

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT NOVEMBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
MUGA	Multi use games area
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NLS	National League System
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFC	Rugby Football Club
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
U	Under
WNLS	Women's National League System

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned by Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) to undertake a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). This will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting relevant provision within the local authority area.

This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across Castle Point. For playing pitch sports, it is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance. This details five stages for the developing the study:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (1).
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision (2 & 3).
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (4, 5 & 6).
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy (7 & 8).
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (9 & 10).

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D covered in the ensuing strategy document. Stage E references the ongoing work that will be required once the PPOSS has been approved and adopted.

For “non-pitch” sports, Sport England's ‘Assessing Needs and 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.

1.2: Prepare and tailor the approach (Stage A)

Management arrangements

The project team from the 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.

A wider Steering Group will also lead and drive the Strategy forward during its development whilst ensuring the delivery of its recommendations. Membership of the Steering Group will be balanced and representative of the different parties and key drivers behind the Strategy. As a minimum, it will comprise of the Council, Sport England, Active Essex, and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

Discussions and sign off will be required by the Steering Group at the following key stages:

- ◀ Initial preparation (stage A).
- ◀ Information gathering update (stage B).
- ◀ Assessment Report (stage C).
- ◀ Strategy development (stage D).
- ◀ Strategy sign-off and implementation (stage E).

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The Steering Group will also be involved in the following:

- ✦ Identifying who should be consulted regarding supply and demand information.
- ✦ Helping to achieve club survey response rates.
- ✦ Establishing the approach to collecting quality data and agreeing quality ratings
- ✦ Checking and challenging key findings within the Assessment Report
- ✦ Defining the scenarios that need to be tested.
- ✦ Checking and challenging recommendations and actions within the Strategy
- ✦ Where unforeseen problems occur, deciding how to progress the PPOSS.

In addition to this Stage A document, project outputs will consist of the following:

- ✦ A stage B report detailing key issues gathered from site assessments and consultation.
- ✦ An Assessment Report providing sport-by-sport supply and demand analysis (an interim “winter” report will be produced before the full document.
- ✦ A Strategy and Action Plan containing sport-by-sport and strategic recommendations and scenarios.
- ✦ The PPOSS database which holds all supply and demand information used to inform the study.
- ✦ GIS mapping.

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy once it is completed. This monitoring, as it is being delivered with the existing study, should be led by the local authority, and supported by the Steering Group.

To enable efficiencies, the data that has informed previous studies will be used as a starting point to inform this study where relevant, for example, the existing site IDs will be utilised, where possible, for ease of reference and to allow for simple site-by-site and area-by-area comparison.

National Planning Policy Framework

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.”

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.

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Paragraphs 105, 106, and 107 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

Local context

Castle Point is a small authority covering 47 sq. km, and with a population of around 90,300 residents. This population is projected to increase to around 97,000 by 2043. Within the resident population there is a greater than average proportion of people aged over 65. This proportion of older people is expected to increase into the future.

The population in Castle Point is relatively inactive compared to elsewhere. Data from 2020/21 shows that 26.8% of adults were inactive compared to the national average of 23.4%. This inactivity is reflected in the level of obesity which sits at 10.5% for reception aged children, and 19.3% for year 6 children. 70.5% of adults are overweight or obese. This has implications for health outcomes.

There is a difference between health outcomes in different parts of the Borough. Canvey is relatively more deprived than parts of Benfleet, Hadleigh and Thundersley and this is reflected in health outcomes. On Canvey there are above average admissions for COPD, stroke, and coronary heart disease. Average life expectancy in some parts of Canvey Island is 10 years less than in some parts of Benfleet.

Because of these health challenges, the area has been identified as a priority place by Sport England for place-based funding to drive up activity levels within the community. Sport England's Place Partnership work has committed to a package of £250 million National Lottery and Exchequer funding in areas that have been identified as having the greatest needs.

This investment aims to build upon existing knowledge and target action into those areas. The work will gain a greater understanding of the local people within an area and use that to create change and increase activity levels. This has been found to be beneficial to existing places on the scheme, Castle Point was announced as one of the new locations in November 2023. The PPOSS therefore has great opportunity to supplement this work.

Despite the challenges that exist in terms of local activity levels, there are good opportunities for sports participation in Castle Point. There are two Council run 'pay as you go' sports centres offering swimming, gym, and classes. The larger sports centre at Waterside Farm on Canvey Island also offers indoor courts in a large multi-use sports hall. This is supplemented by provision in schools across the Borough, with the Deanes School in Thundersley being a sports academy. There are outdoor pitches across the Borough owned by the Council, by schools and by community sports organisations. Some of the facilities owned by sports organisations have changing and club facilities. There is also a private Virgin Active Sports Club, a public (PAYG) golf course and a private golf course and several private gyms and studios.

The national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) have provided updates on demand and participation rates since 2018, first in 2022 and again in 2023. These updates indicate that there has generally been an uplift in demand since 2018 across the different sports, with demand for additional pitches for rugby union and football. Additionally, there has been an uplift in demand for female participation, requiring adaptations to changing and club facilities to accommodate.

The sustainability of club and changing facilities has also arisen as an issue, particularly in light of the increased costs of fuel. Meanwhile, extreme weather has affected the playability of some pitches during times of intense heat or intense wet weather.

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These local challenges need to be addressed through the new sports strategies in order to ensure that it delivers a locally responses and place-based approach to pitch and sport development that meets the needs of local people and local stakeholders.

The purpose of the PPOSS is to provide new, up-to-date evidence which will ensure the Borough has a framework for the prioritisation, provision and development of sports pitches and supporting facilities.

The study will also inform and support the implementation of the emerging Castle Point Plan policies relating to the protection, improvement and provision of community sport and physical activity facilities. It will provide a robust evidence-based framework to direct the supply of sports facilities and support negotiations with developers throughout the proposed plan period (up to 2043).

This work will ensure that a planned approach to sport and physical activity facilities takes place in Castle Point now and up to 2043, ensuring that the community has access to high quality facilities, helping communities to increase their levels of physical activity and improve their health and well-being.

The PPOSS will assess all relevant outdoor sport and recreation facilities and will include the following components:

- ✦ Identify the current and projected local need (supply and demand against population projections) for outdoor sports facilities, playing pitches, and playing fields.
- ✦ Assess the quantitative and qualitative deficits and/or surpluses of outdoor sports facilities and playing pitches and options for dealing with them now and in the future.
- ✦ Provide a robust and comprehensive evidence base to inform the Council's decision-making processes in planning applications and public inquiries, particularly regarding mitigation and offsetting any potential losses.
- ✦ Provide information on different management models to help remove access barriers to outdoor sports facilities.
- ✦ Consultation with providers and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) as well as site visits as a means of gathering supply and demand information and views regarding the current quality and amount of use of the sites.
- ✦ Comply with the "Duty to Cooperate" through actively engaging neighbouring boroughs and any other relevant organisations during the preparation of the study, particularly in relation to any cross-boundary facilities and/or where adjacent boroughs rely on the provision within Castle Point.

Place Partnership Expansion¹

Sport England has launched a major and unprecedented expansion of its investment into local communities across England, to ensure those in greatest need are able to play sport and be physically active.

To tackle this, Sport England is expanding its Place Partnerships programme, which will see £190 million of National Lottery and Exchequer funding invested in up to 80-100 new places across England over the next 5 years. Targeted local investment and resources will help to increase activity levels, decrease inactivity and breakdown the barriers and inequalities that prevent people from playing sport or being active.

¹ <https://www.activeessex.org/place-partnership-expansion/>

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Since 2018, Sport England has tested Place Partnerships through a place-based approach of working with 'Local Delivery Pilots' in 12 of the country's most disadvantaged and least active communities. This has included Essex, where particular focus has been in Basildon, Colchester and Tendring. Sport England have chosen three new Place Partnerships for Essex: 1) Castle Point, 2) Harlow, 3) Thurrock.

Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 2022 – 2026

Every local area must have a Health and Wellbeing Strategy setting out the priorities identified through a Needs Assessment that local government, the NHS and other partners will deliver together through its Health and Wellbeing Board.

Essex JHWS aims to improve the health and wellbeing of all residents by creating a culture and environment that reduces inequalities and enables residents of all ages to live healthier lives.

To achieve this, the JHWS identifies five key priorities, all of which have specific development outcomes which need to be achieved through partnership work, as outlined below.

Table 1.1: Essex JHWS priorities and outcomes

Priority	Outcome
Improving mental health and wellbeing	Supported the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and families with a focus on the vulnerable. Reduced loneliness and social isolation. Reduced suicide through a focus on system support
Physical activity and healthy weight	Enabled children, young people and their families to be more physically active. Improved levels of physical activity amongst adults by helping them find ways to integrate physical activity into their daily lives. Improved nutritional awareness, healthy eating, and help low-income households access affordable healthy food options.
Supporting long term independence	Improved access to advice and guidance including financial support so that residents with long-term conditions and their carers can better manage their conditions. Reduced digital exclusion to improve access to advice and support online. Help all residents have better access to opportunities in education, work, skills, housing, and their social lives.
Alcohol and substance misuse	Improve access to advice, support and treatment for residents experiencing alcohol or substance use issues. Work across the system to help address the challenges of county lines and drugs related criminality. Educate children, young people, adults, and families on the risks associated with alcohol and substance misuse.
Health inequalities & the wider determinants of Health	Ensure that all children have access to quality parenting, early years provision and education that provide the foundations for later in life. Address food poverty and ensure that all children can access healthy food. Improve access to employment, education and training for adults and young people in our most deprived communities. Embed the use of health impact assessments in planning practice to ensure new planning proposals do not negatively impact on health, health services or widen health inequalities.

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Fit for the Future: Active Essex Implementation Plan 2021-31

Launched in July 2021, the Fit for the Future strategy provides a rallying call to action for the thousands of organisations and people across Essex who recognise the enormous contribution physical activity and sport makes to the health and wellbeing of everyone.

As of June 2021, there were over 1.6 million people living in Greater Essex and 901,000 are active adults who participate in over 150 minutes of physical activity per week.

Active Essex wants to increase this number, unite in one direction and over the next 10 years, create an active Essex to improve everyone's health and wellbeing. To achieve this, the Local Partnership sets out the following key objectives.

- ▶ **Strengthening Communities-** All communities across Essex, Southend and Thurrock use the power of physical activity and sport to build resilience, connection and wellbeing.
- ▶ **Active Environments-** To work collectively to develop and provide well connected, accessible places and spaces that encourage people to be active.
- ▶ **Children and Young People-** To ensure every child has the best start in life, whereby they are active, healthy and happy.
- ▶ **Levelling Up Health and Wellbeing-** To change behaviours, which will enable and empower people to do things for themselves and their local communities. Physical activity is the highest priority for good health.
- ▶ **Sport and Physical Activity-** To support the recovery, development and growth of our sport and physical activity sector, in order to collectively increase opportunities for all.

Study area

The study area comprises the full local authority area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for Castle Point as a whole.

For consistency and comparison purposes, the analysis areas have remained as per the previous study (taking into account any ward boundary changes), with Steering Group representatives' content with this approach and reporting that they worked well.

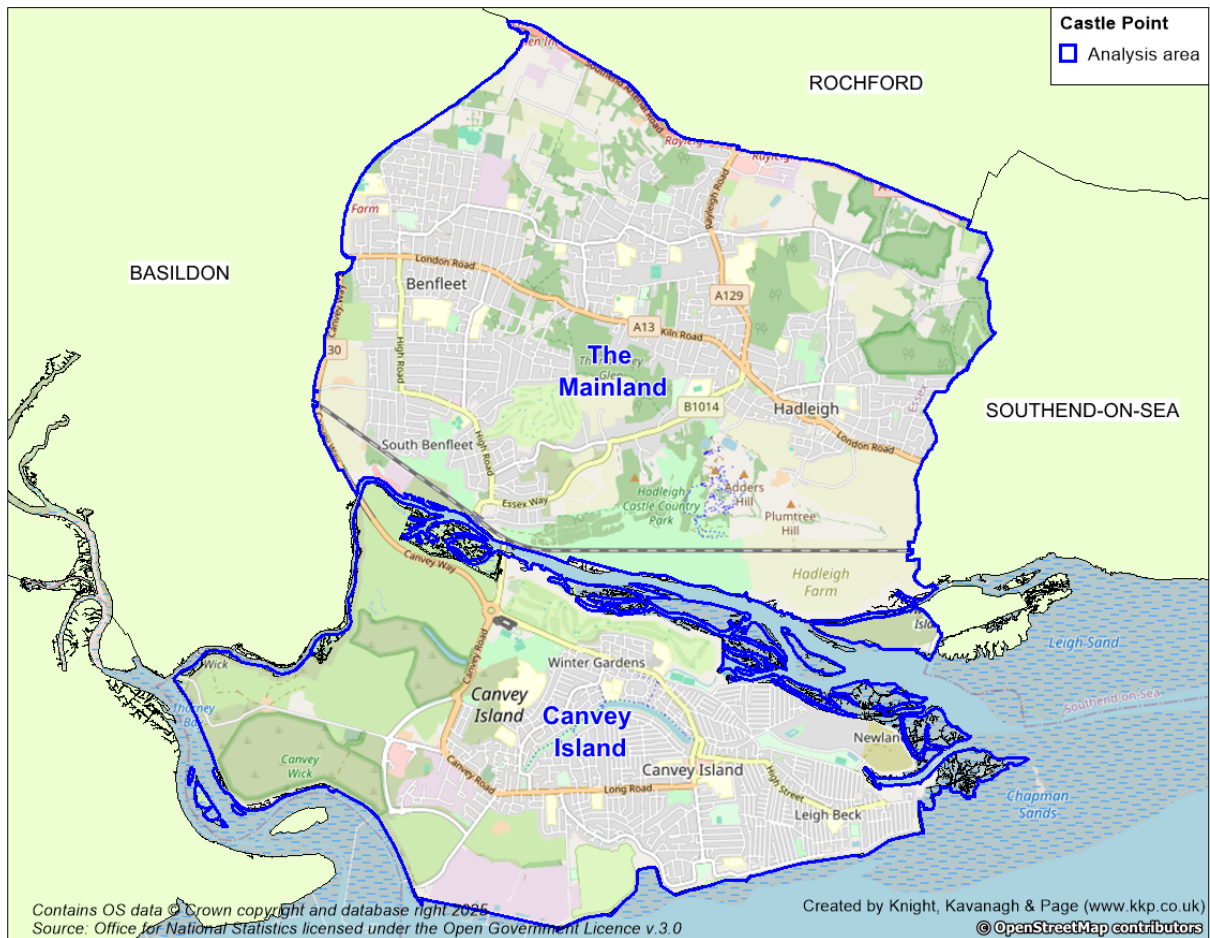
The two sub-areas can be seen via the table and figure below.

Table 1.2: Agreed analysis areas

Analysis area	Wards included
Canvey Island	Canvey Island West, Canvey Island Winter Gardens, Canvey Island Central, Canvey Island North, Canvey Island South, Canvey Island East
The Mainland	St George's, St Peter's, Cedar Hall, Victoria, Appleton, St Mary's, Boyce, St James

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Figure 1.1: Map of Castle Point with analysis areas



Cross-boundary aspects are also recognised in regard to neighbouring (and nearby) local authorities including Thurrock, Basildon, Rochford and Southend-on-Sea. This includes reference to imported and exported demand, into and from, Castle Point as well as key sites and developments that sit close to boundary lines.

Scope

The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. As per the previous study, provision for the following sports is included:

- ◆ Athletics.
- ◆ Bowls.
- ◆ Cricket.
- ◆ Cycling.
- ◆ Football (3Gs).
- ◆ Golf.
- ◆ Hockey (AGPs).
- ◆ Netball.
- ◆ Parkour.
- ◆ Rugby union.
- ◆ Tennis (padel/pickleball).

Other grass pitch sports will also be included if and where supply and/or demand is identified (e.g., rugby league, lacrosse, American football, and Gaelic football).

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Furthermore, specific 3G pitch detail will also be included due to the range of sports that can be accommodated on the provision. This primarily pertains to football but can also be relevant to rugby union and other grass pitch sports identified.

In addition, multi-use games areas (MUGAs) will also be captured.

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

A clear picture of the supply and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in the area is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This is achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

Quantity

Where known, all playing pitch facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use.

Sites have been initially identified using 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. 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.

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 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order':

- ✦ **Playing field** – the whole of a site that encompasses at least one playing pitch.
- ✦ **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.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, the PPOSS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha. The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible, this report aims to capture all of the playing pitches within Castle Point; however, there may be instances that have led to omissions, such as unused school sites where access was not possible (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included within the study where provision is known to exist from other sources e.g., affiliation data or club/league consultation). Where provision has not been recorded within the report, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so.

Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

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Accessibility

Not all pitches offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of playing pitches also influences their 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 playing field** – any sites where outdoor sports facilities were once provided but are no longer used, yet they remain undeveloped and could therefore be brought back into use.

The lawful use of a disused playing field is still that of a playing field until such time as it is developed for a non-pitch sport use or its use is formally changed through the planning system. There is no positive obligation, under planning law, for a playing field to be actively used as such.

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.

Disused sites provide the opportunity to help address deficiencies in pitch sport if brought back into use or replaced in a more sustainable location to meet need. These sites will be assessed to establish whether they are surplus to meet an identified need in the area in which they are situated within this PPOSS, should be retained and protected for future use or could be replaced in accordance with Sport England's Playing Field Policy and paragraph 104 of the NPPF.

In addition to above, there are some existing playing field sites which may be able to or have previously accommodated more pitches than are presently marked. Where known, these will be identified through the PPOSS. There may also be sites which are no longer prepared and used for formal sport but serve another function, such as a public open space or park. These sites should not be considered disused as they continue to operate as part of the green infrastructure typology and remain playing field, which could be brought back into use with marked out playing pitches and have the potential to contribute to supply.

Quality

The capacity of provision 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 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.

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The quality of all provision identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed as part of a PPOSS, regardless of ownership, management and availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each pitch/facility. These ratings are then used to help estimate the capacity (aligned to NGB guidance) to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

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).

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. The age of the facilities can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

Standard quality refers to playing provision that have, 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.

Poor quality refers to playing provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage, whilst for ancillary facilities it may relate to changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, the site assessments for sports played in the winter (i.e., football, rugby union and hockey) are conducted between October and February, whilst the sports played in the summer (i.e., rugby league, tennis, bowls, cricket, netball) have assessments carried out between June and September.

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 this (thus establishing an "agreed quality rating").

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 and cricket (known as PitchPower reports). PitchPower reports, where carried out, have informed the quality assessments for the PPS to ensure the findings align (unless there is a clear reason for a differential e.g., recent improvements/deterioration).

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Gather demand information and views

Current demand

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e., recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. To that end, demand for provision in Castle Point tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play.
- ◀ Organised training.
- ◀ Informal play.
- ◀ Unofficial use.

Current and future demand for provision 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 (unless no such demand has been identified).

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 league 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 playing pitch facilities (and ancillary provision) was available.

Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice. This therefore includes Castle Point-based demand that travels outside of the authority to access provision (exported demand), as well as demand from nearby authorities that travel into the area (imported demand). This can often be linked to capacity and/or quality issues within an authority.

A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face / online consultations has been carried out with key clubs from each sport (as identified by the Council and the relevant NGBs), thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and further interrogation of key issues. For all remaining clubs and leagues, telephone consultation or an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including schools and further/higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face / online meetings with secondary schools, colleges and universities and an online survey being sent to primary schools and independent schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. Using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for the relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth.

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Team generation rates are used to provide an indication as to how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group). This ratio can then be applied to predicted participation, population and housing growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future. Other information sources that were 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 plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- Any local and NGB specific sports development targets e.g., women's and girls' activity.

All future demand projections across the PPOSS for Castle Point cover the period up until 2043, which is the proposed emerging Local Plan period.

1.4: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Stage C)

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Castle Point and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

Understanding the situation at individual sites

Qualitative ratings are linked to a 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 recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions provision could accommodate. 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.	

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).

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, rugby league, rugby union, per day for hockey and per season for cricket and is further detailed in the table below.

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Table 1.3: Capacity of playing pitches in match equivalent sessions

Sport	Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	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
Rugby union	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
Rugby union	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
Rugby union	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Rugby league	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Cricket	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

More detailed sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report. There is, however, no capacity guidance for 3G pitches, with availability and usage instead determined by a programme/hours-led approach.

Develop the current and future picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a Council-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 of capacity.

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.

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 utilising the existing stock, such as through quality improvements or through improving community access.

Once current capacity has been determined, future capacity can then also be calculated via incorporating the future demand that has been identified as well as any unmet, latent and exported demand.

Identify the key findings and issues

The Assessment Report, which is this document, is presented on a sport-by-sport basis, with data analysis undertaken on both a Council-wide and sub-area basis. It focuses on reporting research findings, consultation, site audit information and data analysis supported by detailed GIS mapping. It was agreed and 'signed off' prior to moving on to the strategy and action plan development stages.

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Each included section (from Part 2 onwards) summarises the local administration of the included playing pitch facilities. Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken.

1.5: Develop the strategy (Stage D)

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.

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

The organisation's responsible for the development of football in Castle Point is Essex FA (EFA). 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.

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 the Essex FA, they help communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding.

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

Part 3 of this report captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches), which is the artificial surface type for football.

Consultation

In total there are 208 teams across 33 clubs which originate from Castle Point. This includes 29 teams which export match demand outside of Castle Point leaving 179 teams across 25 clubs identified as playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Castle Point during the 2024/25 season.

The response rate from football clubs equates to a team response rate of 71% (147/208 teams and 17/33 clubs). The table below summarises the clubs which have responded to consultation.

Table 2.2: Summary of consultation

Clubs	Responded?
Benfleet	No
Benfleet Villa Youth	Yes
Benfleet Youth	No
Canvey Island FC	Yes
Canvey Island Girls	Yes
Canvey Island Youth	Yes
Canvey United	No
Concord Rangers	No

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Clubs	Responded?
Concord Rangers Youth	Yes
East Rivers	No
Fleet First	No
Hadleigh Town	No
Hadleigh	Yes
Hadleigh Vets	Yes
Island Boys Youth	Yes
Island Girls	Yes
Island Ladies	Yes
Island United	No
Junior Red Star Youth	No
Leigh Lionesses Girls	Yes
Mornington	Yes
Mornington Boys Youth	Yes
Orientem Albion	Yes
Porter's Soccability	No
Simco	No
South Benfleet United	Yes
South East Rush Soccer Youth	No
Supreme Youth	No
Thames Rovers	No
Thundersley Athletics	No
Thundersley Rovers Girls	Yes
Thundersley Rovers Youth	Yes
USP College	No

2.2: Supply

In total, there are 91 pitches across 33 unique sites in Castle Point, of which, 74 pitches across 22 sites are available for community use as seen in the table below. All pitches that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites.

Community available pitches are almost spread evenly between with both analysis areas with Canvey Island providing 36 pitches and The Mainland Analysis Area providing 38 pitches. This is a minor decrease in provision since the previous study of six pitches.

The changes can partly be explained due to the creation of 3G pitches on grass pitches at Northwick Park Primary & Nursery Academy (Canvey Island Analysis Area) and Deanes School Sports Centre (The Mainland Analysis Area). The former has seen a small size 3G pitch been built upon a youth 9v9 pitch whereas the latter site has a 11v11 size 3G pitch on a mini 7v7 pitch.

Other changes in provision can simply be put down to pitch reconfiguration on a season-by-season basis based on demand. For example, Benfleet Playing Fields previously had four adult pitches marked in 2017 whereas for the 2024/25 season there are only two pitches actively marked and used.

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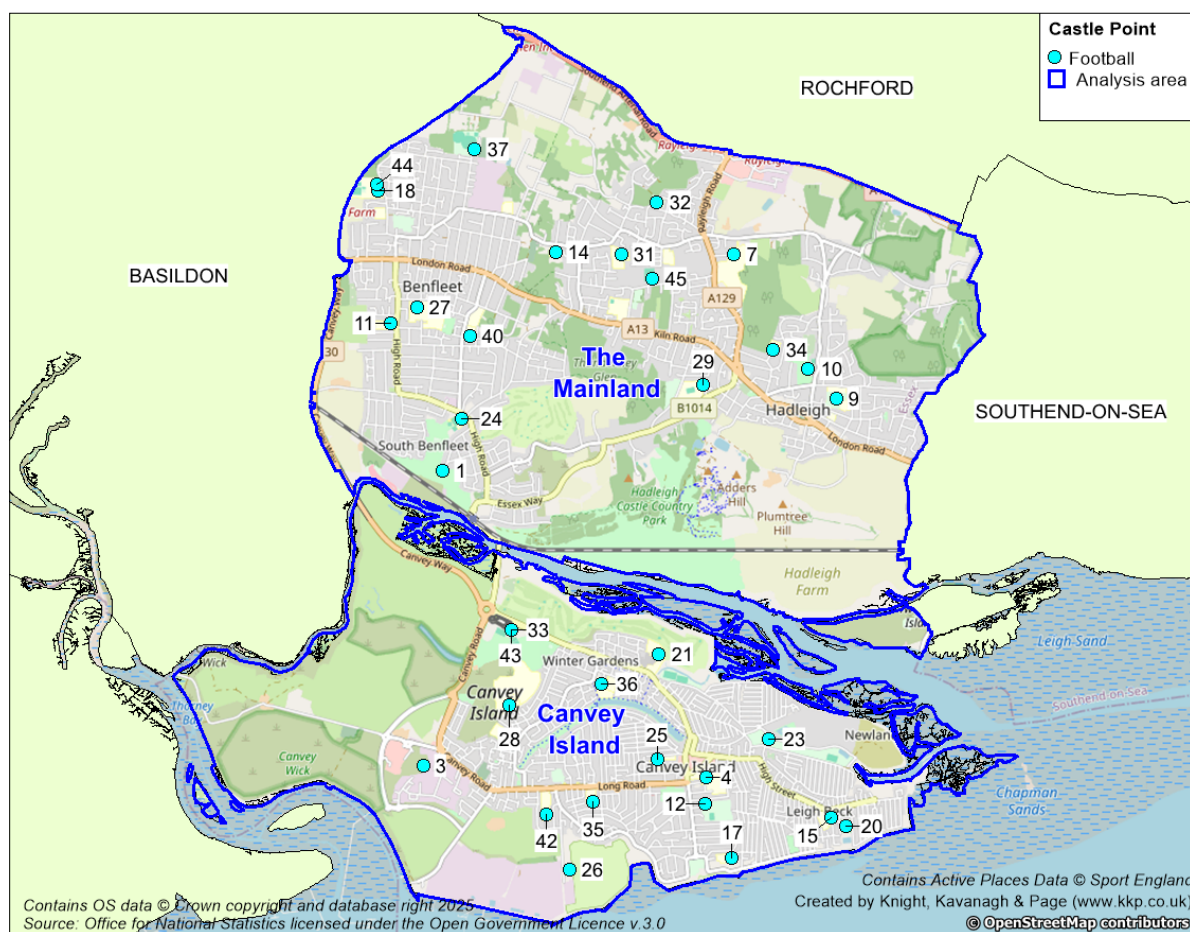
Table 2.3: Summary of grass football pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Canvey Island	13	3	10	6	4	36
The Mainland	11	3	8	9	7	38
Castle Point	24	6	18	15	11	74

As seen in the table above, most available pitches across Castle Point (24 pitches - 32%) are adult size, whilst the fewest are youth 11v11 size (six pitches – 8%).

