement in the levels of activity undertaken
- ◆ The social and wellbeing benefits of living a healthy lifestyle are celebrated and built on
- ◆ Barriers to participation for people experiencing inequality for health, socioeconomic or gender reasons are reduced
- ◆ Annual large-scale physical activity events, including walking, running, cycling, and swimming, across the district are delivered and appeal to a wide-range of people
- ◆ Physical activity as an effective preventative and treatment option for long-term conditions, mild depression and anxiety is embedded
- ◆ Advice and guidance on leading a healthy and active lifestyle is systematically available and targeted to the right people
- ◆ The full potential of our parks and green spaces is activated for health and wellbeing
- ◆ A network of high-quality leisure and recreational facilities and community groups exists to provide equitable, affordable access for all.

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Key milestones by 2028 are:

- ▶ Deliver a new leisure centre in north Lichfield, at Stychbrook Park
- ▶ Regularly utilise our parks and green spaces as key locations for active lives, park sports, health walks etc
- ▶ Introduce a small grants scheme to help fund new initiatives that will improve health and wellbeing
- ▶ Champion more family focused opportunities that engage the whole family
- ▶ Introduce a new Residents Advantage Card scheme, providing discounts off arts and entertainment, leisure, sports, and other activities
- ▶ Invest in and introduce new leisure facilities across the district – inc. adventure golf, climbing wall, padel tennis, obstacle course racing
- ▶ Build stronger links with the district GP surgeries and schools to work together to increase and sustain participation among all groups with targeted interventions
- ▶ Have a vibrant network of local community groups and clubs that support residents to be more active
- ▶ Utilise our locality partnerships to harness the power of local communities to support health and wellbeing more effectively

And by 2038:

- ▶ Increase and value the amount of green space in the district to promote healthier lifestyles
- ▶ Be nationally renowned for the quality of offer at our local authority run leisure centres
- ▶ Increase activity levels of adults and children
- ▶ Reduce the participation gap between different groups that currently face inequalities

### ***Vision***

1.12 The vision of the PPOSS is:

“To provide a robust and up-to-date assessment to enable policy provision which protects, enhances and delivers where required, an accessible network of high-quality sustainable open space which provide the opportunity for sport and physical activity to promote health and wellbeing within our communities, and to provide evidence to support mechanisms that will enable and maintain high levels of participation that make a sustained difference for local people.”

### ***Objectives***

1.13 To achieve the strategic vision, the PPOSS seeks to deliver the following objectives:

- ▶ To provide a documented assessment of current and future needs for outdoor sports facilities within the identified study area focusing on the assessment of quantity and quality issues in relation to supply and demand (deficits and surpluses) equation
- ▶ To identify all valuable sites/facilities (inclusive of disused and lapsed provision) to ensure they can be protected and improved for the long-term benefit of sport
- ▶ To promote a sustainable approach to the provision of outdoor sports facilities and management of sports clubs
- ▶ To ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected demand
- ▶ To ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and long-term aspirations
- ▶ To plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, including the identification of school facilities which could be utilised to address identified deficits in provision.

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### Management arrangements

- 1.14 A project team from Lichfield District Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, within the cost envelope and to the required standard to meet Sport England guidance.
- 1.15 Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective. Its role is also to support, check and challenge the work of the project team. The Steering Group comprises representatives from the Council, Sport England and the relevant national governing bodies of sport (NGBs).
- 1.16 It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPOSS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:
- ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPOSS
  - ◀ Support implementation of the PPOSS and its recommendations and action plan.
  - ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPOSS
  - ◀ Ensure that the PPOSS is kept up to date and refreshed

### Scope

- 1.17 The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within the project are as follows:
- ◀ Football
  - ◀ Cricket
  - ◀ Rugby union
  - ◀ Hockey
  - ◀ Tennis
  - ◀ Bowls
  - ◀ Netball
- 1.18 In addition, other grass pitch sports are also generally included where supply and/or demand has been recognised; however, none are currently identified within Lichfield District. Where a sport has not been included, this is because its presence has not been evidenced, although that is not to say that it is not played informally or that localised demand does not exist.
- 1.19 A section dedicated to third generation turf (3G) pitches is also included due to the number of sports such provision can accommodate. This predominately pertains to football but is also relevant to rugby and potentially other grass pitch sports.
- 1.20 Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, rugby union, cricket and hockey as well as the other grass pitch sports identified. ANOG guidance applies to the remaining 'non-pitch' sports.

### Study area

- 1.21 The study area is the whole of the District Council's administrative area. In addition, cross-boundary issues are explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand from neighbouring authorities such as East Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, Walsall and Tamworth.

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- 1.22 In addition, analysis areas (or sub areas) have been used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for Lichfield District as a whole. Five analysis areas have been agreed upon, based on ward boundaries, with these being summarised in the following table.

Table 1.1: Analysis area breakdown

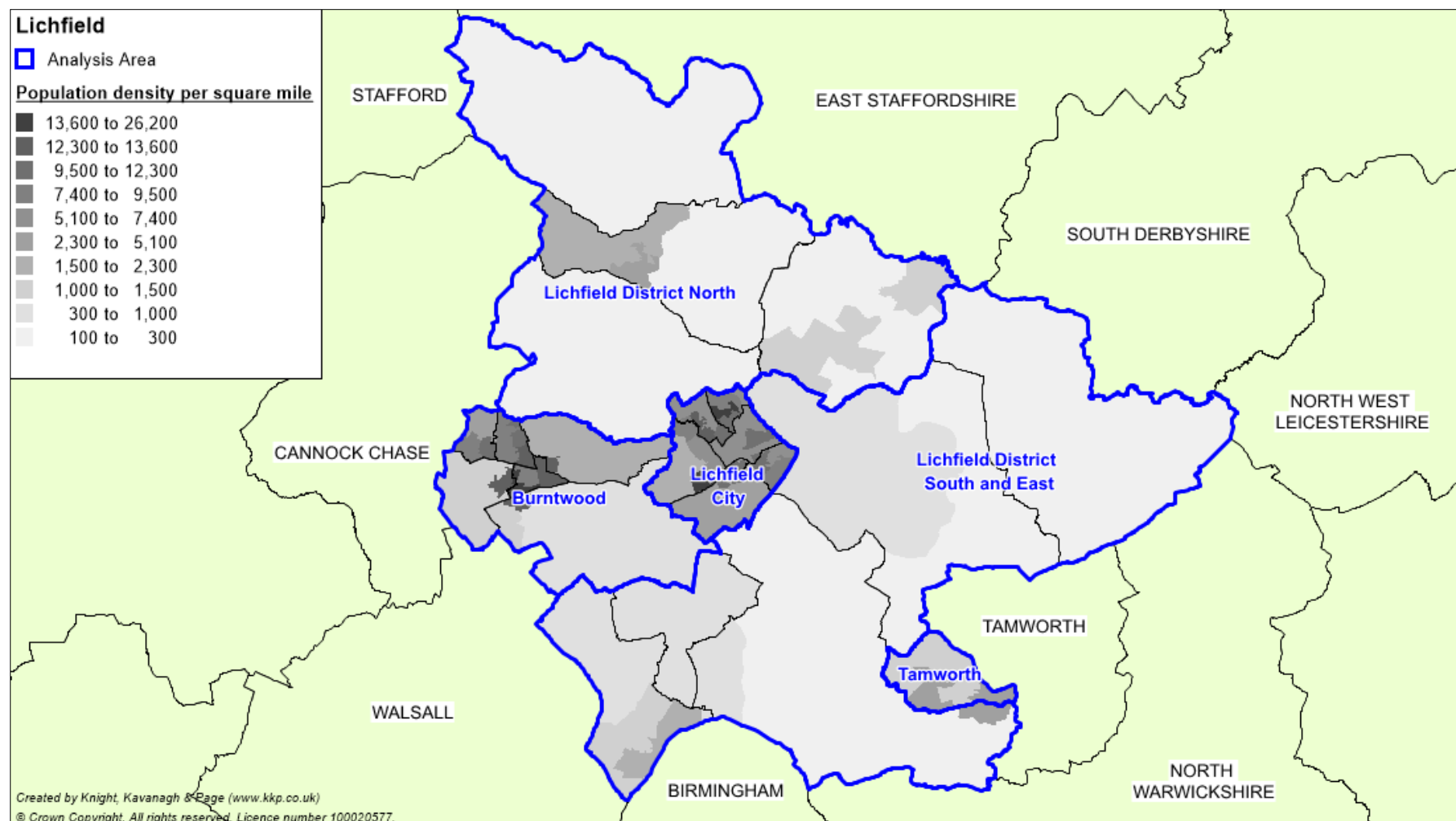
Analysis area	Wards included
Lichfield City	Lichfield
Burntwood	Burntwood, Hammerwich, Wall
Lichfield District North	Alrewas & Fradley, Armitage with Handsacre, Curborough & Elmhurst, Colton, Farewell & Chorley, Hamstall Ridware, King's Bromley, Longdon, Mavesyn Ridware
Lichfield District South & East	Clifton Campville, Drayton Bassett, Edingale, Elford, Fisherwick, Harlaston, Hints, Shenstone, Streethay, Swinfen & Packington, Thorpe Constantine, Weeford, Whittington, Wigginton & Hopwas
Tamworth	Fazeley

- 1.23 These analysis areas align to the previous PPOSS iteration and are further illustrated overleaf in Figure 1.1.



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Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



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### 1.3: Stage B: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision

- 1.24 A clear picture of supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities in Lichfield District needs to be provided to include an accurate assessment of quantity and quality. This is primarily achieved through consultation and site assessments, as further outlined below.

#### Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

##### *Quantity*

- 1.25 Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Lichfield District's previous PPOSS and Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data and booking information.
- 1.26 For each site, the following details are recorded in the project database:
- ✦ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
  - ✦ Ownership and management type
  - ✦ Security of tenure
  - ✦ Community availability
  - ✦ Total number, type and quality of provision
  - ✦ Usage levels
- 1.27 For playing pitch sports, Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2021 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order'.
- ✦ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo
  - ✦ **Playing field** – the whole of a site of at least 0.2ha or more which encompasses at least one playing pitch
- 1.28 Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, this study also takes into account smaller size sites that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch. This study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply and the definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).
- 1.29 As far as possible, this report aims to capture all of the outdoor sports facilities within Lichfield District. However, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included within the PPOSS where provision is known to exist from other data sources). Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

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### *Accessibility*

- 1.30 Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of provision also influences actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:
- ✦ **Community use** - facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams/members/individuals (depending on the sport)
  - ✦ **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used externally; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire or particularly poor quality
  - ✦ **No community use** - facilities which are, as a matter of policy or practice, unavailable for external hire. This includes professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team of the host club
  - ✦ **Disused** – any sites where facilities were once provided but are no longer in place, yet they remain undeveloped and could therefore be brought back into use
- 1.31 In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the assessment but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use is put against each site.

### *Quality*

- 1.32 The capacity of provision to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by their quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of provision affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.
- 1.33 It is not just the quality itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the outdoor sports facility and ancillary facilities will determine whether provision is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups, and for different levels and types of play.
- 1.34 The quality of all outdoor sports facilities identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each. These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.
- 1.35 For the purposes of quality assessments, the PPOSS refers to playing facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).
- 1.36 Good quality refers to facilities with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces and that are free from vandalism and litter. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking. Facility age can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

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- 1.37 Standard quality refers to playing provision that has, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and the provision of toilets, although some level of improvement/ modernisation may be required.
- 1.38 Poor quality refers to playing provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and waterlogging issues, whilst for ancillary facilities it may relate to changing rooms with no showers (or communal showers), no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.
- 1.39 To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, site assessments for sports played in the winter are generally conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer are assessed between July and August. This also enables sufficient play to be carried out on the provision before the assessments take place by means of providing an accurate picture regarding the impact of demand.
- 1.40 In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality as well as the Council and relevant NGBs. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect feedback (thus establishing an “agreed quality rating”).
- 1.41 Furthermore, technical assessments have also been provided, where undertaken, such as those carried out by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA), which now provides technical assessments across football, rugby union, rugby league and cricket (known as PitchPower reports). PitchPower reports where carried out have informed the quality assessments for the PPOSS to ensure the findings align (unless there is a clear reason for a differential e.g., recent improvements).

#### **Gather demand information and views**

##### ***Current demand***

- 1.42 Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for outdoor sports facilities (i.e. recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. To that end, demand for outdoor sports facilities in Lichfield District tends to fall within the following categories:
- ◀ Organised competitive play
  - ◀ Organised training
  - ◀ Informal play
  - ◀ Unofficial use
- 1.43 Current and future demand for outdoor sports facilities is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section.
- 1.44 Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a club has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the competition. In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available.

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- 1.45 Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice. This therefore includes Lichfield District-based demand that travels outside of the District to access provision (exported demand), as well as demand from nearby authorities that travel into the District (imported demand). This can often be linked to capacity and/or quality issues within an authority, although nationally some leagues and competitions operate a central venue system that can necessitate the displacement.
- 1.46 A variety of consultation methods were used to collate such demand information. Firstly, face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.
- 1.47 Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including, schools and further/higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools, colleges and universities and an online survey being sent to primary and special schools.

#### ***Future demand***

- 1.48 Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. One method for calculating this is by using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth to provide an estimate of the likely future demand for relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth via the use of team/member generation rates. This involves using an existing participation ratio and applying it to predicted growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.
- 1.49 Other information sources used to help identify future demand include:
- ◀ Recent trends in the participation
  - ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate
  - ◀ Feedback from clubs on their plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members
  - ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. women's and girls' activity)
- 1.50 All future demand projections across the PPOSS for Lichfield District covers the period up until 2043, in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan.

#### **1.4: Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views**

- 1.51 Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision in Lichfield District and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

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### Understand the situation at individual sites

- 1.52 Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions could be accommodated.
- 1.53 Each pitch is then said to have potential spare capacity, be at capacity, or be overplayed – as follows:

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

- 1.54 Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use. One team accessing one whole pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week based on them playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to their home pitch every two weeks).
- 1.55 As a guide, the NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union and hockey have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football and rugby union, per day for hockey and per season for cricket. It is further detailed in the table below.

*Table 1.3: Capacity of playing pitches*

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season

- 1.56 For other grass pitch sports (e.g. American football), no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that similar principles should be followed.
- 1.57 For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a sports-lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.



### **Develop the current and future picture of provision**

- 1.58 Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a District-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e., the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity or whether there is a shortfall.
- 1.59 Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity) or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used until they are improved or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.
- 1.60 Conversely, where a shortfall of capacity is identified, this does not necessarily mean there is a need for increased provision via new facilities. Instead, it may be possible for deficits to be overcome through better utilisation of the existing stock, such as via quality improvements or through improving community access.
- 1.61 Once current capacity is determined, future capacity can be calculated via incorporating the future demand identified plus any unmet, latent and exported demand.

### **Identify the key findings and issues**

- 1.62 The Assessment Report, which is this document, is drafted and presented on a sport-by-sport basis, with data analysis undertaken on both a Council-wide and sub-area basis. This focuses on reporting research findings, consultation, site audit information and data analysis supported by detailed GIS mapping. It is agreed and 'signed off' prior to moving on to the strategy and action plan development stages.
- 1.63 Each included section (from Part 2 onwards) summarises the local administration of the included sport (or facility type). Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken.

### **1.4: Stage D: Develop the strategy**

- 1.64 The Strategy follows the production of this Assessment Report, once it has been finalised and signed off by the Steering Group. It will feature:
- ❖ Headline findings
  - ❖ An overall vision and associated aims for the PPOSS
  - ❖ Sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios
  - ❖ Strategic recommendations
  - ❖ A site-by-site and area-by-area action plan
  - ❖ Housing growth scenarios
- 1.65 Additionally, it will provide detail as to how to deliver the PPOSS and keep it robust and up-to-date (Stage E).

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### PART 2: FOOTBALL

#### 2.1: Introduction

- 2.1 The organisation responsible for the development of football in Lichfield District is Staffordshire FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees and delivering national football schemes.
- 2.2 Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation (FF), which is a charity, linked to and funded by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England). Working in partnership with Staffordshire FA, the FF helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding.
- 2.3 This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches, where formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to this.

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)	Recommended pitch size including runoff (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64	106 x 70
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55	97 x 61
Youth 11v11	U13s-U14s	82 x 50	88 x 56
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46	79 x 52
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37	61 x 43
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27	43 x 33

- 2.4 Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football.

#### **Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)**

- 2.5 To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy, the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which has now been completed. As part of this, a LFFP has been produced for every local authority across England, with each plan being unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.
- 2.6 The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (the FA, Premier League and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)) and is delivered through the Football Foundation (FF) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.
- 2.7 Each LFFP builds upon PPOSS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game. The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities. This includes those which may be key partners with regards to using football for behavioural change, plus groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football and disability football.



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- 2.8 The LFFP for Lichfield District was produced in December 2018. However, as it is a 'live' document, it is currently being updated and will use the findings of this study to inform this process. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.
- 2.9 Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential FF investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. An LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

### **Consultation**

- 2.10 In total there are 214 football teams from across 28 clubs based in Lichfield District. Following face to face and video consultation with key clubs and an electronic survey being sent to all others (distributed and supported by Staffordshire FA), a team response rate of 72% has been achieved.
- 2.11 The response rate includes consultation with the following clubs that have been identified as being particularly key across Lichfield District:
- ✦ AFC Fradley
  - ✦ Burntwood Lions FC
  - ✦ Chasetown FC
  - ✦ Chasetown Youth FC
  - ✦ Elford Boys FC
  - ✦ Lichfield City FC
  - ✦ Whittington FC

### **2.2: Supply**

- 2.12 The audit identifies a total of 100 grass football pitches across 41 sites in Lichfield District. Of these, 84 pitches across 32 sites are identified as being available for community use at some level (although not necessarily used), as shown in the table below.

Table 2.2: Number of grass football pitches available for community use by analysis area

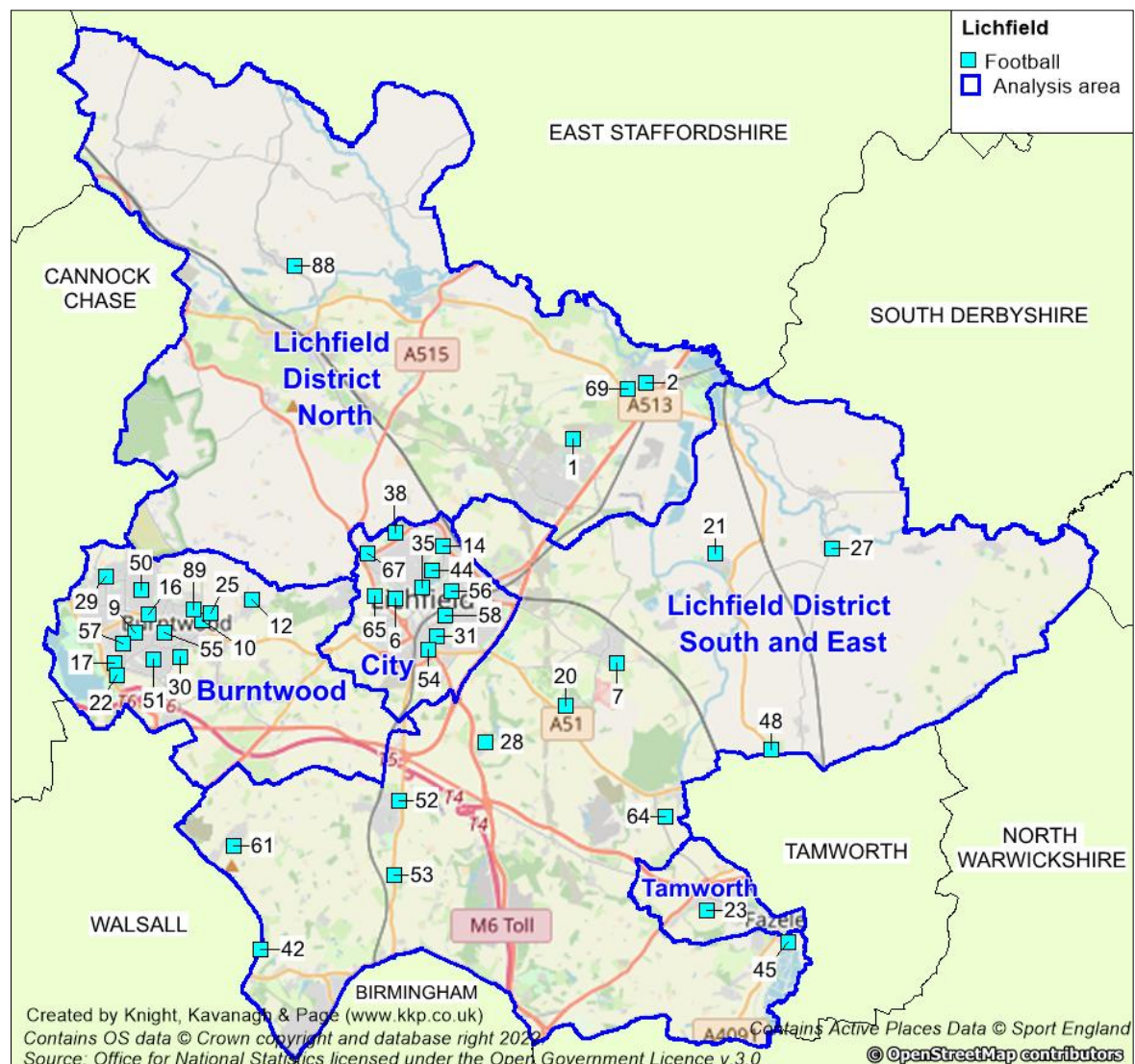
Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Burntwood	6	7	7	3	6	29
Lichfield City	9	11	4	2	1	27
Lichfield District North	1	1	-	2	-	4
Lichfield District South & East	9	6	2	4	2	23
Tamworth	1	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Current total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>2020 Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100</b>

- 2.13 As seen, most community available pitches can be found in the Burntwood Analysis Area, with 29 pitches provided (35%). The Tamworth Analysis Area provides the least number of community available pitches with just one (1%).

## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- 2.14 There are more adult pitches (26) identified when compared to other pitch sizes, which suggests high demand for adult football. However, it should be noted that youth 11v11 demand is significantly higher, despite there being fewer youth 11v11 pitches. This is common nationally, with many youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, although this can be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than through preference.
- 2.15 Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2020, the number of community available pitches across Lichfield District has decreased by 17. Most notably, this decrease can be accounted for in the adult and mini 7v7 formats of the game. The reduction is predominately due to several sites and pitches becoming disused, as further summarised below.
- 2.16 Figure 2.1 identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Lichfield District, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 2.16.

Figure 2.1: Map of sites with football pitch provision within Lichfield District



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#### *Disused provision*

- 2.17 There are several grass football pitches which are disused in Lichfield District, either at sites where no formal sports pitches are now provided, or where sites have previously accommodated football pitches but now only accommodate other sports. In total, 21 have been identified.
- 2.18 The disused football provision is summarised in the table below. In addition, it should be noted that some pitches have also been lost at some school sites, primarily due to re-configuration; however, this is not included in the table as it does not represent disuse.

Table 2.3: Summary of disused sites/provision within Lichfield District

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Comments
5	Baxters Field	WS14 9TB	Lichfield District South & East	Three youth 9v9 pitches that fell out of use at the end of the 2019/2020 season. Now owned privately with a link to Whittington FC.
11	Burntwood Rugby Club	WS7 3PH	Burntwood	One youth 11v11 pitch previously provided with the provision no longer marked out due to rugby union usage.
20	DMS Whittington	WS14 9TQ	Lichfield District South & East	Two adult and one youth 9v9 pitch that have been lost through the extension of the site's car park.
34	Kings Bromley Showground	DE13 7JF	Lichfield District North	One youth 11v11 pitch which is no longer marked out.
46	Open House	WS7 4RJ	Burntwood	One adult, one youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 pitches that are now disused as the site is subject to development proposals.
49	Rectory Close Playing Fields	B78 3UH	Lichfield District South & East	One adult pitch which is no longer marked out. This has been impacted by a footpath and play area and now cannot be reinstated as was.
63	Stychbrook Park	WS13 7RB	Lichfield City	Two adult pitches previously provided. The site is currently undergoing a redevelopment (see future supply section).
70	Whittington Cricket Club	WS14 9LQ	Lichfield District South & East	One youth 9v9 pitch which is no longer marked out, although Whittington Soccer Centre uses the site for football activity (temporary markings are used for this e.g. via cones).

- 2.19 As a breakdown, the disused provision equates to seven adult, two youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 pitches.
- 2.20 At Open House, plans are in place to develop residential housing and a care home facility on the land where the pitches reside. This will need to meet national and local planning policy requirements, with the findings of this study able to inform this. Prior to becoming disused, the site was in use by football clubs that have had to since relocate.

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#### ***Future supply***

- 2.21 In relation to the aforementioned disused provision at Stychbrooke Park, a re-development is taking place, with planning permission granted, that will see the creation of a 3G pitch and an onsite leisure centre. This will replace the grass pitch provision.
- 2.22 At Baxters Field, which is also disused, Whittington FC has plans to bring the site back into use and develop it for use by the Club.
- 2.23 In addition, the Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy (2008-2029) sets out masterplans for playing pitches to be delivered across three strategic housing allocations in the Lichfield City Analysis Area. These are:
- ▶ St Johns South of Lichfield – one adult and two mini pitches
  - ▶ Deanslade South of Lichfield – one adult and two mini pitches
  - ▶ Cricket Lane South of Lichfield – two adult pitches
- 2.24 In each case, the Council reports that it would be open to an asset transfer or lease arrangement with a club to take on the management of the provision when it is provided.

#### ***Management***

- 2.25 Of the 84 community available pitches in Lichfield District, 23 are managed by the Council (27%), 27 are managed in-house by sports clubs (33%) and 33 are managed by education operators (39%). The remaining site (1%) is managed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) at DMS Whittington.

Table 2.4: Summary of pitch management (number of community available pitches)

Education	Council	Clubs	MOD
33	23	27	1

#### ***Security of tenure***

- 2.26 Clubs are generally considered to have secure tenure where they have freehold, leasehold or formally secured use of their site/s for the next three or more years (i.e., via a community use agreement). In addition, most council sites in Lichfield District ensure long-term security of tenure as part of their ongoing commitment to providing a leisure offering.
- 2.27 Based on the above, tenure of sites in Lichfield District is generally secure, with all council and club sites providing long-term access guarantees as well as several schools that have access arrangements secured via planning conditions. This is the case at Erasmus Darwin Academy where Chasetown FC has a 10-year agreement, as well as at The Friary School and Chase Terrace College.
- 2.28 Conversely, tenure is considered to be insecure at the remaining education sites as well as at DMS Whittington due to the private nature of the site. In the main, schools are able to state their own policies relating to community use, therefore making them more likely to restrict levels of access.

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### *Pitch quality*

- 2.29 Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. In contrast, well maintained pitches are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.
- 2.30 Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than local authority parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. Such provision is also likely to receive greater amounts of external investment. The maintenance of council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.
- 2.31 The quality of football pitches across Lichfield District has been assessed via a combination of site visits (carried out in November 2024), PitchPower reports (see section below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor (for the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2).
- 2.32 The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches. As seen, most pitches are assessed as standard quality (67%), with 15 pitches assessed as good quality (18%) and 12 assessed as poor quality (15%).

Table 2.5: Summary of pitch quality by pitch type (community available)

Pitch type	Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Adult	4	19	3
Youth 11v11	3	20	2
Youth 9v9	3	9	1
Mini 7v7	3	4	4
Mini 5v5	2	4	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2020 Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>30</b>

- 2.33 The good quality community available pitches are located at:
- ♣ Burntwood Leisure Centre
  - ♣ Elford Playing Field
  - ♣ Hospital Road
  - ♣ Mill Green Sports Ground
  - ♣ New Mill Lane
- 2.34 Elford Boys FC states that the pitches at Elford Playing Field have improved in the last few seasons as a direct result of access to FF funding. Elsewhere, Burntwood Lions FC commends the maintenance carried out at Burntwood Leisure Centre.
- 2.35 Furthermore, since the previous study was completed, the number of good quality pitches across Lichfield District has increased, whilst the number of poor quality pitches has reduced by 60% (albeit this is partially down to an overall reduction in supply). Many clubs and operators state that this change is a result of increased pitch maintenance and the carrying out of PitchPower assessments and the associated/resultant funding.



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### PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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- 2.36 In contrast, the poor quality pitches that have been identified are at:
- ❖ AFC Fradley
  - ❖ Bit End Field
  - ❖ Chase Terrace College
  - ❖ DMS Whittington
  - ❖ Shenstone Country Club
  - ❖ Stonnall Playing Fields
  - ❖ The Friary School
- 2.37 In the main, these pitches show significant signs of wear and tear, with many also having waterlogging problems. Half are operated by education providers (six pitches), where maintenance is seemingly minimal and with this further exacerbated by the provision accommodating curricular and extra-curricular demand.
- 2.38 At AFC Fradley, the pitches are newly provided via association with a recent housing development. However, they are reported to be not yet ready for use, with further work needed to bring them up to an appropriate standard. This is also reflected via club consultation, with AFC Fradley noting that all demand still takes place away from the site.
- 2.39 AFC Fradley also utilises several of the other poor quality sites in Lichfield District. The Club states that the pitches at Shenstone Country Club and The Friary School have reduced in quality over recent seasons, resulting in poor quality and overuse. It also reports similar issues at Beacon Park, which is assessed as standard quality.
- 2.40 Similarly, Fountain United FC states that whilst the pitches at Beacon Park are overall standard quality, the pitches have gotten slightly poorer recently. It notes that a lack of pitch marking and overall general maintenance has contributed towards this.
- 2.41 Elsewhere, it has been identified that a private individual linked to Whittington FC has taken over the ownership of Baxters Field, with aspirations to improve the site and turn it into a key site for the Club.
- 2.42 For a full breakdown of quality ratings at each site, please refer to Table 2.16.

#### ***PitchPower***

- 2.43 The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the FF's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on improvements. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment.
- 2.44 The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for FF grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (detailed later in this section).
- 2.45 PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments, instead being able to be undertaken at any time in the year, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: July - October, November – March or April – June.

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- 2.46 As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.
- 2.47 The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

Table 2.6: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS Rating	PPOSS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

- 2.48 In Lichfield District, nine sites have received a PitchPower assessment. The findings of these in comparison to the PPOSS findings are shown in the table below.

Table 2.7: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Date of PitchPower report	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
1	AFC Fradley	Mini 7v7	04/11/22	Poor	Poor
1	AFC Fradley	Mini 7v7	04/11/22	Basic	Poor
7	Bit End Field	Adult	31/03/24	Basic	Standard
21	Elford Playing Field	Mini 5v5	19/11/24	Good	Good
21	Elford Playing Field	Mini 5v5	19/11/24	Good	Good
21	Elford Playing Field	Mini 7v7	19/11/24	Good	Good
21	Elford Playing Field	Youth 9v9	19/11/24	Good	Good
21	Elford Playing Field	Youth 11v11	19/11/24	Good	Good
30	Hospital Road	Adult	07/05/24	Good	Good
30	Hospital Road	Youth 11v11	07/05/24	Basic	Standard
30	Hospital Road	Youth 9v9	07/05/24	Basic	Standard
30	Hospital Road	Youth 9v9	07/05/24	Good	Good
30	Hospital Road	Mini 7v7	07/05/24	Good	Good
30	Hospital Road	Mini 5v5	07/05/24	Good	Standard
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	Youth 11v11	07/11/23	Good	Good
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	Youth 11v11	07/11/23	Good	Good
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	Mini 7v7	07/11/23	Good	Good
45	New Mill Lane	Adult	19/11/24	Basic	Standard
45	New Mill Lane	Youth 11v11	19/11/24	Basic	Standard
45	New Mill Lane	Youth 9v9	19/11/24	Good	Good
52	Shenstone Country Club	Adult	26/03/24	Basic	Poor
61	Stonall Playing Fields	Adult	06/11/23	Poor	Poor
67	The Friary School	Youth 11v11	28/07/23	Basic	Poor
67	The Friary School	Youth 11v11	28/07/23	Good	Poor

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Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Date of PitchPower report	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
67	The Friary School	Youth 9v9	28/07/23	Basic	Poor
67	The Friary School	Youth 11v11	28/07/23	Basic	Poor
67	The Friary School	Mini 7v7	28/07/23	Basic	Poor

- 2.49 As seen, most of the ratings from PitchPower assessments are aligned with those from the non-technical assessments, with alterations made to ensure this, where appropriate. In instances where discrepancies remain, this is because of the time that has elapsed since the PitchPower assessments took place and the changes that have been encountered since. This is also supported through user consultation.
- 2.50 Staffordshire FA identifies that it would be beneficial for all local authority-managed sites to undergo an assessment in the near future.

