

Chesterfield Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

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*Neil Allen Associates Registered Office:
20 Brook Road, Lymm, Cheshire, WA139AH
A limited company, registered in
England and Wales no. 616528*



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Introduction and Scope

- 1.1 NAA was commissioned in September 2013 to produce a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy for Chesterfield. The strategy will set out a framework for the provision, management, maintenance and delivery of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities across the borough.
- 1.2 It will consider current and future requirements for the sports of football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis, bowls and athletics.
- 1.3 This document summarises the key issues arising from the assessment of need for the sports considered and informs the preparation of the strategy document (under separate cover). It aims to;
- summarise the current supply of facilities across Chesterfield;
 - outline current demand for facilities and evaluate projected demand up to 2031;
 - evaluate the overall adequacy of provision to meet current and projected future demand; and
 - identify the key issues that need to be addressed through the Chesterfield Outdoor Sports and Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 1.4 The strategy will build on the issues identified within this assessment and set out strategic priorities and actions for delivery.

Key Drivers

- 1.5 The strategy sits within the context of Chesterfield Borough Councils Corporate Plan (2012-2015) and will help the delivery of four specific priorities:
- A Sustainable Community- A clean, green and attractive Borough, where open spaces and built heritage are valued
 - An Accessible Community- An inclusive Borough, where everyone feels valued and has equal and fair access to local services
 - A Safer, Healthier and Active Community- A healthy and safe Borough, where the community is free from the fear of crime
 - A High Performing Council with productive partnerships - An efficient and effective Council.
- 1.6 Against this backdrop, the strategy will help to deliver on the broader agenda of increasing participation in sport and physical activity, which is key to improving health and wellbeing outcomes and which can also play an important role in the development of community cohesion and integration.
- 1.7 The objectives of the strategy extend across multiple partnerships and service department plans and can be summarised as;
- To ensure that knowledge and understanding is available to support and drive forward the delivery of the public health agenda
 - To inform sport and physical activity development projects and initiatives
 - The need to ensure that facilities are tailored to current and projected future local community need

- To help facilitate community use of pitches and outdoor facilities on education and other identified locality based sites
 - The need to inform the investment strategy for Community Sport and Health related projects or initiatives
 - The need to inform local plan policy and potential developer contributions
 - To set the strategy for Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports facilities provision within the context of the local plan and wider strategies for parks, green spaces and community development and to reflect wider community asset reviews.
- 1.8 The assessment and strategy will also seek to bring together the sporting community across Chesterfield Borough and will seek to achieve the goals, aims and objectives of wider partners, as well as those of Chesterfield Borough.
- 1.9 This assessment report is set out as follows;
- Section 2 –Methodology
 - Section 3 - Context and Participation Profile
 - Section 4 – Football
 - Section 5 – Cricket
 - Section 6 – Rugby
 - Section 7 – Hockey
 - Section 8 – Bowls
 - Section 9 – Tennis
 - Section 10 - Athletics
 - Section 11 – Summary and Key Issues.
- 1.10 This assessment report has been developed through full engagement with the local sporting community as well as local and national representatives of the relevant sporting Governing Bodies.
- 1.11 Further engagement will be undertaken during the preparation of the strategy document, which will seek to address the key issues identified and set out the actions for delivery, alongside proposed responsibilities and timescales for delivery.

2. Methodology

Introduction

- 2.1 This section summarises the approach that has been taken in the development of this assessment and strategy. It is based upon the methodology set out in 'Playing Pitch Guidance, An approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).
- 2.2 Figure 2.1 summarises the ten stages of this methodology. This assessment report represents steps 1 – 6 while the strategy document will include sections 7 – 10, including recommendations and an action plan.

Figure 2.1: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach



- 2.3 The remainder of this section briefly summarises the key phases of work that have been undertaken during the preparation of this assessment.

Step 1 – Tailoring the approach

- 2.4 The approach of this assessment has been tailored to reflect the geographical and sporting nature of Chesterfield Borough.
- 2.5 Reflecting the compact nature of the Borough, the adequacy of facilities is analysed throughout this assessment at a Borough wide level. The steering group determined that patterns of pitch usage mean that it is not appropriate to subdivide the area further.
- 2.6 Site specific analysis and the location of each site within the town are however taken into account when evaluating the adequacy of provision, as well as during the strategy development process.
- 2.7 The consultation process has also been tailored to maximize engagement and to make best use of available resources.

Steps 2 and 3 – Gather Supply and Demand Information and Views

Supply

- 2.8 The data collection process included a full audit of pitches and outdoor sports facilities across Chesterfield. For each site, the following information was collected;
- site name, location, ownership and management type;
 - number and type of pitches / courts;
 - accessibility of facilities to the local community;
 - overall quality of pitches and ancillary facilities (including maintenance regimes);
 - level of protection and security of tenure; and
 - views of users and providers.

Demand

- 2.9 To evaluate the demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities across Chesterfield, data was collated on;
- all sports clubs and teams and their match and training requirements;
 - casual and other demand;
 - educational demand;
 - displaced demand (i.e. teams wishing to play within the borough but unable to);
 - latent demand;
 - future demand (including club and team aspirations for development as well as National Governing Body priorities and targets); and
 - user views and experiences, including trends and changes in demand.
- 2.10 The following tasks were undertaken to compile the supply and demand information;
- analysis of existing Chesterfield Borough Council information;

- interpretation of findings of Sport England tools, specifically Active Places, Active People and Market Segmentation;
 - a review of National Governing Body (NGB) data on pitches and local participation;
 - full review of local league websites, fixture lists and pitch booking records;
 - use of available technical quality assessment reports;
 - non-technical site visits;
 - a detailed survey to schools in conjunction with the Chesterfield School Sport Partnership;
 - a full programme of consultation with sports clubs and league secretaries;
 - engagement with providers of playing pitches; and
 - face to face and telephone discussions with NGBs to discuss key issues and priorities.
- 2.11 A high proportion of teams within the Borough successfully engaged with the process specifically;
- Football – 91%
 - Cricket – 100%
 - Rugby Union – 100%
 - Hockey – 50%
 - Bowls–68%
 - Tennis – 100%.
- 2.12 All supply and demand information collated has been stored in an excel spreadsheet that can be monitored and kept up to date.

Steps 4, 5 and 6 – Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

- 2.13 The supply and demand information collated during Steps 2 and 3 has been used to;
- understand the situation at individual playing pitch sites;
 - develop the current and projected future pictures of provision across the borough; and
 - identify the key findings and issues that need to be addressed.
- 2.14 Figure 2.2 overleaf, extracted directly from the guidance (Sport England 2013), provides further detail of the issues explored during the analysis of the adequacy of provision.

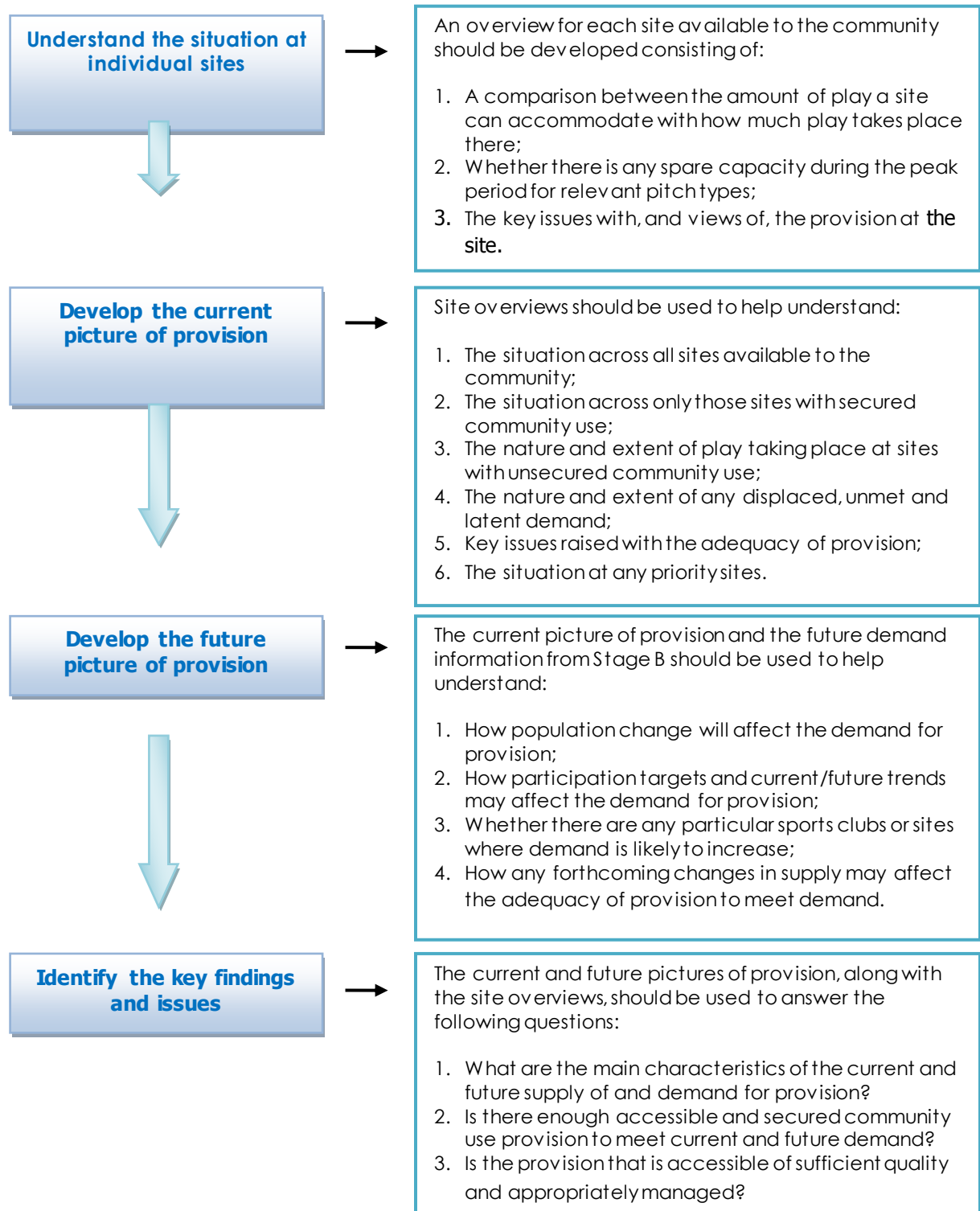
Steps 6 - 10 Develop the Strategy and Deliver the Strategy

- 2.15 The strategy document for Chesterfield Borough will use the issues identified in this report to set out a strategic framework for the provision of pitches and outdoor sports facilities. This will include a detailed action plan which will be developed in collaboration with key providers and deliverers.

Assessment of None Pitch Sports

- 2.16 The Sport England Guidance for Preparing a Playing Pitch Assessment F includes only a methodology for pitch sports and there is no formally adopted approach for an assessment of tennis, bowls or athletics. The adequacy of provision for these sports has therefore been evaluated through the interpretation of supply and demand.

Figure 2.2 – Overview of the Assessment Process



This Assessment

- 2.17 The remainder of this assessment therefore provides an overview of each sport in the borough and summarises the issues identified. Section 3 summarises the demographic and participation profile in sport and physical activity of residents, as well as their propensity to participate in sport and physical activity. Key population trends that may influence demand for pitch provision in future years are also considered.

3. Context & Participation Profile

Introduction

- 3.1 This section briefly summarises the key policies that impact upon the preparation of this assessment and strategy and provides an overview of the demographics of the Borough and the impact of this on demand for pitch and outdoor sports. It provides an overview only - sport specific issues and participation is discussed in Sections 4 – 8.

Strategic Context

National Level

- 3.2 At a national level, there are several key policies that impact upon the preparation of this Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy. These are briefly set out in the section that follows.
- 3.3 The **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. The NPPF's expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation, is set out in paragraphs 73 and 74 which require there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application. Paragraph 73 indicates that:

Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. 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. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.'

- 3.4 Paragraph 74 states that

'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

- 3.5 **Sport England** has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing pitches since 1996 and has a long established policy of retention, which is the precursor to the National Planning Policy Framework guidance above. Sport England also advises that informed decisions on playing pitch matters require all local authorities to have an up to date assessment of need and a strategy emanating from this. Sport England recommend that a strategy is monitored and updated annually and refreshed every three years. This assessment will support the Council in implementing a robust strategic approach to the delivery of pitches across the borough. Sport England's National Strategy – (2011/12 –

2014/15) and Youth and Community Strategy (2012 – 2017) both underpin this playing pitch and outdoor sports assessment.

3.6 National Governing Body Facility Strategies set out the goals and aspirations for each sport and the associated facility requirements for the delivery of these objectives.: The Football Association (FA), England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Rugby Football Union (RFU), Rugby Football League (RFL) and England Hockey all set out strategies guiding the provision of facilities for their specific sport as follows;

- The Football Association - National Game Strategy
- Grounds to Play – England and Wales Cricket Board Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013)
- The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy
- Community Rugby League Facilities Strategy
- The National Hockey Facility Strategy – The Right Facilities in the Right Places (2012)
- The Lawn Tennis Association – Places to Play – (2011 – 2016).

3.7 Appendix A summarises the key principles of each of these strategic documents and the principles of these documents will be taken into account in the preparation of the strategy for Chesterfield Borough.

Local Context

3.8 More local to Chesterfield Borough, the preparation of this Playing Pitch Strategy impacts upon, or is informed by, a number of key documents including:

- Chesterfield Borough Core Strategy (2013) –sets out the priorities for the future development of the Borough up to 2031. It sets out a targeted growth strategy, which includes the proposal for 7,600 additional dwellings to be built during this period. . Specifically with regards open space and sporting opportunities, the strategy seeks to ensure that green spaces and open land are enhanced and connected to provide and link high quality and diverse habitats for wildlife and important spaces for sport, recreation, leisure and healthy living. It sets the vision that 'everyone in the borough can access a variety of green spaces, including local play areas, informal recreational space and larger sports facilities, properly looked after with long term maintenance and management. This playing pitch and outdoor sports assessment and strategy will inform the local plan, including site allocations and development management policies which will provide further detail on the principles set out in the core strategy
- Chesterfield Borough Council Corporate Plan - 2012-2015 –includes a vision of "putting our communities first" seeks to deliver on four priorities, specifically A Sustainable Community, An Accessible Community, A Safer, Healthier and Active Community and a High Performing Council with productive partnerships. The key priorities arising from this playing pitch and outdoor sports assessment will be considered in the context of this overall vision and objectives
- Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy – 2012 – 2015 – the strategy seeks to reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing across all stages of life by working in partnership with communities. Its priorities are focused around five key themes, notably improve health and wellbeing in early years, promote healthy

lifestyles, improve emotional and mental health, promote the independence of people living with long term conditions and their carers and improve health and wellbeing of older people. Effective provision of outdoor sports facilities and playing pitches will a key means of delivering these key priorities

- Active Derbyshire Plan – 2013 – 2016 – this strategy has been developed through the Active Derbyshire Partnership which is the strategic lead for physical activity in Derbyshire. The vision is to make Derbyshire one of the most active counties in the country by 2020. It is anticipated that this will be achieved through participation in sport, active recreation and everyday activity. This assessment and strategy will therefore contribute to the achievement of these goals.
- Beyond 2012: A Plan for Sport and Active Recreation in Derbyshire 2012 – 2015 – the plan provides the strategic framework for sport and active recreation in Derbyshire and builds upon the previous document which finished in 2012. It informs and guides the delivery of service action plans for agencies involved in sport in the county and has a vision of making Derbyshire on of the most active counties in the country by 2020. It seeks to achieve this by increasing participation, strengthening the sports system and improving player pathways.

Population and Sports Participation

- 3.9 An understanding of population trends and overall participation in sport underpins the evaluation of the adequacy of facilities for each sport in later sections. It provides an understanding of potential participation and latent demand as well as current levels of participation in sport and physical activity. As such, it provides an important context for playing pitch provision.
- 3.10 This summary of key issues and trends draws on the findings from the Sport England Active People surveys and Sport England Market Segmentation. The theoretical information summarised in this section will then be used to inform the sport specific assessments set out in Sections 4 to 10.

Population Profile and Trends

- 3.11 The borough of Chesterfield is located in north eastern Derbyshire approximately 5 miles from the southern edge of Sheffield and on the eastern edge of the Peak District. This location means that there is a strong interrelationship between Chesterfield Borough and neighbouring areas and a degree of movement across the local authority boundaries, including for use of sports facilities.
- 3.12 Chesterfield is the largest town in Derbyshire and the borough also includes the settlements of Staveley and Brimington as well as smaller suburbs, many of which function like separate villages. Whilst thought of as an urban area, almost half of Chesterfield borough is open space and open countryside containing rivers/canal corridors, parks, farmland, hedgerows and woodland.
- 3.13 Participation in outdoor sports and physical activity is particularly impacted by changes to the population profile and population growth. With the Core Strategy predicting significant growth in the borough, and both national and local population projections indicating that the profile of the population is likely to change, a full understanding of the likely changes is essential to inform analysis of current and projected requirements for playing pitches and outdoor sports.

3.14 Appendix B summarises the current population totals and projected changes over the 2013 – 2031 period. Data has been calculated by Chesterfield Borough Council to take into account the impact of proposed housing growth. Analysis of the future profile of the population is derived from the sub national population projections, linked with the more local population growth totals. The key issues arising from analysis of the population profile are that;

- there is projected to be an overall increase in population from 103,788 currently to 120,583 by 2031. This represents total growth of over 8% by 2031
- the current age structure of Chesterfield Borough's and Derbyshire's population is older than both the East Midlands and England averages. The 2011 census revealed that 18.6% of Chesterfield Borough's and Derbyshire's population is 65+ compared to 17.1% in the East Midlands and 16.3% in England. This impacts upon the demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities, as younger residents in general have a higher propensity to participate in pitch and outdoor sports than their older counterparts
- added to this, despite the anticipated increases in population between 2014 and 2031, Chesterfield Borough has an ageing population and it is likely that this will be further exacerbated over the period of growth. 23.6% of the population are currently aged 60 and above and this will rise to 26.9%. The proportion of people aged between 6 and 44, those most typically likely to participate in pitch and outdoor sports, will decrease from 53.5% to 49.3%. The number of residents in population groups likely to participate in pitch and outdoor sports is therefore likely to increase, but by a lower amount than population growth would suggest at face value. Effective planning of sport and leisure facilities will therefore need to take this into account.

Geographical Implications of Growth

3.15 While there is growth across the borough as a whole, spatially, the 7600 new dwellings proposed in the Local Plan Core Strategy are likely to be located primarily within the following broad locations;

- Chesterfield Sub-Regional Centre (including Chatsworth Road District Centre and Whittington Moor District);
- Staveley and Rother Valley Corridor Strategic Site;
- Staveley;
- Local Service Centres (Brimington, Hasland and Holme Hall);
- Regeneration Priority Areas (Barrow Hill, Duckmanton, Mastin Moor, Poolsbrook, Rother Ward); and
- Local Centres.

3.16 With growth focused in these areas, increases in demand may be greater in these locations and it is essential that this is taken into account when projecting future facility requirements. Conversely, other areas without population growth may see a decline in participation as a result of the ageing population.

Other Indicators

3.17 The demographic Profile and health indicators also highlight further opportunities that can be achieved through the delivery of this assessment and strategy:

- both adult and childhood obesity in Chesterfield is higher than national and regional averages – effective provision of playing pitches and outdoor sports provide may provide a key opportunity to increase these gaps; and
- 49% of the population of Chesterfield Borough would like to do more sport according to the Sport England Active People Survey. Whilst this is lower than national and regional averages, it does highlight significant opportunities to further increase participation if facilities are tailored to local need.

3.18 It should also be noted that while the distribution of income is on a similar profile to national averages, there are residents with lower incomes in the borough, as well as several areas featuring highly on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (Rother, Loundsley Green, Middlecroft and Poolsbrook, Barrow Hill). Furthermore, car ownership is below regional averages. This highlights the importance of localised and accessible provision across the Borough.

Adult Participation in Sport

National Trends in Participation

3.19 Table 3.1 sets out the trends in participation in sports considered in this study according to Active People (based upon once per week participation for at least 30 minutes). It indicates that with the exception of athletics, for all sports considered, nationally, participation rates are declining. There has been a statistically significant increase in athletics participation over the seven years in which participation has been measured.

Table 3.1 – Trends in Participation

Sport	AP1 (Oct 2005 - 2006)		AP7 (Oct 2012 - Oct 2013)	
	Percentage of population	Percentage of population	Percentage of population	Statistically significant change from APS 1
Football	4.97%	4.25%	4.25%	Yes
Tennis	1.12%	0.94%	0.94%	Yes
Bowls	3.13%	1.73%	1.73%	Yes
Cricket	0.48%	0.34%	0.34%	Yes
Rugby Union	0.46%	0.37%	0.37%	Yes
Hockey	0.23%	0.20%	0.20%	Yes
Rugby League	0.18%	0.12%	0.12%	Yes
Athletics	3.33%	4.65%	4.65%	Yes

Profile of Sports Participation in Chesterfield Borough

- 3.20 The Active People Survey (undertaken annually since 2006 by Sport England) reveals that there has been an overall increase in the number of people in Chesterfield participating in sport at least once per week from 29% (Active People 1) to 34% (Active People 7) This increase overall is not statistically significant and there have been slight fluctuations in the interim years. The upward trend in participation however suggests that there are strong foundations for building participation in sport and active recreation. Levels of participation are however still slightly lower than national averages.
- 3.21 Participation in particular by males has increased across the borough, while participation for females has grown at a much slower rate.
- 3.22 Building Active People survey findings (which record participation of adults 16+, and linking with Mosaic Lifestyle data, Sport England analysed data on the English population (18+) to produce 19 market segments considered to have distinct sporting behaviours and attitudes.
- 3.23 Map 3.1 summarises the spatial market segmentation profile for Chesterfield Borough at a middle super output area level. This same information is also set out in bar chart form (Chart 3.1). It is followed by a description of each of the dominant market segments in the Borough and their sporting activity profile.

Map 3.1 - Dominant Market Segments by population and location

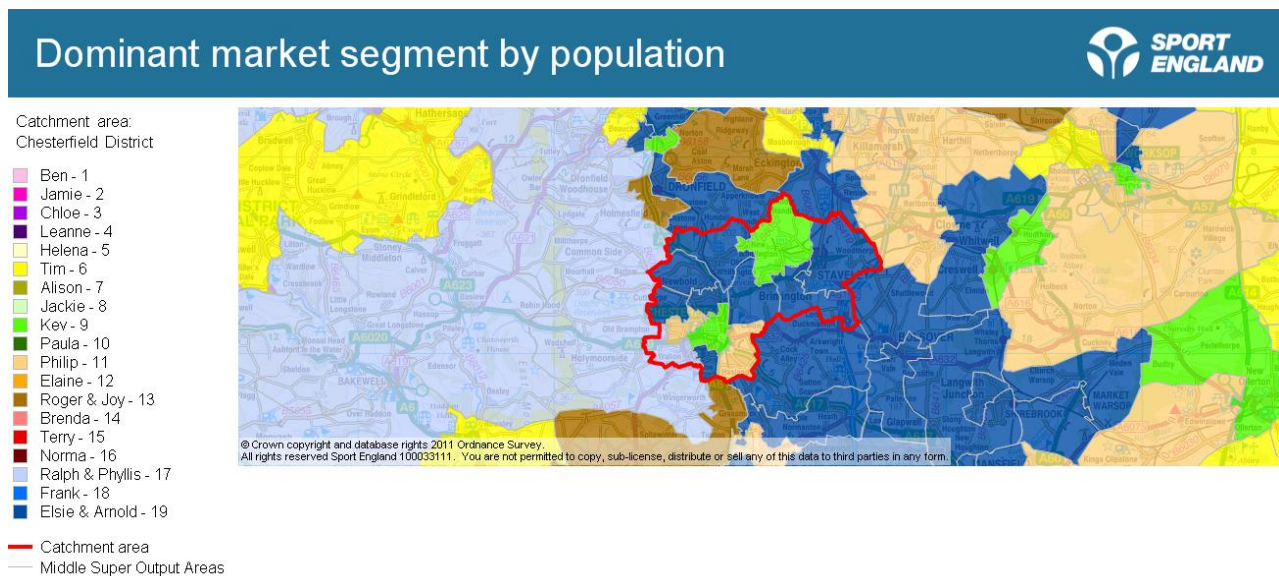
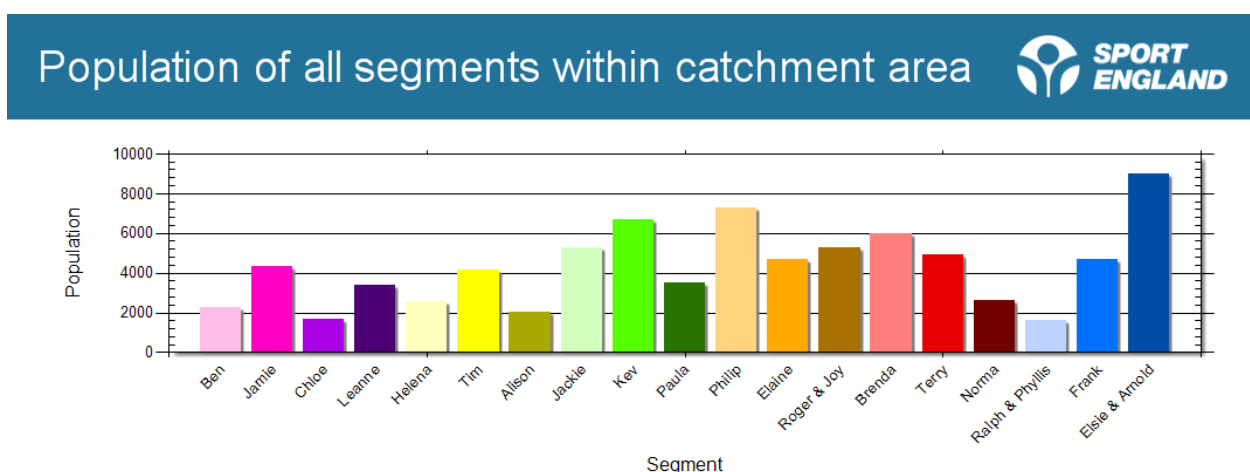


Chart 3.1 - Dominant Market Segments by Population Total



3.24 Chart 3.1 and Map 3.1 demonstrate that;

- spatially, the dominant market segments are Kev and Elsie and Arnold, with the majority of the borough being dominated by the Elsie and Arnold categorisation. Kev is however dominant in the New Whittington and more central areas of Chesterfield and there are also two pockets where Philip is dominant, most notably in the Hasland area. The distribution of residents is important, as residents in different categories are likely to have different sporting preferences;
- spatial distribution is mirrored in the total number of residents falling into each area, with the highest number of residents falling into the Elsie and Arnold group. Almost 11% of all residents are categorised as Elsie and Arnold, while the next most common groups are Philip (8.8%) and Kev (8.1%);and
- the segments with the highest participation rates and are most likely to play pitch sports are aged between 16 – 34 (the first seven market segments from Ben to Alison in chart 3.1).It is clear that higher numbers of residents in Chesterfield Borough fall towards the segments towards the right of the chart, which represent the older age groups. To the left of Jackie, fewer residents fall into each category than both the Derbyshire and England national averages, while much higher proportions of the population fall into the older brackets. This may impact upon the propensity of the population to participate in playing pitch and outdoor sports, as it is the younger groups where participation rates are highest although the opposite is perhaps true of bowls.

3.25 This is reflected in the profiles of those dominant segments across Chesterfield, specifically;

1. **Elsie & Arnold** are much less active than the average adult population, but their activity levels are consistent with other segments in this age range. They enjoy swimming, keep fit and bowls
2. **Philip** has a participation profile in most of his top sports of above the national average. He enjoys keep fit/gym, swimming, football, golf and athletics (running) and his favourite sport is cycling.
3. **Kev** has average levels of sports participation. He is a social rather than competitive organised participant and participates in keep fit and gym. Sports of interest are football (high participation compared to national levels), cycling, and swimming. Kev may also take part in athletics or running, golf, angling, badminton, archery or martial arts/combat sports.

3.26 Overall therefore, evidence suggests that pitch sports can and do play an important role in promoting participation in Chesterfield. The dominance of market segments however that are not interested in pitch sports does however serve to highlight the importance of balancing the provision of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities with the provision of other sporting opportunities.

Summary

Context - Summary and Key issues

- While the population is projected to increase overall (by circa 8%) between 2013 and 2031, the number of people in age groups traditionally playing pitch sports will increase by a much smaller percentage. Total increase in demand for pitch and outdoor sports therefore will not be in line with projected increases in the total population;
- Population growth will be spatially focused in specific areas of Chesterfield and it is likely that increasing demand therefore will be focused in these areas
- The demographic profile of the borough suggests that effective provision of sporting facilities could have a significant impact on health improvements – Chesterfield Borough has a higher proportion of residents than average that are currently obese and almost half of the adult population would like to participate in sport more frequently
- Building on this, the Active People survey suggests that there are therefore strong foundations for the continued growth in participation in sport and physical activity across the borough, following recent increases in participation. Nationally however, participation in all sports considered except athletics are declining
- Not all of the dominant population segments in Chesterfield are likely to have an interest in pitch sports. This highlights the need to balance opportunities to play such sports with other activities

3.27 The remainder of this assessment draws on the contextual information in this section, and provides an overview of issues for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis, bowls and athletics in Chesterfield. Section 11 summarises the key issues for the strategy to address.

Introduction

- 4.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for football in Chesterfield. It includes;
- a brief overview of the supply and demand for football;
 - an understanding of activity at individual sites in the borough;
 - a picture of the adequacy of current provision; and
 - the future picture of provision for football.

Football in Chesterfield Borough – An Overview

Pitch Supply

- 4.2 There are 71 individual formal grass football pitches available for community use across Chesterfield Borough. This excludes the pitches for Chesterfield FC, a professional club whose main pitch (Proact Stadium) and training facilities are both located within the borough.
- 4.3 Table 4.1 summarises the breakdown of pitch sizes and also outlines the level of community access that is available. Site specific detail is provided in Appendix C.

Table 4.1 – Football Pitches across Chesterfield Borough

Pitch Type	Pitch Provision Available to the Community (Used or not used)	Pitch Provision Secured for Community Use (used or not used)	Percentage of Pitches Secured for Community Use
Adult Football	33	32	97%
Junior Football	10	8	80%
9 v 9	11	7	64%
7 v 7	16	15	94%
5 v 5	2	2	100%
Total	72	64	89%

- 4.4 Table 4.1 reveals that; of the pitches that are currently available for community use;
- 46% of pitches are full sized while the remainder cater specifically for junior, 9v9 and mini soccer (7v7 and 5v5). Pitches owned and managed by Chesterfield Borough Council are either full sized (adult football), 9v 9 (three quarter sized) or for more mini football. There are no pitches sized specifically for junior teams aged between U13 and U16 owned and managed by Chesterfield Borough Council; and
 - 89% of playing pitches that offer community use have secured community access, this is a high proportion and provides certainty of consistency within the pitch stock. Several secondary schools have secured community use and three are now managed through Facilities for All, a company providing management of community access for schools, enabling them to maximise the potential role of their facility in the community. While this means that the management of pitches at

school sites is not coordinated with public facilities, it does ensure that there is a guarantee of long term access to these school facilities.

- 4.5 Most facilities that offer community use currently but without long term security that this agreement will remain in place have either junior or mini pitches, suggesting that it would be to the detriment of the development of junior football should access to these sites no longer be available. While this represents a relatively low proportion of sites, Brockwell Junior School, Dunston Primary School, Staveley Primary School, Old Hall Junior School, Cavendish Junior School, Inkersall Primary School, Highfield Hall Primary are all used by community teams and operate without formal long term agreements.
- 4.6 Appendix C also lists pitches at sites that offer no community use at the current time. With the exception of the pitches belonging to Chesterfield FC, almost all sites that are not available for the community are school sites, mostly with small playing fields. The key barriers identified for not allowing community access are the poor quality of existing facilities and security issues / impact upon the school site. The lack of changing accommodation and accessible toilets is also seen as a key barrier. This suggests that there is limited scope to increase the pitch stock further through community use of school sites, unless these obstacles can be addressed.
- 4.7 There are however two key sites that do not offer community use of their grass pitches currently (both do have community use of their AGPs) specifically St Marys RC High School and Springwell Community College. While St Marys RC High School did offer community use of their facilities, this has been withdrawn relatively recently and pitches are not currently available for hire. Springwell Community College has an agreement with Chesterfield FC for use of their pitches and as a consequence, pitches are not hired out for general community use although they are important in servicing the needs of Chesterfield FC. Both of these sites contain multiple pitches and are the only large sites in the borough that are not available for community use. There is therefore relatively limited potential to provide additional pitches by securing community access to school sites.

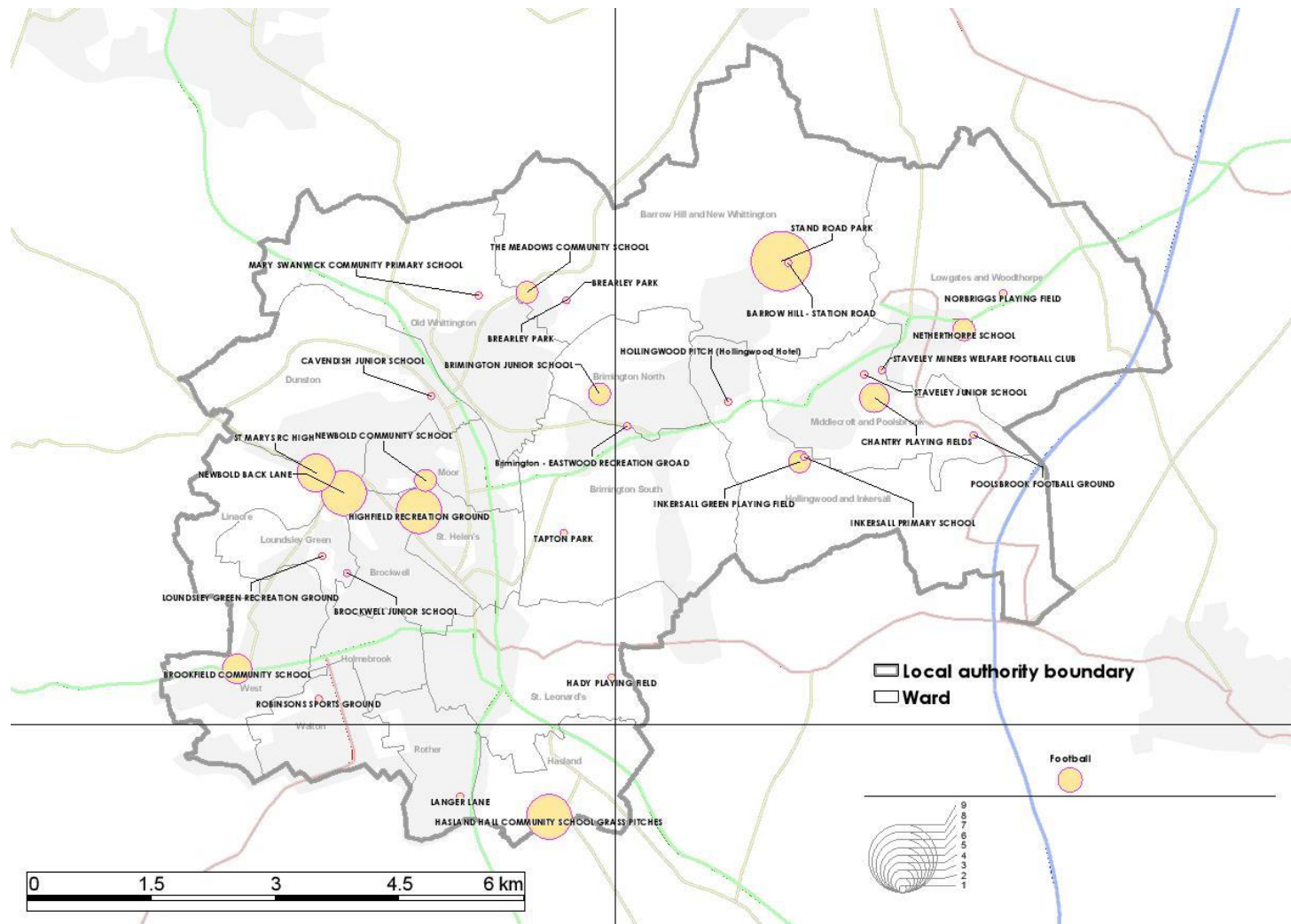
Closed / Potential Sites

- 4.8 There are several pitches /sites that have previously been playing fields but are not currently operating as such. These are as follows:
- GKN Sheepbridge Sports and Social Club
 - Queens Park Annexe
 - Ringwood Centre
 - Chesterfield BRSA Club, Hollingwood
 - Varley Park
 - Wasps Nest Playing Field.
- 4.9 In addition to the above, both Somersall Park and Brearley Park have previously contained football pitches but do not currently do so due to a lack of demand. There are also no longer playing fields marked out on Pearsons Recreation Ground, Campbell Drive and Manor Road Recreation Ground and these sites now instead function as parks.
- 4.10 These sites, alongside other playing fields in existence that contain space to lay out further pitches, may provide opportunities to increase the stock of facilities should a lack of capacity be identified in the current facility stock.
- 4.11 Work that is underway to improve pitch quality also means that pitches at Chesterfield College (Langer Lane) and some pitches at Holmebrook Valley Park are out of use this year. These pitches are closed only temporarily and are anticipated to boost supply when

they are returned to use during the 2014 – 2015 season. The impact of this will be evaluated later in this section.

- 4.12 Pitches that are not operating as formal playing pitches this year are excluded from all calculations. They therefore represent potential playing fields and / or additional pitches. The loss of any of the playing fields listed in Paragraph 4.8 would therefore not impact upon the figures outlined in this report.
- 4.13 Map 4.1 illustrates the scale and distribution of football pitches, as well as the level of access that is available to these sites. It indicates that football pitches are distributed relatively equitably across the borough.

