



# CASTLE POINT LOCAL FOOTBALL FACILITY PLAN

December 2018



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# Executive Summary

In summary, the LFFP for Castle Point identifies opportunities to accurately target investment in football facilities across the local area.

The national funding partners have significantly increased investment to accelerate efforts to deliver more and better football facilities for the grassroots game and this plan proposes a programme of 12 priority projects for potential investment that will transform local football facilities, including 3G FTPs, improved grass pitches, changing rooms pavilions/clubhouses and small-sided facilities.

This LFFP will be the go-to document for football facility investment in Castle Point, however, it does not guarantee the success of future funding applications; each of the priority projects identified will still have to follow an application process to show how it will deliver key participation outcomes, be a quality & sustainable facility and demonstrate suitable match-funding.



4

3G FTPs

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43

Improved Grass Pitches

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2

Changing rooms / pavilions / clubhouses

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3

Small-sided facilities

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## Next Steps

When each priority project is in a position to proceed, pre-application support will be provided by the Football Foundation and the Essex County FA. We strongly encourage local stakeholders to maintain positive partnerships with these organisations.

The successful delivery of this plan will ultimately require the collective efforts of all local partners. To achieve this, it is recommended that the important work undertaken by these local partners to produce this plan will continue via on-going meetings/dialogue in order to work collaboratively to deliver the priority projects and review progress.

This plan will be updated periodically to ensure it remains up to date and reflective of local needs. If you have a project / opportunity that was not identified at the time of writing this plan, please contact Essex County FA.



““Within 10 years, we aim to deliver great football facilities wherever they're needed””

# Introduction

This is the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for Castle Point. It was prepared by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) with support from local partners, including:

Castle Point Borough Council

Sport England

Essex County FA

Active Essex

Football Foundation

## **What is the goal?**

Every local area in the Country will have a LFFP to enable investment in football facilities to be accurately targeted.

## **Who is behind this?**

The Football Association, the Premier League and Sport England (on behalf of Government). This partnership finances the National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) and commissions the Football Foundation to deliver it.

## **What is the purpose of this plan?**

The national funding partners have significantly increased investment to accelerate efforts to deliver more and better football facilities for the grassroots game. The purpose of this plan is to identify the priority projects for potential investment in Castle Point.



## **Why invest in football facilities?**

As the nation's most popular team sport, football has the power to contribute positively to vital social outcomes and health priorities. To maximise this power, facilities must be welcoming environments to attract first-time users and repeat visits, whether for informal, recreational or competitive football.

Research clearly and continually demonstrates the positive impact high-quality football facilities, in the right locations, can have on participation and enjoyment. Latent demand exists, but facility quantity and quality have to 'step up' if football is to reach out to everyone.

## **How are we going to do it?**

£1.3billion 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). Locally, the work has already started\* - this LFFP will guide the allocation of 90% of national funds and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

## What are the priorities for investment?

This LFFP, with guidance from local partners, has developed a list of high level projects for potential investment. Each is aligned to the investment priorities set out in the National Football Facilities Strategy, which include:

**1,000 new 3G football turf pitches (FTP)s:** in a mix of sizes and settings, dependent upon local needs. All aimed at enhancing the quality of the playing experience.

**20,000 improved natural-turf pitches:** to help address drop-off due to a poor playing experience.

**1,000 new changing pavilions / clubhouses:** all linked to priority sites.

**Small-sided facilities:** to grow the small-sided game for teams & leagues, recreational and informal play.

## What outcomes will be achieved?

The priority projects for potential investment identified in this plan will help develop a sustainable network of quality facilities to drive participation across all parts of the game. Central to this are five key success factors: quality, inclusivity, sustainability, engagement and usage. Each identified project takes account of these factors.

## How should this plan be used?

This LFFP will, in effect, be the go-to document for football facility investment in Castle Point.

Whilst it identifies priority projects for potential investment, it does not guarantee the success of future funding applications. Each project must still follow an application process to show how it will deliver key participation outcomes, become a quality & sustainable facility and demonstrate suitable match-funding.

When each project is in a position to proceed, the Football Foundation will determine a suitable timeframe to submit a grant application and pre-application support will be provided by Essex County FA and the Football Foundation.





Set a 10-Year vision to transform local football facilities

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Act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding

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Be updated up on a regular basis

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### How should this plan NOT be used?

A LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed demand and supply analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. It cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will however build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.



# Castle Point

## Local area

Castle Point is located in the East of England region.

The current population of the Authority (ONS 2017 Mid-Year Estimate) is 89,814. This is expected to rise to 100,309 by 2039.

30.2% of the Castle Point population is within NS SEC classification 6-8 (lower socio-economic groups). This is lower than the national average of 30.6%.

Castle Point's ethnic composition is primarily classified as White (96.9%) which is higher than the national average (85.4%).

The proportion of Castle Point's population represented by the BAME community is 3.1%. This is below the national average of 14.6%.

## Demographics



2017

89,814

Current  
population



2039

100,598

Projected  
population



21st

most  
deprived out  
of 47 local  
authorities in  
the region



187th

most  
deprived out  
of 326 local  
authorities in  
England

### Ethnicity data

- Asian (1.15%)
- Black (0.75%)
- Mixed (1.04%)
- Other (0.17%)
- White (96.89%)



### % of people that are inactive

- Castle Point
- Region
- England



\*ONS data and Sport England Active Lives Survey 2016/17



## Local partners

### Local Authority

Castle Point's Corporate Strategy is committed to reducing social inequality, improving the health of its communities and developing the economy through partnership working with other agencies to enable greater participation in decision making.