#### ***Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GMPF)***

- 2.51 With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the GPMF. As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues can apply to access funding to improve pitches to good quality or sustain them at good quality.
- 2.52 Once a PitchPower grass pitch assessment report has been produced for the site, eligible organisations can then apply for grant funding support through the GPMF, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help eligible organisations such as clubs and leagues enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the FF's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 quality grass pitches by 2030. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' then organisations can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.
- 2.53 All applicants must have the landowners permission (as a minimum) and have received a PitchPower Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs (excluding stadia pitches used for National League System play), leagues, education establishments and parish and town councils.

#### ***Ancillary facilities***

- 2.54 Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities. Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:
- ◆ Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation
  - ◆ A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance
  - ◆ Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision
  - ◆ Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering
  - ◆ Separate provision for officials



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- 2.55 Open planned changing rooms, toilets and particularly showers can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience. As a result, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document.
- 2.56 The table below summarises the clubhouse and changing room quality across community available sites in Lichfield District (note some education sites are not included as access could not be achieved). As seen, many sites provide good and/or standard quality provision, although three sites provide poor facilities and six are without facilities.

Table 2.8: Ancillary provision of the clubs that responded to consultation

Site ID	Site name	Overall quality	Changing room quality	Playing formats accommodated
1	AFC Fradley	N/A	N/A	Mini 7v7
6	Beacon Park	Good	Standard	Adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7, mini 5v5
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	Good	Standard	Adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9
10	Burntwood Memorial Park	Standard	Standard	Youth 11v11
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	Standard	Standard	Youth 11v11
16	Chase Terrace College	Standard	Standard	Adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7, mini 5v5
20	DMS Whittington	Poor	Poor	Adult
21	Elford Playing Fields	Poor	Poor	Youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7, mini 5v5
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	Good	Good	Youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7, mini 5v5
23	Fazeley Mile Oak Recreation Ground	Poor	Poor	Adult
27	Harlaston Bridge	N/A	N/A	Youth 11v11
30	Hospital Road	Good	Standard	Adult, youth 9v9, mini 7v7
36	Lichfield City Football Club (Trade Tyre Community Stadium)	Good	Standard	Adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7, mini 5v5
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Good	Good	Adult
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	Good	Good	Adult, youth 11v11
45	New Mill Lane	Standard	Standard	Adult, mini 7v7
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	Good	Good	Adult, youth 11v11
50	Redwood Park	N/A	N/A	Youth 11v11
52	Shenstone Country Club	Good	Good	Adult
54	Shortbatts Lane	Standard	Standard	Adult, youth 9v9
61	Stonnall Playing Fields	N/A	N/A	Adult
64	Tamworth Cricket, Hockey & Squash Club	Standard	Standard	Adult
65	The Bypass	N/A	N/A	Adult
67	The Friary School	Standard	Standard	Youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7, mini 5v5
68	The Scholars Ground	Good	Good	Adult, youth 9v9, mini 5v5
69	Walk Field	N/A	N/A	Youth 11v11
88	School Lane	N/A	N/A	Adult

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- 2.57 The poor quality ancillary facilities are found at DMS Whittington, Elford Playing Fields and Fazeley Mile Oak Recreation Ground. At Elford Playing Field, the provision is rated as poor quality due to age and condition of the provision, with it also not meeting mixed gender usage requirements. Elford Boys FC states that it has applied for a clubhouse grant for improvements.
- 2.58 Whilst the quality of ancillary facilities at The Scholars Ground are rated as good quality, Chasetown FC states that the three changing rooms which are provided are insufficient to accommodate the growth in demand that the Club is experiencing. Through consultation with the Club, it has aspirations to extend the provide and provide additional rooms to cater for its growing diversity. It has also applied for a CIL grant to support this.
- 2.59 Burntwood Lions FC states that the changing rooms at Burntwood Leisure Centre are a hazard and in need of updating as the tiles are falling away from the walls.
- 2.60 AFC Fradley is without supporting ancillary facilities at its recently developed site. Staffordshire FA notes that provision would be beneficial.

### 2.3: Demand

- 2.61 A total of 214 teams from 28 affiliated clubs are identified as playing in Lichfield District. As a breakdown, this equates to 31 adult teams, 87 youth 11v11 teams, 39 youth 9v9 teams, 31 mini 7v7 teams and 26 mini 5v5 teams. This is further summarised below.

Table 2.9: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Lichfield District

Age group	No. of teams
Adult Men's 11v11 (18-45)	29
Adult Women's 11v11 (18-45)	2
Youth Boys 11v11 (12-17)	73
Youth Girls 11v11 (12-17)	14
Youth Boys 9v9 (10-11)	33
Youth Girls 9v9 (10-11)	6
Mini Mixed 7v7 (8-9)	31
Mini Mixed 5v5 (6-7)	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>

- 2.62 Football in Lichfield District is played predominately in the Burntwood Analysis Area with a total of 88 teams, closely followed by the Lichfield City Analysis Area with 87 teams and finally the Lichfield District South & East Analysis Area with 39 teams (the Lichfield District North and Tamworth analysis areas do not have any teams).

Table 2.10: Summary of number of competitive football teams playing affiliation matches

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Burntwood	14	39	16	15	12	<b>88</b>
Lichfield City	11	31	16	13	8	<b>87</b>
Lichfield District North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lichfield District South & East	6	17	7	3	6	<b>39</b>
Tamworth	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>214</b>
<b>2020 Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>187</b>

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### ***Participation trends***

- 2.63 Since the previous study was completed in 2020, the number of teams within Lichfield District has increased from 187 to 214, representing a growth of 13% despite a decline in pitch supply over the same period. Further broken down, the increase equates to an overall rise of ten youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and nine mini 5v5 teams (adult teams have decreased by one).
- 2.64 In connection with the above, more clubs report a growth in demand in recent years compared to those reporting a decrease. Interestingly, 57% of responding clubs report an increase in their number of adult teams, whilst 43% report an increase in mini teams and 14% report an increase in youth teams. Only 14% of clubs report any form of decrease, although this does not account for the loss of single team adult clubs that have folded.

### ***Women's and girls' demand***

- 2.65 There are currently two women's teams and 20 dedicated girls' teams playing football in Lichfield District. This represents 15% of all demand across the District. Key clubs and organisations presently fielding female teams include AFC Fradley, Burntwood Phoenix FC, Chasetown Youth Girls FC, Lichfield City Girls FC and Whittington FC.
- 2.66 The FA currently has a drive to increase women's and girls' participation as part of its Inspiring Positive Change Strategy. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities are suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

### ***National League System demand***

- 2.67 The National League System (NLS) is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the Football League (from the National League at Step 1) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the system than at the top. The NLS has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the steps, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.
- 2.68 Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation<sup>1</sup> requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Stadium Accreditation assesses grounds from Grade 1 to 7, which aligns with Step 1 clubs down to Step 6 clubs making the transition from Regional Feeder League. Please refer to the FA website<sup>2</sup> for the full specifications for each.
- 2.69 Two teams from two clubs within Lichfield District play within the NLS. These are Chasetown FC and Lichfield City FC, as seen in the table below.

Table 2.11: Summary of teams playing within the NLS

Team	League	Level
Chasetown FC	Northern Premier League	Step 4
Lichfield City FC	Midland Football League	Step 5

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<sup>1</sup> <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

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- 2.70 Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System, similar to the adult men's that provides structure to the women's game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each level requiring differing ground grading requirements.
- 2.71 Although women's clubs still need to meet ground requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Tier 3 and 4 of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same.
- 2.72 There is currently one women's team fielded by Lichfield City FC which is part of the system. It plays in the West Midlands Regional Women's Football League.

#### ***Walking football***

- 2.73 Walking football<sup>3</sup> is an alternate version of football than the format which is governed by The Walking Football Association. The sport has picked up popularity in recent years and has a typical demographic of over 50s for men and over 40s for women. It provides a less physically demanding version of the usual game due to the rules not allowing for any contact or fast-paced movement thus providing a more inclusive game for participants.
- 2.74 Whilst the game is governed by The Walking Football Association, and it provides competitive structures through national cup competitions. Much of the activation work undertaken nationally for this activity type is promoted by professional football club community organisations or by leading community grassroots football clubs.
- 2.75 Within Lichfield District, Chasetown FC and Midland Soccer Academy offer competitive offerings for walking football within the District. The former train and play fixtures at The Scholars Ground, whilst the latter train and play fixtures at Burntwood Leisure Centre. However, in both instances, this is via 3G provision rather than grass (see Part 3).

#### ***Imported demand***

- 2.76 Sutton Rangers FC imports some demand into Lichfield District from Birmingham. This, however, is not known to be an issue for the Club, due to the proximity of the site to Sutton Coldfield, where it draws its base from.
- 2.77 Glascote Swifts FC and Ankerside FC play at Rawlett Leisure Centre, despite being Tamworth based clubs competing in the Tamworth & District Sunday Football League. As Rawlett Leisure Centre is located on the boundary of Lichfield and Tamworth, this is not perceived to be an issue for either club. In fact, the site primarily services Tamworth-based demand despite being located in Lichfield District (as a result, capacity at the site is discounted from this study, as further explained in Table 2.16 and in Part 3).

#### ***Exported demand***

- 2.78 Chasetown Youth FC, Whittington FC and Lichfield City FC export several teams outside of Lichfield District to compete in the Burton Junior Football League. The League operates on a central venue basis up to the U11 age banding, with none of the venues being within Lichfield District. This means that there is no alternative for the clubs unless they switched to a different league system.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://thewfa.co.uk/who-plays-walking-football/>  
<https://thewfa.co.uk/womens-walking-football/>

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### ***Latent/unmet demand***

- 2.79 Four clubs across Lichfield District report latent demand in that they report they could field more teams if certain facility-related issues were resolved. For each category, three state a need for more pitches, more/better training facilities and/or more/better changing provision. This is further summarised in the following table.

Table 2.12: Summary of latent demand

Club	Need for more match pitches	Need for more/better training facilities	Need for better/more appropriate changing provision
Chasetown Youth FC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fountain United FC	-	Yes	Yes
Lichfield City FC	Yes	-	Yes
Whittington FC	Yes	Yes	-

### ***Future demand***

- 2.80 Based on population projections to 2043 (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth (using ONS-2018 based projections). This is through using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers. Team generation rates have then been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.
- 2.81 The table below shows the number of new football teams that are predicted to be generated by the population forecasts and the requisite match equivalent sessions that this will create. As seen, this amounts to 14 teams across the playing formats (seven match equivalent sessions).

Table 2.13: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	No. of match equivalent sessions per week <sup>4</sup>
Adult Men's (18-45)	1:18.26	2.06	2	1
Adult Women's (18-45)	1:261.19	0.14	0	0
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:1.30	5.18	5	2.5
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:5.07	0.99	1	0.5
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:1.51	2.34	2	1
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:6.03	0.43	0	0
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:2.13	2.20	2	1
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:2.57	1.84	2	1

<sup>4</sup> Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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- 2.82 In total, future demand from population increases amounts to two adult, six youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 teams. When studied by analysis area, the table below provides a breakdown of where the future demand is most likely to generate.

Table 2.14: Future demand by analysis area (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Burntwood	0.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	3.5
Lichfield City	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	3
Lichfield District North	-	-	-	-	-	0
Lichfield District South & East	-	0.5	-	-	-	0.5
Tamworth	-	-	-	-	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

- 2.83 In addition to participation growth via population increases, several clubs in Lichfield District report aspirations to increase their number of teams. As this is considered to be more aspirational than future demand identified above, it is not considered within this element of the PPOSS; however, it will be included in the proceeding Strategy as a scenario to determine facility requirements if it was to be realised.
- 2.84 Similarly, the proceeding Strategy document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across Lichfield District.

### 2.4: Capacity analysis

- 2.85 The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.
- 2.86 As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality. Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used in Lichfield District:

Adult pitch quality	Matches per week	Youth pitch quality	Matches per week	Mini pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

- 2.87 Table 2.16 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overplayed</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain



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#### ***Match equivalent sessions per week***

- 2.88 Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

#### ***Education sites***

- 2.89 To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the usage at such sites will need to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all, and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches onsite and whether there is access to an onsite AGP.
- 2.90 In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is a little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cuttings and line marking.
- 2.91 Table 2.16 shows community usage of available pitches. Where not overplayed because of community use, school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.
- 2.92 For school sites which are available for community use but that currently do not have any external hirers, one match equivalent session per week, per pitch has been accredited to indicate use for curricular and extracurricular activity as opposed to them being completely unused.

#### ***Peak time***

- 2.93 Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Lichfield District, peak time for adult and youth 11v11 is Sunday morning, whereas it is Saturday morning for all remaining pitch types, as most teams across all age groups play at this time.
- 2.94 In the capacity analysis, please note that, on occasions, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than what exists overall. This is because most of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period, therefore the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increase overall capacity.
- 2.95 A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.
- 2.96 There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

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- 2.97 Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality.
- 2.98 Furthermore, any pitches with unsecured tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.
- 2.99 The table below identifies the way capacity balance is represented in Table 2.16.

Table 2.15: Capacity balance examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	With a dash, this indicates that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it were to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	Not highlighted by with a value, this indicates that the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, capacity has been discounted. This may be due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.
1	Highlighted in red with a number denotes that the pitches are overplayed and have no spare capacity across the week. This includes at peak time, despite any availability at peak time which may exist.



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Table 2.16: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
1	AFC Fradley	WS13 8ZD	Lichfield District North	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	0	4	4	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
2	All Saints C of E Primary School	DE13 7EF	Lichfield District North	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	-	Unavailable for community use.
6	Beacon Park	WS13 7AG	Lichfield City	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		4	Standard	2	8	6	2.5	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
6	Beacon Park	WS13 7AG	Lichfield City	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	4	Standard	4.5	8	3.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
7	Bit End Field	WS14 9LQ	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.
7	Bit End Field	WS14 9LQ	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	WS7 3XH	Burntwood	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Good	6.5	9	2.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	WS7 3XH	Burntwood	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
10	Burntwood Memorial Park	WS7 9BE	Burntwood	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	WS7 9QH	Burntwood	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
14	Charnwood Primary Academy	WS13 7PH	Lichfield City	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	-	Unavailable for community use.
14	Charnwood Primary Academy	WS13 7PH	Lichfield City	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	2	4	2	-	Unavailable for community use.
16	Chase Terrace College	WS7 2DB	Burntwood	Yes	Education	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.
16	Chase Terrace College	WS7 2DB	Burntwood	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
16	Chase Terrace College	WS7 2DB	Burntwood	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.
16	Chase Terrace College	WS7 2DB	Burntwood	Yes	Education	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	4	Poor	4	8	4	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
17	Chasetown Community School	WS7 3QL	Burntwood	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	-	Unavailable for community use.
20	DMS Whittington	WS14 9TQ	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	MOD	Unsecure	Adult		1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
21	Elford Playing Field	B79 9DE	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	1	4	3	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
21	Elford Playing Field	B79 9DE	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	1.5	4	2.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to overmarking cricket outfield.
21	Elford Playing Field	B79 9DE	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	1	6	5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to overmarking cricket outfield.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
21	Elford Playing Field	B79 9DE	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Good	2.5	12	9.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to overmarking cricket outfield.
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Burntwood	Yes	Education	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Burntwood	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	4	2	2	0	Overplayed.
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Burntwood	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	3	Standard	4	6	2	2	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
23	Fazeley Mile Oak Recreation Ground	B78 3NN	Tamworth	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
25	Fulfen Primary School	WS7 9BJ	Burntwood	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	3	Poor	3	6	3	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
27	Harlaston Bridge	B79 7JX	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
28	HMP Swinfen Hall	WS14 9QT	Lichfield District South & East	No	Private	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	-	Unavailable for community use
29	Holly Grove Primary School	WS7 1LU	Burntwood	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	-	Unavailable for community use
30	Hospital Road	WS7 0EQ	Burntwood	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	3	3	0	0	Played to capacity.
30	Hospital Road	WS7 0EQ	Burntwood	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	5	2	3	0	Overplayed
30	Hospital Road	WS7 0EQ	Burntwood	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
30	Hospital Road	WS7 0EQ	Burntwood	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
30	Hospital Road	WS7 0EQ	Burntwood	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	2	6	4	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
30	Hospital Road	WS7 0EQ	Burntwood	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2	4	2	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
31	King Edward VI School	WS14 9EE	Lichfield City	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2	2	0	1	Played to capacity.
35	Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Field	WS13 7LR	Lichfield City	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2	4	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	WS13 7SQ	Lichfield City	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	WS9 0LY	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Good	4	8	4	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	WS9 0LY	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	1.5	6	4.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
44	Nether Stowe High School	WS13 7NB	Lichfield City	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Standard	3	6	3	3	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
45	New Mill Lane	B78 3RX	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
45	New Mill Lane	B78 3RX	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed.
45	New Mill Lane	B78 3RX	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Education	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	3	4	1	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to primarily servicing Tamworth-based demand.
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to primarily servicing Tamworth-based demand.
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Education	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2	4	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to primarily servicing Tamworth-based demand.
50	Redwood Park	WS7 2BH	Burntwood	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
51	Ridgeway Primary School	WS7 4TU	Burntwood	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	2	4	2	-	Unavailable for community use.
52	Shenstone Country Club	WS14 0JR	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0	Overplayed.
53	Shenstone Lodge School	WS14 0LB	Lichfield District South & East	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	-	Unavailable for community use.
54	Shortbutts Lane	WS14 9BT	Lichfield City	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed.
54	Shortbutts Lane	WS14 9BT	Lichfield City	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.
55	Springhill Academy	WS7 4UN	Burntwood	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
56	St Chads CE Primary School	WS13 6SN	Lichfield City	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
57	St Joseph & St Theresa Catholic Primary	WS7 3XL	Burntwood	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	2	4	2	2	Unavailable for community use.
58	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	WS14 9AN	Lichfield City	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	2	4	2	2	Unavailable for community use.
61	Stonnall Playing Fields	WS9 9DY	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0	Overplayed.
64	Tamworth Cricket Hockey & Squash Club	B78 3AT	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
65	The Bypass	WS13 7BW	Lichfield City	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	4	4	0	0	Played to capacity.
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Lichfield City	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	3	2	1	0	Overplayed.
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Lichfield City	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed.
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Lichfield City	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	0	Overplayed.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Lichfield City	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Lichfield City	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	3	2	1	0	Overplayed.
69	Walk Field	DE13 7EW	Lichfield District North	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
88	School Lane	WS15 3QN	Lichfield District North	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
89	Highfields Primary Academy	WS7 9BT	Burntwood	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
89	Highfields Primary Academy	WS7 9BT	Burntwood	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### **Actual spare capacity**

- 2.100 Actual spare capacity totals eight match equivalent sessions per week and is found across 12 pitches at six sites in Lichfield District. This is summarised on a site-by-site basis below.

Table 2.17: Summary of actual spare capacity by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
6	Beacon Park	Lichfield City	Youth 11v11	4	2.5
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	Burntwood	Youth 9v9	1	0.5
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	Burntwood	Youth 11v11	1	0.5
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	Burntwood	Adult	1	1
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	Burntwood	Youth 9v9	3	2
27	Harlaston Bridge	Lichfield District South & East	Youth 11v11	1	1
50	Redwood Park	Burntwood	Youth 11v11	1	0.5
-	-	-	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>

- 2.101 Most actual spare capacity is found on youth 11v11 pitches (4.5 match equivalent sessions), whilst none is evident on mini 7v7 or mini 5v5 pitches. The Burntwood Analysis Area contains the most (also 4.5 match equivalent sessions).

Table 2.18: Summary of actual spare capacity (in match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Burntwood	1	1	2.5	-	-	4.5
Lichfield City	-	2.5	-	-	-	2.5
Lichfield District North	-	-	-	-	-	0
Lichfield District South & East	-	1	-	-	-	1
Tamworth	-	-	-	-	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>

### **Overplay**

- 2.102 In Lichfield, 12 pitches across seven sites are overplayed by a combined total of 14.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This can be seen by site in the table overleaf.

## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 2.19: Summary of overplay of grass football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	Burntwood	Youth 11v11	1	2
30	Hospital Road	Burntwood	Youth 11v11	1	3
45	New Mill Lane	Lichfield District South & East	Adult	1	1.5
45	New Mill Lane	Lichfield District South & East	Youth 11v11	1	1.5
52	Shenstone Country Club	Lichfield District South & East	Adult	1	0.5
54	Shortbutts Lane	Lichfield City	Adult	1	0.5
61	Stonnall Playing Fields	Lichfield District South & East	Adult	1	0.5
67	The Friary School	Lichfield City	Youth 11v11	3	2.5
67	The Friary School	Lichfield City	Youth 9v9	1	1.5
67	The Friary School	Lichfield City	Mini 5v5	1	1
-	-	-	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14.5</b>

- 2.103 Most overplay is situated in the Lichfield City Analysis Area (5.5 match equivalent sessions per week), followed by the Burntwood Analysis Area (five match equivalent sessions per week). By pitch type, overplay is mostly on youth 11v11 pitches (nine match equivalent sessions per week), whilst none is found on mini 7v7 pitches.

Table 2.20: Summary of overplay (in match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Burntwood	-	5	-	-	-	<b>5</b>
Lichfield City	0.5	2.5	1.5	-	1	<b>5.5</b>
Lichfield District North	-	-	-	-	-	<b>0</b>
Lichfield District South & East	2.5	1.5	-	-	-	<b>4</b>
Tamworth	-	-	-	-	-	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14.5</b>

- 2.104 Much of the overplay is generated from poor quality provision, with six of the overplayed pitches being assessed as such. Moreover, none are assessed as good quality.

### 2.5: Supply and demand analysis

- 2.105 Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e., spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions. As stated earlier, future demand, at this stage, is calculated based on what has been identified through population growth.

## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### **Adult pitch capacity**

- 2.106 There is currently a shortfall of two match equivalent sessions per week on adult pitches in Lichfield District, with this attributed to deficits in the Lichfield City and Lichfield District South & East analysis areas.
- 2.107 When factoring in future demand, the shortfall increases to three match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.21: Summary and demand for adult pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Burntwood	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Lichfield City	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
Lichfield District North	-	-	0	-	0
Lichfield District South & East	-	2.5	2.5	-	2.5
Tamworth	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

### **Youth 11v11 pitch capacity**

- 2.108 There is currently a shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent session per week on youth 11v11 pitches in Lichfield District, with this attributed to deficits in the Lichfield City and Lichfield District South & East analysis areas. No analysis areas provide any spare capacity.
- 2.109 When factoring in future demand, the shortfall increases to 7.5 match equivalent sessions, with all three analysis areas with supply and demand experiencing a deficit.

Table 2.22: Supply and demand for youth 11v11 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Burntwood	1	5	4	1.5	5.5
Lichfield City	2.5	2.5	0	1	1
Lichfield District North	-	-	0	-	0
Lichfield District South & East	1	1.5	0.5	0.5	1
Tamworth	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7.5</b>

### **Youth 9v9 pitch capacity**

- 2.110 There is currently minimal spare capacity equating to one match equivalent session per week on youth 9v9 pitches in Lichfield District. This is due to capacity levels in the Burntwood Analysis Area, although a shortfall is present in the Lichfield City Analysis Area (all remaining areas are at capacity).
- 2.111 When factoring in future demand, the spare capacity is taken up, leaving supply and demand in a balanced state.



## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 2.23: Supply and demand for youth 9v9 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Burntwood	2.5	-	2.5	0.5	2
Lichfield City	-	1.5	1.5	0.5	2
Lichfield District North	-	-	0	-	0
Lichfield District South & East	-	-	0	-	0
Tamworth	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

### **Mini 7v7 pitch capacity**

- 2.112 Mini 7v7 pitches are currently operating at capacity in Lichfield District, with no actual spare capacity or overplay existing.
- 2.113 When factoring in future demand, a small shortfall is created, with this totalling one match equivalent session. This is due to identified growth in the Burntwood and Lichfield City analysis areas.

Table 2.24: Supply and demand for mini 7v7 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Burntwood	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
Lichfield City	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
Lichfield District North	-	-	0	-	0
Lichfield District South & East	-	-	0	-	0
Tamworth	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

### **Mini 5v5 pitch capacity**

- 2.114 There is currently a minimal deficit equating to one match equivalent session per week on mini 5v5 pitches in Lichfield District. This is found solely in the Lichfield City Analysis Area.
- 2.115 When factoring in future demand, the shortfall increases to two match equivalent sessions. This is due to shortfalls in the Burntwood and Lichfield City analysis areas.

Table 2.25: Supply and demand for mini 5v5 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Burntwood	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
Lichfield City	-	1	1	0.5	1.5
Lichfield District North	-	-	0	-	0
Lichfield District South & East	-	-	0	-	0
Tamworth	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>



# LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### 2.6: Conclusion

- 2.116 Using the supply and demand tables above, the table below summarises the overall Lichfield District analysis by pitch type. As seen, there are currently shortfalls across adult, youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches, whereas spare capacity exists on youth 9v9 (mini 7v7 pitches are at capacity). In all instances, the level of overplay and spare capacity is relatively minimal.
- 2.117 When incorporating future demand, the shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches increases, whilst a deficit of mini 7v7 pitches also develops and a capacity balance is reached on youth 9v9 pitches. This means that no pitch types are forecast to provide spare capacity without any action being taken.

Table 2.26: Summary of analysis for grass football pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Adult	1	3	2	1	3
Youth 11v11	4.5	9	4.5	3	7.5
Youth 9v9	2.5	1.5	1	1	0
Mini 7v7	0	0	0	1	1
Mini 5v5	0	1	1	1	2

- 2.118 When findings are compared to the previous PPOSS study completed in 2020, the supply and demand picture is seemingly worse. Both current and future spare capacity previously existed on adult, youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches whereas a shortfall is now calculated, whilst spare capacity levels on mini 7v7 has disappeared. Only youth 9v9 provision is seemingly now better off as a deficit was previously found.

Table 2.27: Comparison of analysis from previous PPOSS (match equivalent sessions)

Pitch type	2020 findings (current total)	2025 findings (current total)
Adult	10	2
Youth 11v11	2.5	4.5
Youth 9v9	0.5	1
Mini 7v7	4.5	0
Mini 5v5	2.5	1

- 2.119 The overall reduction in spare capacity is likely to be a combination of increasing demand levels and decreasing supply levels. The impact has, however, been reduced via some pitch quality improvements and an increase in 3G pitch usage (see Part 3).

# LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity totals eight match equivalent sessions per week and is found across 12 pitches at six sites, whilst overplay equates to 14.5 match equivalent sessions across 12 pitches.
- There are currently shortfalls across adult, youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches, whereas spare capacity exists on youth 9v9 pitches (mini 7v7 pitches are at capacity).
- When incorporating future demand, the shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches increases, whilst a deficit of mini 7v7 pitches also develops and a capacity balance is reached on youth 9v9 pitches (this means that no pitch types are forecast to provide spare capacity).
- The overall picture is worse when compared to previous PPOSS findings, which is likely due to a combination of increasing demand levels and decreasing supply levels.

### Supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 100 grass football pitches across 41 sites, with 84 pitches across 32 sites identified as being available for community use.
- The number of community available pitches has reduced from 100 since the previous PPOSS (2020).
- A total of 21 disused pitches have been identified across seven sites.
- Plans are in place at Open House to develop residential housing and a care home facility on the land where the disused pitches reside.
- New grass pitch football provision is included as part of housing developments known as Deanslade Farm and St Johns Grange.
- By management type, there is a relatively even split of the community available pitches; 23 are managed by the Council, 27 are managed in-house by sports clubs and 33 are managed by education operators.
- Of the community available pitches, 15 are assessed as good quality, 59 as standard quality and 12 as poor quality.
- Most sites provide good or standard quality ancillary provision, although poor quality facilities are found at DMS Whittington, Elford Playing Fields and Fazeley Mile Oak Recreation Ground.
- Ancillary provision is required at AFC Fradley.

### Demand summary

- In total, there are 214 teams across 28 clubs identified as playing in Lichfield District, with this amounting to 31 adult teams, 87 youth 11v11 teams, 39 youth 9v9 teams, 31 mini 7v7 teams and 26 mini 5v5 teams.
- The demand includes two adult women's and 20 youth girls' teams, with this representing 15% of all demand.
- The number of teams has increased from 187 since the 2020 PPOSS, representing a growth of 13%.
- Two teams play within the men's football pyramid, Chasetown FC (Step 4) and Lichfield City FC (Step 5), whilst one plays within the women's (Lichfield City FC).
- Several clubs import demand into Lichfield District from authorities including Birmingham and Tamworth, although this is generally through preference due to their proximity to the District.
- Chasetown Youth FC, Whittington FC and Lichfield City FC export several teams outside of Lichfield District to compete in the Burton Junior Football League, which operates a central venue league up to the U11 age banding.
- Four clubs report latent demand in that they report they could field more teams if facility related issues were resolved (Chasetown Youth, Fountain United, Lichfield City and Whittington football clubs).
- Future demand from population growth (to 2043) predicts an increase of 14 teams, with this totalling two adult men's, seven youth boys', one youth girls' and four mini teams.

### PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

#### 3.1: Introduction

- 3.1 Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA 3G Pitch Register. As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.
- 3.2 World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby union, more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for the sport. The artificial surface standards identified allows contact training and matches to be played on surfaces that meet the required standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.
- 3.3 Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to meet its Performance Standard. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, meaning World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements, subject to passing an additional RFL performance standard test.
- 3.4 Other sports that are suitable to be accommodated on 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse. Many test contractors offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity.
- 3.5 EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

#### 3.2: Supply

- 3.6 The recommended dimensions for a full size 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres, extending to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included (these dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adult, youth 11v11 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches e.g., the marking out of two youth 9v9 pitches for U11/12s). For rugby union, the required dimensions are a maximum of 100 x 70 metres and a minimum of 98 x 64 metres, with ideally a 5-metre run off area and a 6-metre in goal area.
- 3.7 If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions for the relevant sport/s, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered e.g., a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked youth 9v9 pitches.

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- 3.8 Across Lichfield District, there are currently three 11v11 size 3G pitches, all of which are sports lit and available for community use. This equates to one each in the Burntwood, Lichfield City and Lichfield District South & East analysis areas, as summarised site-by-site below.

Table 3.2: Full size 3G pitches in Lichfield District

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Com use?	Sports lit?	Size (metres)	FA approved?
36	Lichfield City Football Club (Trade Tyre Community Stadium)	Lichfield City	WS13 6BX	Yes	Yes	106 x 69	31/05/2025
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	Lichfield District South & East	B79 9AA	Yes	Yes	105 x 68	No
68	The Scholars Ground	Burntwood	WS7 3QL	Yes	Yes	100 x 68	01/11/2025

- 3.9 Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that the pitch at Rawlett Leisure Centre primarily services Tamworth-based demand due to its location. As such, whilst it falls within Lichfield District, it is not considered to be accommodating demand from the authority. It is also included within Tamworth's PPOSS for this reason.
- 3.10 In addition, there are two smaller sized 3G pitches in Lichfield District, although only the provision at Burntwood Leisure Centre is available for community use. Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller size provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are on the FA Pitch Register (see further detail below), of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas. More commonly, however, they are used to accommodate commercial football leagues and social/recreational play.