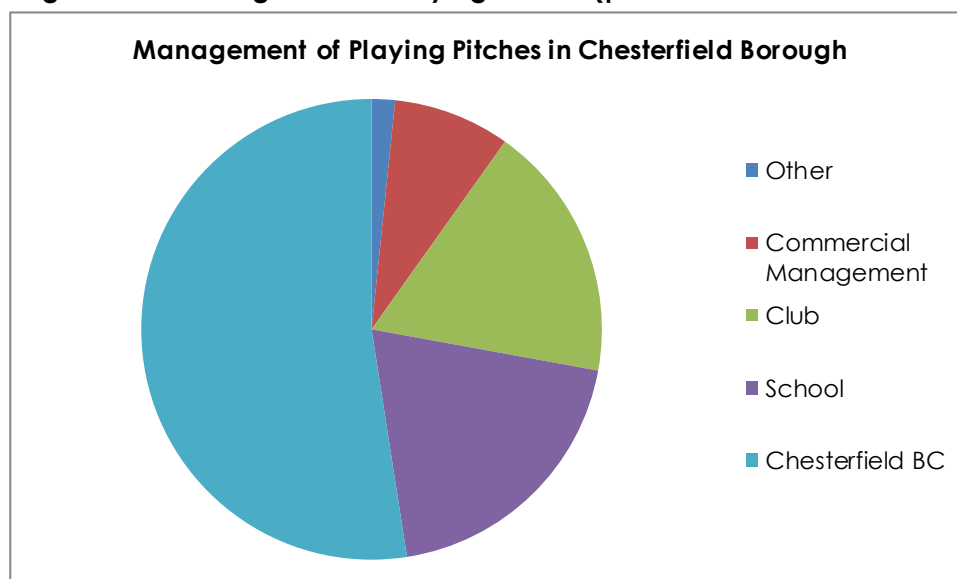
Map 4.1 – Distribution of Football Pitches



Ownership and Management

- 4.14 Figure 4.1 illustrates that Chesterfield Borough Council is the primary manager of football pitches, controlling more than half of pitches available for community use (and owning several more facilities leased to clubs). This emphasises the important role that the Council has in enabling football participation and the particular reliance that football has on public pitches.

Figure 4.1 – Management of Playing Pitches (pitches available for community use only)



Pitch Size

- 4.15 The pitch stock is balanced between a small number of larger multi pitch sites and single pitches. Most of the secondary schools offer three to four pitches and club sites (Staveley Miners Welfare, Chesterfield Panthers and Brampton Rovers FC) also have multiple pitches. Stand Road Park, Holmebrook Valley Park and Highfield Park are the only Council sites offering several pitches and this restricts opportunities for larger clubs reliant on public provision – there are few sites with enough pitches to accommodate all teams and larger clubs are therefore often dispersed across several smaller sites. In response to this, several clubs have aspirations to secure, manage and maintain their own home ground and facilities.

Quality

- 4.16 There is limited variation in pitch quality across the borough, with the vast majority of pitches (85%) rated as standard (based upon the views of providers / users / site visits and the known capacity of the pitches to sustain matches without deterioration). There are few pitches of very high quality and few pitches that are very restricted in terms of the facilities that they offer.
- 4.17 Staveley Miners Welfare is the only club in the borough (outside of Chesterfield FC) that plays within the football pyramid and require facilities to meet specific standards currently. The club manage their own stadium and playing fields on two sites and play at Step 5 of the National Football Pyramid.
- 4.18 It should be noted however, that when poorer weather is experienced, particularly over the course of the season, most pitches in the borough become poor and often

unplayable due to the drainage issues experienced. These issues (and the current and longer term impact) will be explored in greater detail later in this section.

- 4.19 The quality of pitches overall is lower at sites managed by Chesterfield Borough Council than at private sites and no Council managed pitches are rated as good. This has a particular impact because as noted earlier, football is particularly reliant upon public provision pitches. It is also clear that while pitches are functional for the standard of football currently played, the quality of these facilities and facilities provided may inhibit clubs wishing to play further up the leagues.
- 4.20 Alongside drainage issues (which were not visible during site visits but are highlighted as a key concern by providers) uneven surfaces (particularly in goal mouths) emerged as the key quality concern. It was also highlighted that on some sites, the location of play areas restricts opportunities for the creation of additional pitches and / or the realignment of existing pitches to address drainage issues. This is symptomatic of the dual role that these sites have between formal sport and informal recreation.

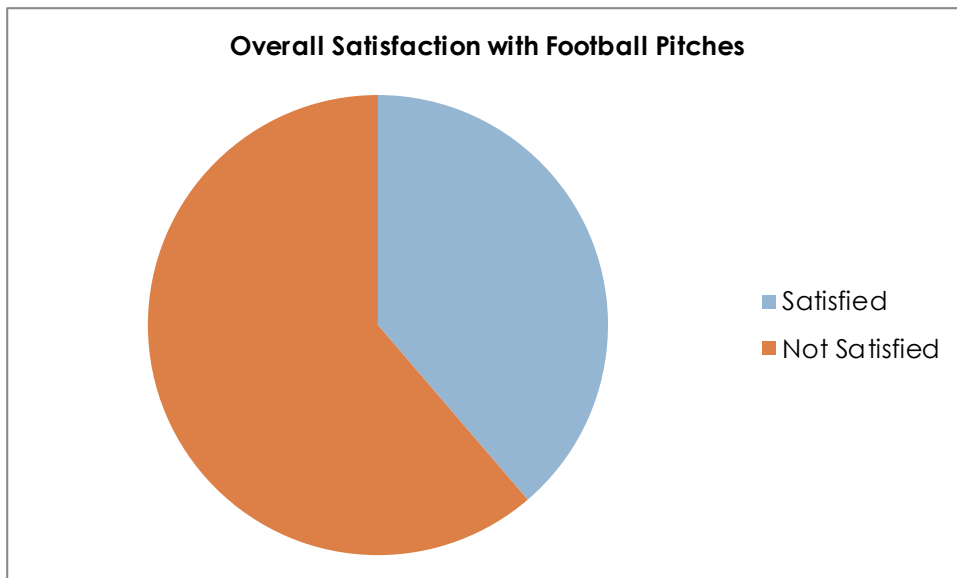
Changing Accommodation

- 4.21 While almost all sites contain changing accommodation this is relatively poor overall with most sites served by a portacabin. These facilities do however offer flexibility, with cabins moved from year to year to ensure that they are located on sites that are being used. While some changing accommodation includes showers, many sites offer much more restrictive facilities.
- 4.22 The mis match between changing accommodation and the pitch quality was one of the key issues emerging through consultation, with some of the better quality pitches being accompanied by poorer changing rooms and conversely, higher quality changing accommodation (for example at the new school sites) supporting lower quality facilities.
- 4.23 Quality issues and views specific to each site are outlined in Appendix D and are also summarised in Table 4.3 later in this section.
- 4.24 Views on pitch quality and other issues relating to the pitch stock are however outlined in general terms in the Section that follows.

Views on the Pitch Stock across Chesterfield Borough

4.25 Figure 4.2 indicates that there are relatively low levels of satisfaction with the overall pitch stock in Chesterfield Borough, with a higher proportion of pitch users not satisfied than happy with provision.

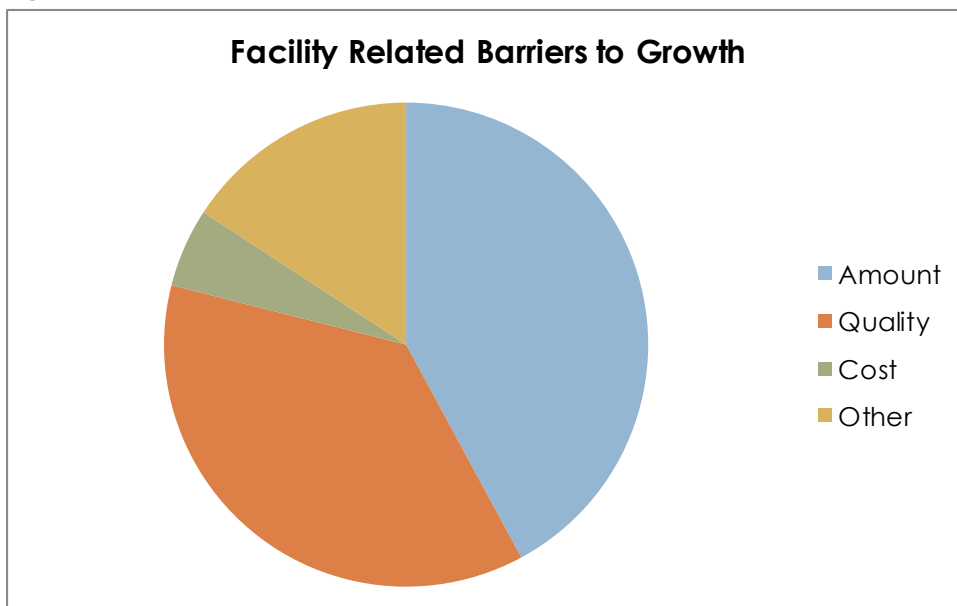
Figure 4.2 – Satisfaction with Pitch Provision



4.26 Further analysis of views suggests that there are no clear patterns between the type of facilities used and the level of satisfaction and there are also no clear patterns displayed by clubs with teams of different ages, suggesting that there are a variety of reasons behind the concerns raised.

4.27 Figure 4.3 provides further clarity and illustrates that dissatisfaction is primarily attributed to the quality and quantity of pitches rather than other reasons.

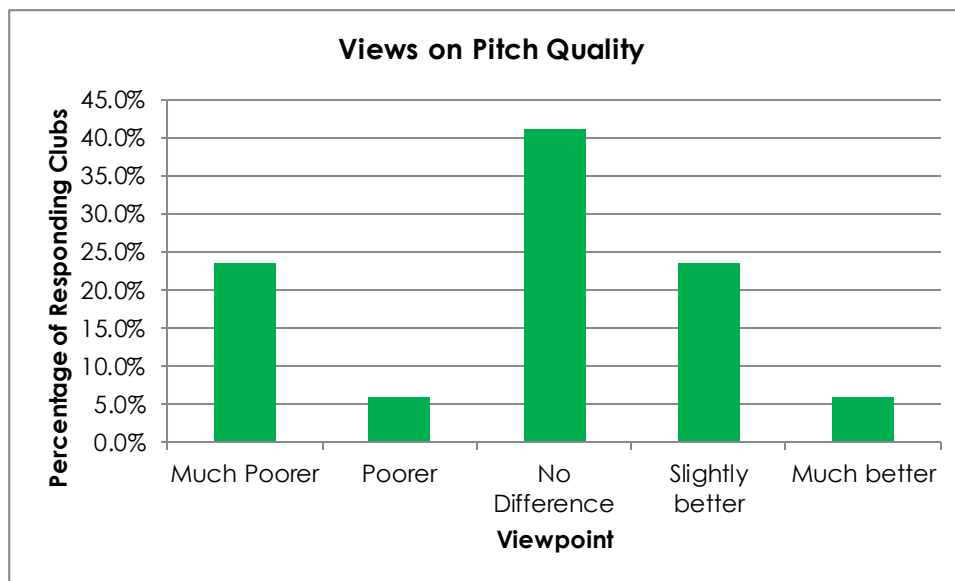
Figure 4.3 – Facility Related Issues



Pitch Quality

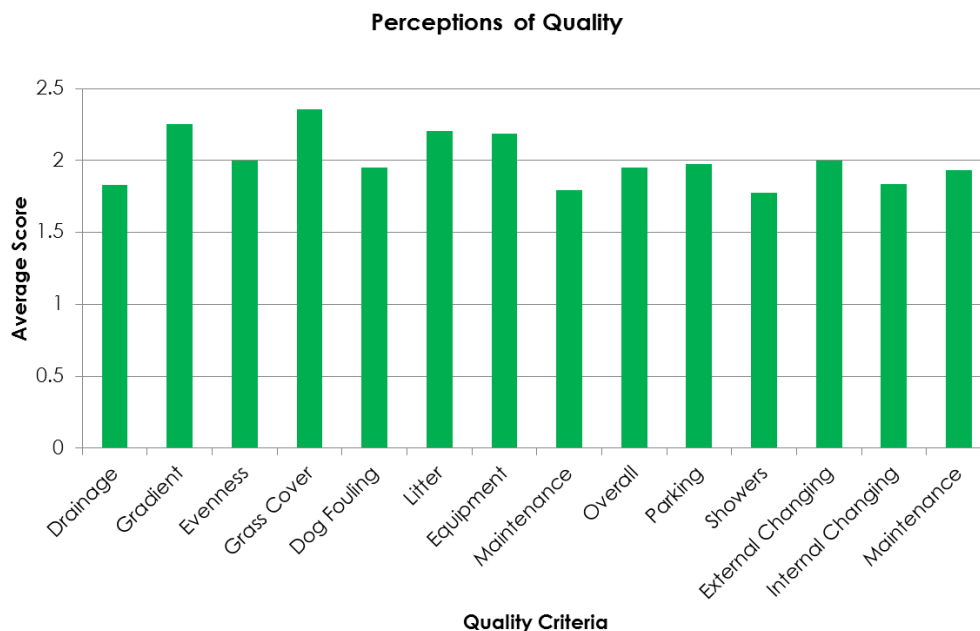
- 4.28 Exploring the issues raised with regards the pitch stock further, Figures 4.4 and 4.5 evaluate the user perception of pitch quality. Figure 4.4 illustrates that the quality of provision is believed to be relatively static over recent seasons, although there are some clubs that believe that some improvement has occurred.

Figure 4.4 – Trends in Pitch Quality



- 4.29 Further investigation reveals that behind the above responses, the majority of perceived improvement has taken place at private clubs (where there has been an increase in the amount invested in maintenance) or is attributed to visible out of season reinstatement works on Council pitches. Few teams cite a general improvement in the overall condition of the pitches across the whole facility stock.
- 4.30 Figure 4.5 illustrates the perception of clubs relating to quality of pitches and provides insight into the reasons for views outlined in Figure 4.2. It suggests that scores fluctuate around acceptable (a score of 2) but indicates that drainage and maintenance are the most poorly rated features. The lack of showers in some changing rooms, as well as the internal quality of changing rooms is also evidently a key concern for some clubs. Dog fouling and evenness of pitches are also raised as a concern at some sites.
- 4.31 There are therefore several issues impacting upon the overall perception of pitch quality and it is clear that quality is a key contributing factor towards the dissatisfaction that is evident. Clubs are concerned about the maintenance programme itself, as well as the resulting quality of the playing fields.

Figure 4.5 – Club Perceptions of Quality



4.32 Further analysis of perceptions demonstrates that reflecting the earlier trends in pitch quality (where sites believed to have improved were primarily club sites), clear patterns emerge in perceived pitch quality when separating the views according to the management of the pitches used. Feedback is significantly more negative in relation to pitches supplied and managed by Chesterfield Borough Council and private pitches are viewed more positively. It is clear that there are also some issues with school sites, with the evenness of pitches and the grass cover, as well as the quality of equipment viewed particularly negatively. These views were felt to be accurate by providers. This is illustrated in Table 4.2. Scores are based upon an overall average where 1 is equivalent to poor, 2 acceptable and 3 good. Average responses of below 2 therefore indicate that provision is thought to be below acceptable.

Table 4.2 – Perceptions of Quality by Pitch Provider

Pitch Type	Drainage	Gradient	Evenness	Grass Cover	Dog Fouling	Litter	Equipment	Maintenance	Overall	Parking	Showers	External Changing	Internal Changing	Maintenance
Council	1.6	2.1	1.9	2.4	1.5	1.8	2.1	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.8
Private	1.8	2.8	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.5
School	1.9	2.2	1.7	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.0	1.6	1.8	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1

- 4.33 The extent of concerns relating to pitches owned and managed by Chesterfield Borough Council are of particular importance, given the high proportion of the pitch stock that is owned and managed by the Borough Council and the reliance upon these facilities for grass roots football. There are however, issues raised with other pitches too, suggesting that the perceived quality issues are far reaching and impacting the pitch stock as a whole.
- 4.34 In contrast, Table 4.3 indicates that there are no clear patterns by the age groups run by responding teams, suggesting that issues are experienced across the pitch stock as a whole. Scores are based upon an overall average where 1 is equivalent to poor, 2 acceptable and 3 good. Average responses of below 2 therefore indicate that provision is thought to be below acceptable.

Table 4.3 – Perceptions of Quality by Age of Teams Run

Pitch Type	Drainage	Gradient	Evenness	Grass Cover	Dog Fouling	Litter	Equipment	Maintenance	Overall	Parking	Showers	External Changing	Internal Changing	Maintenance
Adult	1.7	2.1	1.9	2.5	1.9	2.2	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.7	2.1
Both	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.3	1.8	2.0	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.0
Junior	1.6	2.5	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.9

- 4.35 It is clear therefore that there are quality issues relating to playing pitches across Chesterfield Borough, but in particular in relation to Council pitches.
- 4.36 Recent investment has been made into grass pitches in the borough, with parts of Holmebrook Valley Park currently closed due to the installation of drainage following funding from the Football Foundation in partnership with Chesterfield Borough Council. It is hoped that this work will improve the capacity of the site once complete. Added to this, Brookfield School have been successful with their Football Foundation grant application having already secured funding through Sport England's Protecting Playing Fields. This will see improved drainage to existing pitches, enabling ongoing community use as well as improving curricular facilities.

Maintenance

- 4.37 Reflecting the concerns raised, the maintenance regimes afforded to playing pitches vary considerably from basic programmes of cutting grass and line marking, to more in depth programmes including chain harrowing, vertidrainage and fertilising (predominately at club sites). The maintenance programme at Council owned and managed pitches is reactive and relatively limited and has decreased in recent years and these sites are also subject to greater levels of unofficial use. Providers in general agree with the perception that pitch quality has deteriorated.
- 4.38 Consultation clearly demonstrated that both clubs and providers believe that play on some pitches during the course of the season intensifies the issues raised in relation to poor maintenance and causes a deterioration in pitch quality, particularly when coupled with

periods of heavy rain. There is no scope for reinstatement during the season and clubs are concerned about the lack of out of season maintenance and restrictions upon the budget, which mean that only the pitches that have deteriorated most over the course of the season receive a full out of season maintenance programme. Several teams indicate that they are also forced to supplement the maintenance that is carried out in order to ensure that pitches remain playable across the season. This is a particular concern as it impacts both upon current play, but also the potential sustainability of the pitch stock longer term. If pitches are inappropriately maintained for the level of use that they receive, they will become unplayable in time.

Perceptions of Schools

- 4.39 School perceptions echo those raised by clubs in relation to school sites. The quality of pitches is believed to be restricted by drainage issues on some sites and pitch condition can suffer over a season due to the need to balance curricular use with community activity.
- 4.40 Again reflecting the views of users, schools also consider the quality of equipment to be relatively poor and in need of replacement. Most junior and primary schools have relatively limited facilities (with just one pitch) while secondary schools have larger and more expansive facilities. The key issues on school sites however again relate to drainage and the amount of wear and tear, while surfaces at some sites would benefit from levelling. Equipment, and in particular goal posts, is however raised as the key issue for schools in the borough, with many struggling to fund new provision.
- 4.41 Issues raised relating to the amount of pitches will be considered later in this section and key issues at school sites (particularly those with potential to improve capacity) will also be evaluated.

Demand

Active People and Market Segmentation (Sport England)

- 4.42 The Sport England Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data (explained in Section 3) reveals that football is the most popular pitch sport in Chesterfield Borough. The key messages arising are;
- the key participants in football in Chesterfield are those that are nationally most likely to play (Jamie, Kev, Ben and Tim) as well as Philip. Participation is geographically even across the borough however it is clear that there is a relatively limited profile for female participants. While the proportion of residents in the Kev, Philip and Jamie categories that play are above the national levels, it is clear that in Chesterfield, while Tim and Ben are amongst the highest participants, the amount of people in these groups that play football is lower than the proportion nationally in England, as well as in Derbyshire and there may therefore be further opportunities to increase these levels; and
 - analysis of latent demand suggests that there is potential to increase participation by 17%. The latent demand is from residents in the same market segments as those that currently play (particularly Jamie, Kev and Ben) and is geographically even. Despite low levels of participation, there is limited interest in playing football from female residents.

Current Participation – Match Play

- 4.43 Table 4.4 summarises the number of teams based in Chesterfield Borough and indicates that while there are strong participation rates for males, female football is less well established. Furthermore, more than 70% of teams are made up of residents aged 16 and below meaning that demand for junior and mini pitches is higher than for adult pitches. While just under 30% of teams are senior aged, 46% of pitches in the borough that are available to the community are full sized pitches. This means that there is a slight imbalance between the proportion of senior pitches and senior teams. This may contribute towards the dissatisfaction with the overall pitch stock and the comments received that supply does not match demand. Full details of all teams playing in the borough are included in Appendix E.
- 4.44 The shape and location of Chesterfield Borough means that there is significant interaction between Chesterfield and other neighbouring boroughs, in particular North East Derbyshire and Bolsover. Several teams travel into Chesterfield Borough to use pitches in the area (primarily mini teams, due to Holmebrook Valley Park functioning as a central venue for the Rowsley league) and many teams also travel outside the borough (for a variety of reasons, including the cost and quality of pitches and the availability of facilities).

Table 4.4 – Football Teams in Chesterfield Borough

Sport and Age Groups	Number of teams in age group within the area
Football Adult Men (16-45yrs)	44
Football Adult Women (16-45yrs)	3
Football Youth Boys (10-15yrs)	61
Football Youth Girls (10-15yrs)	6
Football Mini Soccer Mixed (6-9yrs)	50

- 4.45 The structure of the above teams is mixed. There are several large clubs with multiple teams (primarily junior) and while there are also some smaller junior clubs (many of whom indicate that they have recently lost teams to the larger clubs) the majority of adult play takes place in single or two team clubs.
- 4.46 The presence of several large clubs most of whom offer transition from junior through to adult teams means that there are strong foundations for football development. This does however also have an impact upon the type of facilities that clubs want, with large clubs often wishing to accommodate all of their teams on one site. The largest clubs in Chesterfield Borough are as follows;
- Chesterfield Town – run both senior and junior teams and play on Council pitches across Chesterfield;
 - Brampton Rovers – run both senior and junior teams at their home ground on Newbold Back Lane;
 - Staveley Miners Welfare – have a large junior section, as well as senior teams, one of which plays in the Northern Counties East League (Step 5 of the National Pyramid);

- Espial FC – a new club for this season focusing upon high level coaching as well as competitive fixtures;
- Hasland Community Club – include both adult and junior teams and use Hasland Community School as their base (the club manage the facilities);
- Somersall Rangers – junior club based at several different venues across the borough; and
- Chesterfield Junior Blues – junior teams based at several venues across the borough.

Recent Trends in Participation

- 4.47 There has been decline in adult football in recent years and this is reflected in FA affiliation data. The Active People survey (Section 3) also highlighted a statistically significant decline in the number of people playing football nationally. By way of illustration, the Chesterfield Sunday League had 108 teams three years ago but now has only 80 teams. In contrast, nationally junior and mini football has experienced recent growth, and continues to increase across Derbyshire although participation has now started to plateau.
- 4.48 The decline in adult football participation in Chesterfield means that demand for adult pitches has reduced, while the amount of younger teams requiring smaller pitches has grown. The recent introduction of new formats of the game and associated pitch sizes as part of the FA Youth Review means that further changes have been required and has placed additional challenges in matching the pitch stock to demand. Some clubs have sourced additional pitches to ensure that teams play on the pitches of the right size.
- 4.49 FA participation reports for the borough for 2013 – 2014 reflect the growth that has taken place from 2012 – 2013 season, indicating that there has been a further decline in adult participation (4 teams) but that youth teams have increased (32 teams) and mini soccer teams have also increased).
- 4.50 It is clear that recently the majority of growth has taken place in large clubs and primarily in the junior sections of these clubs. The key changes that have taken place are;
- Chesterfield Town – decrease due to shortage of coaches, lack of facilities, finances;
 - Hasland FC, Somersall Rangers and Brampton Rovers – increased;
 - Staveley Miners – increased due to recent merger; and
 - Espial FC – new team this year.
- 4.51 The growing trend towards large clubs and the reduction in the number of single teams will impact upon the type of facilities demanded in the longer term.
- 4.52 The work of FA may also impact upon facility requirements both in the short and longer term. The Derbyshire FA are working locally to arrest the decline in adult football participation, as well as to improve retention of players between junior and senior football. This includes the introduction of U21 and veterans leagues, as well as a pilot supporting adult football. If these aims are successfully achieved, demand for adult football pitches will increase and longer term, the current decline in participation may reverse.

Training Needs

- 4.53 Over 90% of clubs that schedule formal training sessions use Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) of varying sizes. While almost all junior clubs train at least once per week, a lower proportion of adult teams train (although many play in 5 a side leagues midweek). Some teams train on grass during the summer months but there are no floodlit grass training facilities for use during winter. Pitches cannot be booked for training (although it is known that the occasional ad hoc training sessions take place against regulations). While clubs are keen for grass training facilities (primarily for pre season use) this is not currently provided and training therefore has limited impact on grass pitches.
- 4.54 The requirement for AGPs will be returned to later in this section.

Educational Demand

- 4.55 The majority of schools have their own playing fields. Not all schools mark out their playing field area as formal pitches, but most have the capacity to do. It is clear however that some primary schools do travel to secondary schools to use their facilities (most notably Newbold Community School and Brookfield Community School). This demand does not impact upon peak time availability and because impact is primarily focused on the AGP on each site, has limited impact upon grass pitches at these facilities and does not restrict capacity for community use.
- 4.56 Curricular use of school grass pitches however reduces capacity to sustain community use. Brookfield School (managed in house) Newbold Community School, Netherthorpe School and Meadows Community School (all managed by Facilities for All) and Hasland Community School are all important venues for community use and it is essential that curricular requirements are balanced with this use. School sites are therefore able to sustain fewer community games per week on average than facilities owned and managed by other providers to protect against quality deterioration.
- 4.57 Facilities at the majority of schools in the borough currently meet curricular needs on the whole, with very few schools indicating that they have concerns about the facilities provided. Facilities at primary schools however have a more limited role to play in community sport, as few have changing accommodation or toilets. This, alongside security issues and the impact upon school demand was the main reason given for lack of facilities.

Casual Demand

- 4.58 Most of the Chesterfield Borough Council owned playing fields also function as public recreational areas. This impacts upon the quality of some pitches, particularly with regards dog fouling, which emerged as a key issue for many pitch users. While this recreational use is not necessarily extensive enough to reduce the capacity of pitches, particularly during the winter months, it does however impact upon the player experience on occasion. Many clubs highlighted the issues that have been caused by vandalism and other casual use and raise concerns about player safety, including litter and glass on pitches as well as dog fouling. It is therefore clear that the casual use of the facilities does have a negative impact on the quality of facilities overall.

Other Issues relating to pitch supply and demand

- 4.59 The assessment revealed several other issues that impact upon pitch provision include;

Cost:

- Within Chesterfield Borough, the majority of pitches that can be rented are hired from the Council and pitch charges are consistent at all sites. Pitch charges vary according to the pitch size from £483.60 per season (adult pitch) to £215.30 per season mini pitch. Changing facilities are charged extra per season, according to the quality of facilities provided. The cost of facilities including showers is higher than those just providing changing rooms. Few issues were raised with the price of pitch hire of grass pitches per se, although some comments were made that the quality of pitches means that pitch hire charges do not represent value for money. Based upon an average of 10 games per season, prices at most other sites in the Borough are marginally cheaper (£300 – 400) per season.
- Outside of the borough, there is a greater degree of variation in cost and there is evidence of residents of Chesterfield Borough travelling into both Bolsover and North East Derbyshire and some clubs indicating that it is financially sensible to do so. While pitches owned by the two local authorities are priced slightly lower (primarily because changing facilities are included) it is clear that the main differentiation in price is in Town and Parish Council facilities – these providers are able to determine specific prices for pitch hire and give beneficiary rates to clubs in order to ensure that their facilities are used. It should however be noted that prices are not significantly different, and in general do not vary extensively.
- While cost was not directly raised in relation to grass pitches, there is evidence to demonstrate that clubs are relatively price sensitive, particularly where quality of facilities is considered poor. Cost was also referenced by several clubs in relation to access to training facilities and it was the cost of AGPs rather than grass pitches that appeared to be the greatest concern. Although cost is therefore not a significant issue for the facility stock currently, it is clear that when linked with quality, clubs are relatively price sensitive

Security of Tenure and Aspirations for Self Management:

- Both Chesterfield Town and Espial FC highlighted aspirations to self manage and own their own ground. Chesterfield Town are the largest club in the borough and as a consequence are dispersed across multiple sites. Espial FC currently play at Chesterfield Panthers and have relatively exclusive use of these facilities.
- There are no issues relating to security of tenure for football clubs currently, with most clubs leasing grounds have recently signed new leases. Robinsons Sports Ground is however a cause of concern, with annual renewal only secured for the cricket club and only a slightly longer lease granted to the football club. This means that there is no long security of tenure, raising issues with investment into qualitative improvements as well as the long term future of the sports club.

Adequacy of Pitch Provision – Assessing Supply and Demand information and Views

- 4.60 As highlighted earlier in this section, as many clubs in the Borough are concerned about the amount of pitches as the quality of pitches and assessment of the capacity of pitches is therefore essential to identify any underlying issues.
- 4.61 The adequacy of pitch provision to meet demand is measured both over the course of a week and at peak time using match equivalents. There is a strong interrelationship between the quality of a pitch and the amount of matches that it can sustain. Weekly capacity: is based upon the quality of the pitch and the consequential number of

matches that it can take per week (using FA guidelines). Table 4.5 summarises the guidelines used with regards pitch capacity.

Table 4.5 – Capacity based upon Pitch Quality

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

4.62 It is also essential to evaluate whether there are enough pitches to meet demand at peak time. The local leagues all have specific kick off times and while these are flexible to a degree, it is important that there are enough pitches available when people wish to use them. The patterns of play for each type of football and the impact on demand for pitches is outlined in brief below;

- **Senior Football** – the majority of teams play in Chesterfield Sunday League and as such, peak time for senior football is Sunday morning. Outside of these times, teams play in the Hope Valley League and Wragg Football League, as well as Staveley Miners Welfare in the North East Counties League. Almost 80% of adult football takes place on a Sunday morning meaning that peak time demand is very high
- **Junior Football** – Sunday morning is also peak time for junior football teams, with both the Sheffield Junior League and the Rowsley League playing at this time. Teams playing in the Chad Mansfield league play on a Saturday and entering teams in different leagues to ensure a different day of play is one way in which larger clubs seek to balance pitch requirements and ensure that all teams can be accommodated
- **9v9 Football** – is more evenly split than other forms of the game (between Saturday and Sunday morning) but greater levels of play take place on Saturday. Like junior football, teams play in the Chad Mansfield, Sheffield and District and Rowsley and District Youth league
- **Mini soccer** peak day is a Saturday morning, with both the Rowsley and District and Chad Mansfield leagues taking place at this time.

4.63 The above indicates that demand in Chesterfield is very concentrated and as a consequence, more pitches will be required than would be the case if play was evenly spread.

4.64 Pitches can only be considered to have spare capacity at peak time when they are not already utilised to their full capacity over the course of a week. An adult pitch that is not used on a Sunday morning (Boroughwide peak time), but is used more than three times per week at other times (Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon and midweek for example) would not be considered able to sustain additional play at peak time, even though no one would be using the facility then, as this would be detrimental to the quality of the pitch.

Situation at Individual Sites

- 4.65 Table 4.6 provides a summary of the activity that takes place at each site that has community use in Chesterfield Borough. It sets out the current supply and demand and outlines whether the pitch is being overplayed, played to the appropriate level or is able to sustain additional fixtures. Any other issues arising with the site are also briefly summarised.
- 4.66 It should be noted that all usage is classified according to the pitch size that is used by the team. This is particularly important in terms of Council pitches, which are only available as full sized, ¾ sized or 9v9 pitches.
- 4.67 Many pitches at club sites are also used interchangeably by adult and younger teams (younger teams playing across adult pitches etc) and pitches are marked out according to the need at a specific time. Overviews by pitch type therefore provide a broad indication of the use of pitches only, and actual figures may vary slightly from week to week.
- 4.68 Issues will be explored by pitch type, however the key issues emerging from site overviews are as follows;
- The strong demand at peak time is responsible for much spare capacity over the course of the week, with heavy use of sites on one day and limited use outside the peak period. A high proportion of pitches are used only once per week as a result of the emphasis on peak time demand
 - There are very few pitches that are overplayed and in general, overplay is associated with large clubs with multiple teams, in particular Hasland Community FC, Staveley Miners Welfare and Brampton Rovers FC
 - There is more limited use of Council pitches and the majority of sites have capacity for additional play, particularly outside peak time. It is notable that single pitch sites sustain much lower levels of play than the larger facilities. This is due to the popularity of the site, the preference of larger clubs to use bigger sites where more teams can play together, and the quality of pitches and associated changing accommodation
 - School sites with formal agreements are heavily used and are attractive to users because of the quality of the changing accommodation. There is also a more limited reliance upon unsecured sites, particularly for junior teams.

Table 4.6 – Site Specific Usage at each site (community sites that are available regardless of whether they are used or not)

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
Badger Recreation Ground	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	2	0.5	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	0.5	Site limited by poor accommodation - portacabin with changing room only and no showers. Pitch slightly uneven. Single pitch site with only one current user.
Brearley Park	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	2	1	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0	Site at capacity at peak time based upon current provision of one adult pitch. There is scope to increase the provision on the site, but the current pitch quality is relatively poor with undulating surfaces and some issues with drainage, changing and toilets. One team currently using this site would prefer alternative venue due to location
BROOKFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Secured	Adult Football	1	Poor	1	1	0	Being played to the level the site can	0	0	Capacity of pitch for community use limited by curricular use as well as poor drainage. Pitch currently used by teams

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
	Secured	Junior Football	2	Poor	2	1.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0.5	on a Saturday and Sunday alternative weeks, meaning that there is no spare capacity for additional play. Clubs raise concern over drainage and indicate that pitch maintenance is also poor. Some games have been played on 3g due to poor condition of grass pitches.
Cavendish Junior School	Unsecured	9v9	1	Standard	1	1.5	-0.5	Being overplayed	0	0	Site used for curricular requirements as well as for community use. Pitch is of acceptable quality but coupled with curricular use, is overplayed when accommodating two matches per week. Only one team uses the pitch at peak times (Sat AM for 9v9) but use outside this time means that no further activity can be accommodated. Staff changing and showers are provided as there are no community changing facilities.
Chantry Playing Fields	Secured	Adult Football	2	Good	6	6	0	Being played to the level	0	0	Site is of good quality and pitches are used interchangeably (sizes

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
								the site can sustain			marked out accordingly) hence all teams play on appropriate size pitches and capacity represents an indication only. Capacity to accommodate additional play for competitive fixtures, however training also takes place on the grass pitches for all teams and the impact of this reduces capacity accordingly. No quality issues identified, site run by club who have recently secured new 25 year lease.
	Secured	Junior Football	1	Good	4	6.5	-2.5	Being overplayed	0	0	
Chesterfield Panthers Rugby - Dunston Road	Secured	Adult Football	2	Good	6	1	5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	5	2	High quality site although new drainage is still bedding in. Used predominantly outside of peak time for football, primarily due to conflict with rugby. Groundsman indicated that clubhouse facilities etc are only available when rugby is not being played, which would limit scope for additional play, particularly for adults who
	Secured	Junior Football	1	Good	4	2.5	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	1.5	

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
	Secured	9 v 9	1	Good	2	2	0	Being played to the level the site can sustain	0	0	generally require use of changing facilities.
	Secured	Mini Football	1	Good	6	1.5	4.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	4.5	0.5	
Dunston Primary School	Unsecured	Junior Football	1	Poor	1	0.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0.5	Poor drainage and limited maintenance limits usage of pitch. Site is also used for curricular purposes, meaning that there is limited scope for community use. There are no changing facilities, further restricting the attractiveness of the facility. The site is unsecured for community use. Club using the pitch are currently dispersed across several sites (Somersall Rangers)
EASTWOOD PARK	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	2	0	2		2	1	Site recently out of use pending improvement works to pitch and pavilions. Now ready for

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
											teams to be re-introduced
Barrow Hill - Station Road	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	2	1	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0	Single pitch site of adequate quality although improvements would be beneficial. Club own associated changing accommodation.
Brimington - EASTWOOD RECREATION GROAD	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	2	1	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0	Poor changing facilities with no showers available - this limits the attractiveness of this pitch. Site cuts up and is considered to be poor by clubs.
HADY PLAYING FIELD	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	2	1	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0	Site affected by methane gas rising up from underlying tip. Surface undulating and bumpy in parts. Changing accommodation adequate although some issues identified. Significant potential for the provision of additional pitches at this site, but poor quality ground, alongside methane issues limit this currently
HASLAND HALL COMMU	Secured	Adult Football	2	Standard	3	1.5	1.5	Potentially able to accomm	1.5	1.5	Site used for both curricular and community use. Capacity reduced to

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
NINETY SCHOOL								odate some additional play			reflect curricular requirements accordingly. Size of pitches does not meet with requirements with ladies senior league. . Lack of changing accommodation available on site is a key issue for the club and makes the facilities less attractive. Drainage on the whole is good, although there are some issues with maintenance on occasion. There are usually five pitches on site, however one has not seeded properly this season and is therefore out of use. Play is more interchangeable across the pitches. The club indicate that they do not have goalposts of appropriate size for all age groups
	Secured	Junior Football	1	Standard	1.5	3	-1.5	Being overplayed	-1.5	0	
	Secured	9v9	1	Standard	1.5	3	-1.5	Being overplayed	0	0	
Highfield Recreation Ground	Secured	Adult Football	3	Standard	6	4	2	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	2	0.5	Site currently includes junior and mini pitches that are not used (other than community training on a Saturday morning). Pitches of higher quality than most other Council

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
	Secured	9v9	1	Standard	2	0	2	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	2	1	venues and changing accommodation includes showers. Site suffers from anti social behaviour and vandalism which impacts on pitch quality on occasion. Parking issues.
	Secured	Mini Football	1	Standard	4	0	4	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	4	2	
HOLLING WOOD PITCH (Holling wood Hotel)	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	2	1.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0	Pitch used to capacity on peak day. Site also used by junior football team (pitch incorrectly sized). Pitch quality good overall and maintained by club. Carry on goals reduces informal recreational use and antisocial behaviour. Changing accommodation contains showers, making the pitch one of the most attractive.
HOLMEBROOK VALLEY PARK	Secured	Mini Football	9	Standard	36	19.5	16.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional	16.5	0	Each pitch is currently being used twice at peak times meaning that there will be limited opportunities for further play. Despite suggestion

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
								play			that pitches have spare capacity over the week, wear and tear on the site suggests that pitches are unable to sustain much additional use. Poor drainage on site and drainage works currently underway with a view to reinstating the remainder of the playing field next year (circa 4 hectares). Attractive site that contains changing accommodation as well as cafe. Limited parking for the number of teams.
INKERSALL GREEN PLAYING FIELD	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	2	1.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0.5	Site used by junior team as well as adult teams. Pitch surface one of the better in the borough but known to become heavy and overused towards the end of the season. Suffers from drainage issues on occasion but no scope for pitch realignment due to location of play area. Parking issues
	Secured	Mini Football	1	Standard	4	0.5	3.5	Potentially able to accommodate	3.5	1	Limited use of mini pitch - just one team currently accessing the facilities. Site has adequate quality

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
								some additional play			surface although it suffers from drainage issues on occasion. Parking issues.
LANGER LANE	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	2	1	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0	Pitch currently used only at peak times (Sun AM) but is at capacity at this time. Some issues with pitch surface and dog fouling and recent repairs have been undertaken. Identified need for the relocation of changing accommodation and improvement to parking.
LOUNDSLEY GREEN RECREATION GROUND	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	2	0.5	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	0.5	Average quality pitch with portacabin changing accommodation. Relatively limited use currently.
NETHERTHORPE SCHOOL	Secured	Adult Football	2	Standard	3	1.5	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	0.5	Community use of pitches balanced with curricular requirements. Capacity reduced to 1.5 per pitch to reflect this, as known to result in complaints when levels of use extend beyond this (Facilities for All). Poor drainage inhibits pitch quality significantly but good changing accommodation means

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
											that facilities are attractive to some users. Prices also reduced in comparison to other sites ensuring that pitches are used.
Newbold Back Lane	Secured	Junior Football	2	Standard	4	3.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0	Site home to large club and balance of pitches can be changed to meet club needs. No additional space for club to expand into and lack of changing accommodation means that capacity is becoming restricted. The site also suffers from issues with drainage due to the clay soil base which can impact upon capacity over the course of a season. High demand for 9 v 9 but scope to increase use of mini pitch
	Secured	9v9	1	Standard	2	2.5	-0.5	Being overplayed	0	0	
	Secured	Mini Football	1	Standard	4	1	3	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	3	2	
	Secured	5v5	1	Standard	4	1	3	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	3	2	
NEWBOLD COMMU	Secured	Adult Football	2	Standard	3	2	1	Potentially able to accommodate	1	0.5	Site must balance curricular and community requirements. Capacity

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
NITY SCHOOL								odate some additional play			reduced to 1.5 per pitch to reflect this - it is known that any further usage starts to generate complaints about pitch quality. Changing facilities are good and pitches are good quality and amongst the more attractive in the borough. There are however issues on occasion with maintenance which generates complaints and longer term may impact on the adequacy of provision
NORBRI GGS PLAYING FIELD	Secured	Adult Foot ball	1	Standar d	2	1	1	Potentia lly able to accomm odate some additional play	1	0.5	Changing accommodation is poor, limiting the attractiveness of the site. The pitch condition is average, with a moderate slope and some tufty grass, meaning that it is not one of the most popular pitch venues. The site is used at peak time every other week.
Old Hall Junior School	Unsecur ed	Junio r Foot ball	1	Standar d	1	0.5	0.5	Potentia lly able to accomm odate	0.5	0.5	Pitch quality adequate and site is relatively flat. There is however no changing

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
								some additional play			accommodation available at the site. The use of the facility is also limited by the requirement to balance community and curricular use.
POOLS BROOK FOOTBALL GROUND	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	2	1.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0	Site at capacity at peak time due to use of pitch by two adult teams. Site also used by an U13 team outside peak time. Site visit demonstrates that pitch is well used, but the surface quality is good and the facility also includes full changing accommodation and showers. Few issues identified
Rother Recreation Ground	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	2	1	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0	Site suffering from dangerous wear and tear in goal mouths at time of site visits. Lack of showers in changing accommodation means that site is of limited attractiveness.
ROBINSONS SPORTS GROUND	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	2	0.5	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional	1.5	0.5	Site leased to club - believed to be a five year lease. Pitch of adequate quality to sustain required levels of use and no issues identified by club

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
								play			
STAND ROAD PARK	Secured	Adult Football	2	Standard	4	3.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0	One of the most popular sites and used frequently by Chesterfield Town FC. Few issues identified with site although there is a requirement for overflow parking, particularly at peak times. Teams highlight concerns with dog fouling and also believe that maintenance could be improved. Changing accommodation includes showers. Limited scope for additional 9v9 teams but additional mini play possible, particularly if matches are accommodated consecutively
	Secured	9v9	2	Standard	4	4	0	Being played to the level the site can sustain	0		
	Secured	Mini Football	2	Standard	8	1.5	6.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	6.5	1.5	
	Secured	5v5	1	Standard	4	1	3	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	3		
STAVELEY MINERS WELFARE	Secured	Adult Football	1	Good	3	2	1	Potentially able to accomm	1	1	Site home to pyramid football team and also used by three other teams

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
FOOTBALL CLUB								adequate some additional play			in the club. High quality site with limited potential for further community use due to league requirements
TAPTON PARK	Secured	9v9	1	Standard	2	0.5	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	0.5	Site does not have changing accommodation on site, although there are public toilets nearby. Pitch surface is adequate but site is on a slope. Use of facilities by girls team may restrict usage by boys at similar times.
THE MEADOWS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Secured	Adult Football	1	Standard	1.5	0	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	1	Site just been taken over by Facilities for All. Believed to be of adequate quality to sustain 1.5 games per week. Several clubs have expressed an interest in the site for next season
	Secured	Junior Football	1	Standard	1.5	0	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	1	
BRIMINGTON JUNIOR SCHOOL	Unsecured	Junior Football	2	Standard	2	0	2	Potentially able to accommodate	2	2	Site not used. Of limited quality.