Figure 2.1 below identifies the location of all grass football pitches across Castle Point. Please refer to Table 2.14 for a key to the map.

Figure 2.1: Map of sites with football pitch provision within Castle Point



Disused provision

There is land north of Hadleigh Junior School Playing Fields (SS7 2JA) which previously accommodated one football pitch and has been disused for circa 20 years. Additionally, there is identified disused provision of two adult pitches at the Benfleet Playing Fields (The Mainland Analysis Area).

There is a mini 7v7 pitch which is used on an ad-hoc basis at Thames Road (Canvey Island Analysis Area). Concord Rangers FC, which manage the site, indicate it is used when required to meet the demand from its mini teams, however, it has not been utilise this season.

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Potential future supply

The Appleton School (The Mainland Analysis Area – SS7 5RN) reports it is currently in conversations with the Football Foundation and Essex FA regarding the creation of an 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch. The proposed pitch would be located on its playing field land and likely result in the replacement of one or more grass football pitches. It is in the process of raising funds in order to meet match funding requirements.

Canvey Island Youth FC aspire to extend its main youth 11v11 to accommodate adult football grass pitch at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre. It is unable to field an adult team as its pitch does not currently meet the relevant requirements.

Hadleigh FC report a desire to establish its own site with both grass and ancillary provision which it can manage and maintain itself. The Club currently access two school sites, Hadleigh Junior School Playing Fields and Deanes School Sports Centre, which both offer poor quality pitch provision, with the latter also providing poor quality changing rooms/clubhouse. The Club is also looking to develop adult pitch provision which only increases the need to enhancements to ancillary facilities.

Management and security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Castle Point is generally secure. A site is thought to provide security of tenure if there is a long-term lease agreement in place or a guarantee that the pitch will continue to be provided over the next three years. Security of tenure is provided for clubs which own freehold/long term lease of their home ground or rent from the Council.

In contrast, tenure is unsecure at most other venues, most notably at education sites where long-term access is not guaranteed, and community accessibility can stop abruptly. This includes the following:

- ❖ Deanes School Sports Centre (Hadleigh FC/Thundersley Rovers Youth FC).
- ❖ Hadleigh Junior School Playing Fields (Hadleigh FC).
- ❖ Kents Hill Junior School (Junior Red Star Youth FC).
- ❖ Glenwood School (Supreme Youth FC).
- ❖ The Appleton School (Thundersley Rovers Youth FC).

It is recognised that community use agreements should be sort after to secure long term usage for clubs using the abovementioned sites. For example, Castle View School (Canvey Island Analysis Area) has a community used agreement in situ meaning it is considered secure for its user, Simco FC.

There is also a community use agreement in place at USP College - XTEND Digital Campus (Canvey Island), however, this is currently unused by the community.

Consultation with Canvey Island Jewish Trust report an aspiration to amend the CUA agreement to allow it access for organised sports for the children within its organisation. This will be explored in greater detail in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Castle Point has been assessed via a combination of site visits undertaken in December 2024 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), PitchPower reports (see 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 see Appendix 2.

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Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of 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 are able to accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking several matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The table below summarises the agreed quality of pitches that are available for community use in Castle Point, in total two pitches (3%) are rated as good quality, 42 as standard quality (57%) and 30 as poor quality (40%).

Table 2.4: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Pitch type	No. of good quality pitches	No. of standard quality pitches	No. of poor quality pitches
Adult	2	15	7
Youth 11v11	-	1	5
Youth 9v9	-	10	8
Mini 7v7	-	9	6
Mini 5v5	-	7	4
Total	2	42	30

As seen most provision is either standard or poor quality with very few pitches being assessed as good quality. It should be noted that even those sites rated as standard quality suffer from quality issues particularly after periods of bad weather or towards the end of the playing season after extensive use. Site specific detail from non-technical sites visits and club consultation is outlined in detail below. The following Strategy & Action Plan will examine how partners can collectively support greater engagement and access to the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund.

The only good quality pitches are located at step football club sites, Thames Road and Park Lane, which receive dedicated maintenance which is generally to a higher level than much of the other grass pitches across Castle Point.

Hadleigh Youth FC report pitches at Deanes School Sports Centre are poor quality as they suffer from cracking in periods of warm weather and conversely retain water and become waterlogged in periods of bad weather (heavy rain etc). Condition to FF funding to the new onsite 3G pitch should be that surplus monies will go back into improving the grass pitch quality.

Island Boys & Girls FC indicate regular unauthorised access and vandalism of its pitches at Smallgains Recreation Ground which include bike and quads leaving tyre marks and churning up the playing surfaces.

Thundersley Rovers Youth/Girls FC utilise pitches at The Appleton School which suffer from poor drainage making them usable at periods throughout the winter. The School is in the process of developing a 3G pitch on the site which it indicates will allow it to consistently accommodate match play demand on the site instead of postponing fixtures with Thundersley Rovers Youth/Girls FC to be the anchor club.

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PitchPower

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in 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 how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment.

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).

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.

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.

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 2.5: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

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

In Castle Point, Woodside Park and Deanes School Sports Centre (both of which are in the Mainland Analysis Area) have received a PitchPower assessment. The former has each of the pitches received a 'basic' quality rating which matches the non-technical assessment score of 'standard'. This inspection took place in early 2024. The pitches at the latter site all received a poor rating. For reference, the agreed quality scores are the ones used in the pitch capacity analysis in Table 2.15.

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Football Foundation (FF) Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund²

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 Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF). As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues by the GMA via PitchPower assessment can apply to access funding to improve pitches to good quality or sustain them at good quality.

Once a PitchPower grass pitch assessment report has been produced for the site, eligible organisations can then apply for grant funding support through the FF Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help eligible clubs/organisations 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 12,000 quality grass pitches by 2028. 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.

All applicants must have the landowner's permission (as a minimum) and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, education establishments, Parish & Town Councils, National League System Clubs (excluding the stadia pitch) at (Steps 1-6) and Women's Football Pyramid (Tiers 1-4) and charities.

Ancillary facilities

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. Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for football 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.

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.

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 of the above, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria, cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document. Additional context behind the rationale is provided below.

² [Link to the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund](#)

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Table 2.6: Summary of ancillary facility quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overall ancillary facility quality	Changing room quality	Playing formats accommodated (male/female)
1	Benfleet Playing Fields	The Mainland	Standard	Standard	Adult Youth 11v11 (male)
3	Canvey Island Youth FC	Canvey Island	N/A	N/A	Youth 9v9 (boys) Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5
4	Castle View School	Canvey Island	Standard	Standard	Adult (male)
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	Poor	Poor	Adult (male) Youth 11v11 Youth 9v9 (boys/girls) Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5
9	Hadleigh Junior School Playing Fields	The Mainland	N/A	N/A	Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5
10	John H Burrows Ground	The Mainland	Standard	Standard	Youth 11v11 (male)
12	King George V Playing Fields	Canvey Island	Standard	Standard	Adult Youth 11v11 (male) Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5
20	Park Lane (Canvey Island Football Club)	Canvey Island	Good	Good	Adult (male)
22	USP College – Seevic Campus (Main Campus)	The Mainland	N/A	N/A	Adult (male/female)
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground (Canvey Island Cricket Club)	Canvey Island	Poor	Poor	Adult (female) Youth 11v11 Youth 9v9 (boys/girls) Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5
26	Thames Road	Canvey Island	Good	Good	Adult (male)
27	The Appleton School	The Mainland	N/A	N/A	Youth 11v11 Youth 9v9 (boys/girls)
32	Thundersley Recreation Ground	The Mainland	Poor	Poor	Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	Canvey Island	Good	Standard	Adult Youth 11v11 Youth 9v9 (male) Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overall ancillary facility quality	Changing room quality	Playing formats accommodated (male/female)
37	Woodside Park	The Mainland	Standard	Standard	Adult (male) Youth 11v11 Youth 9v9 Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5
40	Kents Hill Junior School	The Mainland	N/A	N/A	Youth 11v11 Youth 9v9 (male) Mini 7v7
44	Glenwood School	The Mainland	N/A	N/A	Youth 9v9 (boys) Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5

Clubs using provision at Hadleigh Junior School Playing Fields (Hadleigh FC), Glenwood School (Supreme Youth FC), USP College – Seevic Campus (USP College), The Appleton School (Thundersley Rovers / Thundersley Rovers Girls) and Kents Hill Junior School (Junior Red Star Youth FC) do not have access to dedicated ancillary facilities with often just a toilet available to use during matches.

Hadleigh FC report that it aspires to access dedicated changing rooms at Hadleigh Junior School Playing Fields as it is negatively affected its growth plans.

Provision at Benfleet Playing Fields is of suitable quantity and quality to meet the type of demand accessing the site (adult and youth 11v11 men's teams), however, it should be noted that it is located a distance away from the pitches.

Deanes School Sports Centre is currently exploring options on how to improve the quality of ancillary provision on the site. The provision does not meet the requirements for the type of demand using the provision (adult/youth/mini and male/female) and it is looking to invest in four dedicated changing rooms.

Smallgains Recreation Ground is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities which do not meet the requirements of Island Boys & Girls FC. The current provision is outdated and is stopping the Club from increase the number of teams particularly for women and girls. It has recently applied for funding to upgrade its kitchen facilities (via Howden's Gamechanger programme) and to renovate its changing rooms and toilets for them to become more functional. The provision has also suffered from regular vandalism within the last year.

Provision at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre is generally considered to be good quality, however, as the showering facilities are shared the overall changing rooms have been assess as standard quality.

Canvey Island Youth state the provision it uses at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre, which is situated away from the main building, does not provide dedicated changing provision.

Community users (Thundersley Rovers Girls/Youth) of provision at The Appleton School do not have access to changing facilities and can only utilise toilets which are poor quality. This is due to the accessibility issues with the layout of the School. If a 3G pitch is to be developed on the site ancillary provision will need to be reviewed.

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2.3: Demand

A total of 179 teams from 25 affiliated clubs are identified as playing in Castle Point. As a breakdown, this equates to 19 adult, 53 youth 11v11, 30 youth 9v9, 43 mini 7v7 and 34 mini 5v5 teams. It should be noted that this figure excludes exported demand, which if included would total 208 teams.

Table 2.7: Summary of football demand in Castle Point

Age group	No. of teams
Adult Men's (16-45)	17
Adult Women's (16-45)	2
Youth Boys (12-15)	45
Youth Girls (12-15)	8
Youth Boys (10-11)	26
Youth Girls (10-11)	4
Mini Mixed (8-9)	43
Mini Mixed (6-7)	34
Total	179

Football in the Borough is played marginally more within The Mainland Analysis Area (53%) with 94 teams in comparison to the Canvey Island Analysis Area with 47% or 85 teams. This is further summarised in the following table.

Table 2.8: Number of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Canvey Island	6	35	14	18	12	85
The Mainland	13	18	16	25	22	94
Castle Point	19	53	30	43	34	179

There has been an overall increase of 15% since the 2017 study with a further 24 teams being accommodated across Castle Point. It should be noted that the above figures do not include exported demand, which is outlined in greater detail later in the section. If these teams are included there would be an additional 22 teams to account for, meaning a total of 201 teams and a 30% growth.

National League System

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.

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Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation³ 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 website⁴ for the full specifications for each.

There are three teams in Castle Point which compete in the non-league step pyramid. A summary of this demand is provided in the following table.

Table 2.9: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure

Team	League	Level
Benfleet FC	Essex Senior Football League – Premier Division	Step 6
Canvey Island FC	Isthmian League – Premier Division	Step 3
Concord Rangers FC	Isthmian League – North Division	Step 4

Each team is currently able to meet league requirements; however, it should be noted that improvement maybe required if they are promoted to next step on the football pyramid.

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System (WNLS) similar to the adult men's which provides structure to the women's game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each Tier requiring differing Stadium Accreditation requirements.

Although women's clubs still require 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. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

There are no teams within the WNLS in Castle Point with the only adult women's team being Canvey Island Ladies which plays within the Essex County Women's Football League.

Women's and girls' demand

There are currently two women's teams (one each at Canvey Island FC and USP College) and 12 dedicated girls' youth teams playing football in Castle Point. The youth teams are across Canvey Island Girls, Island Girls and Thundersley Rovers Girls FC. In total this represents 8% of all football demand across the Borough.

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 become suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

³ <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme>

⁴ <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

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In addition to the above there are Wildcats sessions at Benfleet FC, Island Girls FC and Corinthians Ladies FC.

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. The table below shows consultation findings where clubs have identified where their growth in teams is limited by a lack of suitable quantity / quality match pitches, training facilities (specifically 3G) and ancillary facilities.

Table 2.10: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club name	Analysis area	Match pitches	Training facilities	Ancillary facilities
Canvey Island FC	Canvey Island	Yes	-	-
Canvey Island Youth/Girls FC	Canvey Island	Yes	-	Yes
Concord Rangers Youth FC	Canvey Island	Yes	-	Yes
Hadleigh Youth FC	The Mainland	Yes	Yes	Yes
Island Boys & Girls FC	Canvey Island	-	Yes	Yes
Thundersley Rovers Youth/Girls FC	The Mainland	Yes	Yes	Yes
Total	-	5/6	3/6	5/6

Of the clubs which responded and answer the relevant questions, most indicate they would be able accommodate more teams if they either had better access to more/improved quality match pitches and/or ancillary provision.

This is followed by half of clubs indicating a need for more/better training provision specifically stating 3G pitches. It should be noted that the clubs which did not state latent demand towards training provision, Canvey Island Youth FC and Concord Rangers Youth FC, have access to relevant provision at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to Castle Point based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities.

Due to its geography, there are several teams which export demand outside of Castle Point to neighbouring authorities. This is generally to utilise central venues or artificial provision such as 3G pitches.

Orienteers Albions (one adult men's team) state a preference to have all its competitive and training demand to return into Castle Point. It currently exports demand to Holy Cross Park in Basildon due to the lack of accessible provision within its locality.

Leigh Lioness FC has a total of eight teams (U8s/2 x U9s/2 x U10s/U11s/ U12s/ U13s) that all export to Southend-on-Sea to play competitive fixtures. It uses a mixture of provision at Blenheim Primary School and St Thomas More High School (Westleigh Field) to meet this demand and does not indicate this to be problematic. In comparison, all its training demand takes place at Deanes Sports Centre in Castle Point.

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Canvey Island, Concord Rangers and Porter's Soccerbilly have a variety of vets/walking football and soccerbilly teams which travel to central venues in Southend-on-Sea and Chelmsford. This demand is likely to remain exported due to the nature of the league structure.

East Rivers FC and Fleet FC both export one adult men's team to Basildon to Ford Sports & Social Club and Eversley Leisure Centre, respectively. Neither club indicate this to be an issue.

Finally, South East Rush Soccer has seven teams (2 x U8s/U10s/U11s/U13s/2 x U14s) exported to Barleylands in Basildon. It is believed the Club accesses the site due to its location and therefore does not deem it necessary to be based within Castle Point for competitive demand.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Castle Point study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

There is no known imported demand for competitive play within Castle Point, however, there are some levels of imported demand in reference to training demand which will be explored in greater detail in Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G).

Future demand

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 Castle Point.

Participation growth

Of responding clubs, 10 report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of 31 teams over the next five years. This is summarised below.

Table 2.11: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Gender	No. of teams	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁵
Canvey Island FC	Canvey Island	Male	1	Adult	0.5
Canvey Island Youth FC	Canvey Island	Male	1	Adult	0.5
Canvey Island Youth FC	Canvey Island	Mixed	3	5v5	1.5
Concord Rangers FC	Canvey Island	Female	1	Adult	0.5
Concord Rangers Youth FC	Canvey Island	Girls	2	11v11	1
Concord Rangers Youth FC	Canvey Island	Girls	2	9v9	1
Hadleigh Youth FC	The Mainland	Girls	1	11v11	0.5
Hadleigh Youth FC	The Mainland	Girls	1	9v9	0.5
Hadleigh Youth FC	The Mainland	Mixed	3	5v5	1.5
Island Boys & Girls	Canvey Island	Male	1	Adult	0.5

⁵ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

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Club	Analysis area	Gender	No. of teams	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁵
Island Boys & Girls	Canvey Island	Boys	1	9v9	0.5
Island Boys & Girls	Canvey Island	Mixed	3	5v5	1.5
Mornington FC	Canvey Island	Mixed	1	5v5	0.5
Orientem Albion FC	Canvey Island	Male	1	Adult	0.5
Orientem Albion FC	Canvey Island	Female	1	Adult	0.5
Orientem Albion FC	Canvey Island	Boys	1	11v11	0.5
Thundersley Rovers Girls	The Mainland	Girls	2	11v11	1
Thundersley Rovers Girls	The Mainland	Mixed	4	5v5	2
Thundersley Rovers Youth	The Mainland	Male	1	Adult	0.5
-	-	Totals	31	-	15.5

The total future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week (as two teams equates to one match equivalent session playing on a home and away basis).

The table below breaks this down by analysis area and pitch type.

Table 2.12: Match equivalent sessions of club aspirational demand via pitch type

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Canvey Island	3	1.5	1.5	-	3.5	9.5
The Mainland	0.5	1.5	0.5	-	3.5	6
Castle Point	3.5	3	2	-	7	15.5

Whilst some clubs will likely increase the number of teams they provide; conversely other teams will decrease as a result. It is important to note that some clubs report that they aspire to grow, however, the lack of good quality pitches appears to be restricting this.

In light of FA aspirations to increase female participation in football through the establishment and foreseen future effect of the FA Wildcats programme and Inspiring Positive Change Strategy, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girl teams may exceed that shown through population growth.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2043 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth. 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.

For reference, the total current population in Castle Point is 90,970 will increase to 95,999 by 2043. The table below shows the number of likely teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions per week.

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Table 2.13: 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 per week ⁶
Adult Men's (16-45)	1:657	1.21	1	0.5
Adult Women's (16-45)	1:7,154	0.11	-	-
Youth Boys (12-15)	1:50	2.21	2	1
Youth Girls (12-15)	1:270	0.44	-	-
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:41	1.44	1	0.5
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:260	0.22	-	-
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:49	2.37	2	1
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:59	1.88	2	1

As seen, there is predicted growth of one adult team, two youth 11v11 boys, one youth 9v9 boys, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 teams across Castle Point as a whole.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in together. Growth from population increases alone (eight teams) is deemed to be too small given participation increases since the previous study.

As such, a trend based approach on historical levels of growth since the previous study in 2017 will be applied. A total growth of 27% will therefore be applied to each of the pitch types to provide a more representative future supply and demand analysis (56 teams or 28 match equivalent sessions).

This is marginally higher than club aspirations of 31 teams or 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week, however, this approach can allow for a more representative increase on all pitch types. It will also encompass NGBs initiatives towards women and girls' demand.

Taking the above into consideration, a total requirement for 4.5 match equivalent session per week is identified on adult pitches (nine teams), 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches (15 teams), 4.5 match equivalent session per week on youth 9v9 pitches (nine teams), 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches (13 teams) and five match equivalent session on mini 5v5 pitches (10 teams).

The proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are also realised.

In addition, the Strategy document will consider additional future population demand associated with planned housing growth, with this not necessarily accounted for within the above figures. This is because ONS data does not account for this.

⁶ 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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2.4: Capacity analysis

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.

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 Castle Point:

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

Table 2.15 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overplayed	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Match equivalent sessions per week

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

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 artificial grass pitch (AGP).

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is 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 cutting and line marking.

Table 2.15 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.

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.

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As mentioned earlier, all education sites are classified as having unsecure tenure as no schools, through consultation, report having a community use agreement in place.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Castle Point, peak time for all pitch types is Sunday AM. Peak time is based on when most teams are playing matches.

On occasion, 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 the overall spare capacity that exists. This is because most or all of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period. Where this is the case, given that peak time usage should not be utilised over and above overall capacity, adjustments have been made.

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.

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.

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. 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.

The table below identifies the way capacity balance is represented in Table 2.14.

Table 2.14: 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 but 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 2.15: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Com use	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁷	Carrying capacity ⁸	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
1	Benfleet Playing Fields	SS7 5JG	The Mainland	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Poor	2	2		-	Played to capacity.
3	Canvey Island Youth FC	SS8 0SW	Canvey Island	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
3	Canvey Island Youth FC	SS8 0SW	Canvey Island	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
3	Canvey Island Youth FC	SS8 0SW	Canvey Island	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
4	Castle View School	SS8 7FH	Canvey Island	Yes	Education	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	1	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
4	Castle View School	SS8 7FH	Canvey Island	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	2	2		1	Played to capacity by curricular and extracurricular activities.
4	Castle View School	SS8 7FH	Canvey Island	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1		1	Played to capacity by curricular and extracurricular activities.
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	SS7 2TD	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	2	Poor	3	2	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	SS7 2TD	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	3	2	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	SS7 2TD	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	3	2	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
9	Hadleigh Junior School Playing Fields	SS7 2JA	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	4	4		-	Played to capacity by community, curricular and extracurricular activities.
9	Hadleigh Junior School Playing Fields	SS7 2JA	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	4	4		-	Played to capacity by community, curricular and extracurricular activities
10	John H Burrows Ground	SS7 2EN	The Mainland	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Standard	1	4	3	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
10	John H Burrows Ground	SS7 2EN	The Mainland	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Poor	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
10	John H Burrows Ground	SS7 2EN	The Mainland	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
11	Jotmans Hall Primary School	SS7 5RG	The Mainland	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
12	King George V Playing Fields	SS8 7BJ	Canvey Island	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
12	King George V Playing Fields	SS8 7BJ	Canvey Island	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
12	King George V Playing Fields	SS8 7BJ	Canvey Island	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
12	King George V Playing Fields	SS8 7BJ	Canvey Island	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
14	Kingston Primary School	SS7 3HG	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
15	Leigh Beck Junior School	SS8 7TD	Canvey Island	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.

⁷ Match equivalent sessions per week

⁸ Match equivalent sessions per week, based on pitch quality - the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Com use	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁷	Carrying capacity ⁸	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
17	Lubbins Park Primary Academy	SS8 7HF	Canvey Island	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
18	Montgomerie Primary School	SS7 4LW	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	3	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
20	Park Lane (Canvey Island Football Club)	SS8 7PX	Canvey Island	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
21	USP College – XTEND Digital Campus (Canvey Island)	SS8 9RZ	Canvey Island	Yes	Education	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
21	USP College – XTEND Digital Campus (Canvey Island)	SS8 9RZ	Canvey Island	Yes	Education	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity.
21	USP College – XTEND Digital Campus (Canvey Island)	SS8 9RZ	Canvey Island	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity.
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	SS8 8QL	Canvey Island	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0.5	Overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	SS8 8QL	Canvey Island	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	SS8 8QL	Canvey Island	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	SS8 8QL	Canvey Island	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	2	Actual spare capacity.
24	South Benfleet Primary School	SS7 5HA	The Mainland	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)		Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
25	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	SS8 9DP	Canvey Island	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
26	Thames Road	SS8 0HH	Canvey Island	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
27	The Appleton School	SS7 5RN	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	5	2	3	0.5	Overplayed by three match equivalent sessions.
27	The Appleton School	SS7 5RN	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	4	2	2	0.5	Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	SS8 9QS	Canvey Island	No	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	3	Standard	3	6	3	3	Not available for community use.
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	SS8 9QS	Canvey Island	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	SS8 9QS	Canvey Island	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
29	The King John School	SS7 1RQ	The Mainland	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	2	2		2	Not available for community use.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Com use	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁷	Carrying capacity ⁸	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
29	The King John School	SS7 1RQ	The Mainland	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1		1	Not available for community use.
31	Thundersley Primary School	SS7 3PT	The Mainland	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1		1	Not available for community use.
32	Thundersley Recreation Ground	SS7 3SL	The Mainland	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
32	Thundersley Recreation Ground	SS7 3SL	The Mainland	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	SS8 9RA	Canvey Island	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	3	Standard	6	6		-	Played to capacity.
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	SS8 9RA	Canvey Island	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	2.5	8	5.5	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	SS8 9RA	Canvey Island	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	SS8 9RA	Canvey Island	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	3	Standard	7	6	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	SS8 9RA	Canvey Island	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2	4	2	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	SS8 9RA	Canvey Island	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
34	Westwood Academy	SS7 2SU	The Mainland	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
35	William Read Primary School	SS8 0JE	Canvey Island	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
36	Winter Gardens Academy	SS8 9QA	Canvey Island	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1		1	Played to capacity by curricular and extracurricular activities.
37	Woodside Park	SS7 4PB	The Mainland	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	3	Standard	4.5	6	1.5	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
37	Woodside Park	SS7 4PB	The Mainland	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	3	4	1	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
37	Woodside Park	SS7 4PB	The Mainland	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	3	8	5	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
37	Woodside Park	SS7 4PB	The Mainland	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
40	Kents Hill Junior School	SS7 5PS	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	2	2		-	Played to capacity.
40	Kents Hill Junior School	SS7 5PS	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
40	Kents Hill Junior School	SS7 5PS	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	1	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
42	Canvey Island Junior School	SS8 0JE	Canvey Island	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1		1	Played to capacity by curricular and extracurricular activities.
44	Glenwood School	SS7 4LW	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2	4	3	-	Played to capacity at peak time.
44	Glenwood School	SS7 4LW	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
44	Glenwood School	SS7 4LW	The Mainland	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
45	USP College – Seevic Campus (Playing Fields)	SS7 3DH	The Mainland	No	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	2	Poor	2	2		2	Not available for community use.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Actual spare capacity

Actual spare capacity totals 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week across 12 pitches in Castle Point. This has been broken down by analysis area and by pitch type below.

Table 2.16: Summary of actual spare capacity on grass football pitches

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Canvey Island	3	1	3.5	1.5	0.5	9.5
The Mainland	-	-	1	-	-	1
Castle Point	3	1	4.5	1.5	0.5	10.5

Most actual spare capacity is identified on youth 9v9 pitches, although there is some level of spare capacity across all pitch types.

Canvey Island Analysis Area has the highest amount of actual spare capacity with 9.5 match equivalent sessions per week with only one match equivalent session in Mainland Analysis Area.

Spare capacity has stayed reasonably similar when compared to the 2017 study which previously had a total of 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In total, 16 pitches across six sites are overplayed by a combined total of 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week in Castle Point.

Table 2.17: Summary of overplay of grass football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES per week)
4	Castle View School	Canvey Island	Adult	1	0.5
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	Adult	2	1
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	(7v7)	1	1
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	(9v9)	2	1
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	Canvey Island	Adult	1	1.5
27	The Appleton School	The Mainland	(11v11)	2	3
27	The Appleton School	The Mainland	(9v9)	2	2
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	Canvey Island	Adult	3	1
40	Kents Hill Junior School	The Mainland	(11v11)	1	1
40	Kents Hill Junior School	The Mainland	(9v9)	1	0.5
-	-	-	Total	16	12.5

Most overplay is situated in Mainland Analysis Area (9.5 match equivalent sessions per week) with Canvey Island Analysis Area having three match equivalent sessions of overplay per week in comparison.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

By pitch type, overplay is only located on adult (four match equivalent sessions per week), youth 11v11 pitches (four match equivalent sessions per week), youth 9v9 pitches (3.5 match equivalent sessions) and mini 7v7 pitches (one match equivalent session per week). There is no overplay on mini 5v5 pitch types.

