



# **CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

## **STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN REPORT DECEMBER 2025**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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### ABBREVIATIONS

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

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.

Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, this Strategy and Action Plan provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2043 (in line with the current expectations for the emerging Local Plan). It has been developed to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sport facility stock.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a site-by-site basis.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision.
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the Strategy.
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date.

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it updated.

A PPOSS delivers the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future outdoor sport requirements. Its robust evidence base should inform and be implemented into planning policy and other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively. It is capable of:

- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch and outdoor sport providers, including the public, private and third sectors.
- ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, highlighting particular local demand issues.
- ◀ Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas.
- ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision.
- ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision.
- ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study.
- ◀ Supporting funding applications.
- ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

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The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects relating to sports provision which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement all aspects, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.

Partner organisations in Castle Point have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary provision are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), sports organisations and education establishments. In some instances, Castle Point will not be the organisation which delivers these actions or recommendations as the PPOSS is not solely just for the Council to act upon. It applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

### **Scope**

The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within the project are as follows:

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

In addition, a bespoke 3G pitch section is included within this report, mainly focusing on football activity but also taking into account other sports that can use the surface type (e.g., rugby union and rugby league).

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, both rugby codes, cricket and hockey as well as any other grass pitch sports identified for inclusion. The ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are "non-pitch").

### **Study area**

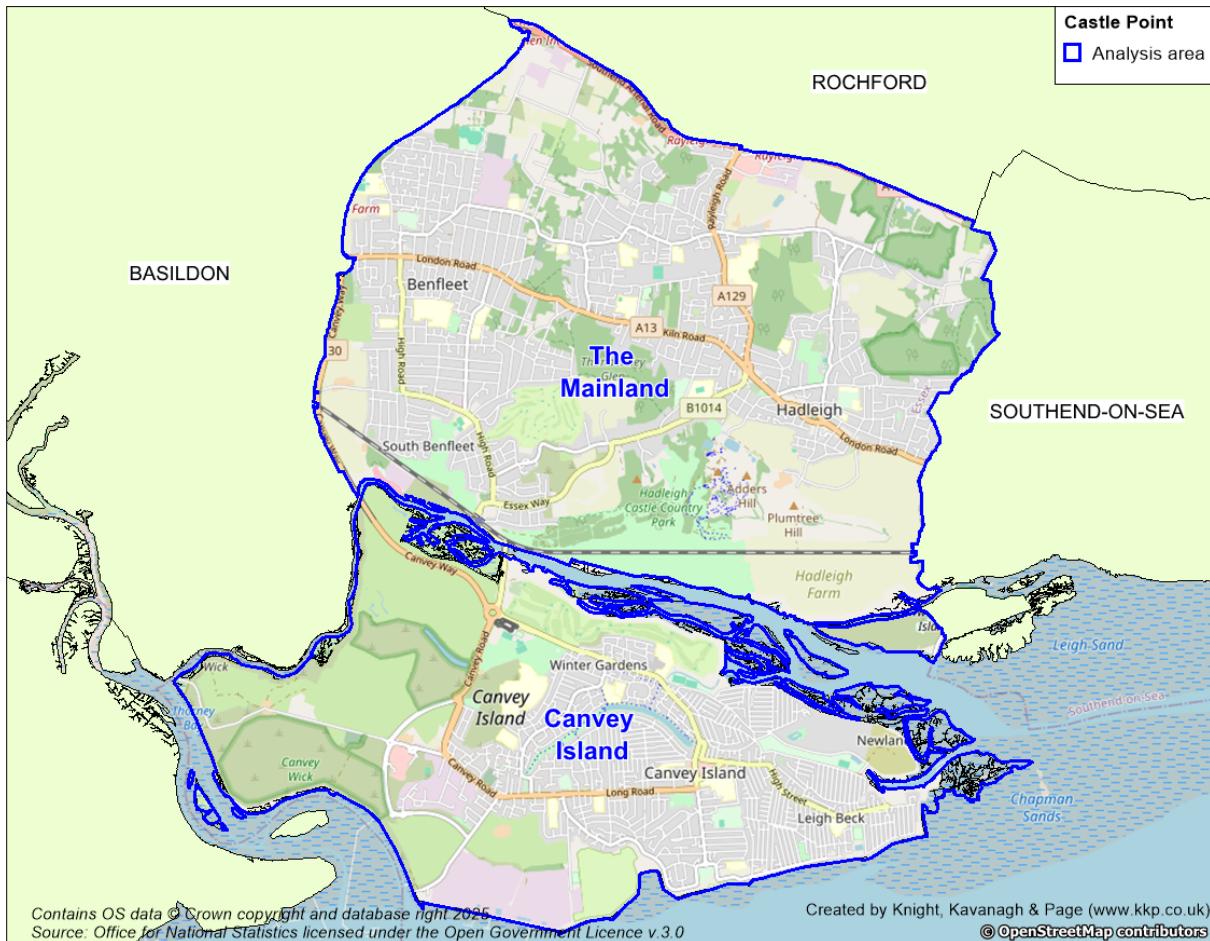
The study area comprises the Castle Point administrative area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for the Borough as a whole. This is separate into the following two analysis areas and their respective wards:

- ◀ 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

The analysis areas are shown in Figure 1.1.

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Figure 1.1: Map of Castle Point with analysis areas



## Context

The study 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.

More broadly, the PPOSS will ensure that Castle Point conforms to requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of this 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."

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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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### PART 2: VISION AND AIMS

#### Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the PPOSS.

*"Castle Point will be inclusive places where everyone is empowered, informed, and supported to live healthy lives."*

To achieve this vision the PPOSS will deliver the following objectives:

- ◀ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long-term benefit of sport.
- ◀ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs.
- ◀ Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand.
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer-term aspirations.

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England planning objectives. It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and partners to enable delivery of the overall PPOSS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

#### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

#### AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

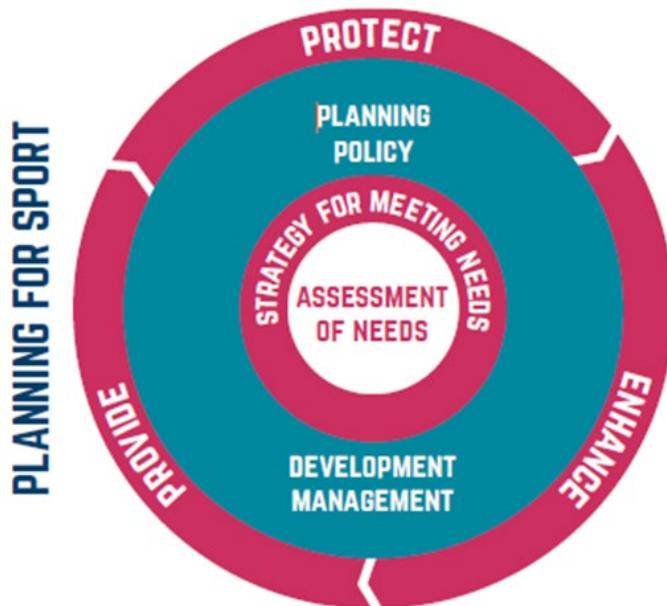
#### AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

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Figure 2.1: Sport England planning objectives



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (April 2024)

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### PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all pitch and outdoor sports included within the scope of the preceding Assessment Report. MES stands for match equivalent sessions and has been used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken.

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 for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions.

Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day at a senior level. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket can accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

The Sport England PPS guidance does not advocate the conversion of MES to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed.

For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan (contained in a separate document).

For artificial surfaces (AGPs/3G pitches), how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, whole pitches are used as the comparable unit. Similarly, for the other non-pitch sports (i.e., bowls and tennis etc) where it is not as easy to determine carrying capacity, whole facilities are used as the comparable unit.

Future demand in the Assessment report has been determined by using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator which looks at population change over a predetermined period. For Castle Point this has been set to forecasted population rates in 2043 in line with the Local Plan. It should be noted that it is expected that the growth of football teams will exceed what is projected through population growth. Evidence of this can be found in Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios.

Table 3.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (MES)	Future supply/demand balance (MES) <sup>1</sup>
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 5.5
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 10.5
Football	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1	Shortfall of 3.5
Football	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 6
Football	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 4.5

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Boroughwide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

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Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (MES)	Future supply/demand balance (MES) <sup>1</sup>
Football	3G 11v11	Shortfall of 2 pitches	Shortfall of 4 pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 27	Shortfall of 39
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 7	Shortfall of 7
Cricket	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 7	Shortfall of 19
Rugby union (overmarked rugby league)	Senior	Shortfall of 8.75	Shortfall of 8.75
Hockey	AGP	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

Table 3.2: Headline findings (remaining sports)

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	The supply of tennis provision in Castle Point is currently insufficient to meet both club and non-club demand. In part, this is due to capacity issues for Hadleigh Park TC, primarily linked to a lack of sports lighting. In addition, there is a lack of good quality, sports-lit local authority courts that are publicly accessible.
<b>Padel</b>	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. There is identified 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.
<b>Netball</b>	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.
<b>Bowls</b>	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.
<b>Athletics</b>	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.
<b>Cycling</b>	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. 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.
<b>Golf</b>	The venues should be protected and supported, including the driving range provision, particularly given the recent membership increases reported by England Golf.
<b>Rugby league</b>	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. 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.

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### ***Conclusions***

The existing position for all outdoor sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall. For most sports played on natural turf grass pitches there are identified shortfalls. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing playing pitch provision so that all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision. Instead, any spare capacity should be considered as a solution to overcoming shortfalls.

Most of the current identified grass pitch shortfalls can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities, increasing match play on 3G pitches, and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. However, future demand needs to be monitored as the need for new provision or need to bring disused provision back into use may be greater given the growth of football is expected to exceed what is projected through population growth.

Notwithstanding the above, in regard to artificial pitches, there is a clear quantified shortfall of 3G pitches for football training that can only be rectified through the installation of new facilities. The development of 3G pitches could also help to alleviate identified grass pitch shortfalls via the transfer of play. Additionally, quality improvements alone will not address all the current shortfalls on rugby league and rugby union pitches, as such there is a need for additional pitch provision to accommodate demand. For padel, the current shortfalls can only be rectified with the creation of new padel courts in Castle Point.

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### PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, in order to help develop recommendations and actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report for each sport. This will then inform sport specific recommendations.

#### 4.1: Football – grass pitches

##### *Assessment Report summary*

###### **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).

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### **Scenarios**

#### *Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality*

In total there are 16 pitches overplayed in Castle Point across six sites, equating to 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of these pitches (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and consequently reduce both current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights the current levels of overplay that would be alleviated if quality improved by one increment and two increments (where possible) at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating as detailed in the table below:

<b>Adult pitch quality</b>	<b>Adult matches per week</b>	<b>Youth pitch quality</b>	<b>Youth matches per week</b>	<b>Mini pitch quality</b>	<b>Mini matches per week</b>
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

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Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were improved by one and two quality increments, where possible (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Improved quality	Capacity rating (MES)
<b>Improved by one increment</b>								
4	Castle View School	Canvey Island	Poor	Adult	1	0.5	Standard	0.5
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	Poor	Adult	2	1	Standard	1
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	Poor	(7v7)	1	1	Standard	1
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	Poor	(9v9)	2	1	Standard	1
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	Canvey Island	Standard	Adult	1	1.5	Good	0.5
27	The Appleton School	The Mainland	Poor	(11v11)	2	3	Standard	1
27	The Appleton School	The Mainland	Poor	(9v9)	2	2	Standard	
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	Canvey Island	Standard	Adult	3	1	Good	2
40	Kents Hill Junior School	The Mainland	Poor	(11v11)	1	1	Standard	
40	Kents Hill Junior School	The Mainland	Poor	(9v9)	1	0.5	Standard	0.5
<b>Improved by two increments (where possible)</b>								
4	Castle View School	Canvey Island	Poor	Adult	1	0.5	Good	1.5
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	Poor	Adult	2	1	Good	3
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	Poor	(7v7)	1	1	Good	3
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	Poor	(9v9)	2	1	Good	5
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	Canvey Island	Standard	Adult	1	1.5	Good	0.5
27	The Appleton School	The Mainland	Poor	(11v11)	2	3	Good	3
27	The Appleton School	The Mainland	Poor	(9v9)	2	2	Good	4
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	Canvey Island	Standard	Adult	3	1	Good	2
40	Kents Hill Junior School	The Mainland	Poor	(11v11)	1	1	Good	2
40	Kents Hill Junior School	The Mainland	Poor	(9v9)	1	0.5	Good	2.5

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If the abovementioned pitches were to be improved by one quality increment (i.e. match equivalent session) most shortfalls would be alleviated with only the adult pitch at Smallgains Recreation Ground and youth 11v11 pitches at The Appleton School still being overplayed. Additionally, the youth 9v9 pitches at The Appleton School and youth 11v11 pitch at Kents Hill Junior School would be played to capacity.