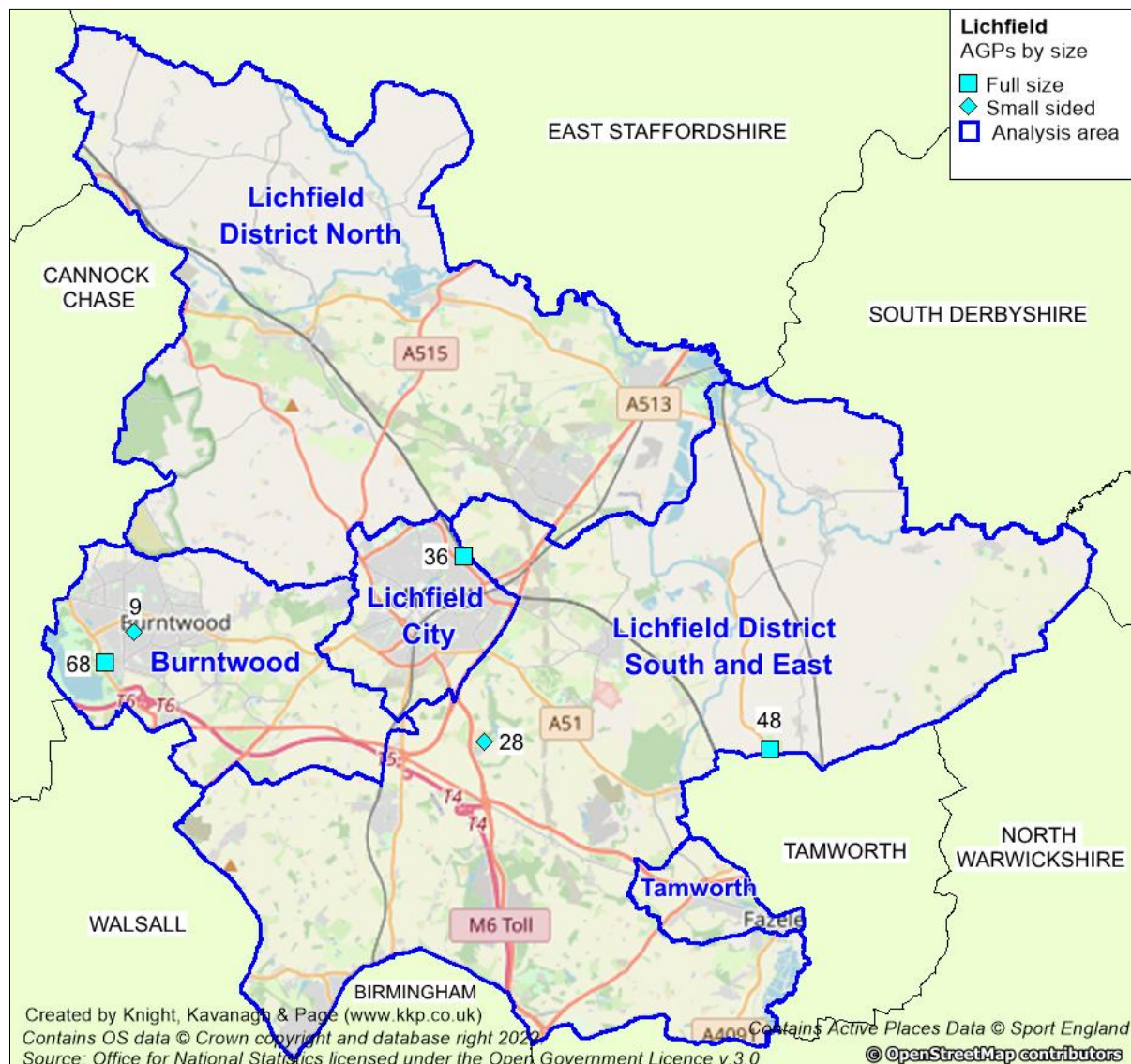
Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Com use?	Sports lit?	Size (metres)	FA approved?
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	Burntwood	WS7 3XH	Yes	Yes	86 x 54	31/05/2027
28	HMP Swinfen Hall	Lichfield District South & East	WS14 9QS	No	Yes	32 x 22	No

- 3.11 Since the previous PPOSS, there has been an increase of one 3G pitch in Lichfield District. This relates to the provision that has been established at The Scholars Ground.
- 3.12 Figure 3.1 overleaf shows the location of all 3G pitches within Lichfield District, regardless of size.

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Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Lichfield District



## Future provision

- 3.13 A new 3G pitch is to be provided as part of a wider development at Stychbrook Park that will also see the creation of a new leisure centre. The pitch will be suitable for youth football, with planning permission granted and work now commencing.
- 3.14 Planning permission has been granted for the creation of a 11v11 3G pitch at DMS Whittington, with sports lighting. However, it is believed that this will be primarily for internal usage and will therefore not meet any community demand (no community use agreement is included).
- 3.15 At Burntwood Leisure Centre, consideration is being given to extending the footprint of the pitch to 11v11 size when resurfacing takes place. This will assist in accommodating increased demand levels.



#### ***FA pitch register***

- 3.16 In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>.
- 3.17 Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard.
- 3.18 For pitches used by affiliated grassroots football clubs (below regional feeder leagues) and clubs in the women's football pyramid (Tier 3), the minimum requirement of testing is the FA Register Test. However, matches played at Step 1 to 6 of the men's national league system must follow more stringent testing, with this including a minimum pitch size of 100 x 64 metres, a run-off area of between 1.83 metres (Step 2-6) and 2.25 metres (Step 1), a consistent playing surface shade of green and line markings must be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. In addition, FA testing must take place annually rather than every three years. As for 3G pitches used in the women's football pyramid - at Tier 1, matches cannot be played on a 3G pitch, whilst existing 3G pitches at Tier 2 must be accredited to the FIFA Recommended Quality performance standard.
- 3.19 Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours. To remain accredited, pitches must be re-assessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the football pyramid.
- 3.20 In Lichfield District, three pitches are on the FA's 3G pitch register, with this relating to the 11v11 provision at Trade Tyre Community Stadium and The Scholars Ground as well as the smaller sized pitch at Burntwood Leisure Centre. The pitch at Rawlett Leisure Centre is not registered for competitive matches.

#### ***World Rugby compliant pitches***

- 3.21 To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces can replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.
- 3.22 The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby and full contact training must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.
- 3.23 There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Lichfield District.

#### ***Management***

- 3.24 The 11v11 3G pitches at Lichfield City Football Club and The Scholars Ground are managed by football clubs (Lichfield City FC and Chasetown FC, respectively). The pitch at Rawlett Leisure Centre is managed by a school.



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- 3.25 In regards to the smaller sized provision, the pitch at Burntwood Leisure Centre is operated by the Council; the pitch at HMP Swinfen Hall is managed by the HM Prison Service.

### **Availability**

- 3.26 All three full size 3G pitches are widely accessible throughout the week, as summarised in the following table. The same also applies to the smaller sized pitch at Burntwood Leisure Centre.

Table 3.4: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	Burntwood	The pitch is available from 7am-10pm on Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm on Saturday and from 8am-9pm on Sunday.
28	HMP Swinfen Hall	Lichfield District South & East	Unavailable
36	Lichfield City Football Club (Trade Tyre Community Stadium)	Lichfield City	The pitch is available from 5pm-10pm on Monday to Friday and from 9am-5pm at weekends.
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	Lichfield District South & East	The pitch is available from 5-10pm on Monday to Friday, from 8:30am-5:30pm on Saturday and 8:30am-9:30pm on Sunday.
68	The Scholars Ground	Burntwood	Available everyday 09:00-22:00

### **Quality**

- 3.27 Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds are put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.
- 3.28 In Lichfield District, all pitches are within their recommended lifespan, where known (access could not be gained to HMP Swinfen Hall). As such, they are all assessed as good or standard quality, with no major issues identified.

Table 3.5: Age and quality of full size 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality (2020)	Quality (2024)
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	Burntwood	2016	Good	Standard
28	HMP Swinfen Hall	Lichfield District South & East	-	-	-
36	Lichfield City Football Club (Trade Tyre Community Stadium)	Lichfield City	2017	Good	Good
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	Lichfield District South & East	2016	Standard	Standard
68	The Scholars Ground	Burntwood	2024	N/A	Good

- 3.29 Notwithstanding the above, provision at Burntwood Leisure Centre, Lichfield City Football Club and Rawlett Leisure Centre will likely require resurfacing within the lifespan of this PPOSS. Through consultation, it has been stated that the provision at Rawlett Leisure Centre is planned to be resurfaced in 2025, with a sinking fund in place to fund this.

#### ***Ancillary facilities***

- 3.30 The changing rooms at Lichfield City Football Club (Trade Tyre Community Stadium) are deemed to be of poor quality and with just two rooms, there is also insufficient provision on site. Lichfield City FC has ambitions to extend the clubhouse to include another pair of changing rooms, as well as upgrading the existing changing facilities.
- 3.31 No issues have been identified elsewhere.

#### **3.3: Demand**

- 3.32 The 3G pitch stock currently servicing Lichfield District is operating at or close to capacity at peak times, particularly during midweek and especially in winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This applies to both mid-week training demand and weekend usage given that the full size community available stock is also FA approved to host competitive matches.
- 3.33 Currently, it is considered that all of the community-based activity on the 3G pitches is football related. Most of the capacity is being taken up by clubs for training and match play purposes, although there is also a strong presence of recreational football activity taking place (e.g., via unaffiliated groups).
- 3.34 The above is particularly intensive at both Lichfield City Football Club (Trade Tyre Community Stadium) and The Scholars Ground due to both being operated by large clubs. Lichfield City FC has 30 teams that have access to its pitch, whilst Chasetown FC and Chasetown Youth FC have 50 teams that can utilise the provision at The Scholars Ground. This leaves little capacity for other users.
- 3.35 Across the Country, there are also often small-sided commercial leagues operating on 3G pitches, such as leisure leagues. This is also the case in Lichfield District, with a league operating out of the smaller sized pitch at Burntwood Leisure Centre.
- 3.36 The table below summarises usage levels of the full size 3G provision in Lichfield District based on information and/or booking sheets supplied by the operators. This is compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM), which applies an overall peak period of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). During midweek timeslots, availability is considered to exist if any booking slots are available, either for a whole pitch or part of a pitch (based on how pitches are divided), whilst weekend availability is based on whole pitch availability as this is more likely to be required to support match play.

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Table 3.6: Current usage of full size 3G pitches during peak time across Lichfield District

Site ID	Site name	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	18	16	16	12
28	HMP Swinfen Hall	-	-	-	-
36	Lichfield City Football Club (Trade Tyre Community Stadium)	18	18	16	14
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	18	17	16	11
68	The Scholars Ground	18	17	16	12

### ***Unmet/latent demand***

- 3.37 Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many football clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at sports lit facilities, with 3G provision preferred by the FA and most clubs.
- 3.38 Across Lichfield District, five football clubs that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, with this representing a proportion of unmet demand although it is relatively minimal compared to other local authorities. Some of the clubs with unmet demand are training on 3G pitches but do not have capacity for all of their teams, or do not have access at preferred times. Others are not training on 3G pitches at all and are instead using sand-based or grass pitches either at their home grounds or elsewhere.
- 3.39 Across the clubs, 53 teams are represented that are without existing 3G pitch access. The clubs expressing this demand are as follows:
- ◆ AFC Fradley (11 teams)
  - ◆ Burntwood Lions FC (1 team)
  - ◆ Elford Boys FC (12 teams)
  - ◆ Fountain United FC (1 team)
  - ◆ Whittington FC (28 teams)
- 3.40 No unmet or latent 3G demand has been identified for any sport other than football.

### ***Exported/imported demand***

- 3.41 No football clubs are identified as exporting 3G pitch demand outside of Lichfield District.
- 3.42 In regards to imported demand, as previously mentioned, the large majority of usage at Rawlett Leisure Centre comes from Tamworth-based clubs. In fact, no Lichfield District-based training or match play demand has been identified through consultation for this study.
- 3.43 In relation to rugby union, Lichfield RUFC occasionally utilises a 3G pitch at Walsall Rugby Club, in Walsall. This is to accommodate training demand when its own grass pitch provision cannot be used due to adverse weather.

# LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### *Future demand*

- 3.44 As set out in Part 2 of this report, potential growth from population projections equates to 14 football teams to 2043 (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan). If this growth was realised, and if all additional teams wanted or needed to train on 3G provision, it will increase demand for 3G pitches. However, it should also be noted that the ONS projections do not account for the potential for future demand to be higher, which could be the case particularly if recent growth trends continue. Further increases will therefore be subject to scenarios in Strategy document.
- 3.45 In addition, although no rugby union demand currently accesses 3G pitches (with none suitable for such activity), it is clear that future access could provide a solution to the deficits identified in Part 4 of this report. This applies to both Lichfield RUFC and Burntwood RUFC.

### **3.4: Supply and demand analysis**

#### *Football*

- 3.46 The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets on account of being able to support intensive use and use during inclement weather. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly being used for competition, which the FA wholly supports.

#### *Training demand*

- 3.47 To quantify the 3G pitch shortfalls for football, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one full size 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity also built in for other forms of demand). This is based on an aspiration for all teams to train once per week on a 3G pitch.
- 3.48 For the model, in addition to 11v11 size pitches being included, nationally some smaller sized pitches are also incorporated as many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones. This therefore applies to the provision at Burntwood Leisure Centre given its size and availability for community access, with it equating to 0.75 of a full size pitch.
- 3.49 Conversely, it is necessary to discount the 11v11 pitch at Rawlett Leisure Centre from the calculations given that no Lichfield District-based teams are currently using the provision and with it primarily servicing demand from Tamworth. This aligns to the Tamworth PPOSS which considers the pitch as part of its modelling.
- 3.50 With current demand in Lichfield District totalling 214 teams, it is feasible that 5.5 11v11 size 3G pitches could be required (rounded down to the nearest 0.25 from 5.63). This means that there is an existing theoretical shortfall of 2.75 pitches.

Table 3.7: Current shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
214	5.5	2.75	2.75

## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- 3.51 When considered by analysis area, the potential shortfall equates to 1.25 pitches in the Lichfield City Analysis Area, one pitch in the Lichfield District South & East Analysis Area and 0.5 pitches in the Burntwood Analysis Area.

*Table 3.6: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch)*

Analysis area	Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Burntwood	88	2.25	1.75	0.5
Lichfield City	87	2.25	1	1.25
Lichfield District North	-	0	-	0
Lichfield District South & East	39	1	-	1
Tamworth	-	0	-	0
<b>Lichfield District</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>2.75</b>

- 3.52 When factoring in future demand from population increases, the overall need is projected to increase to six 11v11 3G pitches, meaning a potential shortfall of 3.25 pitches. This equates to an increase of 0.25 pitch equivalent in both the Burntwood and Lichfield City analysis areas.
- 3.53 Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that the planned 3G pitch at Stychbrook Park will reduce the shortfalls in the Lichfield City Analysis Area. As such, it is likely that this particular shortfall will soon be reduced.
- 3.54 When compared to the previous PPOSS study completed in 2020, the overall need has increased due to a growth in the number of football teams. However, this is offset by the creation of the pitch at The Scholars Ground, meaning the shortfall remains the same.

### *Match play demand*

- 3.55 Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is one the FA 3G Pitch Register, sports lit and available for community use during the peak period.
- 3.56 In Lichfield District, two of the three 11v11 size 3G pitches and one of the two smaller sized 3G pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches, with 36 affiliated teams identified as using the provision currently. Whilst this number has grown since 2020 (from 11), there are likely to be opportunities for it to be further increased, particularly if accreditation could be achieved at Rawlett Leisure Centre (although this would be primarily for Tamworth-based demand).
- 3.57 In addition, as the number of 3G pitches increases in line with meeting training demand shortfalls, so should the number of teams utilising the provision for matches, which in turn should further relieve grass pitches of use. As such, whilst the number of 3G pitches needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training (as they would not be sustainable without midweek usage), maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.

- 3.58 The use of 3G pitches for matches also emphasises the importance of maintaining good quality pitches. Should pitches become poor quality, they will likely lose accreditation to accommodate fixtures. This will then result in all teams using the provision needing to transfer to grass pitches, adding to their usage, reducing their capacity and further diminishing their quality.

#### *The role of sand/water-based pitches*

- 3.59 The above section assumes that all football demand should take place on 3G pitches. However, in practice, there is a national need for a proportion of football training demand to be retained on hockey suitable AGPs to maintain the financial and commercial sustainability of such provision. This is particularly the case in Lichfield District given that some sand-based pitches do not receive any community hockey demand (see Part 6).

#### **Rugby union**

- 3.60 There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches within Lichfield District, meaning no rugby union activity takes place across the stock of pitches. However, given the shortfalls identified in Part 4 of this report, evidence exists to suggest a full size World Rugby compliant pitch would be beneficial in better meeting demand in the District.

#### **Other sports**

- 3.61 With no other activity identified in Lichfield District that could feasibly utilise the 3G pitch stock, no other sporting requirements for access are identified or need to be considered at this time.

### **3.5: Conclusion**

- 3.62 There is a current shortfall of 3G pitch provision within Lichfield District to meet requirements, as evidenced through the levels of unmet demand identified for football and via using the FA training model. As such, an increase in the number of pitches is clearly required, although the deficit will be reduced by development at Stychbrook Park.
- 3.63 Away from football, no clear demand has been identified. However, the provision of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch could provide a resolution to rugby union shortfalls given the large grass pitch deficits that have been identified.



### **3G – supply and demand summary**

- There is a current shortfall of 3G pitch provision within Lichfield District to meet football requirements, meaning a clear need to develop additional pitches.
- 3G provision for rugby union may be warranted to provide a solution to the identified overplay of grass pitches.
- With no other activity identified that could feasibly utilise the 3G pitch stock, no other sporting requirements for access are identified or need to be considered at this time.

### **3G - supply summary**

- There are currently three 11v11 3G pitches within Lichfield District, with each pitch serviced by sports lighting and available for community use.
- The 11v11 pitch at Rawlett Leisure Centre, whilst located within Lichfield District, primarily services Tamworth-based demand.
- There are also two smaller size 3G pitches; the pitch at Burntwood Leisure Centre is available for community use whilst the pitch at HMP Swinfen Hall is not.
- A youth sized 3G pitch is to be provided as part of a wider development at Stychbrook Park.
- Consideration is being given to extended the footprint of the pitch at Burntwood Leisure Centre to 11v11 size when resurfacing is due.
- Three pitches are on the FA's 3G pitch register to host competitive matches, with this relating to the 11v11 provision at Trade Tyre Community Stadium and The Scholars Ground as well as the smaller sized pitch at Burntwood Leisure Centre.
- No pitches are World Rugby compliant.
- All pitches are within their recommended lifespan and are assessed as good or standard quality, although resurfacing will be required within the lifespan of the PPOSS at Burntwood Leisure Centre, Rawlett Leisure Centre (planned for 2025) and Lichfield City Football Club.
- The changing rooms at Lichfield City Football Club (Trade Tyre Community Stadium) are deemed to be of poor quality and insufficient.

### **3G - demand summary**

- The 3G pitch stock currently servicing Lichfield District is operating at or close to capacity at peak times during midweek, especially in winter months for training demand.
- All demand is currently football-related, with it being particularly intensive at Lichfield City Football Club (Trade Tyre Community Stadium) and The Scholars Ground due to both sites being operated by large clubs.
- No Lichfield District-based activity is identified on the pitch at Rawlett Leisure Centre, with all activity considered to be Tamworth-based due to its location.
- A total of five football clubs report that they require additional access to 3G provision, with these representing 53 teams (no unmet demand is identified from other sports).
- Lichfield RUFC occasionally exports demand to a 3G pitch at Walsall Rugby Club.
- Using population forecasts to 2043, an additional 14 football teams are expected to be generated that could require access to 3G provision.
- In addition, although no rugby union demand currently accesses 3G pitches, it is clear that future access could provide a solution to the grass pitch deficits identified.

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### PART 4: RUGBY UNION

#### 4.1: Introduction

- 4.1 The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. It governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as the O2 Touch programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.
- 4.2 For traditional rugby union, there are generally three playing formats, based on the age of the players involved. These are now known as age grade mixed rugby (previously mini), age grade boys/girls rugby (previously junior) and senior rugby
- 4.3 The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

#### Consultation

- 4.4 There are three clubs currently playing within Lichfield District; Lichfield RUFC, Burntwood RUFC and Whittington RUFC. All have completed an online survey resulting in a 100% response rate.

#### 4.2: Supply

- 4.5 Within Lichfield District there are total of 19 pitches which equates to 13 senior and six age grade pitches (formerly known as junior or mixed). Most pitches, apart from one senior pitch at The Friary School, are available for community use.

Table 4.1: Supply of rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of age grade pitches	Total
Burntwood	5	-	5
Lichfield City	3	1	4
Lichfield District North	-	-	-
Lichfield District South & East	4	5	9
Tamworth	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2020 total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>

- 4.6 Since the previous study there has been the reduction of one senior pitch. This is because a pitch located at Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Fields (Lichfield District North) is no longer formally marked out. Additionally, all pitches were fully available in the 2020 study. This has now changed with the aforementioned senior pitch at The Friary School now considered unavailable for community use.
- 4.7 As seen, the Lichfield District South & East Analysis Area still hosts the most pitches, with a total of nine followed by the Burntwood and Lichfield City analysis areas each host five pitches. The Tamworth and now Lichfield District North, analysis areas have no rugby provision.

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- 4.8 The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches that are serviced by goalposts. However, nationally, there are some additional spaces that are used, without goalposts, particularly for age grade rugby. It is also common for age grade matches to be played on senior pitches via the use of cones. Recommended pitch dimensions for all formats of play are shown in the table below.

Table 4.2: Pitch dimensions

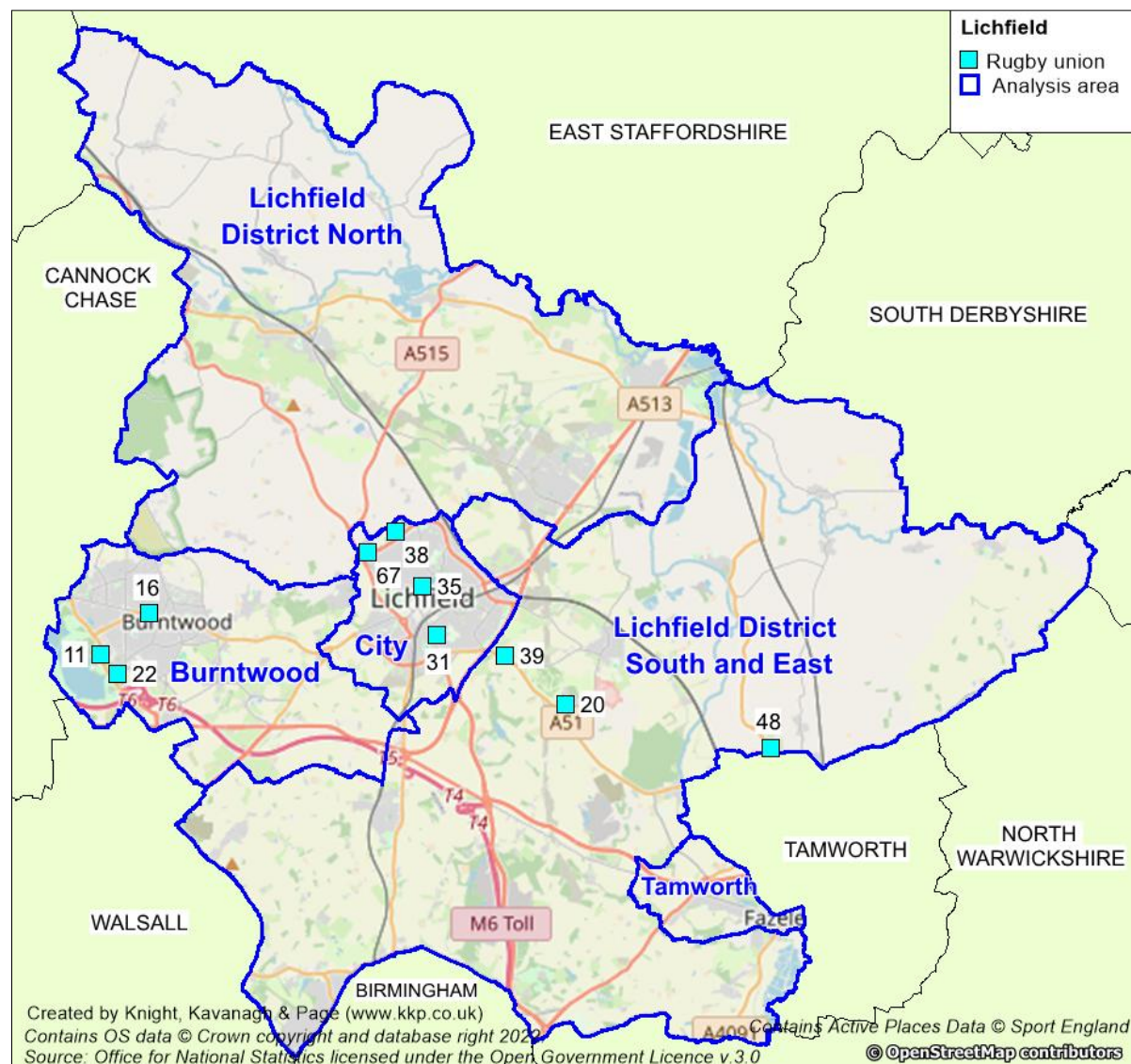
Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) <sup>5</sup>
U7	Age grade mixed	20 x 12
U8	Age grade mixed	45 x 22
U9	Age grade mixed	60 x 30
U10	Age grade mixed	60 x 35
U11	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U12	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U13	Age grade boys/girls	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U15	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U16	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U17	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U18	Colts	100 x 70
Senior	Senior	100 x 70

- 4.9 Figure 4.1 overleaf shows the location of all rugby union pitches within Lichfield District, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 4.12.

<sup>5</sup> Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

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Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Lichfield District



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### *Disused provision*

- 4.10 Two age grade pitches were previously marked by the Council at Darnford Park; however, due to a lack of demand these are no longer provided. The site was previously used by Lichfield RUFC for age grade activity and remains in use as a general open space.
- 4.11 There was also an additional senior rugby union pitch located at Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association. This is now utilised as an adult football pitch with an informal agreement for local community football clubs to use and maintain it.

### *Security of tenure*

- 4.12 Burntwood RUFC and Lichfield RUFC are both considered to have security of tenure at their home sites. The former has a long term lease from Staffordshire County Council whereas the latter has freehold.
- 4.13 Whittington RUFC is a constituted partner of Lichfield Sports Club. Therefore, despite it renting pitches at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club on an annual basis, tenure is deemed to be secure due to Lichfield Sports Club's long-term agreement for use of the site as a whole.

### *Pitch quality*

- 4.14 The assessment of rugby union pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. For maintenance, each pitch is given a maintenance rating of M0, M1 or M2, based on the regime that is usually undertaken, with the definitions of these shown in the table below.

Table 4.3: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

- 4.15 For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch. This is based on whether drainage is adequate and considers the presence of an operational system. The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres installed in the last five years.

Table 4.4: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

- 4.16 An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated, as seen in the following table.

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Table 4.5: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

- 4.17 For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.
- 4.18 In Lichfield District, there are currently two good quality pitches, five standard quality pitches and 12 poor quality pitches. This means an increase in good quality provision since the 2020 study (and a resultant decrease in standard quality provision).

Table 4.6: Quality of rugby union pitches in Lichfield District

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
Burntwood	-	1	4
Lichfield City	-	-	5
Lichfield District North	-	-	-
Lichfield District South & East	2	4	3
Tamworth	-	-	-
<b>Current total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2020 total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>

- 4.19 At Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association, two pitches are assessed as poor quality and one is standard quality. Burntwood RUFC report plans to improve the drainage of its playing fields in order to enhance this quality. It is in the process of trying to gain more sponsorship to fund the project as it is finding it difficult to obtain relevant grant funding. The site had gravel drainage installed approximately 10 years ago which has not alleviated the issues.
- 4.20 At Lichfield Rugby Club, there are two good quality pitches and four standard quality pitches, with maintenance reportedly improving in recent years which has had a positive impact. The Club states that constant efforts take place to improve the pitch provision.
- 4.21 At Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, the single pitch is poor quality due to only basic maintenance taking place. For a site-by-site summary of pitch quality, see the table overleaf.

### *PitchPower assessments*

- 4.22 Launched in 2020 for football and re-launched in 2022 with functionality for cricket, rugby league and rugby union pitches, PitchPower is a digital self-assessment tool that allows reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors. The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.
- 4.23 Within Lichfield District, both Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association and Lichfield Rugby Club have received PitchPower reports, with these taking place in May 2023 and November 2024, respectively. Evidence provided within these documents have been factored into the overall quality scores referenced above to ensure that they align.



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Table 4.7: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	Management	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
11	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	WS7 3PH	Burntwood	Secure	Sports club	Yes	2	Senior	Yes	Poor	M0/D1
11	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	WS7 3PH	Burntwood	Secure	Sports club	Yes	1	Senior	No	Standard	M1/D1
16	Chase Terrace College	WS7 2DB	Burntwood	Unsecure	Education	Yes	1	Senior	No	Poor	M0/D0
20	DMS Whittington	WS14 9TQ	Lichfield District South & East	Unsecure	MOD	Yes	1	Senior	No	Poor	M0/D0
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Burntwood	Unsecure	Education	Yes	1	Senior	No	Poor	M0/D1
31	King Edward VI School	WS14 9EE	Lichfield City	Unsecure	Education	Yes	2	Senior	No	Poor	M0/D1
35	Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Fields	WS13 7LR	Lichfield City	Unsecure	Education	Yes	1	Age grade	No	Poor	M0/D0
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	WS13 7SQ	Lichfield City	Secure	Sports club	Yes	1	Senior	No	Poor	M0/D1
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	WS14 9JE	Lichfield District South & East	Secure	Sports club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	Good	M2/D1
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	WS14 9JE	Lichfield District South & East	Secure	Sports club	Yes	1	Senior	No	Good	M2/D1
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	WS14 9JE	Lichfield District South & East	Secure	Sports club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	Standard	M1/D1
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	WS14 9JE	Lichfield District South & East	Secure	Sports club	Yes	3	Age grade	Yes	Standard	M1/D1
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Lichfield District South & East	Unsecure	Education	Yes	2	Age grade	No	Poor	M0/D0
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Lichfield City	Unsecure	Education	No	1	Senior	No	Poor	M0/D0

# LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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### Ancillary facilities

- 4.24 Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouses, changing rooms, car parking, and dedicated official and spectator facilities. Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for rugby clubs as they can assist with income generation. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important for the provision to be inclusive, particularly due to growing women's and girls', disability and junior/mini demand.
- 4.25 Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:
- ◆ Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation
  - ◆ A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance
  - ◆ Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision
  - ◆ Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering
- 4.26 Open planned changing, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience. As a result, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document.
- 4.27 In Lichfield District, the quality of the ancillary provision at Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association is considered to be good quality, whereas at Lichfield Rugby Club and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club it is considered to be standard. Further detail in regards to these sites is provided below (other sites have not been included as no community demand exists).

Table 4.8: Ancillary provision of the clubs that responded to consultation

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
11	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	Burntwood RUFC	Good	Good	The Club indicates the provision to be good quality with separate changing facilities to allow for women and girls demand. Provision is also suitable for the number of pitches.
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Whittington RUFC	Standard	Standard	Good quality facilities; however only four changing rooms are provided which is considered to be insufficient. Car parking is also said to be problematic.
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	Lichfield RUFC	Standard	Standard	Six changing rooms with ensuite facilities meaning one or more can be separated for women and girls' demand. However, the facility as a whole needs some modernisation.

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- 4.28 At Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, planning permission has been granted to extend and improve the clubhouse and changing facilities to rectify the issues identified above and to create a base for the local community.
- 4.29 Lichfield RUFC indicates development plans including the refurbishment and upgrading of its disabled, men's and women's toilets, upgrading of sports lighting to LED and extension of its patio area.

### 4.3: Demand

#### *Competitive play*

- 4.30 There are currently three clubs operating in Lichfield District. These are Burntwood RUFC (Burntwood Analysis Area), Lichfield RUFC (Lichfield District South & East) and Whittington RUFC (Lichfield City Analysis Area).
- 4.31 Lichfield RUFC is the largest of the clubs accommodating a total of 31 teams and it is also the only club to have dedicated female participation with two senior women and four age grade girls' teams. Burntwood RUFC is also a large club, with 16 teams across its senior and age grade sections.
- 4.32 At the other end of the scale, Whittington RUFC fields only one senior men's team. Furthermore, this has recently withdrawn from the RFU league system due to the inability to field a regular team, with only friendly matches now played.

Table 4.9: Summary of club demand

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams		
		Senior (19+)	Age grade boys/girls (13-18)	Age grade mixed (6-12)
Burntwood RUFC	Burntwood	4	6	6
Lichfield RUFC	Lichfield District South & East	6	13	12
Whittington RUFC	Lichfield City	1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2020 total</b>	-	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>

- 4.33 Since the previous study, there has been significant growth across all age groups, with both Lichfield RUFC and Burntwood RUFC experiencing substantial growth. The former previously fielded a total of 18 teams, meaning an increase of 13 teams, whereas the latter had 9 teams, meaning an increase of seven.
- 4.34 Whittington RUFC remains a single-team club, although as mentioned above it is now longer part of a league structure.

#### *Training demand*

- 4.35 Throughout the Country, many rugby union teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated, which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of sports lighting.

