

Warrington Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

July 2017

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Abbreviations

WBC:	Warrington Borough Council
PPS:	Playing Pitch Strategy
AGP:	Artificial Grass Pitch
3G:	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
ECB:	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH:	England Hockey
FA:	Football Association
MES:	Match Equivalent Sessions
NGB:	National Governing Body
NPPF:	National Planning Policy Framework
RFL:	Rugby Football League
RFU:	Rugby Football Union
S106:	Section 106
TGR:	Team Generation Rate

Section 1: Introduction and methodology

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report prepared by LiveWire Warrington CIC for Warrington Borough Council (WBC) and its partners.

This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy'. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

It will support the development of a new playing pitch strategy for Warrington. The key drivers for a strategy as set out by Sport England include:

- To support the improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.
- Sports development programmes and changes in how the sports are played.
- The need to provide evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision.
- The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
- Potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programmes e.g. for educational sites.
- To review budgetary pressures and ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
- To develop a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
- To prioritise internal capital and revenue investment.
- To provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.

The Sport England guidance details a stepped approach to developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). These steps are separated into five distinct sections:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report.

Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

The Borough of Warrington is bordered by Halton, Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East boroughs in the Ceremonial County of Cheshire and by the metropolitan boroughs of Trafford, Salford and Wigan in Greater Manchester and St. Helens in Merseyside. It serves a population of over 200,000 people.

Warrington is made up of a wide range of sports facilities that are well used and highly valued by the resident population. These sport facilities complement the overall stock of open spaces across the borough.

In the most recent Active People survey¹, Warrington was ranked as the most active borough in the North West. A key aspiration of the Active Warrington strategy 2017-2020 is to continue to see participation in sport grow. To help achieve this aspiration it is essential that residents across the borough have access to appropriate facilities. Playing pitches are a key part of the sporting infrastructure across Warrington.

The primary purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents within the Warrington area. The PPS will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision throughout Warrington.

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities. Paragraph 73 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 73 and 74 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A Playing Pitch Strategy will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraph 76 and 77 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

¹ Sport England. *Active People Survey 10 (October 15 – September 16, 1 x30 min participation)*. <https://www.sportengland.org/research/about-our-research/active-people-survey/>

Warrington Local Planning Framework

The Warrington Local Plan Core Strategy (LPCS), which was adopted in July 2014, sets out how and where development will take place in Warrington up to 2027 and the character of the place that WBC and its partners are trying to create.

Warrington's Local Plan Core Strategy is the overarching strategic policy document at the heart of the Local Planning Framework. It sets out a planning framework for guiding the location and level of development in the borough up to 2027. In addition the document outlines a number of principles that will shape the way that Warrington will develop between now and then.

Whilst the LPCS is still currently the statutory Development Plan for the Borough it was subject to a High Court Challenge that resulted in two parts of the Plan being quashed. Despite the LPCS having only fairly recently been adopted, as a result of the High Court Challenge and emerging evidence that underpins the Borough's growth needs and economic development ambitions, it has been necessary to commence a review of the Local Plan.

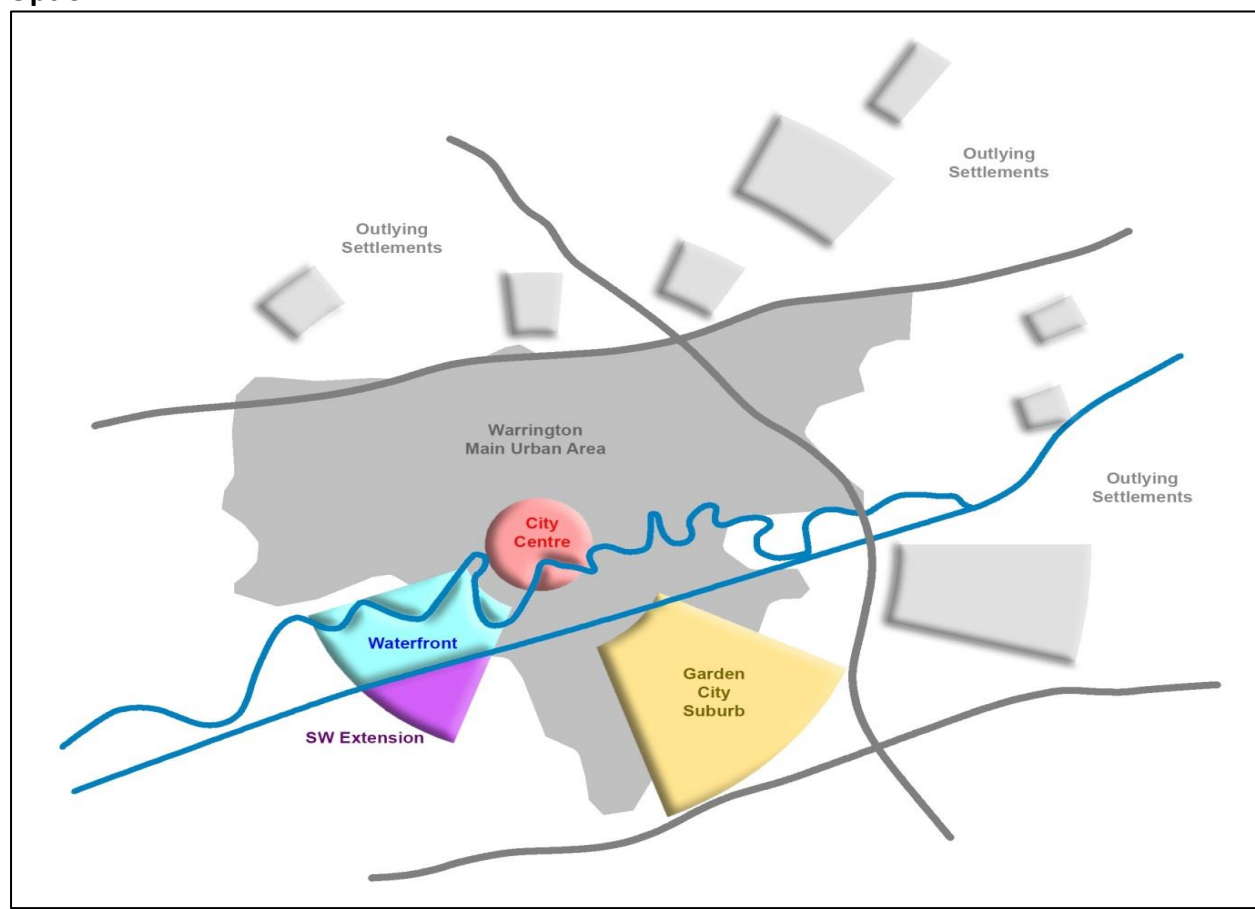
The LPCS was prepared to facilitate a much lower level of development than is now envisaged and therefore the Council has now concluded that the review will result in a new Local Plan, incorporating the elements of the existing plan that remain up to date and set out the strategic priorities for the area to deliver:

- the homes and jobs needed;
- the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- the provision of health, security, community, cultural and other local facilities; and
- climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape
- To support the higher level of growth.

The new Local Plan Preferred Development Option provides an ambitious plan for the future growth of Warrington. It aims to significantly boost development in the Town Centre and across Inner Warrington, complemented by the release of Green Belt land and supported by wide ranging infrastructure investment.

There are four main areas of growth identified – The City Centre, the Waterfront, the Garden City Suburb and the South West Urban Extension. These areas are complemented by the optimisation of development throughout the remaining neighbourhoods of the main urban area and incremental growth in Warrington's outlying settlements.

Figure 1: Illustration of the main areas of growth identified in the Preferred Development Option.



The Preferred Development option identifies sufficient land for new housing to meet Warrington’s development aspirations over the next 20 years. The table below demonstrate how these areas will deliver the required number of new homes over the plan period.

Table 1: Overall Housing Development Trajectory

	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
City Centre	980	1,629	917	0	3,526
Wider Urban Area	1,560	2,271	1,038	0	4,869
Waterfront	728	795	1,790	719	4,032
Garden City Suburb	406	496	48	0	950
Garden City Suburb (GB)	0	2,114	2,096	2,114	6,324
South West Extension (GB)	0	466	466	466	1,398
Outlying Settlements	148	51	40	0	239
Outlying Settlements (GB)	285	715	0	0	1,000
Other	41	10	22	0	73
Small Sites Allowance	435	435	435	435	1,740
Sub Total (Urban)	4,298	5,687	4,290	1,154	15,429
Sub Total (GB)	285	3,295	2,562	2,580	8,722
TOTAL	4,583	8,982	6,852	3,734	24,151

Therefore, WBC needs to review and revise its PPS in order to comply with the new guidance from Sport England and take account of the higher level of growth now envisaged. This new methodology will provide robust evidence for the Local Development Framework, statutory land use planning decisions and funding bids, which will involve the following:

- To provide updated information on Warrington's existing and future needs for playing pitches and its current ability to meet those needs in terms of quality, quantity and location.
- To provide evidence to inform wider Green Infrastructure Planning across the Borough
- To review any surpluses or shortfalls in playing pitches to enable the Council to set priorities and review recommended standards for provision, to be incorporated within and used in the implementation of planning policy.
- To provide background evidence to support emerging Local Plan policies (to be finalised during 2018) to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraphs 73 and 74
- To review the information to enable the Council to justify collecting developer contributions and inform the Council on the distribution of developer contributions to sports and open space in line with Section 106 regulations.

Warrington Council Strategy 2015 - 2018

On 2 March 2015 the council approved its new strategy, which sets a strong direction for the future.

'Working together' and getting the most out of the Warrington pound is a theme that runs throughout the document, and is underpinned by the vision: 'We will work together with our residents, businesses and partners to make Warrington a place where everyone can thrive'

Through the strategy the council makes four pledges to its residents that will be used as a basis for making future decisions.

1. To protect the most vulnerable
2. Grow a strong economy
3. Build strong, active and resilient communities
4. Create a place to be proud of

The strategy identifies a number of priorities for each of the four pledges. The most relevant pledge is the 'Building strong, active and resilient communities'. The priorities outlined are:

- Support communities (especially our most deprived communities) to become strong, sustainable and more resilient
- Improve the health of the population, reduce obesity, enhance emotional wellbeing and target issues that affect men and women differently
- Prioritise our partnership work to reduce alcohol harm
- Work with schools and partners to ensure our children have the best start in life
- Take action with partners and communities to reduce social isolation and loneliness particularly for older people
- Support residents in participating in cultural, sporting and recreational activities

- Ensure that all council policies and decisions consider and aim to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents

Warrington Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2015 – 2018)

The Warrington Health and Wellbeing Strategy identifies the priority areas where resources and services should be targeted in order to promote, maintain and increase the overall health and wellbeing of people, communities and the borough as a whole during the next three years and into the future.

It sets out a vision for the borough, identifies major challenges and priorities to be addressed by partners, and outlines the outcomes for the strategy. The vision for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is ‘Working together in Warrington for stronger neighbourhoods, healthier people, a prosperous economy and more equal communities.’

The priority outcomes for the strategy are outlined in figure 1 below

Figure 2: Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priority Outcomes

Priority Outcomes		
<p style="text-align: center;">Working together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in integration • Tackling inequalities • Promoting prevention • Providing care closer to home • Strengthening community resilience and improving engagement • Encouraging personal responsibility • Delivering excellence for Warrington 		
<p>Starting well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More mothers choosing to breastfeed • Less children living in relative poverty • Improved educational outcomes for the most deprived pupils and children in care • Improved lifestyle choices of children and young people • Improved levels of emotional wellbeing in children and young people 	<p>Living well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More residents with the skills to benefit from local economic prosperity • Improved employment rates for all communities • Reduced gap in life expectancy between our disadvantaged groups and communities and the rest of Warrington • Reduced levels of domestic abuse • Improved levels of emotional wellbeing 	<p>Ageing well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced levels of emergency hospital admissions of people aged over 65 • Improved support for people with dementia • Reduced social isolation • More older people living independently at home for as long as possible • Improved quality of life for carers
<p style="text-align: center;">A strong and resilient Warrington</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain our strong economy and continue to attract new investment into key regeneration and infrastructure initiatives • Improve community engagement and volunteering • Increased participation in cultural, sporting and recreational activities • Increased numbers of affordable homes • Increased numbers of people using sustainable travel 		

The strategy identifies a number of principles that will help clearly focus how partners will work together to shape an approach to transforming health and wellbeing in the borough.

The seven proposed principles are:

1. Investing in integration
2. Tacking inequalities
3. Promoting prevention
4. Providing care closer to home
5. Strengthening community resilience and improving engagement.
6. Encouraging personal responsibility
7. Delivering excellence for Warrington

Active Warrington Strategy 2017 – 2020

The Active Warrington strategy core outcome is that in Warrington more people, move more, more often! The strategy has a number of supporting strategic aims as outlined below:

- People are proud to be part of an active town;
- Everyone understands the full benefits of physical activity;
- Without discrimination, everyone has the opportunity to try out and participation in a broad range of sports and physical activities;
- Those who are currently inactive are specifically supported with initiatives that encourages them to move more, in ways that suit them;
- There continue to be sporting opportunities for people of all levels;
- Inactivity is recognised by local policy makes and practitioners as a major cause of poor health and disabilities.

The Active Warrington strategy has a steering group which drives the strategy. Beneath the strategy is a delivery framework which includes 6 work streams:

1. Leisure industry, sport clubs and facilities
2. Children, young people and families
3. Third sector, community assets and small funding pots
4. Targeted input to health improvement and clinical programmes
5. Businesses, active workforce and mass participation
6. Communications and customer insight

Playing Pitch Strategy Governance

The PPS is governed through a Steering Group and in line with the governance arrangements in place for the Active Warrington Strategy.

All decisions in relation to the PPS including updates and recommendations will be communicated via the leisure industry, sports clubs and facilities work stream to the Active Warrington Steering Group. Any actions or recommendations that may involve approval will then be communicated to the relevant groups and highlighted in the annual report of the Active Warrington Strategy.

The membership of the PPS Steering Group is balanced and representative of the different parties and key drivers behind the work. The membership has changed over the course of the PPS needs assessment project due to staffing changes within WBC and NGBs. The current members are outlined below. The membership reflects recommendations set out by Sport England in the PPS Guidance document:

Table 2: Warrington Playing Pitch Steering Group Member List

Name	Organisation	Role
Dave Cotterill	WBC	Environment Services Manager and Steering Group Chair
Kevin Usher	WBC	Senior Planning Policy Officer
Andy Barry	WBC	Recreation Officer
Fiona Pudge	Sport England	Planning Manager
Alice Watson	The FA	Regional Facilities & Investment Manager (NW)
Paul Kelsall	Cheshire County FA	County Development Manager
Tony Smith	Liverpool County FA	County Development Manager
Fiona Prescott	England and Wales Cricket Board	Facilities and Investment Manager
Mike Woollard	Cheshire Cricket Board	Club Development Manager
Carol Doran/John McMullen	The Rugby Football League	National Facilities Manager
Tom Bartram	The Rugby Football Union	Area Facility Manager
Julie Longden	Relationship Manager	England Hockey
James Birdsey	LiveWire	Strategic Lead – Sport
Matthew Parker	LiveWire	Project Lead for PPS

The PPS steering group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team.

It will be important for the PPS steering group to continue once the PPS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPS
- Ensure implementation of the PPS’s recommendations and action plan
- Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPS
- Ensure the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

Agreed scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities were agreed by the steering group for inclusion in the assessment and strategy:

- Football pitches
- Artificial grass pitches (3G and sand)
- Cricket pitches

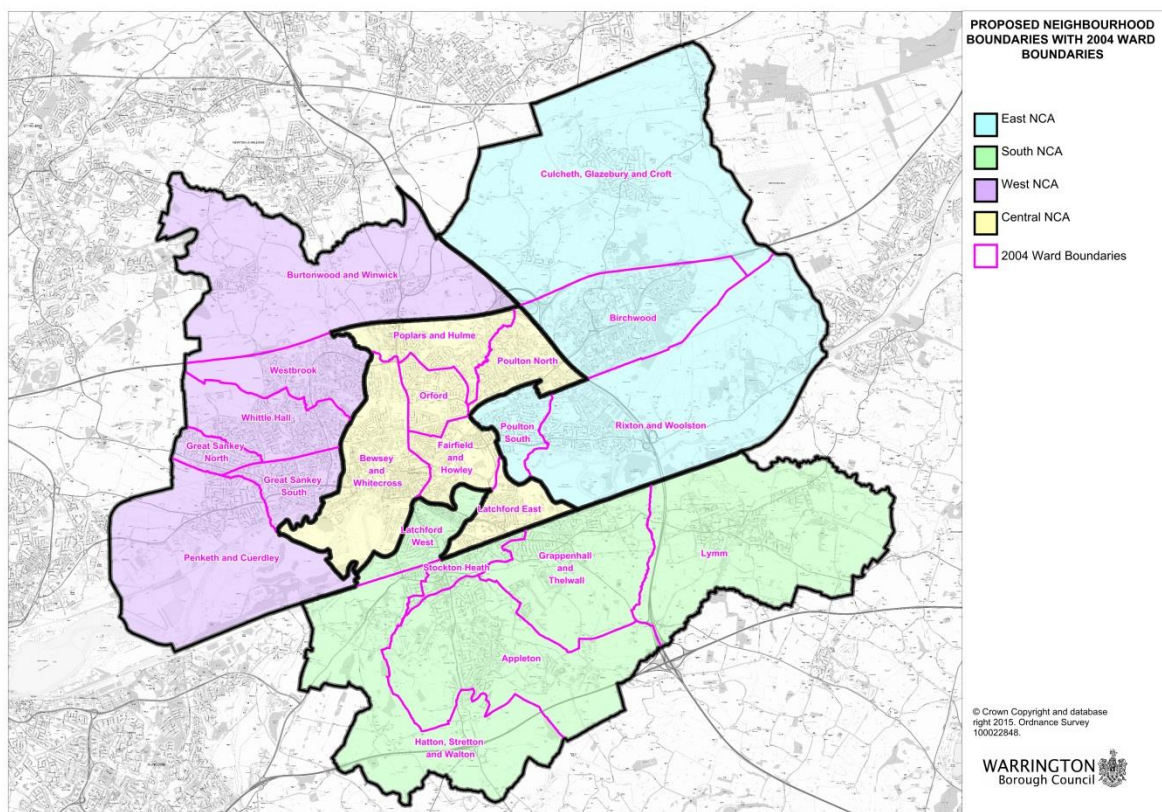
- Hockey pitches
- Rugby league pitches
- Rugby union pitches

Study area

As a borough wide assessment the study area reflects the Warrington borough boundaries. Further to this sub areas or analysis areas have been created to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

Warrington is currently split into four neighbourhood areas as shown in figure 3 below and these neighbourhood areas have been used as the analysis areas in the assessment.