The identified shortfalls are primarily due to substantial demand accessing poor quality pitches with limited carrying capacity. Of the 16 overplayed pitches, 12 are identified as poor quality (75%) with the pitches located at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre (three pitches) and Smallgains Recreation Ground (one pitch) providing standard quality pitches.

The amount of overplay has also stayed reasonably similar to the previous report which had a total of 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

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 the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on a 15% participation increase on current demand levels (based on historical growth) which encompasses growth from population increases.

Adult pitch capacity

Table 2.18: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Canvey Island	3	3	
The Mainland	-	1	1
Castle Point	3	4	1

There is currently a shortfall amounting to one match equivalent session per week on adult pitches in Castle Point. The Canvey Island Analysis Area is played to capacity, and The Mainland Analysis Area is overplayed by one match equivalent session.

Table 2.19: Future supply and demand position for adult pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Castle Point	1	4.5	5.5

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Canvey Island	1	-	1
The Mainland	-	4	4
Castle Point	1	4	3

The table above shows that there is currently a shortfall of three match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches in Castle Point.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 2.21: Future supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Castle Point	3	7.5	10.5

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

Table 2.22: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Canvey Island	3.5	-	3.5
The Mainland	1	3.5	2.5
Castle Point	4.5	3.5	1

The table above shows that youth 9v9 pitches are currently have marginal spare capacity in Castle Point. This amounts to one match equivalent session per week overall due levels of spare capacity in Canvey Island Analysis Area.

Table 2.23: Future supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Castle Point	1	4.5	3.5

After considering future demand this minor level of spare capacity is alleviated resulting a shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent session on youth 9v9 pitches.

Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

Table 2.24: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Canvey Island	1.5	-	1.5
The Mainland	-	1	1
Castle Point	1.5	1	0.5

There is currently a small amount of spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent session per week on mini 7v7 pitches in Castle Point. This is despite overplay being found in The Mainland Analysis Area.

Table 2.25: Future supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Castle Point	0.5	6.5	6

As there is a moderate level of anticipated future demand for mini 7v7 the spare capacity is removed to create overplay amounting to six match equivalent sessions per week.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

Table 2.26: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Canvey Island	0.5	-	0.5
The Mainland	-	-	
Castle Point	0.5	-	0.5

There is currently actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent session per week on mini 5v5 pitches in Castle Point.

Table 2.27: Future supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Castle Point	0.5	5	4.5

After considering future demand, the marginal spare capacity of 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week is eradicated resulting in a shortfall of two match equivalent sessions.

2.6: Conclusion

Using the supply and demand analysis above, the table below summarises the overall Castle Point supply and demand balance by pitch type.

Table 2.28: Summary of supply and demand in match equivalent sessions per week

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Adult	3	4	1	4.5	5.5
Youth 11v11	1	4	3	7.5	10.5
Youth 9v9	4.5	3.5	1	4.5	3.5
Mini 7v7	1.5	1	0.5	6.5	6
Mini 5v5	0.5	-	0.5	5	4.5

There are current shortfalls across adult and youth 11v11 pitch types in Castle Point with remaining pitch types having marginal levels of spare capacity. This is largely due to substantial levels of demand accessing poor quality pitches across these pitch types.

When considering future demand, shortfalls increase on adult and youth 11v11 pitch and types with spare capacity on mini 7v7, mini 5v5 and youth 9v9 pitches eradicated with a minor shortfall arising.

The table below presents the supply and demand balances by the two analysis areas.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 2.29: Analysis area summary for grass football pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Canvey Island					
Adult	3	3		2	2
Youth 11v11	1	-	1	4	3
Youth 9v9	3.5	-	3.5	2	1.5
Mini 7v7	1.5	-	1.5	3	1.5
Mini 5v5	0.5	-	0.5	2.5	2
The Mainland					
Adult	-	1	1	2.5	3.5
Youth 11v11	-	4	4	3.5	7.5
Youth 9v9	1	3.5	2.5	2.5	5
Mini 7v7	-	1	1	3.5	4.5
Mini 5v5	-	-		2.5	2.5

In the Canvey Island Analysis Area, there are no current shortfalls with adult pitches played to capacity. All remaining pitches have spare capacity. After considering future demand shortfalls arise on all pitch types apart from youth 9v9.

In comparison, there are current shortfalls on all pitch types, apart from mini 5v5, in the Mainland Analysis Area. When factoring in future demand these worsen with mini 5v5 pitch types becoming overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Given the pitch quality issues highlighted above there is a clear need to improve the pitch quality to alleviate shortfalls and continue to accommodate demand. This will be explored in greater detail in the Strategy & Action Plan.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Football – supply and demand summary

- ◀ In the Canvey Island Analysis Area, there are no current shortfalls with adult pitches played to capacity. All remaining pitches have spare capacity. After considering future demand shortfalls arise on all pitch types apart from youth 9v9.
- ◀ In comparison there are current shortfalls on all pitch types, apart from mini 5v5, in the Mainland Analysis Area. When factoring in future demand these worsen with mini 5v5 pitch types becoming overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ In total, 16 pitches across six sites are overplayed by a combined total of 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week in Castle Point.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity totals 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week across 12 pitches in Castle Point.

Football – supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are 91 pitches across 33 unique sites in Castle Point, of which, 74 pitches across 22 sites are available for community use as seen in the table below. All pitches that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites.
- ◀ Community available pitches are almost spread evenly between with both analysis areas with Canvey Island providing 36 pitches and The Mainland Analysis Area providing 38 pitches. This is a minor decrease in provision since the previous study of six pitches.
- ◀ In total two pitches (3%) are rated as good quality, 42 as standard quality (57%) and 30 as poor quality (40%).
- ◀ Clubs using provision at Hadleigh Junior School Playing Fields (Hadleigh FC), Glenwood School (Supreme Youth FC), USP College – Seevic Campus (USP College), The Appleton School (Thundersley Rovers / Thundersley Rovers Girls) and Kents Hill Junior School (Junior Red Star Youth FC) do not have access to dedicated ancillary facilities with often just a toilet available to use during matches.

Football – demand summary

- ◀ A total of 179 teams from 25 affiliated clubs are identified as playing in Castle Point. As a breakdown, this equates to 19 adult, 53 youth 11v11, 30 youth 9v9, 43 mini 7v7 and 34 mini 5v5 teams.
- ◀ There are three teams in Castle Point which competes in the non-league step pyramid. Additionally, there are currently two women's teams' part of the WNLS.
- ◀ There are currently two women's teams (one each at Canvey Island FC and USP College) and 12 dedicated girls' youth teams playing football in Castle Point. The youth teams are across Canvey Island Girls, Island Girls and Thundersley Rovers Girls FC. In total this represents 8% of all football demand across the Borough.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, 10 report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of 31 teams.
- ◀ A trend based approach on historical levels of growth since the previous study in 2017 will be applied. A total growth of 27% will therefore be applied to each of the pitch types to provide a more representative future supply and demand analysis (56 teams or 28 match equivalent sessions).

PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G)

3.1: Introduction

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

The recommended dimensions for an 11v11 size 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends 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 adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches, e.g., the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.

For rugby union, a 3G pitch must measure 100 x 70 metres for senior match play, with a six-metre run off around the full perimeter. Smaller size pitches can, however, be used to support training demand providing that they are installed to the correct specifications.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions for the relevant sports, 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., for football, a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch.

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For the purposes of this report, please note that 3G pitches are separated into two categories, with these being 11v11 3G pitches and smaller size pitches. The 11v11 3G pitches include all those considered to be recommended size as per the definition above, as well as some undersized ones that can still accommodate 11v11 football (anything larger than 91 x 55 metres). Nationally, many are slightly smaller than recommended size due to being converted from sand-based provision. Smaller size pitches are all those that do not meet the required dimensions for any form of 11v11 football.

Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPOSS for any new 11v11 3G pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions for the sports that they will be established to cater for.

The table below summarises all 3G pitch provision in Castle Point by size and analysis area including those that are not available for community use.

In total there are two 11v11 size 3Gs and four smaller size 3Gs in Castle Point with all but on small size pitch (USP College – Seevic Campus (Main Campus)) available for community use. In regard to community available provision, both of the analysis areas have one 11v11 size 3G pitch with The Mainland Analysis Area having two small size pitches compared to Canvey Island Analysis Area which just has one pitch.

Table 3.1: Number of 3G pitches by analysis area

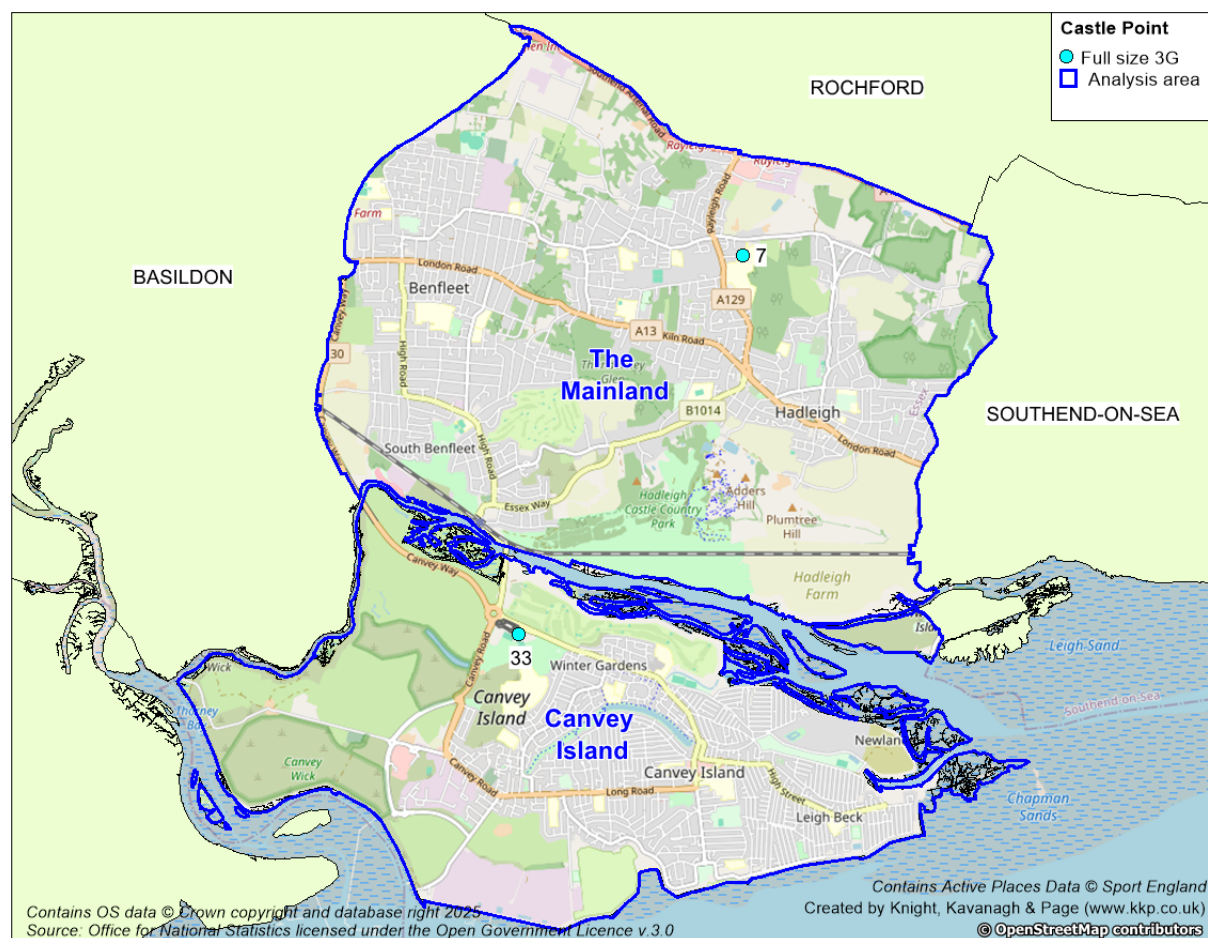
Analysis area	11v11 size available for community use	11v11 size unavailable for community use	Smaller size available for community use	Smaller size unavailable for community use
Canvey Island	1	-	1	-
The Mainland	1	-	2	1
Castle Point	1	-	3	1

Since the 2017 study there has been an increase of one 11v11 size pitch at Deanes School Sports Centre (The Mainland Analysis Area) and one small size 3G pitch at Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy in Canvey Island Analysis Area. It should be noted that the short pile 3G pitch at The King John School (The Mainland Analysis Area) will be included within this section rather than Part 5: Hockey (as it was in 2017), as it now predominantly services football demand.

Please see the figure below for the location of the 3G pitches currently servicing Castle Point. Table 3.2 provides a key to the map.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Figure 3.1: Location of 11v11 3G AGPs in Castle Point



CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 3.2: Summary of all 3G pitches in Castle Point

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Pitch type	Community use?	Sports lit?	Size ^[1]	Certification	Expiry	Year installed/ resurfaced
6	Cedar Hall School	The Mainland	SS7 3UQ	Small	Yes	Yes	54 x 37	FA	31/05/26	2010
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	SS7 2TD	11v11	Yes	Yes	98 x 60	FIFA	31/05/27	2024
19	Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy	Canvey Island	SS8 9SU	Small	Yes	Yes	55 x 37	FA	31/05/26	2020
22	USP College – Seevic Campus (Main Campus)	The Mainland	SS7 1TW	Small	No	No	36 x 34	-	-	2017
29	The King John School	The Mainland	SS7 1RQ	Small	Yes	Yes	82 x 48	-	-	2016
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	Canvey Island	SS8 9RA	11v11	Yes	Yes	100 x 64	FIFA	31/05/27	2024

FA 3G Pitch Register

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 3G Pitch Register, which can be found at: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>.

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. 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 on the Register, pitches must be reassessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for FIFA Pro pitches at Step 1-2 and FIFA Quality pitches at Step 3-6.

In Castle Point, the 11v11 3G pitch located at Deanes School Sports Centre, Waterside Farm Leisure Centre and the small size pitches at Cedar Hall School and Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy are on The FA 3G Pitch Register.

^[1] Size is in metres

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

World Rugby compliant pitches

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.

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 or contact training must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

There are currently no World Rugby Reg 22 compliant pitches in Castle Point. For reference the nearest provision is located at Orsett Heath Academy (Thurrock Council) which is approximately 14 miles or 20 minutes' drive.

Potential future supply

Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPOSS for any new 11v11 3G pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions for the sports that they will be established to cater for.

Table 3.3: FA recommended 3G pitch sizes

Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100x64	106x70
Over 18/Adult	11v11	100x64	106x70

The Appleton School (The Mainland Analysis Area – SS7 5RN) reports it is currently in conversations with the FF and EFA regarding the creation of a 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch. The proposed pitch would be located on its playing field land and likely result in the replacement of one or more grass football pitches. It is in the process of raising funds in order to meet match funding requirements.

The School currently accommodates two youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches all of which are poor quality and are extensively used by Thundersley Rovers Girls and Thundersley Rovers Youth. It is anticipated that if the project moves forward these would be the anchor clubs and as such key users of the provision.

It should be noted that this was identified as a priority project in the 2018 Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP).

Management

Pitches located at Cedar Hall School, Deanes Schools Sports Centre, Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy, USP College – Seevic Campus (Main Campus) and The King John School are all managed by the schools themselves.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

In comparison, the pitch at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre is managed internally by the Council's leisure services.

Availability

The following table summarises the availability within the peak period of 11v11 3G pitches in Castle Point. Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies a generic overall peak period for AGPs based on the following hours for AGPs 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Table 3.4: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Availability
6	Cedar Hall School	33	Available 17:00 to 21:00 midweek Saturday 09:00 to 20:00 Sunday 10:00 to 18:30
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	34	Available 15:00 to 22:00 midweek and 08:00 to 18:00 Saturday/Sunday.
19	Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy	34	Available 17:00 to 21:00 midweek and 09:00 to 21:00 Saturday/Sunday.
22	USP College – Seevic Campus (Main Campus)	-	<i>Unavailable for community use.</i>
29	The King John School	23	Available 18:00 to 21:00 midweek and 08:00 to 14:00 Saturday/Sunday.
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	34	Available 06:00 to 22:00 Monday to Thursday Friday 06:00 to 20:00 Saturday 08:00 to 17:45 Sunday 08:00 to 20:00

Pitches at Deanes School Sports centre, Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy and Waterside Farm Leisure Centre are considered fully available for community use at peak times. Provision at Cedar Hall School is also basically fully available during the peak period apart from 09:00 to 10:00 on a Sunday morning.

In comparison, the pitch at The King John School has significantly less availability with only 23 out of the total 34 hours peak period being available. Most of this is due to the fact it is only open till 14:00 at the weekend. Anecdotal evidence indicates there is no demand to use the pitch at this time, linked to its poor quality, with clubs and teams preferring to use provision at Deanes School Sports Centre and Waterside Farm Leisure Centre.

Although exact booking details could not be obtained for the 11v11 size pitches, it is understood that both pitches are operating at near full capacity with only one or two hours available midweek.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an 3G pitch 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 pitch replacement funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishments beyond this period.

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Table 3.5: Summary of 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
6	Cedar Hall School	2010	Standard
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	2024	Good
19	Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy	2020	Good
22	USP College – Seevic Campus (Main Campus)	2017	Poor
29	The King John School	2016	Poor
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	2024	Good

As seen in the table, both 11v11 size pitches, Deanes School Sports Centre and Waterside Farm Leisure Centre, are good quality. The former pitch was installed in 2024 with the latter being fully refurbished in the same year.

With above being said, users of provision at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre (Concord Rangers Youth FC) indicate the 3G suffers from unauthorised access. Both clubs state that people are using the provision without formally booking it leading to issues when it comes to training times. There have been recent improvements including the installation of a new lock; however, anecdotal evidence suggests the problem is still occurring.

Despite the age of its surface the pitch at Cedar Hall School is identified as standard quality with it still meeting the relevant requirements to remain on the FA register. It is anticipated that within the lifespan of this PPOSS it will require replacement.

Provision at USP College – Seevic Campus (Main Campus) and The King John School are both rated as poor quality upon consultation with the schools and non-technical assessments. Each pitch is extensively used to meet curricular and extracurricular requirements with limited amounts of regular maintenance taking place.

Ancillary facilities

Of the 11v11 size 3G pitches, ancillary facilities at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre are generally considered to be good quality with a need to upgrade the changing rooms to be more accommodating for women and girls demand (individual showering facilities etc).

As mentioned in Part 2: Football, provision at Deanes School Sports Centre is poor, with the School currently exploring options on how to improve the quality of ancillary provision on the site. The provision does not meet the requirements for the type of demand using the provision (adult/youth/mini and male/female) and it is looking to invest in four dedicated changing rooms.

3.3: Demand

Matchplay

Affiliation data indicates that Hadleigh FC and Thundersley Rovers Youth/Girls FC both use provision at Deanes School Sports Centre match play demand. There is also evidence that the pitch at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre is used by both Concord Rangers Youth FC and Canvey Island Youth FC to meet match play demand despite not being on the FA Pitch Register. It is thought the pitch does meet requirements and there is just a delay in confirmation that it is FA certified.

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Training

In total, 50% of the clubs which responded to consultation reported a need for additional training facilities in order to facilitate a growth in team numbers. All of these clubs specifically referenced a need for additional 3G provision for training purposes. This equates to 64 teams from Hadleigh Youth FC, Island Boys & Girls FC and Thundersley Rovers Youth/Girls FC.

Rugby union

The above is in relation to football demand, however, there is evidence to suggest a future need for rugby union training and competitive demand to access at 3G pitch. This will be outlined in greater detail in Part 4: Rugby union.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football

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

To quantify the 3G shortfall for football, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity built in for other forms of demand). It also has an aspiration for all teams to train once per week on a 3G pitch, although it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based pitches to ensure the sustainability of them.

For the model, in addition to 11v11 pitches being included, some smaller size pitches can also be incorporated as nationally many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones. To calculate their contribution, a pitch large enough to cater for youth matches (but not adult) is considered to be the equivalent of half a 11v11 size pitch (0.5 pitches), whilst a pitch that is large enough for mini matches (but not youth or adult) is the equivalent of quarter of a 11v11 size pitch (0.25 pitches). Any pitch smaller than this is discounted as they are too small to accommodate purposeful training activity (although it is recognised that they can meet wider community needs), as are any pitches that are unavailable for community use.

The contribution each pitch makes towards the modelling is summarised in the table below.

Table 3.6: Contribution of 3G pitches in meeting football training requirements

Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	Full size adult pitch equivalents
11v11 size				
Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	98 x 64	Fully available for community use.	1
Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	Canvey Island	100 x 64	Fully available for community use.	1

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Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	Full size adult pitch equivalents
Smaller size				
Cedar Hall School	The Mainland	54 x 37	Fully available for community use.	0.25
Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy	Canvey Island	55 x 37	Fully available for community use.	0.25
USP College – Seevic Campus (Main Campus)	The Mainland	36 x 34	Unavailable for community use.	-
The King John School	The Mainland	82 x 48	Fully available for community use.	0.5
-	-	-	Total	3

Based on the above modelling and 208 affiliated teams currently being based in Castle Point for training demand (including exported match play teams), there is a theoretical need for five 11v11 3G pitches (rounded down from 5.47). As there are currently three pitch equivalents already provided, this means that there is a potential need for two additional 11v11 3G pitches to meet all current training demand.

Table 3.7: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches in Castle Point (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
208 ⁹	5.47 – 5	3	2

When considering future demand for an additional 56 teams (based on trend based increases) there is potential demand for seven 11v11 3G pitches overall, which means a theoretical future shortfall of four pitches.

Table 3.8: Future demand for 11v11 3G pitches in Castle Point (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size adult 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
264	6.94 – 7	3	4

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. This not only identifies where the potential needs exist across Castle Point, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

Table 3.9: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
Canvey Island	85	2.23 - 2	1.25	0.75
The Mainland	123 ¹⁰	3.23 - 3	1.75	1.25

⁹ Include teams which export their match play demand

¹⁰ Include teams which export their match play demand

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This shows an overall shortfall of two 11v11 3G pitch equivalents, aligning to the shortfall across Castle Point as a whole. It also identifies that there are specific shortfalls in all analysis areas.

Future development impact

If the proposed new 11v11 3G pitch development is to be established at The Appleton School, this will deliver one additional 11v11 pitch equivalents for football. This equates to one in The Mainland Analysis Area reducing the shortfall in this area from 1.25 to just 0.25 whilst also reducing the overall shortfall from two to one pitch.

Match play demand

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 alternative or supplement to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is FA approved, sports lit and available for community use during the peak period.

In Castle Point, one 11v11 size and two small size 3G pitch are FA approved and, on the FA 3G Pitch Register to host competitive matches, with and 16 affiliated teams are registered as using the provision for regular match play. It should be noted that that the pitch at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre was until recently FA approved. It is understood that after its recent refurbishment it meets the requirements however it yet to be formally retested.

Moreover, 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.

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.

Rugby union

For rugby union, there is evidence to suggest a need for a WR Reg 22 compliant 3G pitch to meet future levels of competitive and training demand, particularly to accommodate women and girls' growth from Canvey Island RUFC.

3.5: Conclusion

For football, there is insufficient supply of 11v11 size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football training demand in Castle Point, with a potential current shortfall of two pitches identified. Furthermore, it identifies that there are specific shortfalls in each analysis area (Canvey Island and The Mainland). When factoring in future demand the overall shortfalls increase from two to four 11v11 size 3G pitches.

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Regarding rugby union there is strategic need to establish a WR Reg 22 pitch to accommodate future demand. This should be incorporated in the shortfall mentioned above rather than be a standalone pitch. Additionally, it should be linked to any potential future project within the Canvey Island Analysis Area, where the shortfall for rugby union is identified.

Options on how this shortfall could be alleviated are explored in the Strategy & Action Plan document.

3G – supply and demand summary

- For football, there is insufficient supply of 11v11 size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football training demand in Castle Point, with a potential current shortfall of two pitches identified.
- For rugby union, there is evidence to suggest a need within a future WR complaint 3G within Castle Point particularly within the Canvey Island Analysis Area.
- When factoring in future demand the overall shortfalls increase from two to four 11v11 size 3G pitches.
- If the proposed new 11v11 3G pitch development is to be established at The Appleton School, this will deliver one additional 11v11 pitch equivalents for football. This equates to one in The Mainland Analysis Area reducing the shortfall in this area from 1.25 to just 0.25 whilst also reducing the overall shortfall from two to one pitch.

3G – supply summary

- In total there are two 11v11 size 3Gs and four smaller size 3Gs in Castle Point with all but on small size pitch (USP College – Seevic Campus (Main Campus)) available for community use.
- In regard to community available provision, both analysis areas have one 11v11 size 3G pitch with The Mainland Analysis Area having two small size pitches compared to Canvey Island Analysis Area which just has one pitch.
- In Castle Point, the 11v11 3G pitch located at Deanes School Sports Centre, Waterside Farm leisure Centre and the small size pitches at Cedar Hall School and Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy are on The FA 3G Pitch Register.
- Both 11v11 size pitches, Deanes School Sports Centre and Waterside Farm Leisure Centre, are good quality. The former pitch was installed in 2024 with the latter being fully refurbished in the same year.

3G – demand summary

- In total, 50% of the clubs which responded to consultation reported a need for additional training facilities in order to facilitate a growth in team numbers. All of these clubs specifically referenced a need for additional 3G provision for training purposes. This equates to 64 teams from Hadleigh Youth FC, Island Boys & Girls FC and Thundersley Rovers Youth/Girls FC.
- Affiliation data indicates that Hadleigh FC and Thundersley Rovers Youth/Girls FC both use provision at Deanes School Sports Centre match play demand. There is also evidence that the pitch at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre is used by both Concord Rangers Youth FC and Canvey Island Youth FC to meet match play demand despite not being on the FA Pitch Register. It is thought the pitch does meet requirements and there is just a delay in confirmation that it is FA certified.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 4: RUGBY UNION

4.1: Introduction

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 (currently being rolled out is schools as T1 offer) 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.

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.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There is one rugby union club in Castle Point, namely Canvey Island RUFC, which responded to a face-to-face consultation resulting in a 100% response rate.

In the previous study (2017) there was a second club operating in the Authority, Benfleet Vikings RFC, however, the club folded circa 2022.

4.2: Supply

Within the Castle Point, there is a total of eight rugby union pitches. In total three pitches (38%) are unavailable for community use with one pitch each at The Cornelius Vermuyden School, The King John School and USP College – Seevic Campus (Playing Fields).

Table 4.1: Supply of grass rugby union pitches available for community use in Castle Point

Analysis area	No. of community available rugby union pitches	No. of unavailable rugby union pitches
Canvey Island	4	1
The Mainland	1	2
Total	5	3

Overall, since the previous study there has been the reduction of one pitch. This includes the increases of one pitch at Castle View School and Deanes School Sports Centre and the reduction of three pitches, which are identified later in the section.

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.

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Table 4.2: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ¹¹
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

Unused pitches

In the previous study, pitches were identified at Benfleet Playing Fields (SS7 5JG), The Appleton School (SS7 5RN) and USP College – Seevic Campus (Playing Fields) (SS7 1TW) all of which were located in The Mainland Analysis Area and had a one pitch.