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4.36 In Lichfield District, both Burntwood and Lichfield rugby clubs have two sports-lit pitches at their home sites and use these for all training activity.

4.37 Whittington RUFC is said to not currently train.

### *Use of artificial pitches*

4.38 An alternative to training on sports-lit grass pitches is via a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, although none are currently provided within the District. For an AGP to be suitable for contact rugby, it must have a 3G surface and must be approved by World Rugby. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

4.39 Lichfield RUFC indicates no aspirations to regularly use such provision, although it states that in periods of adverse weather it has used a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Walsall Rugby Club (in Walsall).

4.40 See Part 3 of this report for further information.

### ***Exported / imported demand***

4.41 In addition to the abovementioned activity at Walsall Rugby Club, some imported rugby union demand is identified in Lichfield District. This relates to usage of a sand-based AGP at Erasmus Darwin Academy by Tamworth RUFC for training as well as ad-hoc lettings from England Women's U18 rugby team. This is despite it not being World Rugby compliant (meaning activity is non-contact).

4.42 There is no imported or exported demand relating to grass pitch usage.

### ***Future demand***

4.43 Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across Lichfield District.

### *Population growth*

4.44 Based on population projections to 2043 for Lichfield District (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth (using ONS-2018 projections as a base). This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how many new teams will be established.

4.45 The table below shows the number of new teams predicted to be generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions that this will create. As seen, it only anticipates a growth of one age grade boys and one age grade mixed team across the whole of Lichfield District.

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### PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.10: District-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions <sup>6</sup>
Men (19-45yrs)	1:4,478	0.57	0	0
Women (19-45yrs)	1:4,520	0.14	0	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:1,094	1.06	1	0.5
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:1,026	0.28	0	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:2,117	1.28	1	0.5

- 4.46 When studied on an analysis area basis, no new teams are predicted due to how dispersed the population growth is. It is therefore considered more likely that any increases will be absorbed within existing teams.
- 4.47 Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that team generation rates do not account for specific development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. As such, increased future growth is still considered possible despite population projections indicating that there will only be minimal growth. A growth in women and girls' rugby is thought to be particularly likely given current RFU aspirations and due to the upcoming 2025 Rugby World Cup.

#### *Women's Rugby World Cup 2025*

- 4.48 For the first time ever, the expanded showcase event will be hosted across eight venues and cities around England (Brighton & Hove, Bristol, Exeter, London, Manchester, Northampton, Sunderland and York) with 16 teams competing to be crowned world champions. The countrywide format makes it the most accessible Women's Rugby World Cup ever, offering an unparalleled opportunity for fans to see, engage with and support the stars of the women's game in towns and cities around England.
- 4.49 Based on current demand and ancillary facilities, it is considered that any growth in women and girls demand in Lichfield District is likely to arise at Lichfield Rugby Club. For any female participation to begin at Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association, there would be a requirement to improve the current quality and number of changing rooms.

#### *Participation increases*

- 4.50 Lichfield RUFC reports aspirations to increase teams in each demographic including women and girls, senior men's, age grade boys and mixed. However, it does not qualify this with a specific number.
- 4.51 In comparison Burntwood RUFC aspires to increase by two age grade boys and one senior women's team. No future demand is identified by Whittington RUFC, although it could rejoin a league structure moving forward.

<sup>6</sup> Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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### *The peak period*

- 4.52 In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams, it is considered to be Saturday PM whilst peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

### **4.4: Capacity analysis**

- 4.53 The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.
- 4.54 To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:
- ✦ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side
  - ✦ Use of school pitches by schools increases demand by one match equivalent session
  - ✦ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
  - ✦ From U13 upwards, all teams use a full pitch
  - ✦ Mini teams (U6-U12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch or a dedicated mini pitch
  - ✦ For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away)
  - ✦ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch
  - ✦ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons
  - ✦ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons
  - ✦ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings
  - ✦ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings
  - ✦ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels
- 4.55 As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, set out below.

Table 4.11: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

- 4.56 Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.



Table 4.12: Capacity table for community available rugby union pitches in Lichfield District

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	No. pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Actual spare capacity at peak time	Comments
11	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	WS7 3PH	Burntwood	Secure	2	Senior	Yes	Poor	M0/D1	3	3	5	5	0.5	Pitches overplayed by five match equivalent sessions.
11	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	WS7 3PH	Burntwood	Secure	1	Senior	No	Standard	M1/D1	2	3.5	-	1.5	1	Pitch overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
16	Chase Terrace College	WS7 2DB	Burntwood	Unsecure	1	Senior	No	Poor	M0/D0	0.5	0.5	-		1	Considered played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.
20	DMS Whittington	WS14 9TQ	Lichfield District South & East	Unsecure	1	Senior	No	Poor	M0/D0	0.5	-	-	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Burntwood	Secure	1	Senior	No	Poor	M0/D1	1.5	0.5	-	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
31	King Edward VI School	WS14 9EE	Lichfield City	Unsecure	2	Senior	No	Poor	M0/D1	3	1		2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
35	Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Fields	WS13 7LR	Lichfield City	Unsecure	1	Age grade	No	Poor	M0/D0	0.5	0.5	-		-	Considered played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	WS13 7SQ	Lichfield City	Secure	1	Senior	No	Poor	M0/D1	1.5	0.5	-	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	WS14 9JE	Lichfield District South & East	Secure	1	Senior	Yes	Good	M2/D1	3	3	2	2	-	Pitch overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	WS14 9JE	Lichfield District South & East	Secure	1	Senior	No	Good	M2/D1	3	4.5	-	1.5	0.5	Pitch overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	WS14 9JE	Lichfield District South & East	Secure	1	Senior	Yes	Standard	M1/D1	2	3.5	4	5.5	1	Pitch overplayed by 5.5 match equivalent sessions.
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	WS14 9JE	Lichfield District South & East	Secure	3	Age grade	Yes	Standard	M1/D1	6	4	4	2	-	Pitches are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Lichfield District South & East	Secure	2	Age grade	No	Poor	M0/D0	1	-	-	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.

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### **Actual spare capacity**

- 4.57 In Lichfield there are no pitches which have actual spare capacity. This is mainly because all pitches used by Lichfield RUFC and Burntwood RUFC are overplayed.
- 4.58 All remaining pitches are at capacity or have potential spare capacity; however, this has been discounted due to poor quality and/or unsecure tenure. Furthermore, none of the site are likely to receive community demand due to the club-centric nature of existing activity.

### **Overplay**

- 4.59 Nine pitches across two sites in Lichfield District are overplayed by a total of 16 match equivalent sessions per week. This equates to 6.5 match equivalent sessions in the Burntwood Analysis Area at Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association and 9.5 match equivalent sessions in the Lichfield District South & East Analysis Area at Lichfield Rugby Club.

Table 4.13: Summary of overplay on rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Number of pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
11	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	Burntwood	Senior	2	5
11	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	Burntwood	Senior	1	1.5
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	Lichfield District South & East	Senior	1	2
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	Lichfield District South & East	Senior	1	1.5
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	Lichfield District South & East	Senior	1	5.5
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	Lichfield District South & East	Age grade	3	0.5
<b>Total</b>				<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>

- 4.60 The Lichfield District South & East Analysis Area accommodates the largest amount of overplay, equating to 9.5 match equivalent sessions at Lichfield Rugby Union Football Club. The remaining 6.5 match equivalent sessions of overplay take place in the Burntwood Analysis Area at Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association. This overplay is due to a substantial amount of demand access poor quality pitches with limited capacity.

### **4.5: Supply and demand analysis**

- 4.61 Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for senior rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week.

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Table 4.14: Overall supply and demand balance for rugby union (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>7</sup>	Overplay	Current total
Burntwood	-	6.5	6.5
Lichfield City	-	-	0
Lichfield District North	-	-	0
Lichfield District South & East	-	9.5	9.5
Tamworth	-	-	0
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>

- 4.62 As seen, there is a current shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand. This can be attributed to overplay in the Burntwood and Lichfield District South & East analysis areas as a result of heavy usage from Lichfield RUFC and Burntwood RUFC, both of which therefore require solutions.
- 4.63 The future picture is harder to ascertain, with only minimal growth predicted from population increases and because some aspirations from clubs has not been quantified. However, it is clear that the existing deficits are likely to worsen without action being taken.
- 4.64 When compared to 2020 findings, the shortfalls have increased substantially, with a deficit of four match equivalent sessions previously identified. This is due to the significant increases in demand that have been experienced.

#### 4.6: Conclusion

- 4.65 There is a substantial shortfall of rugby union capacity based on current supply and demand levels, with this resulting in overuse of pitches by both Burntwood RUFC and Lichfield RUFC. A solution for both clubs is therefore required.
- 4.66 In addition, whilst demand is only minimal and the provision is not overplayed, Whittington RUFC is using a poor quality pitch at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club. A resolution to this would therefore also be beneficial.

<sup>7</sup> In match equivalent sessions per week

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### **Rugby union – supply and demand summary**

- ▶ No rugby union pitches in Lichfield District have actual spare capacity, whilst nine are overplayed by a total of 16 match equivalent sessions.
- ▶ Overplay equates to 6.5 match equivalent sessions for Burntwood RUFC and 9.5 match equivalent sessions for Lichfield RUFC, resulting in an overall shortfall equating to 16 match equivalent sessions.
- ▶ In addition, whilst demand is only minimal and the provision is not overplayed, Whittington RUFC is using a poor quality pitch at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club

### **Rugby union – supply summary**

- ▶ Within Lichfield District there are 19 rugby union pitches, with this equating 13 senior pitches and six age grade pitches – only one pitch at The Friary School is unavailable for community use.
- ▶ Two age grade pitches were previously marked by the Council at Darnford Park; however, due to a lack of demand these are no longer provided.
- ▶ Burntwood RUFC and Lichfield RUFC are both considered to have security of tenure at their home sites, with the former having a long term lease from Staffordshire County Council and the latter having freehold.
- ▶ There are currently two good quality pitches, five standard quality pitches and 12 poor quality pitches (Burntwood RUFC has two poor quality and one standard quality pitch, Lichfield RUFC has two good quality and four standard quality pitches and Whittington RUFC has one poor quality pitch).
- ▶ Two senior pitches are sports-lit at both Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association and Lichfield Rugby Club.
- ▶ The quality of the ancillary provision at Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association is considered to be good quality, whereas at Lichfield Rugby Club it is considered to be standard.
- ▶ At Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, planning permission has been granted for the extension and improvement of its clubhouse.
- ▶ Lichfield RUFC indicates development plans including the refurbishment and upgrading of its disabled, men's and women's toilets, upgrading of sports lighting to LED and extension of its patio area.

### **Rugby union – demand summary**

- ▶ There are three community rugby union clubs based in Lichfield District.
- ▶ Lichfield RUFC provides six senior and 25 age grade teams, whilst Burntwood RUFC fields four senior and 12 age grade teams.
- ▶ Whittington RUFC has just one senior men's team that now plays only friendly matches (it has withdrawn from the league structure).
- ▶ Lichfield RUFC has two senior women's and four age grade girls' teams within its numbers.
- ▶ Since the 2020 PPOSS, there has been a significant growth across all formats of play, with both Lichfield RUFC and Burntwood RUFC experiencing substantial growth.
- ▶ Both Burntwood and Lichfield RUFC use their sports-lit grass pitches to accommodate all training demand, although the latter also occasionally uses a 3G pitch at Walsall Rugby Club (exported demand).
- ▶ Future demand from population projections forecast a growth of two age grade teams to 2043, whereas both Lichfield RUFC and Burntwood RUFC have aspirations to increase their number of teams.

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### PART 5: HOCKEY

#### 5.1: Introduction

- 5.1 Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and is administered locally by the Staffordshire Hockey Association.
- 5.2 Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable at introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

Table 5.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Essential Playing Level	Desirable Playing Level
1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	International hockey (training and matches).	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (performance centres and upwards).
2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (academy centres and upwards).	All adult and junior league hockey; Intermediate or advanced school hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools.
3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	All adult and junior club training and league hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools; Intermediate or advanced school hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level).
4	All 3G surfaces	No hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

- 5.3 For senior teams, a full size pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides & three metres at the ends. EH's preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.
- 5.4 It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided that the pitch has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek and requires access to a pitch and floodlights.

#### **Club consultation**

- 5.5 One hockey club is identified as playing hockey in Lichfield District known as Lichfield HC. The Club has been consulted with via survey, resulting in a 100% response rate.

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### 5.2: Supply

- 5.6 There are four full size hockey suitable AGPs in Lichfield District. Two pitches are located in Lichfield City Analysis Area, with one pitch in each of the Lichfield District South & East and Burntwood analysis areas (there is no hockey suitable provision located in either the Lichfield District North or Tamworth analysis areas).
- 5.7 The AGP at DMS Whittington is sand filled, whereas the remaining pitches at Erasmus Darwin Academy, King Edward VI Sports Centre and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club are sand dressed. All four pitches are serviced by sports lighting and are available for community use.

Table 5.2: Full size hockey suitable pitches in Lichfield District

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports-lit?	Size (metres)
20	DMS Whittington	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Yes	101 x 62
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	Burntwood	Yes	Yes	100 x 61
31	King Edward VI Sports Centre	Lichfield City	Yes	Yes	98 x 61
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield City	Yes	Yes	100 x 63

- 5.8 In addition, there are two smaller size sand-based AGPs, located at Rawlett Leisure Centre and the Friary School. The pitch at Rawlett Leisure Centre (located in the Lichfield District South & East Analysis Area) measures 58 x 34 metres and is available for community use, although it has no sports lighting. The pitch at the Friary School (Lichfield City Analysis Area) measures 80 x 50 metres, is available for community use and is facilitated by sports lighting.
- 5.9 Notwithstanding the above, the smaller sized pitches do not currently cater for any community hockey demand and are not conducive to such activity due to their size and, in the case of Rawlett Leisure Centre, the lack of sports lighting. As such, they are discounted from this point forward, although it is noted that they can meet some curricular needs as well as being used for other sporting purposes.

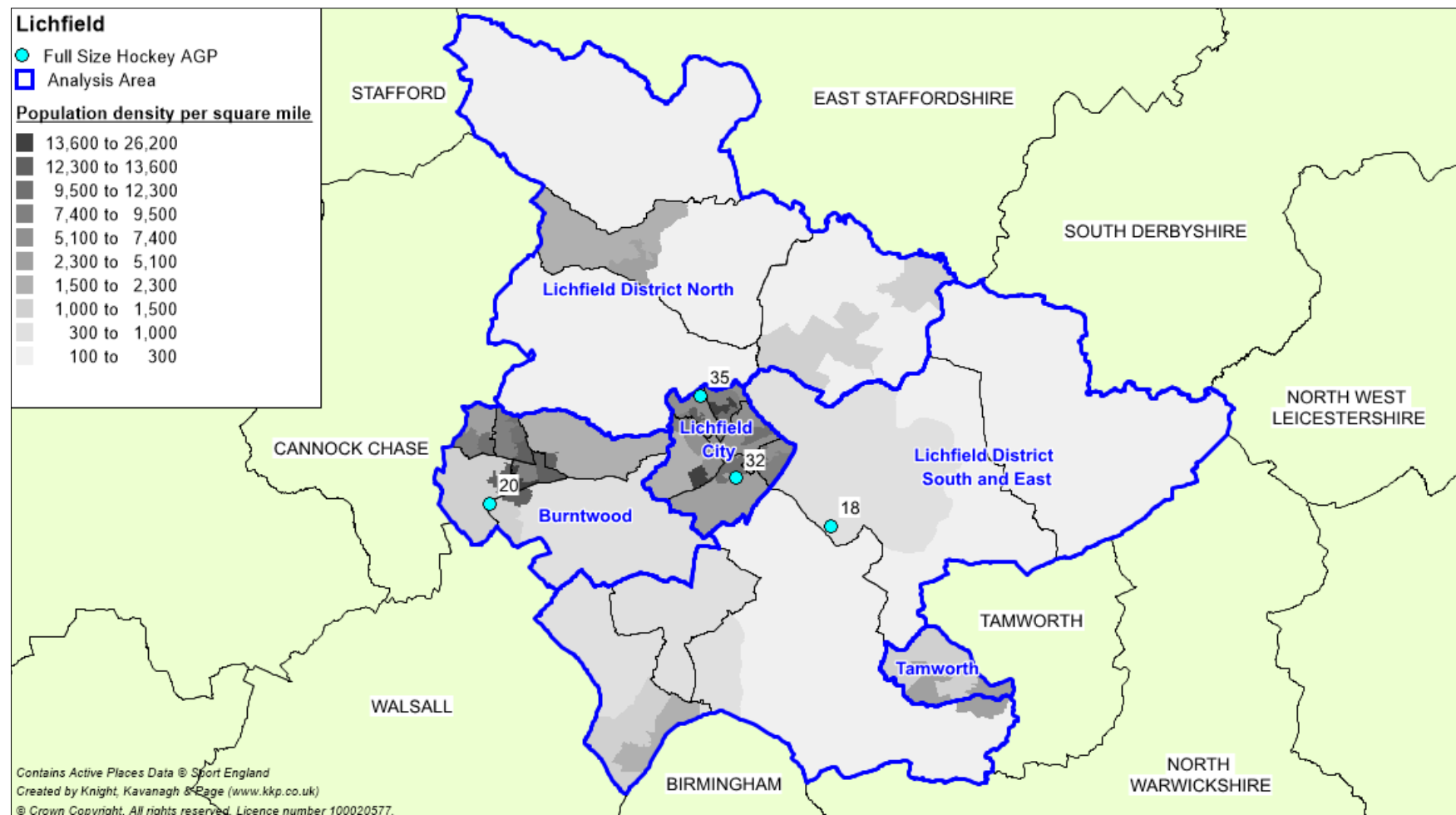
### ***Future provision***

- 5.10 Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions of installing a second hockey suitable AGP on site at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, with Lichfield HC stating that it has planning permission for this. The Club reports that it has access to a second field which is located behind the current site and is owned by St John's Trust. This is to be converted to playing field land where the pitch would be located, although additional funding is required.
- 5.11 Figure 5.1 overleaf shows the location of full-size hockey suitable AGPs currently servicing Lichfield District.



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Figure 5.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in Lichfield District



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#### ***Management and security of tenure***

- 5.12 The AGPs at Erasmus Darwin Academy and King Edward VI Sports Centre are both managed internally by the respective schools. DMS Whittington is managed by the MOD whilst Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club is managed by Lichfield Sports Club.
- 5.13 Tenure at Erasmus Darwin Academy, King Edward VI Sports Centre and DMS Whittington is unsecure as no known long-term usage agreements are in place, with any clubs instead needing to hire the pitches on a pay and play basis. This is a particular issue in relation to DMS Whittington due to the private nature of the site and existing hockey usage (Erasmus Darwin Academy and King Edward VI Sports Centre are not currently accessed).
- 5.14 Contrastingly, tenure at Lichfield Sports Club is deemed secure with Lichfield Hockey Club having a 50-year lease agreement with St John's Trust which owns the site.

#### ***Availability***

- 5.15 Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this, all pitches in Lichfield District generally have good availability.
- 5.16 At DMS Whittington, the AGP is reserved for MOD use from 06:00-17:00 Monday to Thursday and from 06:00-15:00 on Friday. The pitch is then accessible to the community during the week until 22:00 as well as from 09:00-17:00 on Saturdays and from 13:00-17:00 on Sundays. In total, the pitch is available for 30 hours during the peak period.
- 5.17 The AGP at Erasmus Darwin Academy is reserved for school use until 17:00 during weekdays and then available to the community until 22:00. On Saturdays, the AGP is available for hire from 08:00 until 16:00; however, on Sundays there is no community availability.
- 5.18 At King Edward VI Sports Centre, the AGP is available for community usage from 16:00-22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00-22:00 at the weekend. These hours cover the entire 34 hours per week of availability in the peak period, although it must be noted that no community hockey demand currently accesses the provision.
- 5.19 The AGP at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club is available at all times during the peak period; however, Lichfield HC has exclusive access to the pitch on weekends as well as priority for midweek lettings. This means that availability for other community users is limited.

#### ***Quality***

- 5.20 Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that many providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed.
- 5.21 In Lichfield District, all four full-size AGPs are assessed as standard quality. Previously, the AGP at King Edward VI Sports Centre was rated as good quality; however, upon completing consultation with the school onsite, it has become apparent that it has suffered with poor maintenance resulting in poor grip underfoot and excess sand on the surface.
- 5.22 Quality is further summarised on a site-by-site basis below.

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Table 5.3: Age and quality of full-size AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
20	DMS Whittington	Lichfield District South & East	2013	Standard
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	Burntwood	2010	Standard
31	King Edward VI Sports Centre	Lichfield City	2017	Standard
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield City	2008	Standard

- 5.23 Despite the AGP at Erasmus Darwin Academy and the pitch at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club exceeding their recommended life span, both pitches are assessed as standard quality in part due to the dedicated maintenance regimes that take place at each site. Nevertheless, resurfacing is recommended at both sites in the near future to avoid further deterioration.
- 5.24 Erasmus Darwin Academy reports that it has a sinking fund in place for the refurbishment of its pitch. Through this, the Academy has already accumulated the funds needed and states that the work will be undertaken as soon as it is deemed to be necessary.
- 5.25 The pitch at DMS Whittington has also exceeded its recommended lifespan.

### ***Ancillary provision***

- 5.26 At Erasmus Darwin Academy, there is a separate sports centre on site which is accessible to the community alongside the hire of the hockey pitch. The sports centre is in good condition with good changing facilities, meaning no issues have been identified.
- 5.27 At Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, planning permission has been granted for the extension and improvement of the pavilion and changing facilities. Currently, there are only four changing rooms available on site, which is deemed to be insufficient for the current level of usage, with football, rugby union and cricket provision also provided.
- 5.28 Ancillary provision at DMS Whittington is poor quality as the facilities on site are basic and dated, whereas changing at King Edward VI Sports Centre are assessed as standard quality.

### **5.3: Demand**

- 5.29 There is currently one club identified as playing hockey within Lichfield District. This is Lichfield HC, which fields six senior men's, seven senior women's, six junior boys and six junior girls as well as one men's and one women's masters teams.
- 5.30 All of the Club's training demand takes place on the AGP at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, with senior men's activity on Tuesday evenings and senior women's activity on Wednesday evenings. Junior activity is then split across Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays, whilst masters training takes place on Monday evenings.
- 5.31 For matches, the majority also take place at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club. However, DMS Whittington is also used as an overspill venue due to one pitch being insufficient to accommodate all demand. This links with aspirations for a second pitch to be provided on site.
- 5.32 In the previous PPOSS, Phoenix Blues Ladies HC and Cannock Chase HC were also identified as playing hockey within Lichfield District. This is no longer the case, with the former folding and the latter returning its previously imported demand (see section below). Both were using provision at Erasmus Darwin Academy.

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### ***Participation trends***

- 5.33 Membership figures at Lichfield HC have seemingly reduced since the previous PPOSS, with current membership at 381. This is a reduction from 531 in 2020, which together with the loss of Phoenix Blues Ladies HC suggests an overall decline of hockey demand. EH reports that the reduction is primarily due to a loss of junior members.

### ***Imported/exported demand***

- 5.34 The previous PPOSS identified Cannock HC as playing within Lichfield District; however, since the 2022/2023 season, all activity has returned to Chase Park. This means that no imported or exported demand relating to hockey in Lichfield District is now identified.
- 5.35 Notwithstanding the above, imported rugby union demand is identified relating to usage of the sand-based AGP at Erasmus Darwin Academy. This is by Tamworth RUFC for training as well as ad-hoc lettings from England Women's U18 rugby team. It is also despite the pitch not being World Rugby compliant (meaning activity is non-contact).

### ***Future demand***

- 5.36 Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities, schools and regional and local leagues as well as developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years, meaning it does not consider team generation rates to provide an accurate representation of potential growth.
- 5.37 In relation to club aspirations, Lichfield HC reports plans to increase the number of its senior men's and women's teams by one team each, stating that it will use methods such as advertising and marketing to attract players. Moreover, the Club has ambitions of developing its player pathway through coaching in schools to attract junior members.

### ***Additional demand***

- 5.38 In addition to club-based hockey activity, there are also various initiatives for hockey which are promoted by EH. These can add to the demand in a local authority and also necessitate the need for further pitch capacity. They include:

- ◀ Back to hockey
- ◀ Flyerz Hockey
- ◀ Hockey Heroes
- ◀ In2Hockey
- ◀ Quicksticks
- ◀ Rush Hockey
- ◀ Walking Hockey

- 5.39 In Lichfield District, Lichfield HC offers Back to Hockey sessions on Thursday evenings from 19:00-20:00. However, no other initiatives are currently known to be in operation.

### ***Other demand***

- 5.40 Nationally, many hockey suitable AGPs are widely used to accommodate football training demand, which can be both a positive and a negative. Often, football usage helps with the financial sustainability of the provision where limited hockey demand is received; conversely, it can impact on availability for hockey demand when levels are high.

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- 5.41 In Lichfield District, the AGP located at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club is also used for training demand from Lichfield Round Table FC, as well as being home to the Lichfield Winter Bowls League. However, this is relatively minimal in comparison to many hockey pitches due to the level of usage from Lichfield HC and given that the Club itself manages the bookings.
- 5.42 The pitch at DMS Whittington is used throughout the week to accommodate training demand from Whittington FC, which is a relatively large football club. It is also used by Tamworth RUFC for training as well as ad-hoc lettings from England Women's U18 rugby team.
- 5.43 Chasetown Youth FC hires the AGP at Erasmus Darwin Academy to accommodate some of the Club's training demand, with the Club hosting a substantial number of teams. In contrast, there is no formalised training demand known to take place at King Edward VI Sports Centre, although it is hired by a six-a-side commercial league on Mondays from 19:00-21:00.

### **Peak time demand**

- 5.1 For matches, all senior hockey matches in Lichfield District take place on a Saturday, whereas most junior activity occurs on a Sunday. For training, peak time is considered to be any midweek evening, although preference is generally given for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays due to Mondays and Fridays being too close to matchday activity.

### **5.4: Supply and demand analysis**

- 5.44 The below examines both match play and training demand across the Borough considering both current and future levels of demand.

### **Match play analysis**

- 5.45 It is suggested that a full-size hockey suitable, sports lit AGP can accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one pitch being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP).
- 5.46 Using the above calculations, on the basis that there are currently four full size hockey suitable pitches in the District, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 32 senior teams at peak time across the Authority.
- 5.47 The table below therefore further explores the level of capacity provided, for senior hockey (i.e., on a Saturday).

Table 5.4 Summary of hockey pitch capacity for peak time match play (Saturday)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Potential capacity in teams	Actual capacity in teams	Number of hockey teams using the provision at peak time	Capacity balance
20	DMS Whittington	Lichfield District South & East	1	8	8	5	3
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	Burntwood	1	8	8	0	8

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Potential capacity in teams	Actual capacity in teams	Number of hockey teams using the provision at peak time	Capacity balance
31	King Edward VI Sports Centre	Lichfield City	1	8	8	0	8
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield City	1	8	8	8	0
-	-	-	4	32	32	13	19

- 5.48 Given that there are currently 13 senior men's and women's teams fielded by Lichfield HC, there is a need for two full size pitches. With four pitches currently provided, supply is therefore considered to be sufficient to meet demand in quantitative terms. However, this does not take into account the security of tenure issues that exist away from Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- 5.49 For junior hockey, the provision of two full size AGPs is also considered sufficient to accommodate match play demand. This is because there are fewer junior teams and because there is no conflict with senior demand as matches are mostly played on a Sunday. Furthermore, some of the younger aged participants only require half of a pitch, meaning multiple matches can be played at the same time should demand increase to a point where that becomes necessary.

### 5.5: Conclusion

- 5.50 There are two full size hockey pitches required in Lichfield District to meet demand from Lichfield HC, with this currently being met by the supply of four facilities. However, with security of tenure only provided at one venue (Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club), a solution is required to ensure that the needs of the Club continue to be met.
- 5.51 The above position remains relatively unaltered from the previous PPOSS, although some pressure has been alleviated via the loss of two clubs in the District.



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#### **Hockey – supply and demand summary**

- Based on current levels of demand, there is a need for two full-size hockey suitable AGPs in Lichfield District, meaning the current supply of four is theoretically sufficient.
- With security of tenure only provided at one venue (Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club), a solution is required to ensure the needs of Lichfield HC continue to be met.

#### **Hockey – supply summary**

- There are four full size hockey suitable AGPs, all of which are sports-lit and available for community use (the pitches are at DMS Whittington, Erasmus Darwin Academy, King Edward VI Sports Centre and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club).
- In addition, there are two smaller sized sand-based AGPs, located at Rawlett Leisure Centre and the Friary School.
- Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions of installing a second hockey suitable AGP on site at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, with Lichfield HC stating that it has planning permission.
- Tenure at Erasmus Darwin Academy, King Edward VI Sports Centre and DMS Whittington is considered to be unsecure as no known long-term usage agreements are in place.
- Despite being available for community use, neither King Edward VI Sports Centre nor Erasmus Darwin Academy are currently used for club hockey.
- All four of the full size pitches are standard quality, although the recommended lifespan has been exceeded at DMS Whittington, Erasmus Darwin Academy and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- Lichfield Sports Club has planning permission to extend and improve the pavilion and changing facilities at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- Ancillary provision at DMS Whittington is problematic as the facilities on site are basic and dated.

#### **Hockey – demand summary**

- There is currently one club identified as playing hockey within Lichfield District.
- Lichfield HC fields six senior men's, seven senior women's, six junior boys and six junior girls as well as one men's and one women's masters teams.
- Most match and training activity takes place at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, although the pitch at DMS Whittington is used an overspill venue due to capacity issues at weekends.
- Membership at Lichfield HC has reduced from 531 in 2020 to 381 currently.
- Phoenix Blues Ladies HC and Cannock Chase HC were also identified as previously playing hockey within Lichfield District; however, the former has folded and the latter has returned its previously imported demand.
- In regards to future demand, Lichfield HC reports plans to increase the number of its senior men's and women's teams by one team each.
- Lichfield HC offers Back to Hockey sessions on Thursday evenings from 19:00-20:00, although no other initiatives are currently known to be in operation.
- All four AGPs are known to be use for football activity in addition to any hockey demand, with this most pronounced at DMS Whittington and Erasmus Darwin Academy.

### PART 6: CRICKET

#### 6.1: Introduction

- 6.1 Staffordshire Cricket serves as the main governing and representative body for cricket across Lichfield District. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.
- 6.2 For adult cricket in Lichfield District, there are three main offerings: Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket. The youth league structure tends to be club-based matches which are played mid-week, although some matches are also played on Sundays.

#### *ECB Inspiring Generations*

- 6.3 In October 2024 the ECB launched its refreshed strategy Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025-2028). Cricket in England and Wales has seen transformative growth since the publication of its previous strategy Inspiring Generation (2020-24). Its new strategy represents an evolution of its plans, however, many of its previous themes are still relevant. Its main purpose is to say 'Cricket is a game for me' through its vision:
- ✦ To become the most inclusive team sport
  - ✦ To grow and unite the game
  - ✦ Lead the game through global transformation
- 6.4 It aims to obtain this vision through six key objectives:
- ✦ Make cricket diverse, inclusive and accessible
  - ✦ Transform Women's and Girl's cricket
  - ✦ Connect communities through play
  - ✦ Inspire through winning England teams
  - ✦ Support a thriving and sustainable men's and women's professional game
  - ✦ Win the battle for attention

#### *County Facilities Strategy*

- 6.5 Staffordshire Cricket has recently completed its County Facilities Strategy (CFS), in partnership with the ECB. The CFS is a 10-year plan which involves engagement with key stakeholders, including, leagues, active partnerships, county pitch advisors and Sport England.
- 6.6 To inform the CFS, the county cricket board has established key stakeholders (clubs, leagues, county sports partnerships, county pitch advisors & Sport England etc) within its locality to consult during its development. Furthermore, all relevant PPOSS work has been used in support, with findings considered to be a 'high-quality' evidence base.
- 6.7 The CFS looks at a range of facilities which support cricket across the region, with the ECB setting out guidelines to ensure that the following facilities were considered throughout its development:
- ✦ Traditional facilities (pitches, outfielders, pavilions, practice areas)
  - ✦ Non-traditional facilities (multi-use games areas, tapeball/softball spaces, courts/cages)
  - ✦ Indoor facilities (multi use halls, cricket specific halls, match play venues)

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- 6.8 The CFS is to be used to shape investment decisions and priorities, particularly how each county cricket board will use the devolved budget within the County Grants Fund and prioritise larger scale strategic projects. However, it is important to recognise that the CFS is a portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

### **Consultation**

- 6.9 There are 11 cricket clubs located in Lichfield District, of which seven have responded to consultation requests. This results in a 64% response rate.