Figure 3: Warrington Analysis Areas



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

It is essential that a PPS is based on the most accurate and up-to-date information available for the supply and demand for playing pitches. This section provides details about how this information has been gathered.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 ‘Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order’.²

Playing pitch – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounder’s, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.

Playing field – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

The status of a playing pitch and playing field is the same, irrespective of whether the site is owned or operated by the public, private or voluntary sector,

Quantity

All playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England’s Active Places web based database. The Council and NGBs supported the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues. For each site the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied as an electronic file):

- Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- Ownership and management type
- Security of tenure
- Total number, type and quality of pitches

² www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

Accessibility

Not all pitches offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of playing pitches also influences their actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- **Community use** - pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- **Available but unused** - pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- **No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- **Lapsed** - last known use as a playing field was more than five years ago, unless allocated for use as a playing field in a local plan. Allocated sites fall within Sport England's statutory remit but unallocated sites last used more than 5 years ago fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- **Disused** – pitches that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites have been disused for five or more years they are categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

Where pitches/sites have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches/sites and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch/site does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Quality

The capacity of pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by their quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a pitch being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

It is not just the quality of the pitch itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the pitch and ancillary facilities will determine whether a pitch is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

The quality of all pitches identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual pitches and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch.

These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

Gather demand information and views

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. Demand for playing pitches in Warrington tends to fall within the following categories:

- Organised competitive play
- Organised training
- Informal play

In addition, unmet and displaced demand for provision is also identified on a sport by sport basis. Unmet demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of pitches (and ancillary facilities) was available. Displaced demand refers to teams that are generated from residents of the area but due to any number of factors do not currently play within the area.

Current and future demand for playing pitches is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. Face to face or telephone consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport. This allowed for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

For data analysis purposes an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face to face consultation.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using population projections and housing growth figures, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

Housing Growth Scenarios are included within the Strategy Report.

Population growth

The resident population in Warrington using the 2014 Mid-Year Estimates was 206,428.

At strategic and operational levels plans to increase levels of physical activity must not be set in stone, they should be flexible and respond to predictable changes in age structure, gender and ethnic composition. The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 8.1% in Warrington's population (+16,799) over the 13 years from 2014 to 2027.

Team generation rates (TGR) are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area.

Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases, to the ONS population increases in each analysis area. The TGR is then applied to this figure and is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

- Recent trends in the participation in playing pitch sports.
- The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate in pitch sports.
- Feedback from pitch sports clubs on their plans to develop additional teams.
- Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. increase in participation).

Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered within Section B was used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Warrington. The assessment focuses on how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions³ per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.

This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows, to identify:

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

Develop the current picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site by site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an area by area basis via further interrogation of temporal demand. Although spare capacity may have been identified, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed or the site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing

Modelling scenarios (which will be included within the strategy) to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future. Scenario testing occurs in the strategy report and therefore does not form part of the assessment report.

³ The number of games played on a given pitch and by whom on a regular basis. The amount of training and associated activity taking place on a pitch on a regular basis

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision within Warrington. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues, which should now be checked, challenged and agreed by the Steering Group prior to development of the Strategy (Stage D).

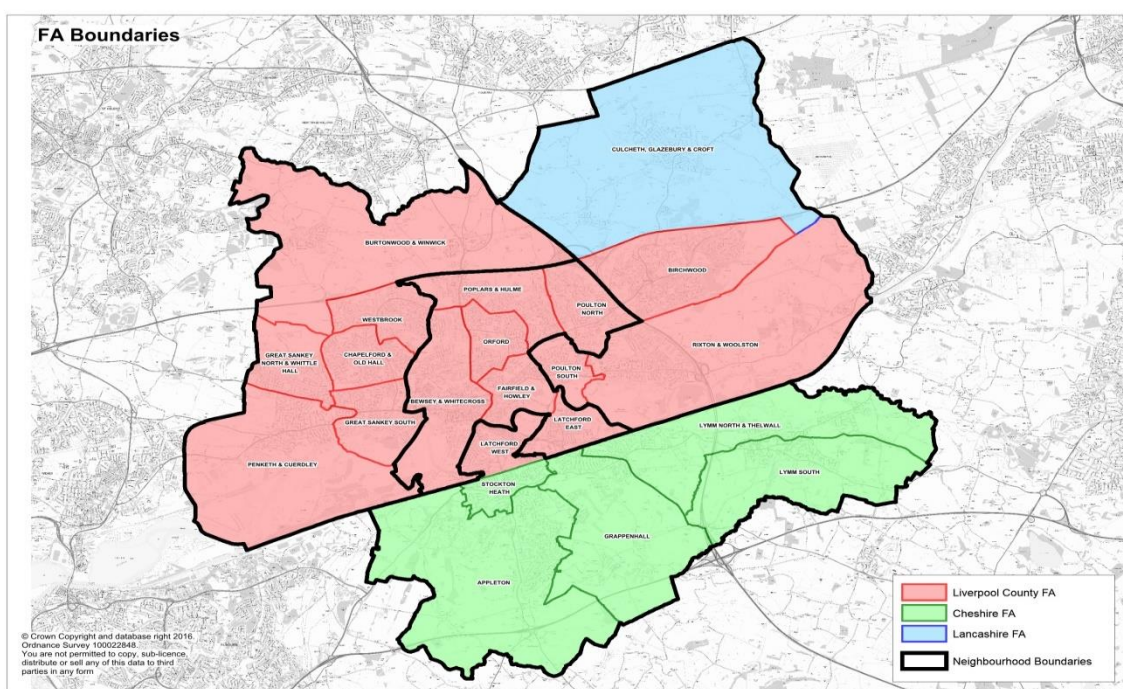
The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch sports in Warrington. Each section provides a quantitative summary of provision. It also provides information about the availability of facilities and the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plan (where they exist). The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are also summarised.

Section 2: Football

County Football Association's (CFA) exist to govern all aspects of football in England. They are responsible for administering club and player registration as well as promoting development and increasing participation in the sport. There are a total of three county FA's that operate across Warrington. Cheshire County FA, Liverpool County FA and Lancashire County FA.

This section of the report focusses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Section 3 captures supply and demand for 3rd generation artificial grass pitches (3G AGPs). There is already demand for use of 3G AGPs for competitive football match play and it is anticipated that this demand will continue to grow over the coming years.

Figure 4: Map of Warrington showing County FA Boundaries



Consultation

An electronic survey was sent to all Warrington based clubs affiliated to the CFA's that operate across the borough. In addition to this telephone communication took place to gather additional information and clarify data provided with a number of the large clubs based in Warrington. A total of 35 clubs engaged in the consultation process equating to a team responses rate of 90%.

The results of the consultation have been used to inform key issues within this section of the assessment report.

Supply

The audit of pitches identified a current total of 254 grass football pitches within Warrington across 124 sites. These are sites that currently have football pitches marked out on the site, or have had, within the last 5 years. Of these a total of eight pitches across six sites, are identified as disused (Table 3). There were three sites identified during the audit that have become lapsed sites. This means they have not had football pitches marked out and or been used for more than 5 years.

Table 3: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community by analysis area

Analysis Area	Available for community use					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Central neighbourhood	9	1	1	12	3	26
East neighbourhood	25	4	13	29	8	79
South neighbourhood	31	4	6	22	4	67
West neighbourhood	20	1	5	23	2	51
Warrington	85	10	25	86	17	222

Table 3 shows that there are a total of 222 grass football pitches that are available for community use. The East neighbourhood area has the highest total number of grass football pitches (79), followed by the South neighbourhood area (67) and then the West neighbourhood area (51). The Central neighbourhood area has the lowest total number of grass football pitches (26).

Of the community available football pitches, 83 are managed in house by schools/ colleges/ universities, 74 are managed by Warrington Borough Council, 15 are managed by LiveWire (a Community Interest Company), 13 are managed by sports clubs, 12 are managed by a bespoke school lettings service and another 12 managed by Parish Council's. The remaining pitches are managed by Trusts or are privately or commercially managed.

Table 3 identifies a large number of adult pitches in Warrington but it should be noted that the consultation identified that many junior football matches are taking place on adult pitches. This includes some youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, and some mini football being coned out and played on.

In total 97 youth 11v11 teams currently use adult pitches for home matches, which is not ideal for youth players and is not in line with the FA Youth Review.

The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football and youth football (U17 & U18) is 110m x 70m. The recommended size of a junior pitch is:

- 100m x 60m (U15 & U16 11v11)
- 90m x 55m (U13 & U14 11v11)
- 80m x 50m (U11 & U12 9v9)
- 60m x 40m (U9 & U10 mini 7v7)
- 40m x 30m (U7 & U8 5v5).

Lapsed/ disused sites

Table 4: List of sites identified as lapsed or disused

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Lapsed or disused site	Pitch types	Comments
50	Grappenhall Hall School	South neighbourhood	Disused (2015)	1 x youth pitch	School closed
67	Lymm May Queen Field	South neighbourhood	Disused	1 x adult pitch 1 x mini pitch	Closed for more than 5 years. Could be brought back into use subject to improvements being made
88	Radley Common	Central neighbourhood	Disused	1 x adult pitch	Closed for more than 5 years. Could be brought back into use subject to improvements being made
105	St Elphins	East neighbourhood	Disused	1 x adult pitch 1 x mini 7v7 pitch	Closed for more than 5 years. Could be brought back into use subject to improvements being made
111	St Oliver Plunket Primary School	East neighbourhood	Lapsed (2002)	1 x youth pitch	School closed
124	Sycamore Lane Primary School	West neighbourhood	Disused (2016)	1 x mini pitch	School closed
135	Westy Park	South neighbourhood	Lapsed	3 x adult pitches	Closed more than 5 years ago due to concerns about levels of gas from landfill. Plans to bring back into use for pitch sports.
153	St Werbergh's CofE Primary School	South neighbourhood	Lapsed (2001)	2 x youth pitches	School closed

As shown in table 4 there were a total of 7 pitches identified as disused, Sycamore Lane Primary became disused due to becoming unavailable for community use. The school itself closed in 2013 but the associated football pitch continued to be used by the community until the end of the 2015/16 football season.

Grappenhall Hall School closed in July 2015 and the site is currently vacant with consultation being undertaken to inform whether or not the land will be sold off. No community use has ever been recorded for this site.

Pitches at Lymm May Queen field, Radley Common and St Elphins Park have been out of use for a number of years but the playing fields still exist. The pitches therefore could be brought back into use, if demand exists although appropriate improvements and maintenance work would be required.

There were three sites identified as being lapsed football pitch sites. A total of three adult 11v11 pitches were identified at Westy Park. The pitches were closed pre 2010 due to concern over gas levels on the former landfill site. The site has now been given approval for sports use. There are plans and funding in place to reintroduce sports pitches at the site with discussions currently taking place to determine pitch sport types based on need.

Furthermore there were two lapsed youth pitches identified at the former St Werbergh's CofE Primary School which closed in 2001 and one lapsed youth pitch at St Oliver Plunket Primary School which closed in 2002.

Future supply / current developments

As part of the needs assessment any pitch development plans that have funding in place and planning permission (where required) have been highlighted in this section. There are a number of aspirational plans for facility improvements that either do not yet have funding and / or planning permission. The aspirational plans can be viewed in appendix 1.

St Gregory's Catholic High School (West neighbourhood analysis area)

St Gregory's Catholic High School has planning permission for a new sports hall and associated changing rooms. The proposal includes community use of the changing rooms to support the grass sports pitches at the site, which are heavily used by Crosfields JFC.

Westy Park (South neighbourhood analysis area)

Warrington Borough Council has funding confirmed to re-introduce playing pitches at Westy Park during 2017. Previously the site provided football provision but was closed for sports use as it was deemed unsafe due to the ground being contaminated.

The site has now been declared safe and WBC are currently looking to determine what pitch improvement works can take place within the budget available and to determine what pitch types will be marked at the site. The aim is to use the evidence base within this needs assessment to inform these decisions. The current site provides ancillary facilities with changing rooms available in the community centre located at the site.

WBC has had discussions with Latchford Giants ARLFC in terms of utilising these pitches, but demand has also been expressed by local football clubs.

Primary school expansion plans (West neighbourhood analysis area)

School expansion plans in West Warrington are currently in progress affecting Barrow Hall Primary School, Chapelford Primary School and St Phillip (Westbrook) CE Primary.

As part of these plans playing field space has been affected. Barrow Hall Primary School, in Great Sankey, relocated in September 2016. The previous school site provided one 7v7 mini football pitch. The new site will provide two junior football pitches. Whilst the school building opened in September 2016, the new grass pitches will not be ready for use until September 2017. Warrington Borough Council have however confirmed that these pitches will be available for community use and the information within this needs assessment can be used to inform what size pitches need to be provided to support community use as well as the school requirements.

The additional pitch being provided at Barrow Hall Primary School is to mitigate the loss of playing field space at Chapelford Primary School and St Phillip (Westbrook) CE Primary due to expansion of the school building during the summer of 2016.

In addition there is currently outline planning for a project at Dallam Community Primary school, located in the Central neighbourhood area. This project will result in the loss of playing field space at the school but includes pitch improvements works to the existing junior football pitch, rated as poor quality in the assessment, which should result in a much improved quality pitch.

There are also plans to relocate sports facilities on the Cardinal Newman High School site which will result in new higher quality sports provision.

Informal pitches

There are a number of sites identified that do not have formal football pitches available for hire but do have some informal usage for recreational play. These are listed in the table below:

Table 5: Informal pitches in Warrington

Site name	Analysis area	Provision
Ballater Drive	East neighbourhood	2 timber goals
Bank Park	Central neighbourhood	2 timber goals
Bewsey Park	Central neighbourhood	1 mini pitch, metal goals
Blackbear Park	East neighbourhood	2 timber goals
Bruche Park	East neighbourhood	1 timber goal
Burns Grove	Central neighbourhood	2 timber goals
Callands Field	West neighbourhood	1 timber goal
Causeway Park	South neighbourhood	2 timber goals
Dudlows Green Park	South neighbourhood	1 timber goal
English Martyrs Field	Central neighbourhood	2 timber goals
Howley - Harbord Street Play Area	Central neighbourhood	1 timber goal
Larkfield Park	East neighbourhood	1 timber goal
Locking Stumps Play Area	East neighbourhood	4 timber goals
Longbarn Park	East neighbourhood	2 timber goals
Lysander Park	East neighbourhood	1 timber goal
Massey Brook Play Area	South neighbourhood	1 timber goal
Mee Brow Play Area	East neighbourhood	1 timber goal
Nottingham Close Play Area	East neighbourhood	1 timber goal
Oakwood Local Park	East neighbourhood	2 timber goals
Old Hall Local Park, Shackleton Close	West neighbourhood	2 timber goals
Peel Hall Park	Central neighbourhood	1 timber goal
Poole Park	Central neighbourhood	2 timber goals
Statham Village Play Area	South neighbourhood	2 timber goals
Statham Village Play Area North Park Brook Road	South neighbourhood	2 timber goals
Twiggeries	East neighbourhood	1 timber goal
Vine Crescent	West neighbourhood	2 timber goals
Weir Lane Play Area	East neighbourhood	1 timber goal
Whitecross Park	Central neighbourhood	2 timber goals

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches in Warrington have been assessed via a combination of site visits, carrying out non-technical assessments (NTAs) as determined by the FA on all pitches, and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- Good
- Standard
- Poor

Pitch quality influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and seasonal maintenance necessary to sustain high levels of use. It is likely that pitches that receive little or no ongoing repair or off season remedial work will be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games able to take place each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches which are tended to

regularly are likely to be a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) can often offer better quality facilities than Council and school playing pitches as such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches regularly during the week. Also private sites are often secured by fencing which prevents unofficial use whilst council pitches are generally located within public open space, regularly used by the public for informal recreation e.g. Dog Walking etc.

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use for football. In total, 40 pitches are assessed as good quality (18%), 80 as standard quality (36%) and 103 are deemed to be poor quality (46%).

Table 6: Pitch quality ratings for community use football pitches

Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
18	36	31	13	5	17	9	39	55
21%	42%	37%	37%	14%	49%	9%	38%	53%

Through the process of carrying out NTAs and consultation the agreed pitch quality ratings show that the majority of pitches are either poor or standard quality. Almost half of the grass football pitches are deemed to be poor quality.

Overall, 21% of the adult pitches are good quality, 42% are standard quality and 37% are poor quality. The picture is slightly different for youth pitches where 37% are rated as good quality, 14% as standard quality with 49% rated as poor quality. Mini pitches are the poorest quality with 53% rated as poor quality, 38% rated as standard quality and only 9% rated as good quality.

The feedback from the club survey gives a mixed response in terms of whether clubs feel the quality of pitches has changed during the last 12 months. 44% of respondents stated pitch quality has got slightly poorer with 11% suggesting pitch quality has become much poorer. 22% of respondents feel there is no difference in pitch quality that has occurred with the remaining 22% stating they feel pitch quality has become slightly better (14%) or much better (8%).