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
								some additional play			
BROCK WELL JUNIOR SCHOOL	Unsecured	9v9	1	Standard	1	0.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0.5	Site used for play by junior teams. Restricted potential due to playing field size and lack of changing facilities.
INKERSALL PRIMARY SCHOOL	Unsecured	9v9	1	Standard	1	0.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0.5	Site used for play by junior teams. Restricted potential due to playing field size and lack of changing facilities.
Highfield Hall Primary School	Unsecured	9v9	1	Standard	1	0.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0.5	Poor quality pitches - Poor pitch surface and drainage. Minimal capacity for community play on top of curricular activity. No changing accommodation
STAVELEY JUNIOR SCHOOL	Unsecured	Adult Football	1	Standard	1	0	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	1	Poor line markings, drainage acceptable. Flat pitch, of average quality. Surface and maintenance average overall. Limited long term potential for community use due to pitch condition and playing field size

Site	Community use category	Pitch Type	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period Spare Capacity	Key Issues and Views
Mary Swanwick School	Unsecured	7v7	1	Standard	2	0	1	Potentially able to sustain more play	1	1	Gradient of pitch may restrict community use, but school currently offer pitch for community use, although it is not used this season. Scope to increase usage, although this must be balanced with curricular activity.

Current Picture

- 4.69 The site overviews set out in Table 4 enable the development of an overall picture of provision across Chesterfield Borough for each type of football pitch.
- 4.70 Table 4.7 summarises the use and spare capacity at full size football pitches. It should be noted that this reflects actual use of the pitch. In reality, for most sites across the borough, full sized pitches are used by both junior and adult teams. While in general the size of the pitches means that dimensions are within the range of appropriate minimum and maximum sizes, the size of goal posts is standard, meaning that pitches are not tailored precisely to meet the needs of junior teams.
- 4.71 Many pitches at club sites are also used interchangeably by adult and younger teams (younger teams playing across adult pitches etc). Overviews by pitch type therefore provide a broad indication of the use of pitches only, and actual figures may vary slightly from week to week.

Table 4.7 – Full Sized Football Pitches

Site	Community use category	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community	Current Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Spare Capacity During the Peak Period
Badger Recreation Ground	Secured	1	Standard	2	0.5	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	0.5
Brearley Park	Secured	1	Standard	2	1	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0
BROOKFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Secured	1	Poor	1	1	0	Being played to the level the site can sustain	0	0
Chantry Playing Fields	Secured	2	Good	6	6	0	Being played to the level the site can sustain	0	0
Chesterfield Panthers Rugby - Dunston Road	Secured	2	Good	6	1	5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	5	2
EASTWOOD PARK	Secured	1	Standard	2	0	2	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	2	1
BarrowHill - Station Road	Secured	1	Standard	2	1	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0

Site	Community use category	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community	Current Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Spare Capacity During the Peak Period
Brimington-EASTWOOD RECREATION GROAD	Secured	1	Standard	2	1	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0
HADY PLAYING FIELD	Secured	1	Standard	2	1	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0
HASLAND HALL COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Secured	2	Standard	3	1.5	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	1.5
Highfield Recreation Ground	Secured	3	Standard	6	4	2	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	2	0.5
HOLLINGWOOD PITCH (Hollingwood Hotel)	Secured	1	Standard	2	1.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0
INKERS ALL GREEN PLAYING FIELD	Secured	1	Standard	2	1.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0.5
LANGER LANE	Secured	1	Standard	2	1	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0
LOUDSLEY GREEN RECREATION GROUND	Secured	1	Standard	2	0.5	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	0.5
NETHERTHORPE SCHOOL	Secured	2	Standard	3	1.5	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	0.5
NEW BOLD COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Secured	2	Standard	3	2	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0.5

Site	Community use category	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity for Community	Current Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Spare Capacity During the Peak Period
NORBRIGGS PLAYING FIELD	Secured	1	Standard	2	1	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0.5
POOLSBROOK FOOTBALL GROUND	Secured	1	Standard	2	1.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0
Rother Recreation Ground	Secured	1	Standard	2	1	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	0
ROBINSONS SPORTS GROUND	Secured	1	Standard	2	0.5	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	0.5
STAND ROAD PARK	Secured	2	Standard	4	3.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0
STAVELEY MINERS WELFARE FOOTBALL CLUB	Secured	1	Good	3	2	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	1
THE MEADOWS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Secured	1	Standard	1.5	0	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	1
STAVELEY JUNIOR SCHOOL	Unsecured	1	Standard	1	0	1	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1	1

4.72 Table 4.7 reveals that overall, across Chesterfield there is some spare capacity at full size football pitches. This is equivalent to 30 match equivalent sessions per week. There is no overlap on any site. In more detail;

- 22 sites have some spare capacity. The highest amount of spare capacity is at Chesterfield Panthers where 5 match equivalents are available (pitches are rated good and therefore have higher capacity overall, however access by one club means that play is focused on one day. Use of pitches also needs to balance with

requirements for rugby pitches, particularly where access to the clubhouse is also required) and access limited by rugby activity

- There is spare capacity equivalent to 2 match equivalents at Highfield Recreation Ground and Eastwood Park. Eastwood Park has been closed for the majority of the season and teams relocated to Rother Recreation Ground due to ongoing works. The pitch is now ready for use by teams but is currently unused
- There is capacity for 1.5 further match equivalent sessions at Badger Recreation Ground, Loundsley Green Recreation Ground, Netherthorpe School, Robinsons Sports Ground and The Meadows Community School. While each of these sites offers spare capacity currently, it should be recognised that Robinsons Sports Ground is leased to one club (with one team) and therefore in reality, it is unlikely that further use can take place on this site. Meadows Community School has only just fully opened for community access) and there is therefore limited use of this site currently
- The remainder of sites are all able to accommodate just one further match per week
- There are no full sized football pitches that are overplayed currently. Brookfield Community School and Chantry Playing Fields are both played to the level that they can sustain. It should be noted however that capacity of Brookfield School pitches is currently particularly limited by their quality and there is limited opportunity for community use. Like Hasland Community School, Chantry Playing Fields is used by a large club (Staveley Miners Welfare). There is therefore limited opportunity for expansion at this site for adult teams, although the club also use of the main ground
- While there is substantial capacity across the week, there is more limited availability at peak time for adult football (Sunday morning) with just 11.5 match equivalent slots available. This is a direct result of the characteristics of play in the area, with most teams all playing in the Chesterfield Sunday Football league and therefore requiring access to playing pitches at the same time. A review of the sites with availability indicates that;
 - 2 of these slots are at Chesterfield Panthers RUFC. While there is no football use at this time, this is peak time for rugby (for juniors) and there is therefore limited opportunity for use of the adult football pitches due to a lack of availability within the clubhouse for changing accommodation. In theory there are 1.5 slots available at Hasland Community FC (Hasland Hall Community School). This does not however take into account that these pitches are used interchangeably by different teams from the club as other pitches are overplayed and capacity may therefore not always be available;
 - all other sites have capacity for 1 match equivalent or less. Staveley Miners Welfare is one of these sites, however it should be noted that this pitch belongs to a pyramid club and is used outside of this time. While in theory it would be able to sustain another game on a Sunday morning, the pitch is retained for use by the club and the levels of use managed to ensure maximum pitch quality. In reality therefore it is unlikely to be available for use;
 - Eastwood Park (now reopened), The Meadows Community School (now open for community use) and Staveley Junior School are both able to sustain one match equivalent per week; and

- there is more limited availability (0.5 match equivalents) at several Council and school venues (Badger Recreation Ground, Inkersall Green, Loundsley Green, Norbrigg, Netherthorpe and Newbold Schools. There is also spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalents at Robinsons Sports Ground, although like Staveley Miners Welfare, this pitch is managed by a club and in reality, use is restricted to this club.

4.73 For adult football therefore, provision is sufficient to meet current demand overall, although spare capacity is more limited at peak time due to the emphasis on Sunday morning football. There is capacity on almost all sites and capacity at all Council managed venues. Sites approaching capacity are generally associated with large clubs.

4.74 While the majority of full sized pitches are used solely by adult football teams, full sized pitches at Stand Road Park and Poolsbrook are also used by junior teams. This will be returned to later in this section.

Impact of Quality Issues arising later in season

4.75 As outlined earlier in this section, while in theory pitches are of standard quality and able to sustain two games per week, it is known that later in the season and during times of inclement weather, limited drainage systems and lack of proactive maintenance can lead to compacting of the pitch surface and a more limited ability to sustain appropriate levels of match play.

4.76 It is possible to consider the impact of this by reducing the capacity of pitches that are most affected – these are in general the Chesterfield Borough Council single pitch sites, which have no drainage installed (Rother Recreation Ground, Norbriggs Recreation Ground, Badger Recreation Ground, Loundsley Recreation Ground). It indicates that;

- Spare capacity across the week would decrease to 26 match equivalents
- There would be little impact upon peak time capacity, with a reduction in capacity from 11.5 match equivalents to 11.

4.77 The condition of the playing pitches (and the potential impact of the poor maintenance and surface over the course of the season) therefore has little impact on the overall adequacy of provision to meet demand in quantitative terms in the short term. Improvements to the quality of the pitches would increase the capacity of pitches, but the balance of supply and demand at peak time means that pitches are unlikely to be required to sustain additional play.

4.78 The poor quality does however have a significant impact upon the playing experience and can also cause cancellations and fixture backlogs over the season.

4.79 The deterioration in pitch quality over the course of the season, as well as the limited maintenance procedures, may also have longer term impact, with some pitches becoming unsuitable for use or only able to sustain one game on alternative weeks. This would be very detrimental to the overall pitch stock in Chesterfield Borough and would need to be addressed.

Impact of none secured community use

4.80 There is only one site containing an adult football pitch that is unsecured for community use (Staveley Junior School). Exclusion of this site would mean that just 10 match

equivalents are available at peak time and 25 over the course of a week. There is little reliance therefore on unsecured pitches for adult football.

Junior Football

- 4.81 In reality, for most sites across the borough, full sized pitches are used by both junior and adult teams. While in general the size of the pitches means that dimensions are within the range of appropriate minimum and maximum sizes, the size of goal posts is standard, meaning that pitches are not tailored precisely to meet the needs of junior teams. There is however a smaller number of junior teams that use junior sized pitches. The capacity of these pitches is set out in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8 – Capacity at Junior Football Pitches

Site	Community use category	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period for the Pitch Type)	Extent of Spare Capacity in peak period
BROOKFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Secured	2	Poor	2	1.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	Sun AM	0.5
Chantry Playing Fields	Secured	1	Good	4	6.5	-2.5	Being overplayed	0	Sun AM	0
Chesterfield Panthers Rugby - Dunston Road	Secured	1	Good	4	2.5	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	Sun AM	1.5
Dunston Primary School	Unsecured	1	Poor	1	0.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	Sun AM	0.5
HASLAND HALL COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Secured	1	Standard	1.5	3	-1.5	Being overplayed	0	Sun AM	0
Newbold Back Lane	Secured	2	Standard	4	3.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	Sun AM	0
Old Hall Junior School	Unsecured	1	Standard	1	0.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	Sun AM	0.5
THE MEADOWS COMMUNITY	Secured	1	Standard	1.5	0	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate	1.5	Sun AM	1

Site	Community use category	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period for the Pitch Type)	Extent of Spare Capacity in peak period
SCHOOL							some additional play			
BRIMINGTON JUNIOR SCHOOL	Unsecured	2	Standard	2	0	2	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	2	Sun AM	2

4.82 Table 4.8 reveals that overall, there is a small amount of spare capacity at junior (11 v 11) football pitches. Although there are 7 match equivalent sessions per week available, the total overplay is equivalent to 4 match equivalent sessions, meaning that there are 3 match equivalent sessions available on balance. In more detail;

- Seven sites have spare capacity totalling 7 match equivalents. Of this spare capacity;
 - only Brimington Junior School is able to accommodate two matches per week - the pitches at Brimington Junior School currently receive no use at all; and
 - the remaining sites with spare capacity are Brookfield Community School, Chesterfield Panthers Rugby, Dunston Primary School, Newbold Back Lane (Brampton Rovers FC), Old Hall Junior School and the Meadows Community School. The Meadows Community School has only recently become available for community use.
- Like for full sized pitches, higher quantities of play are focused at the sites of large clubs. Chantry Playing Fields is currently being overplayed (2.5) and Hasland Hall Community School is also played to higher levels than the site can sustain (1.5). It should however be noted that activity is interchangeable with other pitch sizes at both of these sites
- There is a similar level of spare capacity available at peak time, with just 6 match equivalent slots available.
 - There is limited spare capacity at peak time at club based facilities, with Chesterfield Panthers (used by Espial FC) having one match equivalent available. None of the remaining club bases are able to sustain further play at peak time
 - Notably, all remaining capacity is at school sites, many of which are already used by one club based team due to the lack of capacity at existing sites.
- Relocation of teams playing on Chantry Playing Fields and Hasland Hall Community School to other sites with capacity would reduce the spare capacity further.

- 4.83 In addition to the above, it should be noted that there are 9 junior teams (predominantly associated with Chesterfield Town FC) that are currently playing on full sized pitches, but are aged between U13 and U16. These facilities are not necessarily tailored to their age groups (goal post size etc) however the relocation of these teams would equate to an additional 4.5 match equivalents across the week and 3 at peak time. This could not be accommodated within the existing pitch stock when taking into account current levels of overplay.
- 4.84 Supply is therefore much more closely balanced with demand for junior football teams.

Impact of unsecured community use arrangements

- 4.85 Added to the identified pressures on the junior pitch stock, as highlighted earlier in this section, the majority of unsecured pitches across the borough are junior pitches and are used to accommodate junior football and 9v9 play. This means that if these facilities were no longer available, the impact would be felt greatest in these age groups.
- 4.86 Dunston Primary School, Brimington Junior School Old Hall Junior School are unsecured for community use. Excluding these facilities from analysis; spare capacity reduces overall to 4 match equivalents and taking into account there is overplay of 4, there is no spare capacity on balance. There are 3 match equivalent slots available at peak time. Brookfield School, Chesterfield Panthers and Meadows Community School are the only sites secured with community use with capacity to sustain additional play.
- 4.87 Added to this, 1 match equivalent session per week take place on unsecured pitches (at Dunston Primary School and Old Hall Primary School) and would need to be accommodated if these pitches were no longer available. There would not be sufficient capacity to accommodate this across the week, although if overplay is not relocated, there is spare capacity at peak time.

Combining Adult and Junior Pitches

- 4.88 The overlap in use between adult and junior pitches in the borough means that it is also important to consider the adequacy of the stock of facilities as a whole. When taking into account the overall stock of facilities and considering only the amount of pitches that are secured for community use;
- there is spare capacity for 30 match equivalents across the week; and
 - the existing stock of pitches can accommodate an additional 13.5 matches per week at peak time.
- 4.89 While there are shortfalls of junior pitches (and the use of full sized pitches by age group teams), it is clear therefore that there are enough pitches overall. Peak time is the same for both junior and senior teams however and it is important that the stock of facilities is appropriately balanced to take into account child protection issues.

9 v 9 Pitches

- 4.90 Table 4.9 summarises the use and spare capacity at 9 v 9 football pitches. These are also known as $\frac{3}{4}$ size pitches in Chesterfield Borough and accommodate teams aged U11 and U12.

Table 4.9 – 9 v 9 Football Pitches

Site	Community use category	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Current Capacity for Community Use	Current Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use During the Peak Period (where relevant)
Cavendish Junior School	Unsecured	1	Standard	1	1.5	-0.5	Being overplayed	0	0
Chesterfield Panthers Rugby - Dunston Road	Secured	1	Good	2	2	0	Being played to the level the site can sustain	0	0
HASLAND HALL COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Secured	1	Standard	1.5	3	-1.5	Being overplayed	0	0
Highfield Recreation Ground	Secured	1	Standard	2	0	2	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	2	1
Newbold Back Lane	Secured	1	Standard	2	2.5	-0.5	Being overplayed	0	0
SPRINGWELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Not available for community use	1	Standard	2	0	2	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	2	2
STAND ROAD PARK	Secured	2	Standard	4	4	0	Being played to the level the site can sustain	0	0
TAPTON PARK	Secured	1	Standard	2	0.5	1.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	1.5	0.5
BROCKWELL JUNIOR SCHOOL	Unsecured	1	Standard	1	0.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0.5
INKERSALL PRIMARY SCHOOL	Unsecured	1	Standard	1	0.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0.5
Highfield Hall Primary School	Unsecured	1	Standard	1	0.5	0.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	0.5	0.5

4.91 Overall, across Chesterfield Borough, there is the equivalent of 5 match equivalent slots available at 9 v 9 football pitches. Overplay is however equivalent to 2.5, meaning that there is total spare capacity of 2.5 on balance. In more detail;

- Hasland Hall (Hasland Community FC) Newbold Back Lane (Brampton Rovers FC) and Cavendish Primary School are the sites that are being overplayed. Cavendish Primary School is currently used by Chesterfield Town, while Brampton Rovers FC use their own site and Hasland Hall Community Club use Hasland Hall Community School– again therefore overplay is associated with the large clubs;
- Chesterfield Panthers RUFC (used by Espial FC) and Stand Road Park (used by several teams from Chesterfield Town FC) are currently accommodating the level of play that they can sustain;
- the only spare capacity is therefore located at Highfield Recreation Ground, Tapton Park, Brockwell Junior School, Inkersall Primary School and Highfield Hall Primary School. Highfield Park is the only pitch that is not used at all, and the curricular use of other sites means that with the exception of Tapton Park (1.5 match equivalents available) all other sites are able to accommodate only 0.5 additional match equivalents per week; and
- play at 9v9 level is more evenly spread than in other age groups, with an emphasis on Saturday morning play, but just under half of all teams wishing to use pitches on a Sunday morning. Peak time availability is equivalent to 3 match equivalents, 1 of which is at Highfield Park.

Impact of Unsecured Pitches

4.92 The use of pitches at unsecured sites by clubs (Cavendish Primary School, Brockwell Junior School, Inkersall Primary School and Highfield Hall Primary School) means that if these sites were to no longer be available, supply is very closely balanced with demand. Unsecured sites currently accommodate 3 match equivalents per week, and the reduced pitch stock would therefore need to host these matches, as well as those already taking place on secured sites. It should also be noted that while the school sites are currently used for matches by clubs as overspill facilities, they in general do not offer any access to changing accommodation or toilets and are not therefore the ideal facilities for this level of football.

4.93 Excluding unsecured sites, spare capacity would reduce to 3.5, with overplay of 2 meaning that there are 1.5 equivalents available on balance. Availability at peak time would also reduce to just 1.5. As illustrated above, unsecured sites currently accommodate three matches per week and the relocation of these games to secured pitches would result in no remaining spare capacity. There is also only just sufficient capacity to meet these needs at peak time.

4.94 The stock of 9v9 pitches is therefore very closely balanced with demand and there is no scope for growth of participation in this age group. It is clear however that overplay is associated with the larger clubs and there is some spare capacity within the public pitch stock.

7 v 7 Pitches

4.95 Table 4.10 summarises the use and spare capacity at 7 v 7 football pitches.

Table 4.10 - Use and Spare Capacity at 7 v 7 Football Pitches

Site	Community use category	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity	Current Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Spare capacity in the peak period
Chesterfield Panthers Rugby - Dunston Road	Secured	1	Good	6	1.5	4.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	4.5	0.5
Highfield Recreation Ground	Secured	1	Standard	4	0	4	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	4	2
HOLMEBROOK VALLEY PARK	Secured	9	Standard	36	19.5	16.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	16.5	0
INKERSALL GREEN PLAYING FIELD	Secured	1	Standard	4	0.5	3.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	3.5	1
Newbold Back Lane	Secured	1	Standard	4	1	3	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	3	2
STANDROAD PARK	Secured	2	Standard	8	1.5	6.5	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	6.5	1.5
Mary Swanwick School	Unsecured	1	Standard	2	0	1	Potentially able to sustain more play	1	1

4.96 Table 4.10 reveals that overall, across Chesterfield Borough, there is spare capacity equivalent to 39 match equivalent slots available at 7v7 football pitches. There are no sites that are currently overplayed. This is however significantly influenced by the high levels of demand at peak time (Saturday morning) with much more limited demand for 7 v 7

pitches outside of this time. Despite 39 match equivalent slots being available across the week, there are just 8 at peak time. It should be noted however that;

- over 50% of spare capacity is located at Holmebrook Valley Park (16.5 match equivalents). There is however no remaining spare capacity at Holmebrook Valley Park at peak time. This site is heavily used by the Rowley Youth League and operates as a central venue facility, attracting teams from outside of Chesterfield Borough as well as more local teams; and
- the remaining spare capacity is split between Stand Road Park, Inkersall Green, Highfield Road Recreation Ground, Newbold Back Lane and Chesterfield Panthers RUFC as well as at Mary Swanwick School. Spare capacity at all of these sites is however also much more limited.

Impact of Unsecured Community Use

- 4.97 There is no reliance upon unsecured pitches for 7 v 7 football pitches with the only site offering unsecured use being Mary Swanwick Junior School. This school is not currently used by any community clubs.

5 v 5 pitches

- 4.98 There are only two sites containing 5 v 5 pitches, specifically Newbold Back Lane (Brampton Rovers FC) and Stand Road Park. There is sufficient capacity at both sites, with an ability to accommodate a further 6 match equivalents at peak time and 3.5 over the course of the week.

Overall picture

- 4.99 Overall, therefore, although there is capacity to accommodate additional demand on full sized football pitches, the amount of spare capacity is however more limited for junior and 9 v9 football (on dedicated pitches). For all pitch types, access to facilities at peak time is a much greater concern than the use of pitches across the week – this is caused by the particularly high concentration of demand at the peak time for each pitch.
- 4.100 The lower levels of spare capacity at junior and 9v9 pitches mean that there are limited opportunities for growth. This issue has also caused a particular reliance upon unsecured sites for pitches of these sizes and there are not enough when excluding sites that are unsecured for community use. For younger teams, there are sufficient 7v7 and 5v5 pitches although like other pitch types, demand is much more constrained at peak time. It is clear therefore that there is an imbalance in the supply and demand of pitches – demand is higher for junior sized pitches, but there are greater numbers of full sized pitches. While new provision is not necessarily required therefore, there is a need to ensure that provision is directly aligned with demand.
- 4.101 The focus of peak time play means that across the borough, and reflecting the overall spare capacity in the pitch stock, very few sites are overplayed. Those that are directly associated with large clubs. This is reflective of consultation, where issues finding appropriate pitches for large clubs (and junior teams) were raised. The preference to locate all club play on a small number of sites is generating overplay, and meaning that other pitches are used less frequently. Chesterfield Town FC in particular highlighted the challenges that they face in securing appropriate facilities and are evidently dispersed across several sites.

- 4.102 While quality concerns emerged as the other (in addition to quantity) key issue through consultation, the emphasis on peak time play means that these have a much lower impact than they would if play was more spread. Most pitches in the borough are used just once per week (at peak time) and improvements to the quality of facilities would not therefore significantly advance capacity in the stock, unless temporal demand for pitches was changed.
- 4.103 The quality of pitches does however clearly impact upon player enjoyment and safety and perceived quality of pitches, alongside the changing rooms that are provided, is evidently a contributing factor for the slight imbalance in the use of pitches.
- 4.104 Longer term, the limited maintenance regimes may impact upon the ability of the pitch stock to meet demand and maintenance issues are also a contributory factor to the deterioration in pitch quality over the course of the season.

Displaced Demand

- 4.105 Added to the issues identified with the pitch stock, there are several teams that are currently displaced (ie travelling out of the borough for competitive fixtures) for a variety of reasons. There are five junior teams displaced, specifically;
- Brimwood United U16 – travel to Bolsover due to lack of facilities in Chesterfield
 - Chesterfield Junior Blues U14 - travel to Bolsover due to lack of facilities in Chesterfield
 - Chesterfield Ladies –U16 – travel to the Arkwright Centre in North East Derbyshire (but happy with facilities provided and cost of pitch hire)
 - Chesterfield Town U15
 - Somersall Rangers U15 – travelling to Holymoorside in North East Derbyshire
- 4.106 With the exception of Chesterfield Ladies, who are happy with their current pitch hire arrangements (unless equivalent and dedicated facilities were provided in Chesterfield) all teams would like to play in Chesterfield if pitches of appropriate quality (and cost) were available. Displaced demand is therefore equivalent to 2 match equivalents per week, 1.5 of which are at peak time.
- 4.107 As set out earlier, demand for junior pitches is high and there is limited spare capacity outside of pitches with unsecured community use although there are numerous full sized pitches available. Teams could be accommodated on junior pitches at sites that are not secured for community access but if unsecured sites are removed from consideration, there would not be enough pitches (unless full sized pitches were used).
- 4.108 Despite evident spare capacity within the borough on full sized pitches, there is also evidence of displaced demand, with the following teams currently travelling;
- Brimwood United U18
 - Chesterfield Ladies – currently playing and training at the Arkwright Centre, North East Derbyshire
 - Somersall Rangers U18
 - Brimington Park Colts – would prefer to play within the borough but travel outside due to lack of appropriate facilities
 - Silver Birches FC – play at Tupton Hall School but would prefer to play at Langer Lane
 - FC Brimington – play at Castle Farm Recreation Ground but would prefer to play within Chesterfield
 - Old Whittington U18 – currently play at Doe Lee Park.

- 4.109 Displaced demand for adult teams is therefore equivalent to 3.5 match equivalents per week. There is scope to accommodate all the above teams within the existing infrastructure, although most indicate that they currently travel outside the borough due to a lack of facilities of appropriate quality and / or cost of facility hire for the quality of facilities provided rather than an overall lack of facilities. Improvements to the quality of facilities may therefore see many of these teams return.
- 4.110 It should also be noticed that a small number of teams highlighted that the current pitch stock may constrain club development in the longer term, with insufficient facilities for those wishing to play at a higher standard and to progress through the league pyramid structure.

Latent Demand

- 4.111 The Active People survey indicated that participation could be increased by 17%.
- 4.112 Added to this, several clubs indicate that they believe that a shortage of junior pitches is inhibiting club development and the growth of the sport in Chesterfield. Several teams indicate that there are already too many junior teams for the amount of pitches available and that the pitches provided do not match the requirements of the local teams. Notably, it is predominantly junior clubs who raise these concerns (although some adult teams also raise issues with the amount of facilities provided for junior clubs) and in particular, the smaller junior clubs, many of whom indicate that they struggle to access appropriate facilities as they are competing with large clubs with multiple teams. These include Chesterfield Reds FC, Spire Rangers JFC, Old Whittington Miners Welfare and Somersall Rangers. Hasland Community Club indicate that the number of teams that they run is now being directly constrained by the pitches that they have access to, and Brampton Rovers FC also believe that there is little scope for club growth until the club are able to access further appropriate pitches. These concerns may be indicative of the issues identified through capacity analysis which suggests an imbalance between full size pitches and junior pitches.
- 4.113 In contrast, the amount of facilities provided is not considered to negatively impact upon participation in the adult game currently. Instead, some adult teams, as well as league secretaries, believe that an improvement in facility quality would stimulate increased participation.
- 4.114 It is clear therefore that teams believe there to be insufficient facilities for junior football in particular and as a consequence, latent demand. This links with the identified pressures on junior football pitches identified earlier in this section.

Future Picture of Provision

- 4.115 The future requirement for playing pitches will be impacted by several factors, including;
- Population growth or change to the demographic profile of the population;
 - Changes in participation trends and in how pitch sports are played;
 - Club specific development plans and aspirations; and
 - Amendments to the current facility stock.
- 4.116 These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand for playing pitches.

Forthcoming Changes to Supply

4.117 While this assessment provides a picture of pitches currently available for use, there are forecast to be several changes taking place for the season 2014 – 2015 as follows;

- The opening of Chesterfield College Langer Lane Site – Once reopened, the field will include two adult football pitches as well as a 7 v 7 pitch and some training grids. While the primary purpose will be curricular activity, the site will also be secured for community use. Taking into account college use, the new playing fields is likely to provide an additional 3 match equivalents per week for adult football as well as additional capacity for mini soccer (2 matches at peak time and 4 across the week as a whole)
- Brookfield School have recently been awarded a Football Foundation Grant and Sport England funding for the improvement of the school playing fields through the installation of drainage systems. This will enable an upgrade of the existing adult and junior football pitches, as well as the provision of two further lower grade pitches. The pitch improvements will improve the capacity of the site for curricular use, as well as providing a potential additional match equivalent for adult football and 2 match equivalents for junior football pitches in the longer term. Temporary provision will be available while work is carried out, although it is unclear whether this will be of sufficient quality to sustain community use as well as curricular requirements
- Holmebrook Valley Park is currently partly closed while drainage is installed in the site following a Football Foundation grant. It is anticipated that the new drainage will provide significant additional capacity, potentially offering 6 new pitches (5 senior and 1 9v9 pitch) meaning that provision will equate to an additional 15 match equivalents (5 at peak time) for adult football pitches and 3 match equivalents (1 at peak time) for 9v9 teams. The current plans will see a slight reduction in the number of mini football pitches to accommodate this (3 mini pitches fewer).

4.118 Assuming that pitch quality is of appropriate standard, this will increase capacity in the existing pitch stock by;

- 7 adult pitches (as well as improvements to existing pitches) – increased capacity of 19 match equivalents per week, although just 3 additional match equivalents at peak time;
- 1 additional 9v9 pitch, and increased capacity for junior play at Brookfield School – circa 3 match equivalents per week (1 at peak time); and
- an increase of 4 match equivalents per week (2 at peak time) at Langer Lane, however this would be offset by the conversion of mini pitches at Holmebrook Valley Park.

4.119 Based upon current demand, this would have the following impact upon the supply and demand balance;

- Capacity for adult football will increase significantly and will be more than able to accommodate ongoing demand in quantitative terms
- There will be a very small increase in the junior pitch stock, however junior play will still be constrained

- Mini pitch provision will be closely matched with demand – there is limited availability at peak time for mini pitches and pitches at Holmebrook Valley Park are full to capacity due to usage by the Rowsley Youth League. The loss of three pitches will mean that capacity is reduced to just 5 match equivalents at peak time.

4.120 In addition to the overall increase in the pitch stock, the work that is currently underway will also generate improvements to the quality of pitches, providing improved user satisfaction as well as increasing the capacity of facilities. The improvements that have been undertaken will also ensure the longevity of the pitches over the coming years.

4.121 There are no known further plans that will impact upon the stock of football pitches in the borough.

Population Change

4.122 Analysis in Section 3 indicated that while the population of Chesterfield is likely to increase, changes to the population profile mean that the proportion of people within the age groups most likely to play pitch sports will increase at a much slower rate. Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are used to project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth.

4.123 Table 4.11 summarises the current TGRs for football and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected population change on demand for football. It reveals that by 2031;

- adult football participation is likely to remain broadly in line with current levels with an overall increase of just over 2 teams (1 match equivalent);
- the number of people aged between 10 and 15 will increase slightly, leading to growth in participation equivalent to 5 male teams and 1 junior female team by 2031 (3 match equivalents); and
- the highest growth in participation will occur in mini soccer, with an additional 23 teams created (11.5 match equivalents per week).

Table 4.11 – TGRs for Football in Chesterfield Borough

Sport and Age Groups	Number of teams in age group within the area	Current Population in Age Group	Current TGR	Population in Age Group (2021)	Population Change in Age Group	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (Number of Teams) Current – 2021
Football Adult Men (16-45yrs)	73	19261	393.087	20089	828	2.11
Football Adult Women (16-45yrs)	49	21960	7320.12	20909	-1051	-0.14
Football Youth Boys (10-15yrs)	3	3602	50.7274	3829	227	4.48
Football Youth Girls (10-15yrs)	71	3742	623.726	3985	243	0.39
Football Mini Soccer Mixed (6-9yrs)	6	4001	70.193	5635	1634	23

4.124 These increases would mean that;

- based upon the current pitch stock, there would remain sufficient adult football pitches to meet demand (spare capacity of 31 match equivalents per week and 10.5 slots available at peak time). Assuming the new pitches do reopen during 2014 – 2015 season, spare capacity will increase to almost 50 match equivalents, although it will remain at just 13.5 at peak time;
- the requirement to accommodate an additional 3 match equivalent sessions per week will place extra pressures on the existing stock of junior pitches. When taking into account all available facilities, there are sufficient pitches to accommodate this increase (currently 4 match equivalents across the week and circa 6 at peak time). When excluding sites that are unsecured for community use, provision is however insufficient to sustain this additional play. The forthcoming changes to the pitch stock will increase pitch provision slightly (3 match equivalents over the course of the week and 1 at peak time) but facilities will remain constrained; and
- for mini soccer, there is currently capacity for 8 matches at peak time and further spare capacity during the week. The increase of 11.5 match equivalents per week can be accommodated across the week, but the likely focus of demand at peak time would mean that provision would be very constrained. The changes to the pitch stock will lead to a similar number of pitches being available.

4.125 Overall therefore, population growth will serve to increase demand for pitches in the borough and place additional pressures on the already limited spare capacity for younger age groups. The amount of spare capacity on adult pitches will however remain more than sufficient to meet demand and will provide opportunities to reconfigure the pitch stock to accommodate junior and mini play. Unless patterns of temporal demand change, it is however likely that the impact will be felt at peak time.

4.126 It is likely that increased demand will be concentrated in specific areas of the borough, in areas where population growth is most likely to occur. This includes north Chesterfield, Staveley, local centres and regeneration priority areas. While almost all sites currently have capacity for additional play (and indeed the Council are seeking a strategic approach to the provision of football pitches which focuses upon multi pitch sites of higher quality rather than localised single pitch sites) it is likely to be in these areas where future provision will be most important. It is notable that provision in Staveley is already closely matched with demand.

Changes in Participation Trends and How Sport is Played

4.127 Although population growth will influence demand, changes in participation may perhaps have the greatest impact on demand for playing pitches. As demonstrated earlier in this section, while the borough has experienced significant decline in adult football, there has been growth in junior and mini soccer. If this continues;

- the already constrained stock of junior football pitches would become even more unevenly balanced with demand and mini soccer pitches (7 v 7 and 5 v 5) would also become insufficient; and
- the stock of adult football pitches would remain sufficient and spare capacity may increase. If issues relating to the drop off in the transition between junior and senior football were addressed however through initiatives being driven by Derbyshire FA, capacity may become more in balance with supply (if additional teams were

generated at peak time). There is more than sufficient capacity to accommodate growth in participation outside peak time.