To improve the health of its communities, a key strategy objective aims to facilitate the further development of social, recreational and sporting opportunities for local residents. To achieve this, the Local Authority is dedicated to providing good quality leisure facilities.

The Authority has a Playing Pitch Strategy in place; which was produced in 2018. It identifies there is a need for four full size 3G pitches. Currently, there is one full size 3G FTP (Waterside Farm Leisure Centre) resulting in a

shortfall of three pitches. In relation to grass pitches, there are current shortfalls on adult, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches. All pitch types in Castle Point have a potential future shortfall based on predicted future demand. As the PPS has only recently been undertaken and is up to date, it has formed the basis for this Plan. Consequently, no club consultation was undertaken.

## **County Football Association**

Castle Point is covered by Essex County FA which provides governance and development support to all aspects of local football including coaches, referees, volunteers, clubs and leagues; supporting football for all. The County FA has a designated facilities investment lead officer who works to ensure the right facilities are located in the right locations.

## **Football Foundation**

The Regional Engagement Manager and Regional Technical Project Manager at the Football Foundation work collaboratively with the County FA to provide pre-application support to priority projects for potential investment.

## Football Foundation Investment

2

Total grants



£329,627

Total project  
cost



£89,347

Total grant  
value



2

Sites  
improved



1

New 3G FTPs



0

Changing  
rooms /  
pavilions



0

Grass pitches  
improved

\*See Football Foundation website for more information:

<http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/impact/where-our-money-goes>



## **Sport England**

Has a network of planning managers who have a statutory role in the planning system to protect playing fields and provide consultation responses to planning applications relating to sporting facilities. They also play a key role in strategic planning for sports facilities, providing advice and support to local authorities to assess need for facilities in their local area.

## **County Sports Partnership (CSP)**

Active Essex is a publicly funded organisation supported by Essex County Council and Sport England. It aims to make sport accessible for all Essex residents by:

- providing up-to-date information on sports, activities, events and programmes available in and around our county;
- running training courses for those who are seeking a more structured involvement in sport and physical activity, for example as a coach or referee;
- funding clubs, community sport initiatives and individuals through small grants;
- partnering with other organisations and trusted third parties to increase the number and range of opportunities available;
- advocating for improved and enhanced sport facilities, funding and engagement for the communities we serve.

As the strategic lead for physical activity across the county, in its 2017 - 2021 strategy it focuses on getting one million more people active by 2021.

### **Professional Club Community Organisations (CCOs)**

These continue to expand and enhance their range of community delivery, offering a variety of programmes and services to support local communities (sporting and non-sporting). The Southend United Community & Educational Trust delivers a variety of education, engagement, and sporting activities within the local area. These include two KICKS sessions at Waterside Farm on a Tuesday and Thursday evening and a number of intervention programmes at several schools across the Authority.

### **Local leisure operator**

The Local Authority owns and manages all strategic leisure facilities including two key facilities at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre and Runnymede Leisure Centre. Waterside Farm Leisure Centre has a full size 3G FTP which is utilised for both recreational and affiliated football. The sports hall at the site also supports a weekly walking football session.

### **Local consultation**

This has taken place with a broad and diverse set of community groups in Castle Point. Six individuals (representing four local organisations) were consulted. These include:

Castle Point Authority

Essex County Council

Canvey Island Youth Project

Southend United Community & Educational Trust

*(See Appendix B for full list of consultees. This includes all the football clubs which were consulted as part of the PPS)*

## **Local football**

## Clubs

There are over 91,000 community football teams in England, spread over an expansive network of clubs and leagues. Castle Point has a total of 164 teams, which is lower than local areas of a similar size.

The FA is investing to support clubs both on and off the pitch which includes an aim to have a qualified FA coach with every youth team by 2020/21. In addition, it will support 1,000 clubs to create full player pathways from youth to adult teams and develop 150 community football hubs with male and female pathways, disability and recreational playing opportunities.

Over the last 10-years there has been a significant national increase in the number of large multi-team football clubs. In Castle Point, six clubs have more than 10 registered teams. The largest of these (based upon 2017-18 affiliation data) are:

Benfleet Villa FC / Ladies / Youth - 13 teams

Benfleet Youth - 14 teams

Canvey Island FC / Canvey Island Youth / Soccability - 35 teams

Concord Rangers FC / Youth - 15 teams

Mornington Boys Youth - 14 teams

Supreme Youth - 10 teams

## Affiliated Teams



164  
Teams



35  
Adult male  
teams



4  
Adult female  
teams



63  
Youth male  
teams



5  
Youth female  
teams



8  
Disability  
teams



49  
Mini-soccer  
teams

\*The FA Whole Game System - Season 2017/18

## Leagues

Six leagues operate in Castle Point. They offer competitive opportunities for many different players, including youth and adults. Note: the Essex County Girls League, Women's League, Greene King Veterans League and the Essex Soccability League is county wide.

Castle Point's largest local leagues (2017-18) include:

Southend and District Junior Sunday Football League – 356 teams– home and away

South East Essex Primary Mini Soccer League – 291 teams– home and away

Southend Borough Football Combination – 39 teams– home and away

Southend Borough Combination Veterans – 41 teams – home and away

Southend Sunday Football League – 31 teams – home and away

Sceptre Sunday Football League – 55 teams – home and away

The County FA reports that there is some cross boundary migration in Castle Point due to teams migrating outwards to Basildon and Rochford.