Table 7: Site specific feedback received

Site	Feedback
Appleton Thorn Playing Fields (New Lane)	Poor drainage, with lack of maintenance with feedback suggesting grass cutting is too infrequent and when cutting takes place length of cut is too long.
Bennett's Recreation Ground	Poor drainage resulting in pitches often being waterlogged and causing fixture cancellations.
Birchwood Community Academy Trust	Blocked drainage issues resulting in waterlogged pitches.
Cantilever Park	Warrington Town FC now employ a groundsman which has helped improve pitch quality.
Chapelford Primary School	Feedback is that pitch is well maintained. Pitch is relatively new, and provided as part of a new school project, and appropriate drainage was installed which helps with pitch quality.
Crab Lane	Poor drainage resulting in waterlogged pitches.
Culcheth Sports Club	The sports club have invested significant funds into maintenance equipment to maintain good quality of pitches at site.
Hillock Lane	Poor drainage terrible resulting in flooding and fixture cancellations. Pitches relocated summer 2015 with work carried out to improve surface drainage but work does not seem to solved any problems according to users, with the pitches at the site still rated as poor.
Hood Lane Recreation Ground	Cromwell FC financed its own improvement work on the pitch in 2015.
Lymm High School	Drainage issues with some pitches.
Mary Ann Meadows	Poor drainage resulting in a significant number of cancellations. Cromwell JFC would like to make it their main base and are currently in dialogue with Warrington BC.
Morley Common	Mixed feedback from users. Some suggesting maintenance has improved, and that improvements have been made to ancillary provision. Other users identified poor drainage and inadequate maintenance.
Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Pitch 1 usage is managed appropriately to avoid overplay resulting in maintaining a good quality pitch. Pitches 6,7 & 8 poor drainage and regularly waterlogged.
Pewterspear Sports Pavillion	The pitches have been installed professionally with good drainage. Some of the pitches are on the Cricket Pitch. This means that these pitches are only available for use from Mid October until Early April.
Sow Brook Playing Fields	Major issues with waterlogged pitches resulting in high number of postponements.
St Gregory's Catholic High School	Issues with drainage resulting in a large number of postponements. Also due to the constant waterlogging, access for maintenance vehicles is an issue.
Tetley Walkers Sport and Social Club	Lots of cancellations due to waterlogged pitches led to backlog of fixtures. Once pitch was playable was significantly overplayed, and maintenance regime not appropriate/ not in place due to funding.
The Oaks Playing Fields	Improvements needed to drainage required to cope with extreme wet weather
Thornton Road	Eagle Sports JFC have purchased their own cutting and maintenance equipment and now regularly works on the pitch.

	New drainage has been installed funding by Eagle Sports JFC. WBC provide top soil in 2015 which allowed for club to do further maintenance work.
University Academy Warrington	Tree roots ingressed to make pitch unplayable. Drainage issues resulting in waterlogged pitches
Victoria Park	New pitch was built alongside athletics track due to this all water run off for the new pitch went onto our pitch meaning one section of a touchline was completely unplayable
Winwick Recreation Centre	Grass cutting not regular enough.
Woolston CofE Primary School	Grass cutting not regular enough.
Woolston Park	Goal mouths are particularly worn with no grass coverage.

Maintenance

Warrington Borough Council's Environment Service deliver a basic level of sportsground maintenance on the majority of its sites that is restricted to grass cutting, topdressing and seeding, with no ring fenced budgets available for any further level of upkeep or for improvement works.

Maintenance regimes within school grounds, private sports clubs and LiveWire sites, which is carried out by WBC, varies and is dependent upon individual client budgets and requirements.

It should be noted that all of the maintenance elements listed above form part of the FA's non-technical site assessment form.

53% of the respondents to the club survey rated the maintenance of pitches as poor, 19% rated maintenance as standard and 28% rated pitch maintenance as good.

Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases mini pitches may be marked onto senior pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch. Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

There are a number of pitches in Warrington which are marked onto or overlapping cricket outfields, which can create availability issues as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing and the football season starts in August as cricket fixtures are still being played. Appleton AFC report this is a particular issue at Pewterspear Sports Pavilion, as some pitches are out of use at the start and end of the cricket season, meaning teams have to relocate to poorer quality pitches.

Sites with over marked pitches that create overplay of the pitch are listed in the Strategy Action Plan, with an appropriate action for removing/relocating the over marked pitches.

Ancillary facilities

The non-technical assessment also assessed ancillary facilities associated with the sites that provide grass football pitches. Ancillary facilities including the condition of the clubhouse, changing accommodation, toilets, showers, medical room, car parking and boundary fencing.

Of the sites where a full check of ancillary facilities took place nearly half were assessed as being poor (49%). 23% of the sites were rated as having standard quality ancillary facilities with 28% rated as having good quality ancillary facilities.

Of the football clubs that engaged in the consultation 40% rated the ancillary facilities at the sites they use as being good quality. 38% rated ancillary facilities as being standard quality with 22% rating ancillary facilities as being poor.

Table 8: Club response to ancillary facility question

Good	Standard	Poor
40%	38%	22%

Based on clubs’ consultation, it is apparent that there are numerous teams based at Council or Education operated sites that do not have access to on-site changing provision. This is often down to choice but sometimes it is due to the fact that changing facilities are not available.

Following the NTA, club consultation and further consultation with WBC’s Environment Services ancillary facility quality ratings were agreed. These are shown in the table below.

The sites with ancillary facilities receiving a poor rating from clubs include:

- Appleton Thorn (New Lane) Playing Fields
- Carlsberg Tetley Sports and Social Club
- Doe Green Recreation Ground
- Hood Lane Recreation Ground
- Penketh High School
- St Vincent’s/ Penketh South Primary School
- The Oaks Playing Fields
- Thornton Road Recreation Ground

Table 9: Agreed site ancillary ratings for community use sites

Site ID	Site Name	Analysis area	Agreed ancillary facilities rating	Comments
2	Appleton Thorn Playing Fields (New Lane)	South neighbourhood	Poor	Limited car parking capacity. No changing room facilities. No storage facilities
7	Beamont Collegiate Academy	Central neighbourhood	Good	Pitches managed by LiveWire with ancillary facilities based on Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub.
8	Bennetts Recreation Ground	East neighbourhood	Standard	
11	Birchwood Academy Trust	East neighbourhood	Standard	
12	Birchwood Forest Park	East neighbourhood	Standard	Changing rooms require upgrading.
23	Poplars Park	Central neighbourhood	Poor	No car parking. No changing room facilities.
26	Chaigley School	South neighbourhood	Standard	
27	Chapelford Primary School	West neighbourhood	Good	School recently built providing new changing rooms and car parking
31	Crab Lane Playing Field	East neighbourhood	Poor	Limited car parking capacity. Changing rooms coming to end of operational life.
33	Culcheth Community Campus	East neighbourhood	Good	
35	Culcheth Sports Club	East neighbourhood	Good	Recent investment to improve changing facilities.
36	Dakota Park	West neighbourhood	Good	Utilise changing facilities at Chapelford Primary School
38	Dallam Recreation Ground	Central neighbourhood	Good	Changing rooms recently replaced providing new changing rooms. Limited car parking.
39	Doe Green Recreation Ground	West neighbourhood	Poor	No car parking provision. Changing facilities have reached the end of their operational life.
40	Elizabeth Park	South neighbourhood	Poor	No car parking provision. No changing facilities.
52	Grappenhall Village Sports Club	South neighbourhood	Good	
55	Great Sankey Parish Playing	West neighbourhood	Poor	No car parking.

	Fields			No changing room facilities.
59	Hillock Lane Playing Fields	East neighbourhood	Poor	Limited car parking provision. No changing facilities.
61	Hood Lane Recreation Ground	West neighbourhood	Good	Limited car parking provision.
65	Loushers Lane Recreation Ground	South neighbourhood	Poor	No changing room provision. Limited car parking. Car parking surface very poor condition.
66	Lymm High School	South neighbourhood	Good	
70	Mary Ann Meadows	West neighbourhood	Poor	Limited car parking. Changing rooms coming to the end of their lifespan.
72	Monks Sports & Social Club	East neighbourhood	Standard	
74	Morley Common	South neighbourhood	Poor	Limited car parking provision. Car parking surface very poor condition. Changing rooms recently refurbished.
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Central neighbourhood	Good	
80	Padgate Hall	East neighbourhood	Poor	No changing facilities. Limited parking.
82	Peel Hall Playing Fields	East neighbourhood	Poor	No changing room provision. Limited car parking. Car parking surface very poor condition.
86	Pewterspear Sports Pavilion	South neighbourhood	Good	Changing rooms require refurbishment
90	Ridgway Grundy Park	South neighbourhood	Poor	No car parking. Changing rooms require replacement.
91	Rylands Recreation Club	Central neighbourhood	Standard	
93	Sandy Lane Recreation Club	South neighbourhood	Poor	No car parking. Changing rooms coming to end of lifespan. Lymm FC have lease on changing rooms at site.
95	Shaw Street Recreation Ground	East neighbourhood	Poor	Extended and refurbished changing rooms and community room due to open February 2017. Car park resurfaced and lit.
97	Sow Brook Playing Fields	South neighbourhood	Poor	Replacement changing rooms required. Car parking limited and poor condition.

106	St Gregory High School	West neighbourhood	Standard	New changing rooms to be built as part of new sports hall project proposed. This development will provide new changing rooms for the grass pitches at the site and these will be available for community use.
121	Stocks Lane Playing Field	West neighbourhood	Poor	No car parking. No changing room facilities.
127	Thornton Road Recreation Ground	West neighbourhood	Poor	Limited car parking and poor quality. Changing rooms require extension and improvement as they fall short of standard and quantity required.
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	East neighbourhood	Good	
131	Victoria Park	South neighbourhood	Poor	Large car park but doesn't have capacity to meet demand generated by diverse site usage. Replacement Parks changing rooms required. Limited on site storage.
138	Winwick Recreation Centre	East neighbourhood	Standard	
142	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	East neighbourhood	Standard	No changing room facilities.
143	Woolston Park	East neighbourhood	Poor	Changing rooms at end of lifespan. Limited parking
145	The Oaks Playing Field	East neighbourhood	Standard	
146	Tim Parry Community Centre	West neighbourhood	Poor	No changing room facilities.

Pitch hire and costs

One of the main issues with grass pitches is that the income they generate through pitch hire does not provide enough funding to implement a high quality maintenance programme. A growing number of local authorities are looking at full recovery costs as a way of increasing maintenance and removing any subsidy that currently underwrites grass pitch hire costs.

The table below outlines the current pitch hire costs in Warrington against 6 neighbourhood local authorities (Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, Salford, St Helen's and Wigan). It is important to acknowledge that pitches not managed by Warrington Borough Council will charge different rates.

Table 10: Pitch hire charges (2015/16 season)

Local Authority	Adult teams		Youth teams (11v11)		Junior teams (9v9)		Mini teams (7v7 & 5v5)	
	Pitch only	Pitch & changing	Pitch only	Pitch & changing	Pitch only	Pitch & changing	Pitch only	Pitch & changing
Cheshire East (South – per season)	£734.00	£814.90	-	-	£252.20	£351.80	-	-
Cheshire East (South – per match)	£46.00	£52.55	-	-	£46.00	£52.55	-	-
Cheshire East (North – per season)	£404.35	£554.35	-	-	£252.20	£351.80	-	-
Cheshire East (North – per match)	£46.00	£52.55	-	-	£46.00	£52.55	-	-
Cheshire West and Chester – Ellesmere Port and Neston (per season)	£30.00	£357.00	-	-	-	£15.00	-	-
Cheshire West and Chester – Chester (per season)	£130.00	£360.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cheshire West and Chester – Chester (per match)	£13.00	£34.00	-	-	-	£9.00	-	-
Halton – Halton based teams (per season)	£530.00	£530.00	£156.00	£156.00	-	-	£117.00	£117.00
Halton – non Halton based teams (per season)	£530.00	£530.00	-	£312.00	-	-	£234.00	£234.00
Salford (per season)	-	£560.00	-	£441.00	£192.00	£320.00	£90.00	£128.00
St Helens	£463.00	£926.00	-	-	£206.00	£413.00	-	-
Wigan	£430.00	£694.00	-	£302.00	£226.00	£226.00	£160.00	£160.00
Warrington (per season)	-	£501.00	£165.00	£252.00	£116.00	£137.00	£116.00	£137.00
Warrington (per match)	-	£63.00	£21.00	£37.00	£16.00	£32.00	£16.00	£32.00

*If prices are not stated for youth teams, it is assumed they are charged the same prices as adult teams.

**If prices are not stated for mini-teams, it is assumed they are charged the same prices as junior teams.

In comparison to neighbouring authorities Warrington, adult pitch and changing room hire per season is cheaper than Cheshire East, Halton, Salford, St Helens and Wigan but more expensive than Cheshire West and Chester. To highlight some of the differences, Warrington charges for £501.00 per season for an adult team with changing facilities whilst the most expensive neighbouring local authority charges £814.90 and the least expensive charging £357.00. Warrington does not have a pitch only option for adult pitch use.

For Youth 11v11 teams pitch hire with changing rooms, Warrington charges £252.00 per season. The only neighbouring authorities that have a rate for 11v11 youth teams are Halton, Salford, and Wigan. Two authorities charge more than Warrington and one charges less (£156.00). The most expensive neighbouring authority charges £441.00.

In terms of junior teams 9v9 format Warrington charges £137.00 per season for pitch and changing room hire. The most expensive neighbouring authority charges £413.00 and the least expensive charges £226.00, which is still considerably more than the Warrington charge.

More often than not 9v9 junior teams do not access changing facilities and will choose the pitch only option for which Warrington charge £116.00. The most expensive neighbouring authority charge £252.20 and the least expensive neighbouring authority charge £192.00 per season. Again considerably more than the Warrington season charge.

Warrington apply the same charges for 5v5 and 7v7 pitch hire as they do for 9v9, as do a number of neighbouring authorities. Of the neighbouring authorities that do have a different charge for 5v5 and 7v7 pitch hire, the cheapest authority charges £90.00 per season for pitch only and the most expensive authority charges £160.00⁴.

Security of tenure

Through the consultation no clubs reported issues with current ownership, lease or rented agreements in place.

However security of tenure is something that needs to be considered in order to support the development of football within Warrington. Whilst there is a commitment from WBC, who own the majority of football pitches, that these pitches will continue to be provided for community use in the future, most of the pitches are rented by clubs on a seasonal basis. A growing number of clubs wish to access grants for funding to maintain and improve facilities. Eligibility may be dependent upon securing long term leases for parkland sites. This aspect of the grant process requires further consideration in relation to Warrington Borough Council land in order for legal agreements to be implemented.

There are a number of sites in Warrington protected by Fields in Trust (FiT) and these are listed below. Sites protected by FiT are legally protected through a Deed of Dedication. Permission has to be sought from FiT to develop all or any part of a protected site. Of the sites listed only Radley Common has playing pitches on them, the remained are just playing

⁴ Halton charge £234.00 for 5v5 and 7v7 season pitch hire but this is for clubs/ teams that are not based within the Halton borough.

fields without any pitches. In addition, the following playing pitch site is protected by Fields in Trust:

- Alexandra Park, Stockton Heath
- Croft Playing Field
- Peel Hall Park
- Radley Common
- Smithy Lane Playing Field

Football National League System (the football pyramid) demand

The National League System (NLS), otherwise known as the football pyramid, is the league structure for men's football that sits directly below the Football League, League 2. It stretches from the Conference Premier Division at Step 1 through to County Leagues at Step 7.

There are 5 clubs in Warrington that play within the football pyramid:

- Eagle Sports FC – Step 7
- Greenalls Padgate St Oswald's FC – Step 7
- Rylands FC – Step 7
- Warrington Town FC – Step 4

Additionally, Daten FC and Grappenhall Sports FC are just one promotion short of joining the football pyramid.

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirement for Step 1 clubs.

Although all clubs currently meet the requirements of their leagues it is likely the majority would need to make ground improvements or potentially move sites in order to progress through the football pyramid.

Demand

Through the audit and assessment a total of 445 teams were identified as playing football on pitches located within the Warrington boundary. This consists of 82 adult male teams, 1 adult female team, 206 youth teams and 156 mini soccer teams.

Table 11: Summary of where competitive teams play in Warrington by analysis area

Analysis Area	Number of teams playing					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Central neighbourhood	21	7	7	9	4	48
East neighbourhood	23	40	26	25	22	136
South neighbourhood	29	47	21	27	22	146
West neighbourhood	10	34	24	24	23	115
Warrington	83	128	78	85	71	445

The table above shows that the South (146) neighbourhood analysis areas is where most teams have their match play pitch located, closely followed by the East (136) neighbourhood area and West (115) neighbourhood. There are a low number of teams in the Central (47) neighbourhood analysis area. The most prevalent playing format is the youth 11v11 category (128); however each format is well represented.

The South neighbourhood analysis areas accounts for the highest proportion of youth 11v11 teams (37%) closely followed by the East neighbourhood (31%) and the West neighbourhood (27%). The Central neighbourhood accounts for just 5% of youth 11v11 teams. The East neighbourhood area has the highest percentage of Youth 9v9 teams (33%), with the West and South neighbourhood areas having 31% and 27% of the total respectively.

Adult teams make up 19% of teams playing football in Warrington, with the highest number of teams in the South neighbourhood analysis area (35%).

In terms of Mini football, the South neighbourhood area has the majority of 7v7 teams (32%) closely followed by the East (29%) and the West (28%) neighbourhoods. The West neighbourhood has the highest number of 5v5 teams (32%) with the East and South neighbourhood areas both accounting for 31%.

As all mini teams are mixed gender, there is only 1 adult female team and 4 youth girl teams identified as playing football within the Warrington boundary. This makes the percentage of female teams in the area very low when compared to national averages however it is due to successful Central Venue Girls Football Leagues outside of the Warrington border that 18 female teams currently participate in. See the displaced demand section for more information.

Displaced demand

Displaced demand is existing demand that is being met by provision outside of the Warrington boundary. There are a number of reasons why displacement may occur such as a Central Venue League, where one location/site is used as the venue for all competitive fixtures with no teams having home or away fixtures or because teams choose to hire pitches outside of the boundary due to pitch quality or hire costs.