- 4.128 Successful interventions to address latent demand may increase the number of residents playing and have a significant impact on the demand for pitches.
- 4.129 Across the borough, many clubs have aspirations to grow, and current growth plans are equivalent to 37 teams, specifically;
- 5 adult teams;
 - 19 teams requiring junior or 9v9 pitches; and
 - 13 teams requiring mini soccer pitches.
- 4.130 Key aspirations are summarised in Appendix F. It is clear that if aspirations are to be achieved, there is reliance upon Chesterfield Borough Council and school sites for pitches, as none of the clubs with significant aspirations have their own grounds.
- 4.131 The impact of these growth aspirations will be felt across Chesterfield Borough. There are no clear sites or locations which will be particularly impacted however, as almost all of these clubs are already dispersed across multiple venues. When adding these aspirations to additional teams arising from projected population growth, by 2031, the total increased future demand will be;
- 7 adult teams (3.5 match equivalents per week);
 - 25 junior teams (12 match equivalents per week); and
 - 36 mini soccer teams (13 match equivalents per week).
- 4.132 This would have the following impact upon the existing situation;
- spare capacity of adult pitches would reduce to 26.5 match equivalents per week and availability at peak time would drop to circa 8 match equivalents per week. Assuming that new pitches do open in 2014 / 2015 season however, peak time availability would be 11 match equivalents, while there would be overall spare capacity of 45.5 match equivalents;
 - the stock of junior pitches would be insufficient to accommodate the required level of demand (there are currently 6 match equivalents available at peak time across the week. 12 additional match equivalents per week would require at least 6 further pitches (or access to pitches that are currently unsecured). This could be accommodated through the reconfiguration (or use) of the full size pitch stock. The proposed changes to the pitch stock will have limited impact upon the stock of pitches, adding just 3 additional match equivalents across the week and 1 pitch; and
 - the capacity of mini pitches would also be constrained – there are currently just 8 match equivalents available at peak time. With the majority of play taking place at peak time, even if matches were played consecutively (which is possible for mini football), the number of teams is very closely balanced with the number of pitches.

Other Proposed Changes

4.133 In recognition of the changes that will take place next season, and following the reintroduction of pitches at Holmebrook Valley Park, Chesterfield Borough Council are also proposing changes to the stock of pitches in their control. These seek to;

- focus activity upon multi pitch sites;
- ensure that the balance of pitches meets demand; and
- direct play to pitches that are of better quality and accompanied by improved changing accommodation.

4.134 Changes are not yet finalised, but proposed changes will see;

- the amount of football pitches remain static overall -for adult football, 7 existing pitches will no longer be marked out (Highfield Park 3, Badger Rec, Loundsley Green, Norbriggs and Rother Recreation Ground). These will however be replaced with 5 new pitches (Holmebrook Valley) and two new pitches at Chesterfield College. The capacity of pitches at Brookfield also improved. Pitch provision therefore remains constant overall and across Chesterfield Borough, in quantitative terms there are sufficient pitches to meet demand;
- there will be a slight reduction in junior pitches due to the loss of pitches at Highfield Park, Tapton and Stand Road and creation of only one at Holmebrook Valley – this may result in a shortage of pitches unless teams either use adult pitches or provision at school sites is reconfigured; and
- recognising the loss of pitches at Holmebrook Valley Park identified earlier, mini pitches will be reconfigured (gain 4 at Highfield Park to replace the adult pitches that will not be marked, 1 at Inkersall Playing Fields and 2 at Stand Road). Provision will be slightly above existing levels and will be sufficient to meet current requirements, and just sufficient to meet future need longer term (additional 8 match equivalents generated at peak time- current supply has 8 match equivalent slots available. While population growth will see an increase of 11.5 match equivalents at peak time, there will be capacity to accommodate up to 16 additional matches.

4.135 Supporting the above proposals, it is intended that Badger Recreation Ground, Loundsley Green, Norbriggs, Rother Recreation Ground, Somersall Park and part of Stand Road Park will be returned to green space. This means that there will be additional playing field space available should population growth and / or participation increase above levels anticipated. These pitches are able to accommodate an additional 6 adult pitches, 2 junior / 9v9 pitches and several mini football pitches.

4.136 There are also several other former playing fields that remain out of use and are not included within calculations in this assessment.

FA Aspirations for Growth

4.137 The FA Football Participation Report (2012 – 2013) indicates that when comparing participation against similar authorities, Chesterfield ranks first out of all authorities in terms of participation levels. Based upon this, the FA believe that there is relatively limited latent demand for football in the area. FA priorities focus around the retention of existing players

and the development of areas of the game currently in decline or experiencing issues with drop out.

4.138 Perhaps of greatest significance however, changes to youth football have only been introduced in the last year (including the creation of 5 v 5 and 9 v 9) and as such, the impact is not yet fully apparent. In pilot areas, the introductions of these new formats have seen an increase in the number of teams playing and greater retention of players through the older age groups.

4.139 The FA therefore believe that there will be an increase in the overall number of teams (and participants) in future years as a result of the youth review and that higher levels of demand will occur as a result. This emphasises the importance of ongoing monitoring of supply and demand.

AGPS for Football

4.140 Artificial pitches are frequently used for football training and are becoming more commonplace for competitive play (and are now approved surfaces by FIFA). There are a variety of different surfaces of AGPs and their suitability for football is as follows;

- Long pile 3g with shock pad – suitable
- Long pile 3g – preferred surface for football
- Short pile 3g – acceptable surface for some competitive football and football training
- Sand filled – acceptable surface for football training
- Sand dressed – acceptable surface for football training
- Water based – acceptable surface for football training if irrigated.

4.141 In Chesterfield Borough, there is one full sized pitch with a 3g surface (the preferred surface for football) located at Brookfield School. This pitch is on the FA register of 3g pitches, is approved for use in competitive fixtures and is a high quality facility with associated changing facilities. It was built during 2010 and several charter standard clubs are linked to the site

4.142 There is a further small sized 3g pitch at Queens Park Sports Centre which can be used for training and small sided games. This was built in 2008 and is also of good quality.

4.143 The remaining pitches (3 full sized and 2 small sized) have sand based surfaces which can be used for football training but are not approved surfaces for competitive fixtures. While Springwell Community College is a new facility (built 2011), the pitch at St Marys High School is almost 15 years old and the surface is poor. The facility at Newbold Community School was built in 2006 and has a good surface but is not floodlit, restricting the overall use of the pitch outside of school hours. Although grass pitches at Springwell Community College and St Marys RC High School are not available for community use, both schools hire out their AGPs.

4.144 Notably, only the pitch at Queens Park Sports Centre is managed by Chesterfield Borough Council. All other facilities are at school sites and managed internally, or by Facilities for All (Commercial management company). This represents a departure from grass pitches, where the Council are the primary managers and are in control of access to facilities.

Demand

4.145 Despite the approval of the FA to use 3g pitches for competitive fixtures, there is little evidence of use of these pitches for formal matches in Chesterfield currently. There are however several small sided leagues that exclusively take place on AGPs specifically;

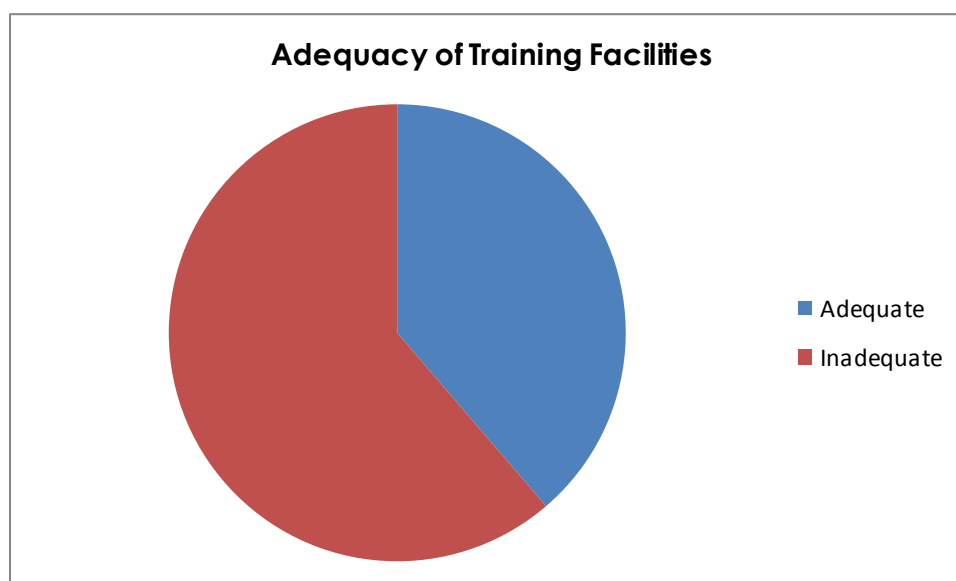
- Brookfield Community School – Leisure Leagues (Sunday PM);
- Brookfield Community School – Champion Soccer League (Monday);
- St Marys RC High School – Champion Soccer League (Tuesday);
- St Marys RC High School – Amateur Football Leagues (Sunday); and
- Springwell Community School – Amateur Football leagues (Thursday and Monday).

4.146 Over 90% of clubs that run formal training sessions use AGPs. While almost all junior clubs train at least once per week, a lower proportion of adult teams train (although many play in 5 a side leagues midweek). Brookfield Community School is the most popular training venue. This is influenced by the 3g surface, which is the preferred surface for football.

4.147 In addition to the use of other pitches within Chesterfield Borough, there is evidence of teams also travelling to use facilities outside the borough at Clowne College (small sized sand AGP), Tupton Hall School (two pitches), Killamarsh Sports Centre (small sized AGP) and The Arkwright Centre.

4.148 Access to training facilities was one of the key issues highlighted by clubs during the consultation process as demonstrated by Chart 4.1.

Chart 4.1 – Adequacy of Training Facilities



4.149 The perception that facilities are inadequate was almost wholly attributed to the perceived lack of AGPs in the borough (and in particular 3g AGPs) and resulting challenges in accessing these facilities. This suggests that facilities are at capacity. The cost of using AGPs was highlighted as a barrier by some, in particular adult teams who would need to hire the whole facility but would have fewer players to spread the cost. Cost is therefore an important consideration when evaluating the need to provide additional facilities.

4.150 The adequacy of AGPs to accommodate demand for football, taking into account both training and competitive fixtures is discussed in the section that follows. Demand for

hockey is also considered (and will be discussed with specific reference to hockey in Section 7) as there can often be competing demands from these two sports.

Adequacy of Provision

4.151 Supply and demand is measured on a site specific basis considering;

- a. the amount of play that a site is able to sustain - based upon the number of hours that the pitch is accessible to the community during peak periods (up to a maximum of 34 hours per week). Peak periods have been deemed to be Monday to Thursday 17:00 to 21:00; Friday 17:00 to 19:00 and Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 17:00;
- b. the amount of play that takes place (measured in hours); and
- c. whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage.

4.152 Table 4.12 summarises the capacity of the existing AGPs across the week, comparing the number of hours that a pitch is available at peak times with the demand for pitches.

4.153 It should be noted that club and provider consultation has been used to compile usage for AGPs. Whilst the analysis seeks to represent the regular weekly usage, it is clear that there is significant variation across the borough from week to week.

Table 4.12 – Site Specific Activity at AGPs

Site	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Peak Time Capacity for Community Use (Hours)	Current Community Use (Hours)	Comparison	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use During the Peak Period	Key Issues and Views
Brookfield Community School	1	Good	26	23.5	Being played to the level the site can sustain	2.5	0	As the only site containing a full size 3g pitch there is very limited capacity, although some capacity at weekends. Six a side league on Sunday. No availability during the week. Key site for large football clubs in the area - Chesterfield Town, Brampton Rovers, Somersall Rangers and Chesterfield Junior Blues. Six a side league Monday PM also. Limited use of AGP for competitive fixtures although pitches offers potential for this purpose due to position on FA register and surface provided. Facility is good quality
Hasland Hall Community School	2	Standard	36	22	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	14	8	Site used extensively by Hasland Community Club, who access many of the peak time slots for training. Not open at weekends so all spare capacity is at peak time. Pitches are small sized and sand based so no opportunity for use in competitive fixtures. There is potential that Espial FC will begin training at Chesterfield Panthers during 2014 which will increase the spare capacity at this site. Some informal / casual usage also thought to take place at this site.
Newbold Community School	1	Standard	14	3	Potentially able to accommodate	11	0	Capacity of pitch significantly limited by lack of floodlights. This removes the ability to use the pitch at peak time. Capacity

Site	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Peak Time Capacity for Community Use (Hours)	Current Community Use (Hours)	Comparison	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use During the Peak Period	Key Issues and Views
					some additional play			Saturday PM and Sunday for further play. Used Saturday morning
Queens Park Sports Centre	1	Good	34	26	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	8	2	Good quality facility with regular usage. While facility is used by some clubs, usage is primarily informal casual bookings – five a side etc.
Springwell Community Centre	1	Good	30	15	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	15	0	Site used exclusively for football despite sand based surface. School have relationship with Chesterfield FC which limits access for some other clubs. Also booked Mon and Thurs for development activity. Limited availability if any at peak time. Site also used by the FA for coaching sessions, as well as the delivery of Tesco skills sessions and small sided competitive leagues.
St Marys RC High School	1	Poor	34	25	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	9	3	Site used exclusively for hockey at weekends, meaning that there is scope to expand this activity. Majority of spare capacity at weekends (Sunday - outside of hockey peak time although there is a small sided league that takes place). A small amount of spare capacity midweek.

4.154 The key messages arising from Table 4.10 at a site specific level are as follows;

- all AGPs offer community use, although it is clear that use of the facility at Newbold Community School is restricted – this is due to the lack of floodlights on the site;
- the significant proportion of all play that takes place on AGPs is football. While hockey requirements will be returned to in Section 7, table 4.10 indicates that hockey is isolated to St Marys RC High School and football is the key usage of all other pitches regardless of surface;
- there is limited spare capacity at any full sized pitch and limited capacity for additional activity at peak time. Of the full size pitches, only St Marys RC High School has any availability and this is limited – 3 hours per week maximum. This reflects the consultation undertaken with football clubs who believe existing facilities to be difficult to access;
- the smaller pitches are also well used, with both Queens Park Sports Centre and Hasland Hall Community College acting as training venues for clubs, as well as more casual / informal pitch bookings. A high proportion of use of Queens Park Sports Centre is casual / informal bookings;
- while AGPs are important facilities for club training, much capacity is used by block bookings for small sided leagues (18 hours in total). All of the full sized pitches with the exception of Newbold host at least one league. As well as midweek peak periods, these leagues also take place on Sunday evenings; and
- there is little known use of the AGPs within Chesterfield Borough by clubs outside.

4.155 Looking more widely at the adequacy of provision across Chesterfield Borough it can be seen that;

- 85% of activity on full sized AGPs is football – just 15 hours out of 104 available at peak times are dedicated to hockey. Despite this, only one full sized pitch (and one small sided pitch) has a surface that is dedicated to football;
- taking into account just full sized pitches that are available to the community, peak time capacity is 104 hours, while demand equates to 66 hours. This means that pitches are operating overall at 64% capacity on average. A further 15 hours activity take place at Hasland Hall Community School (2 small sided pitches) and Queens Park Sports Centre is also busy (28 hours);
- all spare capacity exists at weekends however. Across all full sized pitches, there are just 3 hours available midweek, meaning that there is limited spare capacity for additional activity on full sized AGPs and there is a similar pattern on smaller pitches too (although potentially greater levels of informal use on Saturday / Sunday). Analysis of current training patterns however suggests that the majority of clubs do access a facility already;
- while capacity is limited, restricted opening hours perhaps do have a part to play in this. Brookfield and Springwell Schools do not open until almost 6pm, meaning that community activity cannot take place before this; **and**
- there is significant scope to increase the amount of activity on pitches at weekends. While there is some small sided competitive leagues that take place, as well as

hockey, outside of ad hoc training and coaching sessions, there is spare capacity. Brookfield Community School is however the only AGP which is on the FA register as being suitable for use in affiliated football leagues due to its surface type and the opportunity to use AGPs for competitive fixtures is therefore limited.

4.156 The capacity of AGPs is therefore relatively constrained, particularly during midweek at peak times. Increases in participation are likely to result in higher demand for training facilities and there is currently little scope to accommodate this within the existing infrastructure.

4.157 Added to this, the proportion of activity on AGPs is biased towards football, however only one full sized and one small sided pitch are the preferred surface for football currently. This impacts upon the suitability of the pitch stock, but also reduces the role of the AGPs as it means that these pitches cannot be used for competitive fixtures.

Sport England Facility Planning Model

4.158 Activity on a site by site basis can be compared with theoretical modelling produced by Sport England through the Facility Planning Model (FPM) 2013. This assessment considers the adequacy of full sized AGPs based upon nationally agreed parameters and considered demand and supply across the whole of Derbyshire. It therefore takes into account the interrelationship between pitches in North East Derbyshire and Bolsover. The key messages arising from the assessment are;

- supply of pitches per 10000 residents (0.38 pitches) is marginally lower than the midlands average (0.4) and the Derbyshire County wide average (0.4);
- demand in Chesterfield is equivalent to 2270 visits per week in the peak period, equivalent to 3 AGPs. The ageing population profile will mean that this is similar in future years, as the propensity of the population to play pitch sports will decrease as it ages, mitigating the impact of population growth;
- whilst overall demand equates to 3 AGPs, the separate data for football and hockey demand illustrates that demand equates to 1 AGP for hockey and at least 2 AGPs for football;
- based purely upon a baseline supply and demand assessment, there is a small shortfall of 0.2 AGPs both currently and in future years. This can be broken down into a slight surplus of hockey provision (0.11 pitches by 2028) and a shortfall of football provision (0.35 pitches by 2028);
- satisfied demand takes into account the location of existing pitches. Analysis demonstrates that 91% of demand is satisfied, which is below regional and county averages. Over 33% of demand from Chesterfield residents is exported to other areas. The model reveals that satisfied demand for hockey usage is only 87% (with nearly 60% met by exports). For football however, satisfied demand is 91%; and
- on balance, unmet demand is equivalent to 0.3 AGPs across the borough and most unmet demand is caused by a lack of capacity. There are no hotspots of unmet demand where new provision would be clearly justified. Reflecting the findings of satisfied demand, unmet demand is slightly higher for hockey than for football (assuming the continued use of sand based pitches for football).

4.159 The conclusions of the modelling undertaken by Sport England therefore suggest that;

- the existing stock of AGPs is at capacity;
- there is a poor balance between the different types of surface given the shift to 3g surfaces by the FA; and
- there is a need to consider supplementing the existing stock through either a small AGP, an additional 3g AGP and the replacement of the carpet at St Marys RC High School.

4.160 This reflects the feedback received from clubs.

Key Issues

4.161 The findings of this assessment for football and the key issues arising are summarised in Section 11.

Introduction

5.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for cricket and provides:

- An overview of the supply of cricket pitches across Chesterfield Borough
- An outline of demand for cricket pitches across Chesterfield Borough
- An understanding of activity at individual sites
- A picture of the adequacy of provision to meet current and projected need.

Cricket in Chesterfield – An Overview Pitch Supply

5.2 There are six active sites containing facilities for cricket. This figure includes all known public, private, school and other pitches whether or not they are in secured community use. Pitches available are summarised in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 – Cricket Pitches across Chesterfield Borough

Site	Fine Turf Provision	Non Turf Provision	Community Use	Management
Brearley Park	1 grass square, 8 strips	Concrete practice wickets only	Secured Community Use	Chesterfield Borough Council
Eastwood Park	1 grass square – 6 strips	None	Secured Community Use	Chesterfield Borough Council
Queens Park	1 grass square – 17 strips	Artificial wicket and training nets	Secured Community Use	Chesterfield Borough Council
Robinsons Sports Ground	1 grass square – 9 strips.	None	Secured Community Use	Sports Club (leased)
Staveley Miners Welfare Cricket Club	1 grass square – 13 strips	1 artificial wicket, training nets	Secured Community Use	Sports Club
Brookfield School	1 grass square – 6 strips	1 artificial wicket	Secured Community Use	Community School

5.3 Table 5.1 reveals that;

- all of the six grass squares are secured for community use;
- not all sites have an artificial wicket or training facility, with Brearley Park, Eastwood Park and Robinsons Sports Ground all containing only grass facilities. This means that training opportunities are more restricted (and may impact upon the demand for grass squares);
- Chesterfield Borough Council is the main provider of existing facilities, meaning that there remains an reliance upon the Council to support cricket as a sport; and
- there is limited access to cricket facilities for schools, with only one school having an on site pitch (Brookfield Community School). This pitch is also let out for community use.

- 5.4 In addition to the above sites, there are two former cricket pitches managed by Chesterfield Borough Council that are no longer laid out. These were located at Stand Road Park and Somersall Park and have recently been withdrawn due to a lack of demand. Plans for Chesterfield Panthers RUFC are believed to have included a grass cricket facility, but this has never been delivered. The former GKN site is also believed to have historically contained a cricket pitch.
- 5.5 Map 5.1 (later in this section) demonstrates that cricket pitches are relatively unevenly distributed, with a focus on the south of Chesterfield Town and the north east. There is a lack of provision towards the north and the west.

Pitch Quality

- 5.6 The quality of cricket pitches is average overall, with just two pitches rated as good. Staveley CC and Queens Park are the only sites that are rated as good. Staveley CC is a well maintained club site, while Queens Park is used by Chesterfield CC and is of first class standard, accommodating national representative games as well as local club fixtures.
- 5.7 Table 5.2 summarises the quality of each site and the issues identified relating to quality through site visits and user consultation.

Table 5.2 – Quality Issues at cricket clubs

Location	Quality Rating	Comments
Brearley Park	Standard – Poor	Overall quality poor. Technical assessment highlighted uneven bounce. Outfield also uneven. Issues with vandalism to changing accommodation and maintenance perceived to be limited
Eastwood Park	Standard - Poor	Bumpy outfield, recent drainage works. Buildings in poor condition - new pavilion required if to be effectively used for cricket
Robinsons Sports Ground	Standard	Poor access to site. Location in close proximity to river means loss of balls. No protection for square and several wickets appear worn. Some rips in training practice areas and surface lifting up. Duck droppings. Poor quality changing accommodation does not meet with league quality criteria
Chesterfield Cricket Club	Good	Excellent facility, close to 1st class. Wickets under repair at time of visit, artificial wicket off square for practice only. All basic facilities provided and pitch quality even and wicket smooth. Changing pavilion good and includes spectator facilities
Brookfield Community School	Standard - Poor	Facility meets curricular requirements, but clubs indicate that site is suitable only for a relatively low level of cricket and that outfield is bumpy and wicket requires rolling. Some maintenance issues.
Staveley Welfare CC	Good	Good quality facility that exceeds DCLL regulations. Artificial wicket appears to have little use, but overall condition of ground is good.

5.8 Consultation with clubs, providers and the Derbyshire Cricket Board with regards quality revealed that;

- there is a concern that quality is deteriorating through a combination of overuse and reducing focus on maintenance. Chesterfield Borough Council in particular have limited maintenance budgets and are experiencing difficulties in delivering facilities that are of appropriate quality to meet user aspirations. The sustainability of the provision of cricket facilities is a significant issue moving forwards;
- the quality of pitches is believed to be inhibiting demand with teams suggesting that they are forced to travel outside of the borough to find appropriate facilities to use (Chesterfield CC are currently evidence of this);
- there are perceived to be insufficient / poor training facilities on some sites (most notably Brearley Park and Robinsons Sports Ground); and
- clubs are concerned about the impact of vandalism on cricket pitches. Two of the four clubs have experienced recent issues with their pavilions and there are also problems occurring due to litter / misuse of cricket outfield.

Demand

Active People and Market Segmentation (Sport England)

5.9 The Sport England Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data provides an understanding of participation in cricket and latent demand for cricket.

5.10 It reveals that participation in cricket is geographically even across Chesterfield Borough at a middle super output area level, suggesting that the distribution of existing facilities does not impact upon participation. The participants in cricket in Chesterfield are those that are nationally most likely to play (Jamie, Tim, and Philip). There is however also evidence of participation by females falling into the Jackie segment (19). There are higher participation profiles for both Kev and Philip than national averages, while fewer than expected Tims and Jamies currently play cricket, suggesting that there may be an opportunity to grow the sport further.

5.11 Reflecting this, analysis of latent demand suggests that only 60% of the total population that would like to play cricket currently do so. Those that want to are in the same groups (Jamie, Tim and Philip) as well as Kev, who exhibits the highest levels of unmet demand (and significantly higher than national averages for Kev). This supports the perception that there is potential to increase participation through targeting these groups. Like current participation, latent demand is evenly spread across the borough although it should be noted that there is a concentration of residents in the category Kev in the Whittington area, suggesting that initiatives to increase participation at Brearley Park (Whittington CC) may be successful.

Current Participation

5.12 Table 5.3 summarises the current participation in cricket in Chesterfield Borough and also outlines the recent trends in membership. Full details are provided in Appendix E.

Table 5.3 – Cricket Teams in Chesterfield

Club and Home Ground	Adult Teams	Junior Teams	Membership Trends
Staveley CC – Staveley CC	3 (including midweek team that use facility)	4	Decline, particular issues in attracting and retaining junior players
Whittington Wanderers – Brearley Park	4	0	Static participation, no junior section
Chesterfield Cricket Club – Queens Park.	4	4	Increasing senior and junior sections, particularly younger senior players. Junior section thought to be benefitting from stronger links with schools
Chesterfield Barbarians - Robinsons Sports Ground. Club also use Brookfield School	5	7 (including a girls team)	Static participation, but thought of as most proactive club currently. Largest club in terms of number of teams

- 5.13 Table 5.3 reveals that there are a total of 31 cricket teams spread across 4 clubs. Just over 50% of teams are senior male with the remainder junior teams, suggesting that there are foundations for the growth of cricket across the longer term.
- 5.14 There are however mixed trends in membership, with participation predominantly static and Chesterfield CC the only club experiencing growth. Overall, across Chesterfield, there has been declining participation in cricket in recent years. This is attributed by both clubs and the Derbyshire Cricket Board to the closure of work based clubs, a lack of focus on cricket development and the poor condition of existing facilities as well as challenges in maintaining cricket grounds. The overall decline can perhaps most visibly be demonstrated through the decline of the midweek league which has gone from a buoyant local league to having fewer than 8 teams.
- 5.15 Reflecting the overall decline and the small number of clubs, the Derbyshire Cricket Board believe cricket to be underdeveloped in the area – just 12% of Derbyshire cricket output is in North Derbyshire (which includes the authorities of Chesterfield, Bolsover, NE Derbyshire) despite a significantly higher proportion of the population being based in these parts. Furthermore, in terms of actual numbers of clubs, those based across North Derbyshire account for 25% of clubs in Derbyshire in numerical terms. This suggests that none only are there comparatively few clubs in the area, but also that activity at the existing clubs is limited, meaning that there is scope to increase activity at the existing club bases as well as create new clubs.
- 5.16 Table 5.3 indicates that 5 of the 6 cricket pitches in the borough are currently used by clubs. There is no existing use of Eastwood Park, although the site has been subject to refurbishment during 2013 and does not currently have a pavilion suitable for use. This will be provided during 2014 and funding has already been secured (Sport England) for this purpose. There are also issues at this site with the location of the play area and the proximity of this to the potential cricket square.

Representative Teams

- 5.17 In addition to club based used, Chesterfield CC is also used for national representative games. This adds to the wear and tear on the facility but also requires the ground to meet with high quality standards demanded for play at this level.

Training Needs

- 5.18 Three of the four clubs highlight a lack of training facilities as being detrimental to club development and refer to a lack of both indoor and outdoor training equipment. The nearest specialist indoor centre is in Derby. Training outdoors takes place on artificial wickets and in training nets at the club base during the summer.
- 5.19 While Chesterfield CC and Staveley CC do have on site training facilities, neither Chesterfield Barbarians or Whittington Wanderers have an artificial wicket or training nets of appropriate quality. This can place extra pressures on the grass square, which must be used for training.

Educational Demand

- 5.20 Demand for formal cricket pitches is much less evident from the education sector than other sports. While many primary schools play cricket and have cricket teams, this is primarily kwik cricket played indoors or on the playground. The Chance to Shine Programme, which brings cricket back into primary schools and seeks to create strong links between schools and clubs has however been particularly successful and may have contributed to the small increase in junior cricket participation at clubs. There are much lower levels of participation at a secondary school level.
- 5.21 Reflecting the low levels of participation, There is limited evidence of use of cricket club facilities by schools, with only Netherthorpe School having a relationship with a cricket club (Staveley CC). Brookfield School is the only school to have a cricket pitch on site. An increase in participation in schools cricket may have a knock on impact to club based cricket, however there are currently limited facilities for this to take place.

Casual Demand

- 5.22 There is limited informal use of cricket pitches and many of the grounds are private property. Some sites do however receive informal use, which can impact upon the quality of the wicket and cause damage to the surface.
- 5.23 The timing of the cricket season means that informal use is higher than for other sports. Eastwood Park and Brearley Park are cricket pitches located on public recreation grounds, meaning that the sites fulfil a dual purpose and are subjected to informal use. Recreational use (for example drinking, BBQ etc) is cited by several clubs as inhibiting the overall quality of facilities. Vandalism was one of the key issues raised by clubs during consultation and this has impacted both pitch and pavilion quality. These issues have also been experienced at Queens Park Cricket Club.

Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

- 5.24 The adequacy of facilities for cricket is measured by comparing the amount of wickets available against the level of use of these wickets. This is considered firstly at a site specific level and then information and issues are compiled in order to present a Boroughwide picture.

- 5.25 For cricket, unlike other pitch sports, the capacity of a pitch is measured on a season rather than weekly basis and is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Play is rotated throughout the season across the number of wickets on a pitch to reduce wear and allow for repair and each wicket can accommodate a certain amount of play per season.
- 5.26 As a guide, the ECB suggests that a good quality wicket should be able to take:
- 5 matches per season per grass wicket (adults);
 - 7 matches per season per grass wicket (juniors);
 - 60 matches per season per non turf wicket (adults); and
 - 80 matches per season per non turf wicket (juniors).
- 5.27 Demand is therefore measured in terms of the number of home games that each team will play per season.

Situation at Individual Sites

- 5.28 Based upon the above parameters, Table 5.3 provides an overview of site specific activity for each of the pitches across Chesterfield Borough.
- 5.29 Table 5.4 clearly indicates that all club based pitches are well used although the majority are able to accommodate more play. Of particular concern, there is no existing use of Eastwood Park.
- 5.30 All sites that are available for community use have secured access and community cricket is therefore not reliant upon any unsecured facilities.

Table 5.4 – Site Specific Usage

Site	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity	Current Community Use	Use of Wicket	Balance	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Key Issues and Views
Brearley Park	8	Standard	40-56 games if wicket quality was improved to good.	30 (all senior matches)	Current activity requires use of 6 wickets of good quality. Lower quality of existing strips suggests that pitch is nearer capacity than theoretical analysis may suggest.	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	2 wickets (10 senior games or 14 junior fixtures)	Scope to accommodate small amount of additional play on site, although lack of artificial wicket or training facilities means that any training activity must also be accommodated on the main square. Site is also subject to ad hoc recreational use. Outfield of relatively poor quality and wicket quality also deteriorating. Club highlight issues with vandalism and misuse of pavilion. With wicket quality not defined as good, there is only limited potential for additional fixtures without improvements to quality. This site is located in area where there is potential latent demand.
Brookfield Community School	6	Standard	30 – 42	9 (senior)	Current activity requires use of 1.8 wickets, plus curricular use	Being played to the level the site can sustain	No spare capacity due to curricular requirements	Scope to accommodate additional play on artificial wicket, although any community use would need to be balanced around curricular requirements. Capacity of Facility to accommodate community need limited by overall quality of site, which restricts to lower level cricket only.

Site	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity	Current Community Use	Use of Wicket	Balance	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Key Issues and Views
Queens Park - Chesterfield CC	17	Good	85 – 119	38 (one junior team, senior fixtures at least 30 per season)	Current usage requires at least 7 wickets	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	50 senior matches or 70 junior matches	High quality facility which could be used for greater levels of play. Important site for county and national cricket means that balancing usage with quality is however essential. Presence of artificial wicket enables this to be used for junior fixtures, preserving the main square for senior use. Two teams belonging to the club unable to use main ground due to fixture congestion at peak time and are currently displaced. This is a greater issue than wicket capacity or quality for this site.
Robinsons Sports Ground	9	Standard	45-63	67 (32 adult and 35 junior)	Current usage requires at least 11.5 wickets	Being overplayed	No spare capacity - site already overplayed	Number of matches played means that there is no scope to accommodate additional play and the site is being overplayed. In reality, the rating of the wicket as standard not good means that wickets should not be sustaining 7 games. The lack of artificial wicket further exacerbates this problem - with training taking place on the square at least once per week. While pitch quality is adequate, the changing rooms are in poor condition and there are no showers, meaning that facilities do not meet with league requirements. The ground is currently leased on an annual basis, hence the club have no long term security of tenure and limited opportunities to invest in the facilities.

Site	No of Pitches	Pitch Quality	Carrying Capacity	Current Community Use	Use of Wicket	Balance	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Key Issues and Views
Staveley Welfare CC	13	Good	65-91	41 (21 adult and 20 junior)	Current usage requires at least 7 wickets	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	30 senior matches or 42 junior matches	Ground is of good quality and the number of wickets provided means that additional play could be sustained. The non turf wicket is used for training and also for some junior matches, reducing wear and tear on the square. The site is of good quality overall and offers the opportunity for attractive play.
Eastwood Park	7	Standard Poor	35-49	0	Currently no usage	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	35 senior matches or 49 junior matches	No existing use of the facility. Square cordoned off and outfield is relatively bumpy. Changing accommodation to be refurbished during 2014 but currently derelict.

Current Picture of Provision

5.31 The site overviews set out in Table 5.4 can be used to develop an overall picture of provision across Chesterfield.

5.32 As set out in Table 5.4;

- with the exception of Chesterfield Barbarians (Robinsons Sports Ground) and Brookfield Community School, all sites are underplayed and have scope to accommodate additional activity. The quality of wickets at Brearley Park and Eastwood Park, as well as at Robinsons Sports Ground further restricts pitch capacity;
- Chesterfield Barbarians currently have access to 9 strips of standard quality, but the number of teams that they have requires at least 11 strips of good quality. Added to this, there are no artificial wickets on sites meaning that the grass wicket is also used for training. The site is therefore overplayed. There are also issues relating to security of tenure and ancillary facility quality. The club have just a one year lease for the pitch which both prevents investment into the facility (either club based or external) and raises concerns over the long term sustainability of the club, who do not have a secure home; and
- despite the lack of use of Eastwood Park and scope to accommodate additional play at other grounds, in addition to the overplay at Robinsons Sports Ground, Chesterfield CC 3rd and 4th teams currently travel outside of the borough to play their matches. This was also the case when facilities at Stand Road Park and Somersall Park were provided. Consultation reveals that the quality of the pitches and associated facilities are deemed unsuitable for club use and it is for this reason that these pitches are / were under used.

5.33 Building upon the site specific analysis, it is possible to conclude that across the borough as a whole; if all wickets were improved to a good condition, 125 (adult) to 175 (junior) additional matches could be sustained (not taking into account overuse of Robinsons Sports Ground). This equates to circa 12 adult teams or up to 21 junior teams.

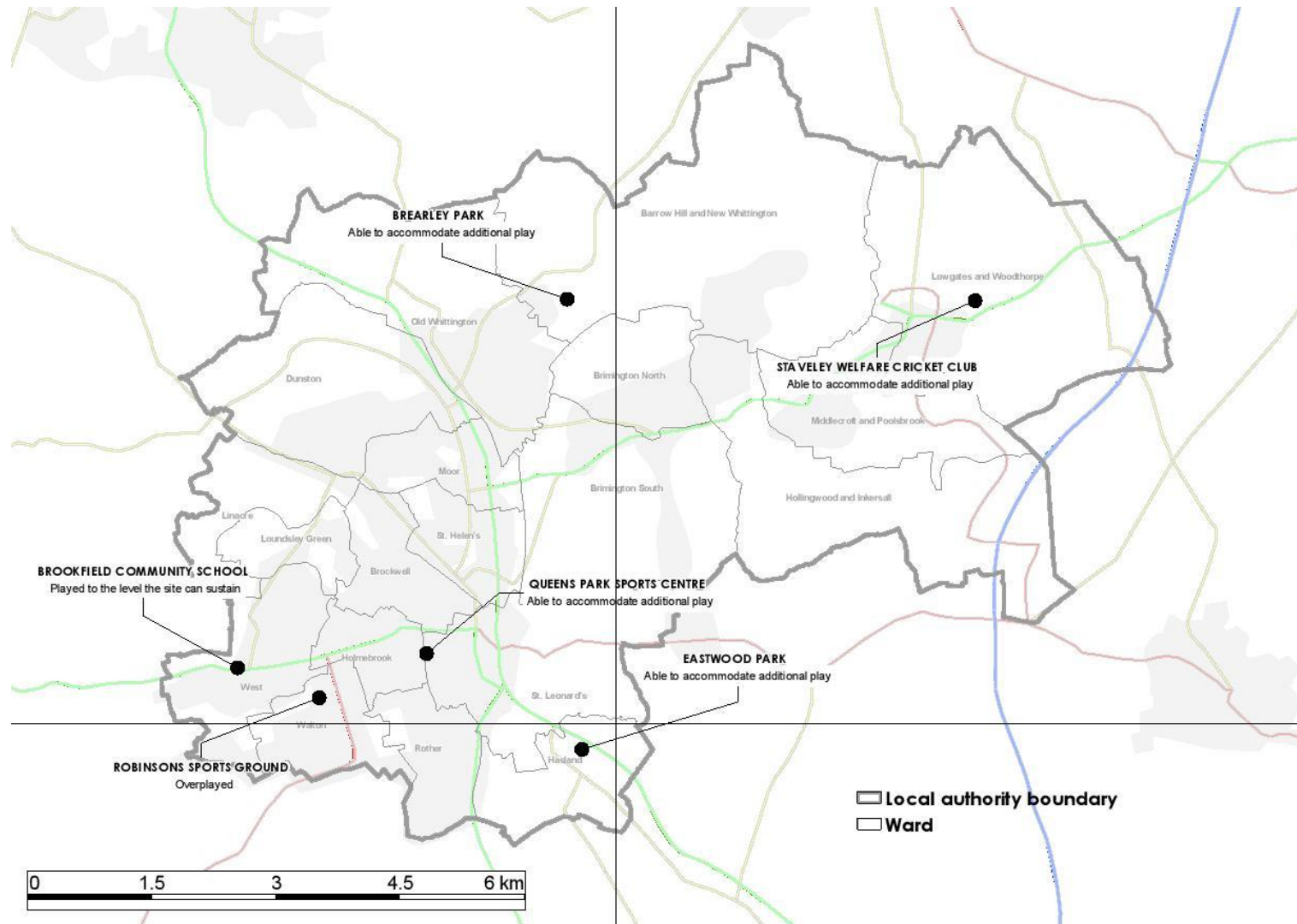
5.34 While this suggests that there is sufficient capacity in the borough as a whole (although site specific issues are evident at individual clubs) to meet current demand, it does disguise several key issues;

- declining participation is partly responsible for available capacity – poor club development means that there is significant scope to increase the number of teams at each club and to build upon the existing foundations. Clubs were concerned about the reduction in the number of facilities that are available and the impact that this may have on club growth;
- there is limited use of Council pitches – yet there are capacity issues at Robinsons Sports Ground, and two teams at Chesterfield CC travelling outside the borough to find facilities. While there are overall sufficient facilities, it is clear that there is a lack of facilities of appropriate quality. This was the clear theme emerging from consultation with all clubs, as well as the Derbyshire Cricket Board; and
- not all clubs have training facilities and this lack of provision at Robinsons / Whittington exacerbates pressures on grass pitches. This was raised by all of the clubs as well as by the local cricket development officer and other representatives of cricket in the borough. Concerns relating to the amount of non-turf wickets for

competitive fixtures also focus upon the quality of these facilities as well as the amount of wickets that are available.