## Disability football

There are 9.4 million people in England with a long-standing limiting disability, illness or condition which equates to 18% of the population – almost one in five. Football playing opportunities should be flexible, inclusive and accessible for everyone, whatever their level of ability. This could entail inclusion in mainstream activity or teams / sessions specifically for people with a disability.

In Castle Point there are eight football teams / sessions specifically for people with a disability. It is a priority of the County FA to grow this provision. For talented players the FA run Regional Centres and England national squads.



## Women and girls

The FA has big ambitions for the female game and aims to double levels of participation by 2020. To achieve this requires a combined effort across four pathways: education, recreation, competition and talent.

Education environments have a huge impact on the first experience of football for young girls. This pathway can offer many opportunities for females of all ages to develop and grow a lifelong interest in football.

FA Wildcats girls football centres provide the first step on the recreational pathway, the programme provides girls aged 5-11 with regular opportunities to play football in a fun and engaging environment. Castle Point has two FA Wildcats girls football centres and the priority is to grow this activity.

At nine, Castle Point's number of female teams is lower than local areas of a similar size. The County FA's priority is to support existing clubs to grow and encourage more clubs to develop playing opportunities for females. The local girls league is the Essex County Girls League and matches are played on a home and away basis. The league is expected to grow its provision in future years. The local adult female league is the Essex County Women's League and matches are played on a home and away and the league is expected to sustain its provision in future years.

For talented players, the most local FA Regional Talent Club (RTC) is the Essex County Regional Talent Centre which is located in Colchester. Higher level talent pathway opportunities are also provided regionally and nationally by the FA, culminating in the England Women's national squads. The most local Women's Super League team is West Ham United

Ladies which provides player pathway opportunities for gifted and talented female players and a spectator interest for fans.



## Small-sided football

Many different types of small-sided football are played in England, from teams and leagues to recreational and informal. It is an established and important part of the modern game.



Small-sided **teams & leagues** are organised and competitive activities; typically, with players registered to clubs and affiliated to leagues and their County FAs. Examples include Futsal and local small-sided leagues running at venues such as sports halls, 3G FTPs or small-sided 3G centres.

Key local providers include

Powerplay – Waterside Leisure Centre

Futsal is an exciting, fast-paced, small sided team game that is widely played across the world. Typically, it's played on an indoor surface with

hockey-sized goals and a size 4 football with reduced ball bounce. It is the FA's aim to ensure Futsal is available across the country.

There are currently two futsal teams in Castle Point that play at key site locations including Waterside Leisure Centre. It is a priority for the County FA to grow Futsal for youth, inclusive of boys and girls.



## Recreational football

**Recreational football** is played where facilities are typically booked and there might be someone to help organise. Examples include FA Just Play sessions, walking football and casual pitch hire for small-sided match play.

There is currently one FA Just Play Centre in Castle Point. Walking football sessions are delivered by a range of community organisation such as Castle Point Local Authority. Walking football and Just Play are areas that the County FA has prioritised for further growth and development. Other local recreational football programmes include add other recreation programmes e.g. pro-club community scheme activity / casual bookings which are delivered by a range of organisations including Southend United Community and Educational Trust.

## Summary

The key strengths of local football in Castle Point include disability and youth male provision and it is recommended that this is sustained and also encouraged to grow further. However, there are aspects of football

provision that lower than local authorities of a similar size, these include girls football.

It is therefore recommended that the future football development priorities for Castle Point are:

1. Retain and increase Wildcats offer.
2. Increase ladies football provision.
3. Provide a recreational offer for adults and walking football.
4. Develop a futsal affiliated offer from Waterside Leisure Centre.
5. Increase and sustain the adult male affiliated provision.

The facilities required to assist this are now set out in the Assets and Opportunities section.

Additionally, each priority project that progresses to a funding application via the Football Foundation will produce a detailed 'site development plan' specifying all football development activity, usage and key partner engagement.

# Assets and Opportunities

This section reviews existing football facility assets in Castle Point. It identifies current issues and presents opportunities for improvements, including a list of priority projects for potential investment.

Local assets and opportunities have been reviewed in line with four investment priorities:

1. 3G FTPs
2. Improved grass pitches
3. Changing room pavilions / clubhouses
4. Small-sided facilities

To ensure a consistent and high quality approach, each local area has been reviewed applying a standard approach, supplemented by input from consultation with local partners and stakeholder organisations.

While each investment priority is reviewed individually, it is understood that they can be inter-reliant; account is, thus, taken of these potential connections.



**3G Football Turf Pitches (FTP)**



**Improved Grass Pitches**



**Changing room pavilions / clubhouses**



**Small-sided facilities**

## 3G Football Turf pitches (FTPs)

3G FTPs are a high quality and indispensable part of modern football facilities; their impact cannot be underestimated. In recent years the industry has seen major innovations and improvements to artificial surfaces (and sports lighting). This has created playing surfaces that replicate a good standard natural turf pitch whilst significantly increasing levels of use (x20). All FTPs must have sports lighting to achieve this.

The high quality, consistent playing surface is the ideal environment to play the game and for young people to learn. With regular maintenance programmes, FTPs can be heavily used all year round with no decline in quality. They almost completely negate annoying fixture cancellations during winter months, helping football to be a key part of a regular physical activity habit.

High capacity levels offer a great opportunity to embrace all formats and engage all participants. A full-sized 3G caters for an average of 1,200 participants per week and is suitable for various location types. That means being fully inclusive to all sections of the community, with a particular focus on under-represented groups such as women and girls, people with a disability, BAME communities and people from lower socio-economic groups.