Through the audit there were 21 teams identified as being displaced. Of these, 81% of the teams (17) are girls teams that compete in a central venue league that takes place outside of Warrington. 16 of these teams compete in the Cheshire Girls Football League located in the Cheshire West and Chester local authority area and 2 compete in the Liverpool Central Venue Girls League. All of these teams are happy competing in these leagues and do not have demand for pitches in Warrington.

The remaining displaced demand identified derives from two clubs. Matthiola FC have 3 teams (2 x Mini 5v5 teams and 1 x adult team) that play at a location in St Helens which is again just outside of Warrington. Matthiola FC did feedback that these teams would prefer to use a site within Warrington. Sankey Vale FC, an adult male team currently play their home games in St Helens but indicated that this is their clubs preferred home pitch.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering growth of the league.

Through the consultation process no clubs reported any unmet demand.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, using population forecasts and housing growth.

Housing Growth Scenarios are contained within the Strategy Report and provide an estimate of demand for each pitch sport type arising from housing growth.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2027) based on population growth. It is predicated that there will be a possible increase of 1 adult male team, 24 youth boys' teams, 1 youth girls' team and 12 mini teams.

Table 12: Team generation rates

Sport	Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group 2027	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Football	Senior Men's (16-45)	39,553	82	482	39,988	83	1
Football	Senior Women (16-45)	38,920	1	38920	38,414	1	0.0
Football	Youth Boys (10-15)	7,395	201	37	8,260	225	24
Football	Youth Girls (10-15)	6,956	4	1739	7,728	5	1
Football	Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-9)	9,589	156	61	10,327	168	12

Participation increases

A number of clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Of the clubs which quantify their potential increase, there is a predicated growth of 49 teams, equating to a demand for 3 adult, 7.5 youth and 12.5 mini additional match equivalent sessions subject to pitch availability.

The potential growth highlighted through the consultation is relatively evenly spread across neighbourhood analysis areas. In terms of women and girls participation it only picks up future demand that would require pitch provision within the Warrington area as it acknowledges the fact that youth girls participation is currently met through central venue leagues outside of the local authority.

Table 13: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Future demand	Analysis area	Match equivalents ⁵	Type
Appleton FC	1 x U13 male	South neighbourhood	1	Youth
	1 x U11 male 2 x Mini 7v7 7 x Mini 5v5		4.5	Mini
Birchwood JFC	2 x U6 4 x Mini 5v5 1 x Mini 7v7	East neighbourhood	2.5	Mini
Bruche FC	1 x U6	East neighbourhood	0	-
Cromwell FC	1 x Open Age	West neighbourhood	0.5	Adult
Cromwell JFC	1 x U17 male 1 x U16 male	West neighbourhood	1	Youth
Crosfields FC	1 x Open Age	West neighbourhood	0.5	Adult
Crosfields JFC	2 x Mini 5v5	West neighbourhood	1	Mini
Daten FC	1 x Open Age female 1 x U16 male 1 x U13 male	East neighbourhood	0.5	Adult
			1	Youth
Daten Youth FC	1 x Open Age male 1 x U13 male	East neighbourhood	0.5	Adult
			0.5	Youth
Eagle JFC	2 x Mini 5v5	West neighbourhood	1	Mini
Grappenhall Sports FC	2 x Mini 7v7	South neighbourhood	1	Mini
Lymm Rovers JFC	1 x U17 male 1 x U14 make	South neighbourhood	1	Youth
Moore United FC	1 x Open Age female 1 x U18 male 1 x U14 male	Central neighbourhood	0.5	Adult
			1	Youth
Orford JFC	1 x U11 mixed 1 x U9 mixed 1 x U8 mixed 1 x U7 mixed	Central neighbourhood	0.5	Youth
			1.5	Mini
Rylands FC	1 x Open Age female 1 x U16 male 1 x U15 male 1 x U7 mixed	East neighbourhood	0.5	Adult
			1	Youth
			0.5	Mini
Whittle Hall JFC	1 x U7 mixed	West neighbourhood	0.5	Mini
Winwick Athletic JFC	1 x U12 female	East neighbourhood	0.5	Youth
Totals			12.5	Mini
			7.5	Youth
			3.0	Adult

⁵ One team creates 0.5 match equivalent sessions.

Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive match play, training and other activity over a season is determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing football. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during the peak and off peak times. Pitch quality is often influenced by weather conditions and drainage.

As a guide, the FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting the current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following ratings were used in Warrington:

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

Table 15 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the carrying capacity at such sites will need to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP.

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking.

For Warrington, current play at primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and independent schools has been enlarged on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch.

Peak Time

The peak time varies for different pitch types. The table below identified whether or not spare capacity can actually be considered as such, based on whether pitches are available at peak time.

Table 14: Peak time for pitch types

Pitch type	Peak Time	Comments
Adult	Sunday AM	The demand for adult pitches is highest on Sunday morning, as many youth 11v11 teams also access adult pitches at this time.
Youth 11v11	Sunday AM	The vast majority of youth 11v11 teams in Warrington play on Sunday mornings.
Youth 9v9	Saturday AM	The vast majority of youth 9v9 teams in Warrington play on Saturday mornings.
Mini	Saturday AM	The vast majority of mini 5v5 and 7v7 teams in Warrington play on Saturday mornings.

Table 15: Football pitch capacity analysis for community use pitches

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match equivalent sessions ⁶) <small>*indicates pitch usage revised to reflect educational use</small>	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	MES available in peak period
23	Poplars Park	Council	Central	Yes	Youth	11v11	Poor	1	0	1	1	1
25	Carlsberg Tetley Sports & Social Club	Club	Central	No	Adult	11v11	Standard	1	2.5	2	-0.5	0
38	Dallam Recreation Ground	Council	Central	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	2	0	8	8	2
38	Dallam Recreation Ground	Council	Central	Yes	Mini	5v5	Standard	2	0	8	8	2
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	LiveWire	Central	Yes	Adult	11v11	Standard	3	6.5	9	2.5	0
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	LiveWire	Central	Yes	Adult	11 v11	Good	1				
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	LiveWire	Central	Yes	Youth	9v9	Standard	1	2	2	0	0
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	LiveWire	Central	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	2	3.5	8	4.5	0
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	LiveWire	Central	Yes	Mini	5v5	Standard	1	3	4	1	0

⁶ Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match equivalent sessions ⁷) <small>*indicates pitch usage revised to reflect educational use</small>	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	MES available in peak period
91	Rylands Recreation Ground	Club	Central	No	Adult	11v11	Good	1	2	3	1	1
98	St Albans Primary School	School	Central	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	1	2*	1	1	0
98	St Albans Primary School	School	Central	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	2.5*	2	0.5	0
8	Bennetts Recreation Ground	Parish Council	East	No	Adult	11v11	Standard	4	3	8	5	1.5
11	Birchwood Academy Trust	School	East	Yes	Adult	11v11	Standard	3	6	6	0	0
12	Birchwood Forest Park	Council	East	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	1	1	1	0	0
12	Birchwood Forest Park	Council	East	Yes	Youth	9v9	Poor	1	2	1	1	0
12	Birchwood Forest Park	Council	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	2	1	4	3	1
12	Birchwood Forest Park	Council	East	Yes	Mini	5v5	Poor	2	1.5	4	3.5	0.5
18	Bruche Primary School	School	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1.5*	2	0.5	0.5
31	Crab Lane Playing Fields	Council	East	Yes	Mini	5v5	Poor	2	1.5	4	2.5	0.5
31	Crab Lane Playing Fields	Council	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	2	1.5	4	2.5	0.5

⁷ Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match equivalent sessions ⁸) <small>*indicates pitch usage revised to reflect educational use</small>	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	MES available in peak period
31	Crab Lane Playing Fields	Council	East	Yes	Youth	9v9	Poor	2	1.5	2	0.5	1
31	Crab Lane Playing Fields	Council	East	Yes	Youth	11v11	Poor	1	1	1	0	0
33	Culcheth Community Campus	LiveWire	East	Yes	Adult	11v11	Good	2	3.5	6	2.5	0.5
33	Culcheth Community Campus	LiveWire	East	Yes	Youth	9v9	Good	2	2*	8	6	2
33	Culcheth Community Campus	LiveWire	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Good	1	1	6	5	1
35	Culcheth Sports Club	Club	East	No	Adult	11v11	Good	2	4.5	6	1.5	0.5
59	Hillock Lane Playing Fields	Council	East	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	2	2.5	2	0.5	0
59	Hillock Lane Playing Fields	Council	East	Yes	Youth	9v9	Poor	2	2	2	0	0
59	Hillock Lane Playing Fields	Council	East	Yes	Mini	5v5	Poor	1	2.5	2	0.5	0
72	Monks Sports & Social Club	Club	East	No	Adult	11v11	Good	1	4	3	1	0
80	Padgate Hall	Council	East	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	2	0	2	1	2
82	Peel Hall Playing Fields	Council	East	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	1	0	1	1	1

⁸ Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match equivalent sessions ⁹) <small>*indicates pitch usage revised to reflect educational use</small>	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	MES available in peak period
82	Peel Hall Playing Fields	Council	East	Yes	Youth	9v9	Poor	1	0	1	1	1
82	Peel Hall Playing Fields	Council	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	0	2	2	1
95	Shaw Street Recreation Ground	Council	East	Yes	Adult	11v11	Standard	1	1	2	1	0.5
129	University Academy Warrington	School	East	No	Adult	11v11	Standard	2	3*	4	1	1
129	University Academy Warrington	School	East	No	Youth	9v9	Standard	2	4.5*	4	0.5	0
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	University	East	No	Adult	11v11	Good	1	3*	3	0	0
138	Winwick Recreation Ground	Parish Council	East	Yes	Adult	11v11	Standard	2	4	4	0	0
138	Winwick Recreation Ground	Parish Council	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	2	4	2	0
139	Woolston CofE Primary School	School	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1.5*	4	2.5	0.5

⁹ Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match equivalent sessions ¹⁰) <small>*indicates pitch usage revised to reflect educational use</small>	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	MES available in peak period
140	Woolston Community Primary School	School	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1.5*	4	2.5	0.5
142	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	Council	East	Yes	Youth	11v11	Poor	1	1	1	0	0
143	Woolston Park	Council	East	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	1	2	1	1	0
143	Woolston Park	Council	East	Yes	Youth	9v9	Poor	1	1	1	0	0
143	Woolston Park	Council	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	3	3.5	6	2.5	0
143	Woolston Park	Council	East	Yes	Mini	5v5	Poor	1	2	2	0	0
145	The Oaks Playing Field	Club	East	No	Youth	11v11	Good	2	4	8	4	0
145	The Oaks Playing Field	Club	East	No	Youth	9v9	Good	2	3	8	5	0
145	The Oaks Playing Field	Club	East	No	Mini	7v7	Good	2	2.5	12	9.5	0
145	The Oaks Playing Field	Club	East	No	Mini	5v5	Good	2	2	12	10	0
2	Appleton Thorn Playing Fields (New Lane)	Council	South	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	2	4.5	2	2.5	0.5
21	Cantilever Park	Club	South	No	Adult	11v11	Good	1	1.5	3	1.5	1
26	Chaigley School	School	South	No	Adult	11v11	Standard	1	2*	2	0	0
28	Cherry Tree Primary School	School	South	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	4	2	2	0
40	Elizabeth Park	Council	South	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5
40	Elizabeth Park	Council	South	Yes	Mini	5v5	Poor	2	0	4	4	2

¹⁰ Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match equivalent sessions ¹¹) <small>*indicates pitch usage revised to reflect educational use</small>	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	MES available in peak period
48	Grange Sports & Social Club	Club	South		Adult	11v11	Good	1	4	3	1	0
52	Grappenhall Village Sports Club	Club	South	Yes	Adult	11v11	Good	3	7.5	9	1.5	0
52	Grappenhall Village Sports Club	Club	South	Yes	Youth	9v9	Good	2	1.5	8	6.5	0.5
52	Grappenhall Village Sports Club	Club	South	No	Mini	7v7	Good	1	2	6	4	0
65	Loushers Lane Recreation Ground	Council	South	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	1	2.5	1	1.5	0
65	Loushers Lane Recreation Ground	Council	South	Yes	Youth	9v9	Poor	1	1.5	1	0.5	0
65	Loushers Lane Recreation Ground	Council	South	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	2	1.5	4	2.5	0.5
66	Lymm High School	School	South	No	Adult	11v11	Good	2	5.5*	6	0.5	1.5
66	Lymm High School	School	South	No	Youth	11v11	Good	2	5*	8	3	0
66	Lymm High School	School	South	No	Youth	9v9	Good	2	4*	8	4	0

¹¹ Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match equivalent sessions ¹²) <small>*indicates pitch usage revised to reflect educational use</small>	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	MES available in peak period
74	Morley Common	Council	South	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	4	3.5	4	0.5	2.5
78	Our Lady's Primary School	School	South	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1.5*	2	0.5	0.5
86	Pewterspear Sports Pavilion	Trust	South	No	Adult	11v11	Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	0
86	Pewterspear Sports Pavilion	Trust	South	No	Youth	11v11	Standard	2	4.5	4	0.5	0
86	Pewterspear Sports Pavilion	Trust	South	No	Mini	7v7	Standard	2	3	8	5	0
86	Pewterspear Sports Pavilion	Trust	South	No	Mini	5v5	Standard	1	2.5	4	1.5	0
90	Ridgeway Grundy Park	Council	South	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	2	0.5	2	1.5	1.5
93	Sandy Lane Recreation Centre	Council	South	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	1	3	1	2	0
96	Sir Thomas Boteler	School	South	Yes	Adult	11v11	Good	2	5.5*	6	0.5	1
96	Sir Thomas Boteler	School	South	Yes	Youth	9v9	Good	1	1*	4	3	1
96	Sir Thomas Boteler	School	South	Yes	Mini	7v7	Good	3	5*	18	13	1
97	Sow Brook Playing Fields	Council	South	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	2	0	2	2	2
131	Victoria Park	Council	South	Yes	Adult	11v11	Standard & Poor mix	4	2.5	7	4.5	2.5

¹² Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match equivalent sessions ¹³) <small>*indicates pitch usage revised to reflect educational use</small>	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	MES available in peak period
149	St Monica's Catholic Primary School	School	South	Yes	Mini	5v5	Standard	1	2*	4	2	0
6	Barrow Hall Primary School	School	West	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1*	4	3	1
20	Callands Primary School	School	West	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1*	2	1	1
20	Callands Primary School	School	West	Yes	Mini	5v5	Poor	1	3.5*	2	1.5	0
27	Chapelford Primary School	School	West	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	3.5*	4	0.5	0
36	Dakota Park	Council	West	Yes	Adult	11v11	Standard	1	1	2	1	0
36	Dakota Park	Council	West	Yes	Mini	5v5	Standard	1	1	4	3	0
39	Doe Green Recreation Ground	Council	West	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	1	1	1	0	0
39	Doe Green Recreation Ground	Council	West	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	0	2	2	1
47	Gorsey Recreation Ground	Parish Council	West	No	Adult	11v11	Poor	1	1.5	1	0.5	0
47	Gorsey Recreation Ground	Parish Council	West	No	Youth	9v9	Poor	1	0	1	1	1
55	Great Sankey Parish PF	Parish Council	West	No	Adult	11v11	Poor	1	0	1	1	1

¹³ Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match equivalent sessions ¹⁴) <small>*indicates pitch usage revised to reflect educational use</small>	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	MES available in peak period
61	Hood Lane Recreation Ground	Council	West	Yes	Adult	11v11	Standard	1	2	2	0	0
70	Mary Ann Meadows	Homes and Communities	West	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	4	4	4	0	2
70	Mary Ann Meadows	Homes and Communities	West	Yes	Youth	9v9	Poor	2	2	2	0	0
70	Mary Ann Meadows	Homes and Communities	West	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	0	2	2	1
83	Penketh Community Primary School	School	West	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	2	3.5*	4	0.5	0.5
84	Penketh High School	School Lettings Solutions	West	Yes	Adult	11v11	Standard	3	5.5*	6	0.5	1.5
85	Penketh South Primary School	School	West	No	Youth	9v9	Poor	1	3*	1	2	0
106	St Gregory's Catholic High School	School Lettings Solutions	West	Yes	Adult	11v11	Standard	5	18	10	8	0
106	St Gregory's Catholic High School	School Lettings Solutions	West	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	4	8.5*	16	7.5	0
115	St Philips Westbrook CoFE Primary School	School	West	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	2*	2	0	0

¹⁴ Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match equivalent sessions ¹⁵) <small>*indicates pitch usage revised to reflect educational use</small>	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	MES available in peak period
118	St Vincent's Primary School	School	West	No	Mini	5v5	Poor	1	3*	2	1	0
121	Stocks Lane Playing Fields	Council	West	Yes	Youth	11v11	Poor	1	1.5	1	0.5	0
127	Thornton Road Recreation Ground	Council	West	Yes	Adult	11v11	Poor	2	3.5	2	1.5	0
146	Tim Parry Community Centre	Parish Council	West	No	Youth	9v9	Poor	1	1.5	1	0.5	0
146	Tim Parry Community Centre	Parish Council	West	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	2	2	0	0
148	Fiddlers Ferry Power Station	Private	West	No	Adult	11v11	Good	1	3	3	0	0

¹⁵ Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Table 16: Football pitch capacity analysis for educational sites indicating community use pitches but with no recorded community use

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES ¹⁶)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	¹⁷ MES available in peak period
7	Beamont Collegiate Academy	LiveWire	Central	Yes	Adult	11v11	Standard	2	2	4	2	2
37	Dallam Primary School	School	Central	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
99	St Andrews Primary School	School	Central	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
100	St Ann's Primary School	School	Central	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
101	St Barnabas Primary School	School	Central	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
102	St Benedict's Primary School	School	Central	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
110	St Margaret's Primary School	School	Central	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
116	St Stephens Primary School	School	Central	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
10	Birchwood C of E Primary School	School	East	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
15	Brook Acre Primary School	School	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
30	Cinnamon Brow Primary School	School	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1

¹⁶ Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES ¹⁸)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	¹⁹ MES available in peak period
46	Gorse Covert Primary School	School	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	2	2	4	2	2
64	Locking Stumps Primary School	School	East	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
71	Meadowside Primary School	School	East	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
75	Newchurch Primary School	School	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
76	Oakwood Avenue Primary School	School	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
103	St Bridget's Primary School	School	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
107	Hollins Green St Helens Primary School	School	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
112	St Oswald's Primary School	School	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
128	Twiss Green Primary School	School	East	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
3	Appleton Thorn Primary School	Council	South	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
16	Broomfields Junior School	School	South	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
24	Cardinal Newman High School	School	South	No	Adult	11v11	Standard	2	2	4	2	2

¹⁸ Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES ²⁰)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	²¹ MES available in peak period
44	Glazebury CofE Primary School	School	South	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
79	Oughtrington Primary School	School	South	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
89	Ravenbank Primary	School	South	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
117	St Thomas Primary School	School	South	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
119	St Wilfred's Primary School	School	South	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
120	Statham Primary School	School	South	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
123	Stretton St Matthews Primary School	School	South	No	Adult	11v11	Standard	1	1	2	1	1
126	Thelwall Junior School	School	South	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	2	2	4	2	2
147	Bradshaw Community Primary School	School	South	No	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
9	Bewsey Lodge Primary School	School	West	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
19	Burtonwood Primary School	School	West	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1

²⁰ Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Analysis area	Maintained by WBC	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES ²²)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play (MES)	²³ MES available in peak period
42	Evelyn St Primary School	Council	West	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
81	Park Road Primary School	School	West	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
94	Sankey Valley St James	School	West	No	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1
108	St Joseph's Primary School	School	West	Yes	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
109	St Lewis Primary School	School	West	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
113	St Paul of the Cross Primary School	School	West	No	Mini	7v7	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
134	Westbrook Old Hall School	School	West	Yes	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	1	4	3	1

Table 16 shows that there are a total of 41 educational sites, providing 45 pitches, that have indicated that they are available for community use but have no recorded community use. Of these 20 pitches are recorded as standard quality with the remaining being assessed as poor quality.