Table 4.2: Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand in match equivalent sessions per week

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	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
<b>If improved by one increment</b>					
Adult	4.5	0.5	4	4.5	0.5
Youth 11v11	1	1		7.5	7.5
Youth 9v9	4.5	-	4.5	4.5	
Mini 7v7	1.5	-	1.5	6.5	5
Mini 5v5	0.5	-	0.5	5	4.5

As seen in the table above, if quality was improved by one increment, overplay would be fully alleviated resulting in actual spare capacity identified across all pitch types, apart from youth 11v11 which would be played to capacity. Shortfalls would still remain when factoring in future demand however these would be less, particularly on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9.

It should be noted that increasing provision by two increments, where possible, would only marginally increase capacity on adult and youth 11v11 pitch types by 0.5 match equivalent sessions each.

### *Accommodating future demand*

This scenario considers the impact that future demand derived from club ambitions will have on the supply and demand balance (as identified via consultation with clubs throughout the Borough). Please note that the Assessment Report only considers future demand derived from population projection growth.

Table 4.3: Summary of participation growth by analysis area

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
<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15.5</b>

Future demand from club ambitions totals 31 teams from 10 clubs and the table below shows the potential impact on the supply/demand balance by analysis area.

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Table 4.4: Impact of future demand from clubs

Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance	Potential future demand (club aspirations)	Potential future supply/demand balance
Adult	1	3.5	2.5
Youth 11v11	3	3	6
Youth 9v9	1	2	1
Mini 7v7	0.5	-	0.5
Mini 5v5	0.5	7	6.5

If achieved, future demand from clubs will exacerbate shortfalls on adult and youth 11v11 whilst also creating shortfalls on youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitch types.

### *Accommodating future demand through trend based growth*

This scenario examines the impact of future demand for football pitches based on the percentage of growth from the previous PPOSS until now. With 155 teams identified in the previous study rising to 201, this represents a 30% increase in demand, which is particularly substantial.

An increase in 30% up over the next PPOSS period would result in an additional 60 teams being created and 30 match equivalent sessions per week. On this basis, participation increases reported by clubs during consultation is significantly lower than those identified through forecasting growth via this method.

If the above future demand through forecasted growth was to be realised over the next five years, this would exacerbate existing shortfalls on adult and youth 11v11 and create shortfalls on all remaining pitch types. This is shown further in the table below.

Table 4.5: Current supply and demand if growth trends continued

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
Adult	1	3.5
Youth 11v11	3	12
Youth 9v9	1	4.5
Mini 7v7	0.5	6.5
Mini 5v5	0.5	5.5

It should be noted that the future demand has been accredited to the pitch type based on the overall percentage of that type of demand playing within Castle Point. For example, currently 9% of all demand in the Authority plays on adult pitch types therefore 9% of 30 match equivalent sessions (2.5 match equivalent sessions) have been attributed.

### *Reinstating the disused pitches at Benfleet Playing Fields*

As mentioned in the proceeding Assessment Report, Benfleet Playing Fields previously provided two adult grass football pitches which are no longer marked.

The table below examines what the impact would be on the overall supply and demand analysis if these pitches were brought back into use established to a minimum of standard quality with secured tenure.

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Table 4.6: Impact on supply and demand balance from reinstating unmarked provision

Pitch/facility type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
Adult	1	1
Youth 11v11	3	3
Youth 9v9	1	1
Mini 7v7	0.5	0.5
Mini 5v5	0.5	0.5

As seen in the table above, if the two disused pitches at Benfleet Playing Fields were to be reinstated, this would alleviate the shortfall on adult pitches resulting in spare capacity.

### ***Improving 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 identified within the Assessment Report there is a clear need to improve the ancillary provision at both Deanes School Sports Centre (The Mainland Analysis Area) and Smallgains Recreation Ground (Canvey Island Analysis Area) to better accommodate the type of demand accessing the sites, such as adult, youth and mini and women and girls.

In addition, if the proposed development of a 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch is to take place at The Appleton School, there would be a need to improve the ancillary provision on the site in order to accommodate the increase in demand.

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### *Securing access to education sites*

The information below outlines which sites in Castle Point are accessed by community clubs where tenure is unsecure. In instances where clubs do not have formal tenure agreements in place, clubs could theoretically be asked to vacate at any time which would result in each requiring alternate provision to service existing levels of demand.

- ◀ 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).

In total, 55 teams access the sites above (22.5 match equivalent sessions per week). If access to any of these sites were to be lost it would have a severe impact on the overall supply and demand analysis for grass football pitches in Castle Point.

Conversely, there is a community use agreement (CUA) in place at USP College - XTEND Digital Campus (Canvey Island), however, this is currently unused by the community. Consultation with Canvey Island Jewish Trust reports demand to access the site for organised sports for the children within its organisation. Given there is a CUA in place, options should be explored to agree access for the Jewish Trust.

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Protect the existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision meets NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Work to alleviate identified overplay on grass football pitches through improvement of pitch quality.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity.
- ◀ Monitor future growth levels to determine when and where new grass pitches may be required.
- ◀ Look to reinstate the two disused adult pitches at Benfleet Playing Fields to support in alleviating shortfalls.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, prioritising club-led sites, multi-pitch sites and sites which play key strategic roles for adult football and women and girls' participation.
- ◀ Help to formalise long term usage agreements with clubs at education sites.
- ◀ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

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### 4.2: Third Generation turf (3G) pitches

#### *Assessment Report summary*

##### **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 one 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.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *Accommodating football training demand*

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's scenario of one 11v11 3G pitch equivalent being able to cater for 38 community football teams), the table below explores current requirements in Castle Point.

Table 4.7: Current demand for 3G pitches in Castle Point (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 <sup>2</sup>	3.23 - 3	1.75	1.25

<sup>2</sup> 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*

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.

Although further feasibility works would be required, options should be explored to create a second 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch at Waterside Leisure Centre, in order to alleviate the identified shortfalls in the Canvey Island Analysis Area. The possibility of making this pitch WR compliant should be examined in order to alleviate known grass pitch rugby union overplay.

### *Accounting for future demand via anticipated future growth rate (30% growth rate)*

The table below shows the total need for 3G pitches when accounting for the growth rate trend for football in Castle Point. This growth rate achieves a similar level of participation growth when compared to the ONS population projections which has already been applied in this report and via using club aspirations (as detailed in the grass pitch scenarios).

Table 4.8: Future demand (30% growth rate) for 3G pitches in Castle Point

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
261	7	3	4

When considering this anticipated future demand for an additional 60 teams there is potential demand for seven 11v11 3G pitches overall (rounded up from 6.86), which means a theoretical future shortfall of four pitches. Again, if considering the potential development at The Appleton School this would reduce the shortfall to three pitches overall in Castle Point.

### *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

World Rugby produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The RFU generally support the development of 3G pitches which support rugby union where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments.

Within Castle Point there are currently no Worlds Rugby compliant 3G pitches. However, there is a current shortfall on grass pitches of 8.75 match equivalent sessions per week to meet rugby union demand, all of which is in the Canvey Island Analysis Area. As mentioned, options to create a WR compliant pitch at Waterside Leisure Centre should be examined.

Based on the above, it is likely that a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch would be particularly beneficial to help alleviate these shortfalls. There is evidence that there is a need specifically within the Canvey Island Analysis Area. There is no identified need for such provision within The Mainland Analysis Area.

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### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Work with relevant partners to deliver additional 3G pitches in the Borough to cater for demand.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of any new 11v11 size 3G pitch to also have World Rugby compliancy to support RFU training demand.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place through engagement with operators of pitches and the Council with assistance provided by relevant NGBs as required.
- ◀ Ensure that all 11v11 and small size pitches of substantial area are on the FA register where they meet criteria and are re-tested when required to sustain certification, through engagement with operators of pitches not currently registered and when existing certification is nearing expiry.
- ◀ Ensure that all current and future providers have in place a pitch replacement fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA quality performance standards.
- ◀ Engage with 3G providers to replace halogen sports lighting to LED systems to improve energy efficiency, reduce costs and reduce light spill.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for multi-sport use and cross sport compliancy of 3G pitches where new are required / in need of refurbishment to help meet shortfalls for rugby union and other pitch sports where present.

### **4.3: Rugby union - grass pitches**

#### **Assessment Report summary**

##### **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.

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- 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.

### **Scenarios**

For ease of reference for the scenarios outlined below the capacity rating table has been include for rugby union which can be found in more detail in the proceeding Assessment Report.

Table 4.9: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

Drainage	Maintenance Poor (M0)	Maintenance Adequate (M1)	Maintenance Good (M2)
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

The table illustrates the RFU pitch quality scoring methodology which ascertains the capacity of pitches based on the scoring criteria.

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### *Addressing shortfalls at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club*

The below table examine the current levels of overplay on pitches at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club and what improvements would be required to alleviate the shortfall. This includes the demand from rugby league overmarking equating to one match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.10: Improving maintenance on all sites/pitches by one increment (based on RFU technical criteria)

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lighting?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
2	Canvey Island Rugby Football Club	1	M0 / D1	Poor	Yes	6 <sup>3</sup>	1.5	4.5	M2 / D3	Good	2.5
2	Canvey Island Rugby Football Club	1	M0 / D1	Poor	No	5.75 <sup>4</sup>	1.5	4.25	M2 / D3	Good	2.25

As seen in the table above, even if both pitches were improved to the maximum quality rating of M2/D3 rating there would still be a total shortfall of 4.75 match equivalent sessions per week. Therefore, in addition pitch enhancements there is still a need to examine further options on how to alleviate overplay further.

If the Club had access to a WR compliant 3G pitch for its training demand (four match equivalent sessions per week) and partial amounts of match play demand, in addition to maintenance and drainage improvement, this would alleviate the shortfalls. Further to this it is advised that dedicated rugby league provision is provided to Canvey Island RLFC. This would provide the rugby league with capacity for growth as well as reducing demand on the rugby union pitches. This will be explored as a scenario later in the rugby league section.

Alternatively, options should be explored regarding utilisation of local education sites, such as Castle View School, which has two senior pitches that are currently unused by the community. If the Club managed to secure community access, as well as pitch improvements, this would assist in alleviating shortfalls at its home site.

Furthermore, there is an identified need to improve the ancillary facility, particularly the changing rooms, at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club to better accommodate the differing types of demand being played at the site, including women and girls' demand.

<sup>3</sup> This includes four match equivalent sessions of training demand

<sup>4</sup> One match equivalent session added to account for rugby league demand from Canvey Island RLFC

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### *World Rugby (WR) 3G pitches in Castle Point*

There are no WR compliant 3G pitches in Castle Point and based on the scenario above, there is a clear need for the creation of one within the Authority, specifically to support the demand from Canvey Island Rugby Football Club in the Canvey Island Analysis Area. This being said, the is not enough demand to warrant a dedicated rugby specific 3G, rather a predominant football led project which has established community use agreement for the Club. It is recommended that Waterside Farm Leisure Centre is explored as a potential venue for such a project.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect the existing quantity of rugby union pitches including those used for curricular and extra-curricular demand, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Support Canvey Island RUFC in taking part in the GMA pitch advisory service to explore technical requirements to improve pitch quality to address overplay.
- ◀ Explore options to improve both maintenance and drainage at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club.
- ◀ Improve accompanying ancillary facilities to better accommodate all demographics including women and girls, particularly at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club.
- ◀ Explore the options of establishing a suitable dedicated home site for Canvey Island RLFC with relevant pitch and ancillary provision in order to alleviate demand on rugby union pitches at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club.
- ◀ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.
- ◀ Any potential new development of a 3G pitch in the Canvey Island Analysis Area should be explored for WR compliance to support training and partial competitive demand particularly for Canvey Island RUFC.

### **4.4: Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)**

#### **Assessment Report summary**

##### **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.

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### **Scenarios**

N/A

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Ensure the pitch at The King John School is retained as a 3G pitch with a short-pile surface (as an equivalent replacement), when resurfaced, to allow for low level curricular and extracurricular hockey demand.
- ◀ Monitor, where possible, levels of exported hockey demand and the potential impact to capacity for surrounding local authorities.
- ◀ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

## **4.5: Rugby league – grass pitches**

### **Assessment Report summary**

#### **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.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Canvey Knights RLFC*

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. In order to provide the Club with capacity for growth, in addition to alleviating overplay on rugby union grass pitches, there is a need to create purpose-built rugby league provision.

The creation of one good quality rugby league pitch (capacity of three match equivalent sessions) would provide the Club enough capacity to accommodate one match equivalent session of competitive demand and one match equivalent session of training demand.

This being said, without the Club responding to consultation it is unknown whether it has an aspiration to have its own dedicated home site. Therefore, further feasibility and consultation attempts would be required.

In the interim period, abovementioned improvements are required for rugby union, as suggested by the scenarios in order to accommodate the demand of both rugby codes on one site.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Explore the feasibility of creating dedicated rugby league pitches through consultation with Canvey Knights RLFC.