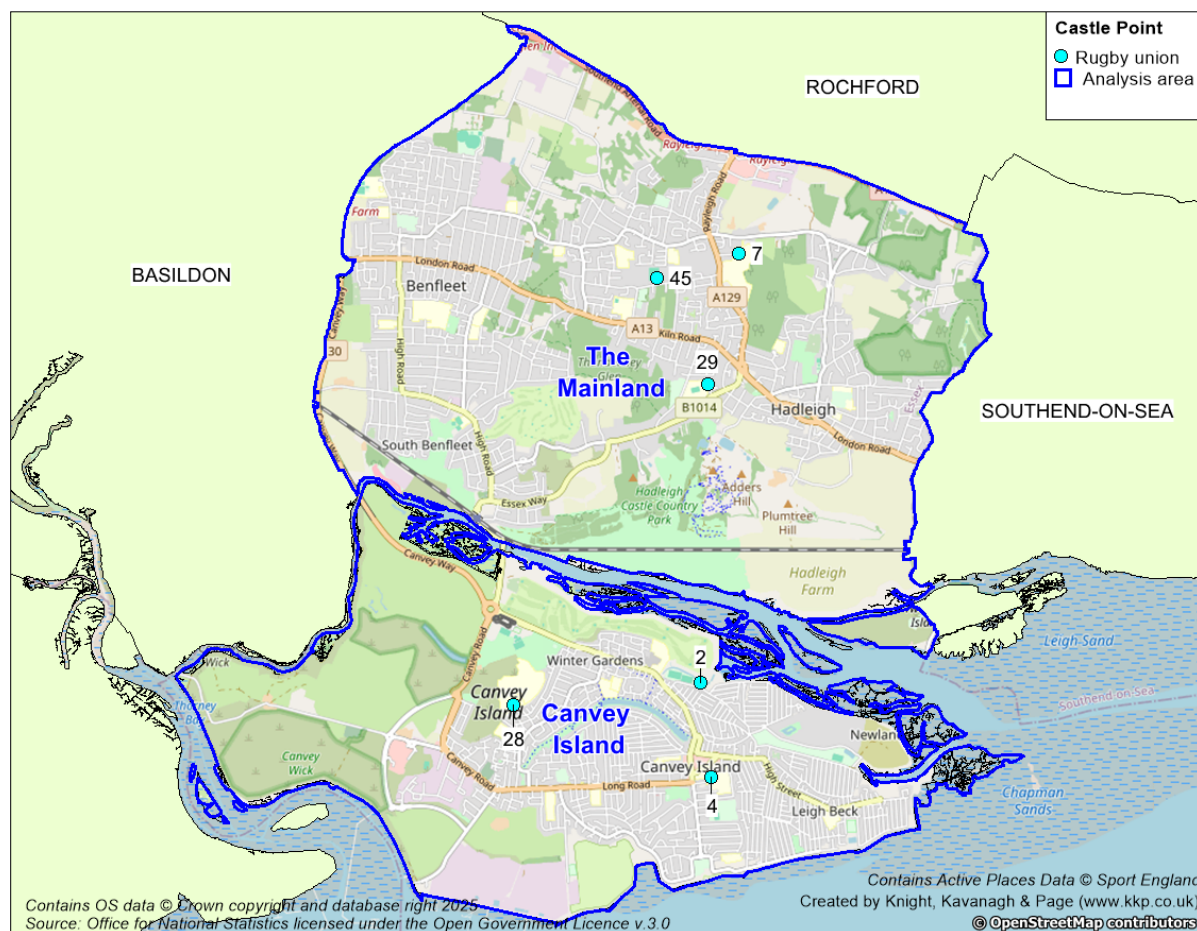
The pitch at the Benfleet Playing Fields is no longer marked out for rugby union as Benfleet Vikings RFC which previously used the site, has folded. The pitches at the remaining sites are no longer marked as the playing field land is primarily used to meet football curriculum requirements.

Figure 4.1 overleaf shows the location of all rugby union pitches currently servicing Castle Point. For a key to the map, see Table 4.12.

¹¹ 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 Castle Point



Management and security of tenure

The tenure for Canvey Island RUFC at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club is considered secure. The Club has a freehold on its clubhouse and has a long-term arrangement in place to utilise the Council pitches.

With this being said, it indicates there is a six month clause within the agreement which means it could potentially stop being able to access the provision, however, this is deemed doubtful due to the Council ongoing commitment to sport and recreational activity.

Pitch quality

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	Minimal or no maintenance is undertaken
M1	Regular maintenance is undertaken that extends beyond a basic regime
M2	A sophisticated, regular and dedicated maintenance regime is undertaken

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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	Drainage is natural but inadequate
D1	Drainage is natural and adequate
D2	A pipe drainage system is installed (at 5-metre centres and within the last eight years)
D3	A pipe and slit drainage system is installed (at 1-metre centres in the last five years)

An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated on a scale of good, standard and poor as shown below.

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

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

As seen in the table overleaf there are no good or standard quality community available pitches in Castle Point with all provision classed as poor.

Table 4.6: Quality of senior rugby union pitches in the Borough

Accessibility	Good	Standard	Poor
Available for community use	-	-	5
Unavailable for community use	-	1	2
Total	-	1	7

A pitch-by-pitch breakdown can be seen in the table overleaf.

Canvey Island RUFC report pitches at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club are poor quality. The pitches are used for both rugby union in the winter and rugby league (Canvey Knights RLFC) in the summer, leaving limited time for remediation.

Pitches are located on a clay base which means they can withhold water and drain slowly. In addition, due to the substantial amount of competitive and training demand taken place on the site the playing surface can become boggy with limited amount of grass coverage.

The Club has recently had a PitchPower report carried out on the site with the evidence of the document assisting it in securing relevant funding for pitch improvements, however, the exact funding and timescales for this are yet to be determined.

On occasion, the Club utilises provision at Castle View School when its pitches become unusable, particularly within periods of poor weather. It should be noted that this happens on an ad hoc basis and is not a regular occurrence.

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Table 4.7: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	Management	Community use?	No. of pitches	Sports lighting?	Quality score	Quality rating
2	Canvey Island Rugby Football Club	SS8 8EJ	Canvey Island	Secure	Sports club	Yes	1	Yes	M0/D1	Poor
2	Canvey Island Rugby Football Club	SS8 8EJ	Canvey Island	Secure	Sports club	Yes	1	No	M0/D1	Poor
4	Castle View School	SS8 7FH	Canvey Island	Secure	Education	Yes	1	No	M0/D1	Poor
4	Castle View School	SS8 7FH	Canvey Island	Secure	Education	Yes	1	No	M0/D1	Poor
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	SS7 2TD	The Mainland	Unsecure	Education	Yes	1	No	M1/D0	Poor
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	SS8 9QS	Canvey Island	Unsecure	Education	No	1	No	M1/D1	Standard
29	The King John School	SS7 1RQ	The Mainland	Unsecure	Education	No	1	No	M0/D1	Poor
45	USP College – Seevic Campus (Playing Fields)	SS7 3DH	The Mainland	Unsecure	Education	No	1	No	M0/D1	Poor

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Ancillary facilities

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. 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.

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.

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 of the above, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria, cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document. Additional context behind the rationale is provided below.

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

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality ¹²	Comments
2	Canvey Island Rugby Football Club	Canvey Island RUFC	Standard	Poor	Four changing rooms with communal showers rather than separate facilities. The number of rooms can be problematic at peak times (Sunday morning).

Canvey Island RUFC is looking to develop its clubhouse in order to provide more social space in addition to improving the quality of its changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls and peak time demand.

4.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches within the Borough tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

¹² Including changing areas, toilets and showering facilities.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Competitive demand

As mentioned earlier there is currently only one rugby union club operating in Castle Point, Canvey Island RUFC, with Benfleet Vikings RFC folding circa 2022.

The demand from Canvey Island RUFC is outlined in the table below. The men's category includes one dedicated vets' team, and the age grade mixed also includes one dedicated U12s female team.

Table 4.9: Summary of demand

Club	Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed	Total
Canvey Island RUFC	Canvey Island	3	1	4	2	7	17

Since the previous PPOSS in 2017 there has been significant growth at Canvey Island RUFC with an additional seven teams or 70% increase. This includes the creation of a dedicated senior women's teams as well as a senior men's team, four age grade boys and one age grade mixed teams.

Training demand

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.

As there is limited demand in Castle Point, Canvey Island RUFC trains on its own grass pitches using either mobile lighting or permanent sports lighting. This is summarised in the capacity table later in the section.

Use of artificial pitches

An alternative to training on sports-lit grass pitches is via a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, although none are currently provided within the Borough. 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.

Although there is no current usage, due to a lack of provision, options should be explored in the future to create a WR Reg 22 pitch in the Canvey Island Analysis Area in order to alleviate shortfalls and accommodate future competitive and training demand.

See Part 3 of this report for further information.

Exported/imported demand

Exported demand refers to existing demand which is transferred outside of the study area; whilst imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. There is no such demand identified relating to Castle Point.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Unmet/latent demand

Canvey Island RFC report of latent demand regarding both its pitch and ancillary provision. Firstly, the Club is unable to accommodate additional teams as it is limited by the current quality of its pitches, which are already overplayed. It indicates that if these improved in quality, it would be able to field more teams but does not quantify this with a specific number.

Secondly, in order to house more teams, it would also need to increase the size of its current ancillary provision in order to accommodate this demand. This includes both social areas and the number of changing rooms.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined through multiple ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts.

Participation growth

As mentioned above, Canvey Island RFC aspires to grow, however, it is limited due to the current quality of its pitch and ancillary provision.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2043 for Castle Point (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand as per the Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth. 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.

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, due to the minimal amount of rugby union demand within Castle Point there are no new teams anticipated from population increases alone.

Table 4.10: Borough-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 ¹³
Men (19-45yrs)	1:4,315	0.17	0	0
Women (19-45yrs)	1:12,850	0.06	0	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:765	0.22	0	0
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:1,517	0.11	0	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:901	0.39	0	0

Future levels of training demand that will emanate from the predicted growth can also be calculated via using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, however, as there is no actual anticipated future demand this is not required.

¹³ 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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Furthermore, the ONS projections do not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth in the Borough, as will be proposed in the review of the Local Plan. This will therefore also be subject to scenarios in Strategy document and/or via future assessment work undertaken by the Council.

Notwithstanding the above, 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

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.

Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 will represent a generational moment for global rugby that will set new standards, welcome new fans and families to the sport and inspire a new generation of players, providing an exciting catalyst to nationwide and global rugby growth.

It should be noted that given the current and future levels of rugby union demand in Castle Point immediate growth for women and girls demand is expected to be limited as there is only one club. This being said, to encourage more growth at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club improvements would be required regarding the changing rooms and showering facilities.

Future demand summary

As there is no anticipated future growth from population increases, neither any identified future growth from club aspirations then there is no future demand factored into the supply and demand analysis at this stage. As a reminder, Canvey Island RUFC has ambitions to grow, however, this is acknowledged as latent demand as it is due to the lack of suitable pitch and ancillary provision.

The peak period

To fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams in Castle Point, it is Saturday PM, whilst it is Sunday AM for age grade rugby.

4.4: Capacity analysis

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.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby union pitches, the following assumptions are applied to the site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch analysis:

- ✦ All sites that are or could be used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ✦ All competitive play is on senior size pitches, with age grade teams playing on overmarked pitches, unless dedicated age grade pitches are known to be used instead.
- ✦ From U13s upwards, teams play 15v15 and use a full pitch.
- ✦ For senior and age grade boys/girls' teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 match equivalent sessions for each match played based on all teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ✦ Age grade mixed teams (U6s-U12s) play on half of a senior pitch, meaning two matches and four teams can be accommodated at any one time.
- ✦ Play per week for age grade mixed teams is set at 0.25 match equivalent sessions for each match played based on teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ✦ Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels (one training session is one match equivalent session).
- ✦ Internal use of school pitches is added to current play, where community availability is offered, as determined on a site-by-site basis depending on levels of activity.
- ✦ Other usage of pitches (e.g., by football teams) is added as match equivalent sessions based on the level and regularity of play.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, based on quality, as 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

Please see Table 4.12 overleaf for the site-by-site capacity analysis.

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Table 4.12: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Castle Point

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	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
2	Canvey Island Rugby Football Club	SS8 8EJ	Canvey Island	Secure	Senior	Yes	M0/D1	Poor	1.5	2	4	4.5	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions from training and match play by Canvey Island RUFC.
2	Canvey Island Rugby Football Club	SS8 8EJ	Canvey Island	Secure	Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor	1.5	5.75 ¹⁴	-	4.25	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions from match play by Canvey Island RUFC
4	Castle View School	SS8 7FH	Canvey Island	Secure	Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor	1.5	1	-	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time discounted due to pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
4	Castle View School	SS8 7FH	Canvey Island	Secure	Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor	1.5	1	-	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time discounted due to pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	SS7 2TD	The Mainland	Unsecure	Senior	No	M1/D0	Poor	1.5	1	-	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time discounted due to pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	SS8 9QS	Canvey Island	Unsecure	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	1	Not available for community use.
29	The King John School	SS7 1RQ	The Mainland	Unsecure	Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor	1.5	1	-	0.5	0.5	Not available for community use.
45	USP College – Seevic Campus (Playing Fields)	SS7 3DH	The Mainland	Unsecure	Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor	1.5	1	-	0.5	0.5	Not available for community use.

¹⁴ One match equivalent session added to account for rugby league demand from Canvey Island RLFC

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Actual spare capacity

There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Furthermore, there are some rugby union pitches across the Borough at education sites that are unused by clubs despite being reported as available. Whilst these may theoretically provide some spare capacity, it would not be reasonable to equate this as actual spare capacity as school usage itself is likely to limit what additional activity should take place on the provision. Moreover, the nature of club rugby generally means that clubs are generally unwilling to utilise secondary venues, making community use unlikely. It is also unlikely that clubs would have security of tenure at education sites, even if they were to access them, with usage more likely to be ad hoc.

In addition, any pitches that are used by clubs to capacity at peak time or that are poor quality are not considered to have actual spare capacity.

With all the above being said, due to the substantial level of demand and overplay at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club, and the poor pitch quality, unavailability and unsecure tenure at educational sites, there is no actual spare capacity for rugby union in Castle Point.

This is a slight reduction from the previous report which saw Benfleet Playing Field having 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week of spare capacity available at peak time. This is no longer the case as the pitch is no longer marked.

Overplay

The table below examines the level of overplay of rugby union pitches across Castle Point.

Table 4.13: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of overplayed pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
2	Canvey Island Rugby Football Club	Canvey Island	1	4.5
2	Canvey Island Rugby Football Club	Canvey Island	1	4.25
-	-	Total	2	8.75

In total, due to the substantial amount of demand accessing poor quality pitches at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club there is overplay amounting to 8.75 match equivalent sessions per week. As mentioned, there is also one match equivalent session of rugby league demand on the site from Canvey Knights RLFC. This is an increase of 4.25 match equivalent sessions per week since 2017 which indicated a shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay in each of the analysis areas as well as across the Borough as a whole for rugby union based on match equivalent sessions. Due to the lack of anticipated future growth from population increases or club aspirational future demand the current and future total remain the same.

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Table 4.14: Supply and demand balance of rugby pitches in Castle Point in match equivalent sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Canvey Island	-	7.75	8.75	-	8.75
The Mainland	-	-		-	
Total	-	7.75	8.75	-	8.75

As seen, due to the substantial amount of demand accessing poor quality pitch provision in Castle Point, specifically at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club, there is currently a shortfall amounting to 8.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

4.6: Conclusion

There is a clear and evident shortfall of rugby union pitch provision in Castle Point based solely in the Canvey Island Analysis Area, where Canvey Island RUFC is based. As there is currently no capacity for growth, overplay and identified future aspirations for women and girls demand there is evidence to access artificial provision to provide additional capacity.

Given this position, scenarios to alleviate current and future overplay are explored in the subsequent strategy document.

Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- There is a clear and evident shortfall of rugby union pitch provision in Castle Point based solely in the Canvey Island Analysis Area, where Canvey Island RUFC is based.
- There is also evidence for a future need to access artificial provision in order to create capacity for growth.
- In total, due to the substantial amount of demand accessing poor quality pitches at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club there is overplay amounting to 8.75 match equivalent sessions.

Rugby union – supply summary

- Within the Castle Point, there is a total of eight rugby union pitches. In total three pitches (38%) are unavailable for community use with one pitch each at The Cornelius Vermuyden School, The King John School and USP College – Seevic Campus (Playing Fields).
- In the previous study pitches were identified at Benfleet Playing Fields (SS7 5JG), The Appleton School (SS7 5RN) and USP College – Seevic Campus (Playing Fields) (SS7 1TW) all of which were located in The Mainland Analysis Area and had a one pitch.
- Canvey Island RUFC report pitches at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club are poor quality. The pitches are used for both rugby union in the winter and rugby league (Canvey Knights RLFC).
- Canvey Island RUFC is looking to develop its clubhouse in order to provide more social space in addition to improving the quality of its changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls and peak time demand.

Rugby union – demand summary

- There is currently only one rugby union club operating in Castle Point, Canvey Island RUFC, with Benfleet Vikings RFC folding circa 2022.
- Since the previous PPOSS in 2017 there has been significant growth amounting to a 70% increase. This includes the creation of a dedicated senior women's teams as well as a senior men's team, four age grade boys and one age grade mixed teams.
- Canvey Island RFC report of latent demand regarding both its pitch and ancillary provision. Firstly, the Club is unable to accommodate additional teams as it is limited by the current quality of its pitches, which are already overplayed. Secondly, in order to house more teams, it would also need to increase the size of its current ancillary provision in order to accommodate this demand.

PART 5: HOCKEY

5.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH). It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day, providing that it has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek for senior activity and requires access to a pitch and sports lights, whereas many junior teams train on a Sunday as well as during midweek.

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 for introductory level hockey, 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 filled 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.

In addition to the above pitch types, EH is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2¹⁵, is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it is a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad.

The concept is designed to provide facilities, including at schools, with a dynamic carpet which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

¹⁵ <http://www.englishhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

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For senior teams, a full-size pitch for 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 and three metres at the ends. England Hockey preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek and also requires access to a pitch with lights. The playing season runs from September-May.

Consultation

There are no dedicated hockey clubs with Castle Point with the closest clubs being in the neighbouring authorities of Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock, Rochford and Basildon. Information for this section has been provided by England Hockey.

5.2: Supply

There are no full-size, nor small size, hockey suitable provision within Castle Point. There is a short pile 3G pitch located at The King John School (The Mainland Analysis Area - SS7 1RQ) which is marked out for hockey usage.

The pitch does not meet the correct dimensions to be classed as full size being only 82 x 48 metres and is only used to accommodate curricular and extracurricular hockey activities by the school. It is also not the preferred surface type for hockey with only low-level activity being able to take place on that type of surface. The pitch will be explored in greater detail in Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G).

5.3: Demand

There are no dedicated hockey clubs within Castle Point with the only hockey demand known to be at schools through curricular and extracurricular activities, such as The King John School.

Imported/exported demand

Due to the lack of provision within Castle Point there is no known imported hockey demand into the Authority. Although not able to be fully quantified, anecdotal evidence indicates that hockey demand is being exported out of the Borough to the surrounding authorities of Basildon (Basildon HC), Rochford (Rochford HC), Thurrock (Thurrock HC) and Southend-on-Sea (Southend HC) as these authorities have dedicated clubs.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

Consultation with EH suggests that it is unlikely that a dedicated club will be created in Castle Point in the near future. As mentioned previously, any club-based demand that exists for hockey in Castle Point exports demand and is met through provision provided in Basildon, Rochford, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea.

Notwithstanding the above, the lack of provision in the Borough could be considered detrimental to school-based hockey given that schools either do not currently play hockey or play on unsuitable surfaces such as grass and/or indoors. This results in juniors being unable to get started in the sport away from a club environment.

5.5: Conclusion

It is anticipated that there will not be sufficient community demand in the near future to warrant the creation of any dedicated provision, however, this should be monitored on an annual basis. As a result, demand is likely to remain exported to neighbouring authorities.

It should be noted that the position for hockey in Castle Point has not changed since the previous study in 2017.

Hockey – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Consultation with EH suggests that it is unlikely that a dedicated club will be created in Castle Point in the near future. Any club-based demand that exists for hockey in Castle Point exports demand and is met through provision provided in Basildon, Rochford, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea.

Hockey – supply summary

- ◀ There are no full-size, nor small size, hockey suitable provision within Castle Point. There is a short pile 3G pitch located at The King John School (The Mainland Analysis Area - SS7 1RQ) which is marked out for hockey usage.
- ◀ The pitch does not meet the correct dimensions to be classed as full size being only 82 x 48 metres and is only used to accommodate curricular and extracurricular hockey activities by the school. It is also not the preferred surface type for hockey with only low-level activity being able to take place on that type of surface.

Hockey – demand summary

- ◀ There are no dedicated hockey clubs within Castle Point with the only hockey demand known to be at schools through curricular and extracurricular activities, such as The King John School.
- ◀ Due to the lack of provision within Castle Point there is no known imported hockey demand into the Authority. Although not able to be fully quantified, anecdotal evidence indicates that hockey demand is being exported out of the Borough to the surrounding authorities of Basildon (Basildon HC), Rochford (Rochford HC), Thurrock (Thurrock HC) and Southend-on-Sea (Southend HC) as these authorities have dedicated clubs.

PART 6: CRICKET

6.1: Introduction

The Essex County Cricket Board (ECCB) is the main governing and representative body for Cricket within Castle Point. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs as well as other appropriate agencies. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the area. It is also currently working with the ECB on delivering its Strategy, Inspiring Generations (see Appendix 1: Context)¹⁶.

For adult cricket in the Borough 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 and Sunday mornings.

County Facilities Strategy

The Essex Cricket Board completed its County Facilities Strategy in July 2023, in partnership with the ECB. This is a ten-year plan which involves engagement with key stakeholders, including, leagues, active partnerships, county pitch advisors and Sport England. It is to be used to shape investment priorities, ensuring that decision-making processes are clearly explained. The Strategy considers the following facilities:

- ✦ 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).

The key themes emerging from the Essex County Facilities Strategy are:

- ✦ Demand for cricket in East London boroughs is very high and increasing.
- ✦ Pitches in East London are very heavily overplayed, and the quality of the pitches are unsatisfactory to players.
- ✦ Poor availability and access to high quality grounds for all pathway cricket in Essex.
- ✦ Clubs are reaching capacity and have limited growth opportunities on their existing sites.
- ✦ There is an urgent need to protect existing sites from being lost.
- ✦ There is a growing challenge of managing and producing high quality grass pitches for all levels of cricket.
- ✦ Quality of existing facility provision is mixed across Essex and the lack of quality does not meet the needs of users while also potentially hindering the growth of the game
- ✦ There is a lack of good quality indoor provision for training and matches for the recreational game.
- ✦ Huge opportunity from housing growth to develop the cricket facility stock across Essex.
- ✦ Climate change will have a significant impact on preparation of pitches and cricket across Essex.

The following recommendations have been drawn:

- ✦ Provide more sustainable playing facilities in London.
- ✦ Increase capacity and quality of club facilities to service growth of the junior and women's and girls' markets.
- ✦ Secure access to more indoor provision to provide playing opportunities all year.
- ✦ Secure access to more sites for performance pathway.
- ✦ Invest in the grounds management workforce.

¹⁶ [ECB Inspiring Generations](#)

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- ◀ Protection of existing sites.
- ◀ Promote and increase the usage of NTPs.
- ◀ Develop a long-term plan to minimise the impact of climate change.
- ◀ Accountable decision making.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that the County Facilities Strategy is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment for cricket; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. It therefore 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

There are three affiliated cricket clubs identified as playing within Castle Point. These are as follows:

- ◀ Benfleet CC.
- ◀ Canvey Island CC.
- ◀ Hadleigh & Thundersley CC.

All clubs have responded to consultation requests, resulting in an 100% response rate.

The number of cricket clubs has not altered since the previous study in 2018.

6.2: Supply

There are five grass wicket cricket squares in Castle Point across three sites with the majority located in The Mainland Analysis Area (four squares or 80%) which has two double square sites located at John H Burrows and Woodside Park. All squares are available for community use.

Table 6.1: Summary of grass wicket cricket sites

Analysis area	No. of cricket squares
Canvey Island	1
The Mainland	4
Total	5

The number of grass squares has not altered since 2018 although the number of wickets has changed which be outline later in the section.

Non-turf pitches

There are five non-turf pitches (NTPs) in total across Castle Point, of which, one is accompanying a natural turf cricket square (John H Burrows Ground). The other sites, which are all schools, provide standalone NTPs at the following sites:

- ◀ Castle View School (Canvey Island).
- ◀ The Appleton School (The Mainland).
- ◀ The Cornelius Vermuyden School (Canvey Island).
- ◀ The King John School (The Mainland).

There has been a decrease of one standalone NTP since the previous study. The provision at Deanes School Sports Centre was by replaced by an 11v11 size 3G pitch in 2024.

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NTPs, particularly when located at club sites, can 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. Additionally, NTPs are frequently used for junior matches across the Country.

From a school perspective, NTPs provide a reliable cricket offer, without the need for specific cricket preparation to be undertaken 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.

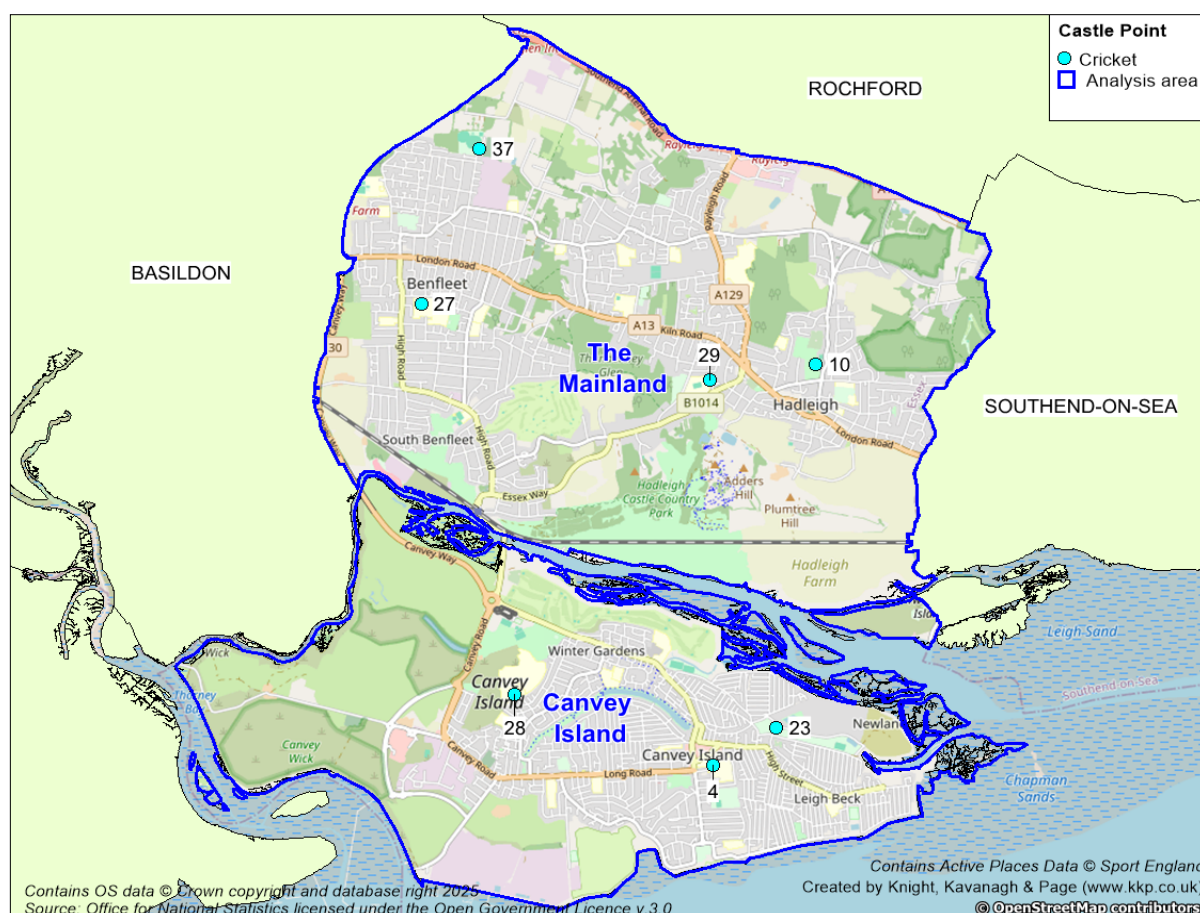
Hybrid wickets

A hybrid wicket combines natural turf grass with less than 5% of uniquely engineered, soft polyethylene yarn, which has already been used to improve golf tees, tennis courts and pitch surrounds. These wickets are to offer a greater capacity in addition to reducing time on repair works with a faster recovery time. Reports found that hybrid wickets improve surface stability, reduced wear, reduced bowler foot holes and significantly extended hours of playing time. Although it is difficult at this stage to understand what impact hybrid wickets could have on capacity, it is suggested that they could potentially support in alleviating overplay on both junior and senior wickets.