- 5.35 Map 5.1 illustrates the spare capacity available. It illustrates that while Robinsons Sports Ground is over capacity, the remaining sites are able to sustain more play.
- 5.36 It does however clearly demonstrate that sites are relatively unevenly distributed across the borough – four of the six cricket pitches are clustered towards the south of Chesterfield town, while the remaining two sites are to the North East in Staveley (Staveley CC) and Brearley Park. There is a gap in access to cricket facilities in the north of Chesterfield town. It is in this area where Stand Road Park, where a cricket pitch was previously provided is located.

Map 5.1 – Spare Capacity at Cricket Pitches



Displaced Demand

- 5.37 As highlighted, Chesterfield CC currently has two teams that are displaced outside of the Borough. This is due to a lack of peak time availability at grounds of suitable quality. The club wish to return to the borough to play and would ideally like to play at Eastwood Park or Stand Road Park, if facilities of suitable quality were provided.

Unmet Demand

- 5.38 Chesterfield Barbarians indicate that they are unable to expand further due to restrictions on the capacity of their current site. The lack of appropriate facilities is therefore creating unmet demand. The Derbyshire Cricket Board have also recently become aware of a new team forming and wishing to play in Chesterfield, but not entering the league due to a lack of available pitches that meet with league requirements.

Latent Demand

- 5.39 Active People analysis outlined earlier in this section highlights the potential to increase the amount of cricket players by up to 40% (in the same groups that currently play, but particularly in the category of Kevin, who are based around the Whittington area). Some unmet / latent demand was also identified through consultation with current participants and the Derbyshire Cricket Board, who believe that the decline in pitches and industrial clubs, as well as a lack of sports development activity has led to lack of interest in cricket. This is borne out by Derbyshire Cricket Analysis of the cricket played in each area and is also believed to be influenced by the lack of cricket forum in the area to promote growth.
- 5.40 The availability and quality of facilities is therefore considered to be a contributing factor to the current situation with cricket and thought to have generated latent demand. There are thought to be significant opportunities to reinvigorate the sport through targeted interventions and the potential introduction of new forms of the game.

Future Picture

- 5.41 Several issues will impact upon the future picture for cricket across Chesterfield, including population growth, changes in participation trends and amendments to the existing facility stock.
- 5.42 These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand and the adequacy of the existing infrastructure to meet this demand.

Population Change

- 5.43 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand.
- 5.44 Table 5.5 summarises the current TGRs for cricket and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected changes to the population profile on demand. It reveals that the relatively low levels of participation mean that projected participation growth will have limited impact, with an increase of just 1 senior male team and 1 junior male team up to 2031.

Table 5.5 – Impact of Changes to the Population Profile

Sport and Age Groups	Existing Teams		Current TGR	Future population in age group within the area (2031)	Current TGR	Potential Change in Number of People (2011 – 2031)	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (Number of Teams) Current - 2026
	Existing Teams	Current population in age group within the area					
Cricket Open Age Mens (18-55yrs)	16	25251	1578	27106	765	1855	1.16
Cricket Open Age Womens (18-55yrs)	0	26237	0	28212	37474	1975	0
Cricket Junior Boys (7-18yrs)	13	7026	540	7629	517	603	1.13
Cricket Junior Girls (7-18yrs)	1	7301	7301	7941	0	640	0.09

5.45 In terms of pitch requirements, this would result in;

- demand for senior cricket pitches remaining relatively stable; with a requirement to accommodate circa 10 additional adult cricket matches per season; and
- a requirement to accommodate 8 – 10 additional junior matches per season.

5.46 Based upon calculations set out in Tables 5.3 – 5.4, this level of requirement could be accommodated within the existing pitch stock boroughwide.

5.47 Population growth is however likely to take place in particular around the Staveley, Poolsbrook, Rother and Barrow Hill areas as well as more centrally in Chesterfield. This means that most of the growth will take place in areas where cricket pitches are already located. There is capacity to accommodate additional play at all club sites except Chesterfield Barbarians.

5.48 It should be noted however that this assumes that the overall make up of the population remains static and that participation remains in line with current figures. If realised, the significant levels of latent demand could see participation increase significantly.

Participation Trends– Impact on Pitches

5.49 Changes in participation may perhaps have the most significant impact upon future demand for cricket pitches. Several of the clubs have expressed an aspiration to increase participation, although sports development interventions may be required to realise these aspirations and maximise opportunities.

5.50 While overall therefore there is capacity to develop, club growth would see requirements for facilities increase and site specific issues that have already been identified become exacerbated.

5.51 Table 5.6 summarises specific aspirations for growth and outlines the potential overall and site specific impact of this growth. It also considers the ability of each site to accommodate the potential growth, based upon the capacity calculations set out earlier in this section. It assumes that a junior team will play on average 8 home games per season, while a senior team will play 12 home matches (based on current averages).

5.52 Table 5.6 also summarises the current issues identified by each club, which would need to be resolved if they were to accommodate additional play.

Table 5.6 –Club Specific Growth Aspirations

Club	Aspirations for Growth	Potential Impact	Ability to Accommodate	Issues to be Addressed
Whittington Wanderers	junior team / section	Up to 4 junior teams – 32 matches	Capacity for up to 14 junior fixtures (2 teams) so limited scope for creation of junior section without artificial wicket. Quality of square also currently relatively poor, so may not be able to sustain 7 matches per wicket.	Poor quality wicket and bumpy outfield Lack of training facilities Vandalism issues
Chesterfield CC	1 female team and 2 junior teams	Up to 26 matches	Capacity for junior teams, particularly given artificial wickets, but potential difficulties accommodating female team due to peak time pressures. Additional facility to meet male 3 rd / 4 th teams could also support creation of female team	Peak time pressures already require access to second ground for 3 rd and 4 th teams. Pitch improvements to Eastwood Park would provide the capacity required to accommodate club growth.
Chesterfield Barbarians	1 male, 1 female and 1 junior team	Up to 26 matches	Site already overplayed, no further opportunities for growth.	Changing accommodation Lack of training facilities Lack of capacity at site
Staveley CC	None identified	n/a	Site has capacity to accommodate additional play	None

5.53 Table 5.6 demonstrates that without intervention and improvement to the existing facility stock, growth aspirations cannot be accommodated at the relevant club bases. Further increases (or levels greater than that suggested through the application of TGRs) will further exacerbate this.

Growth Aspirations of Derbyshire Cricket Board

5.54 The stabilising of cricket, and the increasing challenge of attracting participants means that the Derbyshire Cricket Board are focusing upon a strategy of retaining existing players and supporting increased participation where opportunities arise.

5.55 To deliver this, they are seeking to address many of the issues currently facing cricket, including the ageing volunteer base and to support clubs to become more sustainable.

5.56 In recognition of changing lifestyle patterns and the challenges of 50 over cricket, the England Cricket Board are now also introducing alternative forms of the game, including Last Man Standing and T20. These are similar in format to midweek and weekend leagues and offer people who are unable to participate in full matches shorter forms of the game. While these are likely to start initially in Derby, it is hoped that they will spread to Chesterfield and the benefits will be realised in this area too. This would have implications for facilities.

5.57 Despite the overall focus on player retention and the identified opportunities to grow more informal types of participation, the Derbyshire Cricket Board still believe that there are opportunities to grow the existing clubs and to increase participation through this delivery route in Chesterfield, given the current limited levels of play. Successful growth of the cricket clubs would limit the opportunities for use of club based facilities for other initiatives (such as T20 / Last Man Standing) due to the requirement for pitches to accommodate junior matches. It is however believed that with significant effort and focus, as well as partnership working and knowledge sharing between clubs, that cricket could once again become prominent in the borough.

5.58 Added to this, the Derbyshire Cricket Board is currently working with Chesterfield College with a view to establishing a cricket academy. This may further increase demand for cricket in the borough and may support the ongoing growth of the sport.

Summary and Key Issues

5.59 The issues that the playing pitch and outdoor sports strategy for Chesterfield Borough needs to address are summarised in Section 11.

Introduction

6.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for rugby and provides:

- an overview of the supply of rugby pitches across Chesterfield;
- an outline of demand for rugby pitches;
- an understanding of activity at individual sites in the borough;
- a picture of the adequacy of current provision; and
- the future picture of provision for rugby.

Rugby in Chesterfield – An Overview

Pitch Supply

6.2 There are four grass rugby pitches at two sites across Chesterfield Borough. Three of these pitches are located at Chesterfield Panthers Rugby Club which is a new site opened in 2012 following funding from the RFU and Sport England. This site is owned and managed by the club. The only remaining pitch in the borough is situated at St Marys RC High School. This is not available for community use. Table 6.1 summarises the pitches available and the feedback received on their quality.

Table 6.1 – Rugby Pitches across Chesterfield Borough

Site Name	Total Rugby Pitches	Accessibility	Security of Access	Pitch Quality Rating	Feedback
Chesterfield RUFC	3	Available to the community and used	Secured Community Use	All pitches good. Site includes one floodlit pitch as well as a training grid.	Club and site visits both confirm good quality of pitches. Clubhouse includes full range of facilities, bar and changing accommodation. Third rugby pitch is overmarked with two small sided football pitches, reducing capacity for rugby. High quality facilities. Access and parking restrictions are the only concerns raised
St Marys RC High School	1	Not available to the community	n/a	Standard	School rugby pitch not currently used by community. Of limited quality and also required to sustain curricular use.

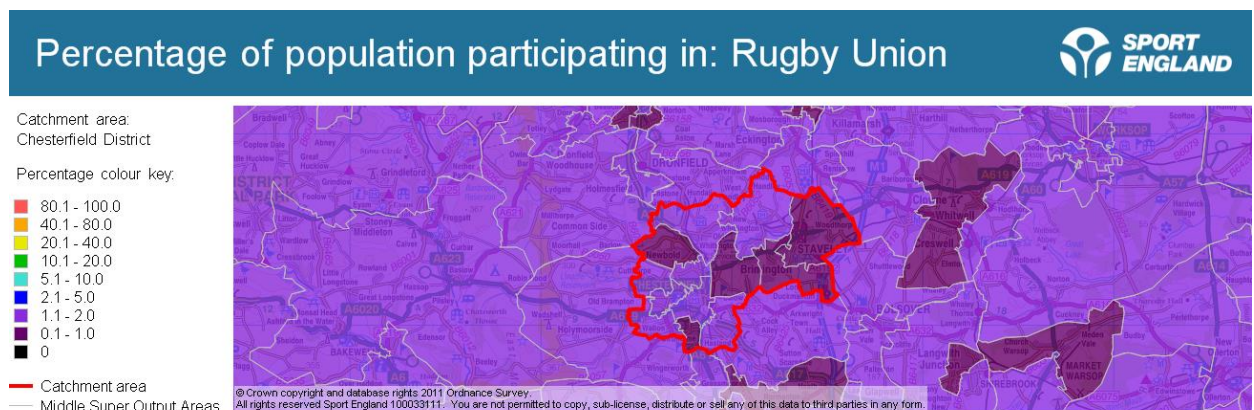
6.3 To support the sustainability of the club, the Chesterfield Panthers site also includes community football pitches, which are currently rented to a large football club.

Demand

Active People and Market Segmentation (Sport England)

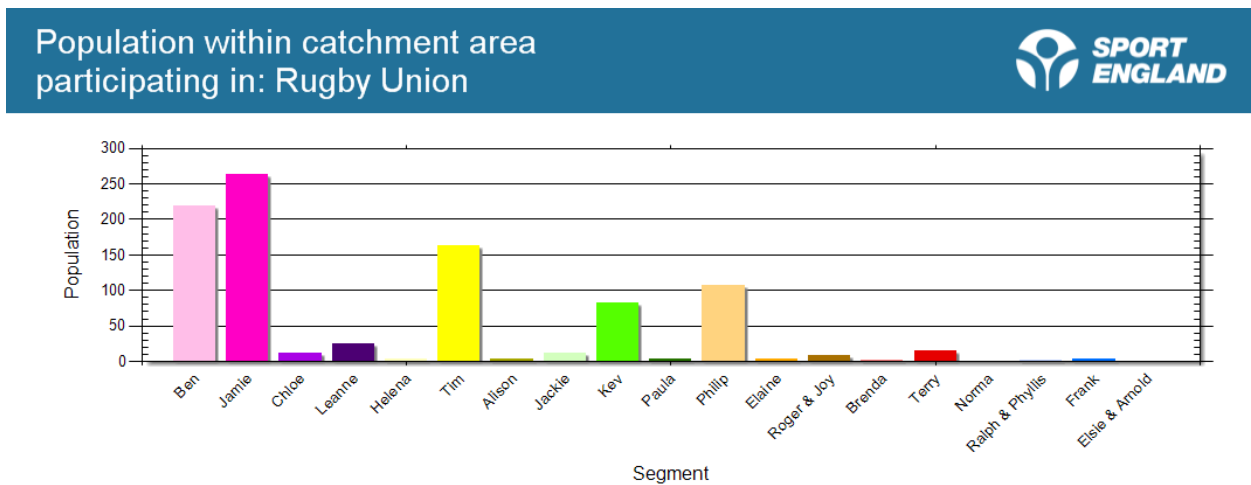
- 6.4 The Active People Survey measures participation and provides an indication of the types of people that play the sport and the potential latent demand. Nationally, as highlighted in Section 3, it reveals that participation has declined over the last seven years.
- 6.5 More locally in Chesterfield, it reveals that participation rates vary in different parts of the borough, with those living in the east less likely to play than those in the west. Interestingly, this does not correlate directly with the location of the only rugby club (which is to the north of the town) and instead is more directly impacted by the make up of the population and the location of people who have a higher propensity to play. Map 6.1 illustrates the patterns of participation in rugby across Chesterfield, according to the Active People Survey.

Map 6.1 – Participation in Rugby



- 6.6 Chart 6.1 reveals that the key participants in rugby are those that also play other pitch sports, specifically Jamie, Ben, Tim, Kev and Philip. There are no female segments with a strong profile in rugby and in total, there are 928 participants.
- 6.7 The proportion of those falling into the Philip and Kev categories and playing rugby is slightly higher than national averages, while the remainder of the dominant categories play rugby slightly less than might be expected, suggesting that there may be scope to target sports development initiatives at these residents.

Chart 6.1 – Market Segments Participating in Rugby



6.8 The Active People survey suggests that there is limited latent demand for rugby, with 21% of the total potential rugby playing population not currently participating. Latent demand is focused in the same groups that currently play suggesting that any developmental work to impact participation should focus in these areas.

Actual Participation

- 6.9 There is only one rugby club in Chesterfield Borough running a total of 13 teams in total. This suggests that unless residents are travelling outside the borough to participate in rugby (which is not known to be the case), the Sport England Active People survey overestimates the amount of participants in rugby in the borough.
- 6.10 Chesterfield Panthers, the existing rugby club, recently relocated to their new site and since this, have seen an increase in the number of adult teams run. This has been largely attributed to the quality of facilities that are now provided.
- 6.11 In contrast, despite the good quality facilities, junior participation has dropped and the club are no longer running teams at all age groups. This is thought to be directly related to the relatively low levels of rugby that are played in schools in the borough and the consequential difficulties in attracting new players to the game.
- 6.12 Table 6.2 outlines the teams run, as well as the number of match equivalents that are generated per week by these teams. This is based upon the assumption that each team will play alternate home and away games, and also takes into account the shorter games and use of only part of the full size pitch by midi rugby teams (in line with guidance provided by the RFU).

Table 6.2– Rugby Teams in Chesterfield Borough

Sport and Age Groups	Number of teams in age group within the area	Match Equivalents Per Week
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	3	1.5
Rugby Union Senior Women (19-45yrs)	1	0.5
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	3	1.5
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	0	0
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	6	1.5

Training Needs

- 6.13 All training takes place at the club base, primarily on the floodlit training grids, but also on the main senior pitch (which is floodlit) where match practice is required.
- 6.14 Senior squads train twice per week and training is equivalent to an additional 6.5 match equivalents. As training takes place in part on the match pitches, it adds to the wear and tear of these facilities. The training grids however limit this impact.

Educational Demand

- 6.15 Reflecting the lack of rugby pitches at school sites, there is limited participation in rugby within secondary schools currently and as a consequence, the club indicate that recruiting players can be challenging. This may also explain the degree of latent demand. There is no known use of the rugby club base by local schools.

Casual Demand

- 6.16 There is limited use of the pitches for casual / informal recreation with the site locked when not in use, although there are informal access routes from local residential areas. There is no clear impact upon the pitches from casual use of these facilities.

Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

- 6.17 For rugby, the supply of pitches and the demand for pitches is measured through the use of match equivalents to ensure that a comparison is possible. To fully understand activity on a site, consideration is given to both;
- the adequacy of pitch provision over the course of a week; and
 - capacity of a site to meet additional demand at peak time.
- 6.18 For rugby, this analysis is based upon the following principles;

Capacity over the course of a week

- The RFU sets a standard number of match equivalent sessions that natural grass pitches should be able to sustain without adversely affecting their current quality (pitch carrying capacity). This is based upon the drainage system installed at the site and the maintenance programme used to prepare the pitches. The guideline theoretical capacity for rugby pitches is summarised in Table 6.3.

Table 6.3 – Theoretical Pitch Capacity Ratings (RFU)

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

- Based upon the installed drainage and the maintenance regime applied, pitches at Chesterfield Panthers RUFC are classified as M1/D3 and can therefore sustain 3 games per pitch.

Peak Time Demand

- To identify spare capacity at peak time, the number of match equivalent sessions at peak time is measured against the number of match equivalent sessions available. In Chesterfield, all activity except senior participation is focused on Sundays as follows:
 - Senior mens rugby union - Saturday PM
 - Youth rugby union - Sunday AM
 - Mini/midi rugby union - Sunday **AM**
 - U18-U19 years 'Colts' rugby union –Sunday PM.

6.19 Table 6.4 therefore provides a summary of activity at the Chesterfield Panthers RUFC site. . It indicates that there is capacity to accommodate further play at Chesterfield Panthers RUFC. St Marys RC High School is not currently available for community use.

Table 6.4 – Site Specific Activity

Site	No of Pitches	Carrying Capacity for Community Use (Match Equivalents)	Current Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period for the Pitch Type	Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use During the Peak Period	Key Issues and Views
Chesterfield Panthers Rugby - Dunston Road	3	9	5 matches per week. Training is equivalent to 6.5 matches per week and takes place on pitch 1 as well as the adjacent grass training area. This also includes mini panther cubs who train but do not play competitively 1 match equivalent training per week takes place on the pitch.	3	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	3	Sun AM	0	Peak period for the rugby club in terms of number of matches is Sun AM, when junior teams and midi teams play. If some match activity is accommodated on the training area, there is scope to increase this further. The presence of the training area allows training activity to be focused primarily off the pitches and there is therefore capacity to sustain additional play. The loss of the training area would mean that there would be no longer capacity for further activity. The quality of the rugby pitches is good and has only positive impact upon the capacity of the facilities.

Current Picture of Provision

- 6.20 Overall, therefore spare capacity is equivalent to 3 matches per week (assuming that training on the match pitch is equivalent to just 1 match and that training grids are used for the remainder of matches). There is limited spare capacity at peak time.
- 6.21 There is no community use of the St Marys High School pitch currently however it provides scope to increase the level of activity should this be required if community use could be secured, particularly given the location of the site in relatively close proximity to the Chesterfield Panthers RUFC.
- 6.22 It should be noted that the capacity of rugby pitch 3 can also be impacted by football usage on occasion, as there are football pitches overmarked on this site. If reducing the capacity of this facility, the balance of provision available would reduce to 2 match equivalents per week.

Displaced and Latent Demand

- 6.23 There is no evidence of displaced demand for rugby in the borough and limited latent demand although Active People surveys suggest that there is potential to increase the rugby playing population by up to 20%, which would have significant impact upon demand for facilities.

Future Picture

- 6.24 The future requirement for rugby pitches will be impacted upon by changes to the population profile, as well as club specific aspirations and changing participation trends.
- 6.25 These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand.

Population Change

- 6.26 While the population of Chesterfield Borough is likely to increase by circa 9%, changes to the population profile mean that the proportion of people within the age groups most likely to play pitch sports will increase at a much slower rate.
- 6.27 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. The application of TGRs to population projections enables the projection of the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and provides an understanding of future demand.
- 6.28 Table 6.5 summarises the current TGRs for rugby and projects the impact of population growth. It indicates that;
- there will be an overall increase in the number of people aged between 19 and 45, the age groups that typically play senior rugby. The impact will have relatively few implications for the number of rugby teams generated, with less than a quarter of an additional team generated overall;
 - there will be minimal impact on junior participation, with no increase in teams generated through population growth; and
 - the highest growth will occur in age groups playing midi rugby. This will lead to the creation of an additional two midi teams (0.125 match equivalents per week) by 2026.

Table 6.5 – Impact of Changes to the Population Profile

Sport and Age Groups	Current population in age group within the	Number of teams in age group	Current TGR	Future population in age group within the	Current TGR	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (Populati	Potential Change in Team Numbers in
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	17291	3	4600	18363	5764	1072	0.19
Rugby Union Senior Women (19-45yrs)	17967	1	0	19113	17966	1146	0.06
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	3843	3	1660	3619	12814	-225	-0.18
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	3994	0	0	3766	0	-227	0
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	6490	6	2056	8185	1082	1695	1.577

6.29 In terms of pitch requirements, this means that changes to the population growth would result in;

- less than 0.5 additional adult teams (no further match equivalents);
- a slight reduction in junior participation (0.4 junior teams, no match equivalents); and
- a small requirement for two additional midi team (0.5 match equivalents).

6.30 There will therefore remain more than sufficient pitches for competition and training.

Changes in Participation Trends

6.31 While population growth will have little impact, despite recent decline, the club signed up the delivery of a development plan as part of the recent relocation and creation of new facilities.

6.32 By 2016, the Club development plan sought to increase;

- the number of adult males from 44 – 95;
- senior females from 10 – 20;
- the number of teams in total from 10 – 17; and
- various aims and objectives to increase the number of coaches and volunteers.

6.33 Targets already part way achieved (there are now 13 teams) however the club will continue to strive to reach these numbers by the 2016 season and state that their current priority relates to the creation of a veterans team.

6.34 The projected level of demand (including club development plans) as well as the increases generated through population growth can be accommodated within the existing infrastructure for rugby, although retaining the quality of existing pitches will be essential if this is to be the case, as the existing quality and drainage of pitches raises capacity significantly.

Key Issues

6.35 The key issues for rugby are summarised in Section 11.

Introduction

7.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for hockey and provides:

- an overview of the supply of AGPs that are suitable for hockey;
- an outline of demand for hockey pitches across Chesterfield Borough;
- an understanding of activity at individual sites in the borough;
- a picture of the adequacy of current provision; and
- the future picture of provision for hockey across Chesterfield.

Hockey in Chesterfield – An Overview

Pitch Supply

7.2 Hockey is almost exclusively played on AGPs. Guidance on AGPs (Sport England 2010) indicates the following surfaces to be suitable for hockey:

- Water Based (suitable for high level hockey)
- Sand Filled (acceptable surface for hockey)
- Sand Dressed (preferred surface for hockey)
- Short Pile 3g (acceptable surface for hockey at low standards).

7.3 Based upon the above criteria, in Chesterfield, there are three full sized pitches with approved surfaces for hockey and one full sized 3g pitch which does not meet the required criteria for hockey.

7.4 Table 7.1 summarises the facilities available and the quality of these pitches.

Table 7.1 – Suitability of Full Sized AGPs for Hockey

Site Name	Management	Floodlights		Quality Rating	Issues identified
Brookfield Community School	School/College/University (in house)	Yes	Rubber crumb pile (3G) - No	Good	Good quality facility with good changing accommodation. Provided 2010
Newbold Community School	Facilities for All	No	Sand Filled - Yes	Standard	Lack of floodlights limits role of pitch and inhibits use. Provided 2006

Site Name	Management	Floodlights		Quality Rating	Issues identified
Springwell Community College	PFI School/College/University (in house)	Yes	Sand Filled – Yes	Good	Good quality facility with good changing accommodation. Built 2011
St Marys RC High School	School/College/University (in house) as part of the St Marys Community Sports Partnership	Yes	Sand Dressed - Yes	Poor	Ageing pitch surface now has rips and damage. Requires replacement. Built 2010

7.5 The key issues arising from table 7.1 are as follows;

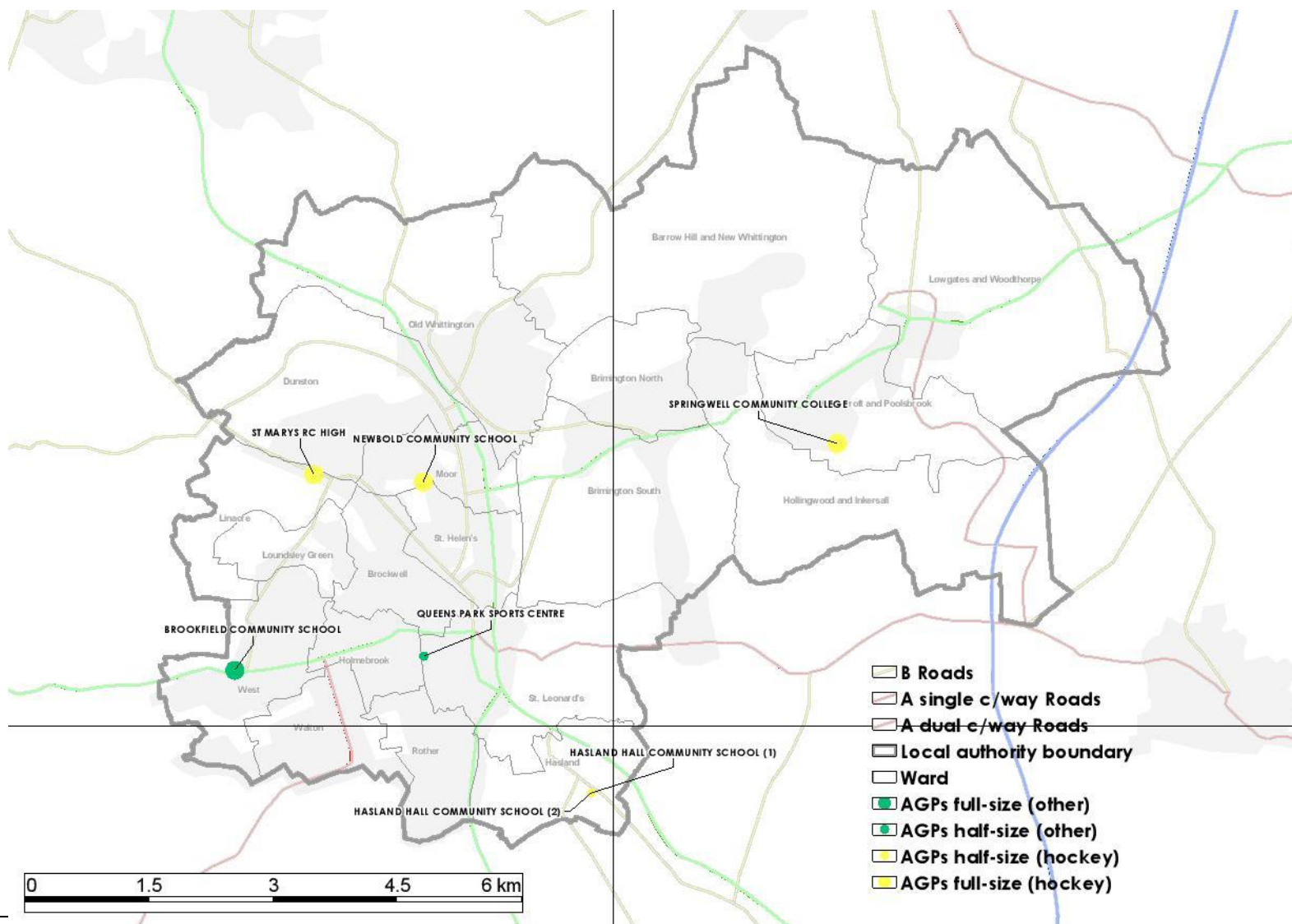
- 75% of the available full sized pitches are suitable for hockey – a high proportion;
- there are no full sized AGPs in the control of Chesterfield Borough Council and instead there is a clear reliance upon the provision of facilities at school sites. While this maximises the use of the facilities during daylight hours as well as at peak time, it means that there is more limited control over the type of surface provided as well as the long term security of community access (although all sites currently have formal arrangements in place for access to their AGPs);
- with the exception of the AGP at St Mary's, all pitches have been built within the last five years and offer high quality surfaces. In contrast, the pitch at St Mary's is circa 14 years old and has limited remaining lifespan without resurfacing; and
- the lack of floodlights at Newbold Community School limits the community use of this site. Although the site is managed by Facilities for All, limited after school activity is possible and the pitch is therefore mainly available to book at weekends.

7.6 In addition, there are three small sided facilities, specifically at Queens Park Leisure Centre and two at Hasland Hall Community School. The surface of the pitch at Queens Park Leisure Centre means that it is unsuitable for hockey use, however the pitches at Hasland Hall Community School would provide training opportunities for hockey.

7.7 The location of all AGPs and their suitability for hockey is illustrated in Map 7.1. It indicates that the provision of AGPs is much more limited and there are no full size AGPs within the main town of Chesterfield itself. Provision is particularly lacking to the south and east.

7. Hockey

Map 7.1 –Distribution of AGPs



Demand

Active People and Market Segmentation (Sport England)

7.8 The Active People Survey provides an indication of the types of people that play hockey and potential latent demand. Analysis of current participation according to Active People demonstrates that;

- existing participation is geographically even across Chesterfield and the profile of current participants is similar to that of other sports, with the dominant participants being Philip (29) Ben (27), Jamie (27), Tim (22). There is a greater female profile than other pitch sports, with 19 participants in the Chloe segment although female participation is still much lower than male. Overall however, participation in hockey is relatively limited, with just 214 current players in the borough in total; and
- reflecting the lower levels of participation from women, the Active People survey reveals that while current participants are predominantly male and in the groups that traditionally play pitch sports, latent demand is highest in two female segments with lower existing participation profiles, specifically Jackie (18) and Leanne (16). This suggests that there is further scope to develop hockey as a sport, particularly in terms of increasing female participation. Like current participation, there are no geographical variations in latent demand for hockey and therefore no clear direction as to which areas of the borough interventions may be particularly successful. Both segments have below average levels of physical activity for their age groups and may benefit from a more informal introduction to hockey, rather than a strongly competitive environment.

Current Participation

7.9 There are two hockey clubs running a total of 9 teams. Table 7.1 summarises the teams in each club and outlines the number of hours that they use pitches. The usage is based upon the assumption that each team plays alternate home and away games.

Table 7.2 – Hockey Teams in Chesterfield

Club	Teams	Location	Competition	Training
Chesterfield Hockey Club	3 adult Male and 4 Junior hockey teams	St Marys RC High School - Community Sports Partnership	Circa 8 hours per week (weekend)	Wednesday - 4 hours
Staveley Ladies Hockey Club	2 adult female hockey teams	St Marys RC High School - Community Sports Partnership	Circa 2 hours per week (weekend)	Monday - 1 hour

7.10 Table 7.2 reveals that;

- both clubs play at the same facility and are part of the St Marys High School Community Sports Partnership – this means that of the three sand based AGPs, only one is used for hockey currently. This site is currently home to the poorest pitch which was provided in 2000. The clubs contributed financially towards this facility when it was developed in 2000 and classify the site as their home bases. There are now

however concerns about the quality of the facility, particularly with regards to the poor surface which is reaching the end of its lifespan and has several rips in it;

- male and female hockey is currently run through separate clubs although there are combined efforts to introduce junior hockey into the game; and
- highest levels of usage for hockey take place at the weekend, when the AGPs are required to accommodate competitive fixtures. The clubs have separate training evenings which total at least five hours play per week.

7.11 There has been a decline in senior hockey played in the borough in recent years and demand for junior hockey has remained static. As a consequence, requirements for access to AGPs have reduced at weekends, although demand remains constant midweek. Chesterfield Hockey Club however attribute the reduction in demand to a lack of appropriate AGPs, rather than a decline in interest in hockey.

Educational Demand

7.12 Educational use of AGPs takes place outside of peak hours and there is therefore no impact upon the availability of the facilities for community hockey (as the artificial surface means that AGPs are not impacted upon by levels of use in the same way that grass pitches are).

7.13 School participation can however have a knock on impact on demand for hockey in the borough. There is relatively limited hockey that takes place in schools currently however Chesterfield HC see improvement of links with other schools as one of the key ways in which participation can be driven forwards. They already have a strong relationship with St Marys School, with whom they share their home base.

Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

7.14 The adequacy of AGPs to accommodate demand for hockey, taking into account both training and competitive fixtures is discussed below. Demand for football is also considered as while hockey teams cannot use facilities designed for football (3g pitches), sand based surfaces are acceptable for football training and hockey clubs can face extensive competition in accessing pitches. The FA facility strategy seeks to shift football usage away from sand based AGPs to 3g pitches, however unless additional 3g facilities are provided, it is likely that training and informal leagues will continue to take place on sand based facilities.

Situation at Individual Sites

7.15 As set out in Section 4, supply and demand of AGPs is measured by considering;

- the amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon the number of hours that the pitch is accessible to the community during peak periods up to a maximum of 34 hours per week). Peak periods have been deemed to be Monday to Thursday 17:00 to 21:00; Friday 17:00 to 19:00 and Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 17:00;
- the amount of play that takes place (measured in hours);
- whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
- any other key issues relating to the site which have arisen through consultation.

7.16 To ensure that issues for hockey are fully taken into account however, as well as evaluating usage over the week, capacity at peak time should also be considered. England Hockey guidance suggests that no AGP should be considered able to sustain more than 4 games on any one day.

7.17 Table 7.3 therefore provides a summary of activity at each site that is suitable for hockey.

Table 7.3 – Site Specific Usage

Site	Pitch Quality	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use (Adult)	Current Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period for the Pitch Type	Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use During the Peak Period	Key Issues and Views
Newbold Community School	Standard	14	3	11	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	11	Midweek	0	Capacity of pitch significantly limited by lack of floodlights. This removes the ability to use the pitch at peak time (midweek evenings). Capacity Saturday PM and Sunday for further play. Used Saturday morning
SPRINGWELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Good	30	10	10	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	10	Midweek	0	Site used exclusively for football, relationship with Chesterfield FC limits access for some other clubs. Also booked Mon and Thurs for development activity. Limited availability if any at peak time. Site also used adhoc for FA activities. Site used by Chesterfield FC

Site	Pitch Quality	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use (Adult)	Current Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Period for the Pitch Type	Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use During the Peak Period	Key Issues and Views
									Saturday morning, but activity is focused at peak time.
STMARYS RC HIGH	Poor	34	25	9	Potentially able to accommodate some additional play	9	Midweek	3	Site used exclusively for hockey at weekends, meaning that there is scope to expand this activity. Majority of spare capacity at weekends (Sunday - outside of hockey peak time). A small amount of spare capacity midweek. Pitch of poor and deteriorating quality due to its age

Current Picture of Provision

- 7.18 Table 7.3 indicates that there is some spare capacity at sand based hockey pitches across the borough. The majority of this is at the weekend (and could therefore be used for competitive hockey fixtures) as there is more limited use of AGPs at weekends. Use at weekends is largely focused upon hockey play (at St Marys) as well as use of Springwell Community College by Chesterfield FC. There are also a five a side league running on Sunday afternoons at St Marys. This means that there is scope to increase the amount of pitches for hockey at weekends, there is more limited opportunity to extend use of St Marys AGP to Sunday afternoon (although other facilities are available).
- 7.19 Capacity during the week is much more restricted, partially as in effect, supply reduces to 3 full sized AGPs (2 of which are suitable for hockey) due to the lack of floodlights at Newbold Community School.
- 7.20 Table 7.4 builds upon the site specific overviews and presents the total picture for the borough (for sand based surface). It should be noted that 60% of use at St Marys AGP is hockey, however the remainder, and all activity on other sites, is football.

Table 7.4 – Use of AGPs that are suitable for hockey

Capacity of full sized sand based pitches across the borough (Number of Hours)	Total Community Use of Sand Based Pitches (Number of Hours)	Unused capacity (Number of hours)	Spare Capacity Midweek (Number of Hours)	Weekend Availability
78	48	30	3	22.5

- 7.21 As Table 7.4 reveals, there is minimal additional capacity left in the stock of AGPs, particularly midweek evenings when hockey club training takes place. If training requirements were to increase significantly, capacity to accommodate this increase would be limited (although it is likely that football clubs that currently use the facility would be displaced as the hockey club owns the facility in tandem with the school).
- 7.22 Competition for use of these facilities is much lower at the weekend however Chesterfield Hockey Club indicate that a shortage of AGPs for competitive hockey fixtures limits the growth of the club.
- 7.23 England Hockey indicates that an AGP should be considered able to sustain a maximum of four games per day. As peak time demand is currently equivalent to 2.5 match equivalents, there is scope for this to increase by 1.5 (3 teams) before use of an additional AGP would be required (or games transferred to a Sunday, which would then conflict with junior hockey)
- 7.24 Springwell Community School is used by Chesterfield FC on a Saturday morning and there are also some bookings for the Newbold Community School pitch at this time. There would however be scope to accommodate circa 4 matches across the two pitches at peak time.
- 7.25 While theoretically there is capacity therefore for current hockey fixtures, the condition of the facility at St Marys RC High School is now poor and without refurbishment, this facility would become unable to sustain hockey fixtures in the relative short term.