The way 3G FTPs are used is rapidly changing; current line-marking systems allow for match play across all formats of football (5v5, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11). This enables significant levels of match-play to be transferred from grass to 3G.

The national 'Mini Pitch' programme delivers small 3G FTPs at primary school sites to provide a high quality introduction to football and get children more physically active. While mini pitches are reviewed in this section, they are not included in the demand and supply analysis for 3G FTPs.



## Assets and opportunities

FA data states that there is currently one 3G FTP in Castle Point; this is a shortfall of three pitches as identified in the PPS.

The existing 3G FTP is located at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre.

Additionally, there are currently two small-sided 3G FTP pitches, located at:

Cedar Hall School: 54 m x 37m

Seevic College Sports Ground: 36m x 34m

Waterside Farm Leisure Centre is available for community use and is on the FA Register for 3G FTPs (meaning it is quality checked and can be used for football match play). In addition, Cedar Hall School pitch is also on the FA Register.

The geographical spread of existing facilities is uneven; as the only full size pitch is located in the south of the Authority. There are no full size pitches in the north and it is recommended that this is addressed.

Local consultation reveals common issues with low availability and long travel distances and it is recommended that these are addressed. For example, South Benfleet FC is having to travel to Southend to access training facilities due to the lack of provision in Castle Point.





## Priority projects

Four priority projects for potential investment have been identified. Undersupply was calculated using the FA 3G FTP demand and supply model. Each site was selected by local partners based on a rationale of good access, high population, geographical spread, and success:

### 1- Waterside Farm Leisure Centre: New floodlit 11 v 11 3G FTP

**Existing facilities:** Floodlit 11 v 11 3G FTP, 11 full size pitch equivalents. Changing facilities.

**Current users:** Canvey Island Youth, Southend United Community programme.

**Rationale:** Already a well managed strategic centre for both affiliated and recreational football. A second 3G FTP pitch (double hub site) will increase participation and address the shortfall identified in the PPS. Investment will support women & girls participation, junior and senior football, informal/recreational, disability and over 50s football.

### 2- Appleton School: New floodlit 11 v 11 3G FTP

**Existing facilities:** 9 full size pitch equivalents. Changing facilities.

**Current users:** Supreme Youth

**Rationale:** Community focused school in the north of the Borough which currently supports one of the largest clubs in the area. Suitable site to address shortfall and serve local clubs. Investment will support women & girls participation, junior and senior football, informal/recreational, disability and over 50s football.

### 3- Deanes School Sports Centre: New floodlit 11 v 11 3G FTP

**Existing facilities:** 6 full size pitch equivalents. Changing facilities.

**Current users:** Benfleet Villa, Thundersley Athletic First

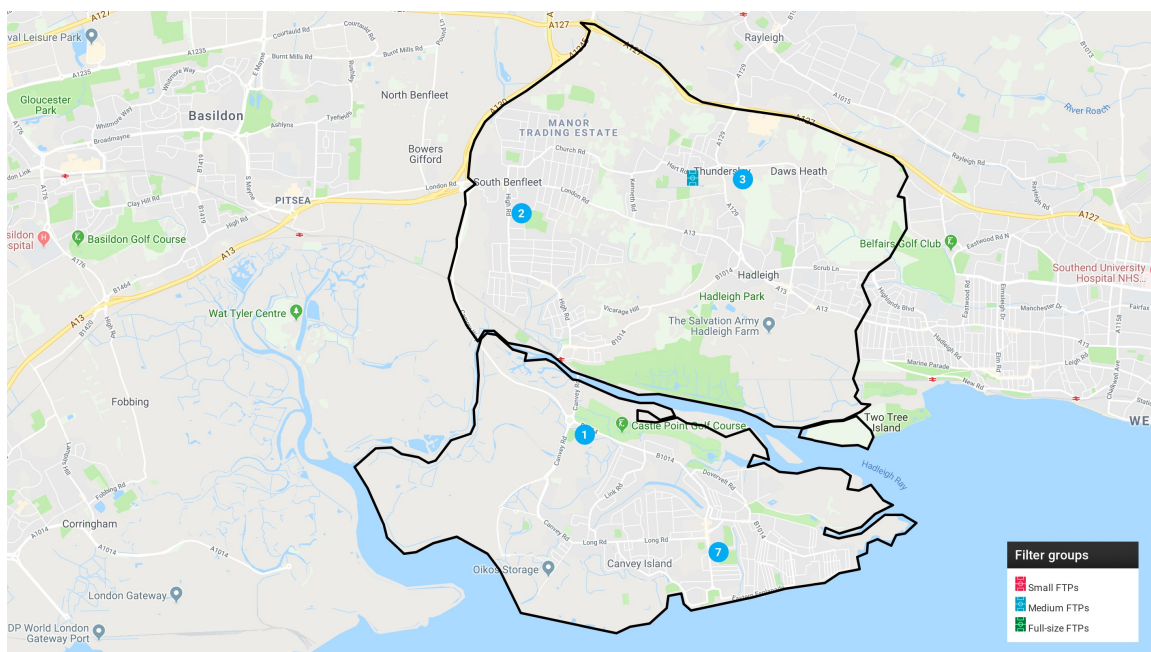
**Rationale:** Deanes School is a community focused school and supports two football clubs. Investment will support women & girls participation, junior and senior football, informal/recreational, disability and over 50s football.

## 7- King George V Playing Fields: New floodlit 7 v 7 3G FTP

**Existing facilities:** 5 full size pitch equivalents. Changing facilities.

**Current users:** CT 66 FC

**Rationale:** A small sided provision at this site will not only support affiliated football, it will also support Canvey Island Youth Project, who currently deliver enrichment programmes from its offices within the playing fields. Investment will support women & girls participation, junior and senior football, informal/recreational, disability and over 50s football.