Table 6.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Club response
Alrewas CC	Yes
Armitage CC	Yes
Burntwood St Matthews CC	Yes
Elford CC	Yes
Hammerwich CC	Yes
Kings Bromley CC	No
Lichfield CC	Yes
Longdon CC	No
Tamworth CC	Yes
Trent Valley	No
Whittington CC	No

### **6.2: Supply**

- 6.10 Within Lichfield District, there are 15 grass wicket squares across 13 sites (Hammewich Cricket Club and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club provide two each). All squares are available for community use.

Table 6.2: Summary of grass wicket squares

Analysis area	No. of squares
Burntwood	3
Lichfield City	3
Lichfield District North	4
Lichfield District South & East	5
Tamworth	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>2020 Total</b>	<b>15</b>

- 6.11 As shown in the table above, the Lichfield District South & East Analysis Area provides the most squares with five (33%), followed by the Lichfield District North Analysis Area with four (27%). The Burntwood and Lichfield City analysis areas share the same number of squares with three (20%), whereas the Tamworth Analysis Area does not provide any squares.
- 6.12 The supply of provision remains unaltered since the 2020 PPOSS.

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#### ***Non-turf pitches (NTPs)***

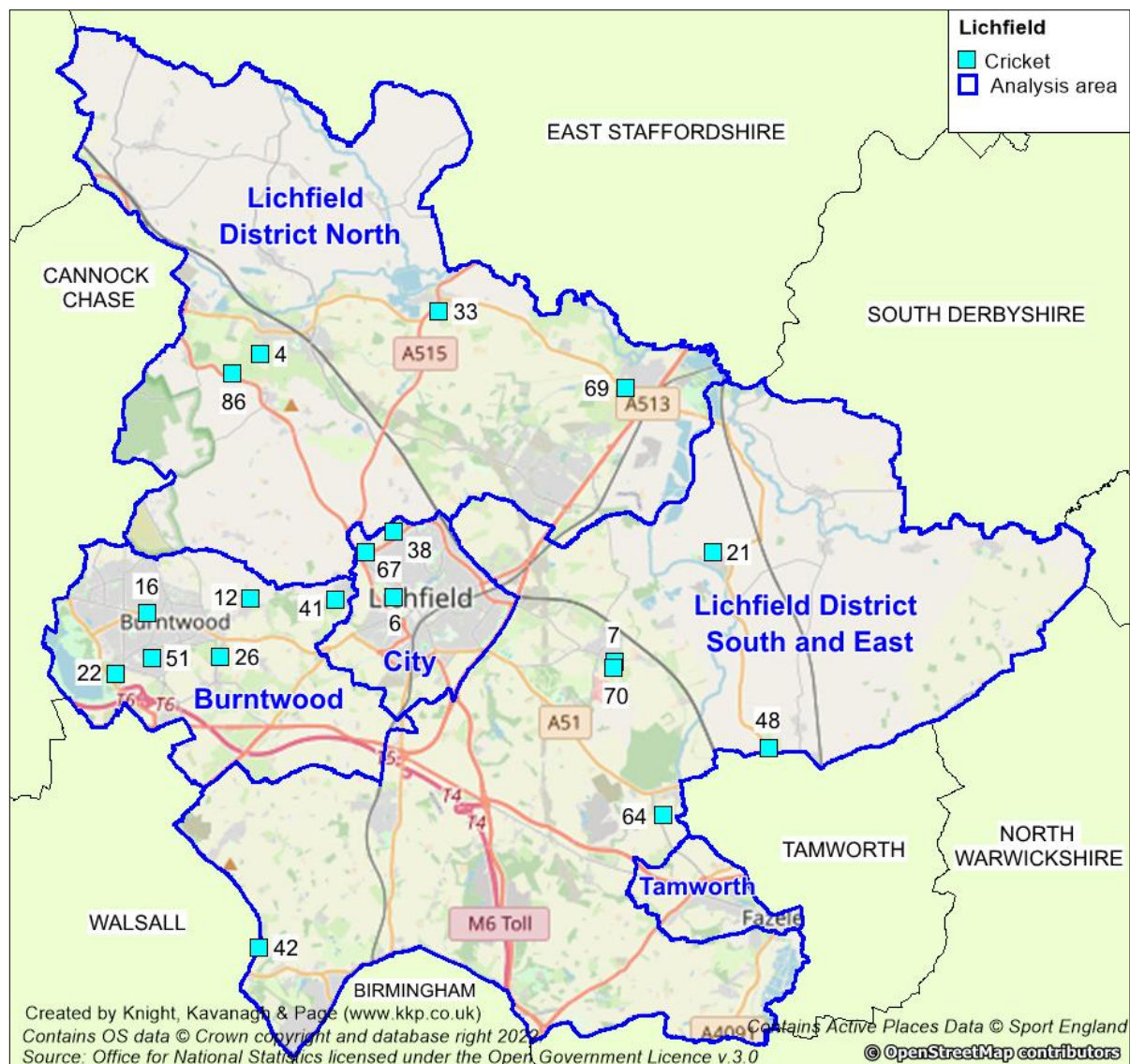
- 6.13 There are seven standalone NTPs across as many sites in Lichfield District. Of these, only the provision at five sites is available for community use with the NTP at Maple Hayes School for Dyslexics and Ridgeway Primary School considered to be unavailable. Those available are located at:
- ◀ Beacon Park
  - ◀ Erasmus Darwin Academy
  - ◀ Rawlett Leisure Centre
  - ◀ The Friary School
  - ◀ Walk Field
- 6.14 There are also seven non-turf wickets accompanying natural turf cricket squares. The NTPs in question are located at:
- ◀ Bit End Field
  - ◀ Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club
  - ◀ Chase Terrace College
  - ◀ Elford Playing Field
  - ◀ Hammerwich Cricket Club
  - ◀ Kings Bromley Cricket Club
  - ◀ Mill Green Sports Ground
- 6.15 NTPs, particularly when located at club sites, can also aid with training and practice, and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. NTPs are also frequently used for junior matches across the country, and there are some instances of this in Lichfield District.
- 6.16 From a school perspective, NTPs provide a reliable cricket offer, without the need for specific cricket preparation to be taken on natural turf playing field. In many instances, schools do not have the resource or expertise to prepare natural turf wickets so NTPs provide a resource to ensure cricket can remain a key element of curricular sport.

#### ***Disused provision***

- 6.17 A grass wicket square that was previously identified at Longdon Cricket Club in the Lichfield District North Analysis Area is now disused and has been reclaimed as farmland. However, the Club has since relocated one mile north of its original site occupying similar land which includes a clubhouse and training facilities.
- 6.18 In addition, an NTP previously located at Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Fields is no longer identified.
- 6.19 The map overleaf shows the location of all cricket squares (grass and non-turf) currently servicing Lichfield District.

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Figure 6.1: Location of cricket pitches in Lichfield District



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Table 6.3: Key to map of cricket pitches

Site ID	Site	Post code	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Wicket type	No. of wickets	
							grass	non-turf
4	Armitage Cricket Club	WS15 4AH	Lichfield District North	Yes	1	Senior	10	0
6	Beacon Park	WS13 7AG	Lichfield City	Yes	1	Senior	0	1
7	Bit End Field	WS14 9LQ	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	1	Senior	7	1
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	WS7 9QH	Burntwood	Yes	1	Senior	10	1
16	Chase Terrace College	WS7 2DB	Burntwood	Yes	1	Senior	0	1
21	Elford Playing Field	B79 9DE	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	1	Senior	10	1
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Burntwood	Yes	1	Senior	0	1
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	WS7 0JQ	Burntwood	Yes	1	Senior	12	1
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	WS7 0JQ	Burntwood	Yes	1	Senior	5	0
33	Kings Bromley Cricket Club	DE13 7JF	Lichfield District North	Yes	1	Senior	10	1
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	WS13 7SQ	Lichfield City	Yes	1	Senior	16	0
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	WS13 7SQ	Lichfield City	Yes	1	Senior	9	0
41	Maple Hayes Hall School For Dyslexics	WS13 8BL	Burntwood	No	1	Senior	0	1
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	WS9 0LY	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	1	Senior	7	1
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	1	Senior	0	1
51	Ridgeway Primary School	WS7 4TU	Burntwood	No	1	Senior	0	1
64	Tamworth Cricket Hockey & Squash Club	B78 3AT	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	1	Senior	17	0
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Lichfield City	Yes	1	Senior	8	0
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Lichfield City	Yes	1	Senior	0	1
69	Walk Field	DE13 7EW	Lichfield District North	Yes	1	Senior	14	1
69	Walk Field	DE13 7EW	Lichfield District North	Yes	1	Senior	0	1
70	Whittington Cricket Club	WS14 9LQ	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	1	Senior	10	0
86	Longdon Cricket Club	WS15 4LE	Lichfield District North	Yes	1	Senior	8	0



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### *Future provision*

- 6.20 Alrewas CC is currently looking for a venue to lay a second square in close vicinity to Walk Field.
- 6.21 The Club currently exports its third and fourth teams to Lullington Cricket Club in South Derbyshire District due to a lack of capacity and has ambitions to relocate these teams to Lichfield District.

### *ECB Ball Strike*

- 6.22 Where there is either new cricket provision being put in place, or more commonly a development which may prejudice the use of the cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such, the ECB recommends that the clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken; further information can be provided by the ECB.
- 6.23 The previous study highlighted a housing development that had been built alongside the boundary of Kings Bromley CC. A net was provided by the developer however was not high enough and ball strike issues had been an issue. The ECB reported the Cricket Boundary Assessment revealed that the netting provided was insufficient and needed to be higher. Sport England were not consulted with in the mitigation process.

### *Security of tenure*

- 6.24 Table 6.5 below outlines the tenure agreement of cricket clubs at their primary sites across Lichfield District. The broad position is that all clubs have secure tenure at their respective grounds and will therefore be able to service cricket for the foreseeable future (and as a minimum over the lifespan of the PPOSS). This is detailed club-by-club in the following table.

Table 6.4: Summary of security of tenure for cricket clubs

Club	Site used	Tenure
Alrewas CC	Walk Field	Leased from Alrewas Parish Council expiring in 2030
Armitage CC	Armitage Cricket Club	Freehold
Burntwood St Matthews CC	Burntwood St Matthew's Cricket Club	Freehold
Elford CC	Elford Playing Field	Seven year lease from Elford Parish Council from February 2020.
Hammerwich CC	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Freehold
Kings Bromley CC	Kings Bromley Cricket Club	Freehold
Lichfield CC	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lease agreement with St John's Trust for 25 years.
Longdon CC	Longdon Cricket Club	Freehold
Tamworth CC	Tamworth Cricket, Hockey and Squash Club	Freehold
Trent Valley CC	Armitage Cricket Club	Rent from Armitage CC.
Whittington CC	Whittington Cricket Club	Freehold

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#### *Pitch quality*

- 6.25 Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square has issues, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to players.
- 6.26 The quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:
- ◆ Good
  - ◆ Standard
  - ◆ Poor
- 6.27 For the square itself, quality is assessed by considering factors such as evidence of the wickets being rolled, the wickets being correctly cut, evidence of cover usage, evidence of maintenance and the presence of line markings. Comparatively, an outfield is assessed on the provisions grass length, quantity of weeds, evenness of the surface, level of undulations, damage to the surface and evidence of dog fouling (for the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2).
- 6.28 The audit of grass wicket cricket squares in Lichfield District has found 11 to be overall good quality (79%) and three (21%) to be of standard quality. As such, no provision is considered to be poor.

Table 6.5: Quality ratings for grass wicket squares (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Current quality	2020 quality
4	Armitage Cricket Club	Lichfield District North	1	Good	Standard
7	Bit End Field	Lichfield District South & East	1	Good	Standard
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	Burntwood	1	Standard	Standard
21	Elford Playing Field	Lichfield District South & East	1	Good	Good
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Burntwood	1	Good	Good
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Burntwood	1	Good	Standard
33	Kings Bromley Cricket Club	Lichfield District North	1	Good	Standard
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield City	1	Good	Good
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield City	1	Good	Standard
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	Lichfield District South & East	1	Standard	Standard
64	Tamworth Cricket Hockey & Squash Club	Lichfield District South & East	1	Good	Good
67	The Friary School	Lichfield City	1	Standard	Standard
69	Walk Field	Lichfield District North	1	Good	Good
70	Whittington Cricket Club	Lichfield District South & East	1	Good	Good
86	Longdon Cricket Club	Lichfield District North	1	Standard	Standard

## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- 6.29 As seen, the standard quality wickets are identified at Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club and Mill Green Sports Ground. However, since the previous study was completed, quality across Lichfield District has generally improved, with good quality pitches now found at Armitage Cricket Club, Bit End Field and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- 6.30 Notwithstanding the above, it is noted that due to football pitches being marked on the outfields at Elford Playing Fields, Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club and Mill Green Sports Ground, damage can occasionally be caused. This is a common issue nationally, especially when cricket season begins in April as football matches are still being played. Consequently, any post-season remedial work can be impacted upon.
- 6.31 Similarly, through consultation with Burntwood St Matthew's CC, it has been identified that due to its site being publicly accessible, the square has been subject to unofficial use in the form of vandalism which as a result has caused damage to the surface. Moreover, litter and dog fouling has been found in the outfield.
- 6.32 Alrewas CC states that whilst its square at Walk Field is of good quality, it suffers from overplay. As previously mentioned, the Club is looking for a second home ground to help resolve this and to cater for its expanding membership.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

- 6.33 Ancillary provision refers to the accompanying building to a site that is accessed as changing facilities and social space, if applicable. As part of this study, all such provision has been assessed during non-technical site assessments and further evidenced has been gained via consultation. Quality ratings have then been determined by assessing matters such as the condition of the building, the quantity and quality of changing rooms, the suitability for mixed gender usage and the social space offering.
- 6.34 In Lichfield District, all clubs have access to ancillary provision, although quality varies. Most provision is either good or standard quality, but this is not the case at Burntwood St Matthew's Cricket Club where poor quality facilities have been identified. A site-by-site summary can be seen in the following table (please note that education sites have not been included due to a lack of use/access).

Table 6.6: Quality ratings for community available ancillary facilities

Site ID	Site	Club	Analysis area	Overall ancillary provision quality	Changing room quality
4	Armitage Cricket Club	Armitage CC	Lichfield District North	Standard	Standard
7	Bit End Field	Whittington CC	Lichfield District South & East	Standard	Standard
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	Burntwood St Matthews CC	Burntwood	Poor	Poor
21	Elford Playing Field	Elford CC	Lichfield District South & East	Good	Poor
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Hammerwich CC	Burntwood	Good	Standard
33	Kings Bromley Cricket Club	Kings Bromley CC	Lichfield District North	Good	Good
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield CC	Lichfield City	Good	Good

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Site ID	Site	Club	Analysis area	Overall ancillary provision quality	Changing room quality
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	Streetly CC	Lichfield District South & East	Standard	Standard
64	Tamworth Cricket Hockey & Squash Club	Tamworth CC	Lichfield District South & East	Good	Standard
69	Walk Field	Alrewas CC	Lichfield District North	Good	Good
70	Whittington Cricket Club	Whittington CC	Lichfield District South & East	Good	Good
86	Longdon Cricket Club	Longdon CC	Lichfield District North	Standard	Standard

- 6.35 The table below further summaries the position of each club and its ancillary facilities at sites that are used. These comments have been contributed through non-technical assessments and via consultation.

Table 6.7: Ancillary provision quality club findings

Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
4	Armitage Cricket Club	Armitage CC	Toilet and shower facilities available with separate changing rooms for each team which the Club states are suitable for women's and girl's teams. No officials changing is available.
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	Burntwood St Matthews CC	Outdated changing rooms which are subject to vandalism. No toilet and showering facilities and not suitable for women's and girl's teams. No officials changing rooms. Clubhouse is also without a clubroom/social area.
21	Elford Playing Field	Elford CC	Overall quality of pavilion is good, including the social area and toilet facilities. Two changing rooms are also included within the facility however these do not include showering facilities, nor are they suitable for women's and girl's teams. The Club also state through consultation that the pavilion is subject to vandalism.
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Hammerwich CC	Two changing rooms with shower and toilet facilities which are not considered suitable for women's and girl's teams. One umpire's changing room.
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield CC	Four changing rooms including shower and toilet facilities within each that are suitable for women's and girl's teams. One umpire's changing room also available. Car park has been extended since the previous PPOSS.
64	Tamworth Cricket Hockey & Squash Club	Tamworth CC	Two changing rooms with showering and toilet facilities, although these are not suitable for women's and girl's teams. One umpire's changing room.
69	Walk Field	Alrewas CC	Two changing rooms with showering and toilet facilities which are considered appropriate for women's and girl's teams. One umpire's changing room.

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- 6.36 As seen, a total of three clubs report being able to adequately accommodate separate men's and women's demand. These are Armitage CC, Lichfield CC and Alrewas CC.
- 6.37 At Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, planning permission has been granted to extend and improve the clubhouse facilities as the current supply is said to be insufficient to accommodate all of the sports taking place at the site.

### ***Training facilities***

- 6.38 Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. In Lichfield District, only one site used by affiliated cricket clubs is not serviced by any form of practice nets (fixed and/or mobile), with this being Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club.
- 6.39 Notwithstanding the above, many of the sites are only serviced by roll-on nets, which is not ideal as it means the provision cannot be used concurrently when matches are being played (as opposed to fixed nets). Furthermore, it can add to the usage and maintenance requirements of the wickets. This is the case at Armitage, Kings Bromley and Longdon cricket clubs as well as Mill Green Sports Ground.

Table 6.8: Summary of training facilities

Site ID	Site	Practice nets?	Number of fixed lanes?	ECB approved?	Comments
4	Armitage Cricket Club	Yes	-	-	1x Roll on net only
7	Bit End Field	Yes	2	Yes	-
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	No	-	-	Club states it is in need of a roll on net.
21	Elford Playing Field	Yes	1	Yes	Also 1x Roll on net
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Yes	2	Yes	Also 1x Roll on net
33	Kings Bromley Cricket Club	Yes	-	-	1x Roll on net only
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Yes	2	Yes	-
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	Yes	-	No	1x Roll on net only
64	Tamworth Cricket Hockey & Squash Club	Yes	3	Yes	Also 1x Roll on net
69	Walk Field	Yes	3	Yes	Also 1x Roll on net
70	Whittington Cricket Club	Yes	2	Yes	-
86	Longdon Cricket Club	Yes	-	-	1x Roll on net only

- 6.40 In addition to the above, Lichfield CC has planning permission at Lichfield Cricket & Hockey Club relating to the relocation of its fixed lane practice nets. This is linked to the aforementioned clubhouse extension.

### **6.3: Demand**

- 6.41 There are 11 cricket clubs competing in Lichfield District, with these collectively generating 85 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 34 senior men's, nine senior women's, 38 junior boys' and four junior girls' teams.
- 6.42 The distribution of the teams across the clubs can be seen in the table below.

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Table 6.9: Summary of cricket teams in Lichfield District

Club name	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Alrewas CC	Lichfield District North	3	3	8	1
Armitage CC	Lichfield District North	2	-	-	-
Burntwood St Matthews CC	Burntwood	2	-	-	-
Elford CC	Lichfield District South & East	1	-	1	-
Hammerwich CC	Burntwood	5	3	4	1
Kings Bromley CC	Lichfield District North	3	-	3	-
Lichfield CC	Lichfield City	5	1	8	-
Lichfield Nomads CC	Lichfield District North	1	-	-	-
Longdon CC	Lichfield District North	2	-	-	-
Tamworth CC	Lichfield District South & East	5	1	8	1
Trent Valley CC	Lichfield District North	1	-	-	-
Whittington CC	Lichfield District South & East	4	1	6	1
Total		34	9	38	4
<b>2020 Total</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3</b>

- 6.43 Most senior men's teams play in the South Staffs County League and Lichfield & District Cricket League, whilst the remainder play in either the Warwickshire County League, the Birmingham & District League or the Derbyshire County Cricket League. Junior teams tend to play in the Burton & District Cricket League, the South Staffordshire & District Junior Cricket League, Tamworth and Lichfield CDG competitions or the Warwickshire Youth Cricket Leagues whilst also playing in friendly competitions when fixtures are not arranged.
- 6.44 A summary of teams by analysis area can be seen in the table below. The greatest amount of demand is located in Lichfield District South & East Analysis Area (34%), whilst there are no teams currently playing in Tamworth Analysis Area.

Table 6.10: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of teams				Total
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	
Burntwood	7	3	4	1	15
Lichfield City	5	1	8	-	14
Lichfield District North	12	3	11	1	27
Lichfield District South & East	10	2	15	2	29
Tamworth	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>85</b>



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#### ***Participation trends***

- 6.45 Since the previous PPOSS, there has been overall growth of 11 teams, with this equating to an increase of one senior men's, nine senior women's and one senior girls' team. This change in the women's and girl's teams figures represents significant growth in this section of the game.
- 6.46 It should be noted that since the previous study was completed, Wall CC has now amalgamated with Lichfield CC.

#### ***Exported demand***

- 6.47 Currently, Alrewas CC has its third Saturday team play its home matches at Baron Under Needwood CC in East Staffordshire, whilst its fourth team play at Lullington CC in South Derbyshire District. This links to its overuse of provision within Lichfield District and its aspirations for a second pitch.

#### ***Imported demand***

- 6.48 Streetly CC currently imports its third Saturday team and an U12 boys' team into Lichfield District from the neighbouring authority of Walsall. It uses Mill Green Sports Ground and does not indicate any aspirations to return this demand into Walsall due to the close proximity of the site to the Club's home ground.

#### ***Unmet/latent demand***

- 6.49 Both Alrewas CC and Hammerwich CC state that they cannot increase their existing number of teams as a result of pitch availability. This therefore provides an element of latent demand as both would be willing to grow without capacity issues.

#### ***Additional activity***

- 6.50 The ECB run several initiatives across the Country which results in additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfield, making squares unusable during these periods. The most relevant initiatives currently being delivered are detailed below.

#### ***All Stars cricket***

- 6.51 In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, cricket clubs can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club delivers programmes which introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:
- ✦ Increase cricket activity for five- to eight-year-olds in the school and club environment.
  - ✦ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition.
  - ✦ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle.
  - ✦ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment.
  - ✦ Use fun small-sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game.

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- 6.52 In Lichfield District, five clubs take part in All Stars, with these being Elford CC (15 participants), Hammerwich CC (45 participants), Armitage CC (10 participants), Lichfield CC (64 participants) and Tamworth CC (50 participants). Total demand equates to 184 participants.

#### *Dynamo's cricket*

- 6.53 A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' is the Dynamos programme for 8–11 year olds. This builds on the significant growth of the All-Stars programme and helps to develop the pathway to retain juniors which progress. Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamo's seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified softball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket.
- 6.54 In Lichfield District, five clubs take part in Dynamo's, with these being Elford CC (11 participants), Hammerwich CC (25 participants), Armitage CC (10 participants), Lichfield CC (20 participants) and Tamworth CC (30 participants). Total demand equates to 96 participants.

#### *Softball cricket*

- 6.55 Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase female participation in cricket. The goal of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions are generally played on the outfield of a square and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of 2 and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.
- 6.56 In Lichfield District, four clubs take part in softball cricket, with these being Hammerwich CC (20 participants), Alrewas CC (20 participants), Lichfield CC (15 participants) and Tamworth CC (20 participants). Total demand equates to 75 participants.

#### *Disability cricket*

- 6.57 The ECB wishes to support cricket clubs to deliver cricket opportunities for those with disabilities and has setup the Disability Cricket Champion Club Programme to support clubs through guidance, resource and equipment. This is to enable them to welcome individuals with additional needs and varying abilities to support them to play, follow, officiate and volunteer.
- 6.58 There are currently no Disability Cricket Champion clubs in Lichfield District.

#### **Future demand**

- 6.59 Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across Lichfield District.

#### *Population forecasts*

- 6.60 Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated by 2043 (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan) based on population growth (using 2018-ONS based projections). When team generation rates are applied across Lichfield, six additional teams are expected to be generated, as shown in the following table.

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Table 6.11: Team generation rates based on population growth (2043)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate <sup>8</sup>	Future population	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (18-55)	23,338	34	1:686	1,656	2.41	2
Senior Women's (18-55)	23,207	9	1:2,579	1,647	0.64	1
Junior Boys (7-18)	7,233	38	1:190	513	2.70	3
Junior Girls (7-18)	6,989	4	1:1,747	496	0.28	0

- 6.61 When studied locally, future demand through team generation rates can be attributed to the growth of one senior men's team in both the Burntwood and Lichfield District North analysis areas, one senior women's team in the Burntwood Analysis Area and one boys' team in each of the Lichfield City, Lichfield District North and Lichfield District South & East analysis areas.
- 6.62 Notwithstanding the above, it is important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies in place to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would suggest. For example, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of women and girl's participation in cricket in Lichfield District is likely as it is currently a national priority. This also applies to potential increased growth in junior cricket, linked to the abovementioned All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.
- 6.63 In addition, the ECB's media rights deal includes a continuation of its relationship with Sky Sports, up to 2028. This now extends beyond broadcasting and is a partnership which will secure significant investment and a commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. This could therefore boost demand to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPOSS, meaning the impact should be reviewed over coming years.

### *Participation increases*

- 6.64 The table below shows a summary of quantified club aspirations for future demand, as informed through consultation.

Table 6.12: Summary of future demand (club aspirations)

Club	Analysis area	Future demand			
		Senior men	Senior women	Junior	Total
Burntwood St Matthews CC	Burntwood	3	-	1	4
Elford CC	Lichfield District South & East	1	1	4	6
Lichfield CC	Lichfield City	1	-	-	1
Tamworth CC	Lichfield District South & East	-	2	2	4
-	<b>Total</b>	5	3	7	15

- 6.65 As seen, of clubs that responded to consultation, total future growth totals five senior men's, three senior women's and seven junior teams. This is expressed by Burntwood St Matthews, Elford, Lichfield and Tamworth cricket clubs.

<sup>8</sup> Please note TGR figures are rounded to the lowest whole number.

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### ***Future demand summary***

- 6.66 In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational. This is to avoid any potential double counting and also factors in that some club context is unquantified. However, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are also realised (as well as other factors, such as increased women's and girls' growth).

### **6.4: Capacity analysis**

- 6.67 Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per pitch per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.
- 6.68 The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report therefore presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive match equivalent sessions per season per square that is available and that currently takes place.
- 6.69 For good quality squares, capacity is five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.
- 6.70 The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, or where the level of play was not made clear, an assumption has been made that all senior teams play between 10 and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.
- 6.71 The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

### ***Peak time demand***

- 6.72 An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Lichfield District is Saturday, although a good proportion of teams are also fielded on a Sunday, including senior women's teams, as well as midweek in shorter formats of the game. In addition, peak time is midweek for junior cricket, albeit that some Sunday cricket is also recorded.
- 6.73 Based on the above, capacity across Saturday's, Sunday's and midweek requires consideration, which the following analysis looks to provide. This involves factoring in the overall capacity level at each site and current usage levels across each relevant period.

### ***Education usage***

- 6.74 Whilst all squares based at school sites currently are available for community use, it must be recognised that the majority also cater for curricular and extra-curricular, especially at those with a relatively strong cricket programme. At such sites, internal usage leaves little capacity remaining for any external access, with this demand therefore built into the capacity analysis.

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### ***Spare capacity***

- 6.75 The table below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 6.14 and the actual spare capacity identified in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and midweek).

Table 6.13: Spare capacity examples

Examples	Explanation of spare capacity
No	If the cell has a “no” it means that the pitch is played to capacity within this period and therefore cannot accommodate any further demand.
Yes	If the cell has a “yes” that is not highlighted it means there is spare capacity to accommodate further demand within this designated peak period; however, this is discounted due to unsecure tenure, poor quality, the lack of community availability, or the pitch already being played to capacity or being overplayed.
Yes	If the cell has a “yes” and is also highlighted in green it means there is actual available spare capacity within this peak period which can be utilised.

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Table 6.14: Capacity of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community availability	Users	Security of tenure	Pitch quality	Type of wicket	No. of grass wickets <sup>9</sup>	Capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Current use (match equivalent sessions)	Capacity balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential spare capacity/ availability for Saturday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for Sunday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for midweek cricket
4	Armitage Cricket Club	Lichfield District North	Yes	Armitage CC Trent Valley CC	Secure	Good	Senior	10	50	36	14	No	Yes	Yes
7	Bit End Field	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Whittington CC	Secure	Good	Senior	7	35	40	5	Yes	Yes	Yes
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	Burntwood	Yes	Burntwood St Matthews CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	10	50	24	26	Yes	Yes	Yes
21	Elford Playing Field	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Elford CC Tamworth CC	Secure	Good	Senior	10	50	24	26	No	Yes	Yes
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Burntwood	Yes	Hammerwich CC	Secure	Good	Senior	12	60	68	8	No	No	Yes
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Burntwood	Yes	Hammerwich CC	Secure	Good	Senior	5	25	44	19	No	No	Yes
33	Kings Bromley Cricket Club	Lichfield District North	Yes	Kings Bromley CC	Secure	Good	Senior	10	50	50	0	No	Yes	Yes
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield City	Yes	Lichfield CC	Secure	Good	Senior	16	80	68	12	No	Yes	Yes
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield City	Yes	Lichfield CC	Secure	Good	Senior	9	45	24	21	No	Yes	Yes
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Streetly CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	7	28	12	16	Yes	Yes	Yes
64	Tamworth Cricket Hockey & Squash Club	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Tamworth CC	Secure	Good	Senior	17	85	60	25	No	No	No
67	The Friary School	Lichfield City	Yes	-	Secure	Standard	Senior	8	32	30	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
69	Walk Field	Lichfield District North	Yes	Alrewas CC	Secure	Good	Senior	14	70	72	2	No	No	No
70	Whittington Cricket Club	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	Whittington CC	Secure	Good	Senior	10	50	44	6	No	Yes	Yes
86	Longdon Cricket Club	Lichfield District North	Yes	Longdon CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	8	32	10	22	Yes	Yes	Yes

<sup>9</sup> Please note the number of wickets indicated are those which have been identified for actual competitive usage.



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### *Actual spare capacity*

- 6.76 A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage during a particular peak period, has security of tenure and is at least standard quality. Using the capacity analysis, this section considers the level of actual spare capacity available for each playing format across Lichfield District.
- 6.77 Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that the actual spare capacity on Saturdays, Sundays and during midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising it across different days may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per season theoretically has capacity for one additional senior team and one additional junior team; however, it does not have capacity for both. As such, this needs to be taken into consideration on a site-by-site basis as and when demand grows.

### *Saturday cricket spare capacity*

- 6.78 For senior men's cricket, peak time is Saturday as this is when most demand exists. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Saturday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Saturday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Saturday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified.
- 6.79 Using the above, the squares at Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club, Longdon Cricket Club and Mill Green Sports Ground are the only squares within Lichfield District that have capacity to accommodate further for Saturday demand.

Table 6.15: Site by site breakdown of spare capacity for Saturday cricket

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams (match equivalent sessions)
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	Burntwood	26	1	12
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	Lichfield District South & East	16	1	12
86	Longdon Cricket Club	Lichfield District North	22	1	12

- 6.80 The total of actual spare capacity on Saturday equates to 64 match equivalent sessions per season. This is split across the Burntwood, Lichfield District North and Lichfield District South & East analysis areas.

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Table 6.16: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Burntwood	26
Lichfield City	-
Lichfield District North	22
Lichfield District South & East	16
Tamworth	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>

#### *Sunday cricket*

- 6.81 Similar to Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is not already used by two teams at this time, has secure tenure and is not over, at, or close to capacity. Taking this into consideration, there are seven squares across six sites in Lichfield District that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand.

Table 6.17: Site-by-site breakdown of actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams (match equivalent sessions)
4	Armitage Cricket Club	Lichfield District North	14	1	12
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	Burntwood	26	1	12
21	Elford Playing Fields	Lichfield District South & East	26	2	24
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield City	12	1	12
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield City	21	1	12
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	Lichfield District South & East	16	1	12
86	Longdon Cricket Club	Lichfield District North	22	1	12

- 6.82 Total actual spare capacity on a Sunday equates to 137 match equivalent sessions per season. This is found in all four analysis areas that have supply and demand.