FPM Modelling

7.26 Analysis of the actual usage of pitches against the hours that they are available can be compared with findings of the Sport England Facility Planning Model, a theoretical model based upon national parameters. Analysis prepared by Sport England for Chesterfield Borough indicates that overall (also outlined in Section 4);

- supply of pitches per 10000 residents (0.38 pitches) is marginally lower than the midlands average (0.4) and the Derbyshire County wide average (0.4);
- demand in Chesterfield is equivalent to 2270 visits per week in the peak period, equivalent to 3 AGPs. The ageing population profile will mean that this is similar in future years, as the propensity of the population to play pitch sports will decrease as it ages, mitigating the impact of population growth;
- whilst overall demand equates to 3 AGPs, the separate data for football and hockey demand illustrates that demand equates to 1 AGP for hockey and at least 2 AGPs for football;
- based purely upon a baseline supply and demand assessment, there is a small shortfall of 0.2 AGPs both currently and in future years. This can be broken down into a slight surplus of hockey provision (0.11 pitches by 2028) and a shortfall of football provision (0.35 pitches by 2028);
- satisfied demand takes into account the location of existing pitches. Analysis demonstrates that 91% of demand is satisfied, which is below regional and county averages. Over 33% of demand from Chesterfield residents is exported to other areas. The model reveals that satisfied demand for hockey usage is only 87% (with nearly 60% met by exports). For football however, satisfied demand is 91%;
- on balance, unmet demand is equivalent to 0.3 AGPs across the borough and most unmet demand is caused by a lack of capacity. There are no hotspots of unmet demand where new provision would be clearly justified. Reflecting the findings of satisfied demand, unmet demand is slightly higher for hockey than for football (assuming the continued use of sand based pitches for football).

7.27 The conclusions of the modelling undertaken by Sport England therefore suggest that;

- the existing stock of AGPs is at capacity;
- there is a poor balance between the different types of surface given the shift to 3g surfaces by the FA; and
- there is a need to consider supplementing the existing stock through either a small AGP, an additional 3g AGP and the replacement of the carpet at St Marys RC High School.

Displaced Demand

7.28 Despite the FPM indicating that there is a significant degree of imported and exported demand for hockey, there is no evidence of displaced demand in the borough currently.

Latent Demand

7.29 The hockey clubs are actively seeking new members although there has been a recent decline in participation. Chesterfield Hockey Club believe that facilities have to an extent

inhibited growth. Active People data outlined earlier in this section indicates that in terms of number of people, latent demand is relatively limited. There are however segments of the population that don't currently play but have expressed an interest in doing so (primarily females) and this may represent an opportunity to increase participation.

Future Picture of Provision

7.30 The future requirement for AGPs for hockey will be impacted upon by several things, including population growth, changes to the demographic profile, club development and evolving participation trends.

7.31 These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand.

Population Change

7.32 Analysis in Section 3 indicated that while the population of Chesterfield is likely to increase by almost 9% up to 2031, changes to the population profile mean that the proportion of people within the age groups most likely to play pitch sports will increase at a much slower rate.

7.33 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand. Table 7.5 summarises the implications of population growth and reveals that because of relatively low levels of hockey participation; population growth will be insufficient to generate an additional team of any type.

Table 7.5 – Impact of Changes to the Population Profile

Sport and Age Groups	Current population in age group within the area	Number of teams in age group within the area	Current TGR	Future population in age group within the area (2031)	Change in number of people in age group	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group
Hockey Senior Men (16-55yrs)	26598	3	8866	28284	1686	0.19
Hockey Senior Women (16-55yrs)	27637	2	13819	29439	1802	0.13
Hockey Junior Boys (11-15yrs)	3056	2	1528	3165	108	0.07
Hockey Junior Girls (11-15yrs)	3176	2	1588	3294	118	0.07

7.34 This means that population growth would result in demands for pitches remaining stable – the increased population will mitigate the impact of the ageing population over time.

Changes in Participation Trends

- 7.35 While population growth will have limited impact on participation, England Hockey seek to build participation in the sport, with a particular focus placed upon retention of existing players as well as an increase in the number of players aged 14+. In addition to the traditional form of the game, new forms of hockey have also recently been introduced, including Rush Hockey. These forms do not require formal facilities and can be played on any facility. The impact of their introduction and the rate of transfer to club hockey is not yet known.
- 7.36 Despite an overall focus on retention and a recent decline in team numbers, Chesterfield Hockey Club indicate that they have aspirations to increase the number of teams that are run and are currently working to achieve this goal (an increase in 2 adult teams).
- 7.37 There is scope however to grow existing clubs by up to three teams before capacity of the existing facility at St Marys would restrict further growth although this would rely upon flexibility of match programming as the site would be required to accommodate 4 fixtures per day. If Chesterfield HC were to achieve their goals, the pitch at St Marys RC High School would therefore be close to capacity. The club indicate that these issues have contributed to previous decline in membership and indicate that a lack of appropriate AGPs is the main barrier to growth.
- 7.38 Added to this, current usage of facilities means that if there was to be a requirement to increase the number of hours dedicated to training during the midweek peak period, there is more limited capacity to do this due to competing demands from football.

Forthcoming Changes to Supply

- 7.39 There are no known further plans that will impact upon the supply of AGPs,

Summary and Key Issues – AGPs for Hockey

- 7.40 The key issues for hockey are summarised in Section 11.

8.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of facilities for bowls and considers:

- The supply of greens and demand for these greens
- The adequacy of greens
- Summary and Issues to address

Supply

8.2 The outdoor bowling greens across Chesterfield are set out in Table 8.1. There are 21 greens located on 19 sites. Two sites contain more than one green – Staveley King George Bowls Club and Chesterfield Miners Welfare Bowls Club.

Table 8.1 - Bowling greens in Chesterfield Borough

Site	Ownership / Management	Number of Greens
Hollingwood Bowls Club	Club	1
Chesterfield Cylinders Bowls Club	Club	1
New Whittington Bowls Club	Club	1
Brimington Bowling Club	Club	1
Old Whittington Miners Social Club	Club	1
Stand Road Park	Council	1
Highfield Park Bowls Club	Club	1
Eastwood Park Bowls	Council	1
Robinsons Bowling Club	Club	1
Boythorpe Bowls Club	Club	1
Terminus Hotel Bowls Club	Club	1
Queens Park Annexe	Council	1
Chesterfield Bowls Club	Club	1
Chesterfield Miners Welfare Bowls Club Green 1	Club	2
Brittania Bowls Club	Club	1
Staveley King George Bowls Club Green 1	Council	2
Poolsbrook SW Bowling Club - Cottage Close	Club	1
Staveley Hall Bowling Green	Club	1
Staveley Miners Welfare / Lowgate Bowls	Club	1

8.3 There is one additional bowling green located in the borough at Chesterfield Cylinders Sports Club. This is no longer required for bowls and instead is used for archery.

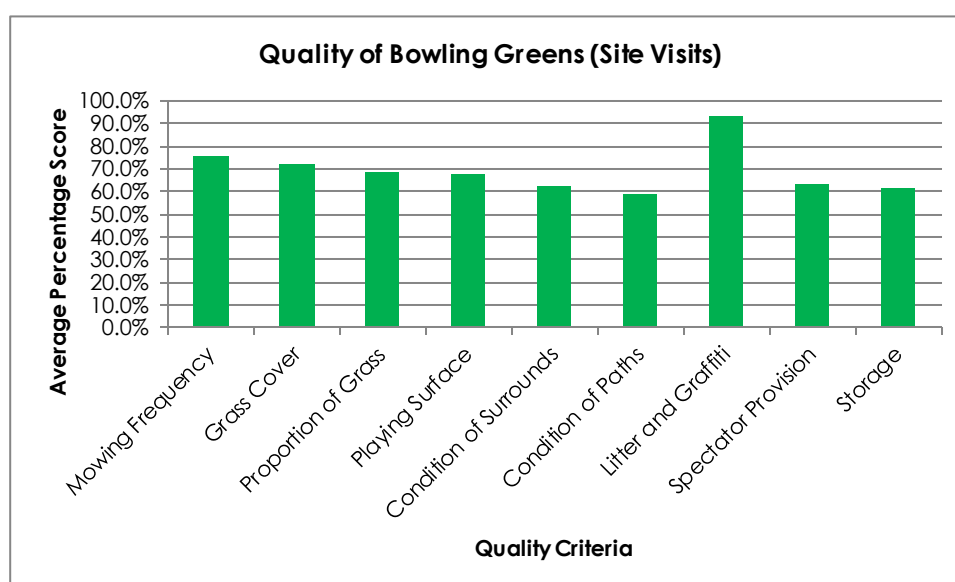
8.4 It should also be noted that while the bowling green at New Whittington Bowls Club still exists, the adjacent site has recently been purchased and that the purchase included the land currently occupied by the bowls club. The new landowner has increased rental charges for the bowling green and following a dispute the club have been locked out of the facility.

8.5 As evident in Table 8.1, the majority of bowling greens are now in private ownership, although there remains some reliance on the public sector, with just under 25% of all greens owned and managed by Chesterfield Borough Council.

Green Quality

- 8.6 Chart 8.1 summarises the quality scores achieved through site visits. It indicates that the quality of greens is relatively consistent across most criteria, with pathways and the bowling green surrounds the key area for improvement.
- 8.7 All bowling greens in the borough have a pavilion, although these are of varying quality and just under half of greens are floodlit, offering opportunities for evening bowling as well as activity during daylight hours.
- 8.8 It should however be noted that greens were visited out of season, however it was clear that most had been well used during the season and indeed reinstatement works were underway on several facilities at the time of site visits.
- 8.9 Interestingly, site visits did not reveal any clear differences between the quality of greens and managed by the Council and those managed by clubs privately.

Chart 8.1: Quality Scores for Bowling Greens



- 8.10 As can be seen from Chart 8.1, most greens in Chesterfield were described as being in good condition. Despite this, there is relative variation in the scores achieved, ranging from 42% to 88%, although the majority of sites achieved scores towards the middle of these two extremes.
- 8.11 For those sites that were rated more poorly, the key areas of concern were;
- Overgrown surrounds
 - Poor paths
 - More limited pavilions
 - Vandalism and graffiti.
- 8.12 Bare patches were also identified on the surfaces of several greens, however this was largely attributed to out of season maintenance and scarification, but also shows the value of the greens in that they have been used over the course of the season.

Demand

- 8.13 The Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data (explained in Section 3), enables evaluation of the proportion of the population that currently play bowls and the amount of people that would like to play, and also provides an indication as to how this varies across the authority.
- 8.14 Map 8.1 illustrates the distribution of those that play bowls across Chesterfield Borough while Chart 8.2 demonstrates the market segments which these residents are from.

Map 8.1 – Spatial Distribution of Current Participants in Bowls

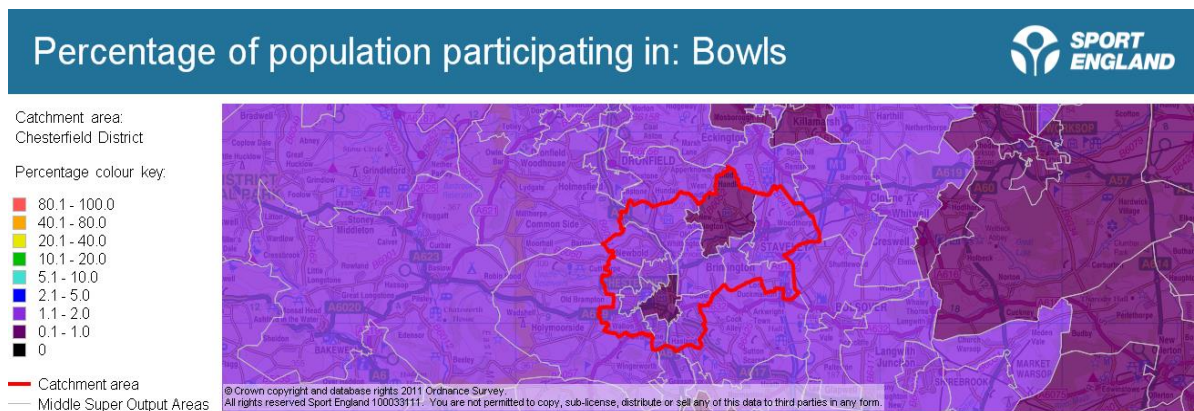
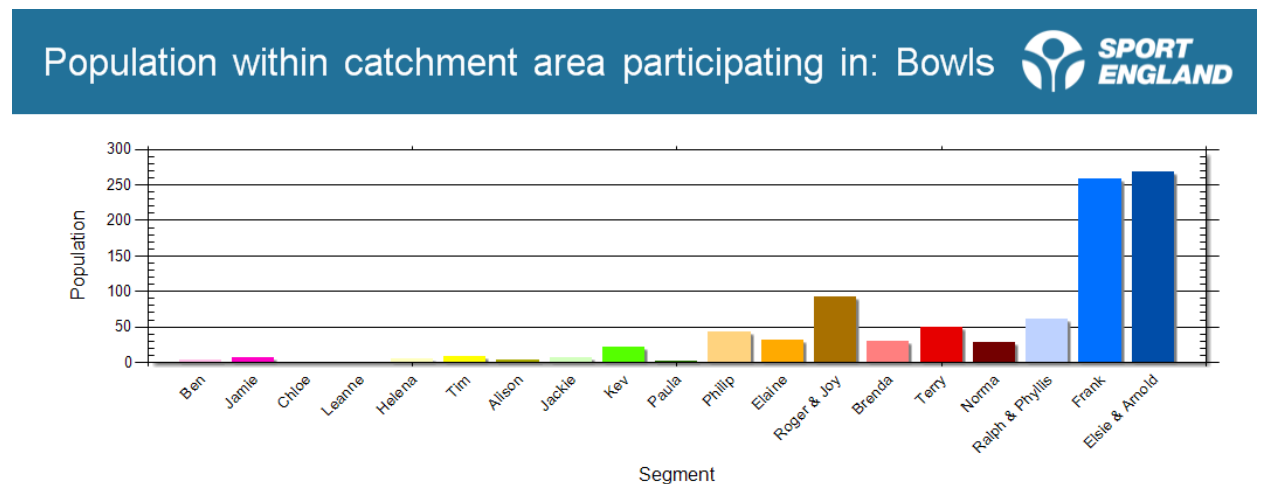


Chart 8.2 – Population Groups Currently Participating in Bowls



- 8.15 The key messages arising are;

- the profile of participants in bowls in Chesterfield is much focused towards older segments of the population than all other sports considered. The key participants are Elsie and Arnold and Frank and to a lower extent, Roger and Joy; and
- participation is consistent across the majority of the authority, however it is clear that there are two areas where fewer residents play bowls currently. These areas (Hasland and Chesterfield) correspond directly with the distribution of the population set out in Map 3.1, which revealed that while Elsie and Arnold are the dominant population group in most areas, in these two parts of the borough, the

profile of the population is dominated by Kev, who does not have a strong propensity to play bowls.

- 8.16 Unlike current participation, evaluation of the proportion of people wanting to participate in bowls across the borough suggests that spatially, potential demand is consistent.
- 8.17 Active People and Market Segmentation analysis reveals however that latent demand for bowls is lower than most other sports - 81% of the total potential bowls participants (those that currently play and those that express an interest in playing but do not currently do so) already play. The small amount of latent demand is made up of residents in the same market segments that already do play (211 in total).

Current Participation

- 8.18 There are bowling clubs located at all active greens in the borough. There are a multitude of leagues covering the area and most clubs have teams in more than one league.
- 8.19 Most of the clubs in the borough are affiliated to the Chesterfield and District Bowls Association, which seeks to promote the sport of crown green bowling across the borough as well as to organise league and competition play.
- 8.20 The Association runs Saturday and Wednesday leagues, as well as a ladies league and a veterans league. It also organises competitions as follows;
- Locker Merit and Ladies Merit – singles knockout competitions;
 - Junior Merit – two knockout competitions for juniors (one for those aged up to 14 and one for members aged between 14 and 18);
 - Veterans Merit – for players aged 60 – 64;
 - Aquarius Cup – for players aged 65+;
 - Midland Bank Doubles and Association Doubles – doubles knockout competitions]; and
 - Champion of Champions – competitions for overall club champions.
- 8.21 There is therefore a significant amount of competition that takes place during the bowling season and many clubs also have casual members, who don't wish to participate in competition, but instead play on a more relaxed basis.

User Views and Feedback

- 8.22 Membership of bowling clubs is relatively static overall. The Association has experienced recent decline, but participation now seems to have levelled. Consultation with bowling clubs demonstrate mixed trends in terms of participation, with several clubs experiencing decline, and others indicating that participation is increasing.
- Clubs that have increased in membership indicate that they have proactively sought new members through introductory taster sessions / community days as well as local advertising. A small number of clubs also indicate that they are trying to generate new members proactively through the creation of links with local schools. Clubs that are increasing in membership are primarily the larger clubs that have a wider membership base. It is also evident that there is a degree of inter club

movement, with clubs indicating that they lose members to clubs with better facilities. Clubs believe that the quality of facilities is key to attracting new players

- There are few junior members and most clubs struggle to attract junior players.

8.23 All clubs responding to consultation indicated that they have capacity for new members.

8.24 For local clubs, the key issues arising from consultations were;

- overall, there is a high degree of satisfaction with the quality of facilities, with few clubs experiencing significant issues and the majority happy with the greens that they use. The most frequently referenced quality concerns are the condition of the surrounds (paths etc), car parking and the pavilion (particularly in relation to the provision of accessible toilets). Few clubs raised any concerns with the quality of the actual green although vandalism has been experienced at some sites;
- several clubs highlight the rising costs of maintaining bowling greens and the concerns over the longer term impact on the sport of bowls. Funding was identified as one of the key barriers to the growth of the sport;
- several clubs highlight the challenges of recruiting and retaining younger and junior members and the issues of this with sustainability. Many clubs highlighted the importance of keeping costs low to ensure that the sport is accessible. For many clubs, higher membership rates mean that they are able to keep costs lower;
- residents expect to find a bowling green local to the home. 17% travel under 1 mile, 85% travel less than 3 miles suggesting local facilities are required. Geographically even distribution of facilities and all residents are within 3 mile distance. Despite the required local access, the importance of providing appropriate parking was highlighted by several, with many emphasising the mobility challenges that some bowlers face; and
- several clubs highlighted the opportunities that bowls brings in creating a social environment for older (and often less mobile) residents.

Site Specific Issues

8.25 Building upon both the consultation and the site visits undertaken, Table 8.2 summarises the site specific issues identified for bowling greens across Chesterfield Borough. Several clubs highlighted the importance of quality of facilities and many indicated that the quality of greens is one of the key reasons for losing or gaining players, and that there is a tendency for players within the bowling community to move to higher quality greens.

Table 8.2 – Site Specific Quality Issues

Facility	Quality Comments	Percentage Score
Hollingwood Bowls Club	Low metal fence on car park side. Gate, steps / ramp up to green from car park. Average quality floodlit facility with scope in particular to improve surrounds	66.67%
Chesterfield Cylinders Bowls Club	Poor quality surrounds in comparison to green. Second green used for archery and is floodlit. Club currently seeking funding for wood around green,	88.10%

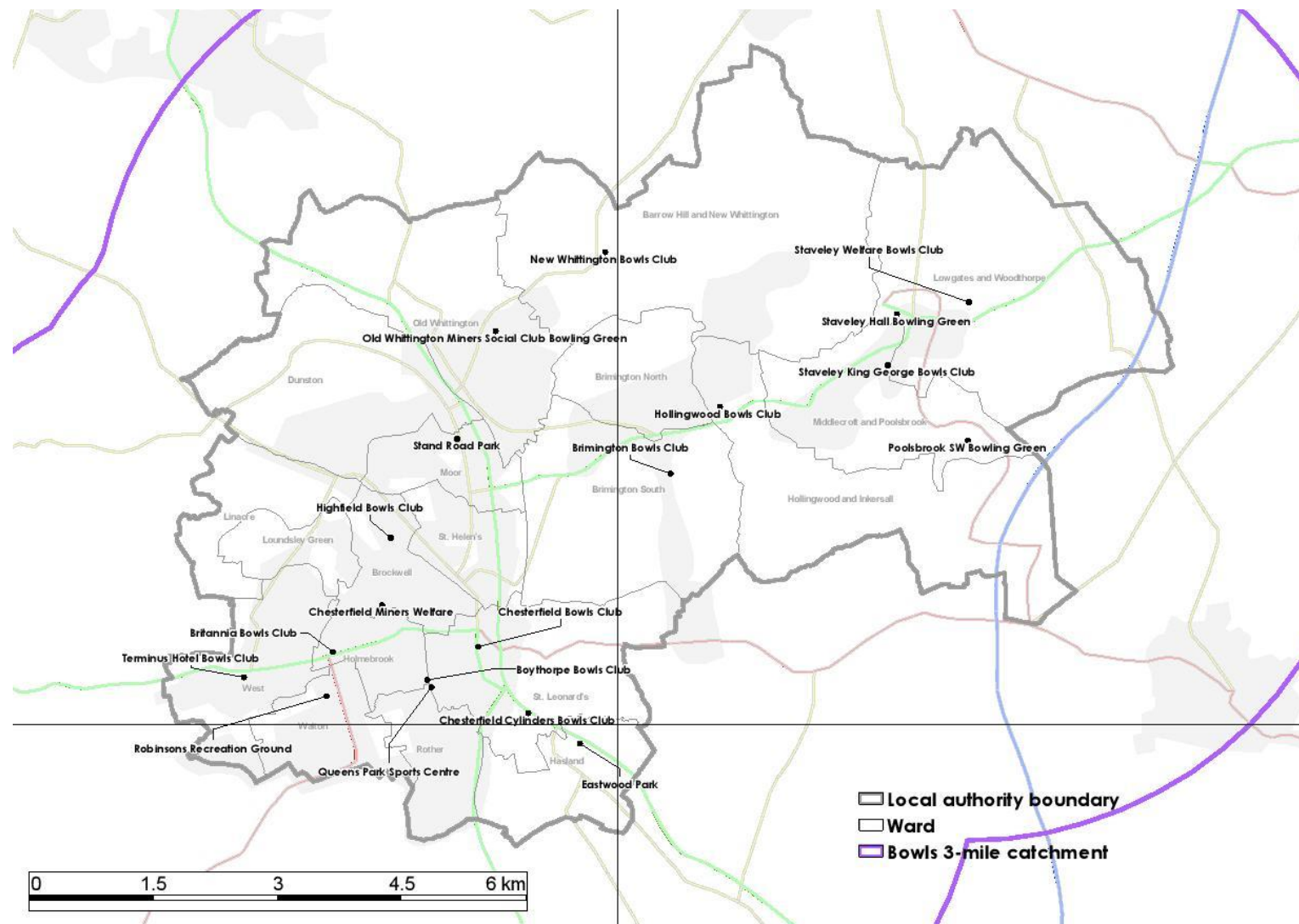
Facility	Quality Comments	Percentage Score
	tarmacking of floor and installation of disabled toilet to improve ancillary facilities. Issues with lease for use of club facilities mean that club have struggled to invest in the quality of the green and the insecurity over the lease means that recruiting new members is challenging.	
New Whittington Bowls Club -	Green set to side of clubhouse. Poor condition of both green and surrounds and appears to be in danger of dereliction. Club locked out of facility during the summer due to take over of ownership.	42.86%
Brimington Bowling Club	Good quality green with surrounds, new pavilion but no dedicated car parking. Club note that there is a disused overgrown area located in close proximity to the site, but that this is currently inaccessible due to a gate (and gate slightly too small to fit in car). Parking is a significant issue for the club. Club have also experience issues with surrounds – they have replaced half of the paving stones for health and safety reasons with concrete, but are unable to afford the other half. Club also do not have access to disabled toilet, except in nearby building which remains locked.	78.57%
Old Whittington Miners Social Club	Good quality floodlit green (although surface looks bare) with adjacent portacabin. Club highlight drainage and paths as the lowest scoring factors	71.43%
Stand Road Park	Large green. Surrounds poor and green also bare. Club indicate that new pavilion and shelters are required	64.29%
Highfield Park Bowls Club	Good quality green but clear evidence of vandalism and misuse of green and pavilion	78.57%
Eastwood Park Bowls	Green with small adjacent shelter. Currently bare but appears to be undergoing reinstatement work so likely to be good during playing season. Club highlight concerns about frequency of maintenance, as well as issues with misuse.	71.43%
Robinsons Bowling Club	Small bowling green without floodlights. Small adjacent covered pavilion and benches for spectators	66.67%
Boythorpe Bowls Club	Undercover benches and small pavilion surround green of adequate quality	85.71%
Terminus Hotel Bowls Club	Portacabin has glass side, enabling viewing on to green. Green of adequate quality but no dedicated car parking, which club highlight as a key issue. Club also indicate that clubhouse requires refurbishment	69.05%
Queens Park Annexe	Poor pavilion and surrounds. Poor surface (although reinstatement works may be underway). Significant evidence of vandalism and unofficial use and club believe fencing is required. Club indicate that site also suffers from poor drainage and that spectator seating is insufficient	52.38%
Chesterfield Bowls	Good quality green with good surrounds.	69.05%

Facility	Quality Comments	Percentage Score
Club	Accessible by pay and play street parking only	
Chesterfield Miners Welfare Bowls Club Green 1	One green of poorer quality and main green also has pylons on it. Large clubhouse as well as small pavilion	66.67%
Chesterfield Miners Welfare Bowls Club Green 2		69.05%
Brittania Bowls Club	Well maintained with evidence of recent scarification. Floodlit green with small wood panelled pavilion	71.43%
Staveley King George Bowls Club Green 1	Well maintained green, metal fence preventing access. Grass in good condition and cut short. Benches around both. Green has a slightly noticeable slope.	80.95%
Staveley King George bowls club green 2	Neglected green, littered with small branches, long grass and tracks across the middle. Green relatively muddy. Gutter removed to allow bike access. In danger of becoming derelict unless action is taken	54.76%
Poolsbrook SW Bowling Club - Cottage Close	No car parking. Green floodlit with small pavilion and garage storage. Club indicate that they would benefit from improved maintenance equipment and there is also a need for disabled toilet provision.	59.52%
Staveley Hall Bowling Green	Green in good condition although appears to be smaller than most others.	78.57%
Staveley Miners Welfare / Lowgate Bowls	Portacabin adjacent to green, worm casts on green impacting on current quality	69.05%

Accessibility

- 8.26 The age profile of participants in bowls means that access may be more important than for other sports and many may expect local facilities, or require greens that are accessible by public transport.
- 8.27 Consultation with bowls clubs reveal that 17% of existing members travel under 1 mile to a bowling green and 85% travel less than 3 miles. Map 8.2 therefore illustrates the location of each of the greens and includes a 3 mile catchment area around each green.
- 8.28 It indicates that most residents are within a 3 mile catchment of at least one bowling green, and very few have to travel further than this to reach a facility. This suggests that the distribution of these greens is good and that there are few gaps. The main area where there is no local provision is to the north of Chesterfield Town (Dunston / Loundsley Green / Newbold area). This may be significant as this part of the town does suffer from lower levels of car ownership than other areas, meaning that localised provision may be important.

Map 8.2 - Bowling Greens in Chesterfield



Meeting Current and Future Demand

- 8.29 There are no supply and demand models for bowling greens and it is therefore not appropriate to assess demand by applying the methodology used by other sports or by the use of TGRs.
- 8.30 Adoption of a historic Sports Council standard of 10 greens per 60,000 people (Planning for Sport 1970) would give a requirement of circa 17.2 greens across Chesterfield). Existing provision is above this standard suggesting that there is no requirement for further facilities. This standard does not take into account the level of play on existing greens, or the potential to increase participation in coming years.
- 8.31 There is no evidence based upon current participation that there is demand for additional facilities. All responding clubs indicate that they have scope for additional members and the Chesterfield and District Bowling Association indicate that there are plenty of bowling greens available. Recent participation has been static, although there was a previous decline in the numbers playing.
- 8.32 The average membership of responding clubs is just 50 players and it is known that there are clubs with fewer members than this. This means that there are opportunities to increase activity at the club site. Based upon club membership statistics (and assumptions that membership is in line with the borough average where not known), the number of existing participants in bowls is equivalent to 950. This very closely mirrors the levels of participation outlined in the Active People survey.
- 8.33 There is one former bowling green that is no longer used (Chesterfield Cylinders) as well as two further greens that are starting to fall into disrepair, although there remains club activity on these sites. As a consequence, there is no evidence that additional bowling greens are required, and concerns about the amount of facilities were few and far between during consultation.
- 8.34 Instead, recruitment of players, as well as retention of existing members is highlighted as a key issue by bowls clubs and sustainability of the club is ranked as the key challenge for bowls clubs moving forwards. Many clubs highlighted the importance of increasing their membership to ensure that membership and bowling fees can remain at an affordable rate for their club members.
- 8.35 Although there is sufficient capacity currently, the profile of participants in bowls means that the ageing population is likely to influence participation more so than for other sports considered in this document. There will be significant growth in the number of residents falling into the older age groups by 2031 and as a consequence, the propensity to participate in bowls is likely to grow in future years. The potential impact of this is summarised in Table 8.3.
- 8.36 It must be noted that these figures are based upon the assumption that bowls players fall into the age group of 60+. While it is recognised that this is not entirely accurate, membership figures, consultation and the Sport England Market Segmentation indicate that this enables a realistic estimate of future participation to be undertaken.

Table 8.3 - Calculation of Potential Growth in Bowls

Current Situation

Area considered	Calculation
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Current Population Aged 60+	26,247
National Participation Level in Bowls	1.73%
Current Membership of Bowling Clubs*	950 based upon 50 players per green
% of Current Population Participating in Bowls	3.6% of residents aged 60+
Future Situation	
Future Population aged 60+ (2028)	33,468
Assumed Future Participation in Bowls (participation remains constant)	3.60%
Potential Future Participants in Bowls	1205
Future Population aged 60+ (2031)	34,004
Assumed Future Participation in Bowls (participation remains constant)	3.60%
Potential Future Participants in Bowls	1224

8.37 Table 8.3 therefore indicates that assuming participation rates remain constant, demand for bowls is likely to increase by 274 players as a direct result of population growth. Assuming that membership of all greens is even, this would mean a membership of 64 players at each bowling club by 2031. This level of participation is still sustainable on each green.

8.38 This suggests therefore that there is sufficient stock to of facilities to meet current and future demand, based on existing participation rates. Indeed, higher levels of membership are likely to be a key way of maximising the sustainability of clubs as increased numbers of members will bring with it higher levels of income, which will be required to support the management and maintenance of greens. It should be noted however that due to the mobility of the older population, most choose to play at their local green. The varying membership at club sites means that some have more capacity than others to sustain additional growth. Future population growth is likely to be focused in the Chesterfield Town area, as well as Staveley and the Rother corridor and local centres. It will be essential to monitor membership and capacity at each site to ensure that additional growth can be accommodated.

8.39 Future participation in bowls is only likely to grow significantly if a more aggressive approach to recruitment is taken by clubs and governing bodies. Most clubs do little marketing of existing opportunities outside of word of mouth and leafletting currently and

there has been little growth in the sport, with some who have been involved in the sport in the area for years expressing concerns about the decline in the number of members, and in the number of teams entered into league and cup fixtures. . Active People suggests that 80% of those that wish to play are currently doing so and that latent demand is focused in the same market segments as those that are already playing.

- 8.40 If marketing / promotion was to be successful and latent demand and participation increases were realised, demand could increase. If participation was to grow by 20% (based upon the suggestion that only 80% of those that would like to play currently do so), participation may increase to 1468 members (70 members per green) which would further enhance sustainability but would ensure that the existing stock remains adequate.
- 8.41 In contrast, without participation increases, or in the event of further decline in participation, sustainability of existing club sites will remain the key challenge to address.

Key Issues

- 8.42 The key issues for bowls are set out in Section 11.

9.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of facilities for tennis and considers:

- The supply of courts and demand for these courts
- The adequacy of courts to meet demand
- Summary and key issues to address.

Supply

Courts

9.2 There are just eleven active tennis courts with public access across Chesterfield Borough currently and these are located at four sites. Two of these sites are club based (although one of the clubs is maintained by the Council), one is located at a country club while the remaining site is a public site offering free access.

9.3 In addition, there are three further former sites that have fallen into disrepair and are no longer functional as tennis courts (although the court area still remains).

9.4 All of the tennis courts provided across the borough are summarised in Table 9.1.

Table 9.1 – Tennis Courts across Chesterfield Borough

Site Name	Status	Management	Total Courts	Number of Floodlit Courts	Comments	Pavilion
Chesterfield Tennis Club	Operational	Club	5	3	Site also contains three indoor tennis courts	Yes
Queens Park Tennis Club	Operational	Club / Council	3	0	Site	Yes
Eastwood Park	Operational	Chesterfield Borough Council	2	0	Site has recently been improved and upgraded	No
Brampton Manor Country Club	Operational	Brampton Manor Country Club	1	0	Site currently in poor condition but used on occasion during the summer months	
Tapton Park	No longer in use	Chesterfield Borough Council	1		Site no longer used. Facilities not in suitable condition to be used	No
King George Field, Staveley	No longer in use	Chesterfield Borough Council	2		Site no longer used. Facilities not in suitable condition to be used	No
Whitebank Close	No longer in use	Chesterfield Borough Council	2		Site no longer used. Facilities not in suitable condition to be used	No

9.5 Table 9.1 indicates that Chesterfield Tennis Club is the only site in the borough to contain floodlit facilities. This site also contains three indoor courts, supplementing the outdoor courts.

9.6 In addition to the courts listed in Table 9.1, several secondary school sites contain tennis courts. These are primarily multifunctional, doubling as netball courts / playground areas during the winter months. There is no known community use of these tennis courts currently, but some potential for them to be opened for public use if demand was identified. There are courts at the following school sites;

- Brookfield School
- Newbold Community School
- Meadows Community School
- St Marys RC High School
- Hasland Hall Community School
- Netherthorpe School
- Springwell Community College

Participation

9.7 Active People analysis set out in Section 3 indicated that nationally, the proportion of residents playing tennis is declining.

9.8 More locally, the percentage of adults across Chesterfield who play tennis is represented in map and bar chart form and set out in Map 9.1 and Chart 9.1.

Map 9.1 - Percentage and location of the Chesterfield Borough adult population who play tennis

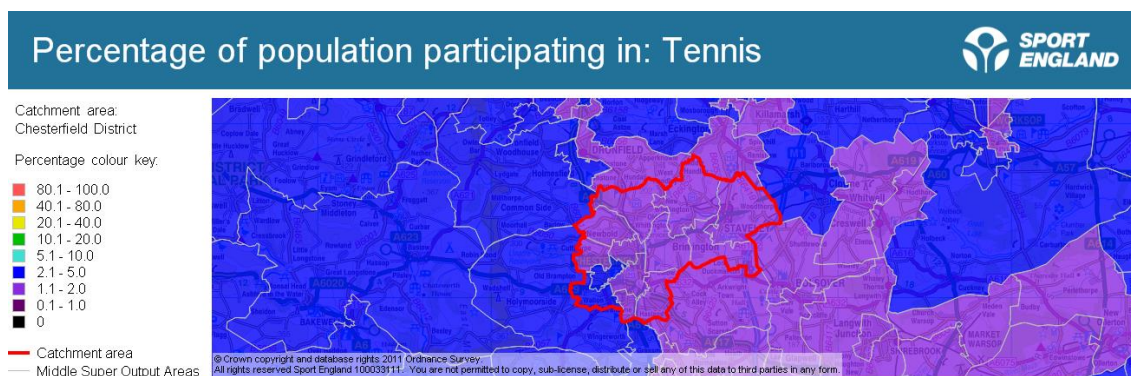
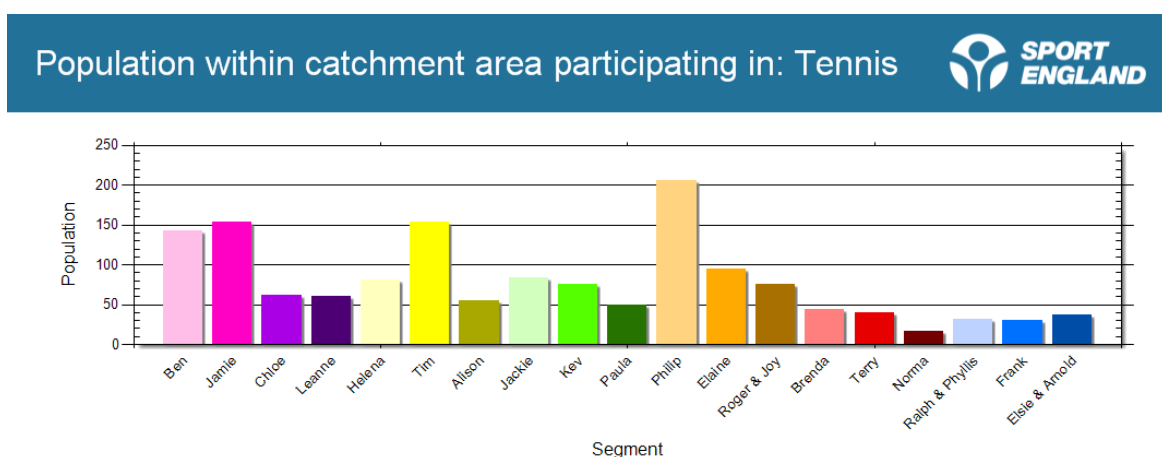


Chart 9.1 - Profile of the market segments who participate in tennis



9.9 The key findings from both the map and the bar chart are that:

- according to Active People, between 1.1 and 2% of residents play tennis. To the south west of the district (Brookside and Walton) participation increases to between 2% and 5%. This does not correlate directly with the distribution of tennis courts (there are no courts in this area) however this part of the borough is in very close proximity to Chesterfield Tennis Club, the largest facility in Chesterfield; and
- participation in tennis across the market segments is more varied than for other sports and most of the 19 have a tennis participation profile. This indicates that tennis is played across both sexes and that the age of participants is much more widespread than for most other sports considered. In total 1491 people across the borough play tennis, and participation at least once per month is highest by Philip (206 participants), Jamie (153 players) Ben (142 participants) and Tim (154). While the dominant participants therefore fall into the same groups as others playing tennis, it is clear that tennis provides an effective way of engaging residents who do not participate in other sports considered within this assessment. The more widespread participation profile also suggests that the impact of the ageing population will be less noticeable on participation in tennis than other sports.

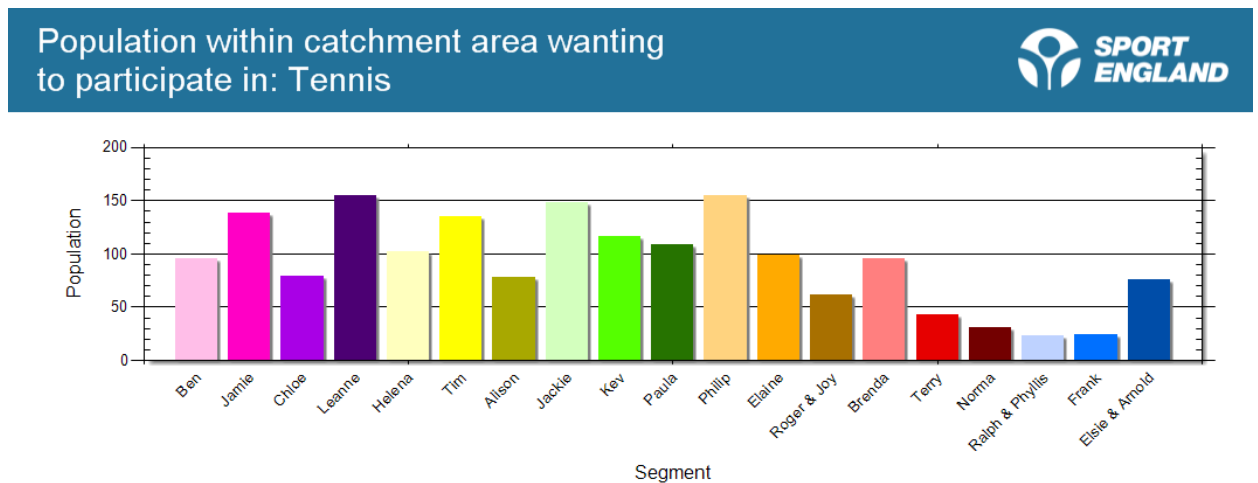
9.10 The Active People analysis of the percentage of adults who would like to play tennis is set out in Map 9.2 and Chart 9.2. Map 9.2 reveals that propensity to play tennis is varied across the borough, with those in the Netherthorpe / Poolsbrook and Birdholme areas having a lower propensity to play than those in other parts of the borough. There are no existing available tennis courts in these areas.