Map data ©2021 Google

Current and proposed 3G FTPs

# Improved Grass Pitches

Playing fields are one of the most important resources for sport in England. All football players should have the opportunity to play on good quality grass pitches. However, FA data shows that 63% of pitches in England are poor / low standard and 1 in 6 games are cancelled. As such, poor pitch quality is consistently cited as the number one issue for players.

The priority is, therefore, to sustainably improve grass pitch quality across all main pitch owners (local authorities, education establishments and clubs). However, the level of maintenance required to obtain good quality standards is regularly affected by restricted budgets and limited knowledge/ training. Compaction and grass coverage are two key causes of poor quality pitches. Both are commonly treated via a maintenance driven solution (and do not necessarily require costly drainage schemes).

Playing fields are also a valuable resource for informal play and open-access sites are encouraged but, for many, problems such as dog fouling and vandalism mean that they need to be protected with mitigation measures such as fencing.

In many local areas the key challenge is to create a sustainable approach to provide good quality football pitches for the long-term. Many local authorities (78%) intend to increase pitch hire fees in the future. However, many players (63%) believe facilities are already expensive and some (16%) believe prices are prohibitive. A sustainable solution should, therefore, carefully balance pitch quality and affordability.

While the education sector (37%) and local authorities (32%) are still the principal asset owners of grass pitches, clubs / leagues own or maintain an increasing share (currently 25%). Assets and opportunities have been considered across each sector.



## Assets and opportunities

PPS Data indicates that there are currently nine grass pitch sites in Castle Point with three or more full-size pitch equivalents containing 46 grass pitches.

Eight pitches are considered to be either standard or poor, and have been identified for investment through the steering group. Local consultation, as illustrated in the PPS, shows common issues with poor quality, particularly with drainage, and it is recommended that this is addressed



9

Key grass pitch sites

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8

Sites prioritised for improvement

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43

Full-sized pitch equivalents at these sites

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## Priority projects

Eight priority projects for potential investment have been identified. Each site has three or more full-size pitch equivalents of poor or standard

quality rated pitches. Pitch quality rating was evidenced by the PPS and qualified by local partners. The prioritisation was informed by local partners with the rationale of selecting sites that were most well utilised:

#### **1- Waterside Farm Leisure Centre: Works to natural grass pitches**

**Existing facilities:** Floodlit 11 v 11 3G FTP, 11 full size pitch equivalents. Changing facilities.

**Current users:** Canvey Island Youth, Southend United Community programme.

**Rationale:** Standard quality rated pitch identified for investment. Investment will support junior football, women and girls and senior football.

#### **3- Deanes School Sports Centre: Works to natural grass pitches**

**Existing facilities:** 6 full size pitch equivalents. Changing facilities.

**Current users:** Benfleet Villa, Thundersley Athletic First

**Rationale:** Standard quality rated pitch identified for investment. Investment will support junior football, women and girls and senior football.

#### **4- Benfleet Playing Fields: Works to natural grass pitches**

**Existing facilities:** 4 full size pitch equivalents. Changing provision.

**Current users:** Richmond Rangers

**Rationale:** Standard quality rated pitch identified for investment. Investment will support junior football, women and girls and senior football.

#### **5- Castle View School: Works to natural grass pitches**

**Existing facilities:** 4 full size pitch equivalents. Changing provision.

**Current users:** Concorde Rangers

**Rationale:** Poor quality rated pitch identified for investment. Investment will support junior football, women and girls and senior football.

#### **6- John H Burrows Ground: Works to natural grass pitches**

**Existing facilities:** 5 full size pitch equivalents. Changing facilities.

**Current users:** Benfleet Villa

**Rationale:** Standard quality rated pitch identified for investment. Investment will support junior football, women and girls and senior football.

#### **7- King George V Playing Fields: Works to natural grass pitches**

**Existing facilities:** 5 full size pitch equivalents. Changing facilities.

**Current users:** CT 66 FC

**Rationale:** Poor quality rated pitch identified for investment. Investment will support junior football, women and girls and senior football.

#### **8- The Cornelius Vermuyden School: Works to natural grass pitches**

**Existing facilities:** 5 full size pitch equivalents. Changing facilities.

**Current users:** Mornington Boys

**Rationale:** Poor quality rated pitch identified for investment. Investment will support junior football, women and girls and senior football.

#### **10- Woodside Park: Works to natural grass pitches**

**Existing facilities:** 3 full size pitch equivalents. Changing facilities.

**Current users:** Benfleet Youth

**Rationale:** Standard quality rated pitch identified for investment. Investment will support junior football, women and girls and senior football.

All grass pitch improvement projects identified above should be considered in line with the strategic recommendation made in the overarching South Essex PPS to adopt a collaborative approach to improving football facilities. This is to be overseen by the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA), which consists of Basildon,

Brentwood, Castle Point, Essex County, Rochford, and Southend-on-Sea Councils.



Map data ©2021 Google

Current grass pitches and sites identified for investment

## Changing room pavilions / clubhouses

These can provide a number of different benefits. While the primary function is normally the provision of changing rooms to accommodate match-play and training (for players and officials), there can be equal value in facilities such as community and education rooms, catering facilities and spectator toilets.

Each project will take a progressive approach to pavilions and clubhouses (beyond the provision of changing rooms) and be open to new opportunities to engage the whole community. That means, creating environments that are welcoming to players, spectators, volunteers, officials and all sections of the community.