A total of 45 match equivalent sessions are identified as being available during the peak period with 20 match equivalent sessions being derived from standard quality pitches. The majority of match equivalent sessions are mini pitch types (13), with 5 MES on adult pitches and 2 MES on youth pitches.

²² Based on pitch quality the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to accommodate per pitch type.

Supply and Demand Analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identifies current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and any latent/ unmet/ displaced demand) in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on team generation rates (TGRs) which are driven by population increases as well as club development plans to increase the number of teams.

For the purpose of these calculations the steering group agreed to discount any poor quality pitches with spare capacity during the peak period.

Table 17: Summary of current and future provision of secured adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Latent/ unmet/ displaced demand	Total
Central	-	0.5	0.5	1	-	1.5
East	3.5	2.5	1	2	-	1
South	2.5	7.5	5	0.5	-	5.5
West	0.5	5	4.5	1.5	0.5	6.5
Warrington	6.5	15.5	9	5	0.5	14.5

The table highlights that overall in Warrington there are insufficient adult pitches available to meet total current and future demand although there is a small amount of match equivalent sessions available in the East analysis areas. Shortfalls on adult pitches are primarily a result of significant overplay resulting from poor quality pitches or where adult pitches are over marked.

It should be noted, however, that 59.5 youth (u11s-u16s) match equivalent sessions (119 youth teams) and 14.5 mini (u7s-u10s) match equivalent sessions (29 mini teams) are recorded as playing on adult pitches per week in the Borough.

Table 18: Summary of current and future provision of secured youth pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Latent/ unmet/ displaced demand	Total
Central	-	-	0	3	-	3
East	2	1	1	7.5	-	6.5
South	1	1	0	6	-	6
West	-	2	2	4.5	-	6.5
Warrington	3	4	1	21	0	22

²⁴ In match equivalent sessions

²⁵ In match equivalent sessions

The table highlights that overall in Warrington there are insufficient youth pitches available to meet current and future demand although there is a small amount of spare capacity in the East analysis area. Shortfalls on youth pitches are generally a result of significant overplay resulting from poor quality pitches.

In addition to the above, it should be noted that a further 59.5 youth (u11s-u16s) match equivalent sessions (119 youth teams) are recorded as playing on adult pitches per week in Warrington and, therefore, further exacerbates the shortfall of youth pitches across the Borough.

Table 19: Summary of current and future provision of secured mini pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁶	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				Total
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Latent/unmet/displaced demand	
Central	4	-	4	2.5	-	1.5
East	2	0.5	1.5	5	-	3.5
South	1	2	1	7.5	-	8.5
West	1	0.5	0.5	4.5	1	5
Warrington	8	3	5	19.5	1	15.5

The table highlights that overall in Warrington there are sufficient match equivalent sessions available to meet current demand. There is however a small shortfall of match equivalent sessions in the South neighbourhood analysis area. Shortfalls on mini pitches are generally a result of some overplay and latent demand expressed by clubs for access to more pitches.

It should be noted however that a total of 14.5 mini (u7s-u10s) match equivalent sessions (29 mini teams) are recorded as playing on adult pitches per week in Warrington. If this match play was expressed on mini pitches available, it would mean there would be a shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions rather than the suggested surplus of 4.

Furthermore the 4 match equivalent sessions cited as being available in the Central neighbourhood analysis area is derived from pitches at Dallam Recreation Ground. These pitches were constructed during the assessment period however have not been available for hire during the 2016/17 season. It is understood these pitches will be available for hire during the 2017/18 season.

When factoring in future demand, based on Team Generation Rates and growth suggested by clubs, the picture changes dramatically with an overall shortfall of 15.5 match equivalent sessions with only Central neighbourhood analysis area with any spare capacity albeit minimal. This spare capacity is based on the premise that the pitches at Dallam Recreation Ground will be available for community use.

²⁶ In match equivalent sessions

Spare capacity

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

The table below considers site by site the capacity of the pitches to accommodate further play and for them to be deemed as having 'actual spare capacity'. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criteria has been discounted.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn would aid the improvement of pitch quality. In addition, teams do not want to play on poor quality pitches.

School sites that are currently available for community use but unused are also not considered to have actual spare capacity as the full availability of these pitches cannot be determined. Further consultation with the providers is therefore recommended to fully understand community use aspects, i.e. are the pitches available during peak time, are they available throughout the playing season and are they affordable.

Match Equivalent sessions

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

At this stage the match equivalent sessions does not equate to the number of pitches which are required/ surplus. For example, an analysis area might show three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity but you would need to cross reference back to individual sites to determine where the spare capacity originates from. If it is spread across a number of sites then there is minimal spare capacity within the site which may be required to accommodate overplay from pitches nearby or act as a strategic reserve. If spare capacity is on one pitch then it might indicate a need to create a different type of pitch to address a deficiency. This will be fully determined and recommendations will be made accordingly within the Strategy and Action Plan.

Table 20: Football pitch capacity analysis for pitches available for community use

Site ID	Site name	Type of tenure	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Potential to Accommodate additional play (MES)	MES available in the peak period	Comments
38	Dallam Recreation Ground	Secured	Central	Mini	7v7	2	0	8	2	Spare capacity available at peak time
38	Dallam Recreation Ground	Secured	Central	Mini	5v5	2	0	8	2	Spare capacity available at peak time
91	Rylands Recreation Ground	Unsecured	Central	Adult	11v11	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity to be retained in order to protect quality
8	Bennetts Recreation Ground	Secured	East	Adult	11v11	4	3	5	3	Spare capacity available at peak time
12	Birchwood Forest Park	Secured	East	Mini	7v7	2	1	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
12	Birchwood Forest Park	Secured	East	Mini	5v5	2	1.5	3.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
18	Bruche Primary School	Secured	East	Mini	7v7	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
31	Crab Lane Playing Fields	Secured	East	Mini	5v5	2	1.5	2.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
31	Crab Lane Playing Fields	Secured	East	Mini	7v7	2	1.5	2.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
31	Crab Lane Playing Fields	Secured	East	Youth	9v9	2	1.5	2.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
33	Culcheth Community Campus	Unsecured	East	Adult	11v11	2	1.5	2.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity to be retained in order to protect quality
33	Culcheth Community Campus	Unsecured	East	Youth	9v9	2	0	6	2	Spare capacity available at peak time
33	Culcheth Community Campus	Unsecured	East	Mini	7v7	1	0	5	1	Spare capacity available at peak time

Site ID	Site name	Type of tenure	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Potential to Accommodate additional play (MES)	MES available in the peak period	Comments
35	Culcheth Sports Club	Unsecured	East	Adult	11v11	2	4.5	1.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity to be retained in order to protect quality
80	Padgate Hall	Secured	East	Adult	11v11	2	0	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
82	Peel Hall Playing Fields	Unsecured	East	Adult	11v11	1	0	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
82	Peel Hall Playing Fields	Unsecured	East	Youth	9v9	1	0	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
82	Peel Hall Playing Fields	Unsecured	East	Mini	7v7	1	0	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
95	Shaw Street Recreation Ground	Secured	East	Adult	11v11	1	1	1	0.5	Spare capacity available at peak time
139	Woolston CofE Primary School	Unsecured	East	Mini	7v7	1	0.5	3	0.5	Spare capacity available at peak time
140	Woolston Community Primary School	Unsecured	East	Mini	7v7	1	0.5	3	0.5	Spare capacity available at peak time
21	Cantilever Park	Secured	South	Adult	11v11	1	1.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to being a stadium pitch
40	Elizabeth Park	Secured	South	Adult	11v11	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
40	Elizabeth Park	Secured	South	Mini	5v5	2	0	4	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
52	Grappenhall Village Sports Club	Unsecured	South	Youth	9v9	2	1.5	6.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity to be retained in order to protect quality
65	Loushers Lane Recreation Ground	Secured	South	Mini	7v7	2	1.5	2.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
66	Lymm High School	Unsecured	South	Adult	11v11	2	3.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity to be retained in order to protect quality

Site ID	Site name	Type of tenure	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Potential to Accommodate additional play (MES)	MES available in the peak period	Comments
74	Morley Common	Secured	South	Adult	11v11	4	3.5	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
78	Our Lady's Primary School	Unsecured	South	Mini	7v7	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
90	Ridgeway Grundy Park	Secured	South	Adult	11v11	2	0.5	1.5	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
96	Sir Thomas Boteler	Unsecured	South	Adult	11v11	2	3.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity to be retained in order to protect quality
96	Sir Thomas Boteler	Unsecured	South	Youth	9v9	1	0	3	1	Spare capacity available at peak time
96	Sir Thomas Boteler	Unsecured	South	Mini	7v7	3	2	13	1	Spare capacity available at peak time
97	Sow Brook Playing Fields	Secured	South	Adult	11v11	2	0	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
131	Victoria Park	Secured	South	Adult	11v11	4	2.5	4.5	2.5	Spare capacity available at peak time
6	Barrow Hall Primary School	Unsecured	West	Mini	7v7	1	0	3	1	Spare capacity available at peak time
20	Callands Primary School	Unsecured	West	Mini	7v7	1	0	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
39	Doe Green Recreation Ground	Secured	West	Mini	7v7	1	0	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
47	Gorse Recreation Ground	Secured	West	Youth	9v9	1	0	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
55	Great Sankey Parish Council PF	Secured	West	Adult	11v11	1	0	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
70	Mary Ann Meadows	Secured	West	Mini	7v7	1	0	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
83	Penketh Community Primary School	Unsecured	West	Mini	7v7	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
84	Penketh High School	Unsecured	West	Adult	11v11	3	2.5	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity available at peak time

Actual spare capacity has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type.

Table 21: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)	
Central	-	-	-	2	2	4
East	3.5	-	2	2	-	7.5
South	2.5	-	1	1	-	4.5
West	0.5	-	-	1	-	1.5
Warrington	6.5	-	3	6	2	17.5

The table shows a total of 17.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across Warrington with most (6.5) expressed on adult pitches and in the East (7.5) neighbourhood analysis area.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain (which can often be due to low carrying capacity of the pitches). In Warrington 35 pitches are overplayed across 18 sites by a total of 22.5 match equivalent sessions. Several of these pitches are at schools, where the main reasons for overplay are a culmination of curriculum use, extra

Of the pitches, 19 are assessed as poor across 15 sites, accounting for 16 match equivalent sessions of overplay. An improvement in quality at these sites will result in a reduction in

overplay.
-curricular use including school fixtures and any additional use by the community.

Table 22: Overplay on pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
2	Appleton Thorn Playing Fields (New Lane)	South	Adult (11v11)	3	2.5
12	Birchwood Forest Park	East	Youth (9v9)	1	1
20	Callands Primary School	West	Mini (5v5)	1	0.5
25	Carlsberg Tetley Sports & Social Club	Central	Adult (11v11)	1	0.5
28	Cherry Tree Primary School	South	Mini (7v7)	2	2
47	Gorsey Recreation Ground	West	Adult (11v11)	1	0.5
48	Grange Sports & Social Club	South	Adult (11v11)	2	1
59	Hillock Lane Playing Fields	East	Adult (11v11)	2	0.5
			Mini (5v5)	2	0.5
65	Loushers Lane Recreation Ground	South	Adult (11v11)	3	1.5
			Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
72	Monks Sports & Social Club	East	Adult (11v11)	1	1
85	Penketh South Primary School	West	Youth (9v9)	1	1
86	Pewterspear Sports Pavilion	South	Adult (11v11)	1	0.5
			Youth (11v11)	2	0.5
93	Sandy Lane Recreation Ground	South	Adult (11v11)	1	2
106	St Gregory's High School	West	Adult (11v11)	5	3
121	Stocks Lane Playing Field	West	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
127	Thornton Road Recreation Ground	West	Adult (11v11)	2	1.5
143	Woolston Park	East	Adult (11v11)	1	1
146	Tim Parry Community Centre	West	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
Total					22.5

The majority of overplay occurs on adult (11v11) pitches (15.5), with small amounts of overplay recorded on other pitch types.

The majority of overplay occurs in the South neighbourhood analysis area (10.5). The Central neighbourhood has the lowest level of overplay recorded (0.5), with the West neighbourhood recording 7.5 match equivalent sessions and the East neighbourhood recording 4 match equivalent sessions of overplay respectively.

Table 23: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)					
	Adult (11v11)	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)	Total
Central	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5
East	2.5	-	1	-	0.5	4
South	7.5	0.5	0.5	2	-	10.5
West	5	0.5	1.5	-	0.5	7.5
Warrington	15.5	1	3	2	1	22.5

FOOTBALL SUMMARY

Overall picture

- There is insufficient supply of football pitches in Warrington to meet demand.
- Overall in Warrington there is a current shortfall of 9.5 adult match equivalent sessions and a future shortfall of 14.5 match equivalent sessions²⁷.
- Overall in Warrington there is a current shortfall of 1 youth match equivalent sessions and a future shortfall of 22 match equivalent sessions.
- Overall in Warrington there is currently a small amount of spare capacity of mini pitches (4 match equivalent sessions²⁸) but there is a future shortfall of 15.5 match equivalent sessions.

Supply

- There are a total of 222 grass football pitches that are available for community use.
- The East neighbourhood area has the highest total number of grass football pitches (79), followed by the South neighbourhood area (67) and then the West neighbourhood area (51). The Central neighbourhood area has the lowest total number of grass football pitches (26).
- There is a total of 17.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across Warrington with most (6.5) expressed on adult pitches and in the East (7.5) neighbourhood analysis area.

Demand

- A total of 445 teams were identified as playing football on pitches located within the Warrington boundary. This consists of 82 adult male teams, 1 adult female team, 206 youth teams and 156 mini soccer teams.
- The South (146) neighbourhood analysis areas is where most teams have their match play pitch located, closely followed by the East (136) neighbourhood area and West (115) neighbourhood. There are a low number of teams in the Central (47) neighbourhood analysis area.
- Through the audit there were 21 teams identified as being displaced. Of these, 81% of the teams (17) are girls' teams that compete in a central venue league that takes place outside of Warrington.
- Through the consultation process no clubs reported any unmet demand.
- Team generation rates predict an increase of 1 adult male team, 24 youth boys' teams, 1 youth girls' team and 12 mini teams.
- A number of clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Of the clubs which quantify their potential increase, there is a predicated growth of 49 teams, equating to a demand for 3 adult, 7.5 youth and 12.5 mini pitches.

²⁷ It should be noted that 59.5 youth match equivalent sessions and 14.5 mini match equivalent sessions are recorded as playing on adult pitches per week in Warrington.

²⁸ During the needs assessment 4 match equivalent sessions are cited as being available on mini pitches at Dallam Recreation Ground. This availability has yet to be confirmed by Warrington Borough Council as the pitches may not be made available for football hire.

- There are 35 pitches that are overplayed across 18 sites by a total of 22.5 match equivalent sessions. Several of these pitches are at schools, where the main reasons for overplay are a culmination of curriculum use, extra-curricular use including school fixtures and any additional use by the community.

Quality

- The majority of pitches are either poor or standard quality. Almost half of the grass football pitches are deemed to be poor quality.
- Warrington Borough Council's Environment Service deliver a basic level of sportsground maintenance on the majority of its sites that is restricted to grass cutting, topdressing and seeding, with no further budgets available for any further level of upkeep or for improvement works.
- Maintenance regimes within school grounds, private sports clubs and LiveWire sites, which is carried out by WBC, varies and is dependent upon individual client budgets and requirements.
- Of the overplayed pitches, 19 are assessed as poor across 15 sites, accounting for 16 match equivalent sessions of overplay.