9.11 Chart 9.2 illustrates that those that do not currently play but would like to are in similar groups to current participants, but that there is particular latent demand for Leanne (155 people) and Jackie (148 people) as well as Jamie, Tim and Philip. Initiatives to increase participation could therefore be targeted towards these groups.

Map 9.2 - Percentage and location of the adult population who would like to play tennis



Chart 9.2 - Profile of the market segments who would like to participate in tennis



9.12 Significantly therefore, tennis is also the only sport where there are more that would like to play than do actually play. This suggests there is a high level of latent demand for tennis and the potential to capitalise on this to increase participation.

Existing Participation - Clubs

9.13 There are just two tennis clubs in Chesterfield Borough. These clubs and their membership trends are summarised in Table 9.2. It is clear that while Queens Park Tennis Club is struggling to retain their membership, in contrast to national trends, Chesterfield Tennis Club is continuing to experience significant growth.

Table 9.2 – Tennis Clubs in Chesterfield

Club Name	Activities Available	Membership Numbers	Participation Trends
Chesterfield Tennis Club	Casual play, coaching, mini tennis and cardio tennis. Club hosts several tournaments and offer a full coaching programme.	444	Membership increasing in all categories. Club proactively seek to increase membership through a variety of means including strong links with Chesterfield College, hosting promotional days and running courses for primary school teachers. The club also have a development programme engaging with at least 20 schools. Club received a recent grant to improve clubhouse and resurface courts.
Queens Park Tennis Club	Casual play only. No coaching programme	37	Queens Park Tennis Club has a declining membership and is struggling to retain members, particularly younger players. There is relatively limited junior participation and membership has not increased despite activities to do so. Facility quality, including vandalism issues (as well as comparison with

Club Name	Activities Available	Membership Numbers	Participation Trends
			facilities at Chesterfield Tennis Club) are thought to impact upon the clubs ability to attract new members.

Quality of Provision:

9.14 The quality of existing playing and ancillary facilities was investigated by site inspections and also informed by consultations. It reveals a significant difference in the quality of the club based facility at Chesterfield Tennis Club with the public facilities (perhaps highlighting the reason for the increasing membership at this site). Site visits also confirm that the courts at Tapton Park, Whitebank Close and Staveley King George are not currently capable of sustaining play. Table 9.3 summarises the key issues identified through consultation and site visits.

Table 9.3 – Quality of Tennis Courts in Chesterfield Borough

Site	Number of Courts	Parking	Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Club Comment
Chesterfield Cylinders, Whitebank Close	2	Yes	28.6%	Completely overgrown, fence disintegrating. It would be difficult to restore to tennis courts. Adjacent car park or tarmac area (used by Chesterfield FC players to park during training)	n/a
Tapton Park	1	No	31.4%	Virtually derelict. Faint lines for 3 courts but becoming overgrown by trees and bushes around perimeter and grass and thistles where net post anchorage previously was. Fence virtually missing all down one side. Cut branches being stored in one corner of facilities. Not functional in current quality	n/a
Eastwood Park	2	Yes	57.1%	Tennis courts also marked for netball / basketball. No nets or posts at time of site visit - removed for winter. One side of facility shares fencing with MUGA, the	n/a

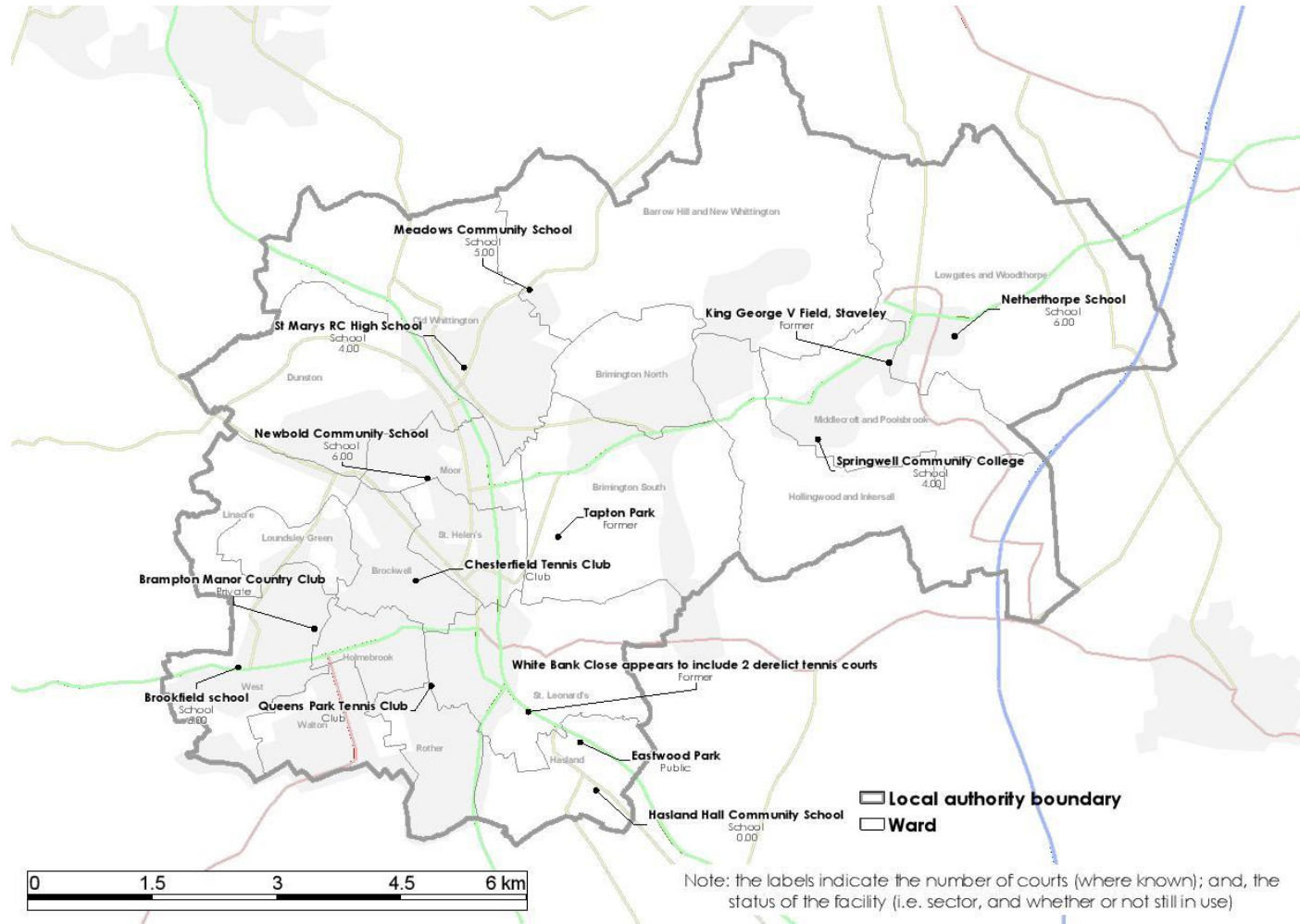
Site	Number of Courts	Parking	Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Club Comment
				other side has wire netting that is coming adrift. Facilities of average quality for public pay and play site.	
Chesterfield Lawn Tennis Club	7	yes	88.6%	Excellent quality facility with welcoming club environment and associated facilities – catering, clubhouse etc.	All elements of club base high quality. No specific improvements identified. Club own building and lease land
Brampton Manor Country Club	1	yes	34.3%	Run down and courts covered in leaves and litter. Has been used for setting off fireworks - contents still on area. Reception indicate that court is cleaned up during the summer and occasionally used.	n/a
Queens Park Tennis Club	3	yes	71.4%	Pavilion and surrounds give the overall impression that the site is run down, however the courts themselves are of adequate quality although. the colouring is just starting to wear off the playing surface.	Playing facilities acceptable, but site suffers from litter and maintenance issues, as well as vandalism which negatively impacts upon the ability to attract members. Poor quality clubhouse and lack of appropriate facilities for spectators. Courts require resurfacing and jet washing. Pavilion does not have running water.

Other Club Issues

- 9.15 Both responding clubs indicated that they have capacity to accommodate additional players within their existing facility stock and both clubs have actively sought to increase their membership through marketing and promotion although Queens Park Tennis Club in particular have struggled to do so effectively. Queens Park Tennis Club indicate that as well as the condition of their facilities (where vandalism reduces the attractiveness of the site, but also in comparison to Chesterfield Tennis Club), the lack of public tennis courts and the condition of the existing public facilities inhibits the growth of tennis in the area.
- 9.16 In recognition of issues to grow the sport, as well as concerns around sustainability of several clubs in the area (not just in Chesterfield) a tennis development forum has recently been established by the LTA in partnership with clubs. It is hoped that this will promote knowledge sharing across clubs and that membership will develop as clubs support each other in their growth.
- 9.17 As the only two clubs in the borough currently, all those wishing to play competitive tennis must travel to one of these facilities, or outside of the borough. 80% of members at Queens Park Tennis Club travel 1 – 3 miles, while the remainder travel further. For Chesterfield Tennis Club, the catchment area extends much further afield, potentially due to the additional opportunities that indoor and floodlit tennis courts offer.
- 9.18 Map 9.3 illustrates the location of all sites containing tennis courts, with a 3000 m catchment around each facility to provide an indication of the approximate catchment area of tennis facilities.
- 9.19 It includes both public and private tennis facilities, enabling consideration of the opportunities that could be provided if facilities that are not currently used by the public were made available. It also highlights the location of former courts.
- 9.20 Map 9.3 indicates that:
- Chesterfield Tennis Club and Queens Park Tennis Club are situated in close proximity to each other, meaning that they serve similar catchments. While they are within a 3 mile catchment of most of the borough, it does mean that very few residents have access to local facilities
 - The only public venue – Eastwood Park – is located to the south east of the borough, meaning that some residents must travel all the way across the borough to reach a pay and play facility
 - Schools that have private facilities are located in areas where there are no existing tennis courts and may therefore provide opportunities to improve access to facilities for residents as well as to increase the number of tennis courts that are available.

9. Tennis

Map 9.3 – Catchment Areas of Tennis Courts



National Governing Body Perspective – Lawn Tennis Association

- 9.21 The current LTA National facility strategy is set out in Places to Play. The facility element of the LTA places to play strategy focuses on:
- **improving facilities at high quality places to play:** Enhancing facility provision at performance venues and Tennis Clubmark accredited places to play;
 - **tennis in community settings:** Beacon sites - supporting LA's to bring back into use existing community tennis facilities and working with them to develop affordable quality tennis programmes; and
 - **sustainability:** Advising places to play to ring fence funding to ensure existing facilities can be upgraded or replaced when they get to the end of their life.
- 9.22 The strategy aims to increase opportunities for people to participate in tennis on a regular basis at a venue close to their home that provides high quality opportunities on safe and well maintained facilities. It sets out:
- the overall vision for places to play;
 - how LTA will grow regular participation by supporting places to play to develop and deliver the right programmes;
 - how LTA will make capital investment decisions to ensure we invest in the right facilities to grow the sport; and
 - how LTA will support performance programmes in the right locations.
- 9.23 It seeks to ensure that as far as practicably possible, the British population has access to and are aware of the location of high quality tennis opportunities in their local area. In brief:
- access for everyone to well maintained high quality tennis facilities which are either free or pay as you play;
 - a Clubmark accredited place to play within a 10 minute drive of their home;
 - indoor courts within a 20 minute drive time of their home;
 - a mini tennis (10 and under) performance programme within a 20 minute drive of their home (Performance Centres);
 - a performance programme for 11 - 15 year olds within a 45 minute drive time of their home (High Performance Centre); and
 - a limited number of internationally orientated programmes strategically spread for players 16+ with an international programme (International High Performance Centres).
- 9.24 LTA research reveals that many successful places to play are unable to grow or maximise their potential and their tennis programme due to site restrictions e.g.

- courts are at capacity and there is no space to expand further; and
- planning restrictions preventing the installation of floodlights or indoor courts.

9.25 The LTA want to work with places to play who want to grow and develop, by supporting them to explore the opportunity of merging with other places to play (tennis clubs or others sports clubs) in their locality or relocating to a new site.

Changing Ethos

9.26 Following recent reviews of the tennis landscape and local and national participation levels, the LTA is however changing emphasis and looking to promote tennis through more casual play in parks and public venues, as well as through the more traditional club environment and the opportunities set out in Places to Play. The facility implications of this will be set out in a new facility strategy which is currently being prepared.

9.27 Reflecting this change in emphasis, recent research undertaken by the LTA indicates that 65% of those that play tennis for 7 months of the year (summer) play at community venues rather than club venues, while for those playing all year round, the split is 50% club and 50% community. This highlights the role of community facilities and the value that they can bring in terms of increasing participation and provides an understanding of the rationale behind the changing focus in tennis development.

9.28 The new strategy will therefore consider innovative ways of designing and managing public tennis facilities to ensure that they deliver in terms of increasing participation and providing local tennis opportunities, but remain sustainable. Such innovations may include the use of key fobs and different ways of programming these facilities. These public venues will seek to support and complement an effective and sustainable network of tennis clubs.

Adequacy of Current Provision and Meeting Future Demand

9.29 As with bowls the assessment of tennis facilities does not lend itself to the estimation of demand used in other sports or the use of TGRs. It is however possible to evaluate the adequacy of provision drawing upon the tools available and the information outlined in this section as well as the targets set by the LTA.

9.30 Active People surveys reveal that across Chesterfield Borough, 1491 people currently participate in tennis however a further 1764 people would like to play. This latent demand is spread across different population groups and both genders (unlike most other pitch sports). The fact that the amount of people that would like to play is higher than the number of current participants suggest that there is potentially a lot of latent demand. Active People therefore suggests that there is an overall potential tennis playing population of 3255.

9.31 The LTA have not set formal quantity standards to evaluate the amount of provision, instead focusing upon an evaluation of accessibility as well as site by site issues. They have however derived indicative standards relating to the capacity of a court (of one court per 45 participants and 1 court per 60 participants if floodlit) to evaluate the number of courts required. It is emphasised however that these parameters are considered to provide an indication only, and other elements should be taken into account including tennis development, club structure and sustainability when considering the requirement for additional courts.

9.32 These broad figures can however be applied (drawing firstly upon data collated as part of the Active People Programme) to the estimated tennis playing population (taking into account latent demand) to give an indication of the adequacy of provision. It can be concluded that;

- based upon an assumed standard of 1 court per 45 participants (not floodlit) and 1 court per 60 players (floodlit), the existing stock of active outdoor courts that are available for community use will serve 815 players. Including the three indoor courts at Chesterfield Tennis Club would increase this capacity to 995 players. According to Active People, there are 1491 existing players meaning that the stock of facilities is below the levels required to meet demand
- if latent demand (according to Active People) was to be realized, provision would fall further below the levels required. Given that the existing facilities serve 995 players, a total playing population of 3255 people would theoretically require an additional 37 – 50 courts (depending upon the provision of floodlights).

9.33 This is a significant amount of additional provision. Compounding this, it should be noted that there are several sites containing former tennis courts, all of which have fallen into disrepair due to a perceived lack of usage. This suggests that the provision of additional courts to meet with the above estimates at the current point in time would have minimal impact.

9.34 Reinforcing this further, actual playing membership of existing clubs accounts to a much lower number of players than that suggested by Active People. In the knowledge that most public provision (where usage is not monitored) is now derelict and unplayable, this suggests that the Active People Survey over estimates the amount of regular tennis players that exist in the borough, or that residents are travelling outside the borough to play at other facilities. Given that it is known through consultation with the LTA that many nearby clubs are also struggling for membership, it is realistic to assume that actual levels of play are lower than those estimated through Active People Survey.

9.35 Table 9.4 therefore uses known club membership numbers to evaluate existing participation and the adequacy of provision. It uses the LTA parameters as a basis for this evaluation. To ensure accurate analysis, the indoor tennis courts at Chesterfield Tennis Club are included in the below calculations.

Table 9.4 – Capacity of each club

Site Name	Court Capacity - Floodlit	Court Capacity - None Floodlit	Total Capacity	Membership	Comment
Chesterfield Tennis Club	480	90	570	444	Space to accommodate new members
Queens Park Tennis Club	0	135	135	37	Space to accommodate new members

9.36 Table 9.4 indicates that there are 481 active tennis players in Chesterfield Borough and that the two club bases have capacity for 705 players in total. This means that more than

200 additional members could be accommodated across these clubs. The amount of spare capacity is similar in each club, but represents a much higher proportion of the total membership of Queens Park than it does Chesterfield Tennis Club.

- 9.37 Most notably however, activity at the two tennis clubs is only 32% of the amount of people recorded by the Active People Survey. In addition, these participation levels indicate that just 0.58% of the current Chesterfield Borough adult population play tennis, while Table 3.1 indicated that nationally, this level, although declining, is equivalent to 0.94%. This suggests that there is scope to increase tennis activity across the borough. The spare capacity at the club bases suggests however that it is not this that is limiting participation.
- 9.38 The public courts provided in Chesterfield Borough at Eastwood Park offer further capacity for tennis (90 players based upon 45 people per court). Given that there is spare capacity in the club base, as well as limited use of the existing public facilities, there is therefore sufficient capacity to meet current levels of participation. It is however known that there are some quality issues at Queens Park TC, which impact upon the attractiveness of the facility to members.
- 9.39 It is clear however that while there are enough courts for existing players, participation is lower than may be expected and there is significant potential to increase these levels. As outlined earlier in this section, the LTA believe community play to equate to broadly 50% of participation that occurs all year round and 65% of that that takes place in the summer. The low levels of capacity on public courts in Chesterfield (Just two courts and some use of Queens Park Tennis Club) however mean that there is limited scope for this form of activity and it could therefore be suggested that it is in the more casual form of tennis (pay and play) where there is existing latent demand, scope to increase participation and where there is a potential longer term requirement for additional facilities. This would also accord with the views of the two clubs, who suggest that there is a lack of appropriate public facilities. The lack of public facilities may therefore be the key factor that is currently constraining demand. The provision of additional public facilities at the current time would however have little impact or benefit, as several have already fallen into disrepair due to lack of use.
- 9.40 Population growth alone is likely to see increased demand for tennis courts. Based upon current participation levels (0.58%) this would result in an additional 38 players in total, which could be accommodated within the existing club and public infrastructure.
- 9.41 If LTA research regarding the balance of provision is correct however, as set out above, the lack of public provision can already be considered to be inhibiting demand. If 50% of future participants in tennis will play at public facilities and 50% at the club base, the level of unmet demand for public facilities is likely to increase and new facilities would be required. The club based infrastructure would however be sufficient to accommodate the required proportion of demand.
- 9.42 As a consequence of issues with sustainability regarding current and former public tennis courts across the borough, any new facilities would need to be carefully planned in order to maximise activity and ensure long term sustainability.
- 9.43 Several facilities located at school sites that are not currently available to the public have already been identified, as well as courts that have fallen into disrepair.
- 9.44 There are 31 courts at school sites. While the capacity of these facilities is reduced to due to curricular use, as well as use of the courts for netball during the winter months, even if only serving 20 players each, this would accommodate 620 players, a level more than

double existing participation. Opening these facilities for community use would therefore provide significant additional facilities.

- 9.45 Successful increases in tennis may however be dependent upon groups targeted however, because school facilities would not be available during the day and it is therefore likely that a mixture of public and school facilities would be required. It is however unlikely that new facilities would be of benefit, unless driven by sports development initiatives to increase participation. The location of new (or reinstated facilities) would therefore need to be driven through opportunities to create new development programmes and to deliver tennis development.
- 9.46 The quality of facilities, highlighted earlier in this section, will also be a key component of the adequacy of provision. Quality will become increasingly important as demand for facilities grows and higher quality facilities are also likely to encouraged increased usage.
- 9.47 The key issues to address will be summarised in Section 11.

Assessment of Need for Athletics

Introduction and Context

10.1 This section assesses the adequacy of facilities for athletics in Chesterfield. It includes;

- A brief overview of the supply of athletics facilities
- An understanding of demand for athletics
- A picture of the adequacy of provision.

Supply

10.2 There are no synthetic athletics tracks in Chesterfield. There were formerly two cinder tracks in the borough but these have recently closed, meaning that there are no dedicated facilities for athletics at all in the borough. There are however sprint lanes at Brookfield School, and facilities for sports hall athletics at several sites. Table 10.1 summarises the facilities that were available.

Table 10.1 - Athletics track provision in Chesterfield

Site Name	Facility Type	Lanes	Access	Ownership/management	Year Built/refurb
BROOKFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL (closed)	Cinder	8	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	1975/2006
QUEEN'S PARK ANNEXE (closed)	Cinder	6	Pay and Play	Local Authority	1968/no

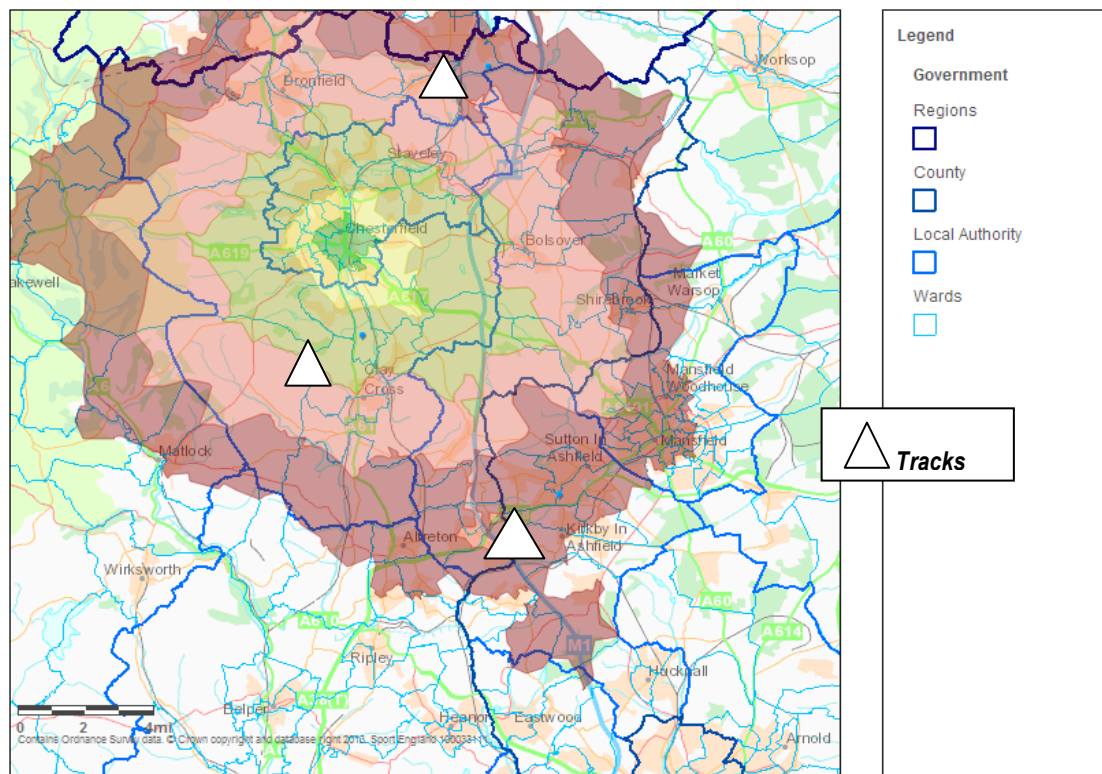
10.3 While there are no facilities in Chesterfield Borough, there are several synthetic tracks within a 20 minute driving catchment of the middle of Chesterfield town. These are set out in Table 10.2

Table 10.2 - Athletic track provision in the Chesterfield catchment

Site Name	Facility Type	Lanes	Access	Ownership/management	Year Built/refurb	Range	LA
TUPTONHALLSCHOOL	Synthetic	6	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school/ private contractor	2003/no	5-10	North East Derbyshire
ASHFIELD COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL LEISURE CENTRE	Synthetic	6	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school/ in house	2005/no	15-20	Ashfield
MOUNT ST MARY'S	Synthetic	6	Private Use	Other Independent School/commercial	2007/no	15-20	North East Derbyshire

10.4 There is therefore 1 track within a 10 minute drive from the middle of the town, and 2 within 15-20 minutes, albeit one of these is only in private use. All of these have 6 lanes. These tracks are illustrated on Map 10.1

Map 10.1 - Athletics tracks around Chesterfield



Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply. 23/9/2013 16:39

10.5 In terms of relative supply the following table shows the available synthetic athletics facilities in lanes per 1000 population for a variety of other local, regional and national areas. There is below (national) average provision in the county and both Chesterfield and Bolsover (where no tracks exist) although neighbouring North East Derbyshire has relatively good provision well in excess of the average. If Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire are considered together (Chesterfield is almost completely enveloped by NE Derbyshire), the pro rata supply is 0.06 lanes per 1000. If all three local boroughs are included (including Bolsover), then pro rata supply is still 0.04 lanes per 1000, still well in excess of the national average. The only qualification to this is that one of the tracks in the wider catchment (Mount St Mary's) is understood to have limited access.

Table 10.3 - Comparison of Athletics track provision

	Population	Tracks	Lanes	Lanes per 1000
England	53783800	257	1804	0.03
East Midlands Region	5979200	19	135	0.02
Derbyshire	1141100	4	26	0.02
Chesterfield	104290	0	0	0
North East Derbs	99770	2	12	0.12
Bolsover	76800	0	0	0

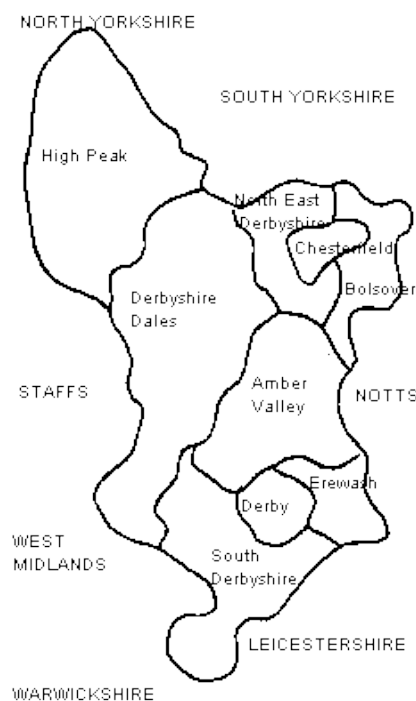
10.6 In terms of relative supply therefore, while there are no tracks within Chesterfield (and indeed Bolsover), over the local area which includes Chesterfield and the two contiguous local authority areas, there is well above average athletics track supply although one of the two tracks is only in private use.

Demand

10.7 Sport England Active People survey data (APS6-7) considers that about 4.5% of adults take part in athletics once per week nationally. The figure for the East Midlands is just 4%, the second lowest region after the west midlands.

10.8 Sport England's Market Segmentation data suggests that between 2 and 10% of local adult residents might currently be participating in athletics (about 4400 individuals) in Chesterfield, though this figure probably also includes jogging and walking. This proportion varies within the borough and is higher in the dark blue shaded areas in Map 10.3. It is evident from reference to Map 10.2 that the higher participation to the north, west and south of Chesterfield is in line with track provision in North East Derbyshire. Chart 10.1 illustrates the market segments in which participants in athletics fall.

Map 10.2 – Location of Chesterfield Borough



Map 10.3 – Participants in Athletics

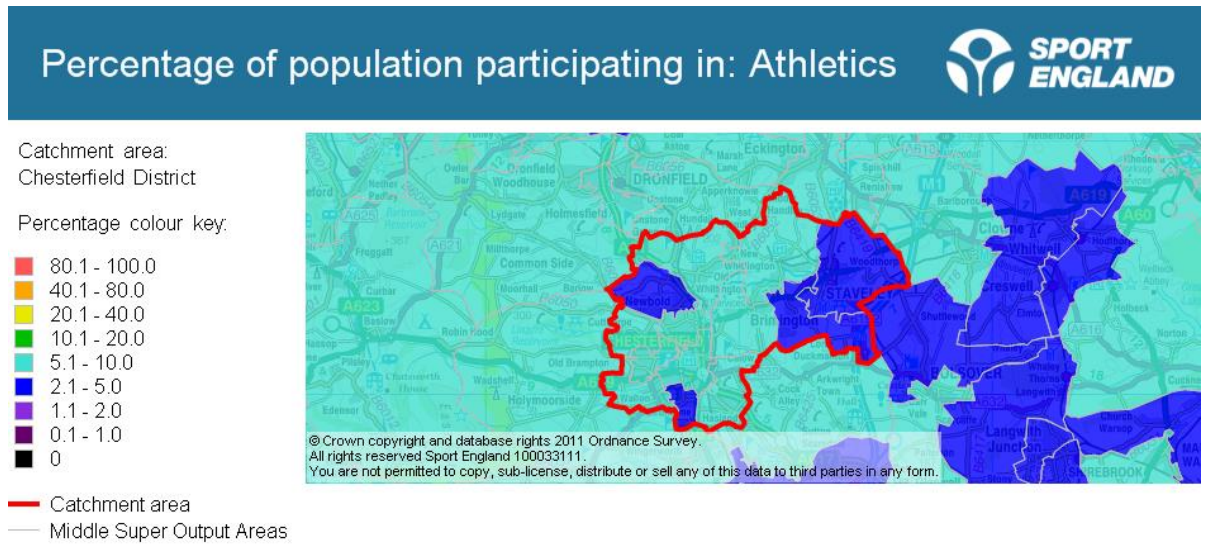
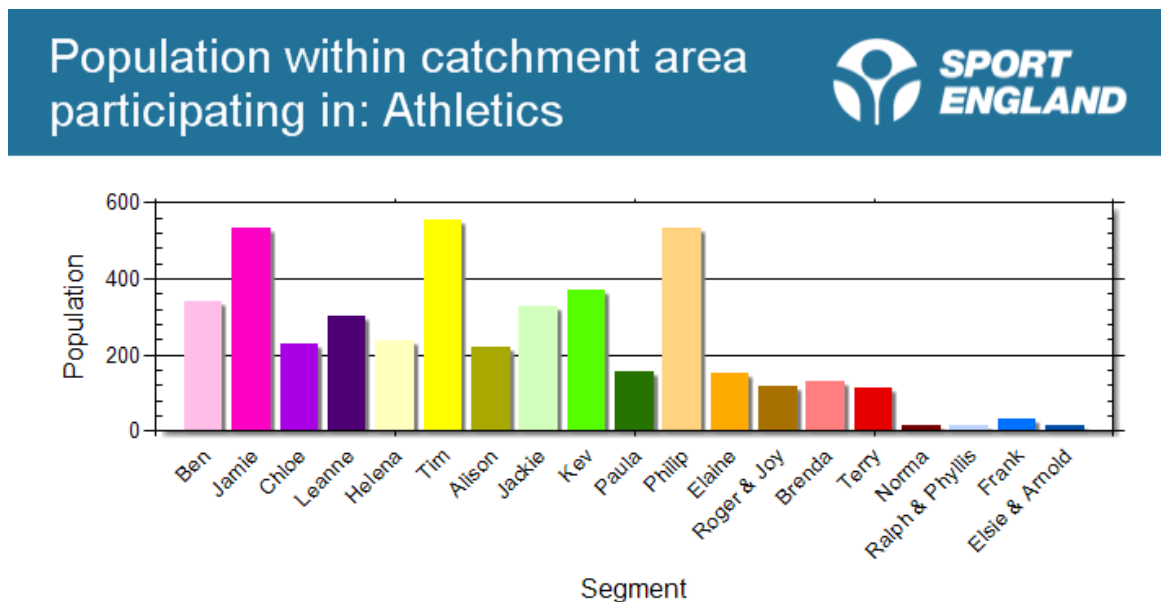


Chart 10.1 – Population Groups of Participants in Athletics



10.9 Sport England Market Segmentation suggests that there might be an additional 2100 adults who might wish to take up athletics. This is uniform across the area as illustrated by the Map 10.3. There is therefore a potential future demand for an additional 50% increase in activity, though this is considered optimistic and is based on potential usage.

Map 10.4 – Population Wanting to Participate in Athletics

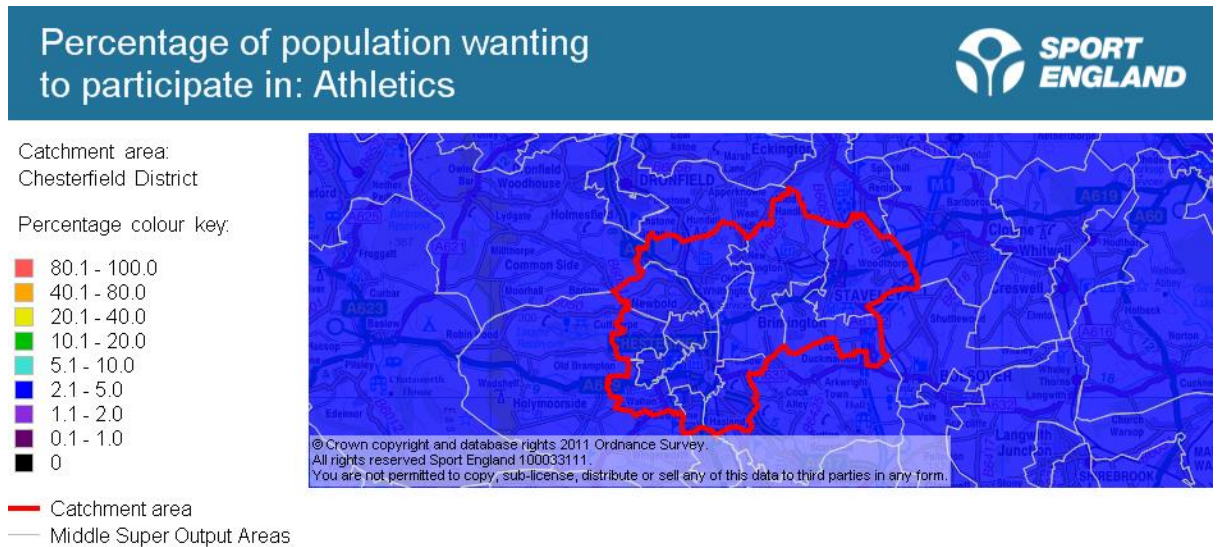
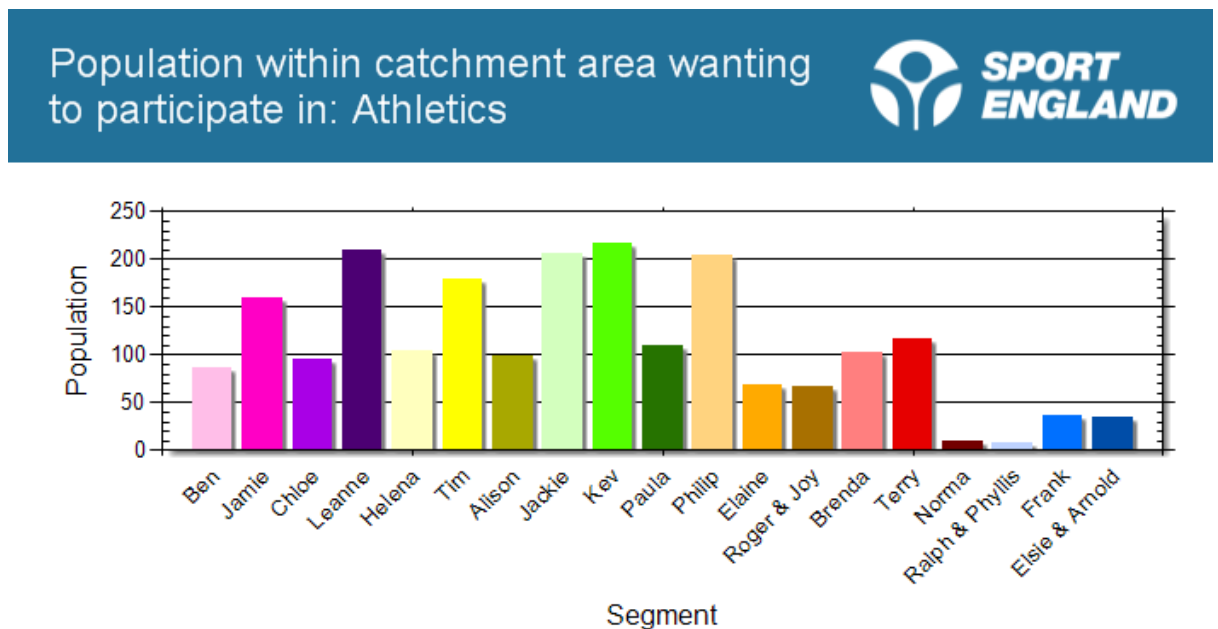


Chart 10.2 – Population Wanting to Participate in Athletics



Existing Athletics Clubs

10.10 As there are no athletics tracks based in Chesterfield Borough, there are also no clubs. Chesterfield Athletics Club relocated in 2008 from the Queens Park Sports Centre Annex redgra track in 2008 and this facility has not been used since.

10.11 The athletics club now uses a track in the neighbouring North East Derbyshire at Tupton Hall School and Moorways in Derby City for competition purposes. There is also another track at Mt St Mary's (again in NE Derbyshire). The club however continue to associate themselves with Chesterfield Town and would use any facilities provided within the town.

10.12 As such, there has been interest expressed in the creation of a small sized athletics facility within Chesterfield Borough to support club development and to ensure that local facilities are provided. Consideration has been given to the introduction of such a facility at both Brookfield School and Queens Park and it is thought that the creation of such a facility would provide pathways into more formal athletics, ensuring that opportunities to increase the participation in athletics are capitalised upon. The club do not however identify a requirement for a new full sized track, having successfully relocated.

10.13 The School Sport Partnership is also already established at nearby accessible Athletics facilities (Mount St Marys School and other use of Tupton School) and there is no requirement for additional provision to meet their needs.

10.14 There are seven Run England Groups in Chesterfield as well as three road running groups. While these clubs do not require formal tracks, it remains important to ensure that appropriate running routes are available.