Such assets should support other investment priorities (e.g. 3G FTPs and grass pitches) and be located at sites that will have the greatest impact on local communities. To ensure this, focus is given to sites with three or more full-size pitch equivalents. However, as pitch quality is the number one priority for players this is prioritised before investment in changing room pavilions /clubhouses.

Clearly, facilities need to be well managed and maintained to keep them in a good state of repair. Consideration will be given to reviewing the best operator solution for key sites and the installation of revenue generating features such as catering facilities and community rooms. To achieve this, business plan support will be given to each priority project as it progresses to an application to the Football Foundation.



## Assets and opportunities

Of the nine key sites with three or more full-size pitch equivalents in Castle Point, seven have suitable changing room pavilions/clubhouses, one has a facility that needs improvement/ replacement and one has no suitable facility and requires a new changing pavilion.



7

Key sites have suitable changing rooms /pavilions / clubhouses

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1

Require improvement / replacement

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1

Have no facilities and require new builds

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## Priority projects

Two priority projects for potential investment have therefore been identified. Each project has three or more full-size pitch equivalents and has either no facilities or was deemed to have an unsuitable pavilion:

### 1- Waterside Farm Leisure Centre: New changing pavilion.

**Existing facilities:** Floodlit 11 v 11 3G FTP, 11 full size pitch equivalents. Changing facilities.

**Current users:** Canvey Island Youth, Southend United Community programme.

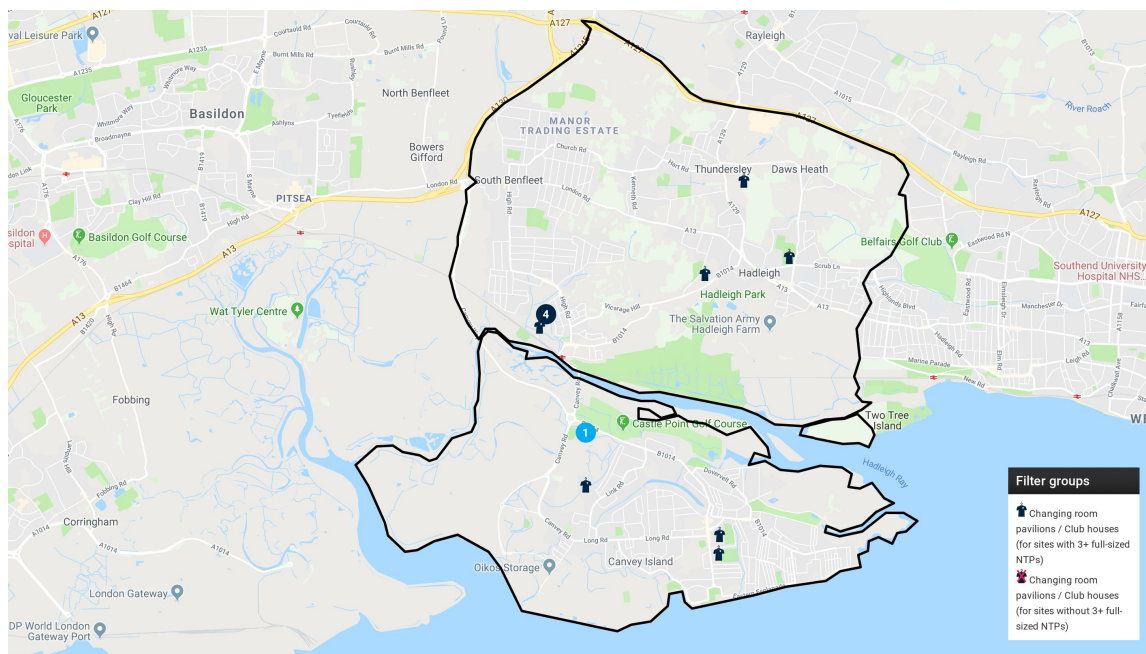
**Rationale:** Changing provision to be upgraded from a temporary portacabin to brick build. Investment will support junior football, women and girls and senior football.

### 4- Benfleet Playing Fields: Changing pavilion upgrade

**Existing facilities:** 4 full size pitch equivalents. Changing provision.

**Current users:** Richmond Rangers

**Rationale:** Changing room expansion required to support Richmond Ranger's ambition. Investment will support junior football, women and girls and senior football.



Map data ©2021 Google

Current changing pavilions and sites identified for investment.

## Small-sided facilities

Good facilities are important to all small-sided football players, but it is important to understand the different formats of the small-sided game and the various facility types they relate to.

Research suggests that small-sided players in teams & leagues, and in recreational sessions, prefer a 3G surface type because it replicates a good standard natural turf pitch. These facilities have already been covered in the 3G FTP section of this LFFP.

Indoor environments currently accommodate 20% of football participation and are also popular with players in teams & leagues and recreational sessions. Indoor sports halls are most popular, along with some community halls and indoor 3G centres. Environments need to be engaging, have clear line-marking and the correct size goalposts.

Informal players require facilities that are open and free to access as this enables play opportunities that are often spontaneous. In these circumstances multi-use games areas (MUGAs) can be effective in areas of high urban population and limited green space. Such facilities can be modern, bright, creative and engaging. While this plan will identify suitable locations for such facilities, the design and specifics of the facility type can be agreed at a later stage with Football Foundation staff when projects are ready to progress to pre-application stage.

Parks and open green spaces are also important to informal play and require goalposts and zones that are free from litter and dog fouling.