Table 6.18: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Burntwood	26
Lichfield City	33
Lichfield District North	36
Lichfield District South & East	42
Tamworth	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>

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#### *Junior cricket (midweek)*

- 6.83 For midweek cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams. Moreover, the presence of junior wickets at certain sites, as well as NTPs, provide further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.
- 6.84 For a square to have actual spare capacity for midweek cricket, it must have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have more than eight match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is a reasonable number of matches an additional junior team would play. However, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars and Dynamos).
- 6.85 Taking the above into consideration there are seven squares across six sites in Lichfield District that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand during midweek.

Table 6.19: Site-by-site breakdown of actual spare capacity for midweek cricket

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams (match equivalent sessions)
4	Armitage Cricket Club	Lichfield District North	14	1	8
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	Burntwood	26	3	24
21	Elford Playing Fields	Lichfield District South & East	26	3	24
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield City	12	1	8
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield City	21	1	8
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	Lichfield District South & East	16	1	8
86	Longdon Cricket Club	Lichfield District North	22	2	16

- 6.86 The total actual spare capacity midweek replicates Sunday capacity and therefore amounts to 137 match equivalent sessions.

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Table 6.20: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Burntwood	26
Lichfield City	33
Lichfield District North	36
Lichfield District South & East	42
Tamworth	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>

### Overplay

- 6.87 Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square. Based on this, four squares are overplayed in Lichfield District, with total overplay amounting to 34 match equivalent sessions.

Table 6.21: Summary of overplay by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
7	Bit End Field	Lichfield District South & East	5
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Burntwood	8
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Burntwood	19
69	Walk Field	Lichfield District North	2

- 6.88 As seen, the Burntwood Analysis Area has the most amount of overplay with 27 match equivalent sessions. There are then five match equivalent sessions of overplay in the Lichfield District South & East Analysis Area and two in the Lichfield District North Analysis Area.
- 6.89 In the case of all overplayed squares within the District, this is as a result of too many games taking place on the square, rather than poor square quality (each overplayed square is assessed as good and therefore has maximum capacity).

### 6.5: Supply and demand analysis

- 6.90 Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. This section therefore looks at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and identified expected and future demand. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for Saturday and Sunday and eight matches for midweek junior teams).

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#### *Saturday supply and demand analysis*

- 6.91 The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday). For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified above to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per square that is available). The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time.

Table 6.22: Analysis of squares for Saturday cricket (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Burntwood	12	27	-	15	12	27
Lichfield City	-	-	-	0	-	0
Lichfield District North	12	2	24	14	12	26
Lichfield District South & East	12	5	-	7	-	7
Tamworth	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Lichfield</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>

- 6.92 As seen in the table above, there is a shortfall of grass wicket squares on Saturdays amounting to 22 match equivalent sessions per season. This is due to deficits that exist within the Burntwood and Lichfield District North analysis areas.
- 6.93 After considering future demand derived from population growth, shortfalls worsen in the the Burntwood and Lichfield District North analysis areas. An overall deficit of 46 match equivalent sessions is predicted.

#### *Sunday cricket supply and demand analysis*

- 6.94 The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams. Similar to Saturday cricket, actual spare capacity is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand.

Table 6.23: Analysis of squares for Sunday cricket (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Burntwood	12	27	-	15	12	27
Lichfield City	24	-	-	24	-	24
Lichfield District North	24	2	-	22	-	22
Lichfield District South & East	36	5	-	31	-	31
Tamworth	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Lichfield</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>

- 6.95 As seen in the table above, there is a current overall spare capacity of grass wicket squares in Lichfield District on Sunday's amounting to 62 match equivalent sessions per season, although the Burntwood Analysis Area is overplayed. After considering future demand derived from population growth, overall spare capacity remains, despite the localised shortfall worsening.

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### *Junior cricket supply and demand analysis (midweek)*

- 6.96 For the junior supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams), multiplied by eight (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because junior demand at peak time is not limited to one day, although some capacity should be reserved for activity such as All Stars and Dynamos.

Table 6.24: Analysis of squares for midweek cricket (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Burntwood	24	27	-	3	-	3
Lichfield City	24	-	-	24	8	16
Lichfield District North	24	2	-	22	8	14
Lichfield District South & East	32	5	-	27	8	19
Tamworth	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Lichfield</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>

- 6.97 As seen in the table above, there is a current spare capacity of grass wicket squares in Lichfield District for midweek cricket amounting to 70 match equivalent sessions per season, despite a minimal shortfall in the Burntwood Analysis Area. After considering future demand derived from population growth, the deficit remains in the Burntwood Analysis Area, but overall spare capacity remains (46 match equivalent sessions).

### **6.6: Conclusion**

- 6.98 Based on the supply and demand analysis provided, there is an overall sufficient supply of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for Sunday and midweek cricket within Lichfield District; however, there is a shortfall for Saturday cricket. Furthermore, predicted future demand results in this worsening.

Table 6.25: Summary of capacity of grass cricket squares (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	36	34	24	22	24	46
Sunday	96	34	-	62	12	50
Midweek	104	34	-	70	24	46

- 6.99 When compared to findings of the 2020 PPOSS, spare capacity previously existed for Saturday cricket, whilst there has also been a slight reduction in spare capacity on Sundays and during midweek. This can be attributed to a significant growth in demand, which has only been partially offset by pitch quality improvements.



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#### **Cricket – supply and demand summary**

- ▶ Three sites in Lichfield District have actual spare capacity for an increase in Saturday demand, whilst seven have capacity for Sunday and midweek cricket.
- ▶ Four squares are overplayed by a total of 34 match equivalent sessions.
- ▶ There is an overall shortfall for Saturday cricket, with this worsening when accounting for future demand, whilst spare capacity is evident for Sunday and midweek activity.

#### **Cricket – supply summary**

- ▶ There are 15 grass wicket squares in Lichfield District located across 13 sites, with all squares available for community use.
- ▶ There are seven NTPs that accompany grass wicket squares in addition to seven standalone NTPs.
- ▶ A grass wicket square that was previously identified at Longdon Cricket Club in the Lichfield District North Analysis Area is now disused and has been reclaimed as farmland.
- ▶ Alrewas CC is looking for a venue to lay a second square in close vicinity to Walk Field due to it currently exporting some demand outside of Lichfield District.
- ▶ The broad position is that all clubs have secure tenure at their respective grounds and will therefore be able to service cricket for the foreseeable future.
- ▶ The assessment of grass wicket squares found 11 to be good quality and three to be standard quality - no poor quality grass squares are identified.
- ▶ Poor quality ancillary provision is identified at Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club, whilst planning permission has been granted for improvements and extension at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- ▶ Only one site used for affiliated activity is not serviced by practice nets, with this being Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club, although some others only have mobile nets which is not ideal.
- ▶ Lichfield CC has planning permission at Lichfield Cricket & Hockey Club relating to the relocation of its fixed lane practice nets.

#### **Cricket – demand summary**

- ▶ There are 11 clubs competing in Lichfield District generating 85 teams, equating to 34 senior men's, nine senior women's, 38 junior boys' and four junior girls teams.
- ▶ Since the 2020 study, there has been an overall growth of 11 teams, including the development of nine senior women's teams.
- ▶ Alrewas CC exports two teams outside of Lichfield District due to a lack of capacity, whilst Streetly CC imports some demand from the neighbouring authority of Walsall.
- ▶ Both Alrewas CC and Hammerwich CC state that they cannot increase their existing number of teams as a result of pitch availability (unmet demand).
- ▶ Four clubs take part in All Stars, Dyanmo's and women's softball cricket, which adds activity to their sites.
- ▶ Population forecasts (to 2043) predict an increase of two senior men's, one senior women's and three junior boys' teams.
- ▶ Three clubs indicate growth plans amounting to four senior men's, two senior women's and three junior teams.

# LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### PART 7: BOWLS

#### 7.1: Introduction

- 7.1 Outdoor bowls in Lichfield District is played on crown greens. The British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) is the NGB with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport.

#### **Consultation**

- 7.2 There are 13 bowling clubs based in Lichfield District. Of these, Hammerwich BC, Lichfield BC, Lichfield RUFC BC and Little Aston BC all completed online surveys. This provides a response rate of 31%, with only four clubs being responsive.
- 7.3 The table below summarises the responsiveness of clubs. It should be noted that a low response rate can be common in relation to bowls.

Table 7.1: Summary of bowls consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Alrewas RBL BC	No
Armitage with Handsacre BC	No
Ashmole BC	No
Hammerwich BC	Yes
Lichfield BC	Yes
Lichfield Crown Green BC	No
Lichfield RUFC BC	Yes
Little Aston BC	No
Museum BC	Yes
Ridware BC	No
Uxbridge Arms BC	No
Whittington BC	No
Windmill BC	No

#### 7.2: Supply

- 7.4 There are 15 bowling greens in Lichfield District located across 14 sites (Beacon Park provides two greens). All of the bowling greens are considered to be available for community use.

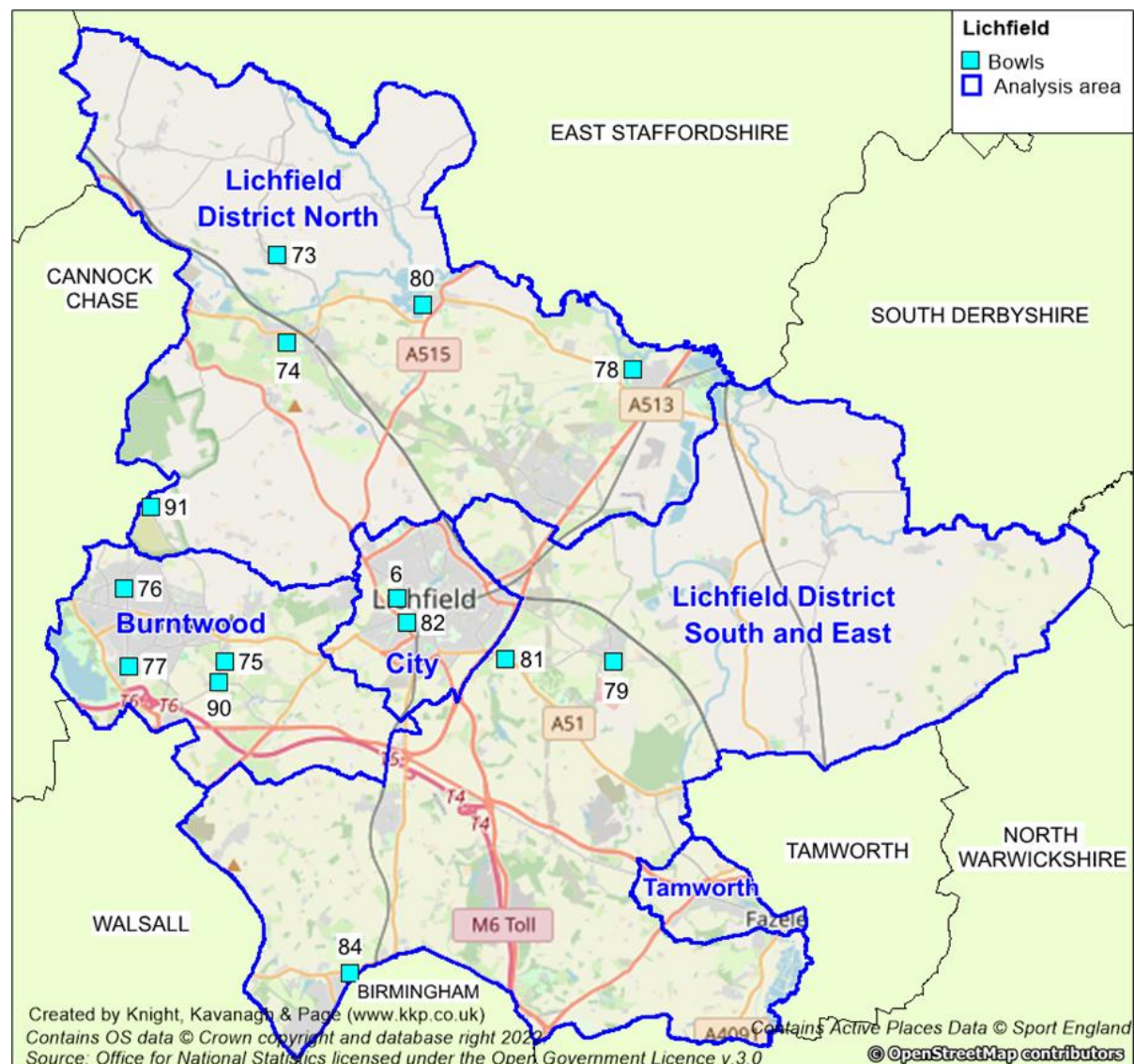
Table 7.2: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of greens
Burntwood	4
Lichfield City	3
Lichfield District North	5
Lichfield District South & East	3
Tamworth	-

- 7.5 As seen in the table above, three greens are located in the Lichfield City and Lichfield District South & East analysis areas, with a further four greens located in the Burntwood Analysis Area and five greens located in the Lichfield District North Analysis Area. There are no bowling greens located in the Tamworth Analysis Area.

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Figure 7.1: Crown bowling greens in Lichfield



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Table 7.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Management	Number of greens
6	Beacon Park	WS13 7AG	Lichfield City	Sports Club	2
73	Ridware Bowls Club	WS15 3QX	Lichfield District North	Private	1
74	Armitage & Handsacre Bowls Pavilion	WS15 4BL	Lichfield District North	Sports Club	1
75	Hammerwich Bowling Club	WS7 0JQ	Burntwood	Sports Club	1
76	Chase Terrace Park	WS7 1JJ	Burntwood	Council	1
77	Chasetown Memorial Park Bowling Club	WS7 3XE	Burntwood	Council	1
78	Alrewas All Saints Bowling Club	DE13 7BT	Lichfield District North	Private	1
79	Whittington Bowling Club	WS14 9LQ	Lichfield District South & East	Parish Council	1
80	Kings Bromley Bowling Club	DE13 7JA	Lichfield District North	Community	1
81	Lichfield Rugby Club Bowls Club	WS14 9JE	Lichfield District South & East	Sports Club	1
82	Lichfield Bowling Club	WS13 6QJ	Lichfield City	Private	1
84	Little Aston Bowling Club	B74 3UF	Lichfield District South & East	Private	1
90	Ashmole Social Club	WS7 0LF	Burntwood	Community	1
91	Windmill Bowling Club	WS15 4NF	Lichfield District North	Private	1

- 7.6 In addition to the aforementioned greens, there is also an indoor bowling green located at Tamworth Indoor Bowls Club. However, this does not fall under the scope of this report, although consideration should be given to it as many members of outdoor clubs will also be members of the indoor club to enable all-year round participation.

### ***Disused provision***

- 7.7 The Duke of York public house previously had a bowling green to the rear of the site. However, the landowner took back the bowling green in 2021 and has since turned it into additional carparking.

### ***Ownership/management***

- 7.8 The Council currently manages two bowling greens, with these located at Chasetown Memorial Park and Chase Terrace Park. Additionally, Whittington & Fisherwick Parish Council manages the green at Whittington Bowling Club.

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- 7.9 A further five greens are privately owned, with these located at Alrewas All Saints Bowling Club, Ridware Bowls Club, Lichfield Bowling Club, Windmill Bowling Club and Little Aston Bowling Club. The remaining greens are either owned by the respective sports club or by a community group.
- 7.10 Recently, Museum BC and Lichfield Crown Green BC negotiated a 25 year lease agreement with Lichfield District Council for the management of the two bowling greens located at Beacon Park, with this agreement running to 2047. The two clubs formed a registered company known as Beacon Park Bowling Green Maintenance and this covers all green requirements and improvements.

### **Quality**

- 7.11 The quality of bowling greens across Lichfield District has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:
- ◀ Good
  - ◀ Standard
  - ◀ Poor
- 7.12 For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs off unofficial use (for further detail regarding the criteria, please see Appendix 2).
- 7.13 Across Lichfield District, 11 greens are assessed as good quality, three as standard and one as poor. This is summarised site-by-site in the table below.

Table 7.4: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site name	Club(s) using the site	Number of greens	Quality of green	2020 Quality
6	Beacon Park (Lichfield)	Lichfield Crown Green BC, Museum BC	2	Good	Good
73	Ridware Bowls Club	Ridware BC	1	Good	Standard
74	Armitage & Handsacre Bowls Pavilion	Armitage with Handsacre BC	1	Good	Standard
75	Hammerwich Bowling Club	Hammerwich BC	1	Good	Good
76	Chase Terrace Park	-	1	Standard	Standard
77	Chasetown Memorial Park Bowling Club	Uxbridge Arms BC	1	Poor	Good
78	Alrewas All Saints Bowling Club	Alrewas RBL BC	1	Standard	Poor
79	Whittington Bowling Club	Whittington BC	1	Good	Good
80	Kings Bromley Bowling Club	-	1	Good	-
81	Lichfield Rugby Club Bowls Club	Lichfield RUFC BC	1	Standard	Good
82	Lichfield Bowling Club	Lichfield BC	1	Good	Good

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Site ID	Site name	Club(s) using the site	Number of greens	Quality of green	2020 Quality
84	Little Aston Bowling Club	Little Aston BC	1	Good	Good
90	Ashmole Social Club	Ashmole BC	1	Good	Good
91	Windmill Bowling Club	Windmill BC	1	Good	Good

- 7.14 The green at Chasetown Memorial Park Bowling Club has been rated as poor quality as the green is showing signs of wear and tear, whilst the surface of the surrounding hard areas has deteriorated. Furthermore, access for disabled players and spectators is poor and signs of litter is present on the green.
- 7.15 When compared to 2020 PPOSS findings, quality has generally improved, with an uplift noted at Ridware Bowls Club, Armitage & Handsacre Bowls Pavilion and Alrewas All Saints Bowling Club. Only the green at Lichfield Rugby Club Bowls Club has worsened (from good to standard quality); however, the Club notes a more recent improvement due to better maintenance now being carried out.
- 7.16 Similarly, Lichfield BC states through consultation that its green has maintained its quality through an improved maintenance regime being carried out by the Club, whilst the creation of a registered company by Lichfield Crown Green BC and Museum BC known as Beacon Park Bowling Green Maintenance has upheld the quality at Beacon Park. Museum BC states that excellent stewardship has maintained the good condition of the provision.

#### ***Ancillary facilities***

- 7.17 Generally, ancillary facility quality supporting bowling greens within Lichfield District is of a standard or good quality, although it should be noted that the green at Chasetown Memorial Park is not supported by a clubhouse or pavilion.
- 7.18 Museum BC states that the supporting ancillary facilities at Beacon Park have worsened in quality recently and are in need of improvement, with this especially pertaining to the changing rooms and car park. The Club states that the provision is full and overcrowded during the summer months.
- 7.19 Lichfield RUFC BC reports that it has no specific pavilion or separate changing rooms, but that it does have a small building on site containing an official's room, toilets and an equipment store. This is considered to be adequate.
- 7.20 Little Aston BC state that its ancillary facilities are of a standard quality, although is without separate changing facilities. There is a kitchen and toilet facilities available, and the Club also has equipment storage available at the adjacent Little Aston Village Hall.
- 7.21 Hammerwich BC received funding from Sport England for a new shelter beside its green at Hammerwich Cricket Club, with additional funding from Hammerwich Parish Council also provided for a new lawn mower. The Club report that ancillary facilities are of good quality at its site.



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### *Sports lighting*

- 7.22 In Lichfield District, the greens located at Windmill Bowling Club, Lichfield Bowling Club and Lichfield Rugby Club are serviced by sports lighting, which increases the capacity of the provision, particularly outside of summer months. Whilst no other provision is serviced, it should be noted that sports-lit bowling greens are relatively rare across the Country, meaning Lichfield District is actually provided for better than most.

### **7.3: Demand**

- 7.23 There are 13 bowls clubs in Lichfield District. Where membership information is known for the four responding clubs, it equates to 276 people, totalling 189 senior male members, 68 senior female members and one junior member.

Table 7.5: Current club membership for bowls clubs in Lichfield District

Club name	Senior males	Senior females	Juniors	Current total	2020 Total
Hammerwich BC	37	18	1	56	70
Lichfield BC	81	37	-	118	111
Lichfield RUFC BC	20	6	-	26	27
Museum BC	51	25	-	76	80
Total				276	-

- 7.24 The average membership of the four clubs equates to 69 members, representing high levels of demand for bowls. However, membership has declined across three of them since the 2020 PPOSS, in line with national trends. This is partially offset by an increase at Lichfield BC.
- 7.25 Since the previous study, it has also been identified that Duke of York BC has folded. This therefore evidences a further reduction in demand (although members may now be playing elsewhere).

### ***Additional demand***

- 7.26 In addition to the aforementioned clubs, the Probus Organisation<sup>10</sup> also plays bowls on a regular basis in Lichfield District. The organisation previously played on the green at Duke of York Public House one day per week, with this now moved to Beacon Park since the loss of the green. As the organisation is not a registered club, it has not been included in the breakdown above, although it adds demand to the site and will be added in the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report.

### *Winter bowls*

- 7.27 There is a winter bowls league operating in Lichfield District, with this based on the AGP at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, which can be split into four bowling greens. The League consists of a Thursday division and Tuesday division and will resume in February 2025, with eight teams competing in the Thursday division and four teams competing in the Tuesday division. It is thought that all of the current players are also members of other crown green bowling clubs in the area.

<sup>10</sup> Probus clubs provide an opportunity for retired professionals to attend regular meetings with like-minded people who appreciate similar interests and social standing; probus is an organisation for active retirees who enjoy the camaraderie that belonging to the organisation brings.

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### *Pay and play usage*

- 7.28 Pay and play refers to the opportunity for residents to turn up to existing facilities and access them on a casual, commitment free basis. Locally, the two greens at Beacon Park are available for pay and play, although limited take-up is reported.

### *Play Bowls*

- 7.29 Play Bowls is a new product designed to assist clubs in attracting more casual, pay and play users. Clubs are able to sign up to the scheme, with booking slots for access then secured and paid for via the Play Bowls website. The aim is for this to help greens become more accessible whilst making it easy for clubs to evolve and manage the demand from the casual audience.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

- 7.30 None of the responding clubs within Lichfield District state that there are capacity issues at their respective sites or that they are unable to take on new members. As such, no latent or unmet demand has been uncovered, as is common nationally.

### ***Future demand***

- 7.31 Using ONS projections, the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2043 (aligned to the Council's emerging Local Plan). Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for greens could increase, although exactly to what extent is unclear.
- 7.32 In addition, the table below identifies the amount of future demand expressed through consultation. Where quantified, two clubs report ambitions to establish an additional 20 senior members and 18 junior members across Lichfield District. This refers to Lichfield BC and Museum BC.

Table 7.6: Club future demand aspirations

Club name	Future growth aspirations
Lichfield BC	10 senior and 8 junior members
Museum BC	10 senior and 10 junior members

## **7.4: Supply and demand analysis**

- 7.33 The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate (most matches tend to take place on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening). A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during morning and afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.
- 7.34 The BCGBA does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 80 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting the required level of demand. It is also agreed that capacity should be assessed on a site-by-site and club-by-club basis as the club-orientated nature of the sport means that demand cannot and does not easily transfer.

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7.35 Based on the above, capacity ratings for bowling greens in Lichfield District is classified as follows:

<b>Within capacity range</b>	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
<b>Outside capacity range</b>	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

7.36 Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in Lichfield District receives, where the information is known. Where no membership information is identified, further communication is required with clubs to fully understand their needs and any potential capacity or sustainability issues.

Table 7.7 Current and future capacity analysis of bowling greens now and with future demand (where known)

Site ID	Site name	Club users	Number of greens	Number of members	Current capacity rating (members)	Future demand (members)	Future capacity rating (members)
6	Beacon Park	Lichfield Crown Green BC Museum BC	2	56	64	20	44
75	Hammerwich Bowling Club	Hammerwich BC	1	118	38	-	38
81	Lichfield Rugby Club Bowls Club	Lichfield RUFC BC	1	26	34	-	34
82	Lichfield Bowling Club	Lichfield BC	1	76	4	18	14

7.37 The table above shows that three of the four clubs are operating within a “sustainable” capacity range, with only Hammerwich BC operating above the recommended limits. However, as the Club does not report any issues, it is not considered that any new provision is required. Nevertheless, demand levels should be closely monitored to ensure that this remains the case.

7.38 Similarly, when future demand is factored in, a deficit of capacity could be created at Lichfield Bowling Club, despite the Club also reporting no capacity concerns. This therefore also requires continued attention.

### 7.5: Conclusion

Overall, with no clubs reporting any capacity issues, it is considered that there is a sufficient supply of provision of bowling greens in Lichfield District, although monitoring is required at Hammerwich and Lichfield bowls club to ensure that this remains the case. However, with all greens in active use, it is also clear that all provision requires continued protection, particularly given the level of information that is unknown given the high number of unresponsive clubs.

#### **Bowls – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ With no clubs reporting any capacity issues, it is considered that there is a sufficient supply of provision of bowls provision in Lichfield District, although monitoring is required at Hammerwich and Lichfield bowls club to ensure that this remains the case given their high membership.
- ◀ With all greens in active use, it is also clear that all provision requires protection at this moment in time.

#### **Bowls – supply summary**

- ◀ There are 15 bowling greens located across 14 sites (Beacon Park provides two).
- ◀ All of the bowling greens are crown greens and are considered to be available for community use.
- ◀ The Duke of York public house previously had a bowling green to the rear of the site; however, the landowner took back the bowling green in 2021 and has since turned it into additional carparking.
- ◀ The greens located at Windmill Bowling Club, Lichfield Bowling Club and Lichfield Rugby Club are serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ In addition to the outdoor greens, there is also an indoor bowling green located at Tamworth Indoor Bowls Club (however, this does not fall under the scope of this report).
- ◀ The Council operates two greens, whilst five are privately owned and the remainder are managed by sports clubs or community groups.
- ◀ 11 greens are assessed as good quality, three as standard and one as poor.
- ◀ Museum, Lichfield RUFC and Little Aston bowls clubs all report issues with their ancillary provision.

#### **Bowls – demand summary**

- ◀ There are 13 bowls clubs in Lichfield District.
- ◀ Where membership is known, the average membership equates to 69 members, which is relatively high.
- ◀ The Probus Organisation also plays bowls on a regular basis in Lichfield District, utilising provision at Beacon Park.
- ◀ There is also a winter bowls league operating in Lichfield, with this based on the AGP at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- ◀ No clubs report any unmet or latent demand, suggesting that no capacity pressures exist.
- ◀ Lichfield BC and Museum BC express future demand aspirations equating to 20 senior and 18 junior members.

### PART 8: TENNIS

#### 8.1: Introduction

- 8.1 The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Lichfield District. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target a number of national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.
- 8.2 The LTA's vision is 'Tennis Opened Up', with these words at the heart of its work and shaping everything that it does. Its mission is to grow tennis by making it welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone, whilst recognising the essential role played by volunteers, coaches, officials and tennis venues.
- 8.3 It is working to govern and grow tennis and padel across Britain, from grassroots participation through to the professional game. This is split into three main areas:
- ▶ **Participation** - making tennis a sport for anyone to play, through increasing participation and access, such as through LTA Youth, the innovative junior programme created to help more children enjoy the benefits of playing and staying in tennis; through Open Court, a successful disability tennis programme which is one of the largest of its kind across any sport and has helped a record number of disabled people enjoy the benefits of tennis; through SERVES, a ground-breaking programme that takes tennis right in to the heart of new communities across Britain; or through the range of national, regional and local tennis competitions that are delivered and where support is provided for hundreds of thousands of players throughout the year
  - ▶ **Performance** - becoming one of the most respected nations in the world for player development, for example through its Player Pathway that is supporting and nurturing the next generation of elite British players with programmes such as our Pro Scholarship Programme that's helped the likes of Emma Raducanu and Cam Norrie break into the world's top 100; through the ITF Gold Standard National Tennis Centre which has been equipped with world class courts and facilities, and provides a base for Britain's top tennis and wheelchair tennis players to train; or through the increased number of international tournaments that are being staged across Britain throughout the year as part of the LTA Performance Competitions Calendar as well as summer major events, providing more opportunities for professional British players to compete and win on home soil
  - ▶ **Transformation** - transforming tennis in Britain by working with everyone in the sport, such as through its Inclusion Strategy for tennis in Britain that aims to see tennis to lead the way for inclusion and diversity in sport; through the award-winning safeguarding work that has put tennis at the forefront of safeguarding in sport, ensuring it remains safe for all; by working with Government and local authorities to deliver a multi-million pound investment programme in parks tennis facilities for local communities across the country; or through the development of padel as an exciting new form of tennis that's easy to play, fun for all ages and abilities and extremely sociable, and will help to engage new audiences

#### *Consultation*

- 8.4 There are four tennis clubs identified in Lichfield District; Alrewas TC, Lichfield Friary TC, Little Aston TC and Shenstone TC. Of these, only Lichfield Friary LTC and Little Aston TC have been responsive to consultation requests, resulting in a 50% response rate.

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- 8.5 In addition, there is also Beacon Park Tennis located in Lichfield District which is a community group formed after a successful LTA Tennis for Free campaign and investment into the site. It aims to maintain a public tennis facility in central Lichfield District, promote healthy living through fitness and promote tennis participation for all ages. Therefore, whilst the group is not a formal tennis club due to its focus on informal and recreational tennis, it has still been consulted with due to its significance in the local area.

#### 8.2: Supply

- 8.6 There are 55 tennis courts identified in Lichfield District across 16 sites, with 42 courts available for community use across 13 sites. The highest number of courts are found in the Lichfield District South & East Analysis Area (25), whilst there are no courts in Tamworth Analysis Area.

Table 8.1: Summary of tennis courts across Lichfield District

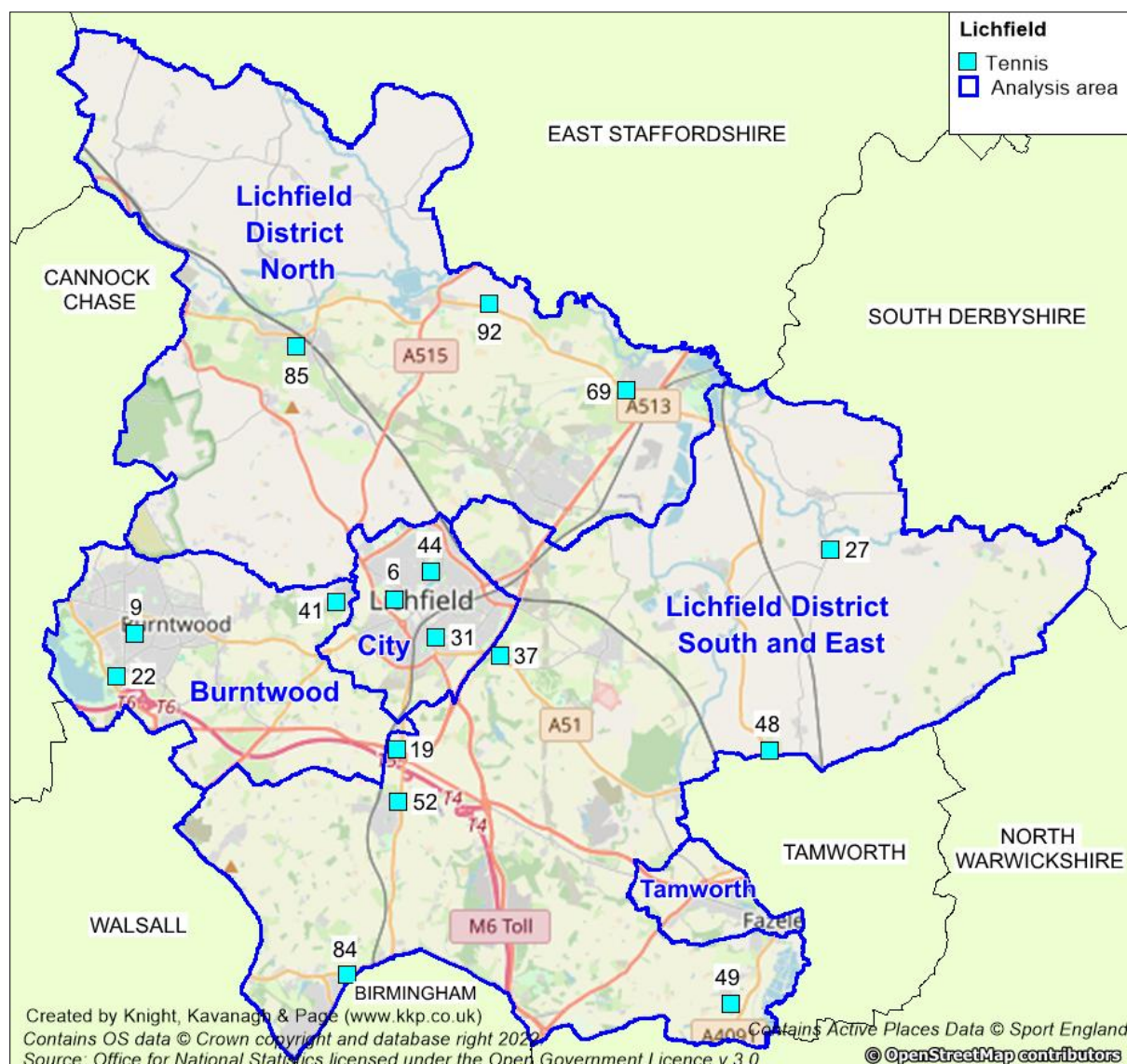
Analysis area	Number of courts available for community use	Number of courts unavailable for community use	Total
Burntwood	10	4	14
Lichfield City	8	4	12
Lichfield District North	3	1	4
Lichfield District South & East	21	4	25
Tamworth	-	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>55</b>

- 8.7 For the purposes of this report, availability for community use refers to courts in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management recorded as being available for hire by individuals, teams or clubs. This therefore discounts a site such as David Lloyd given the wider membership requirements at the site.
- 8.8 Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2020, there has been an increase of four courts in the District and an increase of 17 that are available for community use. This is due to changes relating to school-based provision.
- 8.9 Please see Figure 8.1 overleaf for the location of the tennis courts servicing Lichfield District.