In Castle Point, there are two hybrid wickets located at Woodside Park with one situated on each square.

The map below shows the location of all cricket provision currently servicing Castle Point. For a key to the map, see Table 6.2.

Figure 6.1: Location of cricket provision within Castle Point



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Table 6.2: Key to map of cricket provision within Castle Point

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of senior wickets	No. of junior wickets	No. of NTPs
4	Castle View School	SS8 7FH	Canvey Island	Yes	1	-	-	1
10	John H Burrows Ground	SS7 2EN	The Mainland	Yes	1	10	4	1
10	John H Burrows Ground	SS7 2EN	The Mainland	Yes	1	8	4	-
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	SS8 8QL	Canvey Island	Yes	1	11	-	-
27	The Appleton School	SS7 5RN	The Mainland	Yes	1	-	-	1
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	SS8 9QS	Canvey Island	Yes	1	-	-	1
29	The King John School	SS7 1RQ	The Mainland	Yes	1	-	-	1
37	Woodside Park	SS7 5PS	The Mainland	Yes	1	13	1	-
37	Woodside Park	SS7 5PS	The Mainland	Yes	1	8	1	-

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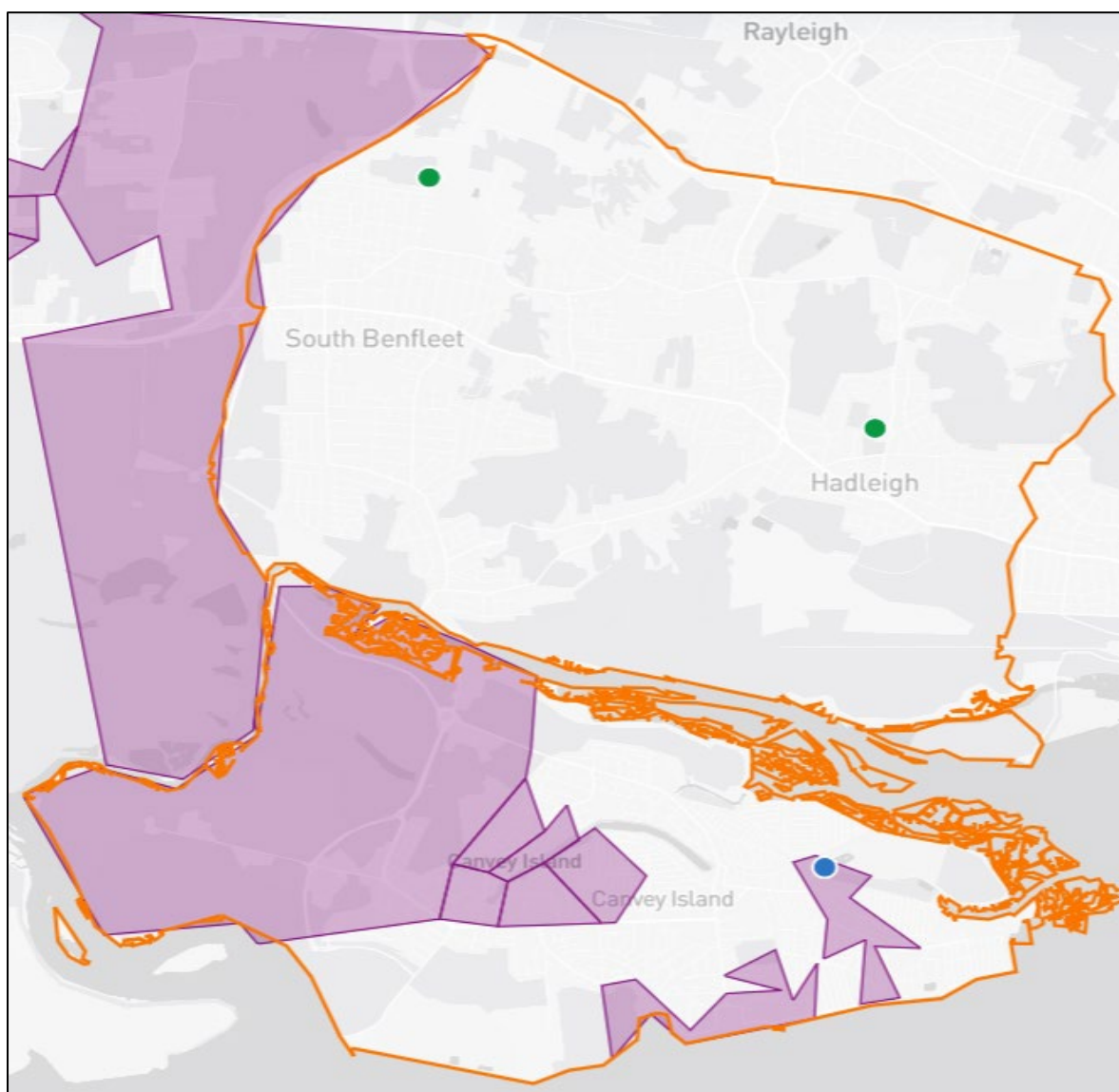
Potential future supply

There are plans to improve South Benfleet Playing Fields including reinstating the cricket pitch that has not been used for several years with development work expected to be completed in 2028.

Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

The number of active cricket sites located in the more deprived area of the Borough can be seen in the map below.

Figure 4.2: Location of cricket sites against IMD



As seen above, Smallgains Recreation Ground is located within an area of IMD3. However, when it comes to funding, this wouldn't meet the required threshold for lower socio-economic groups due to the wider area (within a 20 minute walk of the site) under-indexes on deprivation (at 18%) versus the national average (30%).

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Security of tenure

The table below outlines the tenure agreement of cricket clubs at their primary sites across Castle Point. The position is that all clubs within the Borough have secure tenure at their respective grounds for the foreseeable future (and as a minimum over the lifespan of the PPOSS).

Table 6.3: Summary of club tenure arrangements

Site ID	Site name	Club	Security of tenure	Comments
10	John H Burrows Ground	Hadleigh & Thundersley CC	Secure	Recently signed 30 year lease from the Council.
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	Canvey Island CC	Secure	Rented from the Council.
37	Woodside Park	Benfleet CC	Secure	Five year lease from the Council which is negotiations started recently to extend.

It should be noted that Benfleet CC also rents the use of Smallgains Recreation Ground to accommodate all its Saturday teams.

As seen, Benfleet and Hadleigh & Thundersley cricket clubs all have a long-term lease agreement in place via the Council, whereas Canvey Island CC has a rental agreement, also through the Council. Generally, where provision is owned by the Council and either rented or leased to clubs, it is considered that this provision is secure and will be provided over the lifespan of the PPOSS.

Pitch quality

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 is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to players.

For the PPOSS, the quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits completed in August 2025 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the KKP) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good.
- ◀ Standard.
- ◀ Poor.

The quality of a cricket square is assessed by considering factors such as evidence of the wicket being rolled, the wicket 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).

The audit found one grass wicket squares to be no good quality squares, four to be of standard quality (80%) and one to be of poor quality (20%). This is summarised by site in the following table.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 6.4: Quality ratings for community available grass wicket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of wickets (grass)	No. of wickets (NTP)	Square quality rating	Outfield quality rating
10	John H Burrows Ground	The Mainland	14	1	Standard	Poor
10	John H Burrows Ground	The Mainland	12	-	Standard	Poor
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	Canvey Island	11	-	Poor	Poor
37	Woodside Park	The Mainland	10	-	Standard	Standard
37	Woodside Park	The Mainland	8	-	Standard	Standard

Hadleigh & Thundersley CC report the outfields on the two squares at John H Burrows Ground are getting worse despite volunteer's harrow chaining during the winter. The issues are becoming more prominent and dangerous for the higher-level cricket being played.

Table 6.5: Pitch quality comments

Site ID	Site	Club	Comments from clubs
10	John H Burrows Ground	Hadleigh & Thundersley CC	The area next to the back square is sinking despite Pinnacle remedial works. The outfield on both pitches is dangerous. The square quality improved because it was verti-drained.
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	Canvey Island CC	There is plenty of dog foul found on the pitch at weekends, plus the wicket is used on Saturdays and its damage which can be dangerous for juniors. Side screens are damaged and not moveable.
37	Woodside Park	Benfleet CC	Only issue we have had in the past is people using quadbikes/motorbikes on the outfield, which leaves marks and uneven ground

All NTPs across Castle Point are rated as standard quality with no immediate quality issues raised during site assessments or consultation, however, as mentioned in the table above there are still quality issues with the outfields at all three sites.

Ancillary facilities

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. Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for cricket 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.

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.

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- ✦ 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.

Open plan changing rooms and 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 of the above, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria, cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality.

Table 6.6: Quality ratings for club ancillary facilities

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality ¹⁷	Comments
10	John H Burrows Ground	Hadleigh & Thundersley CC	Good	Good	Provision is suitable for the level of demand accessing the site. No issues raised through consultation.
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	Canvey Island CC	Poor	Poor	Ancillary facilities are outdated and in need of modernisation. Not suitable for the variety of demand on the site (male/female). The provision has also suffered from regular vandalism within the last year.
37	Woodside Park	Benfleet CC	Standard	Standard	Provision is suitable for the level of demand accessing the site. No issues raised through consultation.

Similarly to pitch quality, the table below summaries the position of each club's ancillary facilities at each site.

Table 6.7: Ancillary provision quality club findings

Site ID	Site name	Club user/s	Comments
10	John H Burrows Ground	Hadleigh & Thundersley CC	The far side storage containers were graffitied. Our outdoor net fencing is wire cut when youths' footballs go in there. In previous years the mobile covers were bent out of shape due to youths.
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	Canvey Island CC	The Club rents the use of the ancillary provision from Island Boys/Girls FC which has tenure on the site. Some minor vandalism / damage of the side screens.
37	Woodside Park	Benfleet CC	The Club states its storage container has been broken into with maintenance equipment stolen.

¹⁷ Including changing areas, toilets and showering facilities.

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Ancillary facilities servicing standalone NTPs are generally less important as users tend to show up to utilise such provision ready to play. Furthermore, as all standalone NTPs in Castle Point are based at education sites, most of the facilities are to service wider school needs rather than being specific to cricket.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. In Castle Point, two of the three clubs have access to onsite fixed net provision or mobile provision.

Table 6.8: Summary of training facilities

Site ID	Site	Practice nets?	Number of lanes?	Comments
10	John H Burrows Ground	Yes	3	Hadleigh & Thundersley CC has access to recently installed a three lane enclosed ECB standard facility.
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	No	-	Canvey Island CC aspire for practice facilities on the site.
37	Woodside Park	Yes	4	Practice nets.

Indoor facilities

Whilst the PPOSS only considers outdoor provision, a cricket training programme includes accessing indoor net facilities over winter months in preparation for the start of the season. The table below highlights the clubs that utilise indoor provision and where this takes place.

Table 6.9: Summary of indoor provision accessed by clubs

Club	Access indoor provision?	Name of site(s) used
Benfleet CC	Yes	Fitzwimarc School (Rochford) Ockendon Academy (Thurrock) Appleton School
Canvey Island CC	No	-
Hadleigh & Thundersley CC	Yes	St Christopher's School (Southend-on-Sea) Westcliff High School for Boys (Southend-on-Sea) Southend High School for Boys (Southend-on-Sea) Belfairs School (Southend-on-Sea)

Benfleet and Hadleigh & Thundersley cricket club access indoor cricket nets across several sites which are primarily within the neighbouring authority of Southend-on-Sea. Hadleigh & Thundersley CC specifically references, through consultation, a lack of indoor provision within Castle Point and the surrounding local authorities for dedicated indoor cricket facilities.

More information on indoor cricket can be found in the Built Sports Facility Strategy that is being carried out in conjunction with the PPOSS.

6.3: Demand

There are three clubs in Castle Point which collectively provide 38 teams. When broken down, this equates to 14 senior men's, three senior women's, 16 junior boys and six junior girls' team. This is summarised by clubs in the following table.

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Table 6.10: Summary of number of competitive teams by club

Club name	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	Total
Benfleet CC	The Mainland	8	1	7	3	19
Canvey Island CC	Canvey Island	1	-	-	-	1
Hadleigh & Thundersley CC	The Mainland	5	2	8	3	18
-	Total	14	3	15	6	38

It should be noted that Benfleet CC in addition to the above has an additional senior men's team which plays solely indoor. Due to this it has not been factored into the supply and demand analysis below.

Since 2018 there has been an overall increase of 90% in numbers raising from 20 to 38 teams in total. Senior men have increased from 11 to 14 and junior boys has increased from nine to 15 teams. All women and girls' teams are new since the previous PPOSS.

On a club level, Benfleet CC and Hadleigh & Thundersley CC have increased by ten and nine teams respectively, whereas, Canvey Island CC has gone from two to just one senior men's team.

The table below takes the same data and attributes it to the individual analysis areas in Castle Point.

Table 6.11: Summary of number of competitive teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	Total
Canvey Island	2	-	-	-	2
The Mainland	12	3	16	6	36
Castle Point	14	3	16	6	38

As seen, 95% of all cricket demand is in The Mainland Analysis Area as this is where the two dominant clubs are located. The remaining demand is in the Canvey Island Analysis Area originating from Canvey Island CC and the fifth Saturday team from Benfleet CC.

Additional activity

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 outfields, making squares unusable during these periods. The most relevant initiatives currently being delivered are detailed below.

All Stars cricket

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.

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- ◀ Use fun small-sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game.

In Castle Point, Benfleet (25 participants) and Hadleigh & Thundersley (50 participants) cricket clubs all take part in the programme. Total figures as of 2024 equate (where known) to 75 participants across the clubs.

Dynamo's cricket

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 build on the significant growth of the All-Stars programme and develops 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.

Hadleigh & Thundersley CC is the only club, through consultation, to indicate it participates in Dynamo's Cricket with approximately 10 members.

Softball cricket

Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase female participation in cricket. The aim 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.

All three clubs indicate, in some capacity, women and girls' softball within Castle Point. Benfleet CC and Hadleigh & Thundersley CC specifically state 20 and 60 participants, respectively.

Disability cricket

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.

There are currently no Disability Cricket Champion clubs in Castle Point. It is, however, suggested that this could be targeted moving forward.

Exported/imported demand

There is no known imported or exported demand of cricket within Castle Point.

Unmet/latent demand

No unmet or latent cricket demand is identified in Castle Point. That is to say that no clubs report that capacity issues are impacting on the demand that is fielded.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in several ways, including through club ambitions and using population forecasts.

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Population growth

Based on population projections to 2043, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for cricket pitches that will arise from any growth. 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 much growth is required to establish one new team.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 6.12: Team generation rates based on population growth (2043)

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
Senior Men's (18-55)	1:1,373	0.77	1
Senior Women's (18-55)	1:6,464	0.17	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	1:388	0.88	1
Junior Girls (7-18)	1:1,032	0.33	0

The total amount of future growth is anticipated to equate to one senior mens and one junior boys' team.

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 Castle Point is likely as it is currently a national priority. This also applies to potential increased growth in junior cricket, linked to the All Stars and Dynamos initiatives. Such additional increases will be addressed in the proceeding Strategy document as part of the scenario-testing process.

In addition, the ONS projections utilised for the team generation rates do not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth that is required in the Borough, as will be proposed in the emerging Local Plan. Housing growth will therefore also be subject to dedicated scenarios in the proceeding Strategy document, with this needing to be considered separately.

Participation growth

Through consultation, all three of the cricket clubs in Castle Point express their desire to increase the number of teams they field and quantify this growth. In total, this equates to the potential growth of 11 teams, as detailed in the table below.

Table 6.13: Future demand expressed by clubs (in teams)

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls	Total
Benfleet CC	The Mainland	1	1	2	1	5
Canvey Island CC	Canvey Island	2	1	1	-	4
Hadleigh & Thundersley CC	The Mainland	1	-	1	1	3
Total	-	4	2	4	2	12

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As seen in the table above, most of this aspirational growth (eight teams or 67%) falls in The Mainland Analysis Area as this is where the two largest teams are situated. The remaining four teams (33%) are in the Canvey Island Analysis Area generated from the aspirations from Canvey Island CC.

Future demand summary

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.

6.4: Capacity analysis

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 square 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.

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.

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.

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.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets potentially used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to a boundary, especially for senior matches. The idea of this is to showcase what the capacity is or could be if best practice is followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.

Please note that NTPs have been discounted from the analysis by means of not distorting the findings. This is because no NTPs are currently being used more than their recommended capacity, which is 60 match equivalent sessions per season (0 match equivalent sessions when poor quality). With no NTPs being overused, this translates to overall actual spare capacity for junior play, although this is not considered to be actual spare capacity for senior cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage.

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Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Castle Point is Saturday, although several teams also play on a Sunday including senior women's teams. As such, both are considered within the supply and demand analysis later in the section. For junior cricket, peak time is midweek.

Spare capacity

The table below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 6.15 and the actual spare capacity identified in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and midweek).

Table 6.14: 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 6.15: Capacity analysis of community available grass cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Users	Security of tenure	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets ¹⁸	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
10	John H Burrows Ground	The Mainland	Yes	Hadleigh & Thundersley CC	Secure	Standard	14	56	43	13	No	Yes	No
10	John H Burrows Ground	The Mainland	Yes	Hadleigh & Thundersley CC	Secure	Standard	12	48	34	14	No	Yes	Yes
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	Canvey Island	Yes	Canvey Island CC Benfleet CC	Secure	Poor	11	-	22	22	No	Yes	Yes
37	Woodside Park	The Mainland	Yes	Benfleet CC	Secure	Standard	14	56	45	11	No	No	Yes
37	Woodside Park	The Mainland	Yes	Benfleet CC	Secure	Standard	9	36	41	5	No	Yes	Yes

Actual spare capacity

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.

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 two additional junior teams; 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

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.

Taking the above into consideration, none of the five grass squares across Castle Point have the capacity to accommodate any further demand.

¹⁸ Please note the number of wickets indicated are those which have been identified for actual competitive usage.

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Sunday cricket

Sunday capacity provides capacity for additional senior men's demand to be accommodated outside of the peak period whilst still being able to play within a competitive format. Moreover, it provides peak time availability for senior women's cricket (both hardball and softball) and for some junior demand.

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 both squares at John H Burrows Ground have the potential capacity to accommodate further demand.

Table 6.16: Summary of actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket by site

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 (match equivalent sessions)
10	John H Burrows Ground	The Mainland	13	1	10
10	John H Burrows Ground	The Mainland	14	1	10

Total actual spare capacity on a Sunday equates to 20 match equivalent sessions per season. This is all in The Mainland Analysis Area.

Table 6.17: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Canvey Island	0
The Mainland	20
Castle Point Total	20

Junior cricket (midweek)

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.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for midweek cricket, it must have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have more than six match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is the average 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).

Taking the above into consideration, there are two squares, located at the John H Burrows Ground and Woodside Park, that has the potential capacity to accommodate further demand during midweek.

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Table 6.18: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by site

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 (match equivalent sessions)
10	John H Burrows Ground	The Mainland	14	3	12
37	Woodside Park	The Mainland	11	2	8

The total actual spare capacity midweek equates to 20 match equivalent sessions a season, with all of this being located in The Mainland Analysis Area.

Table 6.19: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Canvey Island	0
The Mainland	20
Castle Point Total	20

Overplay

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. In Castle Point, this relates to two squares across two sites.

Table 6.20: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per season)
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	Canvey Island	22
37	Woodside Park	The Mainland	5
-	-	Total	27

Total overplay equates to 27 match equivalent sessions a season, with the majority in the Canvey Island Analysis Area (22 match equivalent sessions) and just five match equivalent sessions in The Mainland Analysis Area.

In the case of Smallgains Recreation Ground, overplay is solely caused by poor square quality as this means that no play is recommended.

6.5: Supply and demand analysis

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 future demand across the peak periods of play. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for Saturday, ten for Sunday and four matches for midweek junior teams).

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Saturday supply and demand analysis

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 6.21: Analysis for Saturday cricket (in match equivalent sessions per season)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Canvey Island	-	22	22	-	22
The Mainland	-	5	5	12	17
Castle Point Total	-	27	27	12	39

As seen in the table above, there is overplay of grass wicket squares in Castle Point on Saturday's amounting to 27 match equivalent sessions per season. This deficit is primarily in the Canvey Island Analysis Area due to the poor quality of the square at Smallgains Recreation Ground.

After considering future demand derived from population growth (equating to one senior men's teams), shortfalls worsen by 12 match equivalent sessions to 39 match equivalent sessions per season. This increases the deficit in The Mainland Analysis Area.

Sunday cricket supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but can also be relevant to some senior men's and junior teams.

Table 6.22: Analysis for Sunday cricket (in match equivalent sessions per season)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Canvey Island	-	22	22	-	22
The Mainland	20	5	15	-	15
Castle Point Total	20	27	7	-	7

There is a current minor shortfall of grass wicket squares in Castle Point on Sunday's amounting to seven match equivalent sessions a season, despite some spare capacity in The Mainland Analysis Area. The deficit is due to overplay levels on the poor quality square at Smallgains Recreation Ground (Canvey Island Analysis Area).

No future demand is forecast for this playing period.

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Junior cricket supply and demand analysis (midweek)

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 four (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 6.23: Analysis for midweek cricket (in match equivalent sessions a season)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Canvey Island	-	22	22	-	22
The Mainland	20	5	15	12	3
Castle Point Total	20	27	7	12	19

As seen in the table above, there is a shortfall of grass wicket squares in Castle Point for midweek cricket amounting to seven match equivalent sessions a season. A shortfall is present in the Canvey Island Analysis Area, whilst The Mainland Analysis Area has spare capacity.

After considering future demand derived from population growth (to three junior teams), the shortfalls increase to 25 match equivalent sessions a season. However, spare capacity remains in The Mainland Analysis Area amounting to three match equivalent sessions per season.

6.6: Conclusion

It should be noted that an exact comparison to the previous supply and demand analysis cannot be achieved due to a differing approach to the analysis.

There is a clear shortfall of natural turf cricket squares to meet demand within Castle Point for each playing format, meaning the existing supply is insufficient to meet demand levels. Furthermore, when factoring in future demand, shortfalls worsen across the Borough. This is summarised in the following table

Table 6.24: Analysis summary of cricket squares (in match equivalent sessions per season)

Format	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Canvey Island					
Saturday	-	22	22	-	22
Sunday	-	22	22	-	22
Midweek	-	22	22	-	22
The Mainland					
Saturday	-	5	3	12	15
Sunday	20	5	15	-	15
Midweek	20	5	15	12	3
Castle Point					
Saturday	-	27	27	12	39
Sunday	20	27	7	-	7
Midweek	20	27	7	12	19

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Notwithstanding the above, when broken down by analysis area, the identified deficits are primarily due to shortfalls within the Canvey Island Analysis Area and the poor quality square at Smallgains Recreation Ground. This is despite the spare capacity in The Mainland Analysis Area on Sundays and Midweek.

Cricket – supply and demand summary

- There is a clear shortfall of natural turf cricket squares to meet demand within Castle Point for each playing format, meaning the existing supply is insufficient to meet demand levels. Furthermore, when factoring in future demand, shortfalls worsen across the Borough.
- When broken down and assessing each analysis area, it is clear that the identified deficits are primarily due to significant shortfalls within the Canvey Island Analysis Area and the poor quality square at Smallgains Recreation Ground. This is despite the spare capacity in The Mainland Analysis Area on Sundays and Midweek.

Cricket – supply summary

- There are five grass wicket cricket squares in Castle Point across three sites with the majority located in The Mainland Analysis Area (Four square or 80%) which has two double square sites located at John H Burrows and Woodside Park.
- There are five non-turf wickets in total across Castle Point, of which, one is accompanying a natural turf cricket square (John H Burrows Ground).
- There are potential plans to improve Benfleet Playing Fields including reinstating the cricket pitch that has not been used for several years.
- The position is that all clubs within the Borough 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).
- The audit found one grass wicket squares to be no good quality squares, four to be of standard quality (80%) and one to be of poor quality (20%).

Cricket – demand summary

- There are three clubs in Castle Point which collectively provide 38 teams. When broken down, this equates to 14 senior men's, three senior women's, 16 junior boys and six junior girls' team.
- Most of this aspirational growth (eight teams or 67%) falls in The Mainland Analysis Area as this is where the two largest teams are situated.
- Total overplay equates to 25 match equivalent sessions a season, with the majority in the Canvey Island Analysis Area (22 match equivalent sessions) and just three match equivalent sessions in The Mainland Analysis Area.
- None of the five grass squares across Castle Point have the capacity to accommodate any further demand on Saturdays.
- Both squares at John H Burrows Ground have the potential capacity to accommodate further demand on Sundays.
- One square, located at the John H Burrows Ground, that has the potential capacity to accommodate further demand during midweek.

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PART 7: TENNIS

7.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Castle Point. The LTA has recently restructured its strategic approach to target a number of national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

The LTA provides recommended and minimum dimensions per tennis court and depending on how many courts are provided. The recommended court size for one court is 36.57 x 18.29 metres and the minimum court size is 34.75 x 17.07 metres (more sizes can be found on the LTA website)¹⁹.

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. (see Appendix 1: Context).

Consultation

There are two tennis clubs identified in Castle Point with these being Deanes TC and Hadleigh Park TC. Both were consulted with resulting in a 100% response rate. The number of tennis clubs has not altered since the previous study.

7.2: Supply

There are 20 tennis courts identified in Castle Point across six sites, with 15 courts (75%) available for community use across five sites.