Accessibility

- **Management:**
 - Of the community available football pitches, 83 are managed in house by schools/ colleges/ universities, 74 are managed by Warrington Borough Council, 15 are managed by LiveWire (a Community Interest Company), 13 are managed by sports clubs, 12 are managed by a bespoke school lettings service and another 12 managed by Parish Council's. The remaining pitches are managed by Trusts or are privately or commercially managed.
- **Ancillary:**
 - Of the sites where a full check of ancillary facilities took place nearly half were assessed as being poor (49%). 23% of the sites were rated as having standard quality ancillary facilities with 28% rated as having good quality ancillary facilities.
 - Of the football clubs that engaged in the consultation 40% rated the ancillary facilities at the sites they use as being good quality. 38% rated ancillary facilities as being standard quality with 22% rating ancillary facilities as being poor.
- **Pricing:**
 - In terms of pitch hire charges, Warrington charge less than the average prices charged for each pitch type compared to neighbouring authority areas.

Section 3: Artificial Grass Pitches

There are several surface types that fall into the category of artificial grass pitch (AGP). The three main groups are rubber crumb (third generation turf 3g), sand (filled or dressed) and water based.

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces with a FA approved certificate and a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play at mini soccer and youth level. The preferred surface for football is medium pile 3G (55-60mm). Only football competitions up to (but not including) regional standard can take place on short pile 3G (40mm). Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but is not the preferred option.

World Rugby produced the ‘Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby’, more commonly known as ‘Regulation 22’ that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts can take place. For rugby league, the equivalent is known as RFL Community Standard.

Hockey is played predominantly on sand based/filled AGPs. Although competitive play cannot take place on 3G pitches, 40mm pitches may be suitable, in some instances, for beginner training and are preferred to poor grass or tarmac surfaces.

Table 24: AGP type and suitability

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22, requires a minimum of 60mm. Football surface.
Rubber crumb	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface and rugby league surface.
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football
Sand	Sand filled	Competitive hockey and football training
Sand	Sand dressed	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training
Water	Water based	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training if irrigated.

Current provision

Table 25 provides a list of current supply of full size AGPs identified in Warrington that are floodlit and available for community use.

Table 25: Full sized AGPs by Warrington

Site ID	Site name	Management	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Pitch type
17	Broomfields Leisure Centre	LiveWire	South	105 x 60*	Sand dressed
33	Culcheth Community Campus	School/ LiveWire	East	110 x 82*	Sand filled
54	Great Sankey Leisure Centre	LiveWire	West	106 x 70	Medium Pile 3G
66	Lymm High School	School	South	100 x 60*	Sand dressed
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	LiveWire	Central	100 x 65	Long Pile 3G
84	Penketh High School	School Lettings Solutions	West	97.5 x 60*	Sand dressed
87	Priestly College	College	South	111 x 66*	Sand dressed
129	University Academy Warrington	School	East	102 x 63*	Short Pile 3G
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	University	East	100 x 60*	Sand filled

*Pitch sizes taken from Active Places Power

The table below identifies the analysis areas that all of the AGPs are located in.

Table 26: Full size AGPs by analysis area

Analysis area	Long Pile 3G	Medium Pile 3G	Short Pile 3G	Sand Dressed	Sand Filled	Total
Central	1	-	-	-	-	1
East	-	-	1	-	2	3
South	-	-	-	3	-	3
West	-	1	-	1	-	2
Warrington	1	1	1	4	2	9

The most common type of surface is Sand Dressed. There are a total of 9 full size pitches in Warrington, of which 3 are 3G surfaces and 6 are sand. All analysis areas are served by AGP provision. The East and the South analysis areas have the most pitches (3 per area).

Additional provision

In addition to the supply of full size AGPs in Warrington, there are a variety of smaller sized AGPs that are available for community use.

Table 27: Additional supply of floodlit AGPs in Warrington

Site ID	Site name	Management	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Pitch quality	Pitch size
5	Bank Quay Sports Club	Private	Central	1	3G		30 x 20
11	Birchwood Community High School	School	East	1	3G	Poor	
21	Cantilever Park	Sports Club	South	1	3G	Standard	32 x 24
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	LiveWire	Central	10	3G	Standard	30 x 20
91	Rylands Recreation Club	Sports Club	Central	1	Sand filled	Standard	40 x 32.5
136	Whitecross Community Centre	Council	Central	1	3G	Poor	55 x 30
150	Kings Leadership Academy	School	East	1	3G	Standard	
151	Warrington Wolves Training Dome	Sports Club	East	1	3G	Standard	

3G AGP Provision

From a Football Association perspective, a full size 3G pitch is considered to be 100x64 metres (excluding run-offs).

As seen in the table below, there are three full size 3G AGPs in Warrington which meet the size guidelines to be considered a full size pitch. According to the FA Football Turf Pitch Register 2016/17, two of the three full size AGPs in Warrington are approved and, therefore, can be used for competitive fixtures. These are the 3G AGP at Great Sankey Leisure Centre, which was refurbished during 2016 and is FIFA Approved and the 3G AGP at Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub. This has recently been re-tested and is on the FA Register.

Table 28: 3G AGPs in Warrington

Site ID	Site name	Management	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Floodlit	FA/ FIFA Approved
54	Great Sankey Leisure Centre	LiveWire	West	Medium Pile 3G (60mm)	106 x 70m	Yes	Yes – FIFA approved
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	LiveWire	Central	Long Pile	100 x 65m	Yes	Yes – FA approved
129	University Academy Warrington	School	East	Short Pile (40mm)	102 x 63m	Yes	No

Quality

Of the three full size AGPs in Warrington one is assessed as good quality and the other two as standard quality. In the case of the pitch at Great Sankey Leisure Centre, this has very recently undergone refurbishment and is FIFA one star rated. The pitches at Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub and University Academy Warrington are rated as standard as per the non-technical assessment.

Table 29: Quality of full size AGPs in Warrington

Site ID	Site name	Management	Analysis area	Floodlit?	Quality	Built	Refurb	Comments
54	Great Sankey Leisure Centre	LiveWire	West	Yes	Good	2000	2016	Recently refurbished with 3G carpet.
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	LiveWire	Central	Yes	Standard	2012	-	Recently tested and meets FA standards
129	University Academy Warrington	School	East	Yes	Standard	1994	2009	

Further information on the quality of sand AGPs is available in section 4.

Availability

The table below summarises the availability of full size AGPs in Warrington. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period based on information provided by the operators during consultation. The peak period for AGPs is identified as 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). This has been applied in conjunction with findings from consultation to provide a total number of hours available for community use per week during the peak period.

Table 30: Community opening times of full size AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Hours available in the peak period
17	Broomfields Leisure Centre	South	Sand dressed	31.5
33	Culcheth Community Campus	East	Sand filled	31.5
54	Great Sankey Leisure Centre	West	Medium Pile 3G	31.5
66	Lymm High School	South	Sand dressed	34
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Central	Long Pile 3G	31.5
84	Penketh High School	West	Sand dressed	34
87	Priestly College	South	Sand dressed	16
129	University Academy Warrington	East	Short Pile 3G	25
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	East	Sand filled	8

The table above shows that most full size AGPs in Warrington are available for community use during the peak periods. Some educational sites have less availability.

Demand

Hockey

Further information on demand for AGPs from a hockey perspective is outlined in section 4.

Rugby League

Consultation revealed that there was demand for 3G pitch provision from a rugby league perspective to meet training demand. As there are currently no 3G pitches with the necessary certification required for rugby league purposes, no 3G pitches with the shock pad installation required for rugby league and the fact that the pitches are predominantly at capacity and used for either football or by the professional Warrington Wolves rugby league team, it is fair to assume that there is no 3G AGP provision to meet rugby league demand.

Rugby Union

Consultation revealed that there was demand for 3G pitch provision from a rugby union perspective to meeting training and competitive match play demand. As there are currently no 3G pitches with the necessary certification required for rugby union purposes, no 3G pitches with the shock pad installation required for rugby union and the fact that the pitches are predominantly at capacity and used for either football or by the professional Warrington Wolves rugby league team, it is fair to assume that there is no 3G AGP provision to meet rugby union demand.

Lymm RUFC were granted planning permission for a 3G pitch in early 2017, however there is no certainty that it will be built and is dependent on funds being available. Further consultation revealed that if built, the AGP will cater for some of the Rugby Union demand but not all of it. The reason for this is that the host club would only have 12 guaranteed hours per week (which includes matches) to use the pitch for. The rest of the time the RFU would look for the pitch to be utilised to support other club demand, universities, college and schools.

Football

The FA considers high quality third generation artificial grass pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The pitches can support intensive use and as such are great assets for both playing and training. Primarily such facilities have been installed for community use and training, however, are increasingly used for competition which The FA wholly supports.

Training demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the Country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at floodlit facilities.

A number of clubs in Warrington report a lack of access to affordable floodlit training facilities, particularly AGPs with a 3G surface. A total of 10 clubs report demand for additional training facilities, all of which suggest additional 3G facilities are required. Five of these clubs are currently training on sand-based AGPs but expressing demand to train on 3G AGPs that cannot currently be met due to lack of availability of 3G AGPs. It should be noted that the majority of these clubs are large community clubs, made up of a large number of affiliated teams across different age-groups and genders. In total the number of affiliated teams linked to these 10 clubs is reported as 217.

As a guide the FA suggests that 1 full size floodlit 3G FTP could potentially accommodate training demand from 42 teams (Ratio of 1:42). The FA developed the training ratio following their facilities strategy vision to provide all affiliated clubs with access to a 3G FTP for training. An original ratio of 1:56 was based on a full size pitch providing 56 slots per week (Mon-Thurs 6-9pm, Fri 6-8pm). The ratio was subsequently revised to 1:42. This was due to evidence of a number of local authority areas reaching the perceived required number of 3G FTP facilities based on the 1:56 ratio yet still evidencing latent demand. Further FA analysis of 3G FTP facility usage also showed that many affiliated teams seek more than one slot for training and that significant amounts of non FA affiliated and recreational demand also use 3G FTPs during the peak time, creating a need for further 3G FTP provision

On the basis that there are 445 currently playing competitive home fixtures on pitches within Warrington, there is a recommended borough wide need for at least 11 (10.6 rounded up to 11) full size 3G pitches. On the basis that there are currently three full size 3G pitches this leaves a shortfall of eight in Warrington.

It should be noted however that there are a further 20 displaced teams that play competitively outside of Warrington but require training facilities within Warrington. The majority of these teams are female teams that compete in central venue leagues outside of Warrington.

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of full size 3G AGPs required if every team was to remain within their respective analysis area for training.

Table 31: 3G pitch requirements in each analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement ²⁹	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Central	48	2	1	1
East	136	4	1	3
South	146	4	-	4
West	115	3	1	2
Warrington	445	13	3	10

Based on the number of teams in each analysis area, there is a potential need for 13 full size 3G AGPs within Warrington, meaning a current shortfall of 10 full size 3G AGPs. Interestingly one of the analysis areas with the highest demand (South neighbourhood area) is the area with no full size 3G AGP provision currently.

Moving match play to 3G pitches

Improving pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs) alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football.

The alternative to grass pitches is the use of AGPs for competitive matches and this is something that the FA is supporting, particularly for mini football. The table below tests a scenario in which all 5v5 and 7v7 football in Warrington is moved to 3G AGPs.

A programme of play has been created based on the current peak time demand for mini pitches in Warrington (Saturday AM).

Time	AGP 1	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8

²⁹ All figures rounded up to the nearest full size pitch

10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

There are currently 71 5v5 teams which would require 8.88 (rounded to 9) AGPs and there are 81 7v7 teams which would require 6.75 (rounded to 7) AGPs. Based on the above programming and separate start times for 5v5 and 7v7 matches, the overall need is for 9 full size 3G pitches to accommodate all mini football demand within Warrington. This is consistent with the total overall number required for training provision (11 - 13) as detailed earlier and would allow for future growth in mini football which is anticipated.

Table 32: Summary of usage and spare capacity of full size 3G AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Surface type	Size	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period ³⁰	Usage (during peak period)	Spare Capacity (during peak period)	Comments
54	Great Sankey Leisure Centre	West	Medium Pile 3G	Full size	31.5 15.5 (Mon – Fri) 16 (Sat & Sun)	68% 100% 38%	32% 0% 62%	No capacity for training purposes during weekday evenings. Whilst there is some spare capacity at weekends, this is limited to Saturday and Sunday afternoons as Whittle Hall JFC currently utilise pitch for competitive fixtures on both a Saturday and Sunday morning.
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Central	Long Pile 3G	Full size	31.5 15.5 (Mon – Fri) 16 (Sat & Sun)	44% 80% 9%	56% 20% 91%	Minimal spare capacity for training purposes during weekday evenings. Only slots available are either 5.30 – 6.30pm or 9.30 – 10.30pm weekday evenings. Spare capacity available at weekends and pitch is FA certified.
129	University Academy Warrington	East	Short Pile 3G	Full size	25 18 (Mon – Fri) 7 (Sat only)	64% 80% 14%	36% 20% 86%	Minimal spare capacity for training purposes during weekday evenings. Only slots available are 5.00 – 6.00pm weekdays. Spare capacity available at weekends although pitch is not FA certified.

³⁰ The peak period for AGPs is identified as 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00)

Summary of usage

Table 32 highlights the current usage of full size 3G AGPs and the number of hours that the pitches are available in the peak period. The table shows that all three 3G AGPs are well used and that whilst spare capacity exists during the peak period, this is limited to times during the weekend and outside of the most popular time slots (Monday to Thursday 6.00pm onwards). There is some limited potential to increase the hours that the pitches are available during the peak period.

It is important to acknowledge that due to the lack of 3G pitches there is significant usage of sand based AGPs by football clubs during weekday evenings for training purposes. More detailed information is available in section 4 but in summary four of the size full size sand based AGPs have more football usage than hockey, with two of the pitches being 100% used for football.

Conclusion

In conclusion there are nine full size AGPs across Warrington, of which 3 are 3G AGP's. Only one is currently on the FA register, with another one currently being retested and due to be placed back on the register soon. None of the pitches have the necessary RFL certification and notably there is a lack of clarity on whether any of the 3G AGPs have the necessary shock pad required for rugby.

Through consultation with the clubs and operators, it is clear that the AGPs are at capacity during weekday evening peak periods and unable to offer more usage for football, hockey or rugby league training. Consultation indicates that football, hockey and rugby league clubs all require more access to AGPs and at a cost that is affordable.

Currently a lot of football training demand is expressed on sand AGPs. This is due to the low level of 3G AGPs. Hockey clubs identified during consultation that additional training requirements they have cannot be met due to the usage of sand AGPs for the purpose of football.

The seasonal differences between when football and rugby league takes place present challenges. As football training is the dominant reason for hire of 3G AGPs due mostly to the fact it has higher levels of demand and that this demand is during winter rather than summer periods, rugby league teams identified during consultation that they struggle to access 3G AGPs for training resulting in overplay on grass pitches.

ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES SUMMARY

Overall picture

- There is a shortfall of between 8-10 full sized 3G AGP's to meet current football training demand.
- There is a shortfall of 7 full sized 3G AGP's to meet current demand for competitive football match play.
- There are two full sized 3G AGPs that are currently registered to support competitive football match play.
- There is demand for full sized 3G AGP's to be constructed to Rugby Football League specification to service Rugby League training demand.
- There is demand for a full sized 3G AGP's to be constructed to Rugby Football Union specification to service Rugby Union training demand and some junior competitive match play.

Supply

- There are a total of 9 full size AGPs in Warrington that are floodlit and available for community use.
- The most common type of surface is Sand Dressed AGPs (four). There are three 3G AGPs and two Sand Filled AGPs.
- The East and South neighbourhood analysis areas have the highest number of AGPs (three each). There are two AGPs in the West analysis area and one in the Central analysis area.
- In addition there are 17 smaller sized floodlit AGPs in Warrington.
- There are three 3G AGPs that meet the Football Association criteria of a full sized pitch.
- Two of the three 3G AGPs have the necessary certification to host competitive football.
- All of the full size AGPs are available for community use. Seven of these pitches are available for 25 hours or more a week during the peak period.

Demand

- Hockey demand for AGPs is expressed on Sand Based or Sand Filled AGPs, and further information in relation to Hockey is outlined in the next section.
- Consultation revealed Rugby League demand for 3G AGP provision for training purposes.
- Consultation revealed Rugby Union demand for 3G AGP provision for training and junior match play.
- In order to satisfy current football training demand for the borough as a whole there is a need for 11 full size 3G AGPs.
- In order to satisfy current football training demand by analysis area there is a need for 13 full size 3G AGPs. Four 3G AGPs are identified as needed in both the East and South neighbourhood analysis areas, three in the West neighbourhood and two in the Central neighbourhood.
- Based on FA modelling of moving all mini competitive match play demand to 3G AGPs, the number of full size 3G AGPs required is nine.

Quality

- There are no 3G AGPs in Warrington with the shock pad or certification required for rugby purposes.
- There are two 3G AGPs in Warrington with the certification required to host competitive football.

Developments of note

- Lymm Rugby Club have recently gained planning permission for significant development that would include the provision of a 3G AGP.

Section 4: Hockey

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and is administered locally by the Cheshire Hockey Association.

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

Table 33: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Playing Level	Playing Level
England Hockey Category 1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	Essential International Hockey - Training and matches	Desirable Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards England
England Hockey Category 2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	Desirable All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
England Hockey Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential All adult and junior club training and league Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	
England Hockey Category 4	All 3G surfaces	Essential None	Desirable Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

For senior teams, a full sized pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas, which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends. EH's preference is for four-metre side and five-metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres, though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek and requires access to a pitch and floodlights. Junior matches can be played on Saturdays and Sundays.

Consultation

There are 3 hockey clubs located in Warrington. All of these clubs responded to an online survey resulting in a response rate of 100%. Results from this consultation has been used to inform the key issues within this section of the needs assessment. The clubs are as follows:

- Lymm Hockey Club
- Warrington Hockey Club
- University of Chester (Warrington Campus) Hockey Club

Supply

There are a total of seven full size (sand filled/ dressed) AGPs in Warrington, of which six are available for community use. The AGP at Cardinal Newman is not available for community use and is not floodlit.