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Figure 8.1: Location of tennis courts in Lichfield District



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Table 8.2: Summary of provision site by site

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports-lit	Court type	Quality
6	Beacon Park	WS13 7AG	Lichfield City	Community	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	WS7 3XH	Burntwood	Council	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
19	David Lloyd	WS14 0QP	Lichfield District South & East	Commercial	No	4	Yes	Artificial	Good
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Burntwood	Education	Yes	8	No	Macadam	Good
27	Harlaston Bridge	B79 9JX	Lichfield District South & East	Sports Club	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Standard
31	King Edward VI School	WS14 9EE	Lichfield City	Education	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Standard
37	Lichfield Friary Lawn Tennis Club	WS14 9JE	Lichfield District South & East	Sports Club	Yes	6	Yes	Artificial	Good
41	Maple Hayes Hall School for Dyslexics	WS13 8BL	Burntwood	Education	No	4	No	Macadam	Poor
44	Nether Stowe High School	WS13 7NB	Lichfield City	Education	No	4	No	Macadam	Poor
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Lichfield District South & East	Education	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Lichfield District South & East	Education	Yes	4	Yes	Artificial	Good
49	Rectory Close Playing Field	B78 3UH	Lichfield District South & East	Parish Council	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Standard
52	Shenstone Country Club	WS14 0JR	Lichfield District South & East	Sports Club	Yes	2	No	Artificial	Good
69	Walk Field	DE13 7EW	Lichfield District North	Sports Club	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
84	Little Aston Bowling Club	B74 3UF	Lichfield District South & East	Parish Council	Yes	3	No	Clay	Standard
85	Armitage Village Hall	WS15 4UZ	Lichfield District North	Community	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
92	Options Trent Acres	DE13 7HR	Lichfield District North	Education	No	1	No	Macadam	Standard

#### ***Future provision***

- 3.64 Planning permission has been granted for the creation of tennis courts at DMS Whittington, with sports lighting. However, it is believed that this will be primarily for internal usage and will therefore not meet any community demand (no community use agreement is included).

#### ***Indoor provision***

- 8.10 There are no dedicated identified indoor tennis courts located in Lichfield District, although those at David Lloyd can be covered by a dome facility. Whilst not included within the remit of this study, indoor tennis courts can provide additional tennis capacity due to being useable all-year round.

#### ***LTA Youth provision***

- 8.11 LTA Youth provides children with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. It utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques. This has five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:
- ◀ Blue: Learn the Basics – tennis lessons for ages 4-6
  - ◀ Red: Serve, Rally and Score – tennis lessons for ages 6-8
  - ◀ Orange: Develop a Rounded Game - tennis lessons for ages 8-9
  - ◀ Green: Test your Skills - tennis lessons for ages 9-10
  - ◀ Yellow: Take your Skills Further – tennis lessons for ages 10+
- 8.12 No specific LTA Youth courts are provided in Lichfield District. However, this is not to say that such demand is not taking place. Full size courts can also be used via the use of temporary markings and/or cones.

#### ***Padel provision***

- 8.13 Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.
- 8.14 In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway, with £6 million invested by the NGB since 2021. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, 350 in 2023 and 500 courts are now provided in 2024. There is also a projected growth of 1,000 in 2026, with it therefore envisaged that, with growing infrastructure, participation in padel will increase significantly over the coming years.
- 8.15 There are currently no padel tennis courts within Lichfield District. However, planning permission has been granted for the creation of three at Beacon Park as part of a wider development of the site.
- 8.16 In terms of further future supply, a variety of environments can be considered. Padel courts are often situated next to or managed by those running existing tennis facilities (tennis clubs, parks, indoor tennis centres). In addition, padel court development at leisure centre sites, golf clubs and rugby/football sites can be particularly beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model.

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- 8.17 Notwithstanding the above, the LTA also states that it is not encouraging clubs or operators to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be shown that they have the capacity to support this. This is to ensure that the provision of tennis courts remains sufficient.

#### ***Ownership and management***

- 8.18 All clubs in Lichfield District are considered to have security of tenure of their sites. Lichfield Friary LTC owns Lichfield Friary Lawn Tennis Club, Little Aston TC has a rental agreement for the use of Little Aston Village Hall, Alrewas TC leases Walk Field and Shenstone TC leases Shenstone Country Club. In addition, Beacon Park Tennis has a long-term lease arrangement for the management of the courts at Beacon Park.
- 8.19 Most courts in Lichfield District are managed by schools, although only 20 of the 29 courts are available for community use. There are 11 courts operated by sports clubs, six by the Council or a parish council, five by community groups and four commercially.

Table 8.3: Courts available for community use by ownership

Council	Sports Club	Community	Education	Commercial
6	11	5	29	4

- 8.20 When compared nationally, there is a relatively low number of local authority courts. This could be impacting upon recreational and casual demand as such activity is more likely to take place at such sites.

#### ***Court type***

- 8.21 Within Lichfield District, 36 courts have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. The LTA reports that this should cost £1,200 a year per macadam court (which includes on-going maintenance costs).
- 8.22 The remaining courts (31%) have an artificial turf or clay surface, with 16 offering artificial turf and three offering artificial clay. Such provision generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells, as well as requiring less frequent maintenance. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is more expensive despite the lifespan being similar.

#### ***Sports lighting***

- 8.23 Sports-lit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being particularly key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that sports lighting allows for a 35% increase in available courts time on an annual basis.
- 8.24 In Lichfield District, 26 courts are serviced by some level of sports-lit provision, with 22 of these available for community use (discounting four at David Lloyd). These are located across the following sites:
- ◀ Beacon Park
  - ◀ Burntwood Leisure Centre
  - ◀ Lichfield Friary Lawn Tennis Club
  - ◀ Rawlett Leisure Centre
  - ◀ Walk Field

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- 8.25 In relation to clubs, Little Aston TC is not serviced by sports-lit courts, which could impact on its membership capacity. As a result, the Club has aspirations to provide sports lights at Little Aston Village Hall although no funding has been secured for this development at the time of writing.
- 8.26 The courts at Shenstone Country Club for Shenstone TC are also not considered to be sports-lit. However, the Club does have tweeter lights which allows for some usage outside of daylight house.
- 8.27 The lack of sports lighting at education sites is a key reason as to why many are unavailable for community use, with the Schools noting that little capacity exists for use outside of curricular hours. Erasmus Darwin Academy has ambitions of providing lighting on at least half of its eight courts in order to help facilitate community usage.

#### ***Over markings***

- 8.28 Tennis courts, particularly within schools, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football courts. Courts which are over marked tend to receive higher level of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.
- 8.29 In Lichfield District, courts at the following sites are overmarked:
- ◀ Beacon Park
  - ◀ Burntwood Leisure Centre
  - ◀ Erasmus Darwin Academy
  - ◀ King Edward VI Sports Centre
  - ◀ Nether Stowe High School
  - ◀ Rawlett Leisure Centre
  - ◀ Rectory Close Playing Field
  - ◀ Options Trent Acres

#### ***Quality***

- 8.30 The quality of tennis courts is informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness, and evidence of inappropriate use such as vandalism and littering (for the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2).
- 8.31 In Lichfield District, 36 courts are assessed as good quality, 10 as standard and nine as poor quality. This therefore means a relatively high proportion of good quality provision.

Table 8.4: Summary of court quality

Good	Standard	Poor
36	10	9



8.32 The good quality courts are located at:

- ◀ Beacon Park
- ◀ Burntwood Leisure Centre
- ◀ David Lloyd
- ◀ Erasmus Darwin Academy
- ◀ Lichfield Friary Lawn Tennis Club
- ◀ Rawlett Leisure Centre
- ◀ Shenstone Country Club
- ◀ Walk Field

8.33 Despite the above, Lichfield Friary TC identifies that two of its courts can become unplayable after significant wet weather due to waterlogging/drainage issues.

8.34 No issues are identified across the remaining good quality sites, with quality particularly high at Beacon Park and Shenstone Country Club following recent investment (the courts were assessed as poor and standard quality in the previous PPOSS). At Shenstone Country Club, the investment came via a HS2 grant, whilst Beacon Park received funding from the LTA.

8.35 Of clubs, only Little Aston TC is without access to good quality courts. Its provision is assessed as standard quality, with aspirations in place for refurbishment.

8.36 The poor quality courts are found at:

- ◀ Armitage Village Hall
- ◀ Maple Hayes Hall School for Dyslexics
- ◀ Nether Stowe High School

8.37 This is due to the courts having issues such as loose gravel, damage to the surface and poor grip underfoot. The two school sites are unavailable for community use, with the quality of the provision a factor behind this.

#### ***Ancillary provision***

8.38 The ancillary facilities servicing both Little Aston TC and Lichfield Friary LTC are perceived to be of standard quality, with adequate changing rooms and sufficient car parking at each clubs' respective site. Nevertheless, Lichfield Friary LTC has plans to upgrade the clubhouse on its site and reports that it has an HS2 grant to enable this.

8.39 Alrewas TC and Shenstone TC are without dedicated ancillary facilities at their respective home sites (Walk Field and Shenstone Playing Field, respectively). As neither Club has been responsive to consultation requests, it is unknown as to whether any concerns exist in relation to this.

8.40 For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Only Beacon Park, Burntwood Leisure Centre and Rectory Close Playing Field offer easily accessible changing facilities, whilst other sites either do not provide them or do so but too far away from courts to be realistically used. Often, the facilities predominately service football and cricket pitch users and therefore are not readily available or suited to tennis court users, or they are located within main school buildings.

8.41 Notwithstanding the above, insight from the LTA notes that for non-club courts, access to changing rooms is not seen as a significant issue as such facilities are generally not used or considered important to park players. The most pressing issue is to ensure that accessible toilets are provided.



### 8.3: Demand

#### ***Competitive tennis***

8.42 There are four formal tennis clubs in Lichfield District:

- ◀ Alrewas TC
- ◀ Lichfield Friary TC
- ◀ Little Aston TC
- ◀ Shenstone TC

8.43 Of the two clubs that have responded to consultation, Lichfield Friary TC is the largest with 200 total members, whilst Little Aston TC is the smallest with 48 total members.

8.44 Since the 2020 PPOSS, membership at Lichfield Friary TC has reduced by 34. The Club states that this decline came following Covid-19 restrictions and has yet to be built back up. In contrast, Little Aston TC has seen a small increase in membership.

#### ***Informal and parks tennis***

8.45 All tennis clubs in Lichfield District allow for pay and play usage of their courts from non-members which adds to the demand received at their sites.

8.46 Away from clubs, there is a large group operating out of Beacon Park, with annual passes available in addition to ad hoc court bookings. This leads to significant levels of usage, particularly following investment into the site to improve court quality.

8.47 Both Burntwood Leisure Centre and Rawlett Leisure Centre are also reported as being relatively well used for tennis, although due to its location the latter is primarily accessed by Tamworth-based demand. In addition, both state that substantial capacity remains for an increase in demand, even during busier spells.

8.48 No other sites are reported to be accommodating regular tennis demand, which is likely linked to there being a lack of local authority / park courts outside of those provided at Beacon Park.

8.49 To help grow the use of tennis courts, the LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities and other providers by removing key barriers to participation. This is via three products known as ClubSpark, Play and Gate Access. In Lichfield District, these are to some extent utilised across the club sites as well as at Beacon Park and Burntwood Leisure Centre following LTA investment.

8.50 Each product is further summarised below.

#### ***ClubSpark – Improving the booking process***

8.51 ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◀ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities
- ◀ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online

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- ◀ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee)
- ◀ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package
- ◀ Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online
- ◀ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system
- ◀ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app
- ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact

#### *LTA Play*

- 8.52 LTA Play is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.
- 8.53 LTA Play provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

#### *Smart Access*

- 8.54 The LTA has developed two Smart Access gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.
- 8.55 There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.
- 8.56 Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

#### ***Additional demand***

- 8.57 The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which results in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

#### *Local tennis leagues*

- 8.58 Local tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are run by the LTA and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.
- 8.59 The Lichfield & Burntwood Tennis League within Lichfield District, with these venues signposted for use as part of this. These are Beacon Park, Burntwood Leisure Centre and Lichfield Friary Lawn Tennis Club.

#### *Free Parks Tennis*

- 8.60 Free Park Tennis is a new programme for all park tennis operators, offering people the chance to play tennis for free and providing an entry point for more players to get involved in the sport. This has been developed due to the following needs:
- ◀ Player Trends:
    - ◀ 35% of people who play tennis once per year or more do so in a park
    - ◀ The most common type of play for park players is socially with friends or family
  - ◀ Barriers:
    - ◀ 25% of players cite not having anyone to play with as a barrier to playing more tennis
    - ◀ 24% of players cite having nowhere to play or difficulty in accessing local courts as reasons why they do not play tennis more often
    - ◀ 32% of these players say local courts are not affordable
    - ◀ 75% of parks players consider themselves to be of beginner (41%) or improver (36%) standard, which is significantly lower than club players
    - ◀ 22% of players state that a lack of equipment prevents them from playing tennis
- 8.61 The key points of the sessions are:
- ◀ Free for all players to book and attend.
  - ◀ Run by a minimum of two trained and DBS checked Activators
  - ◀ Sessions should run all year round (weather depending)
  - ◀ Run on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 10.00-11.00am

- 8.62 Court requirements are for three courts minimum in parks that have this many, or two courts at two court sites (a three court site can have up to 34 players attending). The sessions are designed for those aged eight and over, but under eights can attend when accompanied by a parent.
- 8.63 Beacon Park currently offers Free Parks Tennis in Lichfield District.

#### *LTA Youth Programmes*

- 8.64 The LTA provides children with the perfect opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. Designed for children aged between 4-10, mini tennis utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques.

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8.65 The game is split out into five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- ✦ Blue Stage: Age 4-6 – learn the basics
- ✦ Red Stage: Age 6-8 – serve, rally and score
- ✦ Orange Stage: Age 8-9 – develop a rounded game
- ✦ Green Stage: Age 9-10 – test your skills
- ✦ Yellow Stage: Age 10+ - take your skills further

8.66 No mini tennis courts have been identified in Lichfield District, although that is not to say that sessions are not running on full size courts, particularly at club sites.

#### *Netball demand*

8.67 The courts at Beacon Park are also used for netball activity, with this then taking potential capacity away from tennis users (and vice versa, tennis usage takes capacity away from netball demand).

8.68 Whilst several other tennis courts in Lichfield District are overmarked by netball courts, none are identified as receiving regular community usage from netball clubs/groups.

#### *Padel demand*

8.69 In 2022, 90,000 people reportedly play padel more than once a year in England - a 493% year on year increase compared to 2021 data (15,000). This then reportedly increased to 129,000 players in 2023, exemplifying the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for.

8.70 Building on from the above, LTA has outlined a Padel Strategy (2024-2029). The key demand objectives are to:

- ✦ Grow the visibility of padel to increase awareness from 20% to 40% of the population, interest in playing from 7.5% to 15% and boost participation
- ✦ Increase the number of annual padel players from 129,000 to 400,000, and monthly players from 65,000 to 200,000
- ✦ Grow the padel coach and activator workforce from 40 to 700
- ✦ Enable 10 players to break into the World top 200 and two players into the top 100 and inspire the padel audience

8.71 Despite the above, there are currently no padel courts in Lichfield District, meaning no activity is taking place, although planning permission has been granted to provide three courts at Beacon Park which will offset this figure. The establishment of any provision would likely result in significant usage when considering national and regional trends.

8.72 To assist local authorities in strategically planning padel provision, the LTA has calculated, by authority, the number of padel courts that can be sustained based on population density. In Lichfield District, this identifies a need for eight courts, which is based on 20% of the population being interested in padel (taken from a YouGov survey), penetration levels of 8%, and one court being able to accommodate up to 200 players.

- 8.73 The figures provided form a start point for conversation and strategic planning. It does not mean that the suggested number should be seen as a cap, but that the has LTA confidence that there is sufficient demand for the number of courts identified (some areas where the sport is more established will create higher levels of demand). This also only represents the first stage in strategic planning for padel by local authority boundary, with a second phase planned to begin to look at potential locations and the demography of the catchment and how they overlay. This in many instances will cut across boundary lines.

#### ***Latent/unmet demand***

- 8.74 Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low quality facilities were addressed.
- 8.75 Furthermore, the LTA conducted some research to understand how the public feels about tennis and the main barriers to accessing the sport. The research was split into club, community and education sectors, with headline findings as follows:
- ◀ Around five million people play once per year with the majority of this in parks
  - ◀ 46% of tennis played by those 14 years is on park courts
  - ◀ 80% of those that do not play tennis but would like to see parks as their first option
  - ◀ Barriers preventing use of courts located in parks include the quality of the courts, ease of booking and the number of courts available to play
  - ◀ Demand for tennis amongst those who stopped playing in the last five years is from 14 upwards
  - ◀ Although there is demand for tennis amongst working class individuals, the highest latent demand is from upper middle, middle and lower middle classes
- 8.76 Further research carried out by the LTA also suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase demand.
- 8.77 Notwithstanding the above, all responding clubs in Lichfield District report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, suggesting that any latent demand that does exist will be for non-club activity, or that other barriers aside from club facilities are preventing usage.

#### ***Future demand***

- 8.78 Of the two responding clubs, only Lichfield Friary LTC quantifies plans to increase membership, with this equating to an additional 30 senior and 20 junior members.
- 8.79 Beacon Park Tennis plans to have 1,000 hours per year of programmed activity at Beacon Park through coaching and external use. This would include 200 hours that would be reserved for school use and 100 hours for dedicated netball use, leaving 700 hours to fill for tennis.
- 8.80 A growth in demand is also likely to emanate from general population growth, with much of this likely to be outside of the club environment. Using Sport England Sports Facility Calculator, projected growth to 2043 equates to the need for 1.54 courts, with this based on current demand levels.

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- 8.81 In addition, the LTA also expects further future growth via its insight tools. To ensure that this can be met, it is imperative that the facility stock, particularly at park sites, is of an adequate quantity and quality.

#### 8.4: Supply and demand analysis

##### *Club-based tennis*

- 8.82 For club-based tennis, the LTA suggests that non-sports lit courts can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas courts with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Using this, it is considered that both Lichfield Friary TC and Little Aston TC have capacity for growth based on current and future demand levels, as shown in the following table.

Table 8.5: Summary of supply and demand

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current demand	Future demand	Site capacity	Capacity rating
78	Lichfield Friary Lawn Tennis Club	Lichfield District South & East	200	50	360	110
83	Little Aston Village Hall	Lichfield District South & East	48	-	120	72

- 8.83 Further investigation is required to determine capacity for Shenstone TC and Alrewas TC. The former has capacity for 80 members, whilst the latter has capacity for 120.

##### *Non-club tennis*

- 8.84 For non-club courts, capacity is more difficult to determine as exact demand levels are not known. However, in Lichfield District, it is clear that usage levels will be being impacted upon, primarily by a lack of park courts with a sustainable operational model when compared to most other local authorities. The courts at Beacon Park are seemingly very well used and offer an example of activity levels that can be achieved through adequate investment and management.
- 8.85 There is also likely to be demand for padel that is not being met, with no courts currently provided. Whilst development at Beacon Park will satisfy some of this, there will remain a shortfall of provision through using LTA modelling (six courts are required).

#### 8.5: Conclusion

- 8.86 The supply of tennis provision in Lichfield District is sufficient to meet club-based demand, with no capacity issues identified and room existing for growth. However, other forms of demand are likely not being adequately met, particularly given the lack of park courts and padel courts. Beacon Park offers a good quality centralised venue for activity, but there are a lack of sites elsewhere in the District to complement this.



### **Tennis – supply and demand summary**

- There is a sufficient supply of courts to accommodate club-based demand (where known).
- Other forms of demand are likely not being adequately met, particularly given the lack of park courts and padel courts.

### **Tennis – supply summary**

- There are 55 tennis courts identified in Lichfield District across 16 sites, with 34 courts available for community use.
- There are currently no padel tennis courts, although planning permission has been granted to provide three at Beacon Park as part of a wider development of the site.
- Most courts are managed by schools, although only 12 of the 29 courts are available for community use.
- There are only six courts managed by the Council or a parish council, which is a low number when compared nationally.
- There are 36 courts with a macadam surface, whereas the remainder are artificial.
- There 26 courts serviced by sports lighting, with 22 of these available for community use.
- In terms of quality, 26 courts are assessed as good, 18 as standard and nine as poor, meaning a relatively high proportion of good quality provision.
- Lichfield Friary LTC has plans to upgrade the clubhouse on its site and reports that it has an HS2 grant to enable this.

### **Tennis – demand summary**

- There are four tennis clubs in Lichfield District.
- Of the two clubs that have responded to consultation, Lichfield Friary TC is the largest with 200 total members, whilst Little Aston TC is the smallest with 48 total members.
- There is also a large group operating out of Beacon Park, with this leading to significant levels of usage, particularly following investment into the site to improve court quality.
- Both Burntwood Leisure Centre and Rawlett Leisure Centre are also reported as being relatively well used for tennis.
- The Lichfield & Burntwood Tennis League within Lichfield District, with these venues signposted for use as part of this (Beacon Park, Burntwood Leisure Centre and Lichfield Friary Lawn Tennis Club).
- Whilst no padel courts are currently provided, LTA modelling identifies that eight are required to service the District.
- Although no clubs identify latent or unmet demand, research carried out by the LTA indicates that is likely to be high for non-club courts.
- Lichfield Friary LTC quantifies plans to increase membership, with this equating to an additional 30 senior and 20 junior members, whilst the LTA predicts further growth for non-club activity via its insight tools.

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### PART 9: NETBALL

#### 9.1: Introduction

- 9.1 England Netball governs netball in England. Levels of participation are quickly increasing, with over 100,000 affiliated members and at least one million women and girls playing during a typical week. The NGB's aim is to provide its members and partners with the best possible service and experience in sport.
- 9.2 Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided and in use by the netball community than there are indoor. Nationally, England Netball reports that a key challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility and a lack of sports lighting can also be problematic.

#### Consultation

- 9.3 Two netball clubs have been identified in Lichfield District, with these being Chasetown Ladies Netball Club and Lichfield Spires Netball Team. Both have been consulted as part of this commission resulting in a 100% response rate.

#### 9.2: Supply

- 9.4 Within Lichfield District, 55 netball courts are identified across 29 sites. Of these, 20 are available for community use across six sites, with this representing 36% of provision. All remaining courts that are unavailable for community use are located at educational sites.
- 9.5 As shown in the following table, the Burntwood Analysis Area provides the most courts, whilst no community available courts are identified in the Lichfield District North and Tamworth analysis areas.

Table 9.1: Summary of netball courts across Lichfield District

Analysis area	Number of courts available for community use	Number of courts unavailable for community use	Total
Burntwood	11	11	22
Lichfield City	6	15	21
Lichfield District North	-	4	4
Lichfield District South & East	3	4	7
Tamworth	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>55</b>

- 9.6 Since the previous PPOSS in 2020, the number of courts identified within the District has increased from 20 courts across nine sites. This is due to changes at education sites. Aligned with this, the number of community available courts has increased from six courts across three sites. The number of courts at Beacon Park has increased by two from one, whilst the number of courts at Erasmus Darwin Academy has increased to six from four.

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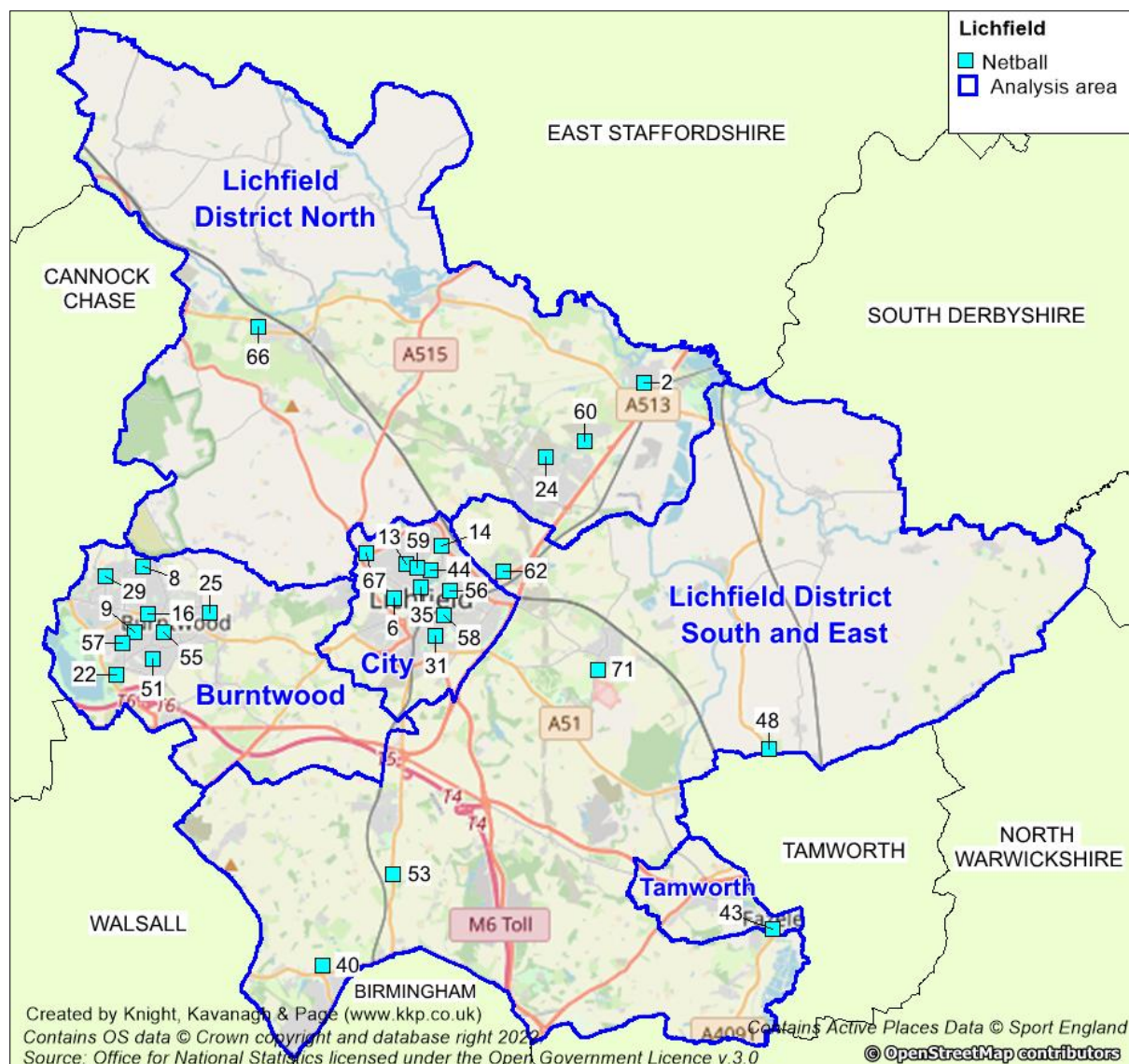
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- 9.7 The following schools have been identified as providing netball provision within the District that were not previously identified in the 2020 PPOSS.
- ◀ Boney Hay Primary Academy
  - ◀ Chadsmead Primary Academy
  - ◀ Charnwood Primary Academy
  - ◀ Fradley Park Primary School
  - ◀ Fulfen Primary School
  - ◀ Holly Grove Primary School
  - ◀ Little Aston Primary School
  - ◀ Millfield Primary School
  - ◀ Nether Stowe High School
  - ◀ Ridgeway Primary School
  - ◀ Shenstone Lodge School
  - ◀ Springhill Academy
  - ◀ St Chads CE Primary School
  - ◀ St Joseph & St Theresa Catholic Primary
  - ◀ St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
  - ◀ St Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School
  - ◀ St Stephens's Primary School
  - ◀ Streethay Primary School
  - ◀ The Croft Primary School
  - ◀ The Friary School
  - ◀ Whittington Primary School
- 9.8 It should be noted that the singular courts at Willows Primary School and Rugeley School are identified as being no longer provided, although these were unavailable for community use.
- 9.9 Figure 9.1 below shows a map of all netball courts within Lichfield District. For a key to the map please see Table 9.2.

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Figure 9.1: Location of outdoor netball courts in Lichfield District



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Table 9.2: Summary of netball courts within Lichfield District

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court quality
2	All Saints C Of E Primary School	DE13 7EF	Lichfield District North	No	1	No	Standard
6	Beacon Park	WS13 7AG	Lichfield City	Yes	3	Yes	Good
8	Boney Hay Primary Academy	WS7 2PF	Burntwood	No	1	No	Standard
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	WS7 3XH	Burntwood	Yes	2	Yes	Good
13	Chadsmead Primary Academy	WS13 7HJ	Lichfield City	No	2	No	Standard
14	Charnwood Primary Academy	WS13 7PH	Lichfield City	No	3	No	Standard
16	Chase Terrace College	WS7 2DB	Burntwood	Yes	3	No	Good
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Burntwood	Yes	6	No	Good
24	Fradley Park Primary School	WS13 8TW	Lichfield District North	No	1	No	Standard
25	Fulfen Primary School	WS7 9BJ	Burntwood	No	3	No	Standard
29	Holly Grove Primary School	WS7 1LU	Burntwood	No	2	No	Standard
31	King Edward VI School	WS14 9EE	Lichfield City	No	3	No	Standard
35	Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Field	WS13 7LR	Lichfield City	No	1	No	Poor
40	Little Aston Primary School	B74 3BE	Lichfield District South & East	No	1	No	Poor
43	Millfield Primary School	B78 3RQ	Tamworth	No	1	No	Standard
44	Nether Stowe High School	WS13 7NB	Lichfield City	No	2	No	Standard
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Lichfield District South & East	Yes	3	Yes	Standard
51	Ridgeway Primary School	WS7 4TU	Burntwood	No	1	No	Standard
53	Shenstone Lodge School	WS14 0LB	Lichfield District South & East	No	1	No	Standard
55	Springhill Academy	WS7 4UN	Burntwood	No	2	No	Standard
56	St Chads CE Primary School	WS13 6SN	Lichfield City	No	2	No	Standard
57	St Joseph & St Theresa Catholic Primary	WS7 3XL	Burntwood	No	2	No	Standard
58	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	WS14 9AN	Lichfield City	No	1	No	Standard
59	St Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School	WS13 7NH	Lichfield City	No	1	No	Standard

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court quality
60	St Stephens's Primary School	WS13 8NN	Lichfield District North	No	1	No	Standard
62	Streethay Primary School	WS13 8FT	Lichfield District South & East	No	1	No	Standard
66	The Croft Primary School	WS15 4AZ	Lichfield District North	No	1	No	Standard
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Lichfield City	Yes	3	No	Standard
71	Whittington Primary School	WS14 9LG	Lichfield District South & East	No	1	No	Standard



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### ***Management and security of tenure***

- 9.10 The large majority of netball court sites Lichfield are managed by schools. In fact, the only two exceptions to this are courts at Beacon Park and Burntwood Leisure Centre. The former is operated by a community organisation via a lease agreement, whilst the latter is managed by the Council.
- 9.11 Due to most facilities being operated by schools, security of tenure for netball users is limited, with this being linked to a large proportion of sites not being available for community use. Furthermore, no community netball demand is presently recorded at any of the school sites, even where community availability is offered. This may also be linked to a lack of sports lighting, as further detailed below.
- 9.12 The only sites used for netball at this moment in time at Beacon Park and Burntwood Leisure Centre. The former receives significant levels of activity, both formal and informal, whilst the latter is also accessed but predominately for its indoor provision.