Table 7.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of courts available for community use	Number of courts unavailable for community use	Total
Canvey Island	7	5	12
The Mainland	8	-	8
Total	15	5	20

The provision of community available courts is fairly evenly split between the two areas with the Canvey Island Analysis Area accommodating seven courts (47%) with the remaining eight courts (53%) being in the Mainland Analysis Area.

Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2018, there has been an increase of two courts overall. The main changes have been outlined below under disused provision.

Disused provision

As mentioned in the previous PPOSS the two tennis courts at Woodside Park are considered to be disused. The macadam surface is still in place; however, no nets are provided, and line markings have significantly faded. In comparison the three previously disused tennis courts at King George V Playing Fields have since been refurbished, as identified in the table above, and are now considered as part of the supply in Castle Point.

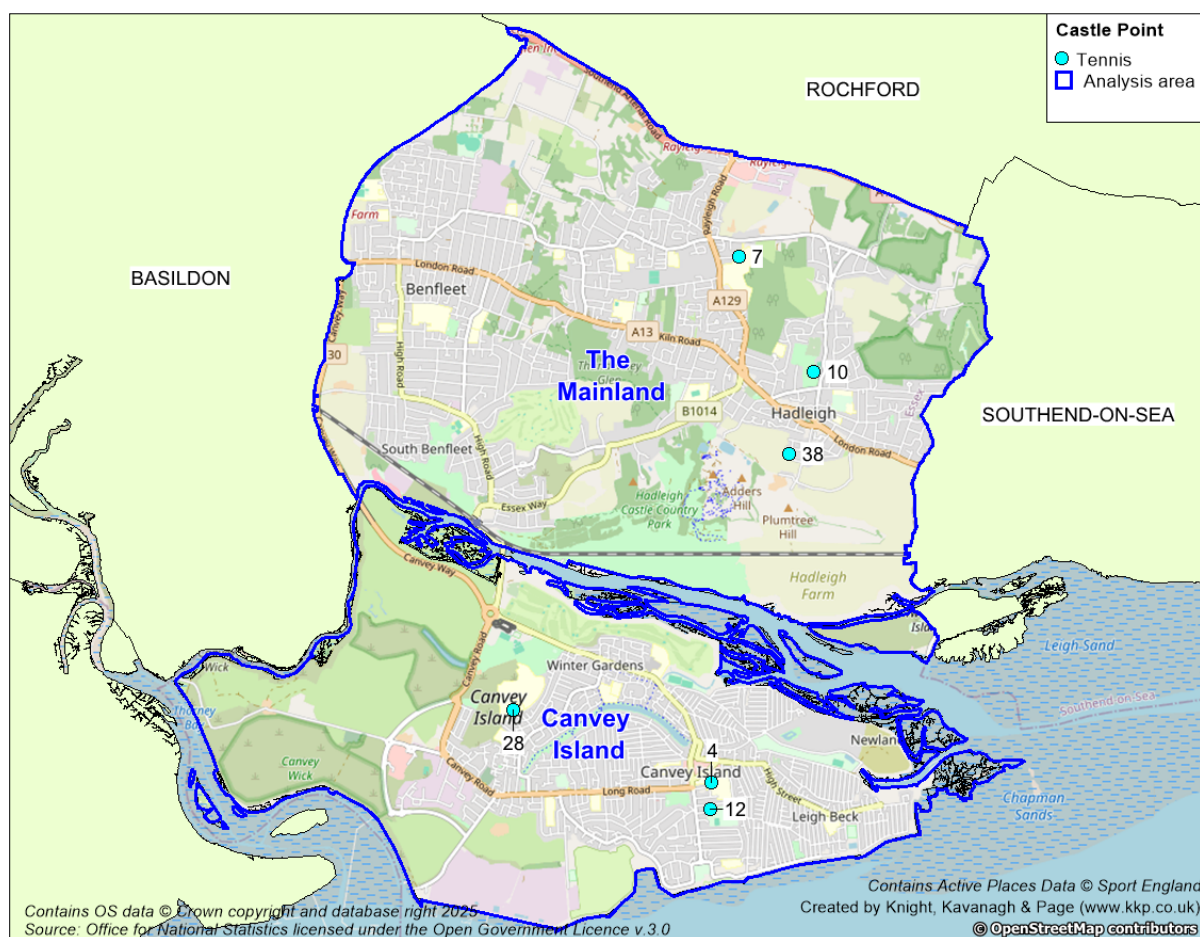
¹⁹<https://www.lta.org.uk/support-centre/venue-support/facilities-and-funding/facilities-support/what-are-the-lta-recommended-court-dimensions/>

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In the previous study John H Burrows Ground had four dedicated tennis courts, however, two have recently been adapted into a multi use games areas (MUGAs) with the remaining two courts improved in quality. Additionally, Deanes School Sports Centre had six dedicated tennis courts. After recent refurbishment three of these courts are now dedicated netball courts with only three tennis courts remaining.

The mapping below identifies the location of the courts currently servicing Castle Point. For a key to this, see Table 7.2.

Figure 7.1: Location of tennis courts in Castle Point



CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.2: Summary of provision site by site

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lit?	Court type	Court quality
4	Castle View School	SS8 7FH	Canvey Island	Education	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Poor
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	SS7 2TD	The Mainland	Education	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
10	John H Burrows Ground	SS7 2EN	The Mainland	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
12	King George V Playing Fields	SS8 7BJ	Canvey Island	Council	Yes	3	No	Acrylic	Good
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	SS8 9QS	Canvey Island	Education	No	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	SS8 9QS	Canvey Island	Education	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
38	Hadleigh Park Lawn Tennis Club	SS7 2AH	The Mainland	Sports club	Yes	3	No	Artificial	Standard

Additional supply

There is one purpose built indoor tennis facility in Castle Point, located at Deanes School Sports Centre. The site has three permanent courts, with further information found in the Indoor and Built Facilities Needs Assessment. The report summarises:

- ◀ Deanes School Sport Centre is the sole indoor tennis facility in Castle Point. It has three acrylic courts.
- ◀ It is rated as above average quality with suitable ancillary provision.
- ◀ Deanes School Sport Centre offers a pay and play option for Castle Point residents. Acquiring a club membership reduces the rate at which this can be accessed.

Strategic summary

- ◀ Monitor refurbishment at Deanes School Sport Centre and provide support if needed.
- ◀ Undertake regular maintenance to the indoor playing surface to ensure the current quality is maintained/improved.
- ◀ Protect provision at Deanes School Sport Centre as only indoor tennis venue within the Authority.

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LTA Youth provision

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+.

No specific LTA Youth courts are provided in Castle Point. 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

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.

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, with this growing to 350 in 2023 and 500 in 2024. There is also a projected growth to 1,000 in 2026, with it therefore envisaged that, with growing infrastructure, participation in padel will increase significantly over the coming years.

Notwithstanding the above, there are currently no padel tennis courts within Castle Point with the closest facility being located David Lloyd Club in Southend.

In terms of future supply, a variety of environments can be considered, with provision often situated next to or managed by those running existing tennis facilities (e.g., tennis clubs, parks and 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.

The LTA also states that it is not encouraging clubs or operators to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts. This is to ensure that the provision of tennis courts remains sufficient.

Management

The table identifies the breakdown of tennis courts in Castle Point by management-type. As seen, seven community available courts are operated by schools, five by the Council and three by a sports club (Hadleigh Park TC). All unavailable courts are at education sites.

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Table 7.3: Courts available for community use by ownership

Community use?	Sports club	Council	Education
Available	3	5	7
Unavailable	-	-	5
Total	3	5	12

Both tennis clubs in Castle Point are considered to have secured tenure with no immediate issues raised during consultation.

Court type

Within Castle Point, most courts (17 or 85%) have a macadam/acrylic surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam/acrylic court is ten to 15 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).

The three remaining courts (15%) at Hadleigh Park Lawn Tennis Club have an artificial turf surface. 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

Courts with sports lighting enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. In fact, the LTA reports that sports lighting allows for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In Castle Point, 12 of the 20 courts are serviced by sports lighting, which is a relatively high proportion. The only sites without sports lighting are located at:

- ✦ John H Burrows Ground.
- ✦ King George V Playing Fields.
- ✦ Hadleigh Park Lawn Tennis Club.

Nationally, access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for more usage of provision. To that end, it is worth noting that Hadleigh Park TC is not currently serviced by sports lighting, with the Club aspiring to install lighting in order to help attract more membership by increasing availability.

Sports lighting at park sites is also considered to be beneficial in terms of attracting and enabling recreational demand. In Castle Point, there are not any local authority sites serviced by sports lighting.

Over markings

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.

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In Castle Point, 12 courts are overmarked by netball courts across three sites, with all of these located at schools. The remaining courts at John J Burrows Ground, King George V Playing Fields and Hadleigh Park Lawn Tennis Club are all maintained as dedicated tennis provision.

Quality

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).

In Castle Point, six courts (30%) are assessed as good quality (all available for community use), whereas ten (50%) are standard quality courts (five available for community use) and four (20%) are poor quality (all available for community use).

Table 7.4: Summary of community available court quality

Community available	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	6	5	4
Unavailable	-	5	-
Total	6	10	4

When compared to previous PPOSS findings (2018), there has been an overall increase in the quality of provision. This is mainly due to the resurfacing of the former disused provision at King George V Playing Fields. The only community available provision assessed as poor quality is located at Castle View School with everything else rated as either standard or good quality.

Hadleigh Park TC report courts to be of standard quality at Hadleigh Park Lawn Tennis Club with plans for resurfacing within the next three years. Conversely, no immediate quality issues were identified at Deanes School Sports Centre with the courts having recently been refurbished.

Renovation fund²⁰

The LTA previously secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into park tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This saw thousands of public park tennis courts that were in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities. It also funded the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

Whilst the above has come to an end, the LTA's ambition remains to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. The LTA notes that this should be a focus across park provision in Castle Point.

²⁰[Renovation Fund for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](https://www.lta.org.uk)

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LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme²¹

The LTA's mission is to grow tennis and padel by making them accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. Ensuring local communities have access to quality facilities is critical to attracting and retaining more players. As such, the LTA's Quick Access Loan Scheme aims to provide loans to support venues investment in facilities, prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts.

The objectives of the fund are to:

- ✦ Provide covered or sports-lit playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year.
- ✦ Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue.
- ✦ Offer and increase both non-members pay and play usage and coaching opportunities.
- ✦ Grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme.
- ✦ Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons through an [online booking system](#).

As part of the fund, the LTA will fund:

- ✦ Lighting upgrades to LED (outdoor and indoor).
- ✦ New sports lights.
- ✦ New court provision.
- ✦ Outdoor padel courts.
- ✦ Covered padel (courts and cover).
- ✦ Covered tennis courts.

Ancillary provision

For club-based tennis, the ancillary facilities servicing Deanes TC and Hadleigh Park TC are identified as being adequate quality. Each club are serviced by changing rooms and toilets as well as a separate social area.

For the remaining courts across, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Whilst most sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the 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.

Where ancillary facilities are poor quality or non-existent in relation to local authority sites, the LTA notes that the most pressing issue is to ensure that accessible toilets are provided. Facilities such as changing rooms are seen as less of an issue as they are generally not accessed by park players.

²¹ [Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](#)

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7.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

There are two clubs in Castle Point, known as Deanes TC and Hadleigh Park TC. The table below summarises the demand based on consultation findings.

Table 7.5: Summary of club membership

Name of club	No. of senior members	No. of junior members	Total membership
Deanes TC	100	60	160
Hadleigh Park TC	136	19	155
Total	236	79	315

When compared to 2018 PPOSS findings overall membership figures have marginally increased. Hadleigh Park TC has increased from 115 to 155 members, conversely, Deanes TC has decreased from 195 to 160 members. It should be noted that previous demand figures for Deanes TC included casual members whereas current figures are solely for full membership. Therefore, the reduction in participation is anticipated to be less than the figures referenced above.

Informal and parks tennis

Away from clubs, community usage can be difficult to quantify as it is not always monitored, especially at sites that are free to access as is the case at local authority sites across Castle Point. Demand for such provision is generally at its highest during summer months, especially following events such as Wimbledon, but significant capacity is likely to exist outside of this.

To help grow the use of tennis courts, the LTA has developed a package of support for councils and other providers by removing key barriers to participation. This is via three products known as ClubSpark, Play and Smart Access.

Each product is further summarised below.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

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.
- 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.

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- ✦ 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

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

The LTA report that since its refurbishment, a sustainable operating model using the methods above has been implemented at King George V Playing Fields. It recommends to implement a similar model for the provision at John H Burrows Ground.

Additional demand

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

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.

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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.

There is currently no local tennis league operating in Castle Point.

Free Parks Tennis

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.

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.

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.

John H Burrows Ground and King George V Playing Fields both offer Free Parks Tennis primarily on Saturdays.

LTA Youth Programmes

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.

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.

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There are multiple sessions of LTA Youth Programmes taking place through Deanes TC at Deanes School Sports Centre. This is primarily on its indoor provision.

Padel

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. Furthermore, the LTA reports that Essex is one of the biggest growing counties in terms of padel demand and development.

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.

Despite the above, there are currently no padel courts in Castle Point, meaning no activity is taking place in the area with the closest facility being located David Lloyd Club in Southend. However, that is not to say that there is no demand. Several operators aspire to establish provision, and this would likely result in significant usage when considering national and regional trends.

To assist local authorities in strategically planning padel provision, the LTA has established, by authority, the number of padel courts that can be sustained based on population density and padel demand. In Castle Point, this identifies a need for up to seven 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.

The above 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.

The figure also only represents the first stage in strategic planning for padel by local authority boundary. The second phase is to begin to look at potential locations and the demography of the catchment and how they overlay, which will in many instances cut across boundary lines.

Latent/unmet demand

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.

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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.

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.

In addition to the above, Hadleigh Park TC also identifies an element of unmet demand, noting that it is currently operating at capacity due to a lack of sports lighting.

Future demand

Deanes TC and Hadleigh Park TC identify future growth plans of 40 and 50 members (20 seniors and 30 juniors), respectively. Any increased demand for the latter club can only occur following the installation of sports lighting.

Notwithstanding the above, a growth in demand for tennis is 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 (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan) equates to the need for 0.63 courts. This is based on extrapolating current demand levels. It should be noted that the above calculation does not account for growth associated with housing developments and therefore will not fully account for housing growth with this being further explored in the forthcoming Strategy and Action Plan.

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 and easily accessible/bookable.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

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. Additionally, any permanent indoor courts, or courts with air dome facility to allow year round access, can accommodate 200 members.

Using this, Deanes TC is considered to have sufficient capacity for its 160 members at Deanes School Sports Centre. As the site has three sports lit outdoor courts (180) and three indoor courts (600) it has more than sufficient capacity for current and future levels of demand.

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Comparatively, Hadleigh Park TC has 155 current members which access three courts which are not sport lit (120) meaning it is oversubscribed by approximately 35 members. This would worsen if it actualised its future demand aspirations of 50 members. This links to its identified need for sports lighting. If all three courts became sports lit it would have sufficient capacity for current and future levels of demand.

For non-club courts, capacity is more difficult to determine as exact demand levels are not known. However, this is an issue in itself, with not all local authority provision operating with LTA technology such as via ClubSpark which is likely to be inhibiting demand.

There is also likely to be demand for padel that is not being met, based on the national and local picture, with no courts provided. This is despite the LTA identifying a need for up to seven courts based on its modelling.

7.5: Conclusion

The supply of tennis provision in Castle Point is currently insufficient to meet both club and non-club demand. This is due to capacity issues for Hadleigh Park TC, primarily linked to a lack of sports lighting, and because of a lack of good quality, sports-lit local authority courts that are easily accessible.

Additionally, there is a need to ensure existing provision is protected, through sustainable operational models, with sinking funds created and used for ongoing maintenance and future capital works such as court resurfacing and repainting.

There is also likely demand for padel courts to be established across the Borough.

Tennis - supply and demand summary

- ▶ The supply of tennis provision in Castle Point is currently insufficient to meet both club and non-club demand. This is due to capacity issues for Hadleigh Park TC, primarily linked to a lack of sports lighting, and because of a lack of good quality, sports-lit local authority courts that are easily accessible.
- ▶ There is also a need for padel provision to be established across the Borough.

Tennis - supply summary

- ▶ There are 20 tennis courts identified in Castle Point across six sites, with 15 courts (75%) available for community use across five sites.
- ▶ The provision of community available courts is fairly evenly split between the two areas with the Canvey Island Analysis Area accommodating seven courts (47%) with the remaining eight courts (53%) being in the Mainland Analysis Area.
- ▶ There are no padel courts provided in Castle Point.
- ▶ Seven community available courts are operated by schools, five by the Council and three by a sports club (Hadleigh Park TC).
- ▶ There are 12 of the 20 courts that are serviced by sports lighting, which is a relatively high proportion.
- ▶ In addition, 12 courts are overmarked by netball across three sites, with all of these located at schools.
- ▶ Six courts are assessed as good quality (all available for community use), whereas ten are standard quality courts (five available for community use) and four are poor quality (all available for community use).

Tennis - demand summary

- ▶ There are two clubs in Castle Point: Deanes TC and Hadleigh Park TC.
- ▶ When compared to 2018 PPOSS findings overall membership figures have marginally increased. Hadleigh Park TC has increased from 115 to 155 members, conversely, Deanes TC has decreased from 195 to 160 members.

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- ◆ Deanes TC and Hadleigh Park TC identify future growth plans of 40 and 50 members (20 seniors and 30 juniors), respectively.
- ◆ The LTA report that since its refurbishment, a sustainable operating model using the methods above has been implemented at King George V Playing Fields. It recommends implementing a similar model for the provision at John H Burrows Ground.

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PART 8: NETBALL

8.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport.

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

Eastwood Netball Club and Manor Essex Netball Club are the only two netball clubs using provision within Castle Point as a home venue. Neither is affiliated to England Netball. Both were invited to consult but only Eastwood Netball Club responded, resulting in 50% response rate.

Online research has been used to inform details for Manor Essex Netball Club.

8.2: Supply

There are 19 netball courts identified in Castle Point across seven sites. However, of these, only 10 are available for community use across three sites. All provision, whether it is available or unavailable for community use, is located at educational sites.

Table 8.1: Summary of community available netball courts

Analysis area	Number of courts available for community use	Number of courts unavailable for community use	Total
Canvey Island	3	5	8
The Mainland	7	4	11
Total	10	9	19

As seen in the table above, most community available courts are in The Mainland Analysis Area (seven), whereas the fewest are found in the Canvey Island Analysis Area (three).

Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2018, the number of courts across the Borough has increased substantially. However, this is predominately due to additional provision being identified at educational sites, rather than it being due to new developments.

Figure 8.1 overleaf shows the location of the netball courts currently servicing the Borough. For a key to the map, see Table 8.2.

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Table 8.2: Key to map

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lit?	Court type	Court quality
4	Castle View School	SS8 7FH	Canvey Island	Education	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Poor
6	Cedar Hall School	SS7 3UQ	The Mainland	Education	No	1	No	Macadam	Poor
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	SS7 2TD	The Mainland	Education	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	SS7 2TD	The Mainland	Education	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
27	The Appleton School	SS7 5RN	The Mainland	Education	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Standard
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	SS8 9QS	Canvey Island	Education	No	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	SS8 9QS	Canvey Island	Education	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
29	The King John School	SS7 1RQ	The Mainland	Education	No	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
34	Westwood Academy	SS7 2SU	The Mainland	Education	No	1	No	Macadam	Poor

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Indoor provision

Whilst not included within the scope of this study, it is recognised that netball activity also takes places via indoor provision, particularly in sports halls and outside of summer months. More information in relation to this can be found in the Built Sports Facilities Strategy which is being undertaken in conjunction with the PPOSS.

Management and security of tenure

As mentioned above, all outdoor netball court sites in Castle Point are managed by schools. Due to this fact, security of tenure for netball users is limited with no club known to have secured access via a community use agreement.

Court type

All outdoor netball courts in Castle Point have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

Sports lighting

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 Castle Point, 14 of the 19 courts (74%) are serviced by sports lights, with these based at:

- ✦ Castle View School.
- ✦ Deanes Schools Sports Centre.
- ✦ The Cornelius Vermuyden School.
- ✦ The King John School.

A total of seven out of ten courts (70%) are sports lit. 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%). Comparatively Castle Point has a significant level of sports lit provision which is mainly due to facilities at Deanes School Sports Centre.

Over marking

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.

In Castle Point, Deanes School Sports Centre (two courts), The Appleton School, The King John School and Westwood Academy all have dedicated netball courts. All remaining provision is overmarked with tennis courts.

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Quality

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 (for the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2).

The quality of community available courts in Castle Point is evenly spread with four good quality, and three each being standard and poor quality. This is summarised further in the table below along with the quality of those courts unavailable for community use.

Table 8.3: Quality of netball courts in Castle Point

Community use	Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Available	4	3	3
Unavailable	-	7	2
Total	4	10	5

Four of the good quality courts are identified at Deanes School Sport Centre. This follows recent refurbishments. The poor quality courts are identified at:

- ❖ Castle View School.
- ❖ Cedar Hall School.
- ❖ Westwood Academy.

Issues surrounding these courts include poor grip underfoot, evidence of moss and worn line markings. Outdoor netball courts at schools are often poor quality mainly due to weather damage, lack of funding, aging infrastructure, and low prioritisation of maintenance. Improving these conditions would require significant investment and a shift in priorities, especially to promote accessibility to high-quality facilities for all students.

Climate and quality considerations

Participation levels are heavily influenced by weather conditions, which can result in sessions being cancelled or becoming financially non-viable. This has the greatest impact on outdoor tournaments, festivals, leagues, and England Netball programmes, where poor weather can significantly reduce attendance, disrupt delivery, and affect long-term sustainability.

When outdoor sessions are cancelled due to poor weather, or when environments feel unreliable or inaccessible, it disrupts that routine, particularly for those new to activity or returning after a break. These small breaks in delivery can have a big impact on long-term engagement, highlighting the importance of secure, fit-for-purpose local facilities that support sustained participation year-round.

Ancillary facilities

Nationally, 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 outdoor 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.

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In Castle Point, the above is likely to relate given that most courts are provided at school sites, albeit this is not currently an issue due to a general lack of external netball usage. Where provision is in use, no problems are reported e.g., at Deanes School Sports Centre.

8.3: Demand

Demand for outdoor netball activity can come in several forms, such as through formal league activity, commercial leagues and England Netball-led initiatives.

Eastwood NC

Eastwood NC has 80 members, and competes in several leagues including, Senior Regional League, Regional Youth League, Basildon Junior League, and Chelmsford Junior League.

Its primary training sessions takes place on Friday evenings at Deanes School Sports Centre, utilising both the indoor sports hall and outdoor netball courts.

However, it considers the indoor sports hall at Deanes is to be unsuitable for competitive matches, primarily due to the insufficient run-off space, which does not meet league standards. Additionally, the Club has raised concerns about the overall quality of the indoor facility, citing issues such as poor lighting, outdated flooring, and general wear and tear, which negatively affect the training environment.

The Deanes School Sport Centre outdoor courts are the home of Southend and District Netball League. They also accommodate teams from the Basildon Junior League.

Consultation with England Netball raised the issue of the lack of local leagues in Castle Point. The only league in the Authority uses outdoor netball provision. Those looking to play competitive netball in the area tend to travel further afield to play in commercial leagues in the neighbouring authorities of Southend, Thurrock, Basildon and Chelmsford.

Manor Essex NC

Although the Club did not respond to consultation requests, it is ascertained through online research that it utilises provision at Deanes School Sports Centre on Thursdays (17:00 – 18:00) for training for U6s through to U19s. It is also currently recruiting years two to five.

Southend & District Netball League

The League uses the four outdoor sports lit courts at Deanes School Sports Centre to meet demand from its 22 teams across three divisions. The outdoor courts, which were recently resurfaced with significant support from the Eastwood NC, which also use the courts for competitive and training demand. There is also some usage for training by the Basildon & District Netball League.

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England Netball initiatives

Nationally, England Netball has a variety of initiatives aimed at increasing netball participation for players of all abilities and ages. These include:

- ✦ Back to Netball.
- ✦ Walking Netball.
- ✦ Netball Now.
- ✦ Bee Netball.

However, none of these currently have a presence in Castle Point. The nearest sessions take place in the neighbouring authorities of Basildon and Southend-on-Sea.

Commercial leagues

In addition to the club-based demand identified above, there is also a commercial netball leagues operating via Play Netball. These cater for teams outside of the normal club environment on more of a casual/recreational basis, 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.

There are currently no Play Netball leagues operating within Castle Point and, similar to the England Netball initiatives, the nearest sessions take place in the neighbouring authorities of Basildon and Southend-on-Sea.

Exported/imported demand

Due to the presence of the Southend & District Netball League and training demand Basildon & District Netball League, it is considered likely that there will be partial amounts of imported demand into Castle Point for netball. This is likely to be taking the form of individuals playing within teams that form part of the league structures in place.

Similarly, there is also likely to be a degree of exported demand given other leagues that operate in the region, such as those via competitive Basildon & District Netball Association and South Essex Thurrock Netball Association.

Unmet/latent demand

No latent or unmet demand was identified through consultation. As such, it is considered that any demand from people not currently playing netball could be accommodated within pre-existing activity.

Future demand

Eastwood NC is well-positioned for future growth, with sufficient access to facilities and qualified coaching staff. While it does not currently face capacity constraints, it does note a common trend of player drop-off around the age of 14 years. Despite this, the Club continues to support young athletes through to age 16 years and beyond, fostering a pathway for continued participation and progression.

In addition to club-based activity, it is hoped by England Netball that there will be an increase in the number of its initiatives held within the Borough and the demand for them. However, this can be reliant on volunteers running and organising the sessions.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is clear current demand for outdoor courts, and seasonal usage is critical to sustaining netball all year round. There are structured leagues, school delivery, and England Netball programmes already in place which rely on outdoor provision. Removing outdoor netball courts from future protection risks undermining a large portion of grassroots delivery, especially among underserved participation groups. Investment is needed to improve poor quality sites to meet existing demand, enable the growth of netball provision, and support future projects currently in development.

8.5: Conclusion

In summary, there is a need to protect the current number of outdoor netball courts within Castle Point to sustain current levels of demand. There is also a need to improve the quality of courts to accommodate additional demand. Additionally, exploration should be given to opening up unavailable sites for community use.

Netball – supply and demand summary

- ◆ In summary, there is a need to protect the current number of outdoor netball courts within Castle Point in order to sustain current levels of demand. There is also a need to improve the quality of courts in order to accommodate additional demand. Additionally, exploration should be given to opening up unavailable sites for community use.

Netball – supply summary

- ◆ There are 19 netball courts identified in Castle Point across seven sites. However, of these, only 10 are available for community use across three sites.
- ◆ All outdoor netball courts in Castle Point have a macadam surface
- ◆ A total of seven out of ten courts (70%) are sports lit.
- ◆ The quality of community available courts in Castle Point is fairly evenly spread with four good quality, and three each being standard and poor quality.

Netball – demand summary

- ◆ Eastwood NC has 80 members, and competes in several leagues including, Senior Regional League, Regional Youth League, Basildon Junior League, and Chelmsford Junior League.
- ◆ Southend & District Netball League uses the four outdoor sports lit courts at Deanes School Sports Centre to meet demand from its 22 teams across three divisions.
- ◆ No latent or unmet demand was identified through consultation.