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- ◀ Improve pitch quality at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club to better sustain the demand from rugby union and rugby league.
- ◀ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

### 4.6: Cricket pitches

#### ***Assessment Report summary***

##### **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.

#### **Scenarios**

##### ***Addressing overplay***

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality of cricket squares over time.

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In Castle Point, overplay is identified on two squares at two sites. The scenario below looks at the impacts of quality improvements as a solution to reducing or alleviating overplay. As a reminder, 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 only square rated as poor in Castle Point is a Smallgains Recreation Ground.

Of the overplayed squares, one is poor with the other being standard quality, which means the position will improve. The impact of improving quality to good, where each wicket has a theoretical capacity of five match equivalent sessions per season is considered in the table below.

Table 4.11: Impact on overplay if all overplayed squares were improved to good quality

Site ID	Site name	Club	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of wickets	Current overplay (MES)	Potential position (MES)
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	Canvey Island CC Benfleet CC	1	Poor	11	22	33
37	Woodside Park	Benfleet CC	1	Standard	9	5	4

As seen in the table above, if both overplayed squares were to be improved to good quality all overplay in Castle Point would be alleviated. An alternative approach would be to create NTPs at the sites particularly at Smallgains Recreation Ground with Woodside Park already being provided with two hybrid wickets.

Cricket squares can be accompanied by non-turf pitches (NTPs), made of a synthetic material that allows users to play on a usable wicket all year round whilst not contributing towards playing demand on natural turf wickets (grass wickets). By the nature of its design, an NTP can accommodate significantly more demand than a natural cricket wicket, meaning it can contribute towards addressing overplay issues on grass cricket squares.

With this being said the priority at both sites should be to improve both the square and outfield quality in order to alleviate shortfalls.

For reference, the ECB highlights that non-turf pitches which follow its TS6 guidance<sup>5</sup> on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets. Typically, however, play would be more suited to junior teams as senior leagues typically stipulate the use of natural turf wickets.

### *Accommodating future demand*

In Castle Point, three clubs expressed aspirations to increase teams at specific ages. As seen in the table below.

Table 4.12: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls	Total
Benfleet CC	The Mainland	1	1	2	1	5

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cag.org.uk/docs/ecb-non-turf-pitches-ts6-final-328.pdf>

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

For reference, and as identified in the Assessment Report, the average number of matches for senior men's cricket (Saturday) is 12 match equivalent sessions per season, for senior women's cricket (Sunday) it is ten match equivalent sessions per season and for junior cricket (Midweek) it is four match equivalent sessions per season.

Future demand expressed by Hadleigh & Thundersley CC (John H Burrows Ground) can be accommodated on the site if that quality improvements are made to both squares and subsequent outfields. It should be noted that the senior men's team would need to play on a Sunday as there is no capacity on Saturday for additional teams.

If the aforementioned improvements are also made at Smallgains Recreation Ground and Woodside Park are also made most of the future demand, apart from the senior men's teams, expressed by Canvey Island CC and Benfleet CC could be accommodated. It should be noted that there are also significant improvements required to the ancillary provision at Smallgains Recreation Ground to meet current levels of demand for both cricket and football.

The only options for growth for senior men, further to those listed above, would be reinstating disused provision at Benfleet Playing Fields. As mentioned in the proceeding Assessment Report, there are already plans to reinstate the square with development work expected to be finished in 2028.

### *Bringing unused provision back into use*

As mentioned in the preceding Assessment Report, the unused cricket square identified at Benfleet Playing Fields in The Mainland Analysis Area is planned to be reinstated with work to be completed by 2028. It's expected the square will accommodate 11 wickets. On the assumption that this was brought back into use at a good quality, there is theoretical capacity to accommodate 55 match equivalent sessions per season. Moreover, the site is serviced with a pavilion which includes changing rooms and toilets.

Given the current overall shortfalls identified for cricket across Saturday, Sunday and midweek in Castle Point, there is a benefit to reinstating this square to support in alleviating shortfalls which currently total a shortfall of 27 MES per season on a Saturday and seven MES per season on both a Sundays and midweek.

### *Accommodating women's and girls' demand*

The ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of female teams across the Country by 2028, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand across the District above and beyond what is forecast through other methods. To quantify this in Castle Point, with six junior girls' teams fielded, this will increase to 18 teams by 2028.

As female demand commonly takes place either on Sundays or during midweek, the sites listed below display spare capacity that should be prioritised for accommodating additional fixtures:

- ◀ John H Burrows Ground.
- ◀ Woodside Park.

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However, this will place further pressure on the shortfalls identified, particularly if other growth is realised. As such, whilst this particular growth could likely be accommodated in isolation, it adds to the overall need for increased pitch provision when considered with other factors.

In addition, when considering the suitability of sites to accommodate female demand, it is imperative that the ancillary provision is of a required standard.

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Look to improve all currently used squares to a good quality in order to alleviate identified shortfalls and create capacity for future demand.
- ◀ Look to improve the poor quality of the outfields at John H Burrows Ground and Smallgains Creation Ground.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of installing additional NTPs to accompany grass wicket squares (where space allows), particularly at Smallgains Recreation Ground and Woodside Park.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place, particularly those engaging in lease renewals.
- ◀ Improve the changing and ancillary facilities where there is a need to do so (Smallgains Recreation Ground) especially to cater for women & girls demand.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of reinstating the disused cricket square at Benfleet Playing Fields in order to accommodate identified future shortfalls.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities to support the growth of demand especially women & girls.
- ◀ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ◀ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

### **4.7: Tennis courts**

#### ***Assessment Report summary***

##### **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.

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- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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 using the methods above has been implemented at King George V Playing Fields. It aspires to implement a similar model for the provision at John H Burrows Ground.

### Scenarios

#### *Addressing shortfalls at Hadleigh Park Lawn Tennis Club*

Hadleigh Park TC has 155 current members which access three courts which are not sport lit. 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. Therefore, using these figures, the Club can accommodate 120 meaning it is oversubscribed by approximately 35 members.

If sport lighting were to be installed on the three courts this would increase the overall capacity from 120 to 180 members. This would be suitable to meet current levels of demand and alleviate the shortfall.

#### *Padel courts*

The LTA Padel Provision Calculator indicates demand for seven padel courts within Castle Point to meet local needs, there are currently none provided across the Borough. Given the rapid growth of padel as a sport and the identified demand, strategic investment in padel provision should be considered to enhance local access and support Castle Point participation in this emerging sport.

#### *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.

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The LTA report that since its refurbishment, a sustainable operating model using the methods above has been implemented at King George V Playing Fields (Canvey Island Analysis Area). In order meet the recreational demand in The Mainland Analysis Area it is recommended that a sustainable operating model is also implemented on the courts at John H Burrows Ground.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of tennis courts, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Explore options in establishing sports lights on the three courts at Hadleigh Park Lawn Tennis Club to alleviate identified shortfalls.
- ◀ Support the development of padel courts within Castle Point, if they do not impede on other sporting provision.
- ◀ Look to establish a sustainable operating environment model at John H Burrows Ground, similar to the one already in situ at King George V Playing Fields.
- ◀ Aim to put sinking funds in place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

## **4.8: Netball**

### **Assessment Report summary**

#### **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.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Improving accessibility and court quality*

As mentioned in the preceding Assessment Report several netball courts in Castle Point are rated as poor quality (five courts across three sites). The poor quality courts are located at Castle View School, Cedar Hall School and Westwood Academy. Problems recorded during site assessments include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss and worn line markings, with maintenance also considered to be basic.

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It should be noted that two of the five poor quality courts are not available for community use with many of the providers stating that they are unavailable due to their quality and/or lack of demand to use the provision (again due to perceived quality). There is a risk that if the currently available courts remain poor quality, or even worsen, may become unusable.

Therefore, it is recommended that all poor quality courts are improved with attempts made to create community access at those sites which are unavailable once enhancements have been carried out.

Regarding unavailable courts, there are also seven standard quality sports lit courts at The Cornelius Vermuyden School that are not available for community use. Options should be explored to gain community use in order to create additional all year round capacity for netball.

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Protect existing courts in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Secure community use at sites that are currently in use or that could be used in the future.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs and for England Netball initiatives.
- ◀ Consider establishing additional sports lighting at venues in use for netball or at venues that could attract netball demand following installation.
- ◀ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

## **4.9: Bowls**

### ***Assessment Report summary***

#### **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.

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### Scenarios

#### *Accommodating current and future demand*

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, as a guide, it states that any green operating with a membership of close to or over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand. Of the responding clubs, four are currently operating above this threshold in Castle Point, as follows:

- ◀ Hadleigh BC (John H Burrows Ground).
- ◀ Castle Point BC (Woodside Park).

Of the clubs listed above, currently no capacity issues are highlighted in addition to no quality issues identified.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of currently used greens and, as a minimum, sustain quality.
- ◀ Look to improve all utilised greens to a minimum good quality.
- ◀ Ensure that any proposed development of currently used greens is in line with NPPF and local planning policy.
- ◀ Assist clubs, where possible, with any future ancillary provision improvements.
- ◀ Monitor capacity levels of highly supported clubs such as Castle Point BC and Hadleigh BC to ensure they have sufficient capacity.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.
- ◀ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

## 4.10: Athletics

### Assessment Report summary

#### 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.

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- ◀ It is anticipated that some levels would return to Castle Point to use the provision at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre if it was refurbished.

### Scenarios

#### *Waterside Farm Leisure Centre*

The 400-metre athletics track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre is currently underutilised, primarily due to its quality, and receives only infrequent maintenance. Public usage, as indicated by Strava data provided by England Athletics, is high, despite no athletics club based at the facility. There is also evidence provided by the two prominent running clubs (Castle Point Joggers and Benfleet Running Club) that they would utilise the provision more if quality was improved.

Additionally, due to its quality, there is exported demand from Castle Point travelling to the neighbouring authorities of Basildon (Basildon Sporting Village) and Southend-on-Sea (Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre and the Eastwood Academy). Notably, the Basildon Sporting Village facility is TrackMark accredited.

Based on the evidence provided in the PPOSS there is a need to refurbish the track in the immediate future with attempts made to maximise its utilisation once quality has been improved. Options should also be explored to have permanent or temporary sports lighting established in order to maximise accessibility for all year round utilisation.

EA report it is looking at a number of pilot projects to provide financial support for portable lighting for venues with no such provision. If this proves to be successful it will support the clubs/venues to purchase portable lighting and/or seek a permanent lighting solution.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing outdoor facility at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Assist, where possible, to refurbish the track to better service current levels of demand in Castle Point.
- ◀ Explore options for permanent or portable sports lighting for the track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre including the potential for financial support from EA.
- ◀ Once refurbished, explore the need for TrackMark accreditation and to increase utilisation.
- ◀ affiliated clubs and the wider running market, building on the success of Parkrun and looking to increase other initiatives not currently operating in Castle Point.
- ◀ Consider the need to include ActiveTracks (walk/jog/run/cycle loops) within parks and open spaces or as part of future housing developments.

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### 4.11: Cycling

#### Assessment Report summary

##### 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.

#### Scenarios

N/A

#### Recommendations

- Protect existing provision and improve as required the provision at Hadleigh Park.
- Ensure continued access to routes used for cycling especially National Cycle Network
- Work with the relevant partners to further understand club requirements such as ancillary facilities and development plans.
- Ensure there is continued secured access to existing sites for clubs.
- Consider the need to include ActiveTracks (walk/jog/run/cycle loops) within parks and open spaces or as part of future housing developments.

### 4.12: Golf courses

#### Assessment Report summary

##### 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 are 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.

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- England Golf figures indicate the authority doesn't provide enough facilities to meet the demand of those in the authority who play golf regularly.

### Scenarios

N/A

### ***Recommendations***

- Protect all sites currently used for continued golf activity in line with national (i.e. the NPPF) and local planning policy. This should also involve Sport England as a non-statutory consultee.
- Explore options to increase supply to meet current unmet demand segments (mini golf / par 3 etc).
- Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and support improvements where necessary.
- Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.
- Ensure that any developments nearby to existing golf sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g. through ball-strike issues).
- Explore options to improve the mix of facilities in the Borough and offer more entry level style facilities for those who are new to the game, placing particular focus on driving ranges and shorter length courses.

### 4.13: Other sports

#### ***Assessment Report summary***

##### **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.

### Scenarios

No suitable scenarios have been identified, with the following recommendations instead considered necessary based on the supply and demand findings.

### ***Recommendations***

- Protect existing quantity, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- Improve quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good.

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### PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

#### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

##### Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

##### **Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes disused (including any which may not have been identified in this document) underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders. NPPF paragraph 104 states that 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 the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

The PPOSS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field used within the last five years. They will use the PPOSS to help assess the planning application against its Playing Fields Policy as set out below.

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### *Policy Exception E1:*

'A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport'.

Where the PPOSS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

### *Policy Exception E2*

'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use'.

### *Policy Exception E3*

The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- ◀ Reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- ◀ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
- ◀ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality;
- ◀ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- ◀ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site'.