## Priority projects



0

Better Indoor spaces

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3

MUGAs

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0

Better parks / open green spaces

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## Indoor

Following local consultation, no indoor facilities have been identified to support small-sided informal football.

## Multi-use Games Areas (MUGAs)

Three potential opportunities for MUGAs have been identified. In each case the rationale is based on the site being in an area of high urban population, limited green space, high levels of deprivation, high levels of lower social economic groups and corresponding high local demand for informal football:

### 11- Kismet Park: MUGA upgrade

**Existing facilities:** MUGA (Adi Zone)

**Current users:** Recreational football

**Rationale:** Poor quality facility. Investment will support recreational football.

### 12- Benfleet Cricket Club: MUGA upgrade

**Existing facilities:** Poor quality tennis courts

**Current users:** n/a

**Rationale:** Popular area where youths congregate. Tennis courts on site would be an ideal option to upgrade to a football facility to support the community. Investment will support recreational football.

### 13- Legacy XS- Benfleet: MUGA upgrade

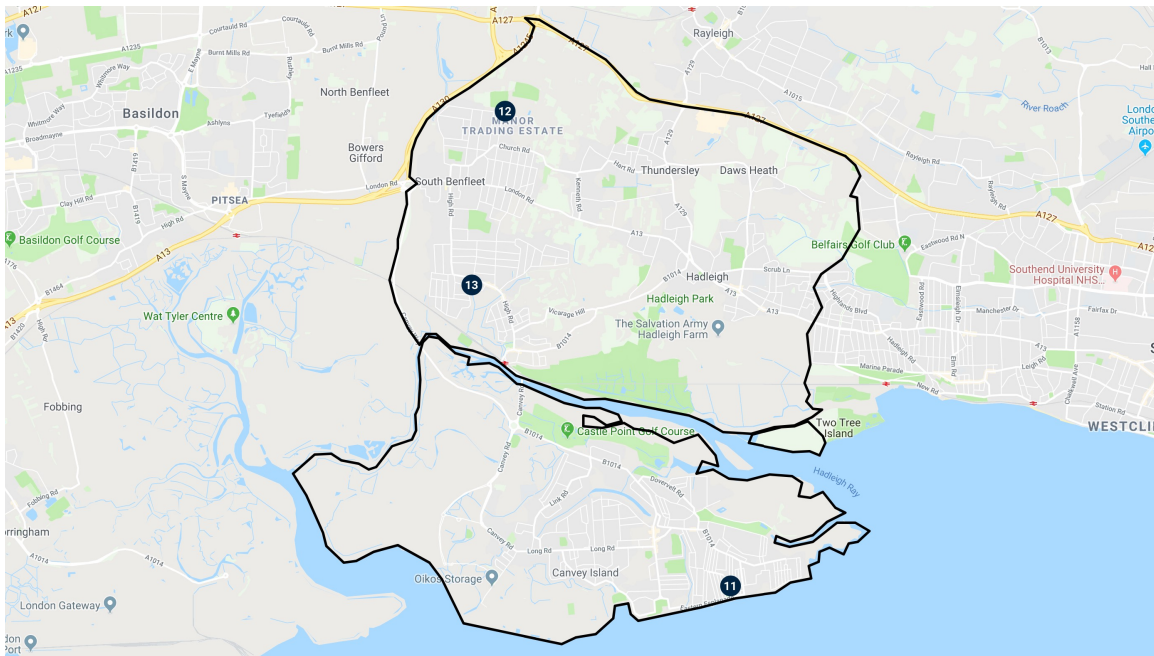
**Existing facilities:** Poor quality tennis courts

**Current users:** n/a

**Rationale:** Stake park with a basketball court. Consultation indicates this would be a good site to upgrade which will support youth engagement. Investment will support recreational football.

## Parks and open green spaces

Following local consultation, no locations have been identified to support small-sided informal football.



Map data ©2021 Google

## Small sided and recreational facility proposals

# Appendix A: Priority Project List

This list compiles all of the priority projects for potential investment. Each project has been scored against two principle factors: deliverability and outcomes (quality, inclusivity, sustainability, engagement and usage).

The list will be used flexibly; a projects 'rating' does not determine the exact order that it will progress to a funding application to the Football Foundation as we understand there are many factors that influence this. The process for moving a project from this list and into the 'pre-application stage' will be managed by the Football Foundation.

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## 1. Waterside Farm Leisure Centre

### LOCATION

WATERSIDE FARM LEISURE CENTRE SOMNES AVENUE, CANVEY ISLAND, Essex, SS8 9RA

### FACILITIES

New 11v11 Floodlit 3G FTP (1)  
New Changing Pavilion (1)  
Natural grass pitch improvements (11)

### OWNER

Local Authority

### DELIVERABILITY SCORE

High (3/4)

### NFFS OUTCOME SCORE

3.6/4

### OVERALL SCORE

84% (10.1/12)

### PROJECT FOCUS

Adult female; Disability; IMD / lower social economic groups; Small-sided informal; Small-sided recreational; Small-sided teams and leagues; Youth female; Youth male

---

## 2. Appleton School

### LOCATION

THE APPLETON SCHOOL Croft Road, South Benfleet, Essex, SS7 5RN

### FACILITIES

New 11v11 Floodlit 3G FTP (1)

### OWNER

Local Authority

### DELIVERABILITY SCORE

Medium (2/4)

### NFFS OUTCOME SCORE

3.3/4

### OVERALL SCORE

72% (8.6/12)