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PART 9: BOWLS

9.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Castle Point are flat green. Bowls England is the NGB for flat green bowls with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance. Regionally, flat green bowls is administered by the Essex County Bowling Association (for men) and the Castle Point Area Ladies Bowling Association (for women).

The flat green bowling season generally runs from May to September.

Consultation

There are three bowls clubs within Castle Point with two of them responding to consultation resulting in a 66% response rate. As seen in the table the only outstanding club is South Benfleet and Canvey BC.

Table 9.1: Summary of bowls consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Castle Point BC	Yes
Hadleigh BC	Yes
South Benfleet and Canvey BC	No

The number of bowls clubs has not altered since the previous study in 2018.

9.2: Supply

There are three flat green bowling greens in Castle Point provided across three sites. All greens are available for community use and located in The Mainland Analysis Area. Since the previous PPOSS in 2018, the number of greens has remained the same.

Table 9.2: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of greens
Canvey Island	-
The Mainland	3
Total	3

There are currently no indoor bowling venues in Castle Point, with the nearest located in Rochford at Rayleigh Leisure Centre. The Indoor and Built Needs Assessment that accompanies this report concludes that there is a requirement for such provision given the ageing population of the Borough.

Figure 9.1 below identifies the location of the greens. For a key to the map, see Table 9.3.

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Figure 9.1: Location of bowls greens in Castle Point



Table 9.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Club user/s	No. of greens
10	John H Burrows Ground	SS7 2EN	The Mainland	Hadleigh BC	1
37	Woodside Park	SS7 4PB	The Mainland	Castle Point BC	1
39	South Benfleet and Canvey Bowls Club	SS7 5JA	The Mainland	South Benfleet and Canvey BC	1

Ownership/management

Based on the previous study, both South Benfleet & Canvey and Hadleigh bowling clubs lease greens from the Council. South Benfleet & Canvey BC leases its green, with this due to expire in 2036, whereas Hadleigh BC leases the green at John H Burrows Ground, with the arrangement due to expire in 2034. The Council maintains the greens as part of these agreements, with each club looking after the clubhouses on site.

Castle Point BC rents the green at Woodside Park from the Council but has a lease arrangement in place for accompanying ancillary facilities such as the pavilion. The Club maintains this provision, whilst the Council maintains the green. It reports that this agreement works very well.

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Quality

The quality of bowling greens has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. 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).

Across Castle Point, two greens are assessed as good quality (67%), and one (33%) is assessed as standard quality (none are poor quality). This is summarised in the following table.

Table 9.4: Summary of bowls green quality

Site ID	Site name	No. of greens	Green quality rating
10	John H Burrows Ground	1	Standard
37	Woodside Park	1	Good
39	South Benfleet and Canvey Bowls Club	1	Good

The quality of greens in the Authority has marginally changes since the previous study with the quality of provision at John H Burrows Ground decreasing from good to standard quality, whereas the green at South Benfleet and Canvey Bowls Club improving from standard to good quality.

Hadleigh BC (John H Burrows Ground) aspire to improve the issues surrounding the edges of its green stating attempts to acquire funding unsuccessfully. It states the run-off issue plus the ground dips in several places making a smooth running of the bowl unpredictable at times.

Comparatively Castle Point BC report the green at Woodside Park has improved in quality of the previous seasons due to additional works carried out by a dedicated greens keeper.

Sports lighting

No greens in Castle Point are serviced by sports lighting. This means that opportunities for access for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months is somewhat limited. Nevertheless, sports-lit bowling greens are relatively rare across the Country, and this should therefore not be considered as a significant issue.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Castle Point have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site and quality is generally adequate. As seen in the table below, one green is serviced by good quality provision with the remaining two sites serviced by standard quality provision.

Table 9.5: Summary of ancillary facility quality

Site ID	Site name	No. of greens	Ancillary facility quality rating
10	John H Burrows Ground	1	Standard
37	Woodside Park	1	Standard
39	South Benfleet and Canvey Bowls Club	1	Good

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Where provision is assessed as standard rather than good quality, this is generally due to the age of the facilities rather than any one particular issue. An example of this is at John H Burrows Ground where Hadleigh BC state a need for general refurbishment of the facility. The Club would require funding to achieve this.

9.3: Demand

There are three bowls clubs currently playing in Castle Points. These are:

- ✦ Castle Point BC.
- ✦ Hadleigh BC.
- ✦ South Benfleet & Canvey BC.

Through consultation Hadleigh BC state 163 members (94 male and 69 female) with Castle Point BC having 105 members (65 male and 40 female). Current membership data for South Benfleet and Canvey BC is unavailable due a lack of consultation, however, based on the previous study, the Club had circa 145 members.

Additional demand

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.

In Castle Point, both Hadleigh and South Benfleet & Canvey bowls clubs are signed up to the above initiative, which is a comparatively high level.

Latent/unmet demand

No known bowls capacity issues are known to exist in Castle Point, with both Hadleigh and Castle Point bowls clubs stating they do not have a waiting list and could accommodate additional members.

Future demand

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.

In addition, Bowls England is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation and is taking active steps at both county and national level to encourage younger players to participate. This could see the emergence of junior players in Castle Point.

Notwithstanding the above, Hadleigh BC indicate an aspiration to increase by 20 senior and ten junior players whereas Castle Point BC report future demand for 20 senior members.

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9.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on leagues and the day that they operate, as well as how active the general membership is. The provision is likely to be most heavily used during afternoons and evenings when matches are being played, although many active greens are also used throughout mornings by club members who bowl socially. This can cause issues with access during peak times if membership is particularly high.

Based on the above, Bowls England 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 notes 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.

Capacity ratings for bowling greens in Castle Point is therefore classified as follows:

Within capacity range	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
At capacity range	Membership is at the capacity limit of the green
Outside capacity range	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in the Castle Point receives, where information is known. Where no membership information is known (i.e., for South Benfleet & Canvey BC), further communication is required to fully understand need and any potential capacity or sustainability issues.

Table 9.6: Supply and demand analysis for bowls in Castle Point

Site ID	Site	No. of greens	Capacity	2025 membership	Capacity balance (no. of members)
10	John H Burrows Ground	1	80	105	25
37	Woodside Park	1	80	163	83
39	South Benfleet and Canvey Bowls Club	1	80	Unknown	Unknown

Based on the above information, the greens at John H Burrows Ground and Woodside Park are operating over capacity. Additionally, although unknown due to a lack of consultation, if demand figures have remained reasonably similar for South Benfleet and Canvey BC, since the previous study, its green would also be operating over capacity. This is like the evidence provided in the 2018 study.

9.5: Conclusion

Despite the greens in Castle Point potentially operating over capacity, there is not sufficient evidence to support the development of new provision. Neither club state a waiting list with both actively looking to attract new members. However, the situation should be monitored throughout the PPOSS Stage E process to understand if this alters.

As a result, all three greens should be protected long term with relative improvements made to green and ancillary provision, as required, to sustain levels of demand.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Bowls – supply and demand summary

- Despite the greens in Castle Point operating over capacity, there is not sufficient evidence to support the development of new provision. Neither club state a waiting list with both actively looking to attract new members.

Bowls – supply summary

- There are three flat green bowling greens in Castle Point provided across three sites. All greens are available for community use and located in The Mainland Analysis Area.
- Across Castle Point, two greens are assessed as good quality, and one is assessed as standard quality (none are poor quality).
- No greens in Castle Point are serviced by sports lighting

Bowls – demand summary

- Through consultation Hadleigh BC state 163 members (94 male and 69 female) with Castle Point BC having 105 members (65 male and 40 female). Current membership data for South Benfleet and Canvey BC is unavailable due a lack of consultation, however, based on the 2018 PPOSS the Club had circa 145 members
- Hadleigh BC indicate an aspiration to increase by 20 senior and ten junior players whereas Castle Point BC report future demand for 20 senior members.
- Based on the above information the greens at John H Burrows Ground and Woodside Park are operating above what is considered sustainable.
- No known bowls capacity issues are known to exist in Castle Point, with both Hadleigh and Castle Point bowls clubs stating they do not have a waiting list and are actively seeking for additional members.

PART 10: ATHLETICS

10.1: Introduction

England Athletics (EA) is the not-for-profit membership and development body responsible for grassroots athletics and running in England. EA supports 1,750 affiliated clubs and organisations (covering track and field, road running, fell, hill, trail and cross-country clubs), 147,000 registered athletes, 18,700 licensed coaches and leaders, 3,800 officials and 6.2m regular running participants. EA's Athletics purpose is to inspire more athletes and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport. Their vision is for athletics and running to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.

Consultation

As there is no dedicated athletics club operating in Castle Point consultation has been undertaken with England Athletics to inform this section.

10.2: Supply

There is an athletic track located Waterside Farm Leisure Centre (Canvey Island Analysis Area) which services most of the population of Castle Point. The track has a synthetic surface and six lanes but is not sports lit. Areas are also present for jumping and throwing events. It is owned and operated by the Council.

The track and surrounding athletics facilities are poor quality and have not improved since the previous PPOSS with limited amounts of remedial works carried out on an annual basis. England Athletics indicates that there is an immediate need to refurbish the provision in order to protect the longevity and ensure it does not become unusable. Although not an immediate need, once refurbished, options to obtain TrackMark accreditation could be explored.

TrackMark²²

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

10.3: Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

There are two prominent running clubs operating in Castle Point: Castle Point Joggers and Benfleet Running Club.

²² <https://www.uka.org.uk/about/what-we-do/facilities/>

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Castle Point Joggers

The Club was founded in 1975 and has recently celebrated its 50 year anniversary. Based on the evidence within the previous study the Club has circa 170 runners, with both males and females over the age of 17 welcome to join. The Club meets every Tuesday evening at Hadleigh and Thundersley Cricket Club, which it uses as a home base for pre and post running refreshments.

In addition to its main session on a Tuesday, the Club also hosts sessions on Mondays for hill and sprint training, on Wednesdays for circuit training, on Thursdays for interval training and on Sundays for long runs. Venues used for such activity include King John School, Appleton School and John Burrows Park.

Previously, the Club ran summer sessions via the track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre, and it is considered likely that the provision would again be used if quality improved to a sufficient level.

Benfleet Running Club

Similarly based on the 2018 PPS Benfleet Running Club has approximately 200 senior members and 120 junior members, making it one of the largest running clubs nationwide. The aim of the Club is to get people running in a friendly atmosphere, whilst training for events such as the London Marathon and the Great North Run.

The Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday at Benfleet Playing Fields and also encourages its members to compete in many events, including Parkrun. As with Castle Point Joggers, the Club previously accessed Waterside Farm Leisure Centre for occasional sprint and interval training. Similarly, it is likely the Club would utilise the track again if quality were to be improved.

Strava²³

Strava is a social network and fitness tracking app that records and analyses activities such as running, cycling and swimming using GPS data. England Athletics report the athletics track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre is well used particularly within key demographics such as women and girls / disability groups. For example, the Backside to Trackside initiative, which aims to improve the health of the Castle Point population, runs multiple sessions a week from the track.

Using Strava data from neighbouring authorities such as Southend-on-Sea (Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre) it indicates the athletics track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre is marginally better used, however, this does not take into consideration any permanent athletics club.

ParkRun

ParkRun is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 1,063 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all ParkRun events.

²³ Due to copyright reasons data provided by Strava cannot directly be placed within the PPOSS.

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There is one ParkRun operating from Hadleigh Country Park in Castle Point, which at the time of writing the event has been hosted 384 times, had a total of 45,183 finishes with an average time of 33.31 minutes. There are no junior ParkRun events in the Authority with the closest in the neighbouring authority of Basildon at Northlands Park.

Exported demand

Due to the current quality of the track and surrounding facilities at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre anecdotal evidence indicates that more formal club based athletics demand if exported to neighbouring authorities. This includes Basildon (Basildon Sporting Village) and Southend-on-Sea (Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre and the Eastwood Academy). It should be noted that the facility at Basildon Sporting Village is TrackMark accredited.

Although difficult to quantify, as exact levels of exported demand are not known, it is anticipated that some levels would return to Castle Point to use the provision at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre if it was refurbished.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners to get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle, including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

10.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is considered that for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of circa 200 is required. This is based on figures and consultation provided by England Athletics and focuses on formal athletics club demand (i.e. Track and Field) that would use the facility on a regular basis.

As mentioned, the track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre does not service an athletics club however there are substantial levels of demand utilising the provision. There is some demand generated from the abovementioned running clubs in addition to recreational users and community groups identified through Strava data. An exact quantifiable level of utilisation cannot be ascertained at the time of writing.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

10.5: Conclusion

Despite not having precise demand figures, based on the evidence provided there is a need to refurbish the track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre in order to better service the population of Castle Point. This will be explored in greater detail in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan.

Away from track and field, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other running activities taking place in Castle Point, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place.

Supply and demand summary

- Based on the evidence provided there is a need to refurbish the track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre in order to better service the population of Castle Point.

Supply summary

- There is an athletic track located Waterside Farm Leisure Centre (Canvey Island Analysis Area) which services most of the population of Castle Point. The track has a synthetic surface and six lanes but is not sports lit.
- The track and surrounding athletics facilities are poor quality and have not improved since the previous PPOSS with limited amounts of remedial works carried out on an annual basis. England Athletics indicates that there is an immediate need to refurbish the provision in order to protect the longevity and ensure it does not become unusable.

Demand summary

- There are two prominent running clubs operating in Castle Point: Castle Point Joggers and Benfleet Running Club.
- There is one ParkRun operating from Hadleigh Country Park in Castle Point, which at the time of writing the event has been hosted 384 times, had a total of 45,183 finishes with an average time of 33.31 minutes.
- England Athletics report the athletics track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre is well used particularly within key demographics such as women and girls / disability groups.
- There are no junior ParkRun events in the Authority with the closest in the neighbouring authority of Basildon at Northlands Park.
- Due to the current quality of the track and surrounding facilities at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre anecdotal evidence indicates that more formal club based athletics demand if exported to neighbouring authorities.
- It is anticipated that some levels would return to Castle Point to use the provision at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre if it was refurbished.

PART 11: CYCLING

11.1: Introduction

British Cycling is the NGB for all forms of cycling. It oversees six sporting disciplines, with each having a dedicated facility type:

- ✦ Track cycling – velodromes.
- ✦ Road cycling – closed road circuits.
- ✦ Mountain biking – trails.
- ✦ BMX racing – race/pump tracks.
- ✦ Cycle speedway – cycle speedway tracks.
- ✦ Cyclocross – non-dedicated, non-permanent venues.

British Cycling aids in the development of all six formats, helping to safeguard those that wish to participate in a competitive and compelling environment. The popularity of cycling has increased since recent, elite sporting success in the Olympics and Paralympics as well as in other major championships.

Consultation

Information for cycling was gathered through online research and via consultation with British Cycling.

11.2: Supply

Hadleigh Park, located in Castle Point, has an Olympic mountain bike course consisting of 5km of sandstone track. The course is split into three separate trails ranging in difficulty. In addition to the track itself, there is a pump track and skills area.

There are no velodrome facilities in Castle Point, with only five provided nationally. There are also no closed road circuits or cycle speedway tracks, although these are considered to be more feasible in the future should enough demand exist.

11.3: Demand

Hadleigh MTB (Mountain Biking) Club is the sole dedicated cycling club in Castle Point with 158 members based on British Cycling data. It is open to all ages from novice through to advanced riders. It offers coaching, cyclo-cross, MTB 4X, MTB Cross Country, MTB Downhill, recreation and women only sessions.

Essex Pedal Power

Launched in 2021, Essex Pedal Power is a community cycling initiative, which operates in Clacton & Jaywick Sands, Harwich & Dovercourt, Colchester, Basildon, Canvey Island (Castle Point) and Harlow. The programme aims to provide free bikes, volunteer opportunities, and training sessions to local people living in some of the county's most disadvantaged communities to achieve the following:

- ✦ Increase cycling participation.
- ✦ Improve the health and wellbeing of local people.
- ✦ Increase sustainable travel through cycling.
- ✦ Increase employability and improve the local economy.
- ✦ Create resilience and connectedness in local communities.

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Working together with Essex County Council, The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS) and other key partners, the inclusive programme aims to make cycling accessible for everyone.

Since its launch, Essex Pedal Power has given away over 4,000 bikes to local people, and the project has become so much more than a free bike scheme. It's evolved into a strong connected community, whereby residents come together through local cycling groups and events. All Essex Pedal Power projects are committed to using and developing the local cycling infrastructure, including dedicated cycle paths, cycle lanes on roads, and community bike parking.

Go-Ride

Go-Ride is a British Cycling's development programme for young people. It offers a fun and safe way to introduce young people to the sport and provides a platform to improve cycling skills. People can get involved through holiday coaching programmes or through their local accredited club which allows them to sample the various disciplines of the sport. Progression is obtainable with Go-Ride Racing, offering competition for riders to transition from school or club coaching to inter club and open regional competitions.

Hadleigh MTB Club operates Go-Ride sessions at Hadleigh Park.

Breeze

Breeze is a British Cycling's development programme for women. It offers three categories easy going, steady and challenging to allow women of all abilities to get involved. The programme offers exercise whilst also creating a comfortable environment to meet people.

In Castle Point, there are currently no Breeze sessions taking place.

Latent/future demand

Whilst some latent and future demand is likely to exist for cycling, exact levels are difficult to determine given that most activity takes place outside of the club environment and is not monitored. As such, most growth will not require space within a club or at a dedicated facility. Instead, most new participants will likely take up cycling by themselves (or with friends) on a recreational basis and will utilise the local road network to fulfil this.

11.4: Supply and demand analysis

High demand for cycling is identified within Castle Point using a mixture of formally built provision, such as Hadleigh Park, and less formal provision such as the already established walking and road networks. As such, there is no clear evidence to suggest that there is a need for any additional formal cycling provision is required within Castle Point.

11.5: Conclusion

It is considered that demand for cycling within Castle Point is accommodated for due to Hadleigh Park being situated in the Borough. The priority should be sustaining the quality of this site so that it continues to meet demand.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Notwithstanding the above, there is a need for the Council to continue to engage with key stakeholders and clubs to sustain/increase participation and to further develop cycling across the Borough.

Cycling – supply and demand summary

- It is considered that demand for cycling within Castle Point is accommodated for due to Hadleigh Park being situated in the Borough. The priority should be sustaining the quality of this site so that it continues to meet demand.

Cycling – supply summary

- Hadleigh Park, located in Castle Point, has an Olympic mountain bike course consisting of 5km of sandstone track. The course is split into three separate trails ranging in difficulty. In addition to the track itself, there is a pump track and skills area.
- There are no velodrome facilities in Castle Point, with only five provided nationally.

Cycling – demand summary

- Hadleigh MTB (Mountain Biking) Club is the sole dedicated cycling club in Castle Point with 158 members based on British Cycling data. It is open to all ages from novice through to advanced riders. It offers coaching, cyclo-cross, MTB 4X, MTB Cross Country, MTB Downhill, recreation and women only sessions.
- Hadleigh MTB Club operates Go-Ride sessions at Hadleigh Park.
- Whilst latent and future demand is likely to exist, this will predominately be away from formal cycling facilities.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 12: GOLF

12.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 730,000 members belonging to one of 1,800 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated Heritage Coast sites, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or listed Historic Parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

Consultation

The section was informed via consultation with England Golf, which has provided information relating to all facilities and clubs within Castle Point.

12.2: Supply

There are three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf, as defined in the table below. Facilities such as pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf courses are not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

Table 12.1: Definitions of golf facilities

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

Within Castle Point, there are two golf venue that provides facilities conforming with the above definitions, as identified in Table 12.1 and Table 12.2 below.

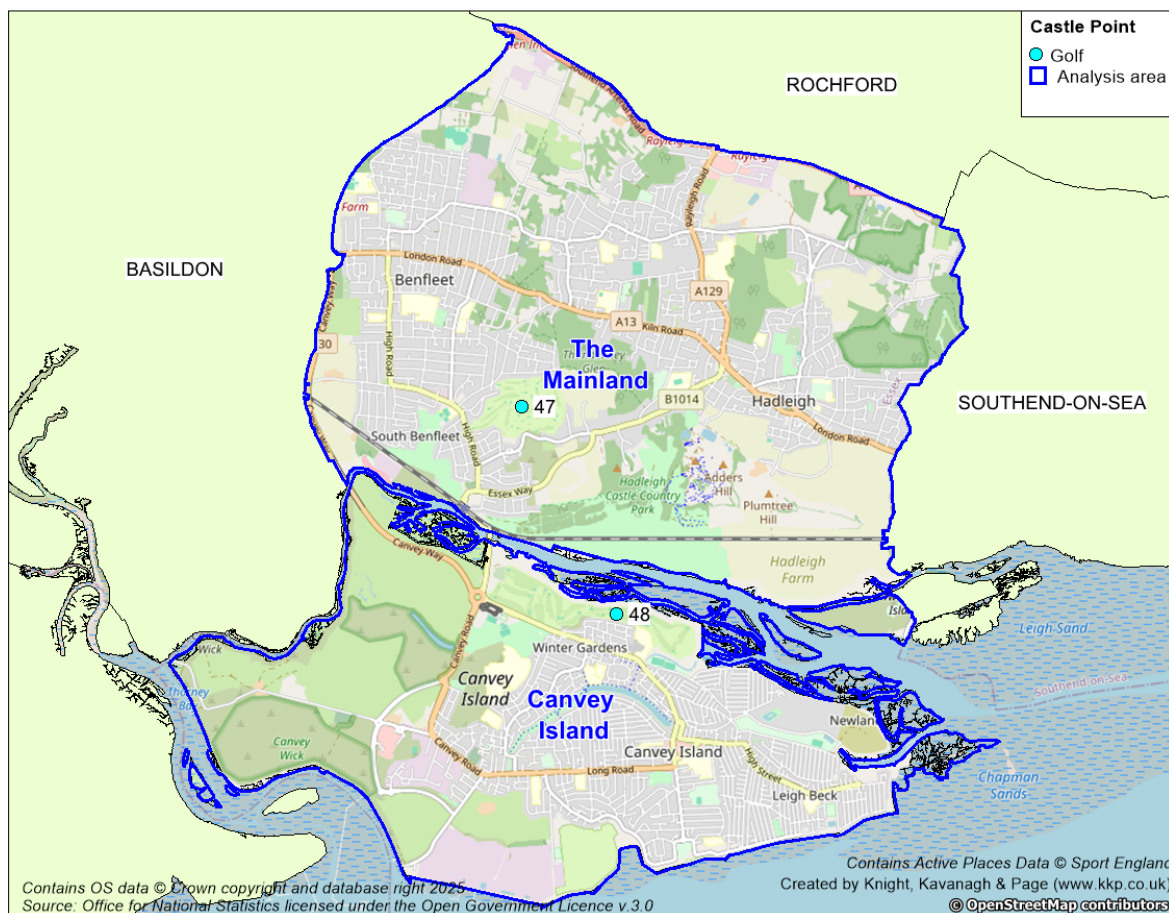
Table 12.2: Golf facilities within Castle Point

Site ID	Site name	Postcode
47	Boyce Hill Golf & Country Club	SS7 1PD
48	Castle Point Golf Club	SS8 9FG

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Within the Castle Point there is two affiliated clubs operating from two affiliated facilities. Boyce Hill Golf & Country Club and Castle Point Golf Club. Each offers a standard 18-hole course.

Figure 12.1: Location of golf provision in Castle Point



Standard hole golf courses

The table below outlines each of the course's yardage and slope ratings.

Table 12.3: Summary of standard hole provision in Castle Point

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage ²⁴			Slope rating
47	Boyce Hill Golf & Country Club	18	71	6,009	5,801	5,330	130
48	Castle Point Golf Club	18	71	6,069	5,902	5,645	118

There are no standard hole 9-hole courses in Castle Point. Nationally, many 9-hole courses are shorter than the front or back nine of an 18-hole course, primarily to attract and cater for a different userbase.

²⁴ White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Slope ratings

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World. The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is 113.

Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game. There are no Par 3 courses in Castle Point.

Driving range bays

Castle Point Golf Club provides a 19 undercover, sports lit driving range. The site offers a pay and play rate. Nationally, many driving range providers are updating their facilities with such provision in a bid to increase demand. Others also seek the installation of automatic tees or entertainment systems such as TopTracer and FlightScope. These allows for users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback. Such technology is not offered at Castle Point Golf Club.

Table 12.4: Summary of driving range bays

Site ID	Site name	No. of bays provided	Ball Tracking technology?
48	Castle Point Golf Club	19	No

Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England: members clubs, proprietary clubs, and municipal facilities. Each of these is summarised in the table below.

Table 12.5: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

Management type	Description
Members	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.
Proprietary	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.
Municipal	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed with regard to dress codes and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales.

Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability.

In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment. On the other hand, more income can be brought in through regular users compared to what would be the case had they been part of a membership scheme.

Castle Point Gold Club is a municipal site whereas Boyce Hill Golf & Country Club is members only.

Table 12.6: Summary of ownership/management in Castle Point

Site ID	Site name	Management type
47	Boyce Hill Golf & Country Club	Members
48	Castle Point Golf Club	Municipal

Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

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Nationally, over the past few years, many facilities have altered their pricing structures to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf has positively encouraged this as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, some now offer five and/or six-day memberships (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over). In the past, it was common for clubs to have membership waiting lists, but this has become rarer. That being said, a rise in demand following the Covid-19 pandemic has tested this and resulted in capacity pressures, with a third of clubs now thought to have waiting times before new members can join.

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £1,071. Boyce Hill Golf & Country Club is well above the average in comparison to Castle Point Golf Club being well below the average.

Table 12.7: Pricing structures at golf facilities within Castle Point

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year)	Green fee (per round) ²⁵	
				Weekday	Weekend
47	Boyce Hill Golf & Country Club	Unknown	£1,866	£76 (18 holes)	N/A
48	Castle Point Golf Club	-	£792	£32 (18 holes)	£64 (18 holes)

Boyce Hill Golf & Country Club has no green fees at the weekend as it for members and guests only. The Club also has joining fees, but exact details are unavailable as they vary.

Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher the joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines.

In terms of golf course quality in Castle Point, it is relatively good across the site, with no significant issues identified.

Golf clubs often need such revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This emanates from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals.

From a golfing perspective, given the current emphasis on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the Country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g. by providing gender specific changing facilities.

²⁵ Where more than one course is provided, the price displayed is for the larger course.

12.3: Demand

Around 2004, participation in golf began declining; however, recent signs show that the reduction has not only levelled off, but that demand has started to increase, especially following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, both in 2020 and 2021. As one of the first sports to be allowed on both occasions, people have been able to play whilst maintaining social distancing and England Golf has provided very clear guidance as to how this should manifest itself (e.g. by not allowing the flag to be taken out or rakes to be used). Some courses have reported a near doubling of usual demand compared to pre-pandemic levels, highlighting that a significant opportunity now exists to retain increased participation in the long-term. An opportunity now exists for this to represent a long-term increase in demand, although to what level is unclear as retention may in some instances be challenging as more and more users return to normal working/living conditions.

Membership

Individual club membership is unavailable however where known current membership across the Authority equates to 427 in 2025 which is a 9% increase from the 2024 figure of 393. Historical data provided by England Golf indicates a steady increase in golf participation in Castle Point since 2015 which had 377 members.

Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has generally increased across England in recent years, usage figures at the sites within Castle Point are not known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf. Castle Point Golf Club provides green fee rates and pay and play is available at the site's driving rate.