### *Policy Exception E4:*

'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

- ◀ of equivalent or better quality and
- ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity;
- ◀ in a suitable location and;
- ◀ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

### *Policy Exception E5*

'The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field'.

Disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as they may provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. Any disused playing fields are included within this Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

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It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one or two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment and focus resources towards creating bigger and better quality venues (hub sites). Such sites could then be re-purposed to meet other recreational needs or, if appropriate and agreed, could be developed for other uses. It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost.

### **Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.**

Much like some authorities nationally, there is reliance on the education sector to provide for most of the demand for playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities in Castle Point. However, where this is the case, it is imperative that future opportunities to secure tenure for clubs is explored and progressed where possible. The following schools provide community use to clubs.

Table 5.1: Known use of education sites

School	Club	Sport
Deanes School Sports Centre	Hadleigh Town Hadleigh Thundersley Rovers Girls Thundersley Rovers Youth	Football Football (3G)
Hadleigh Junior School Playing Fields	Hadleigh	Football
Kents Hill Junior School	Junior Red Star Youth	Football
Castle View School	Simco	Football
Glenwood School	Supreme Youth	Football
The Appleton School	Thundersley Rovers Girls Thundersley Rovers Youth	Football

Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as England Hockey, Football Foundation and Essex FA can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of any agreement.

The Council and private landlords (as relevant) should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council (where relevant), parish and town councils and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported and clubs should be encouraged to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities.

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### *Alternative management models*

The Council could explore possible alternative options for the future management of some sites within its playing field portfolio, including leasehold or Community Asset Transfer (CAT). Potential benefits of this include reducing costs which may allow for the retention and possible improvement of other retained sites within the portfolio, as well as potentially opening up new routes to improvement of sites and access to external funding opportunities through club-led management models.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and National Governing Bodies to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>6</sup>. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

The Council could establish a series of core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate clubs are assigned to sites. As an example, outcomes may include:

- ◀ Increasing participation.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the site, to some degree, remains available for other purposes or for other users.

### *Community Asset Transfer*

Another way of ensuring tenure long term tenure for clubs is through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). This is the transfer of management and/or ownership of public land and buildings from its owner (usually a local authority) to a community organisation (such as a Development Trust, a Community Interest Company or a social enterprise) for less than market value – to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

Community based organisations are often much more effective at engaging people than other types of organisation because they are close to and directly accountable to their community.

Communities that come together to plan and deliver services can make them more inclusive and responsive than state run services. Communities can mobilise a lot of volunteer time and energy. Asset transfer can, for example:

- ◀ Help local authorities meet policy objectives.
- ◀ Make better use of underused assets.
- ◀ Open and increase opportunities for clubs/organisations to access grant funding for which local authorities cannot apply (e.g. Football Foundation Grass Maintenance Fund).

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<sup>6</sup> [Link to CASC benefits](#)

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- ◀ Improve assets through increased time and resource (both financial and volunteer) than what the local authority may be able to contribute.
- ◀ Give sports clubs and community organisations more security and sustainability and help transition clubs away from being funding dependent. Opens opportunities to revenue generation and greater self-dependence.
- ◀ Enable people to protect the assets in their communities – including iconic heritage buildings and open spaces. Reducing costs to the local authority and protection against further budgetary cuts.
- ◀ Involve people in designing and running the services from which, they benefit.
- ◀ Be a catalyst for getting people more involved as volunteers.
- ◀ Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets.

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step-by-step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process should this be an option for the Council to consider. It can be accessed here: [Link to Sport England Community assets and rights](#)

### **Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where needed**

To maximise community use, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools and higher/further education establishments is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Castle Point, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from providers to open up provision is also an issue.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the venues and local clubs, as well as helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

In some instances, facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these facilities sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

As outlined in the scenarios above the following schools do not allow community access to some or all their facilities:

- ◀ Jotmans Hall Primary School.
- ◀ Leigh Beck Junior School.
- ◀ Lubbins Park Primary Academy.
- ◀ South Benfleet Primary School.
- ◀ St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.
- ◀ The Cornelius Vermuyden School.
- ◀ The King John School.
- ◀ Thundersley Primary School.
- ◀ Westwood Academy.
- ◀ William Read Primary School.
- ◀ USP College – Seevic Campus (Playing Fields).

Gaining access to some, or all these sites, could have a significant impact in alleviating shortfalls for a variety of sports. It should be noted this may also include qualitative improvements.

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The Council, with assistance from NGBs and SE, needs to work towards gaining secured access to more educational sites in order to provide additional capacity for community sports. This should include ensure relevant policies are contained within strategic documents such as the emerging local plan.

There are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, yet it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and to work with the providers where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

As detailed earlier, NGBs and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local education authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive investment in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

Sport England's Use our School<sup>7</sup> campaign provides guidance on how the Council could obtain access to educational sites including providing relevant information surrounding potential operating models, legal and governance / finance / marketing and operating information.

Where new schools are provided, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential impact of the provision. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as courts that can accommodate for sports such as tennis.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/use-our-school>

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities through improving the quality and management of sites.

#### Recommendations:

- d. Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- g. Secure developer contributions

#### Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are several ways in which it is possible to improve pitch quality, and these are explored below.

#### Available support programmes

##### *Ground Management Association (GMA) Pitch Advisory Service*

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation, the Pitch Advisory Service (PAS, formerly the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme) was launched in 2014 and is funded by the GMA and its partners; the Football Foundation, Sport England, FA, ECB, RFU and RFL.

Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots clubs across England and Wales. The PAS provides an enhanced network of support and expertise available to those maintaining natural turf pitches, particularly at a local level.

The service can be utilised by grassroots clubs, organisations and local authorities with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

Pitch providers are encouraged to complete a self-assessment of pitches using the Football Foundation PitchPower (PP) app. In August 2022, PitchPower was re-launched, with enhanced capability to support use beyond football pitches and is now accessible for the assessment of natural turf pitches for cricket, rugby league and rugby union. It should be noted that with cricket in particular, more PitchPower assessments are planned to be carried out, therefore, there is a need to review quality as part of the Stage E process of this PPOSS

In relation to cricket specifically, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of the sport. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS assessment assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the Ground Management Association.

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### *Football Foundation PitchPower Assessment*

The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund, the app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

In Castle Point, Essex FA plays a proactive role as County FA, supporting clubs, schools and pitch operators, to engage in the pitch power process, monitoring uptake and new potentials to access funding support, from the Football Foundation.

The tool across web app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

In addition to non-technical assessments, clubs and education sites across Castle Point continue to undertake PitchPower assessments as a means of improving the quality of provision. Consequently, it should be recommended through the PPOSS process for the local authority to support delivering any improvement to new sites that undertake PitchPower assessments.

### *Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF)*

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain the required maintenance equipment. If a PitchPower assessment categorises pitches as 'poor' or 'basic' they are then eligible to apply for funding through the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund<sup>8</sup>, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 good quality grass pitches by 2030. Clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to improve and sustain quality.

All applicants must have, as a minimum, landowners permission to accept investment or ideally long term security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, charities, community organisations, education providers and town and parish councils. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, eligible organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have landowners permission as stated above.

However, the Council, can undertake technical assessment of pitches using the PitchPower app. Opportunities to access the fund to support presently Council managed sites include establishment of a service level agreement with a resident club for maintenance responsibilities, or transfer of long-term management to the club/organisation through leasehold or Community Asset Transfer (CAT), both enabling the club/organisation to apply to the fund.

Furthermore, the Football Foundation also launched a Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, who are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

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### ***Addressing overplay***

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football, rugby league and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).

The FA, RFU, RFL, ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

Table 5.2: Recommended capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches (Good quality)	No. of matches (Standard quality)	No. of matches (Poor quality)
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	Full size AGP	4 per day	4 per day	4 per day

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged to transfer to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. Alternatively quality, should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed adjacent to existing squares.

For rugby union, overplay can be reduced but not resolved through improvements to pitch maintenance. There is a clear need for the creation of additional WR compliant 3G provision in Bassetlaw to transfer some demand off match pitches and alleviate overplay on grass pitches. Alternatively, options should be explored regarding utilisation of local education sites, such as Castle View School, which has two senior pitches that are currently unused by the community.

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For rugby league, the Club use both pitch and ancillary provision at Canvey Island Rugby Football Club. In order to provide the Club with capacity for growth, in addition to alleviating overplay on rugby union grass pitches, there is a need to create purpose-built rugby league provision.

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality that are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor-quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality were improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

### *Improving changing provision*

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in Castle Point (these are detailed further in the Action Plan), for example, the changing provision at Deanes School Sports Centre, Smallgains Recreation Ground, Thundersley Recreation Ground and Canvey Island Rugby Football Club are poor quality with users stating the need to redevelop the ancillary facilities as the current facilities are outdated. As previously mentioned, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement such as, multi-sport pitch sites, club managed sites and sites which are strategically important for adult and/or women and girls participation.

### **Recommendation (e) – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites**

To allow for facility developments to be programmed on a phased basis the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan (contained in a separate document) for the proposed hierarchy. Developer contributions, where relevant to the development and appropriate, could be informed by this hierarchy.

### **Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding**

Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities.

To address community need a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPOSS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group directs and leads a co-ordinated approach to facility development whether made at/by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to ensure that the extent to which it addresses community need is optimised and duplication is avoided.

One of sport's key contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

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### Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing developments.

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council uses Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required. This should form the basis of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions and should aid the negotiation process with developers.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sport and by pitch type and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport and on that provision. That percentage is then applied to the population growth and the additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions. This then provides the associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) provided. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

For tennis, Sport England has been working with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator. This works by turning an estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent number of courts which will be needed to meet this. It helps quantify additional demand for new growth populations, development, and regeneration areas, and is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations.

The tool should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

- ◀ Facility location compared to demand.
- ◀ Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- ◀ Cross boundary movement of demand.
- ◀ Travel networks and topography.
- ◀ Attractiveness of facilities.

Once the calculators have been utilised, the PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development (or group of developments) on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for contributions to be put towards improvements to increase the capacity of existing provision, or if new provision is required (or a combination of both). Where development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that also contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused.

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The preference for Sport England and the NGBs is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for further development in the future. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

Where new provision is not required but where contributions to existing sites is instead to be sought, the PPOSS Action Plan should be used to identify suitable sites within the locality that should receive the funding. This may involve directing investment into provision most likely to receive demand from the housing development, or into provision that is most in need (e.g., due to quality issues).

Sport England also recommends that a number of objectives which should be implemented to enable best use of the calculators:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

For further information, please see Part 7 of this report.

Whilst neither the Playing Pitch Calculator nor the Sports Facilities Calculator identify demand for other types of pitches (outside of football, rugby, cricket and hockey) or non-pitch provision (outside of tennis), a similar assessment of need process can still be undertaken. As with the sports that are covered, this should entail utilisation of the PPOSS and engagement with the NGBs.

### ***Developer contributions - step by step guide***

For any application warranting a developer contribution the following processes should be followed in order to help inform the potential needs a new housing development may require and/or should look to consider. In accordance with National Planning Policy Guidance, contributions should not be sought from developments of 10 units or less, and which have a maximum combined gross floor space of no more than 1,000 square metres (gross internal area).

Any obligations sought should be based on a tailored approach to each development, considering the population derived from the development, determining if the demand can be met by existing facilities and identifying the project/s that any required contribution will be used towards. All of this should be carried out using the robust evidence base provided as part of the PPOSS to help with clearly justifying the needs arising and how they are to be met.

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### Step 1 Determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from the development

The main tool for determining this is Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, which is a Sport England tool provided on completion of the Strategy. The calculator will be pre-populated with the current population of the local authority and the current demand data from the PPOSS. Until this requires updating, to determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from a development, all that is required is the input of the new population that will derive from a proposal.

The calculator provides an estimation of the number of new pitches that would be required to meet the match equivalent sessions that will derive from the development. The associated costs for providing these new pitches are also identified (although please note that these are indicative costs only and appropriate local work should be undertaken to determine the true costs involved).

### Step 2 Determine whether new provision is required and whether this should be on or off site

For large-scale developments that generate high levels of demand, new pitch provision may be required to meet the population growth. This is particularly the case when the calculator identifies a need for multiple pitches and across multiple sports.

When on site provision is required, priority should be placed on the creation of multi-pitch and multi-sport sites with appropriate ancillary facilities such as a clubhouse and adequate car parking, as well as ensuring the provision contributes towards reducing current shortfalls. This will ensure that the provision is sustainable and attractive to potential users. Emphasis should also be on ensuring the site can accommodate an AGP given current sporting trends.

Other useful questions when deciding on new provision include:

- ◀ Are there any teams/clubs playing outside of the local area (displaced demand) which could utilise provision at the site?
- ◀ Do any local clubs identify existing plans/demand for access to new provision?
- ◀ Are there any overplayed sites in the local area where existing demand could be transferred to a new site?
- ◀ Do any local clubs identify any latent demand (i.e. if they had access to more pitches they could they field more teams?)