Table 34: Summary of sand based AGPs by location

Site ID	Site name	Number of full sized AGPs	Floodlit?	Analysis area
17	Broomfields Leisure Centre	1	Yes	South neighbourhood
24	Cardinal Newman High School	1	No	South neighbourhood
33	Culcheth Community Campus	1	Yes	East neighbourhood
66	Lymm High School	1	Yes	South neighbourhood
84	Penketh High School	1	Yes	West neighbourhood
87	Priestley College	1	Yes	South neighbourhood
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	1	Yes	East neighbourhood

It is important to acknowledge that the AGP at Great Sankey Leisure Centre is currently being refurbished. Previously a sand based full size AGP this is to become a 3rd generation AGP and no longer suitable for hockey. However, full consultation between EH, the Football Association, and Sport England took place to ensure there was no hockey played on this site and that there was no demand for hockey in this location in the future. It should be noted that the conversion of sand based AGP's to 3G is only supported where it can be clearly demonstrated that an AGP is surplus to hockey requirements.

There is one smaller sized AGP in Warrington suitable for hockey, located at Stockton Heath primary school. However this pitch is not available for community use and is not floodlit.

Management and Security of Tenure

Of the full sized AGPs in Warrington suitable for hockey, two are managed by LiveWire Warrington (Broomfields Leisure Centre and Culcheth Community Campus). The AGPs at Lymm High School, Priestley College and University of Chester (Warrington campus) are managed in house whilst the AGP at Penketh High School is managed by School Lettings Solutions.

In total four of the full sized AGPs are currently used for hockey. These are Culcheth Community Campus, Lymm High School, Priestley College and University of Chester (Warrington Campus). Whilst Broomfields Leisure Centre is not currently used for hockey, consultation highlighted that it had been used for hockey in recent years.

Pitch quality

It is considered that the carpet of an AGP has a life span of approximately 10 years; this however is dependent on levels of use. Due to this, resurfacing is recommended at four of the seven full size AGPs - Broomfields Leisure Centre (2006), Cardinal Newman Catholic High School (1984), Culcheth Community Campus (2004), and Penketh High School (1995).

Lymm High School's AGP was resurfaced in 2009 and was rated as standard quality through the NTA process although feedback through consultation with Lymm Hockey Club, who use the AGP both for competitive match play and training, indicate that they view the pitch quality as good.

The AGP at University of Chester (Warrington Campus), originally built in 2003, underwent significant rejuvenation works during 2016, which has improved the pitch quality.

The most recently built sand based/filled AGP is located at Priestley College. Built in 2010 this pitch was rated as good quality through the NTA and this quality rating was supported by Warrington Hockey Club who use the site for all their competitive match play and training requirements.

All of the AGP's aged 10 years or more were rated as standard quality through the NTA process. Lymm Hockey Club also use AGPs at Culcheth Community Campus and University of Chester (Warrington Campus) for competitive match play. The clubs view of the quality of these pitches was that they are a standard quality.

As already indicated Broomfields Leisure Centre AGP was used for hockey up to the end of the 2014/15 season. There is a current ongoing maintenance issue with the pitch which makes a section of the pitch unplayable. Despite attempts to resolve the issue, it remains unresolved, and therefore means that the pitch cannot be used for training and competitive hockey.

Both Lymm Hockey Club and Warrington Hockey Club cited Broomfields Leisure Centre AGP in the consultation, identifying that they no longer use the pitch due to its poor quality resulting in a lack of availability.

Table 35: Sand based AGP pitch ratings

Site ID	Site Name	Agreed Quality Rating
17	Broomfields Leisure Centre	Poor
24	Cardinal Newman High School	Standard
33	Culcheth Community Campus	Standard
66	Lymm High School	Standard
84	Penketh High School	Standard
87	Priestley College	Good
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	Standard

Ancillary facilities

Feedback from the two hockey clubs indicates that ancillary facilities are available at the four sites that are currently used for hockey. The quality of the ancillary facilities based on the consultation was that Culcheth Community Campus and Priestley College have good quality ancillary facilities whilst Lymm High School and University of Chester (Warrington Campus) have standard quality ancillary facilities.

Usage

The following table summarises the availability of full size sand based AGPs for community use in Warrington. In addition it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England's Facility Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00 – 21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00 – 17:00).

Table 36: Community opening times of full size sand based AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Opening times	Hours in the peak period	% of use for hockey	% of use for football	Comments	Capacity for hockey
17	Broomfields Leisure Centre	Mon, Wed & Fri 07:00-22:30 Tues-Thurs 06:00-22:30 Sat & Sun 08:00-20:30	34	0%	100%	Used solely by Bridgewater High School (outside peak periods) and community football teams this pitch is running at capacity during the weekday peak periods. Capacity exists at the weekend with usage currently limited to a Saturday morning.	Spare capacity for hockey matches. However pitch quality currently prevents competitive match play. No actual spare capacity.
24	Cardinal Newman High School	Unavailable	0	-	-	This AGP is based on a school site with no community use identified. This is likely due to a lack of floodlighting. The school have aspirations to replace the carpet with a 3G surface, and install floodlights so it can be available for community use.	Unavailable
33	Culcheth Community Campus	Mon-Fri 07:15-22:30 Sat & Sun 08:30-17:00	34	20%	80%	Used by Culcheth High School (outside peak periods), with the majority of community use coming from local football teams. For hockey, the pitch is used by Lymm Hockey Club for competitive match play, if other pitches at Lymm High School and University of Chester (Warrington Campus) are not available.	Spare capacity for hockey matches.

66	Lymm High School	Mon-Fri 17:00-22:00 Sat 08:00-18:00 Sun 09:00-17:00	34	70%	30%	Used by Lymm High School (outside peak periods). Used predominantly by Lymm Hockey Club, with all remaining spare capacity let out to community football teams.	At capacity
84	Penketh High School	Mon-Fri 17:00-21:30 Sat & Sun 09:00-20:00	34	0%	100%	Used by Penketh High School (outside peak periods), with all community use being for football. Capacity exists at the weekend and some weekday evenings, however limited details are available as to days and times and whether or not capacity can be deemed actual spare capacity is questionable.	No hockey use. Spare capacity for hockey training and matches. No actual spare capacity
87	Priestley College	Mon-Thurs 18:00-21:00 Sat 12:00-16:00	16	44%	56%	No capacity is available during peak time. Usage is fairly evenly split between Warrington Hockey Club, who use it for training and competitive matches and community football teams.	At capacity
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	Wednesday 17:30-20:30 Sat 12:00-17:00	8	62%	38%	Used by Lymm Hockey Club for competitive match play. Used by the University hockey team for matches and training. The priority is student University teams, and their training schedules. Wednesday is the only evening between 5.30-8.30pm offered for external team bookings.	At capacity.

There is significant use of sand based AGP's in Warrington for football training. The most significant is at Broomfields Leisure Centre, Culcheth Community Campus and Penketh High School

In summary Broomfields Leisure Centre and Penketh High School are the only pitches with no hockey use. The lack of use of Broomfields Leisure Centre AGP is cited by Lymm Hockey Club as being because "pitch is not reliably available", this pitch has also been unavailable for hockey usage for a long period due to its poor condition. Penketh High School is likely not to be used due to its location. Located in the west neighbourhood analysis area it is remote from the south neighbourhood analysis area where both Lymm Hockey Club and Warrington Hockey Club are based.

.Lymm High School, Priestley College and University of Chester (Warrington Campus) are operating at capacity, and these are the main AGPs used by the three hockey clubs. The other AGP currently used by clubs for competitive matches is located at Culcheth Community Campus. This pitch is only sporadically used if fixtures cannot be accommodated at other venues and therefore has spare capacity at weekends for matches.

There is a lack of capacity for additional hockey training. Lymm HC would like to deliver additional mid-week junior training but due to the football use mid-week, only late slots are available, which is unsuitable for junior sessions. This is affecting the growth of the junior section at Lymm HC. The only site with capacity to accommodate hockey training is Penketh High School but due to its location it is not a viable option for Lymm Hockey Club, Warrington Hockey Club or the University of Chester (Warrington Campus) Hockey Club.

Demand

There are three hockey clubs in Warrington consisting of 17 teams and 400 members. Of these, there are seven women's, five men's and three junior teams.

Table 37: Current hockey demand

Name of club	Match facility (main home ground in bold)	Training facility	No. of competitive teams			Current membership ³¹		
			Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors
Lymm Hockey Club	Lymm High School University of Chester (Warrington Campus) Culcheth Community Campus	Lymm High School	3	5	3	45	42	185
University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	1	1	-	15	18	-
Warrington Hockey Club	Priestley College	Priestley College	2	2	-	42	37	16
Warrington Total			6	8	3	102	97	201

³¹ Taken from club surveys and EH affiliation

Lymm Hockey Club

Lymm Hockey Club is the largest club located within Warrington, with a total 272 members, of which 87 are senior members and 185 junior members. This club consists of five women's, two men's and three junior teams. All training takes place at Lymm High School. The vast majority of fixtures take place at either Lymm High School or University of Chester (Warrington Campus), with occasional use of Culcheth Community Campus AGP depending on fixture schedules.

The club would like to have additional pitch provision to enable them to provide more training to their existing teams and members, and to offer mid-week junior training. They are concerned about the current sand based AGPs being converted to 3G AGP's which are not suitable for hockey.

University of Chester (Warrington Campus)

The University of Chester (Warrington Campus) Hockey Club have 33 senior members. The club consists of one women's and one men's senior teams. All matches and all training activity are played at the University of Chester (Warrington Campus). The club did not express any concerns through the consultation.

Warrington Hockey Club

Warrington Hockey Club have a total of 95 members, 79 senior and 16 junior. The club consists of two women and two men's teams. All matches and all training activity are played at Priestley College.

The club's main concern is the price and availability of suitable AGPs within Warrington. The club would like to start their pre-season training earlier but are unable to do so as Priestley College AGP is closed during school holiday periods. They also highlighted that they are struggling to cover costs associated with pitch hire. The club are working with England Hockey to start a junior section. Planning work for this is currently taking place. This will require more pitch time.

Table 38: Summary of pitch hire prices

Site ID	Site Name	Pitch hire prices	
		Weekend match play	Weekday evening training
17	Broomfields Leisure Centre	£81.00	£89.10 full pitch per hour £32.35 ¼ pitch per hour
33	Culcheth Community Campus	£81.00	£83.55 full pitch per hour £31.20 1/3 pitch per hour
66	Lymm High School	TBC	TBC
84	Penketh High School	Not provided	Not provided
87	Priestley College	TBC	TBC
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	£60 1	£60.00 full pitch per hour £35.00 ½ pitch per hour

Displaced Demand

During the 2015/16 season, AGPs at both Lymm High School and University of Chester (Warrington Campus) were unavailable due to essential refurbishment work. This caused displacement of teams from Lymm High School, however, now that the pitch improvement works have taken place there is no current displaced demand.

Unmet and latent demand

During the consultation Lymm Hockey Club indicated that they had unmet demand for an additional 2 hours of training for their senior teams that could not be accommodated at their training venue (Lymm High School). Through further consultation with EH and the club it has been identified that the club also have demand for additional mid-week junior training sessions.

Warrington Hockey Club indicated that their only unmet demand was during the school summer holiday period as the pitch they use for their training at Priestley

College is not open during school holidays, preventing them from starting their pre-season training earlier.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's strategic plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, working with regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Nationally, since 2012, hockey has seen a 65% increase of juniors taking up hockey within the club environment. This increase is expected to continue across all age groups in the future, especially given the success of Great Britain's women's team in the 2016 Rio Olympics. Overall, EH has an aim to double participation over the next ten years.

EH applies a growth rate to current affiliated membership numbers to determine anticipated increases in future demand. The predicted growth rate for Warrington is 4% and the table below uses this to determine potential growth.

Table 39: Predicted future club based membership based on growth rate

Name of club	Match facility (main home ground in bold)	Training facility	Current membership ³²			Total Current Membership	Future membership ³³			Total Future Membership
			Senior men	Senior women	Juniors		Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	
Lymm Hockey Club	Lymm High School University of Chester (Warrington Campus) Culcheth Community Campus	Lymm High School	45	42	185	272	47	44	193	284
University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	15	18	-	33	16	19	-	35
Warrington Hockey Club	Priestley College	Priestley College	42	37	16	95	44	39	17	100
Warrington Total			102	97	201	400	107	102	210	419

³² Taken from club surveys

³³ England Hockey predicts growth of 4% in Warrington

In addition, Lymm Hockey Club and Warrington HC express future demand. Lymm Hockey Club indicated that they hope to grow as a club over the coming years. They did not have any quantifiable numbers linked to this growth in terms of the number of participants or the number of additional teams they may introduce.

Warrington Hockey Club also have aspirations to increase the number of participants and teams at their club. The club do not currently have a junior section but have a desire to introduce one over the next year. The club does not know where the new junior session will be hosted and where additional teams would train or play as their current base (Priestley College) is at capacity

Supply and demand analysis

In order to support the development of hockey in Warrington it is imperative to ensure that there is sufficient supply for both competitive match play requirements and also for training and other informal versions of hockey e.g. small sided hockey and Back to Hockey.

Based on 12 adult teams and 3 junior teams (this discounts the 2 University of Chester (Warrington Campus) teams as these play midweek) in Warrington requiring a pitch at peak time (Saturday) there is a requirement for 4 full sized (rounded up from 3.75) floodlit hockey pitches based on teams playing home and away (and based on a floodlit AGP being able to accommodate a maximum of four matches on a Saturday and Sunday).

Due to availability on pitches for matches, training and the informal versions of the game, the current 4 pitches used for hockey need to be retained as hockey surfaces. Junior teams can play competitive fixtures on either Saturday's or Sundays, all current junior teams in Warrington currently play on a Sunday. Furthermore a large proportion of junior members actually represent the senior teams competitively. Based on the information available there is sufficient supply to meet both current and future competitive match play requirements. However, it is not sufficient to meet current and future training demand, and any additional growth in participation numbers at the hockey clubs achieved through any informal versions of the game.

The 4 AGP's that need to be protected are:

- Culcheth High School
- Lymm High School
- Priestley College
- University of Chester (Warrington Campus)

The key issue identified through this needs assessment is to provide a solution to address the shortage of provision to accommodate hockey clubs training needs. Of the current AGPs suitable for hockey use, there is currently significant football use occurring, which is hindering the development of hockey and the availability for hockey to develop. The 3 sand based AGPs currently used for hockey are all hired, to varying degrees, for football use. Lymm High School AGP which is where Lymm Hockey Club are based has 30% football use during the peak periods, and Priestley College's AGP, Warrington Hockey Club's home ground, has 56% football use during the peak periods it is available. The University of Chester AGP has 38% football use during the available peak periods.

It is important to highlight that if additional provision is provided to support hockey training and informal play the participation numbers will increase and potentially the number of competing teams could also increase.

As there is a requirement for 4 sand based AGPs to meet demand for competitive match play and training requirements, it is essential that the 4 sand based AGPs currently utilised for competitive match play and training (Lymm High School, Priestley College, Culcheth High School and University of Chester (Warrington Campus)) must therefore be retained as sand-based AGPs. Also if some of the existing football use that occurs during peak periods at these sites could be reduced, it would help meet the current unmet demand for training and support further informal play.

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way of replacing their tired sand-based carpet and generating money from hiring out a 3G pitch to football clubs and commercial football providers. This has come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams being displaced from their preferred local authority.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand-based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants will have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

The 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Those proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance 'Selecting the Right Artificial Grass Surface which can be found on Sport England's website:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

HOCKEY SUMMARY

Overall picture

- The current level of suitable AGP provision for hockey is sufficient to meet current and future demand.
- There is a requirement for four sand based AGPs to meet demand for competitive match play, junior training and informal play.
- There is demand for additional access to sand based AGP during weekday evenings for training purposes, specifically in the South neighbourhood analysis area.
- The AGP provision currently utilised for hockey is strategically well positioned within the borough currently.
- The four AGPs that have recorded hockey use and need to be retained are located at Culcheth Community Campus, Lymm High School, Priestley College and University of Chester (Warrington Campus).
- Any conversion of sand based AGP surface to 3G will not be supported by EH or Sport England unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the sand based AGP is surplus to requirement to hockey. Any proposals to convert a sand based AGP must be discussed with England Hockey and Sport England.

Supply

- There are a total of six full size (sand filled/ dressed), floodlit AGPs in Warrington.
- All of the six full size AGPs have football use as well as hockey use.
- Only two of the full size AGPs has a higher percentage of hockey use during peak periods. The remaining four have a higher percentage of football use, with two pitches having 100% football use during peak periods.
- The three main AGPs used for hockey are all operating at 100% capacity during the peak periods available.

Demand

- There are three hockey clubs in Warrington with a total of 400 members, of which 199 are senior members and 201 junior members.
- One of the clubs highlighted that they had existing unmet demand due to the unavailability of additional AGP provision during weekday evenings.
- Two clubs indicated plans to increase their membership numbers in the coming years, specifically by introducing new and additional junior sections with the club.
- England Hockey predicts there to be a growth in membership of 4% in Warrington (based on affiliation trends) which results in an overall increase of 10 adults and 9 juniors.

Quality

- Of the six AGPs, one is poor quality; one is good quality with the remaining four rated as standard quality.
- It is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years (depending on level of use and maintenance regimes). Due to this, resurfacing is recommended for three of the six, floodlit AGPs in Warrington.

Accessibility

- Availability during peak periods:
 - The pitch at Priestley College is only available during Term Time.

Section 5: Rugby League

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in Britain and Ireland. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the Championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the United Kingdom. The RFL also administers the amateur and junior game across the county in association with the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA).

Consultation

There are 9 amateur rugby clubs located in Warrington. 8 of these clubs responded to an online survey resulting in a response rate of 89%. Results from this consultation has been used to inform the key issues within this section of the needs assessment.

Supply

The audit of pitches identified a current total of 38 grass rugby league pitches within Warrington across 23 sites. These are sites that currently have rugby league pitches marked out on the site, or have had, within the last 5 years.