### PROJECT FOCUS

Adult female; Adult male; Disability; IMD / lower social economic groups; Small-sided informal; Small-sided recreational; Small-sided teams and leagues; Youth female; Youth male

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3. The Deanes School Sports Centre

LOCATION

DEANES SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE DAWS HEATH ROAD, BENFLEET, Essex, SS7 2TD

FACILITIES

New 11v11 Floodlit 3G FTP (1)  
Natural grass pitch improvements (6)

OWNER

Education

DELIVERABILITY SCORE

Medium (2/4)

NFFS OUTCOME SCORE

3.1/4

OVERALL SCORE

68% (8.1/12)

PROJECT FOCUS

Adult female; Adult male; Disability; IMD / lower social economic groups; Small-sided informal; Small-sided recreational; Small-sided teams and leagues; Youth female; Youth male

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4. Benfleet Playing Fields

LOCATION

Location details: Benfleet Playing Fields

FACILITIES

Natural grass pitch improvements (4)  
Refurbish Changing Pavilion (1)

OWNER

Local Authority

DELIVERABILITY SCORE

Medium (2/4)

NFFS OUTCOME SCORE

3.0/4

OVERALL SCORE

67% (8.0/12)

PROJECT FOCUS

Adult female; Adult male; Mini-soccer; Youth female; Youth male

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5. Castle View School

**LOCATION**

Location details: Castle View School

**FACILITIES**

Natural grass pitch improvements (4)

**OWNER**

Education

**DELIVERABILITY SCORE**

Medium (2/4)

**NFFS OUTCOME SCORE**

3.0/4

**OVERALL SCORE**

67% (8.0/12)

**PROJECT FOCUS**

Adult female; Adult male; IMD / lower social economic groups; Small-sided informal;  
Small-sided teams and leagues; Youth female; Youth male

---

6. John H Burrows Ground

LOCATION

Location details: John H Burrows Ground

FACILITIES

Natural grass pitch improvements (5)

OWNER

Local Authority

DELIVERABILITY SCORE

Medium (2/4)

NFFS OUTCOME SCORE

3.0/4

OVERALL SCORE

67% (8.0/12)

PROJECT FOCUS

Adult female; Adult male; Youth female; Youth male

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7. King George V Playing Fields

LOCATION

KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS Blackthorne Road, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 7BJ

FACILITIES

Natural grass pitch improvements (5)  
New 5v5 Floodlit 3G FTP (1)

OWNER

Local Authority

DELIVERABILITY SCORE

Medium (2/4)

NFFS OUTCOME SCORE

3.0/4

OVERALL SCORE

67% (8.0/12)

PROJECT FOCUS

Adult female; Adult male; Small-sided informal; Youth female; Youth male

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## 8. The Cornelius Vermuyden School

### LOCATION

THE CORNELIUS VERMUYDEN SCHOOL Dinant Avenue, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 9QS

### FACILITIES

Natural grass pitch improvements (5)

### OWNER

Education

### DELIVERABILITY SCORE

Medium (2/4)

### NFFS OUTCOME SCORE

3.0/4

### OVERALL SCORE

67% (8.0/12)

### PROJECT FOCUS

Adult female; Adult male; Youth female; Youth male

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## 10. Woodside Park

### LOCATION

WOODSIDE PARK Woodside View, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 4PB

### FACILITIES

Natural grass pitch improvements (3)

### OWNER

Local Authority

### DELIVERABILITY SCORE

Medium (2/4)

### NFFS OUTCOME SCORE

3.0/4

### OVERALL SCORE

67% (8.0/12)

### PROJECT FOCUS

Adult female; Adult male; Youth female; Youth male

---

## 11. Kismet Park

### LOCATION

Location details: Kismet Park

### FACILITIES

Small sided informal (MUGA) (1)

### OWNER

Local Authority

### DELIVERABILITY SCORE

Low (1/4)

### NFFS OUTCOME SCORE

2.4/4

### OVERALL SCORE

48% (5.7/12)

### PROJECT FOCUS

Small-sided recreational; Small-sided teams and leagues

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## 12. Benfleet Cricket Club

### LOCATION

Location details: Benfleet Cricket Club

### FACILITIES

Small sided informal (MUGA) (1)

### OWNER

Other

### DELIVERABILITY SCORE

Low (1/4)

### NFFS OUTCOME SCORE

2.0/4

### OVERALL SCORE

42% (5.0/12)

### PROJECT FOCUS

Small-sided informal; Small-sided recreational

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### 13. Legacy XS - Benfleet

#### LOCATION

Location details: Legacy XS - Benfleet

#### FACILITIES

Small sided informal (MUGA) (1)

#### OWNER

Other

#### DELIVERABILITY SCORE

Low (1/4)

#### NFFS OUTCOME SCORE

2.0/4

#### OVERALL SCORE

42% (5.0/12)

#### PROJECT FOCUS

Small-sided informal; Small-sided recreational

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A project's overall score provides an indication of its potential outcomes and deliverability only (weighted twice as much towards the outcomes score). It does not impact the likelihood or level of any potential investment.

## Appendix B: Consultation List

Planning Manager: Castle Point Council

Operational Services Manager: Castle Point Council

Leisure and Community Services Manager: Castle Point Council

Programme Manager: Canvey island Youth Project

Youth Manager: Essex County Council

Programme Manager: Southend United Community Foundation

Relationship manager: Active Essex

Catholic United FC

Ekco Whitecaps FC

Leigh Ramblers FC

Leigh Ramblers Girls FC

Leigh Ramblers Youth FC

Southend Manor FC

Trinity Girls FC

Trinity Youth FC