Adequacy of Provision

Governing Body Consultation

10.15 UK Athletics, the sport's governing body, produced its latest facilities strategy Athletics Facilities Planning and Delivery 2007 – 2012 to guide facility provision up to and after the 2012 Olympics. The criteria for new projects seek to ensure a hierarchy of provision for competition and training purposes for both outdoor and indoor facilities.

10.16 The firm, but not strict, criteria for the provision of outdoor facilities is:

- One outdoor synthetic track (6 or 8 lanes) per 250,000 within 20 minutes drive (45 minutes in rural areas).

10.17 Current provision in this part of Derbyshire means that Chesterfield residents can gain access to three tracks within this recommended catchment, and there is no requirement for any additional facilities in Chesterfield on the basis of NGB guidelines.

England Athletics

10.18 The Strategic Facility Plan 2012-2017 builds upon and supports England Athletics core priorities as detailed in its partner strategy 'Fulfilling Our Promises' which aims to:

- raise standards in coaching;
- improve the quality of clubs and schools;
- improve competition structures;
- support and recruit officials and volunteers; and
- address the needs of competitors and participants within the four priority groups of young people, mass participation, club athletes and aspiring champions

10.19 The strategy sets out a menu of projects and subsequent facility requirements. The former facilities in the borough are not included within the audit of existing provision and no priority is placed on new additional provision in the area.

10.20 The strategy sets out England Athletics belief that there are sufficient formal tracks, however it also notes it will not support track closure unless a suitable alternative solution is found that aims to provide a better long-term future for the local clubs involved and for the communities that are served.

10.21 A Nation that Runs (A Recreational Running and Athletics Plan for England (2013 – 2017) seeks to establish more informal athletics facilities to support recreational running. It sets out how England Athletics will work with partners to bring athletics to new people, welcome back those who have been away and help and support those who are currently involved to progress. It sets an overall target of having 2.5 million active participants by 2017, which will be the result of significant investment into a recreational athletics programme. The strategy indicates that the key features of the programme are;

- Run England – creation of routes to affiliated clubs and outreach to wider communities
- 3-2-1 routes – development of permanently marked running routes – at least one in each major town and city by 2017
- AthletiFIT – designed to encourage people back into athletics.

Consultation – England Athletics

10.22 Consultation with England Athletics however reveals that while they do not see demand for formal athletics facilities in Chesterfield Borough, they support opportunities to provide opportunities for athletics within the borough commenting that;

- England Athletics were happy with the prospect of compact athletics as part of a master plan for the Queens Park site and this is indeed identified as a strategic priority for the Governing Body
- England Athletics would consider potentially funding external activities including compact athletics, cycle tracks, trim trail and Park run routes. This is also considered to be a strategic priority in line with the whole sport plan
- Chesterfield Athletics Club has expressed an interest in locating into the centre of town – a compact athletics facility might meet this aim and be well received

Future Need

10.23 As with other facilities, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. Even if increased participation in accordance with local and Sport England targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional tracks/lanes would be required in the next 10-15 years.

Athletics Summary

10.24 The key issues for athletics are therefore summarised in Section 11.

11. Summary and Key Issues

Introduction

- 11.1 This section brings together the findings for each sport set out in Sections 4 – 10 and summarises the key issues emerging for each sport. It also highlights where there are issues or overlaps between sports.

Football

Supply

- 72 football pitches available for community use, 89% of which are secured. There is limited use of unsecured sites
- 8 pitches available for community use but not secured – all located at school sites
- Most pitches not available for community use are located at primary schools – limited opportunities to open up these sites due to small size of playing fields, perceived impact on curricular use and pitch quality. Larger playing fields at St Marys RC High also not available, and facilities at Springwell Community College not available for community use due to relationship with Chesterfield FC
- 46% of pitches are adult sized while the remainder cater for 9v9 and mini soccer
- Reliance upon Council pitch provision – Council is primary owner and manager of facilities. Next largest provider is the education sector – important role of commercial management company in providing access to school facilities
- Pitch stock includes a small number of larger sites, but is characterised by numerous single pitch sites, particularly for adult football.
- six former playing field sites are no longer used and there is some scope to mark out additional pitches on existing sites, including Stand Road Park, Somersall Park and Highfield Park
- Pitch quality is relatively consistent across the borough and 85% of pitches are rated as standard. Pitches at club sites are the highest quality facilities. Pitches are however on the border between standard and poor and for most, the quality is retained due to limited use over the week. Pitches are known to deteriorate over the course of the season, particularly in the event of inclement weather. Drainage and playing surface are the most frequently occurring issues identified both through on site evaluation and local consultation and there are also concerns about the maintenance regimes, particularly on Council pitches. The quality of pitches at Council sites is overall perceived to be much poorer than other providers – this is a concern due to the reliance upon public provision by football. Concerns are also raised about the quality of equipment on school sites
- The quality of changing accommodation is similarly limited – while most sites have changing accommodation, this is largely provided in portacabins, some of which do not include showers. This is a key concern for many clubs
- With the exception of Staveley Miners Welfare FC, there are no facilities in the borough suitable for clubs playing in leagues requiring a higher standard of playing pitches
- Users are concerned about both the quality and amount of pitches – 25% of

respondents believe that pitches are deteriorating and maintenance regimes are becoming more limited. Several clubs indicate that they are forced to supplement the maintenance regimes carried out by their pitch providers in order to ensure that pitches are acceptable for use. There are overall high levels of dissatisfaction

- Significant investment has been made into pitches in the borough, including improvement to Holmebrook Valley Park – a project undertaken by Chesterfield BC in conjunction with the Football Foundation and Derbyshire FA

Demand

- FA data indicates that participation is above the regional and national averages and Chesterfield Borough is ranked number one in comparison to similar authorities
- There is a strong club structure, with many clubs offering a pathway from junior to senior sport and large numbers of big clubs. Recent participation trends indicate that while adult participation has declined, there has been a more steady increase in junior and mini football
- 217 teams, 70% of which are aged 16 and below. 46% of pitches in the borough are full sized, meaning that there is a slight in balance between supply and demand
- There has been recent decline in adult participation, slight increase in junior play, movement towards larger clubs and reduction in the number of smaller teams. Chesterfield Sunday league has declined by 28 teams in 3 years – this decline mirrors national trends and is something Derbyshire FA are addressing through initiatives targeting U21 and the transition between adult and junior football
- Small number of clubs with own facilities (Brampton Rovers, Staveley Miners Welfare). Clubs are largely reliant on Council facilities. Large clubs are dispersed across several sites and many are also accessing unsecured school sites
- There is a significant emphasis on Sunday morning for both adult and junior football, meaning that extra pressures are placed on pitch sites as all required at the same time. Higher proportions of mini football and 9v9 take place on a Saturday
- Some use of unsecured venues – primarily by junior teams and 9v9 teams. Junior teams also using senior pitches rather than dedicated junior facilities
- Limited impact of educational demand on community use - almost all schools have own facilities. Some concerns about pitch quality at senior schools, particularly with increasing levels of community use taking place
- Evidence of displaced demand – five junior teams and seven senior teams are currently travelling outside of the borough, but are based in Chesterfield and would like facilities in the borough if pitches of the right quality were available
- Active People indicates potential to increase participation by 17% based upon the total population that would like to play.

Adequacy of Provision

- Only 39% of users are satisfied with the facilities provided in the borough. Dissatisfaction is spread across all types of club and all sizes, and there is particular concern around the amount of junior pitches and quality concerns across all pitch

types. Several clubs comment that supply does not match demand

- Modelling reveals significant spare capacity available in all types of pitches across the week. This is influenced by the strong demand at peak time – there is heavy use of sites on one day and limited use outside the peak period. It should be emphasised however that the limited use of the pitches is thought to be partially responsible for retaining the quality at acceptable levels. Maintenance levels may be insufficient to cope with greater use of the pitches over the long term than currently takes place
- Reflecting the high peak time demand, there are very few pitches that are overplayed. Those pitches that are overplayed are associated with large clubs with multiple teams, in particular Staveley Miners Welfare and Brampton Rovers FC. Most sites have a small amount of capacity for further play
- Single pitch sites sustain much lower levels of play than the larger facilities. This is due to the popularity of the site, the preference of larger clubs to use bigger sites where more teams can play together, and the quality of pitches and associated changing accommodation
- There is extensive spare capacity on full size pitches, equivalent to 30 match equivalents. Peak time capacity is much lower (11.5 match equivalents). There are no pitches with lots of availability at peak time, but no sites are overplayed, while Brookfield Community School and Chantry Playing Fields are the only sites played to the level they can sustain. Across the week, spare capacity is highest at Chesterfield Panthers (influenced by the quality of the pitch which can sustain higher levels of play)
- While there is significant capacity in the pitch stock, many of the pitches are on the boundaries of being classified as poor and capacity is known to deteriorate over the course of the season. The high peak time demand means that this would have relatively limited impact as long as pitches could still host one game per week – if capacity at these sites is reduced, spare capacity decreases to 26 match equivalents, 11 of which are available at peak time
- There is more limited spare capacity on junior pitches (4 match equivalents). There are no public junior pitches and like for adults, the higher quantities of play are focused at club bases. Peak time capacity is equivalent to 6 match equivalent slots.
- Unlike adult football however, there is a significant reliance upon unsecured playing pitches for junior football - Dunston Primary School, Old Hall Junior School, Springwell Community College, St Marys RC High School and Brimington Junior School are unsecured for community use. Excluding these pitches, spare capacity reduces to just 1.5 match equivalents, and 2.5 slots at peak time. 1 match equivalent also takes place on unsecured pitches and there would only just be sufficient capacity to meet this need.
- Like junior pitches –there are pressures on 9v9 pitches (2.5 match equivalents, 3 at peak time due to greater spread of play). Overplay is focused on club sites (Brampton Rovers FC and Cavendish Primary School (Chesterfield Town) and there is spare capacity at Tapton Park and Highfield Recreation Ground. Much availability at unsecured sites (none of which have toilets etc) – Cavendish Primary School, Brockwell Junior, Inkersall Primary and Highfield Hall Primary School – loss of

use of these pitches would mean supply was evenly matched with demand.

- For mini football, 8 match slots available at peak time, but 39 across the week. High levels of use at Holmebrook Valley Park (no further capacity) due to function as central venue for Rowsley League. Remaining sites have capacity but relatively limited at peak time. There is spare capacity for additional play on 5v5 pitches.
- Overall therefore, there is enough spare capacity overall base upon existing demand, however the balance of pitches (too many full size pitches and not enough junior pitches) does not meet demand, meaning that there is reliance upon unsecured junior pitches. There are some pitches at school sites that are not available for community use at all currently.
- While there are quality issues with the existing pitch stock, the high peak time demand means that most pitches are only used once per week and the quality of facilities does not have a huge impact upon the adequacy of the pitch stock from the point of view of capacity. Quality issues however impact upon the perceived adequacy of the stock, cancellations, the level of satisfaction of users and the longer term sustainability of pitches. The limited levels of maintenance may cause particular issues should the amount of demand increase. Added to this, there are few higher quality facilities meaning that there are limited opportunities for teams wishing to progress
- Reflecting this, there are several displaced teams, who are struggling to access appropriate facilities and therefore travel outside of the borough to find alternative options (5 junior and 7 senior). This is attributed to quality of pitches, availability of pitches and cost.
- Two clubs, including Chesterfield Town, the largest club in the borough, have expressed an interest in managing and maintaining their own facilities. In addition, several smaller junior clubs indicate that there is latent demand due to a lack of access to facilities and that they wish for additional pitches. The creation of larger playing field sites (either new or through the reinstatement of existing large sites) may benefit these clubs and may provide an opportunity for the clubs to manage their own facilities.
- Population growth will place further pressures – it will generate 2 adult, 6 junior and 23 mini teams. While there are enough adult pitches, and mini play can just be accommodated, the stock of junior pitches is more constrained and when excluding sites with unsecured community use, provision would be insufficient. Population growth will focus around Chesterfield, Rother, Staveley and Poolsbrook
- There are however several schemes currently underway to increase the pitch stock including new provision at Langer Lane, Holmebrook Valley Park and improvements to facilities at Brookfield School. These will increase the pitch stock by 7 adult pitches, 1 9v9 and increased capacity for junior play. Capacity of full size pitches will therefore improve significantly. The existing pitch stock (if reconfigured to a more appropriate balance of pitches and the issue of a lack of large sites was addressed) would be sufficient to meet future needs, although long term quality issues would need to be overcome
- Clubs do however have significant aspirations to increase participation, equivalent to 37 new teams in the next five years, many of which will be in the junior age group. Achievement of specific growth aspirations would reduce spare capacity on adult pitches and mini and junior pitches would become tightly constrained,

meaning that a degree of reconfiguration will be required. If significant increases in demand occurred for pitches at peak time, pitches may however become further constrained and new pitches needed

- Reflecting the increase in the pitch stock that is planned for next year, the Borough Council intend to close some existing single pitch sites and reconfigure the pitch stock. As a consequence, several additional pitch sites will become dormant (returned to green space in the short term, but remaining designated as playing fields). These sites will offer the potential to accommodate usage again in future years and may offer the opportunity to increase the stock of facilities should participation rise at a speed quicker than anticipated. There are also some facilities at school sites that are not currently available for use which if opened, would be able to meet this unmet demand. Table 5.3 outlines the appropriate course of action for each site.
- In addition to the existing sites, there are several former playing fields that are not currently used. The majority are single pitch sites and as there are already enough pitches of this type, they have limited role to play in current or future provision. Table 5.3 evaluates the most appropriate course of action for each of these sites.

AGPs for Football

- Only one of the full sized pitches is 3g, the preferred surface for football and there is an additional small sized pitch at Queens Park Sports Centre. Brookfield School AGP, the only 3g pitch, is managed by the school who have relationships with several large clubs. The remaining AGPs are sand based
- Despite the emphasis on sand based provision, 85% of activity on AGPs is football – just 15 hours out of 104 available at peak times are dedicated to hockey. Despite this, only one full sized pitch (and one small sided pitch) has a surface that is tailored for football. Hockey usage is isolated to St Marys RC High School
- Taking into account just full sized pitches that are available to the community, pitches are operating overall at 64% capacity at peak time. Almost all spare capacity exists at weekends however and there are just 3 hours available midweek. Smaller sized pitches at Hasland Hall School and Queens Park Sports Centre are also used by clubs for training, with minimal spare capacity remaining. There is also evidence of teams travelling outside of the borough to use facilities in a variety of locations.
- While spare capacity is primarily focused on weekends, with only one pitch being 3g, there is limited scope for AGPs to be used for competitive league fixtures, as sand based surfaces are not approved for match play
- There is therefore limited capacity for further football training activity on full size pitches during the week and the Sport England FPM modelling confirms that pitches are running close to maximum levels.
- Demand for additional AGPs (particularly 3g) was one of the key issues emerging through consultation, with a greater proportion of users of pitches indicating that they are dissatisfied with current provision than those that are satisfied. The perception that facilities are inadequate was almost wholly attributed to the perceived lack of AGPs in the borough (and in particular 3g AGPs) and the resulting challenges in accessing these facilities. The cost of using AGPs was highlighted as a barrier by some. Some clubs would also like to see grass training

facilities, particularly for use during pre season

- Participation is therefore constrained currently and if further teams were to be created, additional pitch provision may be required. The current distribution of facilities is skewed towards the west of the borough, suggesting that new provision may be needed.

Football - Key Issues

11.2 The key issues for football can therefore be briefly summarised as;

- Imbalance between supply and demand - there is capacity to accommodate additional demand on full sized football pitches, the amount of spare capacity is however more limited for junior and 9 v9 football (on dedicated pitches). This can be attributed to several factors including;
 - a. high peak time demand;
 - b. lower levels of provision of junior and 9v9 pitches mean that there are limited opportunities for growth. This issue has also caused a particular reliance upon unsecured sites for pitches of these sizes; and
 - c. quality of pitches impacting upon the desirability of sites.

11.3 While there are enough facilities overall, these are not necessarily of the right size or in the right location;

- concerns about the quality of pitches - While quality concerns emerged as the other (in addition to quantity) key issue through consultation, the emphasis on peak time play means that these have a much lower impact than they would if play was more spread. Most pitches in the borough are used just once per week (at peak time) and improvements to the quality of facilities would not therefore significantly advance capacity in the stock, unless temporal demand for pitches was changed. The quality of pitches does however clearly impact upon player enjoyment and safety and perceived quality of pitches, alongside the changing rooms that are provided, is evidently a contributing factor for the slight imbalance in the use of pitches. The low levels of use of the pitches are currently ensuring that pitches remain playable and of standard quality, however should participation increase, it is unlikely that they would remain so, as the maintenance levels associated with pitches would be insufficient to sustain high levels of weekly use over the longer term. The key concerns include drainage and pitch surface and changing accommodation is also restricted;
- there is increasing displaced demand – caused by a mixture of qualitative and quantitative issues – there is an overall perception that there are not enough pitches of the right quality;
- participation, particularly for juniors is continuing to increase and there are significant aspirations for club development. Many clubs are dispersed across multiple small sites and most have no club base. The clubs that do have a club base are associated with the majority of overplay in the borough and have limited further opportunity to expand. There are several former playing fields that are not currently

used but few of these offer significant opportunities to provide large scale facilities and reinstating these sites would therefore have limited impact (as there are already sufficient pitches overall); and

- there is only one full sized 3g pitch in the borough and a second smaller facility although over 85% of use of all AGPs is football. Shortages of 3g AGPs was highlighted as a concern by 63% of responding clubs and some clubs are travelling outside of the borough to use facilities. Existing facilities are at capacity midweek. The lack of 3g pitches also means that there is minimal scope to use 3g pitches as an alternative to grass pitches for competitive fixtures.

Cricket

Supply

- Six active sites for cricket, including 6 grass squares (all secured for community use). Brearley Park, Eastwood Park and Robinsons Sports Ground do not have artificial wickets
- Provision is a balance between clubs (2), Council facilities (3) and school sites (1). Chesterfield Borough Council is therefore the main provider. There is limited access to facilities for local schools
- Two former cricket pitches (Stand Road Park / Somersall Park) – no longer marked out due to reduced demand for these sites. A pitch was also planned at Chesterfield RUFC which has not been delivered. Provision distributed primarily to the south of Chesterfield town and in the north east / Staveley. There is a gap to the north of the town where Stand Road Park pitch was previously located
- Pitch quality average overall although both Brearley Park and Eastwood Park are average to poor and the facility at Brookfield School is suitable for cricket of limited standard only. Staveley CC and Queens Park rated good with no issues identified. There are also issues with changing accommodation at Robinsons Sports Ground.
- Clubs concerned that pitch quality is deteriorating through a combination of overuse and reducing focus on maintenance. Quality of pitches believed to be inhibiting demand. Issues are also experienced with vandalism and misuse
- Sustainability of ongoing maintenance regimes is a key challenge for providers, particularly Chesterfield Borough Council
- Use of Robinsons Sports Ground is only an annual lease – lack of security of tenure and challenges in securing investment in to pitch quality. Chesterfield CC have 12 years remaining on their lease

Demand

- Participation declining – attributed to closure of clubs, lack of focus on cricket development and poor quality pitches. Mixed trends at existing clubs with only one experiencing an increase
- Just 12% of Derbyshire cricket output is in North Derbyshire (which includes the authorities of Chesterfield, Bolsover, NE Derbyshire) despite a significantly higher proportion of the population in these parts – significant opportunity to grow the game through an increasing focus upon sports development and partnership

working

- 50% of cricket teams are open aged male teams meaning that senior teams still dominate the cricket landscape but there are strong foundations for junior growth
- Chesterfield CC (Queens Park) important for national games as well as local fixtures
- Limited educational demand, with just one school having a pitch and only one additional school having a relationship with a club – suggests that recruitment of players is difficult. The Derbyshire Cricket Board are currently however in discussions with Chesterfield College to create a cricket academy which may provide a boost for the development of the sport
- Displaced demand evident – Two teams from Chesterfield CC travelling outside of the borough to play fixtures – attributed to lack of pitches of appropriate quality within Chesterfield. Issues with access were further evident through a recent approach to the Derbyshire Cricket Board by a team wishing to join a local league who were unable to secure access to a local pitch

Adequacy of Provision

- With the exception of Robinsons Sports Ground (Chesterfield Barbarians), there is capacity to accommodate more play on grass wickets at all sites. The facility at Robinsons Sports Ground is overplayed and there is no artificial wicket, further increasing pressure on the square as it is also used for training. The club currently require at least 11 good strips (have 9 of average quality) – lack of security of tenure and issues with poor quality changing accommodation further exacerbate issues at this site. All other sites have sufficient capacity for current activity over the course of a season.
- Despite this, Chesterfield CC travelling outside borough due to a lack of available pitches of appropriate quality at peak time. Although Eastwood Park has capacity (it isn't used), it is perceived to be of insufficient quality (bumpy outfield, poor wicket) to sustain required levels of play. The pavilion is also currently poor, although this will be replaced in 2014 with funding already secured. There are also similar issues with the pitch at Brearley Park, although this is used by Whittington Wanderers. There are concerns about the challenges of providing cricket pitches of appropriate quality on public sites.
- While there is spare capacity, as well as quality issues, declining participation is thought to be partly responsible for this – poor club development means that there is significant scope to increase the number of teams at each club.
- A lack of training facilities exacerbates concerns – this was raised as a key issue during consultation and there is a shortage of both indoor and outdoor training facilities. Neither Chesterfield Barbarians or Whittington Wanderers currently have access to any training facilities
- Population growth will result in the addition of 8 – 10 junior games and demand for senior cricket remaining static. This could be accommodated within existing infrastructures (assuming that current issues relating to security of tenure and pitch quality were addressed). Existing cricket clubs are located in areas most likely to see population growth, which may see a greater increase in participation occur
- Derbyshire Cricket Board have a strategy of retention of players across the county,

but with the significant latent demand across Chesterfield, believe there is scope to increase participation – they will be trialling the introduction of shorter forms of the game across the county, starting in Derby with a view to spreading across the county – if successful this will place further demands upon existing facilities

- Clubs also have aspirations for growth however existing facilities may restrict these if action is not taken– there is limited capacity for Whittington Wanderers to achieve their goal of the development of junior section without an artificial wicket and Chesterfield Barbarians have no further capacity, but would like to run more teams. There are further opportunities to increase participation through the cricket forum, which provides support for clubs and seeks to drive forward the sport.

Key Issues to Address

11.4 The key issues to address can therefore be summarised as;

- cricket in the borough is underdeveloped and there is significant capacity to increase the sport in terms of both club growth and creation of new forms of the game. There has been no focus on cricket development historically and there are no current forums for knowledge sharing or partnership working;
- Chesterfield Barbarians are the largest club in the Borough but operate on an annual lease, meaning there is no long term security of access to the site. Facilities are poor and the facility is insufficient to accommodate the number of teams that the club has currently. Aspirations for growth of the club can also not be accommodated;
- in addition to this, two teams from Chesterfield CC are currently displaced. Facilities at Eastwood Park are however not used (and pitches at Stand Road Park and Somersall Park have recently closed due to a lack of demand. All of these pitches were managed by the Council and were perceived by clubs to be of insufficient quality. It is clear therefore that outside of Brearley Park and Queens Park(used by Whittington Wanderers CC and Chesterfield CC respectively), there is limited role for the Council facilities in their current form due to their quality. There is however a need for an additional pitch for Chesterfield CC (to support the pitch at Queens Park) as well as issues with existing provision for Chesterfield Barbarians. There is therefore a need to review facility requirements to ensure that facilities provided meet with current and projected future demand in terms of both quality and quantity. A sustainable approach is required for the future delivery of cricket pitches to ensure that facilities (quality and quantity) does not restrict club growth;
- adding to the quantity issues experienced, both Brearley Park(wicket, outfield, vandalism), and Eastwood Park (bumpy outfield), Robinsons Sports Ground (showers) suffer from quality issues, which are thought to contribute to the low levels of play and restrict opportunities for growth; and
- there is a lack of training facilities at two of the four club sites (Robinsons Sports Ground, Brearley Park) as well as at Eastwood Park, which impacts further upon the capacity of grass squares to meet current and projected demand.

Rugby

Rugby

Supply

- Chesterfield Panthers RUFC is the main site for rugby in the borough, containing three pitches. The quality of pitches at the club is good, having only opened in 2012 and facilities are owned and managed by the club. The site includes a floodlit pitch as well as floodlit training grids and a comprehensive maintenance regime. The site also has a high quality clubhouse
- To support the sustainability of the club, the facility also includes community football pitches, which are currently rented to a large football club
- Only other pitches are located at St Marys RC High School. This pitch is not available for community use.

Demand

- There is only one rugby club– this is a large club which offers progression from midi rugby through to seniors and veterans. It has 13 teams in total and owns its own ground. Total match equivalents – 5 per week
- The club has experienced recent growth in the adult section following the relocation although there has been a drop in junior rugby - there is limited rugby played in schools within the borough which impacts upon the ability to recruit players
- All training takes place at the club base both on training grids and on the floodlit pitch – training can be equivalent to up to 6.5 matches per week
- Active People surveys suggest that there is potential to increase the rugby playing population by up to 20%, which would have significant impact upon demand for facilities.

Adequacy of Provision

- There is sufficient capacity at the club base – there is minimal scope to increase play at peak time but more during the week – capacity 9 match equivalents per week, current use on pitches 6 match equivalents per week therefore spare capacity 3. Capacity is more limited at peak time although mini teams are able to use training grids
- The overall quality of the rugby pitches is good and the maintenance levels are appropriate for the level of activity sustained. The level of activity that can be accommodated however is dependent upon retaining the good quality of pitch and the excellent drainage at the current site - pitches are currently able to sustain three games per week and provision would be more tightly constrained if this was not the case
- There is only one floodlit pitch, however use of the training grids means that this pitch does not accumulate significant training activity and there is no clear detrimental impact on the quality of this pitch
- Population growth alone will have little impact on demand for rugby, with just two

Rugby

additional midi teams, and no increase in junior / adult participation

- The club have however signed up the delivery of a development plan as part of their relocation. This will see aspirations to increase to a total of 17 teams. Targets are already part achieved but the club continue to work on these. The existing pitch stock will be sufficient to accommodate the intended increase in participation although this will be dependent upon the quality of the existing facilities being retained. Significant further increase will place great pressures on the pitches at peak periods.

Key Issues

- 11.5 Analysis therefore reveals that there are no clear issues for rugby currently. The club have recently relocated to high quality provision and are self sustaining. The lack of rugby activity in schools is however limited club development and there are opportunities to increase participation in the sport in Chesterfield Borough.

Hockey

Supply

- There are three full sized AGPs that have a suitable surface for hockey in Chesterfield Borough. All of these are located on school sites meaning that the Borough Council has no control over the surfaces that are provided
- Facilities are relatively well distributed, but there are no AGPs in the town of Chesterfield itself and a gap to the south east of the borough, although there are two small facilities at Hasland Hall Community School
- The quality of sand based AGPs is varying. The facility at Springwell School is good with no quality issues identified but while the facility at Newbold Community School is of adequate quality, it has no floodlights, restricting its role in community sport. In contrast, the surface at St Marys RC High School (which is owned and managed in partnership with the hockey clubs) is poor and is approaching 15 years old. The surface shows evidence of wear and tear and there are rips in the surface. It requires replacement to enable ongoing use of the facility.

Demand

- There are two hockey clubs, both of whom are based at St Marys RC High School and are part of the St Marys Sports Partnership. Both Hockey clubs own part of the facility and are involved in the management and maintenance of the site
- There are 9 teams (7 at Chesterfield Hockey Club and 2 at Staveley Ladies Hockey Club). The clubs however work together on junior development
- Recent years have seen a decline in senior hockey and demand for junior hockey has remained static. As a consequence, requirements for access to AGPs have reduced at weekends, although need remains constant midweek. The reduction in demand is however attributed to a lack of appropriate AGPs as well as

Hockey

declining membership and challenges attracting players

- Clubs are currently working with schools in a bid to increase the amount of hockey played and Chesterfield Hockey Club have aspirations for membership to return to levels it has been at previously.

Adequacy of Provision

- 85% of activity at peak times on AGPs is football. Despite this, 75% of full sized pitches are sand based pitches. Hockey usage is isolated to St Marys RC High School and this is the preferred venue, due to part ownership in the site (despite the poor quality of the facility). 60% of the use of St Marys AGP is hockey
- Hockey usage over the course of the week is equivalent to 15 hours per week
- At peak time, demand equates to 2.5 match equivalents. There is scope to increase this by three teams (1.5 match equivalents) before hockey use would need to be extended to a second site (assuming flexibility in fixtures). The condition of the pitch is such however, that without short term refurbishment, it will become unsuitable for hockey (and other activities that it also accommodates)
- While there remains availability in the current pitch stock, significant increases in demand may see opportunities for hockey restricted, particularly if additional evening training slots are required or growth beyond three teams is experienced
- There is more limited capacity across the AGP stock during midweek (with just 3 hours spare capacity)
- FPM modelling supports the above findings, suggesting that there is limited demand for additional sand based hockey pitches currently, although it does indicate that there is an imbalance between facilities for football and hockey. The current stock of facilities is slightly lower than regional and county averages
- Population growth will have limited impact upon the demand for hockey with less than one team generated overall. England Hockey are focusing upon a strategy of retention, and the development of new players through participation in non traditional forms of the game (which do not require formal hockey pitches). Increases in participation through sports and club development activity, including school club links are therefore the most likely means of participation growth
- Projecting future demand, it is likely that match play could be accommodated within the existing pitches but that additional capacity for training may need to be considered if participation was to grow (or existing football usage on the pitch relocated). This may happen naturally if football teams continue to relocate to 3g pitches as per the FA strategy.

11.6 The key issues to address with regards for hockey are therefore;

- competition with football highlights the importance of maintaining (and potentially increasing in light of participation increases) appropriate access to sand based AGPs for training and competitive activity for the hockey clubs. There is identified

imbalance between sand based and 3g pitch provision – 75% of full sized pitches have a sand based surface (suitable for hockey) but 85% of activity is football. This has no negative impact for hockey but impacts upon football. The pitch at St Marys RC High School is an important site for hockey and is sufficient to meet current and projected future demand unless there are increases in participation of greater than three teams; and

- the quality of facilities at the site however impacts upon the activity that can be undertaken – the pitch at St Marys RC High School requires short term replacement to ensure that it remains suitable for competitive play.

Bowls

Supply

- There are 21 bowling greens at 19 sites. In addition, there used to be a second green at Chesterfield Cylinders Sports Club – this is now used for archery instead
- A former green at New Whittington Bowls Club was used until it was recently sold and the club are currently no longer able to access the facility
- Just under 25% of greens are in Chesterfield Borough Council ownership, meaning that the majority are owned and managed privately
- The quality of bowling greens is good and consistent across the borough and there are no differences between facilities managed by different providers. Pavilions, pathways and the bowling green surrounds were the key areas identified for improvement
- There are concerns about the sustainability of bowling greens in the borough, with the cost of maintenance of facilities rising.

Demand

- The profile of participants in bowls is focused towards older segments of the population than all other sports considered. Active People suggests that there is some latent demand - 81% of those residents that expressed an interest in playing bowls are currently playing
- All active greens have existing clubs
- Bowling is relatively static and some clubs indicate that they have experienced a decline in membership
- There is little junior participation.

Adequacy of Provision

- There are no supply and demand models for bowls greens with the only standard being a historic Sports Council standard which would require 17.2 greens in the borough. Current provision means that the amount of facilities in Chesterfield is above this level
- The quality of existing facilities is good, however the sustainability of greens is

becoming an increasing concern, with the costs of providing such facilities rising and the number of participants remaining static or falling

- All clubs have capacity for additional members, and there is scope to accommodate more teams on all greens
- The average club membership is however just 50 per green (based upon respondents to the survey) which is relatively low
- In contrast to pitch sports however, the ageing population of the borough may see bowls become more popular in future years, as it is the older age groups who have a higher propensity to participate. This growth alone could generate an additional 274 bowls players, meaning that each club would accommodate on average 64 members, which is still well within acceptable capacity. Higher memberships will increase the sustainability of existing greens
- If marketing / promotion was to be successful and latent demand and participation growth aspirations were realised, demand could increase. If participation was to grow by 20% (based upon the suggestion that only 80% of those that would like to play currently do so), participation may increase to 1468 members (70 members per green) which would further enhance sustainability but would ensure that the existing stock remains adequate.

11.7 The key issues to be addressed for bowls are therefore;

- there is no requirement for the creation of additional greens, although all current functioning greens are valuable to their clubs;
- there are concerns about the sustainability of existing greens, with rising maintenance costs and relatively low membership numbers;
- there is a need to ensure that the quality of greens is maintained through the retention of ongoing maintenance practices and knowledge sharing;
- site specific improvements are also required;
- there are significant opportunities to grow the sport of bowls within the borough and to promote opportunities to participate. There is a need to maximise income into bowls clubs to ensure the ongoing sustainability of clubs; and
- population growth will increase the number of players and place additional demands on existing facilities.

Tennis

Supply

- The current stock of tennis courts is limited, with just two clubs and only two public facilities currently active. In total, there are 12 active tennis courts
- There are three former public venues that have fallen into disrepair due to

sustainability issues and a lack of use

- The quality of public tennis courts is poor. Club based facilities are of noticeably higher quality than other facilities, although while Chesterfield Tennis Club has high quality facilities, several issues, including vandalism, court surface and pavilion quality are raised in relation to Queens Park Tennis Club (Queens Park Annexe)
- There are 31 courts at school sites that are not open to the public currently, but may provide opportunities to increase the pitch stock in future years.

Demand

- Participation at the club base currently equates to just 481 members, representing only 0.58% of the population. The vast majority of club members are based at Chesterfield Tennis Club, with just 37 at Queens Park Tennis club currently. Queens Park TC have concerns about the sustainability of the club, particularly as they are also experiencing quality issues at the site
- Both clubs currently have capacity to increase the number of members
- The amount of people playing casual tennis is not monitored, but the limited facilities in the borough mean that there are relatively few participants
- Active People surveys suggest that there is scope to increase participation in tennis significantly and there are more people that would like to play tennis but don't than currently do play
- In recognition of opportunities to grow the sport, as well as concerns around sustainability of several clubs in the area (not just in Chesterfield) a tennis development forum has recently been established by the LTA in partnership with clubs. It is hoped that this will promote knowledge sharing across clubs and that membership will develop as clubs support each other in their growth.

Adequacy of Provision

- There are no formal models for evaluating supply and demand for tennis
- Analysis of the adequacy of provision using indicative LTA court capacity parameters suggests that there is capacity within the existing club base to accommodate both current and projected participation, assuming that the proportion of residents playing tennis (0.58%) doesn't change. In total, there are 481 members of existing tennis clubs but there is capacity for 705 members. Much of the spare capacity is at Queens Park Tennis Club, but there are currently concerns about how attractive the facility is to new members, when compared with facilities at Chesterfield Tennis Club
- Active People however indicates that there is significant latent demand for tennis, suggesting that there is an opportunity to increase participation above current levels. Club membership data reveals that current levels of participation are equivalent to 0.58% of the adult population, which is almost half that of national levels
- LTA research indicates that on average 65% of those playing during the summer will use public facilities, while 50% playing all year round will choose to play at

community sites rather than as part of a club. As there is a lack of public courts in Chesterfield, it is likely that the latent demand and low levels of participation can be attributed to a lack of provision in this area. If 50% of participants wish to play on public courts, there is insufficient capacity in the current stock to sustain them. This is echoed by analysis of the capacity at club bases, which indicates that clubs are able to sustain both current levels of demand and projected increases in participation resulting from population growth

- While until recently, the LTA strategy has focused upon growth through the club base, this is now changing and efforts to channel increased participation are being delivered through public venues. Public venues are becoming increasingly important therefore in tennis development and could have a central role to play in Chesterfield in realising latent demand
- While on face value additional public courts would therefore seem to be required, there are several former courts that have fallen into disrepair due to concerns over the level of usage that they receive (Tipton Park, Whitebank Close and Staveley King George). New facilities are therefore unlikely to be successful unless they are accompanied by a strong sports development initiative to grow participation and channel activity onto a new site. As a consequence their sustainability and any reinstatement / new provision would require careful management. The LTA are currently reviewing their strategy and will shortly be announcing a new direction, which is expected to include innovative ideas and sustainable solutions for providing public tennis courts. Analysis of the adequacy of provision suggests that this should be considered in the borough. There are also 31 courts at school sites, which may provide an alternative solution to providing new facilities.

Tennis

11.8 The key issues to be addressed for tennis are therefore;

- Although there are only two clubs, assuming that participation remains constant, there is capacity to sustain current and future participation, although some quality improvements may be required. There are however concerns about the sustainability of Queens Park Tennis Club, particularly in the context of declining membership and identified quality issues
- There is significant scope to increase participation in tennis across the borough, but there is a lack of public facilities and if an balance between club and informal participation is to be achieved, the stock of public facilities is insufficient to meet current and future demand. LTA research suggests that effective use of public facilities may effectively drive participation. New facilities (or former facilities reinstated) however would need to be carefully introduced and managed to ensure sustainability and maximise activity
- There are several former public facilities that have fallen into disrepair – these sites have no role in tennis in their current form, although they may provide opportunities in the longer term. There are also 31 courts at school sites which are not currently available for public use.

Athletics

Supply

- There are no existing tracks in Chesterfield. There were historically two cinder tracks both of which are now closed.
- There is relatively good access to athletics tracks outside the borough in accordance with NGB guidelines, and potential athletes can access 3 tracks within 20 minutes
- Athletics tracks are however a strategic facility and levels of provision are above average when considering a wider area comprising North East Derbyshire, Bolsover and Chesterfield Borough.

Demand

- There are no athletics clubs based in Chesterfield Borough – the only club (Chesterfield Athletics Club) relocated in 2008 to Tupton Hall School and Moorways Sports Centre in Derby. The club however continue to associate themselves with Chesterfield and would use any facilities provided within the town.
- Active People analysis indicates that there is potential to increase demand by up to 50%.

Adequacy of Provision

- There is no identified need for a full size athletics track, as the club are already accommodated elsewhere. National Governing Body Strategies and priorities do not identify the need for an additional facility
- To support club development and promote a pathway into formal athletics, and ensure that facilities are locally available, there may be justification for a small compact training track. There has been recent interest from both Brookfield School and Chesterfield Athletics Club in the creation of such a facility and. England Athletics believe there to be a strategic need for this type of opportunity
- Linked to the above, England Athletics also highlight opportunities to increase participation in recreational athletics and would support the development of marked running routes. The England Athletics Recreational Athletics Plan (A Nation that Runs 2013 – 2017) sets the target of establishing 1 recreational running route in each town /city by 2017 as part of the bid to increase participation in the sport. There are currently 3 road running groups in and around Chesterfield, all of whom would benefit from such a facility as well as 7 Run England groups.

Athletics

11.9 The key issues to be addressed for athletics are therefore;

- While there is no demand for a new athletics facility, there is a requirement to support local athletics development and there are significant opportunities to increase participation in the sport.

Next Steps

11.10 This assessment summarises the key issues arising and provides an overview of the assessment undertaken. The strategy document will seek to address the issues identified and set out recommendations and priorities for delivery.