To further help determine the sustainability of establishing new provision, consideration should be given to the potential management opportunities which may be available onsite:

- ◀ Is the local authority (or town/parish council) in a position to take on further outdoor sports facilities from a financial point of view?
- ◀ Is an education establishment to be provided as part of the development which offers a potential management option of outdoor sports facilities?
- ◀ Is there a leisure trust in place which has the capacity to take on the management of outdoor sports facilities?
- ◀ Is there an opportunity for a trust based model of management, for example, by formation of a Community Interest Company (CIC) or Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)?
- ◀ Is there an existing sports club that has the capacity to take on the management of another site?

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Where the calculator does not create demand for a whole pitch, which is often the case for smaller sized developments, it is recommended to make a contribution to increasing the capacity of an existing site to meet demand generated from the development. When identifying a site for off-site contributions, the proximity and location of existing playing pitch sites should be considered and whether they could help serve the new development – this could be informed by identifying the analysis area in which the development sits and if there are any hub sites or key centres within the locality. Initially, a one-mile radius could be drawn around the site in order to help identify the nearest priority sites, which may require consultation with neighbouring authorities when the development sites to close to the boundary.

The off-site decision should be based on the potential to improve existing facilities within an appropriate catchment of a development to create additional capacity, and how realistic it is given the nature of the local area to provide new provision. For example, there may be some poor quality playing fields that could potentially be improved with additional drainage and long-term maintenance works, along with enhanced changing provision, to enable use to be increased, thereby creating additional capacity to meet the increased demand generated from the development.

Discussions should be held with relevant parties (e.g. NGBs, landowners, facility operators and user groups), and any further necessary evidence gathered (e.g. a feasibility study) to help identify the specific works that are required, and to ensure they will provide the necessary additional capacity to meet the needs. It will also be important to demonstrate that the specific works can be delivered within an appropriate timescale in relation to the occupation of the development site.

<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Determine the other pitch and non-pitch requirements resulting from the development</b>
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The Sports Facility Calculator now calculates tennis demand so this can therefore be used to inform tennis requirements; however, neither this nor the Playing Pitch Calculator determine needs for any other sports. That being said, the PPOSS identifies (where relevant) current and future demand requirements and can therefore still be used to determine if contributions are required towards these sports or if new provision is required, in conjunction with NGB discussions.

Where there is no identified shortfall in provision or future demand for new provision within an area relevant to the development (e.g. an analysis area or settlement), consideration should be given to the nearest site to the development containing that type of provision. If this could accommodate the increased demand from the development, no action is required; if it could not accommodate the demand, consider if the site could benefit from a contribution towards increasing capacity to meet likely need. For example, this could include increasing quality and/or addition of ancillary facilities such as floodlighting, changing rooms or car parking. The PPOSS Action Plan should be used as a starting point to identify site by site recommendations.

Where there is an identified shortfall that could not be overcome through contributions, new provision may be required within or nearby to the development as part a multi-sport development.

<b>Step 4</b>	<b>Consider design principles for new provision</b>
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The exact nature and location of provision associated with onsite developments should be fully determined in partnership with each relevant NGB. Further to this, each pitch sport NGB provides national guidance in relation to provision of new pitches.

There is also a need to ensure that the location of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities are appropriately located in the context of indoor sports provision (if also being provided onsite) to ensure a cohesive approach to the whole sporting offer.

<b>Step 5</b>	<b>Calculate the financial contribution required</b>
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After using the PPOSS Playing Pitch Calculator and the PPOSS as a starting point, the local cost of provision should be fully determined in order to calculate the financial contributions required.

A clear and transparent methodology for calculating up to date costs for the specific works, including appropriate ancillary provision, should be presented. Where appropriate, depending on how the needs are to be met, the cost of any required land purchase should be included in the financial contribution. If an obligation will be directed to an off-site project it should be ensured the costs are limited to meet the needs of the individual development.

Along with any capital costs for the works, an obligation should ensure an appropriate level of lifecycle costs towards the new or enhanced provision. This is required to cover the day to day maintenance for an agreed long-term period and to help ensure a sinking fund exists for any major replacement work, e.g. the future resurfacing of an artificial grass pitch.

Wherever possible, specific local costs should be used, especially if the works are to improve the existing quality of a site to increase capacity as there may be a number of site specifics to consider. Sport England does provide indicative costs for new provision:  
<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

For all developments community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

#### Recommendations:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.
- i. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

#### **Recommendation (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock**

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision both for now and in the future. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation of facilities e.g. converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ◀ Securing community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends, and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of sports facilities. Sports development work also approximates unmet demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e. it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur.

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long-term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to redesignate a senior pitch, where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action plan will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality, or unused sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome.

#### **Recommendation (i) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand**

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision.

## CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 4, although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls for football, cricket, hockey, tennis, netball and bowls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except for 3G pitches and the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.

Notwithstanding the above, large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the school to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the school as well as the wider community.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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### PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is organised by Analysis Area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

#### ***Site hierarchy***

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a regional context i.e., they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Services the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport provision but may cater for two.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools and clubs
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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**Hub sites** are of borough wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

**Key centres** are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider); however, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

**Local sites** refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports (e.g., bowling green sites).

For local sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

### **Partners**

The column indicating partners in the Action Plans below refers to the main organisations that the Council (or the relevant provider) would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council venues), and a supporting role at others (such as private sites/schools etc).

### **Priority**

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have **high** level actions, as they have wide importance, high priority sites have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

The **low** priority actions tend to be for single pitch or single sport sites and are often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

### **Costs**

The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on relative cost. The brackets are:

- (L) - Low - less than £150k.
- (M) - Medium - £150k-£750k.
- (H) - High £750k and above.

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs<sup>9</sup>.

### **Timescales**

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period and the information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to anticipated delivery times and are not priority based:

- ◀ (S) - Short (1-2 years).
- ◀ (M) - Medium (3-5 years).
- ◀ (L) - Long (6+ years).

### **Aim**

Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three Sport England aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect**.

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<sup>9</sup> [Facility cost guidance | Sport England](#)

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### CANVEY ISLAND ANALYSIS AREA

#### Area summary – pitch sports<sup>10</sup>

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2043) <sup>11</sup>
<b>Football (grass)</b>	-	-	-
Canvey Island	Adult	At capacity	Shortfall of 2
Canvey Island	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1	Shortfall of 3
Canvey Island	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
Canvey Island	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
Canvey Island	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 2
<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5.5</b>
<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	<b>Shortfall of 10.5</b>
<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 1</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3.5</b>
<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 0.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 6</b>
<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 0.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 4.5</b>
<b>Football (3G)</b>	-	-	-
Canvey Island	11v11	Shortfall of 1 pitch	Shortfall of 2 pitches
<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2 pitches</b>	<b>Shortfall of 4 pitches</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	-	-	-
Canvey Island	Saturday	Shortfall of 22	Shortfall of 22
Canvey Island	Sunday	Shortfall of 22	Shortfall of 22
Canvey Island	Midweek	Shortfall of 22	Shortfall of 22
<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 27</b>	<b>Shortfall of 39</b>
<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 7</b>	<b>Shortfall of 7</b>
<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>Shortfall of 7</b>	<b>Shortfall of 19</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
Canvey Island	Senior	Shortfall of 8.75	Shortfall of 8.75
<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8.75</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8.75</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>Full size, with sports lighting</b>	<b>Sufficient supply</b>	<b>Sufficient supply</b>

#### Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	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.
<b>Netball</b>	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.

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>11</sup> It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Boroughwide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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<b>Sport</b>	<b>Headline findings</b>
<b>Bowls</b>	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.
<b>Athletics</b>	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.
<b>Cycling</b>	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. 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.
<b>Golf</b>	The venues should be protected and supported, including the driving range provision, particularly given the recent membership increases reported by England Golf.
<b>Rugby league</b>	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. 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.

**CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
2	Canvey Island Rugby Football Club	1207062	SS8 8EJ	Rugby union (Rugby league)	Sport Club	Two poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitches one of which is sports lit. Pitches are overmarked for rugby league and used by Canvey Knights RLFC. Overplayed by 8.75 match equivalent sessions. 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.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced maintenance. Explore options to relocate training demand off site onto WR compliant 3G provision. Assist the Club in improving ancillary provision for women and girls demand. Explore installing additional sports lighting. Explore options to create a permanent home for Canvey Knights RLFC to alleviate shortfalls.	Sports club RFU RFL	Local	H	M	M	Protect Enhance
3	Canvey Island Youth FC	6020886	SS8 0SW	Football	Sport Club	One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of which are standard quality. The former two pitches have spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions each whilst the latter is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls / accommodate future demand.	Sports club FF EFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
4	Castle View School	1044953	SS8 7FH	Football	Education	An adult, two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch all of which are poor quality and are used via a CUA. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions with the others played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular, extracurricular and community demand. Once improved look at increase utilisation of the youth pitches.	Education FF EFA	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
4	Castle View School	1044953	SS8 7FH	Rugby union	Education	Two poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitches that are available but unused by the community.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand. Explore increasing community usage with Canvey Island RUFC.	Education RFU	Key Centre	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
4	Castle View School	1044953	SS8 7FH	Cricket	Education	A standalone NTP.	Sustain quality and retain as current use.	Education ECB ECCB	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
4	Castle View School	1044953	SS8 7FH	Tennis	Education	Four poor quality macadam courts that are sports lit and available for community use. Overmarked with netball.	Improve court quality as required to meet levels of curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education LTA	Key Centre	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
4	Castle View School	1044953	SS8 7FH	Netball	Education	Three poor quality macadam courts that are sports lit and available for community use. Overmarked with tennis.	Improve court quality as required to meet levels of curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education EN	Key Centre	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
12	King George V Playing Fields	6001601	SS8 7BJ	Football	Council	Two adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of which are standard quality. The mini 5v5 and youth 9v9 pitch have actual spare capacity of 0.5 and one match equivalent session, respectively. All remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls / accommodate future demand.	Council FF EFA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance

**CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
12	King George V Playing Fields	6001601	SS8 7BJ	Tennis	Council	Three good quality acrylic courts that are not sports lit. The LTA has implemented a sustainable operating model. There are also three disused courts on the site.	Sustain good quality courts through a sustainable operating model. Explore options for the three disused courts including but not limited to reinstating as tennis courts or repurposes to meet alternative sporting demand.	Council LTA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
15	Leigh Beck Junior School	30004184	SS8 7TD	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF, EFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
17	Lubbins Park Primary Academy	30005068	SS8 7HF	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF,EFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
19	Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy	30003675	SS8 9SU	3G	Education	A small size (55x37) sports lit FA certified 3G pitch that is available for community use. Good quality built in 2020.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance. Ensure a relevant pitch replacement fund is in situ. Ensure the pitch is retested as required to remain FA certified.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
20	Park Lane (Canvey Island Football Club)	6021091	SS8 7PX	Football	Sport Club	A good quality Step 3 adult pitch with relevant ancillary facilities.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Ensure ground grading meet subsequent Step football.	Sports club FF EFA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
21	USP College - XTEND Digital Campus	30003455	SS8 9RZ	Football	Education	One adult, youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 all of which are standard quality. Each pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. Available but currently unused. Canvey Island Jewish Trust aspire to gain access to the site.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls / accommodate future demand. Explore options to provide access to Canvey Island Jewish Trust.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	6017416	SS8 8QL	Football	Sports club	One adult overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions, two youth 9v9 pitches that have actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions. One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch both played to capacity at peak time. All pitches are standard quality. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore options for pitch reconfiguration in order to alleviate shortfalls. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls / accommodate future demand. Explore options to improve ancillary provision to meet the demand on the site.	Sports club FF EFA	Key centre	H	M	M	Protect Enhance
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	6017416	SS8 8QL	Cricket	Sports club	A poor quality square and outfield with 11 wickets overplayed by 22 match equivalent sessions. Rented by Canvey Island CC from the Council. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve both square and outfield quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore options to improve ancillary provision to meet the demand on the site.	Sports club ECB ECCB	Key centre	H	M	M	Protect Enhance