Relative demand

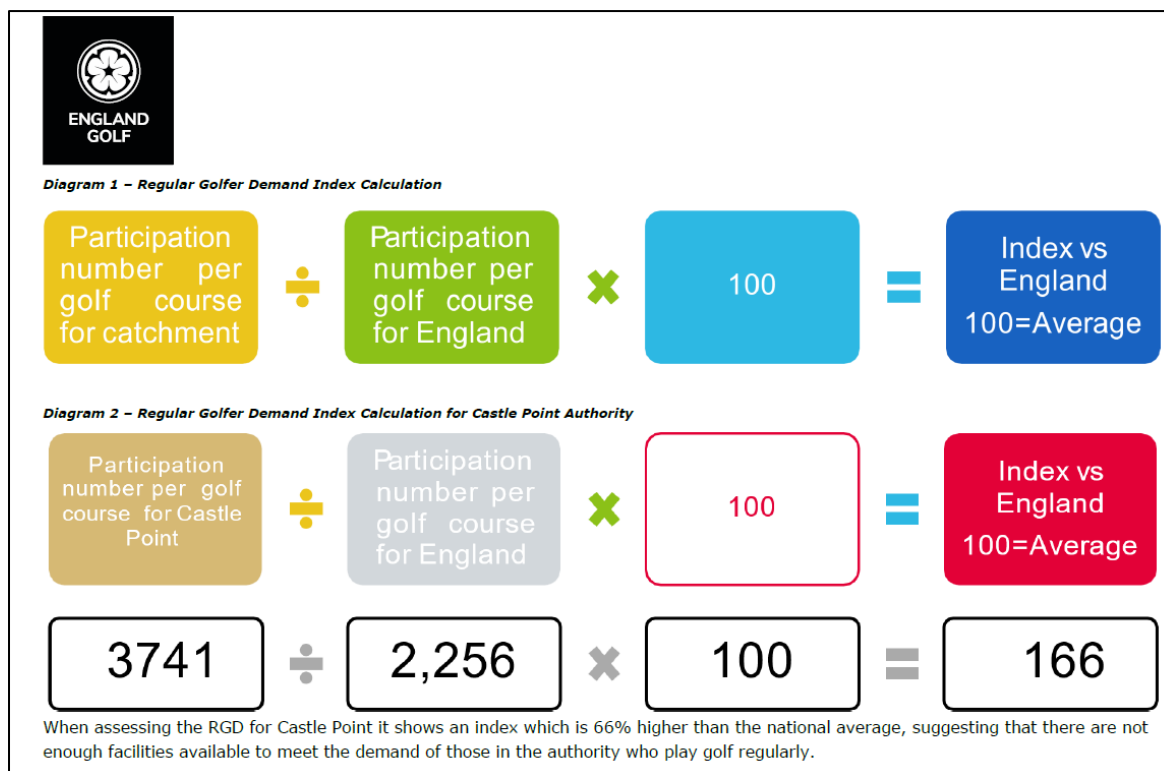
Nationally, England Golf utilises a figure of 3.5 million people that are considered to be regular golfers, with this defined as those that have played on a standard-length course at least twice within the last 12 months. Using this, it is able to indicate how much demand exists per facility within a catchment area before then comparing this to a national benchmark.

Within the formula, it calculates the participation number in an area by establishing what proportion of the population is likely to be golfers, which can then be used to determine the number of participants per facility. This can then be compared to the national rate, with an index created for comparison purposes. Using 100 as the average, anything below this suggests that an area has either low demand or a high facility count, whereas anything above provides evidence that an area has high demand and/or a low level of provision.

The calculations for the catchment area for the Castle Point area can be seen via the image below, as provided by England Golf.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Figure 12.2: Regular golfer demand index calculations for Castle Point



As shown, the index rating for the catchment area (166) is well above the national benchmark (100). This therefore indicates the authority doesn't provide enough facilities to meet the demand of those in the authority who play golf regularly.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. There is no unmet demand for Castle Point Golf Club, however, there is an identified waiting list at Boyce Hill Golf & Country Club.

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision.

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e. through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

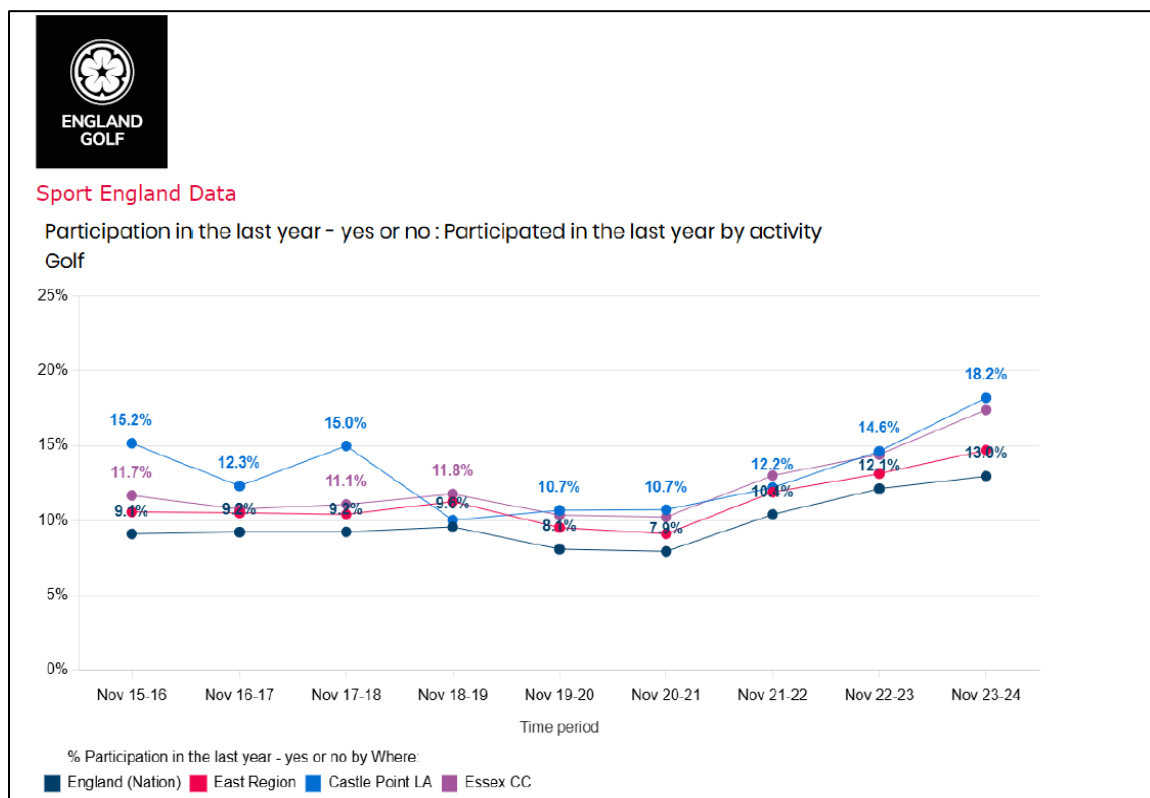
CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

In addition, England Golf has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility, with the population broken down into nine golfing segments. These segments are defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ✦ Relaxed members.
- ✦ Older traditionalists.
- ✦ Younger traditionalists.
- ✦ Younger fanatics.
- ✦ Younger actives.
- ✦ Late enthusiasts.
- ✦ Occasional time pressed.
- ✦ Social couples.
- ✦ Casual fun.

For Castle Point Golf Club, demand from each of the segments is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from “Relaxed members” (9,741 people), whilst the lowest is from “older traditionalists” (8,251 people). The segments for highest and lowest remain the same for Boyce Hill Golf & Country Club being 8,046 and 6,850 people, respectively.

Figure 12.3: Sport England participation data



According to Sport England data, golf participation is at its highest level since data collection began in 2015. Between 2021 and 2022, participation grew by over 2%, with approximately 4.8 million people engaging in the sport during that period.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

In Castle Point, golf remains slightly more popular than both the national and regional averages. In 2023, 14.6% of the local population took part in the sport, reflecting a nearly 5% increase over the previous two years. While Castle Point has historically seen strong participation in golf, the current rate is the highest recorded for the authority since 2019.

Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst others will be open to growing and some considerably so. In that regard, England Golf reports that many providers are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wider range of membership and playing options.

12.4: Supply and demand analysis

With two golf facilities in Castle Point, there is low amount of supply in the Authority, Both courses offer a standard 18 hole course with one of the sites having a driving range. There are no nine hole or Par 3 courses. Furthermore, a variety of operational structures are in place, with both members only and pay and play usage being offered at a reasonable price. This suggests that all types of golfers can be catered for. The regular golf demand figure is high due to their being only two facilities, with golfers likely to also look at options within Essex authorities.

12.5: Conclusion

To conclude, with two golf courses in Castle Point, which operate as a standard 18-hole courses as well as one course providing a covered driving range, it can be determined that there is inadequate provision to accommodate all types of golfers. However, this could see regular golfers accessing provision in neighbouring authorities within Essex. Options should be explored on how to meet the demand from segments such as Casual Fun, Younger Actives etc to increase participation.

The venues should be protected and supported, including the driving range provision, particularly given the recent membership increases reported by England Golf.

To protect and support the facilities, England Golf offers assistance, primarily through a variety of tools that can be used to better understand the local market. There may also be opportunities for some clubs across the area to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate to collectively cater for all types of players.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Golf – supply and demand summary

- ▶ To conclude, with two golf courses in Castle Point, which operate as a standard 18-hole courses as well as one course providing a covered driving range, it can be determined that there is inadequate provision to accommodate all types of golfers.
- ▶ The venues should be protected and supported, including the driving range provision, particularly given the recent membership increases reported by England Golf.

Golf – supply summary

- ▶ Within the Castle Point there is two affiliated clubs operating from two affiliated facilities. Boyce Hill Golf & Country Club and Castle Point Golf Club. Each offers a standard 18-hole course.
- ▶ Castle Point Golf Club provides a 19 undercover, sports lit driving range. The site offers a pay and play rate.

Golf – demand summary

- ▶ Individual club membership is unavailable however where known current membership across the Authority equates to 427 in 2025 which is a 9% increase from the 2024 figure of 393. Historical data provided by England Golf indicates a steady increase in golf participation in Castle Point since 2015 which had 377 members.
- ▶ England Golf figures indicate the authority doesn't provide enough facilities to meet the demand of those in the authority who play golf regularly.

PART 13: OTHER SPORTS

13.1: Rugby league

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in Britain and Ireland. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League, and the Championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game structure in the UK. The RFL also administers the amateur and junior game across the country in association with the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA).

Most community club rugby league is played throughout the summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is considered a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training can also be required throughout the winter months.

Senior rugby league is played on a pitch measuring 100 x 68 metres. The preferred pitch size for U7s, U8s and U9s is 60 x 40 metres, whereas for U10s and U11s it is 80 x 30 metres, with U12s and above generally playing on senior pitches. Teams from U7s to U11s are known as primary teams, whilst teams from U12s to U18s known as junior teams.

In Castle Point, Canvey Knights RLFC has two senior men's teams. The Club use both pitch and ancillary provision at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club. Attempts were made to consult with the Club; however, these were unsuccessful.

The two pitches used by the Club are predominantly used for rugby union and have therefore been treated as such for the purpose of this document. Therefore, there are no dedicated rugby league pitches in Castle Point. Both training and competitive rugby league demand has been added within the rugby union section leading to the site has a whole to be overplayed by 8.75 match equivalent sessions per week. This is mainly due to the large amount of demand accessing the poor quality pitches (M0/D1).

However, if the pitches were dedicated rugby league provision, there would be enough capacity to accommodate rugby league demand in Castle Point. Each of the two pitches accommodate one match equivalent session per season, due to their poor quality, and with only one match equivalent session per week of demand, there would be sufficient capacity. This is not to say that pitches provided should be poor quality.

As mentioned in Part 4 Rugby Union, Canvey Island RUFC is looking to develop its clubhouse in order to provide more social space in addition to improving the quality of its changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls and peak time demand. The overall building is standard quality with changing rooms considered poor due to their communal nature.

Without consultation findings evidence regarding any latent or future demand is difficult to quantify, with no additional team growth suggested from population increases (Team Generation Rates).

With no current evidence to suggest Canvey Knights RLFC wanting to relocate there is a clear need to address overplay and improve ancillary facility quality. Options to overcome these issues will be discussed in the Strategy & Action Plan document.

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

13.2: American football

American football in the UK is governed and administered by the British American Football Association (BAFA). This covers both contact and flag activity.

Adult contact teams play within the BAFA National League or the BAFA Women's National League and play home and away fixtures per the regular season with a playoff system to follow for those which qualify. Junior contact football is played as a full 11v11 format league season for U19s, whilst U16s contact football is played as a 5v5 format with full equipment and tackling based across a series of day tournaments as part of a festival structure.

Flag football is the fastest growing format of the game not only in Great Britain, but also across the world, with professional leagues such as the American Flag Football League and the newly established NFL Flag starting to spring up. It is a high-octane, non-contact version of American football, where tackles are made by pulling off flags which all players wear on their hips. There are multiple formats and variations globally, but in Great Britain the predominant format is 5v5 aligning with the current International Federation of American Football competition format.

Until the development of the 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch at Deanes School Sports Centre in 2024, Essex Tridents, used the grass American football pitch on the site. As the 3G pitch was built on the same footprint of the grass pitch, the Club (which prefers to play on grass) relocated to Westcliff Rugby Football Club (SS4 1YG) in Rochford. As a result, there is no current supply or demand for the sport within Castle Point.

13.3: Pickleball

Sport England has now recognised Pickleball England (PBE) as the national governing body for pickleball in England

Pickleball is a paddle sport that is fast becoming one of the most popular racquet sports globally. It combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong and is played on a badminton-sized court (up to four can fit on a standard tennis court), with a slightly modified tennis net. Players use paddles to hit a plastic ball between them, and it can be played as both singles and doubles.

There are no dedicated pickleball courts in Castle Point currently identified, however, it is identified that South Essex Pickleball Club uses the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Richmond Park (SS7 5HE) on Thursdays 09:15 – 11:00. There is also activity taking place via indoor provision at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre and Deanes School Sports Centre.

Pickleball activity has been identified in Castle Point, although this is mainly using indoor provision at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre and Deanes School Sports Centre. However, the Council reports that there is a local push for dedicated outdoor provision to be established, suggesting that further demand exists if facilities are created.

13.4: Parkour

Parkour UK is the national governing body for Parkour across the UK. Its role is to provide governance and regulation, act as a custodian of the sport/art and protect the rights and freedoms, as well as promote the interests of Traceurs/Freerunners and their member organisations and the UK community.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Due to the inclusivity and accessibility of the sport, it has significantly grown in popularity and has seen a large increase in participants over recent years. Consultation with Parkour UK highlights that in February 2017, an Active Lives Survey identified that 96,000 people were participating in Parkour throughout the UK.

The Parkour facility in Castle Point at Hadleigh Park was funded through Active Essex and Parkour UK and has encouraged a wide range of people to take up the sport. Parkour UK highlights that there has been a broad spectrum in the demographic of individuals using the facility. This facility is one of few purpose-built Parkour facilities in England and with equipment that meets both British and European standards, it is a popular destination for Parkour groups across South Essex and beyond.

Anecdotal evidence provided by Active Essex suggest the provision is no longer used by any formal club demand. In the previous study Southend Parkour used the site, however, the Club has now folded. There have been other users in the interim period, such as Above Parkour, but at the time of writing it is only accessed by the public.

As well as the main Parkour facility, there are smaller sections around the Hadleigh Park site used for such activity.

Rugby league summary

- There are two senior men rugby league teams originating from Canvey Knights RLFC in Castle Point. The Club use both pitch and ancillary provision at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club.
- Both training and competitive rugby league demand has been added within the rugby union section leading to the site has a whole to be overplayed by 8.75 match equivalent sessions.
- There is considered enough capacity to accommodate rugby league demand in Castle Point. Each of the two pitches accommodate one match equivalent session, due to their poor quality, and with only one match equivalent session worth of demand there is considered sufficient capacity.

American football summary

- Until the development of the 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch at Deanes School Sports Centre in 2024, Essex Tridents, used the grass American football pitch on the site. As a result, there is no current supply or demand for the sport within Castle Point.

Pickleball summary

- There are no dedicated pickleball courts in Castle Point currently identified, however, it is identified that South Essex Pickleball Club uses the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Richmond Park (SS7 5HE) on Thursdays 09:15 – 11:00. There is also activity is taking place via indoor provision at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre and Deanes School Sports Centre.

Parkour summary

- The Parkour facility in Castle Point at Hadleigh Park was funded through Active Essex and Parkour UK and has encouraged a wide range of people to take up the sport.
- Anecdotal evidence provided by Active Essex suggest the provision is no longer used by any formal club demand. In the previous study Southend Parkour used the site however the Club has now folded. There have been other users in the interim period, such as Above Parkour, but at the time of writing it is only accessed by the public.

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

The previous 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.

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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 (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.

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:

- ◀ 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.

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- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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: Inspiring Positive Change Through Football (2024-28)²⁶

The FA launched its new Strategy which aims to ‘take English football forward, with clear focus on the biggest opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed’.

To achieve this, eight key strategic priorities are identified which include four ‘Game Changer’ objectives and four ‘Drivers’ objectives as detailed below. The strategy also outlines how The FA’s plans to achieve these objectives.

Game Changers:

- ◀ Win tournaments
 - ◀ Develop pathways
 - ◀ Support elite players
 - ◀ Enhance environments
 - ◀ Collaborate and influence
- ◀ A game free from discrimination
 - ◀ Boost representation
 - ◀ Drive more inclusion
 - ◀ Tackle discrimination
- ◀ Equal opportunities for women & girls
 - ◀ Increase school participation
 - ◀ Increase club participation
 - ◀ Enhance women’s competitions
 - ◀ Support female coaches and referees
- ◀ Transform the pitch landscape
 - ◀ Sustain and grow high-quality grass pitches
 - ◀ Deliver new 3G pitches
 - ◀ Support inclusivity accessibility and environmental sustainability of facilities

Drivers:

- ◀ Thriving community clubs
 - ◀ Develop club opportunities
 - ◀ Support the current and future generation of club leaders
 - ◀ Equip clubs to add long-term value to local communities
- ◀ World-class FA cups
 - ◀ Broaden commercial appeal
 - ◀ Evolve the Adobe Women’s FA Cup format
- ◀ Participant led
 - ◀ Place participants at the centre of decision making
 - ◀ Create flexible models to meet participants needs
 - ◀ Provide digital tools to improve experiences
- ◀ Progressive governance
 - ◀ Support integration of women’s and girls’ football
 - ◀ Support governance of the NLS
 - ◀ Support our County Football Associations (CFAs)

The FA: Reaching Higher (2024-28)²⁷

The FA’s 2020-2024 strategy, ‘Inspiring Positive Change’, coincided with record growth across the sport, with more women and girls playing, coaching, officiating and supporting the flourishing professional game than ever before.

²⁶ [FA Strategy 2024-2028: The Football Association](#)

²⁷ [The FA Womens & Girls Football Strategy 2024-28](#)

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This strategy aims to build on the success achieved to date and strives to continue working to unlock the full potential of the women's and girls' game. The strategy outlines four strategic priorities as seen below.

1. **Build and Protect the Uniqueness of the Women's Game:** Continue to honour the history of women's football and recognise those who have contributed towards making it so unique, whilst ensuring the distinct qualities and unique culture of the women's game are valued and protected.
2. **Win a Major Tournament:** Continue to be world-leaders both on and off the pitch, developing players and building an inclusive talent pathway system to make football more equal and accessible at every level of the game, ensuring the England pathway and teams represent society.
3. **Build Robust, High-Quality Competition:** Create compelling competition structures and support clubs to develop to the appropriate level within the game, while enabling people to grow and develop within The FA's competition structures.
4. **Deliver Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls to Play:** Sustain growth in schools whilst tackling inequalities. Continue to grow the number of female teams and deliver vibrant league offers whilst extending and enhancing the sessional football offer. The ambition is for 90% of schools to deliver equal access for girls to play football in key stages two and three.

There are five golden threads which weave through each of the four strategic priorities and across all levels of the women's and girls' game, which will be instrumental for delivering the next phase of growth by 2028:

1. **Female Health and Wellbeing:** Develop the game to support women and girls with their health and wellbeing needs, providing them with environments in which they can thrive.
2. **Safeguarding:** Support the evolution of an ever-safer culture across the women's and girls' game.
3. **Refereeing:** Grow and nurture a new generation of referees who are representative of our society.
4. **Coaching:** Support and develop brilliant coaches capable of unleashing every player's potential in a safe and inclusive game.
5. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Ensure the game is more reflective of our society.

Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28)^[1]

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.

^[1]<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/10/22/19a925d7-3c92-4a36-8e7b-f49cb470377f/ECB-Inspiring-Generations-2025-2028.pdf>

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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.

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.

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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.
 - ✦ 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.

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◀ **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 3rd 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.
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.

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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, and
- ▶ 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.

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.

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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 floodlights 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.

LTA – Tennis Opened Up 2024-2026

The LTA's vision for 2024-2026, is Tennis Opened Up. Its mission is to transform communities through tennis, by making it by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring. The objectives of the LTA are:

- Put tennis at the heart of communities.
- Grow and diversity our audience of fans and players.
- Attract and engage the tennis workforce for the next generation.
- Be one of the most respected nations in the world for player development.
- Secure a sustainable future for tennis in Britain.

These objectives will be delivered through six strategies: Invest, Grow, Engage, Perform, Diversity and Lead. The LTA will implement a facilities strategy with a focus on parks, covered courts, Community Indoor Tennis Centres and Padel.

Bowls England: Fit for the Future (2021-2026)

Bowls England's Strategy; 'Fit For The Future' frames an exciting course for the sport. The five-year plan has been designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing & enjoying bowls. It sets out its vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get it the target of 1 million bowls experiences per year by 2026 are:

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- ◀ Building the brand of bowls by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- ◀ Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;
- ◀ Creating positive playing experiences for everyone who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway
- ◀ Putting volunteers first, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- ◀ Leading the sport with purpose by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

- ◀ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ◀ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ◀ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ◀ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ◀ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ◀ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ◀ Inspire and educate golf's network of volunteers
- ◀ Increase golf's influence
- ◀ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ◀ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ◀ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ◀ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ◀ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ◀ Develop greater access for disabled people
- ◀ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers

<https://www.englandgolf.org/englandgolfstrategy/>

England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

Vision: Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

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For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- ✦ Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- ✦ Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- ✦ Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".

British Cycling Lead our Sports – Inspire our communities²⁸

British Cycling's Strategy identifies seven key priorities for cycling before the Paris Olympics in 2024. These priorities are:

²⁸ [British Cycling Lead our Sports](#)

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- ◀ Inspiring Performances
- ◀ Grow Communities
- ◀ Engage the Next Generation
- ◀ Flagship Events
- ◀ Cycling for Everyone
- ◀ Work Together
- ◀ Equipped for Success

The seven priorities are not everything that British Cycling will do, but that can have the greatest impact over the next 36 months. The priorities are all interconnected and are cross interdependencies – achieving one strategic priority is often reliant upon achieving the other.

For each of the priorities, the Strategy sets out the measures of success:

Priority	Sub priority	Measures
Inspiring Performances	Sustain inspirational global elite cycling success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Win 10 Olympic and 15 Paralympic medals. ◀ Creation of a development plan to support elite non Olympic and Paralympic disciplines. ◀ Increase by 10% the number of riders in the talent pathway across ethnic communities, disability and low socioeconomic backgrounds.
Grow Communities	Grow and serve our cycling communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Diversify and grow our cycling communities. ◀ Grow membership from 150k to 250k. ◀ Increase affiliated clubs and groups by 20%
Engage the Next Generation	Encourage more children and young people to make cycling a lifelong habit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Increase the number of children and young people in clubs or groups by 20%. ◀ Increase by 10% the number of children and young people participating across ethnic communities, disability and low socio-economic backgrounds. ◀ Increased awareness and perception of British Cycling in a younger audience through yearly tracking.
Flagship Events	Host world class major events to excite and inspire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Achieve major event hosting targets across disciplines. ◀ Support the legacy impact of both the 2022 Commonwealth Games and the Cycling World Championships 2023. ◀ Increase the opportunities for British riders to perform on home soil.
Cycling for Everyone	Ensure cycling is open to everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Put in place robust tracking and increased diversity in facilitators and governance. ◀ 90% of our communities to believe cycling is an inclusive activity and a sport for them. ◀ Increase participation in our sport across genders, ages, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and low socioeconomic backgrounds by 10%.

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Priority	Sub priority	Measures
Work Together	Work together with everyone who makes cycling happen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A 25% increase in the percentage of cycling facilitators that feel appreciated for the work they do. ▶ Retain, grow and diversify the range of partners in line with our strategic priorities.
Equipped for Success	Deliver our strategy effectively and efficiently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 100% increase in the diversity of the industries represented in the British Cycling partnership portfolio. ▶ Grow and diversify income streams.

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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			

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH 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						
GOALPOSTS											
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								
ANCILLARY											
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				
Pitch Maintenance Score											
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0		<p>Natural (adequate) = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season</p> <p>Natural (inadequate) = 4 or more training match cancellations per season</p> <p>*Based on a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years</p> <p>**Based on a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.</p>

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL 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+					

Cricket non-technical assessment

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Element	Rating				Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
About the cricket outfield						
Grass coverage	Good		Acceptable		Poor	CRB 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	Flag also wish to refer to more serious. If yes, refer to maintenance/club manager
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None		Yes		Immediate action required	eg informal, casual use, unauthorised use, kids kickabout etc. Flag also wish to refer to more serious. If yes, refer to maintenance/club manager
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None		Yes		Immediate action required	eg from vermin/animals - rabbits, gulls and ferals etc may also wish to refer to more serious
Artificial wickets						
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		If "yes" contact club manager
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes			No		If "yes" contact club manager
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes			No		
Grass wickets						
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 width/42mm oval of square
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes			No		
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes			No		CRB Falls below the ECB basic standard
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the square rebound?	Yes			No		
Changing/ Pavilion						
Umpires provision	Yes			No		
Toilets	Yes			No		
Hot/cold water	Yes			No		
Heating	Yes			No		
Condition of building	Good		Acceptable		Requires attention	
NTP						
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

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Basketball Courts

[illegible]

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			
About the courts										
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					
Changing Accomodation										
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No							
About the equipment										
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes		No							
Practice wall	Yes		No							

Bowling green non-technical assessment

[illegible]

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Athletics Tracks

KKPref							
Site name:							
Track surface		Grass, polymeric, cinder, other specify	Specify If 'Other'				
No. of Lanes		Length of track:		Community Use:			

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

Element	Rating						Comments
About the track facilities							
Damage to the track surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Track edging	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Disabled access	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Floodlighting	Yes		No				
Is the track fenced?	Yes		No				
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate landing areas - jumps	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No-but adequate		No-not adequate		
Take off boards	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Landing mats	Yes		No				
Surface of throwing areas - shot, discuss, hammer	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate safety margins - throws	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Throwing cages	Yes		No				
Access to toilets	Yes		No				
Changing accommodation	Yes		No				
Changing accommodation - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Club room	Yes		No				
Car parking	Good		Adequate		Poor		
General Comments							
						ENTER Athletics	Please make sure there is no filter on in sheet At_db !