### ***Court type***

- 9.13 All of the community available outdoor netball courts in Lichfield District have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.
- 9.14 Nationally, some netball courts are also marked on artificial surfaces such as on sand-based AGPs located within schools and parks. This, however, is not currently the case in Lichfield District.

### ***Sports lighting***

- 9.15 Outdoor netball courts that are serviced by sports lighting enable all year round evening use, thus allowing outdoor winter netball activity to take place as well as the more common summer netball activity. In Lichfield District, eight courts across three sites provide sports-lit courts, with these based at Beacon Park (three courts), Burntwood Leisure Centre (two courts) and Rawlett Leisure Centre (three courts).
- 9.16 An absence of sports lighting on courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are with sports lighting throughout the Country (38%). At this percentage is significantly higher than in Lichfield District, where only 15% of courts are serviced, it suggests that a lack of sports lighting could be a particular problem within the District.
- 9.17 Erasmus Darwin Academy has ambitions of providing lighting on at least half of its eight courts. It notes that the lack of such provision impacts on community use levels.

### ***Over marking***

- 9.18 Netball courts, particularly at school sites, are often overmarked, predominately by tennis courts but also on occasion by basketball and/or football courts. Provision such as this tends to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as potentially causing capacity issues when there is external netball demand. This is, however, not considering the benefits the dual use can provide for schools from a curriculum perspective.

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9.19 Within Lichfield District, courts at the following sites are overmarked with other provision:

- ▶ Beacon Park
- ▶ Burntwood Leisure Centre
- ▶ Chase Terrace College
- ▶ Erasmus Darwin Academy
- ▶ King Edward VI School
- ▶ Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Field
- ▶ Nether Stowe High School
- ▶ Rawlett Leisure Centre

9.20 The above is a particular issue at Beacon Park, where significant levels of tennis activity take place in addition to the netball demand. This leads to capacity issues, as further identified within the demand part of this report section.

#### ***Court quality***

9.21 The quality of netball courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use e.g., vandalism and/or littering (for the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2)

9.22 Most courts in Lichfield District are rated as standard quality with 39 being considered as such and with this representing 71% of provision. There are 14 assessed as good quality (25%) and two assessed as poor quality (4%).

9.23 Of the community available courts, all 14 that are assessed as good quality are available for community use, compared to six of the standard quality courts and none of the poor quality courts. This shows an intrinsic link between quality and availability.

Table 9.3: Summary of netball court quality

Community use	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	14	6	-
Unavailable	-	33	2

9.24 The good quality courts are located at:

- ▶ Beacon Park
- ▶ Burntwood Leisure Centre
- ▶ Chase Terrace College
- ▶ Erasmus Darwin Academy

9.25 Despite being assessed as good quality, the courts at Burntwood Leisure Centre are reported to get dangerously slippery during the winter. However, no indoor provision is available for hire at a similar time and so Chasetown Ladies Netball Club continue to use the provision.

9.26 In contrast, the poor quality courts are found at Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Field and Little Aston Primary School. At both sites, significant signs of wear and tear as well as worn line markings are evident.

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- 9.27 Since the previous study was completed, court quality within the District has improved. This is primarily due to resurfacing works at Beacon Park, Burntwood Leisure Centre, Chase Terrace College and Erasmus Darwin Academy.

#### ***Ancillary facilities***

- 9.28 Across Lichfield District, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic for community netball. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are generally not specific for netball and are often too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Moreover, given that most courts are located at schools, the facilities predominately service sports halls or grass pitches and are therefore not readily available or suited to netball court users. Access can then also be limited, even at sites that allow for community use as this may entail opening the main school buildings.

#### **9.3: Demand**

- 9.29 There are two formal clubs in the District, with these being Chasetown Ladies NC and Lichfield Spires NC. In addition, attempts are presently being made to start a netball league in Burntwood.

#### ***Chasetown Ladies NC***

- 9.30 Chasetown Ladies NC currently has four teams competing in the Wolverhampton City and Walsall & District netball leagues. For the former, all matches take place on Thursday evenings at Aldersley Sports Village (in Wolverhampton), whereas fixtures for the Walsall & District Netball League take place at Phoenix Collegiate College (in Sandwell). This means that all such demand is exported due to the use of central venues.
- 9.31 Club training takes place outdoors at Beacon Park on Monday evenings from 19:00-21:00.

#### ***Lichfield Spires NC***

- 9.32 The Club has two senior women's teams known as the Spires and Beacons which train on Thursday evenings from 20:00 on the courts at Beacon Park. Matches are primarily played on Monday evenings, although on occasions are played on Tuesday's and Wednesday's. Both teams compete in the Burton & District League with the Spires in Division 2 and the Beacons in Division 3.
- 9.33 The junior section of the club ranges from school years 3-11, with a squad at every age group. Training sessions are held from 09:00 until 11:15 on Saturday mornings on the courts at Beacon Park. The Club also has competitive play plans lined up via tournaments and friendly fixtures.
- 9.34 The Club states that it is at capacity for its junior section and is current operating a waiting list due to this.

#### ***Netball Leagues Burntwood***

- 9.35 Netball Leagues Burntwood is currently in the process of gauging interest from both clubs and players in order to start a league in Burntwood. The aim of this is to provide a more casual environment to competitive netball leagues as it is open to anyone over 14, regardless of ability, fitness levels or age. Teams would play once a week on Sunday afternoons at Burntwood Leisure Centre, with matches taking place indoors from 14:00 to 16:00.

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### ***Other demand***

#### *England Netball initiatives*

- 9.36 Back to Netball sessions take place outdoors at Beacon Park on Thursday evenings from 19:00 until 20:00. These operate across England and provide women of all ages a welcoming re-introduction to the sport. Sessions cover the basics of the game including passing, footwork and shooting and finish with a friendly game. Since its creation in 2010, over 60,000 women have taken part.
- 9.37 Walking netball is also based at Beacon Park, operating on Thursday mornings from 10:30 until 11:30. This initiative has evolved from a growing demand of walking sports and is a slower version of the game. It has been designed so that anyone can play regardless of age and fitness level and therefore offers opportunities for older adults to participate and enjoy.
- 9.38 Other initiatives nationwide include Netball Now and Bee Netball; however, none are currently identified in Lichfield District.

#### *Commercial leagues*

- 9.39 In addition to the club-based demand identified above, there is also a commercial netball league operating in Lichfield District at Burntwood Leisure Centre on Sundays. This caters for teams outside of the normal club environment on more of a casual/recreational basis, with it generally running all-year round (a new season begins as soon as the previous one ends). In addition to welcoming already established teams, individual players are also encouraged to sign up before being placed within a team that suits their ability.

### ***Imported/exported demand***

- 9.40 Due to both clubs within the District competing in leagues that use central venues outside of Lichfield District, significant exported demand is identified. However, this is not considered to be an issue as there is currently no alternative to this.
- 9.41 With no formal netball leagues using venues within Lichfield District, no imported demand is identified.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

- 9.42 As previously mentioned, Lichfield Spires NC has a waiting list in place for junior members. This represents unmet demand.
- 9.43 In addition, Chasetown Ladies NC believes it could field an additional two teams if better training facilities were in place and there was more time available for training.

### ***Future demand***

- 9.44 Given the unmet and latent demand identified, neither club in Lichfield District report future demand aspirations due to existing capacity issues. However, both state that they would grow if facility requirements were met.
- 9.45 In addition, future demand is expressed via Netball Leagues Burntwood due to its aspirations to establish a league structure. That being said, this pertains to indoor provision rather than the outdoor court supply.

#### **9.4: Supply and demand analysis**

- 9.46 There is relatively limited netball demand for outdoor netball courts in Lichfield District, with only two clubs currently active and only the courts at Beacon Park and Burntwood Leisure Centre being accessed. However, capacity issues are still identified, primarily due to issues at Beacon Park which is being impacted upon by high levels of tennis activity also being received. This means that an alternative venue is required to provide a suitable, complementary offering. A lack of community availability, security of tenure and sports lighting across the District is prohibitive to this.
- 9.47 In addition, it should also be identified that the low levels of demand could be a consequence of a limited supply being available, particularly given that neighbouring authorities are seemingly better stocked through sites that can be used as central venues for league activity. As a result, further increasing and improving the supply of provision across the District could result in increased activity.

#### **9.5: Conclusion**

- 9.48 There is an insufficient supply of netball courts in Lichfield District, with capacity issues identified at the main site that is accessed (Beacon Park) and with most other sites either being unavailable for community use, without sports lighting and/or without security of tenure. This is leading to levels of unmet demand and is likely preventing the sport from growing.

### **Netball – supply and demand summary**

- There is an insufficient supply of netball courts in Lichfield District, with unmet demand identified and with a lack of provision likely impacting on growth.
- Whilst Beacon Park and Burntwood Leisure Centre offer good quality venues, there is a lack of alternative offerings to ease capacity issues, with this being impacted upon by sites being unavailable for community use, without security of tenure and/or without sports lighting.

### **Netball – supply summary**

- In total, there are 55 outdoor netball courts located across 29 sites in Lichfield District, with 20 courts available for community use across six sites.
- Only courts at Beacon Park and Burntwood Leisure Centre are currently access for community netball, with the remaining sites not providing security of tenure and/or being unavailable for community use.
- All courts have a macadam surface.
- Only eight courts across three sites are serviced by sports lighting (at Beacon Park, Burntwood Leisure Centre and Rawlett Leisure Centre).
- Many courts are overmarked, particularly by tennis courts, which is a particular issue at Beacon Park given usage levels received from both sports.
- 14 courts are rated as good quality, 39 as standard quality and two as poor quality (all 14 good quality courts are available for community use in addition to six standard quality courts).
- Ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic as most provision is not specific for netball court usage.

### **Netball – demand summary**

- There are two formal clubs in the District, with these being Chasetown Ladies NC and Lichfield Spires NC.
- Chasetown Ladies NC currently has four teams competing in the Wolverhampton City and Walsall & District netball leagues, with training activity taking place at Beacon Park.
- Lichfield Spires NC has a large junior section as well as two senior women's teams that play in the Burton & District League, with training activity also taking place at Beacon Park.
- Both clubs export match play demand outside of Lichfield District due to the use of central venues.
- Netball Leagues Burntwood is currently in the process of gauging interest from both clubs and players in order to start a league in Burntwood, at Burntwood Leisure Centre.
- There is additional demand for netball in Lichfield District through Back to Netball and Walking Netball; with sessions held at Beacon Park.
- Both clubs express latent/unmet demand, with Lichfield Spires NC operating a waiting list for juniors and Chasetown Ladies NC believing it could field additional teams if more training time was available.



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### PART 10: SUMMARY

10.1 From the sport-by-sport sections included throughout this document, the following can be summarised across Lichfield District:

- ✦ There is a current shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 grass football pitches in addition to a future deficit of mini 5v5 pitches.
- ✦ There is a current and future shortfall of 11v11 3G pitches.
- ✦ There is a significant shortfall of grass rugby union provision.
- ✦ There is a sufficient supply of hockey pitches, albeit quality and tenure improvements are required.
- ✦ There is a current and future shortfall of cricket squares.
- ✦ There is a sufficient supply of bowls greens to meet current and future demand levels.
- ✦ There is a sufficient supply of tennis courts to meet club-demand; however, recreational demand is not being adequately met and neither is padel demand.
- ✦ There is an insufficient supply of netball courts, with the majority of sites being unavailable for community use, without sports lighting and/or without security of tenure.

10.2 For pitch sports, the above can be further visualised via the table below.

Table 10.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Sport	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance (2025)	Future supply/demand balance (2043)
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions
Football	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session	At capacity
Football	Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
Football	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions
Football	3G 11v11	Shortfall of 2.75 pitches	Shortfall of 3.25 pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 22 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 46 match equivalent sessions
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	Spare capacity of 62 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 50 match equivalent sessions
Cricket	Senior (midweek)	Spare capacity of 70 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 46 match equivalent sessions
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions
Hockey	Senior	Spare capacity of 19 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 19 match equivalent sessions

10.3 For the remaining sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal activity. The current and future picture for each sport across Lichfield District is therefore instead further summarised in the table below.

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Table 10.2: Headline findings (non-pitch sports)

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	The supply of tennis provision in Lichfield District is sufficient to meet club-based demand, with no capacity issues identified and room existing for growth. However, other forms of demand are likely not being adequately met, particularly given the lack of park courts and padel courts.
<b>Netball</b>	There is an insufficient supply of netball courts in Lichfield District, with capacity issues identified at the main site that is accessed (Beacon Park) and with most other sites either being unavailable for community use, without sports lighting and/or without security of tenure. This is leading to levels of unmet demand and is likely preventing the sport from growing.
<b>Bowls</b>	Three of the four clubs in Lichfield District are operating within a “sustainable” capacity range, with only Hammerwich BC operating above the recommended limits. However, as the Club does not report any issues, it is not considered that any new provision is required. Nevertheless, demand levels should be closely monitored to ensure that this remains the case.

- 10.4 Based on the above, it is clear that there are current shortfalls in existence, whilst the future position shows the exacerbation of the deficits and the creation of additional deficits in some areas where demand is currently being met. The Strategy document which proceeds this report will therefore provide actions and recommendations as to how these shortfalls as well as other key issues identified can be overcome.
- 10.5 Furthermore, with shortfalls being evidenced across a variety of sports and pitch/facility types, it is clear that no provision can be deemed surplus to requirements, meaning that there is a clear need to protect all existing provision. This is unless another planning policy exception is met, as per Paragraph 104 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

### APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

#### National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

#### ***Department of Media Culture and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)***

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
  - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
  - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
  - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
  - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
  - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
  - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
  - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

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### ***Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)***

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

#### ***Tackling inequalities***

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

### ***National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2024)***

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements
- ◀ 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
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss

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In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

#### ***The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development
- ◀ **Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game

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### ***The FA: Survive. Revive. Thrive. (2020-24)***

This new strategy aims to ensure the grassroots game in England will survive, revive, and thrive over the next four years.

The strategy outlines seven transformational objectives through to 2024:

- ◀ **Male Participation:** Modernised opportunities to retain and re-engage millions of male participants in the game
- ◀ **Female Participation:** A sustainable model based on a world-class, modernised offer
- ◀ **Club Network:** A vibrant national club network that delivers inclusive, safe local grassroots football and meets community needs
- ◀ **Facilities:** Enhanced access to good quality pitches across grassroots football.
- ◀ **Grassroots Workforce:** A transformation in community football by inspiring, supporting and retaining volunteers in the game
- ◀ **Digital Products and Services:** An efficient grassroots digital ecosystem to serve the administrative and development needs of players, parents, and the workforce
- ◀ **Positive Environment:** A game that's representative of our diverse footballing communities, played in a safe and inclusive environment

This strategy was launched as grassroots football was able to safely return after lockdown from Monday 29 March, it also identifies the immediate challenge, in light of COVID-19, to get grassroots football back on its feet.

The new strategy sets out a number of goals to revive the game by addressing the areas that require particular attention. This includes increasing opportunities to ensure girls have the same access as boys to football in schools and clubs, and improving quality of pitches, with the aim of seeing 5000 good quality pitches added to the current number by 2024.

### ***The FA: Time for Change Strategy (2020-24)***

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in January 2021 which aims to 'unite the game and inspire the nation'. It will do this in two ways, by 'changing the game to maximise its impact' and by 'serving the game to deliver football for all'.

To achieve this, the strategy will focus on six Game Changer objectives, to change the fabric of the game and tackle long-term issues, to make the largest possible impact in the years ahead:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Service > two million through a transformed media platform
- ◀ Ensure equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Delivery of 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free of discrimination
- ◀ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and BFAWSL

These are underpinned by eight Serve objectives, ensuring maintenance of brilliant business-as-usual services to support the growing and evolving needs of the game:

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity



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- Technology enabled and insight driven

### ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)***

The England and Wales Cricket Board plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket. It is currently being refreshed.

The current plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ▶ **Grow and nurture the core**
  - ▶ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
  - ▶ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
  - ▶ Invest in club facilities
  - ▶ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
  - ▶ Further invest in County Competitions
- ▶ **Inspire through elite teams**
  - ▶ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
  - ▶ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
  - ▶ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
  - ▶ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ▶ **Make cricket accessible**
  - ▶ Broaden cricket's appeal through the New Competition
  - ▶ Create a new digital community for cricket
  - ▶ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
  - ▶ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
  - ▶ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ▶ **Engage children and young people**
  - ▶ Double cricket participation in primary schools
  - ▶ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
  - ▶ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ▶ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
  - ▶ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
  - ▶ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
  - ▶ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
  - ▶ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ▶ **Support our communities**
  - ▶ Double the number of volunteers in the game
  - ▶ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
  - ▶ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
  - ▶ Increase participation in disability cricket

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### **Inspiring Generations – Cricket’s Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 2028)**

In October 2024 the ECB released its new strategy Inspiring Generations – Cricket’s Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28). Cricket in England and Wales has seen transformative growth since the publication of its previous strategy Inspiring Generation (2020-24). Its new strategy represents an evolution of its plans, however, many of its previous themes are still relevant. Its main purpose is to say ‘Cricket is a game for me’ through its vision:

- ◆ To become the most inclusive team sport
- ◆ To grow and unite the game
- ◆ Lead the game through global transformation

It aims to obtain this vision through six key objectives

- ◆ Make cricket diverse, inclusive and accessible
- ◆ Transform Women’s and Girl’s cricket
- ◆ Connect communities through play
- ◆ Inspire through winning England teams
- ◆ Support a thriving and sustainable men’s and women’s professional game
- ◆ Win the battle for attention

Underpinning these six ambitions are a series of enablers that cut-across multiple areas of the game, alongside Cricket’s Core Values.

### ***The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2021)***

The RFU has released its new strategic vision, which is to achieve ‘a successful and thriving game across England’. The strategy can be found [here](#).

It identifies four ‘Game Objectives’ and four ‘Driving Objectives’, to form priority focuses for the strategy. It believes that these objectives will make the greatest substantive improvements to the game and investment will be aligned to these areas.

#### *Game objectives*

- ◆ **Enjoyment** – Enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◆ **Winning England** – Create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◆ **Welfare** – Enhance players welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◆ **Flourishing rugby communities** – Support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

#### *Driving objectives*

- ◆ **Diversity & inclusion** – Drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ◆ **Understand** – Build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ◆ **Connect** – Connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- ◆ **Commercial & operational excellence** – Ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

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A number of aims, identified as key to the achievement of these main objectives, are particularly relevant to facilities. The provision of good quality and suitable rugby union facilities will help to achieve these aims and in turn objectives:

- ◀ *Enjoyment* – Improve accessibility for women and girls across the game
- ◀ *Enjoyment* – Make the game inclusive and attractive for 14 to 18 year olds
- ◀ *Flourishing rugby communities* – Provide support to help clubs maximise the benefit from their facilities and assets
- ◀ *Diversity & Inclusion* – Improve the diversity of all facets of our game and continue to create an inclusive environment for all

#### ***Rugby Football League – National Community Facilities Strategy (2024 – 2030)***

The RFL has developed a new National Facilities Strategy which will guide investment into the game from 2024 through to 2030. The proposed investment package aligned to the Strategy will not only transform facilities, but also bolster the sport's social impact, reinforcing its position as a vital part of the nation's sporting and social fabric.

The four focus areas of the Strategy are:

- ◀ **Security of Tenure** – allowing clubs to plan for the long-term
- ◀ **Accessible and Inclusive Facilities** – providing suitable facilities for all and creating safe spaces for the wider community
- ◀ **Adequate and Appropriate Pitch Provision**– investment both in playing surfaces, and in upskilling a volunteer workforce to maintain them
- ◀ **Sustainability**– both environmental and financial

The Strategy will deliver on the four focus areas by delivering against a set of five recommendations which are set within the Strategy and are detailed below. These recommendations reflect the wider strategic aspirations across the sport and are for the RFL to work to deliver.

- ◀ **Focus community clubs**
  - ◀ Ensure the RFL has sufficient capacity and resource to deliver the recommendations identified within this Strategy to support its community clubs
  - ◀ Ensure all community clubs have the knowledge and resource to provide good quality grass pitches
  - ◀ Supporting clubs to have good quality changing and social facilities which can support the scale of need at each club. These must be inclusive for all participants and benefit target user groups such as women and girls' participants
  - ◀ Ensure clubs can accommodate a sustainable operational programme for clubhouses to ensure the longevity of provision
  - ◀ Work with clubs and key partners to increase the number of clubs with secured tenure of their club facilities
  - ◀ Develop a dedicated funding programme which is specifically aimed at supporting clubs to gain security of tenure at their respective site
  - ◀ Highlight success stories and best practices from community clubs to inspire others and showcase the positive impact of these efforts
- ◀ **Deliver positive social and environmental impact**
  - ◀ Support clubs through training and advice on how to promote facilities for non-rugby league purposes
  - ◀ Work with Active Partnerships across England to enable higher usage and activation of rugby league assets for non-rugby league activity
  - ◀ Prioritise clubs for wellbeing hubs which may offer the widest social benefit (relative to local need) – particularly those in high deprivation areas

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- ◀ Use the activation of club facilities as a prerequisite to capital funding for club house improvements / new development
- ◀ Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies
- ◀ **Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies**
  - ◀ Ensure continued working with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of other sports to capitalise on shared investment opportunities
  - ◀ Work with the Football Foundation to maximise Multi-Sport funding opportunities – utilising the framework provided in this Strategy as the baseline of shared investment
  - ◀ Work closely with Active Partnerships in areas with high club densities to establish opportunities for pitch access via the Open School Facilities programme
- ◀ **Technological solutions**
  - ◀ Ensure the RFL gathers greater levels of information from clubs via affiliation. To include (e.g.) security of tenure information and an integrated self-assessment audit of community facilities
  - ◀ Continue expanding the use and application of PitchPower so all clubs can self-assess provision and support clubs to make positive contributions to improving the quality of grass pitches
  - ◀ Promote technological solutions which progress clubs into being more sustainable, energy efficient and ensure their long-term viability as community assets
  - ◀ Create a platform or resource hub where clubs can access information on funding opportunities, facility management, and sustainable operational practices
- ◀ **Working with Charitable Community Organisations and Wheelchair Rugby League**
  - ◀ Develop an investment package to support the operational delivery of professional club foundation led wheelchair activity focusing on storage and logistical solutions
  - ◀ Prioritise capital investment into community club sites which also accommodate professional club foundations as tenants for community Rugby League activity
  - ◀ Begin work on the feasibility of developing a national wheelchair centre which includes exploring partnership opportunities with other sports to maximise multisport value and return on investment
  - ◀ Consult with professional club foundations, where possible, to understand the need for 3G access and work to ascertain sufficient access hours during peak times of need

#### ***England Hockey Strategy (2023 – 2028)***

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

Aiming to make hockey more noticeable, relevant, and accessible to all, England Hockey have launched their new strategy 'Creating a Future for Our Game Together' on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The new strategy is a continued effort to re-engage with the current hockey community and to reach out to potential newcomers to introduce them to hockey.

Underpinning the strategy and of importance to the hockey community are four values, "collaborate inclusively, care for people and places, play with spirit win with grace and resilient in everything we do".

The strategy is the culmination of two years consultation with various stakeholders across the sport and larger sporting sector. Hockey will be guided by five key objectives over the next five years.

1. Lead Positive Change: to create and champion positive change within the community by broadening and widening the engagement of the sport and making it more ethnically and culturally diverse.

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2. **Meaningful Growth:** to make sure that our sport thrives and grows into the future, we want to nurture a love of hockey within a more diverse group of young players and communities to reflect society.
3. **Drive Visible Impact:** to produce and release high-quality, engaging content that shares the love of the game, captures the passion, builds a deep connection and amplifies the voices of the hockey community with new and existing participants.
4. **Responsible Leadership:** to provide forward thinking, compassionate and inclusive leadership. Leadership that fosters trust within physically and psychologically safe environments and which puts players, the community and sustainability at heart of every decision.
5. **Inspirational International Success:** inspirational club and national teams delivering podium success in Europe and on the world stage, underpinned by a thriving talent system and domestic game.

The strategy aligns with Sport England's 'Uniting the movement' strategy and UK Sport's Powering Success, Inspiring Impact' strategic plan.

#### ***England Netball***

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

The 'Adventure Strategy' outlines the intention to:-

- ▶ accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite
- ▶ elevate the visibility of the sport
- ▶ lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.

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Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

### *Facility Development*

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

- ✦ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives
- ✦ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level
- ✦ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments

For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:

- ✦ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs)
- ✦ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities
- ✦ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours
- ✦ Supports the installation of sports lights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ✦ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres
- ✦ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator

### ***The LTA's Vision and Mission 2024 - 2026<sup>11</sup>***

#### *Tennis Opened Up*

The vision is 'Tennis Opened Up'. These three words are at the heart of the work and shape everything done. Tennis is an amazing sport. Anyone can play; whatever their motivation or ability, from all communities and backgrounds. At any age and for a whole lifetime, tennis provides physical, social and mental rewards both on and off the court. The LTA wants tennis and these fantastic benefits it provides to be open to as many people as possible, across the whole of Britain.

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<sup>11</sup> [lta-strategy-2024-2026.pdf](#)



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### *Mission*

- ◀ Grow tennis by making it welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone
- ◀ Our mission is to grow tennis by making it welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone. We have the focus and determination that, coupled with the support of everyone in tennis, will really make a difference
- ◀ Volunteers, coaches, officials and tennis venues all play an essential role in the future of our sport; without them, tennis can't exist. We're committed to supporting them and working with a whole range of other organisations and individuals connected to our sport, so that together we can grow tennis and open it up to many more people

### *Work*

*The LTA is here to govern and grow tennis in Britain, from grassroots participation through to the professional game. The work it does falls into three main areas:-*

- ◀ Participation - making tennis a sport for anyone to play, through increasing participation and access – for instance, through LTA Youth, the innovative junior programme created to help more children enjoy the benefits of playing and staying in tennis; through Open Court, the successful disability tennis programme which is one of the largest of its kind across any sport and has helped a record number of disabled people enjoy the benefits of tennis; through SERVES, the ground-breaking programme that takes tennis right in to the heart of new communities across Britain; or through the range of national, regional and local tennis competitions that are delivered and support for hundreds of thousands of players throughout the year
- ◀ Performance - becoming one of the most respected nations in the world for player development – for example, through the [Player Pathway](#) that is supporting an nurturing the next generation of elite British players with programmes such as our [Pro Scholarship](#) Programme that's helped the likes of [Emma Raducanu](#) and [Cam Norrie](#) break into the world's top 100; though the ITF Gold Standard [National Tennis Centre](#) which has been equipped with world class courts and facilities, and provides a base for Britain's top tennis and wheelchair tennis players to train; or through the increased number of international tournaments we are staging across Britain throughout the year as part of the [LTA Performance Competitions Calendar](#) as well as summer major events, providing more opportunities for professional British players to compete and win on home soil
- ◀ Transformation - transforming tennis in Britain by working with everyone in the sport – for instance, through the [Inclusion Strategy](#) for tennis in Britain that aims to see tennis to lead the way for inclusion and diversity in sport; through the award-winning [safeguarding](#) work that has put tennis at the forefront of safeguarding in sport, ensuring it remains safe for all; by working with Government and local authorities to deliver a multi-million pound investment programme in [parks tennis facilities](#) for local communities across the country; or through the development of [padel](#) as an exciting new form of tennis that is easy to play, fun for all ages and abilities and extremely sociable, and will help to engage new audiences

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

#### Grass football pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference:				Site Name:					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s):					
Number of football pitches on site:				Pitch size:	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)				
Availability				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?					
				If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues					
Weather at time of visit & date of visit									
Pitch Issues:									
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments	
Playing surface									
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%		Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch		
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No		See size chart below for recommended dimensions		
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe				
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short		Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less		
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage				
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)								Section total	
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No				
Seeded	Yes, as required		Not known		No				
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times		Once/ twice		No				
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
								Section total	
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.									
PITCH SCORE				0.0%	RATING		Poor		

# LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Grass rugby pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference				Site Name					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s)					
Date of assessment				Pitch size		(Senior, Mini/Midi)			
Number of pitches on site				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?					
Availability				If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues					
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Weather at time of visit									
General comments/observations									
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Qualitative information (gathered on site)	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments	
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% = good. <80% = poor		
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)		Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.		
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short		Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm		
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots				
<b>GOALPOSTS</b>									
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No						
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No						
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No						
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No						
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No						
<b>ANCILLARY</b>									
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No						
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No						
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below									
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never		
<b>Pitch Maintenance Score</b>									
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0
<b>Natural (adequate)</b> = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season <b>Natural (inadequate)</b> = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a <b>pipe drained</b> system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a <b>slit drained</b> system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.									

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches									
Site reference			Site Name						
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID						
Number of AGPs on site			Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)			
Availability									
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Type of pitch	{	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)		Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)		Short Pile 3G (40mm)			
		Sand Dressed		Sand Filled		Water based			
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating					Guidance notes	Site comments		
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.		
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes		No						
Are there dug outs?	Yes		No						
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes		No						
Maximum score	93	Scoring:	Poor	<=50	Total Score	0			
			Standard	51-79	Potential Rating	Poor			
			Good	80+					

# LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Cricket non-technical assessment

Element	Rating				Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
<b>About the cricket outfield</b>						
Grass coverage	Good		Acceptable		Poor	ECB falls below the ECB basic standard
Length of grass	Good		Acceptable		Poor	Ideally 42mm - 25mm
Evenness	Even			Uneven		Ball should run without deviation or ramp
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None		Yes		Immediate action required	Play also with in order to more survey. If yes, refer to contractor/side manager
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None		Yes		Immediate action required	eg informal, casual use, unauthorised use, kids kickabout etc. Play also with in order to more survey. If yes, refer to contractor/side manager
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None		Yes		Immediate action required	eg from animals/vehicles - rabbits, gulls and horses etc may also with in order to more survey
<b>Artificial wickets</b>						
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes			No		There should be no trip points
Evenness of wicket	Even			Uneven		There should be no contours in surface levels
Stump holes	Yes			No		Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes			No		There should be none
Rips or surface lifting	Yes			No		16 "yes" - avoid side manager
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes			No		16 "yes" - avoid side manager
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes			No		
<b>Grass wickets</b>						
Presence of line markings	Yes			No		
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes			No		
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes			No		3mm max wicket/12mm max of square
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes			No		
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes			No		ECB falls below the ECB basic standard
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound?	Yes			No		
<b>Changing/ Pavilion</b>						
Umpires provision	Yes			No		
Toilets	Yes			No		
Hot/cold water	Yes			No		
Heating	Yes			No		
Condition of building	Good		Acceptable		Requires attention	
<b>NTP</b>						
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes			No		
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even			Uneven		
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes			No		
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes			No		
No rips or surface lifting	Yes			No		
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes			No		
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes			No		
Is the steel frame/posts upright?	Yes			No		
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes			No		
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes			No		
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes			No		
Is appropriate safety/supervisory signage present?	Yes			No		

### Court non-technical assessment

[illegible]

Element	Rating						Comments				
<b>About the courts</b>											
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Size of courts	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate						
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate						
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		Severe		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor						
<b>Changing Accomodation</b>											
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No								
<b>About the equipment</b>											
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes		No								
Practice wall	Yes		No								



# LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Bowling green non-technical assessment

### Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green

KKPref

Site name:

Number of greens

Flat/crown

Community Use?

**Assessment Criteria** (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating			Comments
<b>About the greens</b>				
Grass cover	Over 70%		40-69%	less than 40%
Evenness of surface	Good		Adequate	Poor
Signs of wear and tear	None		Yes - some	Yes - lots
Condition of ditches/boardings	Good		Adequate	Poor
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good		Adequate	Poor
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes		No	
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good		Adequate	Poor
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None		Yes - some	Yes - lots
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None		Yes - some	Yes - lots
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good		Adequate	Poor
<b>Ancillary facilities</b>				
Changing Accommodation	Yes		No	
Toilets	Yes		No	
Car parking	Yes		No	
<b>General comments about the site:</b>				