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**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
25	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	30004353	SS8 9DP	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
26	Thames Road	6017486	SS8 0HH	Football	Sports club	A good quality Step 4 adult pitch with relevant ancillary facilities.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Ensure ground grading meet subsequent Step football.	Sports club FF EFA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	1203987	SS8 9QS	Football	Education	Three adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all of which are standard quality and not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality as appropriate in order to meet curricular and extracurricular demand. Explore options to open provision for community use to support in alleviating identified shortfalls.	Education FF EFA	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Provide
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	1203987	SS8 9QS	Rugby union	Education	One standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality as appropriate in order to meet curricular and extracurricular demand. Explore options to open provision for community use to support in alleviating identified shortfalls.	Education RFU	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Provide
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	1203987	SS8 9QS	Cricket	Education	A standalone NTP.	Sustain quality and retain as current use.	Education ECB ECCB	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	1203987	SS8 9QS	Tennis	Education	Five standard quality macadam courts that are sports lit and not available for community use. Overmarked with netball.	Improve court quality as required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education LTA	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	1203987	SS8 9QS	Netball	Education	Five standard quality macadam courts that are sports lit and not available for community use. Overmarked with tennis.	Improve court quality as required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education EN	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	1003784	SS8 9RA	Football	Council	A total of six adult, three youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitches all of which are standard quality. The pitches are separated and used between Canvey Island Youth and Concord Rangers. Canvey Island Youth FC aspire to extend its main youth, located in the centre of the athletics track, 11v11 to accommodate adult football grass pitch.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Ensure clubs on site have long term security of tenure. Explore options to create an adult pitch for Canvey Island Youth to allow for its adult demand to grow. Ensure each club has access to relevant ancillary provision to meet their demand.	Council FF EFA	Hub	H	M	H	Protect Enhance
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	1003784	SS8 9RA	3G	Council	A good quality 11v11 size (100x64) metre sports lit 3G pitch built refurbished in 2024 and is FIFA Quality approved. Site has been identified for a second 3G based on 2025 affiliation data.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in situ.	Council FF EFA	Hub	H	M	H	Protect Provide

**CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						Consultation with the RFU indicates the pitch should be built to WR specification to alleviate shortfalls.	Ensure the pitch is retested as required to remain FIFA certified.  Look to create a second 11v11 size 3G pitch on the site in order to alleviate identified shortfalls whilst also considering making it WR compliant to alleviate rugby union grass pitch shortfalls.						
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	1003784	SS8 9RA	Athletics	Council	A poor quality 400m synthetic athletics track.	Protect provision and explore options for refurbishment.  Explore options for establishing sports lighting on the site for all year round access.	Council EA	Hub	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
35	William Read Primary School	30005510	SS8 0JE	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
36	Winter Gardens Academy	6021223	SS8 9QA	Football	Education	A poor quality youth 9v9 pitch played to capacity. Available for community use but unused.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
42	Canvey Island Junior School	-	SS8 0JE	Football	Education	A poor quality youth 9v9 pitch played to capacity. Available for community use but unused.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### THE MAINLAND ANALYSIS AREA

#### Area summary – pitch sports<sup>12</sup>

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2043) <sup>[13]</sup>
<b>Football (grass)</b>	-	-	-
The Mainland	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 3.5
The Mainland	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 7.5
The Mainland	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 5
The Mainland	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 4.5
The Mainland	Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 2.5
<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5.5</b>
Castle Point	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 10.5
Castle Point	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1	Shortfall of 3.5
Castle Point	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 6
Castle Point	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 4.5
<b>Football (3G)</b>	-	-	-
The Mainland	11v11	Shortfall of 1 pitch	Shortfall of 2 pitches
Castle Point	<b>11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2 pitches</b>	<b>Shortfall of 4 pitches</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	-	-	-
The Mainland	Saturday	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 15
The Mainland	Sunday	Spare capacity of 15	Spare capacity of 15
The Mainland	Midweek	Spare capacity of 15	Spare capacity of 15
Castle Point	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 27</b>	<b>Shortfall of 39</b>
Castle Point	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 7</b>	<b>Shortfall of 7</b>
Castle Point	Midweek	Shortfall of 7	Shortfall of 19
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
The Mainland	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
Castle Point	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8.75</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8.75</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
Castle Point	Full size, with sports lighting	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

#### Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	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.
<b>Netball</b>	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.

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>[13]</sup> It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Boroughwide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Headline findings</b>
<b>Bowls</b>	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.
<b>Athletics</b>	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.
<b>Cycling</b>	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. 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.
<b>Golf</b>	The venues should be protected and supported, including the driving range provision, particularly given the recent membership increases reported by England Golf.
<b>Rugby league</b>	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. 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.

**CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Benfleet Playing Fields	6021041	SS7 5JG	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches played to capacity. Site previously accommodated an additional two adult pitches however these are disused.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore options to reinstate the disused provision as required to alleviate future shortfalls particularly for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 demand.	Council FF EFA	Local	H	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
1	Benfleet Playing Fields	6021041	SS7 5JG	Rugby union (Disused)	Council	A disused rugby union pitch formally used by Benfleet Vikings RFC.	Retain as current use and look to reinstate if demand increases.	Council RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
1	Benfleet Playing Fields	6021041	SS7 5JG	Cricket (Disused)	Council	There are plans to improve Benfleet Playing Fields including reinstating the cricket pitch that has not been used for several years with development work expected to be finished by April 2027. The provision previously accommodated a six wicket square. Identified as a potential satellite site for Benfleet CC growth for Saturday cricket.	Assist where possible to reinstate the provision in order to support the growth of cricket in Castle Point. Look to identify an anchor club, such as Benfleet CC, to ensure utilisation.	Council ECB ECCB	Local	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
6	Cedar Hall School	1068618	SS7 3UQ	3G	Education	A standard quality small size (54x37m) sports lit 3G pitch built in 2010. FA certified.	Look to refurbish the pitch as required. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in situ. Ensure the pitch is retested as required to remain FA certified.	Education FF EFA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
6	Cedar Hall School	1068618	SS7 3UQ	Netball	Education	A poor quality court not available for community use nor sports lit.	Improve quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	1003728	SS7 2TD	Football	Education	Two adult, two youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitches all of which are poor quality. Each pitch type is overplayed by one match equivalent session. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision that do not meet requirements for the demand accessing the site.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Assist where possible in improving the onsite ancillary provision to meet the demand accessing the site. Look to formalise a CUA for community clubs accessing the site to provide security of tenure.	Education FF EFA	Hub	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	1003728	SS7 2TD	3G	Education	A good quality 11v11 size (98x60m) sports lit 3G pitch built in 2024. FIFA certified. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision that do not meet requirements for the demand accessing the site	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in situ. Ensure the pitch is retested as required to remain FIFA certified. Assist where possible in improving the onsite ancillary provision to meet the demand accessing the site.	Education FF EFA	Hub	H	S	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							Look to formalise a CUA for community clubs accessing the site to provide security of tenure.						
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	1003728	SS7 2TD	Rugby union	Education	A poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitch that is available for community use but is unused.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet levels of curricular, extracurricular and community demand. Look to formalise a CUA for community clubs accessing the site to provide security of tenure.	Education RFU	Hub	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	1003728	SS7 2TD	Tennis	Education	Three good quality macadam courts that are sports lit and not available for community use. Overmarked with netball.	Sustain court quality as required to meet levels of curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education LTA	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	1003728	SS7 2TD	Netball	Education	Four good quality macadam courts that are sports lit and not available for community use. Overmarked with tennis.	Sustain court quality as required to meet levels of curricular, extracurricular and community demand. Look to formalise a CUA for community clubs accessing the site to provide security of tenure.	Education EN	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
9	Hadleigh Junior School Playing Fields	6021268	SS7 2JA	Football	Education	Two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches played to capacity. All pitches are poor quality. Hadleigh FC report that it aspires to access dedicated changing rooms.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance to better accommodate curricular, extracurricular and community demand. Explore options to create purpose built ancillary on the site to accommodate Hadleigh FCs demand. Look to formalise a CUA for community clubs accessing the site to provide security of tenure.	Education FF EFA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Provide
10	John H Burrows Ground	1207064	SS7 2EN	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult, two poor quality adult and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. The latter has actual spare capacity at peak time of one match equivalent session.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls / accommodate future demand.	Council FF EFA	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
10	John H Burrows Ground	1207064	SS7 2EN	Cricket	Council	Two standard quality squares each with poor quality outfields. The larger square has ten senior, four junior wickets and a NTP whereas the smaller square has eight senior and four junior wickets. Leased to Hadleigh & Thundersley CC. Squares have capacity for additional demand on Sundays and midweek.	Improve both square and outfield quality through enhanced levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls / accommodate future demand.	Council Sports club ECB ECCB	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
10	John H Burrows Ground	1207064	SS7 2EN	Tennis	Council	Two standard quality macadam courts with no sports lighting. There are also two former tennis courts that are now used as MUGAs. The LTA wants to implement a sustainable operating model.	Sustain court quality as appropriate and look to refurbish as required. Assist in implementing a sustainable operating model.	Council LTA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
10	John H Burrows Ground	1207064	SS7 2EN	Bowls	Council	A standard quality green used by Hadleigh BC. The Club aspire to improve the surrounding areas on the green. Site is operating over capacity however the Club do not indicate this to be problematic.	Assist the Club in improving green quality to better accommodate its demand.	Council BE	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
11	Jotmans Hall Primary School	30003959	SS7 5RG	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
14	Kingston Primary School	30003978	SS7 3HG	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
18	Montgomerie Primary School	1039900	SS7 4LW	Football	Education	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
22	USP College - Seevic Campus (Main campus)	1040068	SS7 1TW	3G	Education	A poor quality small size (36x34m) 3G built in 2017. Pitch is not sports lit nor available for community use.	Refurbish as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
24	South Benfleet Primary School	30005892	SS7 5HA	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
27	The Appleton School	1203790	SS7 5RN	Football (3G)	Education	Two youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches all of which are poor quality, Overplayed by three and two match equivalent sessions, respectively. Used by Thundersley Rovers Youth/Girls FC. The School is 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.	Assist the School in the creation of a 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch, in accordance with FF requirements, in order to alleviate identified shortfalls. Ensure any loss of playing field land meets SE and NPPF guidance. Look to formalise a CUA for community clubs accessing the site to provide security of tenure.	Education FF EFA	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
27	The Appleton School	1203790	SS7 5RN	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts available for community use but not sports lit.	Sustain court quality and improve as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education EN	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							Look to formalise a CUA for community clubs accessing the site to provide security of tenure.						
27	The Appleton School	1203790	SS7 5RN	Cricket	Education	A standalone NTP.	Ensure the NTP is fully mitigated in accordance with SE/NPPF guidelines if lost due to 3G development.	Education ECB ECCB	Key centre	H	S	L	Protect
29	The King John School	1103144	SS7 1RQ	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 that are all poor quality and not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand. Once improve explore opening up for wider community use.	Education FF EFA	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
29	The King John School	1103144	SS7 1RQ	AGP (3G)	Education	A poor quality small size (82x48m) sports lit short pile 3G pitch available for community use built in 2016.	Refurbish the pitch as a priority with a suitable surface to accommodate football and low level hockey demand.	Education FF EFA EH	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
29	The King John School	1103144	SS7 1RQ	Rugby union	Education	A poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education RFU	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
29	The King John School	1103144	SS7 1RQ	Netball	Education	Two standard quality courts that are sports lit but not available for community use.	Improve quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education EN	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
29	The King John School	1103144	SS7 1RQ	Cricket	Education	A standalone NTP.	Improve quality as required and retain as current use.	Education ECB ECCB	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
31	Thundersley Primary School	6021013	SS7 3PT	Football	Education	A poor quality youth 11v11 pitch not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
32	Thundersley Recreation Ground	6021131	SS7 3SL	Football	Council	One mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches all of which are poor quality. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced maintenance. Explore options to improve onsite ancillary provision to meet demand accessing the site.	Council FF EFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
34	Westwood Academy	30003960	SS7 2SU	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF, EFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
34	Westwood Academy	30003960	SS7 2SU	EN	Education	A poor quality netball court not available for community use.	Improve quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
37	Woodside Park	1207066	SS7 4PB	Football	Council	Three adult, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of which are standard quality and played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council FF EFA	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
37	Woodside Park	1207066	SS7 4PB	Cricket	Council	One 14 and one nine wicket square both of which are standard quality. Smaller square is overplayed Leased to Benfleet CC with ongoing negotiations to extend from the Council. Each square has one hybrid wicket.	Improve the square and outfield quality on both with enhanced levels of maintenance. Assist the Club in extending its tenure long term.	Council ECB ECCB	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
37	Woodside Park	1207066	SS7 4PB	Tennis (Disused)	Council	Two disused tennis courts.	Retain as current use and bring back into supply if demand increases.	Council LTA	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
37	Woodside Park	1207066	SS7 4PB	Bowls	Council	A good quality green. 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. Green is overplayed.	Sustain green quality as appropriate to meet levels of demand. Regularly monitor demand level to ensure both green and ancillary provision meet relevant requirements.	Council BE	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect
38	Hadleigh Park Lawn Tennis Club		SS7 2AH	Tennis	Sports club	Three standard quality artificial courts that are not sports lit.	Assist the Club, when required, to refurbish the courts. Assist where possible in installing sports lighting in order to alleviate shortfalls.	Sports club LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
39	South Benfleet and Canvey Bowls Club		SS7 5JA	Bowls	Sports club	A good quality green used by South Benfleet & Canvey BC.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	Sports club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
40	Kents Hill Junior School	30006682	SS7 5PS	Football	Education	A youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch all of which are poor quality. Overplayed through community use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular, extracurricular and community demand. Look to formalise a CUA for community clubs accessing the site to provide security of tenure.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide Enhance
44	Glenwood School		SS7 4LW	Football	Education	One youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch all of which are standard quality. Used by Supreme Youth FC but no CUA in place.	Sustain pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand. Look to formalise access through a CUA to provide Supreme Youth FC with security of tenure. Look to formalise a CUA for community clubs accessing the site to provide security of tenure.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
45	USP College - Seevic Campus (Playing fields)		SS7 3DH	Football	Education	Two poor quality adult pitches not available for community use.	Improve quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand. Following quality improvements explore options to open provision for community use to support in alleviating identified shortfalls.	Education FF EFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
45	USP College - Seevic Campus (Playing fields)		SS7 3DH	Rugby union	Education	One poor quality senior pitch not available for community use.	Improve quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand. Following quality improvements explore options to open provision for community use to support in alleviating identified shortfalls.	Education RFU	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
46	Hadleigh Park		SS7 2PP	Cycling / Parkour	Council	Purpose built cycling and Parkour facilities.	Sustain quality and improve when required to meet levels of formal and informal demand.	Council BC Parkour UK	Local	H	S	L	Protect

**HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS**

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Postcode	Sport	Management	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Aim	Recommended actions
1	Benfleet Playing Fields	The Mainland	SS7 5JG	Cricket (Disused)	Council	Council, ECB, ECCB	Local	Protect Enhance Provide	Assist where possible to reinstate the provision in order to support the growth of cricket in Castle Point. Look to identify an anchor club, such as Benfleet CC, to ensure utilisation.
1	Benfleet Playing Fields	The Mainland	SS7 5JG	Football	Council	Council, FF, EFA	Local	Protect Enhance Provide	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore options to reinstate the disused provision as required to alleviate future shortfalls particularly for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 demand.
2	Canvey Island Rugby Football Club	Canvey Island	SS8 8EJ	Rugby union (Rugby league)	Sports Club	Sports Club, RFU, RFL	Local	Protect Enhance	Improve pitch quality with enhanced maintenance. Explore options to relocate training demand off site onto WR compliant 3G provision. Assist the Club in improving ancillary provision for women and girls demand. Explore installing additional sports lighting. Explore options to create a permanent home for Canvey Knights RLFC to alleviate shortfalls.
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	SS7 2TD	Football	Education	Education, FF, EFA	Hub	Protect Enhance	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Assist where possible in improving the onsite ancillary provision to meet the demand accessing the site.
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	The Mainland	SS7 2TD	3G	Education	Education, FF, EFA	Hub	Protect Enhance	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in situ. Ensure the pitch is retested as required to remain FIFA certified. Assist where possible in improving the onsite ancillary provision to meet the demand accessing the site.
10	John H Burrows Ground	The Mainland	SS7 2EN	Cricket	Council	Council, Sports Club, ECB, ECCB	Key centre	Protect Enhance	Improve both square and outfield quality through enhanced levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls / accommodate future demand.
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	Canvey Island	SS8 8QL	Football	Sports Club	Sports Club, FF, EFA	Key Centre	Protect Enhance	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore options for pitch reconfiguration in order to alleviate shortfalls. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls / accommodate future demand. Explore options to improve ancillary provision to meet the demand on the site.
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground	Canvey Island	SS8 8QL	Cricket	Sports Club	Sports Club, ECCB, ECB	Key Centre	Protect Enhance	Improve both square and outfield quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore options to improve ancillary provision to meet the demand on the site.

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Postcode	Sport	Management	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Aim	Recommended actions
27	The Appleton School	The Mainland	SS7 5RN	Football (3G)	Education	Education, FF, EFA	Key centre	Protect Provide Enhance	Assist the School in the creation of a 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch, in accordance with FF requirements, in order to alleviate identified shortfalls. Ensure any loss of playing field land meets SE and NPPF guidance.
27	The Appleton School	The Mainland	SS7 5RN	Cricket	Education	Education, ECB, ECCB	Key centre	Protect	Ensure the NTP is fully mitigated in accordance with SE/NPPF guidelines if lost due to 3G development.
29	The King John School	The Mainland	SS7 1RQ	AGP (3G)	Education	Education, FF, EF, EH	Key centre	Protect Enhance	Refurbish the pitch as a priority with a suitable surface to accommodate football and low level hockey demand.
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	Canvey Island	SS8 9RA	Football	Council	Council, FF, EFA	Hub	Protect Enhance	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Ensure clubs on site have long term security of tenure. Explore options to create an adult pitch for Canvey Island Youth to allow for its adult demand to grow. Ensure each club has access to relevant ancillary provision to meet their demand.
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	Canvey Island	SS8 9RA	3G	Council	Council, FF, EFA	Hub	Protect Provide	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in situ. Ensure the pitch is retested as required to remain FIFA certified. Look to create a second 11v11 size 3G pitch on the site in order to alleviate identified shortfalls whilst also considering making it WR compliant to alleviate rugby union grass pitch shortfalls.
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	Canvey Island	SS8 9RA	Athletics	Council	Council, EA	Hub	Protect Enhance	Protect provision and explore options for refurbishment.
46	Hadleigh Park	The Mainland	SS7 2PP	Cycling / Parkour	Council	Council, BC, Parkour UK	Local	Protect	Sustain quality and improve when required to meet levels of formal and informal demand.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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### PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2043 (in line with the anticipated Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

For tennis, Sport England has been working with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)<sup>14</sup>. The SFC is a modelling tool designed to assist local planning authorities to quantify how much additional demand is generated by increasing populations and new housing areas. The model has no spatial qualities or dimension and can only be used to estimate the facility needs for whole area populations.

The SFC uses information that Sport England has gathered on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculations take on board the population profile (e.g. age, gender, etc) of the local area.

The SFC then turns this estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent amount of facility which is needed to meet these visits.

As detailed above, the SFC includes tennis courts, however, it does not calculate a need for netball, athletics, and bowling greens which are also covered in the scope of the PPOSS. Recommendations on need for this type of provision is provided using the evidence base collated within the PPOSS.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, or this is not possible, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). If this is not the case, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

The scenarios below are provided as a guide to show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in Castle Point, thus showing how the calculator works and data it provides. Figures are taken from Castle Point Housing Topic Paper July 2025. The occupancy rate of 2.44 has been used which is in line with the national average.

#### **7.1: Scenario One – Testing the model for a housing development proposing 6,196 dwellings (15,118 new population) identified site allocations for the remaining Local Plan Period**

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 6,196 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.44 people per household (based on a national average) is 15,196 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

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<sup>14</sup><https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/sports-facility-calculator>

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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This population increase equates to 15.93 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports and 55.89 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 29.59 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, and accumulative 1.29 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for the rugby union and rugby league.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 15,118 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week <sup>15</sup>	Training demand <sup>16</sup>
Adult football	1.57	29.59 hours
Youth football	6.86	As above
Mini soccer	6.36	As above
Rugby union	0.97	1.12 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.17	0.17 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0	0 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0	0 hours
Cricket	55.89	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>17</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>18</sup>	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	1.57	£176,302	£34,732	3.14	£649,113
Youth football	6.86	£664,646	£134,258	8.76	£1,809,647
Mini soccer	6.36	£194,715	£38,554	0	£0
Rugby union	0.97	£168,425	£31,159	1.94	£401,248
Rugby league	0.17	£25,309	£4,682	0.33	£68,334
Cricket	1.2	£434,131	£79,880	2.4	£495,276
Sand based AGPs	0	0	0	0	0
3G pitches	0.78	£933,167	£27,446	1.56	£321,645
Tennis courts	1.9	£215,632	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.81</b>	<b>£2,812,327</b>	<b>£350,711</b>	<b>18.13</b>	<b>£3,745,263</b>

Overall, an additional 19.81 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 15,118 people living in Castle Point. This consist of 17.13 grass pitches, 0.78 of access to artificial pitches and 1.9 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £2,812,327 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £350,711. To facilitate the increased provision, 18.13 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £3,745,263.

<sup>15</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>16</sup> Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>17</sup> [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

<sup>18</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### 7.2: Scenario Two – Testing the model for 364 dwellings (888 new population) which is the average number of dwellings per year for the remaining local plan (2043)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 364 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.44 people per household (based on a national average) is 888 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 0.93 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports and 3.28 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 1.74 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, and accumulative 0.08 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for the rugby union and rugby league.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 888 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week <sup>19</sup>	Training demand <sup>20</sup>
Adult football	0.09	1.74 hours
Youth football	0.4	As above
Mini soccer	0.37	As above
Rugby union	0.06	0.07 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.01	0.01 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0	0 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0	0 hours
Cricket	3.28	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>21</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>22</sup>	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.09	£10,355	£2,040	0.18	£38,127
Youth football	0.4	£39,032	£7,884	0.51	£106,273
Mini soccer	0.37	£11,436	£2,264	0	£0
Rugby union	0.06	£9,893	£1,830	0.11	£23,568
Rugby league	0.01	£1,487	£275	0.02	£4,014
Cricket	0.07	£25,499	£4,692	0.14	£29,091
Sand based AGPs	0	0	0	0	0
3G pitches	0.05	£54,804	£1,612	0.09	£18,890
Tennis courts	0.11	£12,666	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.16</b>	<b>£165,352</b>	<b>£20,597</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>£219,963</b>

Overall, an additional 1.16 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 888 people living in Castle Point. This consist of one grass pitch equivalent, 0.05 of access to artificial pitches and 0.11 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £165,352 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £20,597.

<sup>19</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>20</sup> Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>21</sup> [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

<sup>22</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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To facilitate the increased provision, 1.05 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £219,963.

### The most appropriate way to meet the estimated demand

It is important that the above results are looked at alongside the findings of the Assessment Report, and the recommendations and actions of the Strategy. By doing so, the most appropriate way of meeting the estimated needs can be determined and any resulting proposals justified. This should include:

- ◀ Using the Assessment Report and related Strategy to understand the nature of the playing pitch sites within an appropriate catchment of the new population along with issues, recommendations and actions relevant to that area.
- ◀ Looking at the different ways in which the needs could be met, including for example:
  - ◀ Enhancing existing provision to increase capacity, supported by suitable management and maintenance arrangements to ensure the greater capacity is maintained over the longer term;
  - ◀ Undertaking works, and ensuring long term maintenance and access arrangements, to secure new or greater community use of existing provision;
  - ◀ Providing new pitches as an extension on current sites.
  - ◀ Providing new (natural and/or artificial grass pitches).

If the decision is taken to provide new pitches, then the calculator takes the estimated needs for matches and training activity and converts this into an estimate of the likely pitch provision required to meet the needs of population projections. Indicative costs are also provided to provide this level of pitch provision in addition to costing for associated changing room provision.

### Summary (Scenario one)

The above scenario identifies that through overall housing growth; demand will be generated to some extent for all pitch sports, apart from hockey. Whilst initially the figures seem substantial, it must be noted that they are based upon the whole of Castle Point and account for the entire period of the local plan development. In reality, the requirements will be staggered given the proposed stepped trajectory (as seen below) and with existing provision able to meet some of the needs when developments are considered on a case-by-case basis. This would be achieved through contributions being directed towards improvements rather than new provision.

The breakdown of the proposed stepped trajectory can be seen below.

- ◀ 1,045 dwellings within 2026-2031 (averaging 209 dwellings per year).
- ◀ 1,268 dwellings within 2031-2036 (averaging 253 dwellings per year).
- ◀ 3,883 dwellings within 2036-2043 (averaging 554 dwellings per year).

A large proportion of new housing will be delivered between 2036 and 2043 (average 554 dwellings per year), this is showing a higher number of dwellings compared to other years, therefore, is expected to generate the most demand and need for more pitch provision.

Experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. Where this is the case, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

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Additionally, there are four key broad locations which are identified within the current Castle Point Local Plan and highlighted below.

- ◀ Canvey Town Centre – 820 dwellings.
- ◀ West Canvey – 2,000 dwellings.
- ◀ Manor Trading Estate – 200 dwellings.
- ◀ Hadleigh Town Centre – 388 dwellings.

If any schools or leisure facilities are to be built within the time frame of the local plan these could represent an opportunity for the creation of collective 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch in addition to any tennis/netball courts (as long as they are sports lit) to ensure greater utilisation. Relevant accessible and security of tenure through CUAs would also need to be factored into any such development.

It should be noted that there is potential to locate any mini football demand onto a 3G pitch. Any monies dedicated to mini grass football pitches could therefore go towards the development of 3G provision in order to save on land.

### **Summary (Scenario two)**

For the remaining scenario, the tables above show that through housing growth, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent, again apart from hockey. It is unlikely there will be a requirement for new provision. Instead, as the demand generated from the housing growth does not equate to a whole pitch for any of the sports, contributions would be better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPOSS and the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g. to select suitable sites).

Please note that the PPC only includes the main pitch sports and tennis but there may also be a requirement to improve facilities for other pitch and non-pitch sports such as other sports, netball, bowls and athletics, for example. Therefore, securing developer contributions to deliver improvements/new provision should be guided by this Strategy and in particular the site-by-site Action Plan and in consultation with the relevant NGB through the PPOSS Steering Group.

An alternative approach to obtaining contributions for each individual housing development and allocating them to improving localised sporting sites identified for improvement within the PPOSS, is to pool them together. This would allow for greater levels of investment into sites, where needed, for more expensive enhancements such drainage or ancillary expansions or even the creation of artificial pitches. Additionally, this would allow for the collating of contributions from smaller developments, below 300 dwellings, to maximise the benefit they can provide to sporting sites across the Castle Point.

Pooling of contributions should be done strategically and ought to be localised to the analysis area, and even potentially key settlements, of the housing growth to ensure S106 monies are spent on improving the sporting infrastructure for the new population. It is strongly recommended the Council work with Sport England, and NGBs where relevant, to develop a process and guidance to calculate and secure developer contributions which may include onsite, offsite and pooling of contributions.

It should be noted that the relevant NGBs should be included within any discussions to ensure their overall strategic recommendations for Castle Point are considered. Additionally, the above scenarios are only to provide a broad indication of what sporting provision, at this current stage, is required for the projected population increase. The PPC will need to be used at various stages of any development to provide up to date analysis moving forward on what is required for a sporting perspective.

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Please note that the PPC only includes the main pitch sports and tennis but there may also be a requirement to improve facilities for other pitch and non-pitch sports such as other sports, bowls and athletics, for example. Therefore, securing developer contributions to deliver improvements/new provision should be guided by this Strategy and in particular the site-by-site Action Plan and in consultation with the relevant NGB through the PPOSS Steering Group.

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### PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP-TO-DATE

The section below sets out a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up-to-date. However, as agreed by Sport England, a more tailored approach should be considered for Castle Point, aligning with the processes adopted by other local authorities (see Appendix 2).

#### ***Delivery***

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Castle Point. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Borough can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and recommends how best to resolve this in the future. This document should be regarded as part of the planning process as a material consideration.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is used to engage with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, and to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are needed to improve the situation and meet future demand.

The process of preparing the PPOSS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the steering group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the steering group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

#### ***Monitoring and updating***

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

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The Council is responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up-to-date in order that area-by-area action plans can be updated. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

An annual review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g., the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g., the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Once the PPOSS is complete the role of the Steering Group should evolve so that it:

- ◀ Acts as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPS and playing pitch provision in the area.
- ◀ Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Shares lessons learnt from how the PPOSS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances.
- ◀ Ensures the PPOSS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives.
- ◀ Maintains links between all relevant parties with an interest in playing pitch provision in the area.
- ◀ Reviews the need to update the PPOSS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
  - ◀ Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
  - ◀ Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
  - ◀ Lead a full review and update of the PPOSS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

Alongside regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up-to-date and maintain relationships is to hold sport specific meetings with the NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings.

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The NGBs are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

### Checklists

In order for this Strategy to be signed off by the steering group, a Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy has been prepared which indicates where a step has been completed or if further action may be required.

		Tick 	
Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy		Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan</b>			
1.	Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions?		
2.	Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information?		
3.	Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work?		
4.	Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them?		
5.	Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions?		
6.	Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented?		
7.	Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overplayed?		
8.	Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand?		
9.	Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided?		
10.	Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches?		
11.	Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented?		
12.	Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented?		
13.	Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches?		
14.	Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use?		
15.	Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)?		
16.	Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17?		
17.	Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver?		
18.	Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects?		

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<b>Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?		
2. Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5. Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6. Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

To help ensure the PPOSS is delivered and is kept robust and up-to-date, the steering group can refer to the new methodology Stage E Checklist: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date:

	Tick <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date</b>		
<b>Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy</b>		
1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
2. Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence?		
3. Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied?		
<b>Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up-to-date</b>		
1. Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up-to-date?		
2. Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3. Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4. Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5. Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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### ***The FA: A Thriving Grassroots Game (2024-28)***

This new strategy aims to enhance participation, improve facilities and create a more inclusive and enjoyable environment for players, coaches, volunteers and officials.

The strategy focuses on five main areas:

1. **Improving Playing Choice and Opportunity**  
Creating diverse and flexible playing options to cater to all individuals.
2. **Delivering Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls**  
Ensuring every woman and girl has access to football in a safe and enjoyable setting.
3. **Building and Improving Facilities**  
Increasing the quality and quantity of grassroots football pitches and facilities.
4. **Tackling Poor Behaviour**  
Reducing incidents of poor behaviour and discrimination, promoting positive conduct.
5. **Developing a Valued Network of Volunteers, Coaches, and Referees**  
Growing and supporting the grassroots workforce to sustain the game's future.

To achieve these priorities, the FA has identified three key drivers:

- ◀ **Supporting Thriving Community Clubs**  
Assisting clubs to grow sustainably and provide excellent football experiences.
- ◀ **Connecting and Serving Participants**  
Enhancing digital services to offer personalized and accessible opportunities.
- ◀ **Progressing the Game's Governance**  
Implementing high governance standards to serve all football participants effectively.

These initiatives are developed in collaboration with County FAs to ensure local needs are met.

The FA's strategy aims to transform grassroots football by addressing key challenges, investing in facilities, and promoting inclusivity and positive behaviour.

### ***The FA: Inspiring Positive Change Through Football (2024-28)<sup>23</sup>***

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

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<sup>23</sup> [FA Strategy 2024-2028: The Football Association](#)

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- ◀ 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)<sup>24</sup>***

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.

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.

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<sup>24</sup> [The FA Womens & Girls Football Strategy 2024-28](#)

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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)<sup>[1]</sup>*

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

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

It aims to obtain this vision through six key objectives

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

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

### *The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards*

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

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<sup>[1]</sup><https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/10/22/19a925d7-3c92-4a36-8e7bf49cb470377f/ECB-Inspiring-Generations-2025-2028.pdf>

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### 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 player 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 and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

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

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

Aiming to make hockey more noticeable, relevant, and accessible to all, England Hockey have launched their new strategy 'Creating a Future for Our Game Together' on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

The new strategy is a continued effort to re-engage with the current hockey community and to reach out to potential newcomers to introduce them to hockey.

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

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

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

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

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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.

### **Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy**

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

#### **Objectives:**

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often:
  - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
  - ◀ The number of children playing tennis once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

#### **Strategies:**

1. **Visibility** -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. **Innovation** - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. **Investment** - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
4. **Accessibility** - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
5. **Engagement** - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. **Performance** - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. **Leadership** - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

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### ***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 Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023) and Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031). 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”.

### ***England athletics strategy plan 2021 – 2032: Athletics and runners at the heart – creating opportunities, enhancing experiences and powering potential***

This strategy ensures a robust and clearly defined future direction for the sport which places athletics and runners at the heart of everything we will do over the 12 year period to 2032.

England Athletics overarching purpose and visions are:

**Purpose:** ‘To inspire more athletics and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport.’

**Vision:** ‘For athletics to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.’

At the heart of this plan, and the focal point for everything England Athletics do, are the people and communities involved in athletics across the following five areas:

1. Clubs, Club Leaders and facilities
2. Competition
3. Coaches and officials
4. Participation: young people and running
5. Talented athletes

Each has its own unique challenges and opportunities, yet also the opportunity to positively influence the success and growth of the other areas.

There are four key supporting activities that will be essential in enabling us to deliver the strategic priorities and ultimately achieve goals:

- ◀ Provide strong leadership that builds trust and respect by creating an open and positive culture.
- ◀ Embrace technology and reduce our environmental impact by putting digital first and encouraging innovation and creativity.
- ◀ Ensure greater engagement through sharing of high-quality insight, information and content.
- ◀ Develop commercial minds to maximise funding opportunities and diversify income.

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### ***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.

The elite game is in focus too, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority, focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events, and creating more careers in the sport.

Grounded in feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women's sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

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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.

### ***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:

- ◀ 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:

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- ◀ 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/>

### ***British Cycling Lead our Sports – Inspire our communities<sup>25</sup>***

British Cycling's Strategy identifies seven key priorities for cycling before the Paris Olympics in 2024. These priorities are:

- ◀ 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"><li>◀ Win 10 Olympic and 15 Paralympic medals.</li><li>◀ Creation of a development plan to support elite non Olympic and Paralympic disciplines.</li><li>◀ Increase by 10% the number of riders in the talent pathway across ethnic communities, disability and low socioeconomic backgrounds.</li></ul>
Grow Communities	Grow and serve our cycling communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◀ Diversify and grow our cycling communities.</li><li>◀ Grow membership from 150k to 250k.</li><li>◀ Increase affiliated clubs and groups by 20%</li></ul>

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<sup>25</sup> [British Cycling Lead our Sports](https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/lead-our-sports)

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Priority	Sub priority	Measures
Engage the Next Generation	Encourage more children and young people to make cycling a lifelong habit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Increase the number of children and young people in clubs or groups by 20%.</li> <li>◀ Increase by 10% the number of children and young people participating across ethnic communities, disability and low socio-economic backgrounds.</li> <li>◀ Increased awareness and perception of British Cycling in a younger audience through yearly tracking.</li> </ul>
Flagship Events	Host world class major events to excite and inspire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Achieve major event hosting targets across disciplines.</li> <li>◀ Support the legacy impact of both the 2022 Commonwealth Games and the Cycling World Championships 2023.</li> <li>◀ Increase the opportunities for British riders to perform on home soil.</li> </ul>
Cycling for Everyone	Ensure cycling is open to everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Put in place robust tracking and increased diversity in facilitators and governance.</li> <li>◀ 90% of our communities to believe cycling is an inclusive activity and a sport for them.</li> <li>◀ Increase participation in our sport across genders, ages, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and low socioeconomic backgrounds by 10%.</li> </ul>
Work Together	Work together with everyone who makes cycling happen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ A 25% increase in the percentage of cycling facilitators that feel appreciated for the work they do.</li> <li>◀ Retain, grow and diversify the range of partners in line with our strategic priorities.</li> </ul>
Equipped for Success	Deliver our strategy effectively and efficiently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ 100% increase in the diversity of the industries represented in the British Cycling partnership portfolio.</li> <li>◀ Grow and diversify income streams.</li> </ul>

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### APPENDIX TWO: TAILORED APPROACH FOR CASTLE POINT STAGE E

What?	Who?	When?
<p><b>1. Internal Steering Group Meeting</b></p> <p>Meeting between council officers internal Steering Group members to discuss and log key changes in provision, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ New pitch provision.</li> <li>↳ Pitch improvements.</li> <li>↳ Pitch re-configuration.</li> <li>↳ Pitch loss/threat.</li> <li>↳ Community access agreements (e.g. education/private sites).</li> <li>↳ Plans for future provision.</li> </ul> <p>The outcomes from the meeting and updates to documents should be recorded.</p>	Castle Point Borough Council	Bi-Annually
<p><b>2. Sport England and NGB Update Meetings</b></p> <p>The Council to hold series of update meetings with individual sports NGBs to discuss and log:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ Any changes in club and team details.</li> <li>↳ Any changes in sport format.</li> <li>↳ Any site specific updates.</li> <li>↳ Changes to supply and demand data.</li> <li>↳ The application and use of the PPOSS e.g. in delivery of new or improved provision, funding opportunities, programmes and initiatives.</li> <li>↳ Any new issues and opportunities.</li> </ul>	Castle Point Borough Council NGBs Sport England	Annually for each sport, to fit with affiliation process (generally October for winter sports and June for summer sports)

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What?	Who?	When?
<p><b>3. Prepare Annual PPS Progress Paper</b></p> <p>Based on the outcome of actions above, a short Annual PPOSS Progress and Update paper should be produced, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The delivery of PPOSS recommendations and any changes in priority;</li> <li>◆ Changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area and other supply and demand information with implications for PPOSS's key findings;</li> <li>◆ Details of any developments of a specific sport or particular format;</li> <li>◆ Details of any new or emerging issues and opportunities;</li> <li>◆ Any issues with the application of the PPOSS and lessons learnt;</li> <li>◆ Actions needed to keep the PPOSS 'live' and up to date.</li> </ul> <p>Based on the above, the Annual Progress Paper will also consider if a partial or full update of the PPS is required.</p> <p>Alternatively, both the Assessment Report and the Strategy can be updated to take into account and referencing all of the above.</p>	PPOSS Steering Group	Annually
<p><b>4. Circulation and Agreement</b></p> <p>Circulate the Annual Progress Paper or updated PPOSS document to the Steering Group for comment and agreement with opportunity to hold a further meeting to discuss findings and issues.</p>	PPOSS Steering Group	Annually
<p><b>5. Publish Paper</b></p> <p>Make Annual Progress paper or updated documents available online; report any significant findings to appropriate committee if considered necessary.</p>	Castle Point Borough Council	Annually – following completion of all of the above