Of these pitches three were identified as disused. There were three sites identified during the audit that have become lapsed sites. This means that they once had rugby league on site but they have not had rugby league pitches marked out and used for at least 5 years.

Table 40 below shows that there are a total of 30 grass rugby league pitches that are available for community use, 27 of these are senior pitches and 1 is a junior pitch and 2 are primary pitches. Please note that for the purpose of this report, being available for community use refers to pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for use/hire by teams/clubs.

In addition to these grass pitches there is a small sized indoor AGP located at the University of Chester (Warrington Campus) that was built by Warrington Wolves RFL to support their academy and professional training requirements.

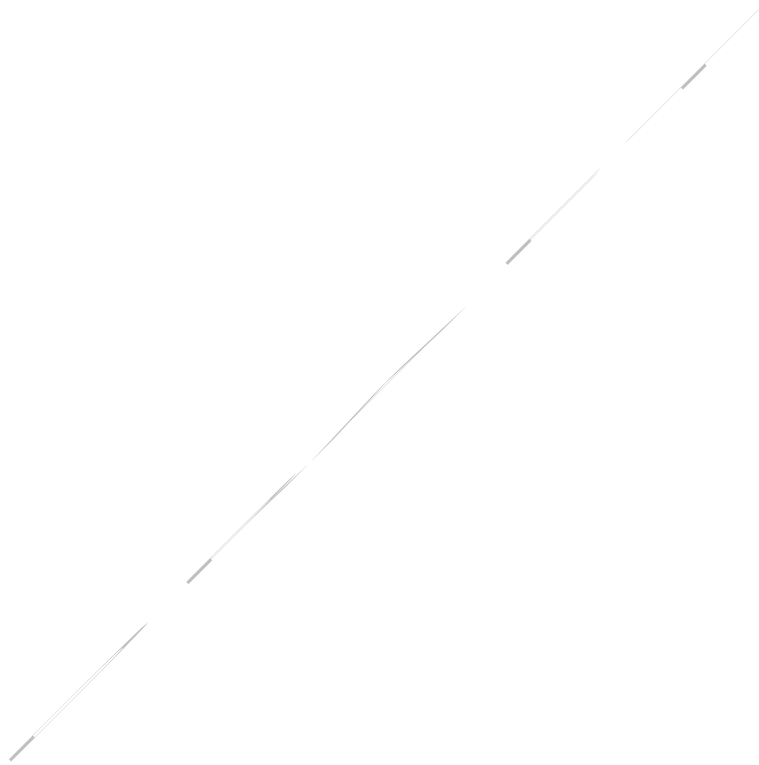


Table 40: Rugby League sites in Warrington

Site ID	Site Name	Analysis area	Clubs playing at pitches	Notes of ownership/ management
7	Beamont Collegiate Academy	Central neighbourhood	None	Pitches are owned by school but managed by LiveWire.
11	Birchwood Academy Trust	East neighbourhood	None	Owned and managed by school.
24	Cardinal Newman High School	South Neighbourhood	Not available for community use	Owned and managed by school.
33	Culcheth Community Campus	East neighbourhood	None	Pitches are owned by school but managed by LiveWire.
38	Dallam Recreation Ground	Central neighbourhood	Bank Quay Bulls	Rented from WBC on annual seasonal fee.
43	Fir Tree Lane	West neighbourhood	Burtonwood Bulldogs & Burtonwood Bridge	Rented from Burtonwood Parish Council on annual seasonal fee.
55	Great Sankey Parish Playing Fields	West neighbourhood	None	Owned and managed by Great Sankey Parish Council.
58	Halliwell Jones Stadium	Central neighbourhood	Warrington Wolves Super League	Privately owned and managed.
59	Hillock Lane Playing Fields	East neighbourhood	Woolston Rovers	Site jointly owned by Warrington Borough Council (80%) and by Woolston & Fearnhead Parish Council. Managed by WBC. Rented from WBC on annual seasonal fee.
60	HM Prison (Thorn Cross)	South neighbourhood	Not available for community use	Privately owned and managed.

61	Hood Lane Recreation Ground	West neighbourhood	Crosfields	Rented from WBC
65	Loushers Lane Recreation Ground	South neighbourhood	Occasional use from Latchford Albion and Priestly College.	Owned and managed by WBC.
70	Mary Ann Meadows	West neighbourhood	Disused site. Now football pitch.	Owned and managed by WBC.
72	Monks Sports & Social Club	East neighbourhood	Woolston Rovers	Privately managed with clubs linked to Sports Club.
91	Rylands Recreation Ground	Central neighbourhood	Rylands Sharks	Privately managed with clubs linked to Sports Club.
95	Shaw Street Recreation Ground	East neighbourhood	Culcheth Eagles	Rented from WBC on annual seasonal fee.
96	Sir Thomas Boteler High School	South neighbourhood	None	Owned by WBC and managed by school.
102	St Benedict's Primary School (Junior pitch)	Central neighbourhood	Rylands Sharks	Owned by WBC and managed by school. Rented from school with in return for club maintaining.
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	East neighbourhood	Warrington Wolves 1 st team and reserves for training.	Owned and managed by university.
131	Victoria Park	South neighbourhood	Latchford Giants & Latchford Albion	Rented from WBC on annual seasonal fee.
132	Victoria Park Arena	South neighbourhood	Latchford Giants	Rented from WBC on match basis
132	Victoria Park Stadium	South neighbourhood	Latchford Albion & Warrington Wolves	Rented from WBC on match basis

Table 41: Summary of grass rugby league pitches available to the community by analysis area

Analysis Area	Available for community use			
	Senior	Junior	Primary	Total
Central neighbourhood	5	1	1	7
East neighbourhood	8	0	0	8
South neighbourhood	7	0	0	7
West neighbourhood	7	0	1	8
Warrington	27	1	2	30

The community use pitches are generally well spread across the analysis areas. The West and East neighbourhood analysis areas have the most pitches, with 7 senior and 1 primary pitch in the West and 8 senior pitches in the East. The South and Central neighbourhood analysis areas both have a total of 7 pitches; all of the pitches in the East are senior pitches whilst the pitches in Central are 5 senior pitches, 1 junior pitch and 1 primary pitch.

Generally the majority of rugby league pitches are classified as being senior sized, with cones used to mark pitches for under 11's and below. However there are instances where designated junior or primary pitches are provided, which is the case for 3 of the pitches in Warrington.

Ownership/ management

Of the community available pitches 17 are managed by Warrington Borough Council, 4 are managed by Parish Councils, 3 are managed in house by schools/ colleges/ universities, 3 are managed privately by private commercial sports clubs and 3 are managed by LiveWire, a Community Interest Company.

Lapsed/ disused sites

Table 42: Lapsed or disused Rugby League sites in Warrington

Site ID	Site Name	Analysis area	Lapsed or disused site	Comments
4	Bank Park	Central neighbourhood	Lapsed	1 x junior pitch.
63	Lockers Playing Field	Central neighbourhood	Lapsed	2 x senior pitches. Privately owned and closed when associated business closed.
137	Wilderspool Stadium	South neighbourhood	Disused	1 x senior pitch. Associated stadium demolished in 2014. The pitch at Victoria Park Stadium was the replacement for this pitch.

In terms of the three pitches identified as lapsed these were located at two sites. Lockers Lane Playing Fields previously provided two senior rugby league pitches however the site was privately owned and was linked to the Locker's workplace. When Locker's ceased trading and closed in early 2000, the playing fields became disused along with the rest of the site.

The other lapsed pitch was located at Bank Park in the central neighbourhood analysis area. The site previously provided a junior rugby league pitch however due to its location and lack of ancillary facilities, it became disused during late 2000 and has not been used as a playing pitch site since.

There was 1 rugby league pitch identified on what is a disused site, located at Wilderspool Stadium. The stadium was home to the professional Warrington Wolves Rugby League Club from 1898 to 2003. The club moved to a new ground in 2004, but youth fixtures still took place at the site until May 2014, after which the stadium was demolished and the pitch closed. The pitch located at Victoria Park stadium, which opened in 2015, is the replacement pitch to compensate for the loss of the pitch at Wilderspool Stadium, and is utilised by Warrington Wolves RFL and other community clubs.

Future supply / current developments

As part of the needs assessment any pitch development plans that have funding in place and planning permission (where required) have been highlighted in this section. There are a number of aspirational plans for facility improvements that either do not yet have funding and/ or planning permission. The aspirational plans can be viewed in appendix 1.

Westy Park (South neighbourhood analysis area)

Warrington Borough Council has funding confirmed to re-introduce playing pitches at Westy Park. Previously a site which provided football provision, the site was previously closed as it was deemed unsafe due to the ground being contaminated as the playing fields are located on a previous landfill site.

The site has now been declared safe and WBC are currently looking to determine what pitch improvement works can take place within the budget available and to determine what pitch types will be marked at the site. The aim is to use the evidence base within this needs assessment to inform these decisions. The current site provides ancillary facilities with changing rooms available in the community centre located at the site.

The RFL have identified that they would recommend a feasibility study to be carried out to determine the scope of the work required to bring the pitches back into use. WBC have had discussions with Latchford Giants ARLFC in terms of utilising these pitches, but demand has been expressed by local football clubs.

Christ Church Playing Field (East neighbourhood analysis area)

Since the pitch assessments were carried out, Rylands Sharks have worked with Poulton-with-Fearnhead Parish Council to carry out work on a playing field located opposite to Bennett's Recreation Ground in the east neighbourhood analysis area to introduce an additional senior rugby league pitch. The pitch measures 100 x 68 metre with a 6 metre dead balls and full size posts

The club have fed back that whilst the pitch has increased capacity, there is no drainage in place on the site and so is prone to water logging.

Rylands Recreation Club

Rylands Cricket Club have recently been informed that they are to vacate their cricket pitch at the site from 1st January 2018. The suggestion is to turn the cricket pitch over to rugby league junior teams. Rylands Rugby League Club have significant demand for additional pitch provision and the cricket pitch outfield is currently used by some junior rugby league teams for training.

Informal pitches

Through the audit there were no informal pitches identified.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches in Warrington have been assessed via a combination of site visits, carrying out non-technical assessments (NTAs) as determined by the Rugby Football League on all pitches, and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- Good
- Standard
- Poor

Pitch quality influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain high levels of use. It is likely that pitches that receive little or no ongoing repair or off season remedial work will be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games able to take place each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches which are tended to regularly are likely to be a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) can often offer better quality facilities than Council and school playing pitches as such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches regularly during the week. Also private sites are often secured by fencing which prevents unofficial use whilst council pitches are generally located within parks and open spaces, regularly used by the public.

Carrying capacity of a pitch is dependent upon the quality of a pitch which is outlined below:

Category	Capacity
Good	3 matches per week
Standard	2 matches per week
Poor	1 match per week

The table below lists all the Rugby League pitches available for community use and the agreed pitch quality rating.

Table 43: Rugby League pitch ratings

Site ID	Site Name	Agreed Quality Rating
7	Beamont Collegiate Academy	Poor
7	Beamont Collegiate Academy	Poor
11	Birchwood Academy Trust	Standard
33	Culcheth Community Campus	Standard
38	Dallam Recreation Ground	Standard
38	Dallam Recreation Ground	Standard
43	Fir Tree Lane	Standard
43	Fir Tree Lane	Standard
43	Fir Tree Lane (Primary pitch)	Standard
55	Great Sankey Parish Playing Fields	Poor
59	Hillock Lane Playing Fields	Poor
59	Hillock Lane Playing Fields	Poor
59	Hillock Lane Playing Fields	Poor
61	Hood Lane Recreation Ground	Standard
61	Hood Lane Recreation Ground	Standard
61	Hood Lane Recreation Ground	Standard
61	Hood Lane Recreation Ground	Standard
65	Loushers Lane Recreation Ground	Poor
72	Monks Sports & Social Club	Good
91	Rylands Recreation Ground	Standard
91	Rylands Recreation Ground (Primary pitch)	Standard
95	Shaw Street Recreation Ground	Standard
95	Shaw Street Recreation Ground	Standard
96	Sir Thomas Boteler High School	Standard
102	St Benedict's Primary School (Junior pitch)	Standard
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	Standard
131	Victoria Park	Good
131	Victoria Park	Poor
131	Victoria Park	Poor
132	Victoria Park Stadium	Good
132	Victoria Park Arena	Good

The eight teams that engaged in the consultation all provided feedback with regards to their views on pitch quality. Two clubs indicated that they felt pitches were of good quality; these were Culcheth Eagles who are based at Shaw Street Recreation Ground and Latchford Giants identified one pitch at Victoria Park as being good quality.

Table 43 summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use for rugby league. In total, 4 pitches are rated as good quality (13%), 18 as standard quality (58%) and 9 are deemed to be poor quality (29%).

Table 44: Pitch quality ratings for community use rugby league pitches

Senior pitches			Junior/ Primary pitches			Total pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
4	14	9	0	3	0	4	17	9
15%	52%	33%	0%	100%	0%	13%	57%	30%

Overall, 13% of the pitches are good quality, 57% are standard quality and 30% are poor quality.

The feedback from the club survey gives a mixed response in terms of whether clubs feel the quality of pitches has changed during the last 12 months. 37% of respondents stated pitch quality has got slightly poorer with 25% suggesting pitch quality has become much poorer. 25% of respondents feel there is no different in pitch quality that has occurred with only the remaining 13% stating they feel pitch quality has become slightly better.

All sites managed and/or maintained by Warrington Borough Council (many of the school sites are maintained by WBC) receive a basic level of maintenance that is restricted to grass cutting and seeding, with no further budgets available for any further level of upkeep or for improvement works.

Table 45: Site specific feedback received on pitch quality

Site	Feedback
Dallam Recreation Ground	It was identified during the consultation that improvement works were being carried out on the pitches at that time. Feedback on the pitch that was in use was that grass cutting and line marking had become less frequent resulting in a poorer pitch. There was also concern expressed at the football pitches being introduced at the site as part of the improvement work.
Fir Tree Lane	Poor drainage and maintenance was indicated through consultation. It was suggested that inadequate drainage of the pitch makes the pitch more unplayable than playable. Also dangerous when the pitch dries with divots.
Rylands Recreation Ground	Pitch identified during consultation as being overplayed. Maintenance regime identified as requiring improving but thought to not be financially viable.
Victoria Park	One pitch in particular identified as being 'superb' however other rugby league pitches on the site not as good quality, resulting in overplay on the better pitch. Frequency of grass cutting identified as an issue.
Victoria Park Stadium	A new pitch has recently been provided however it was identified that access is limited due to use by Warrington Wolves.

Over marked pitches

As already mentioned, the majority of rugby league pitches are classified as being senior sized, with cones used to mark pitches for under 11's and below. Over marking of pitches can however cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

All of the senior Rugby League pitches are used for junior matches at some point during the season depending on availability.

There are no known pitches in Warrington which are marked onto or overlapping cricket outfields. However the outfield of the cricket pitch at Rylands Recreation Club is identified as being used for some junior training.

Whilst having rugby league pitches marked out on cricket pitches can create availability issues as both cricket and rugby league are summer sports, it can sometimes be an option for creating additional capacity if required.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facilities including the condition of the clubhouse, changing accommodation, toilets, showers, medical room, car parking and boundary fencing.

When asked during consultation, many of the clubs identified poor quality changing rooms as being an issue.

In terms of the sites that are currently used for the purpose of competitive Rugby League Dallam Recreation Ground which is used by Bank Quay Bulls had new changing rooms built in 2013, with additional car parking due to be installed during 2016/17.

As already indicated Shaw Street Recreation Ground, used by Culcheth Eagles is also due to have new and extended changing provision provided in the near future.

Changing facilities provided at Hillock Lane Playing Fields (used by Woolston Rovers), Rylands Recreation Ground (used by Rylands Sharks), Hood Lane Recreation Ground (used by Crosfields) and Victoria Park (used by Latchford Giants) are all identified as being poor and requiring investment. It is important to note that in terms of Victoria Park, it is the changing rooms linked to the four pitches in the main park area that are identified as being poor.

The ancillary facilities utilised by Burtonwood Bulldogs and Burtonwood Bridge (currently merging to become Burtonwood Rugby League) are identified as being an issue as they are extremely limited at the Fir Tree Lane site. There is no off road parking available at the site, nor are there any changing facilities. The clubs currently have to utilise the nearby Community Centre for changing provision.

Security of tenure

Security of tenure is something that needs to be looked at in Warrington to support the development of rugby league within Warrington. Whilst there is a commitment from WBC, who own the majority of rugby league pitches, that these pitches will continue to be provided for community use in the future, most of the pitches are rented by clubs on a seasonal basis.

The RFL have stated that they are happy to work with clubs and councils on asset transfers where Rugby League clubs are in a good position to sustainably manage and maintain an asset. Rugby league is very dependent on Local Authorities as the majority of its facilities are owned and run by Local Authorities.

The RFL have highlighted their concern about the potential impact of budget cuts on clubs and therefore aims to help volunteers to secure their facilities for the long-term and to help provide the training and equipment required by volunteers to care for their facilities.

Table 46: Rugby League pitch site ancillary facilities ratings

Site ID	Site Name	Agreed Quality Rating	Comments on Changing Rooms
7	Beamont Collegiate Academy	Good	Community use of pitches managed by LiveWire and ancillary facilities are based on those present in Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub.
11	Birchwood Academy Trust	Standard	
33	Culcheth Community Campus	Good	
38	Dallam Recreation Ground	Standard	Changing rooms have recently been built.
43	Fir Tree Lane	Poor	Changing provision provided is at the nearby Community Centre. No changing provision on site.
55	Great Sankey Parish Playing Fields	Poor	No changing rooms available. No car parking at the site.
59	Hillock Lane Playing Fields	Poor	Changing rooms have reached the end of their lifespan.
61	Hood Lane Recreation Ground	Standard	
65	Loushers Lane Recreation Ground	Poor	No changing rooms available.
72	Monks Sports & Social Club	Good	
91	Rylands Recreation Ground	Standard	
95	Shaw Street Recreation Ground	Standard	New extended changing rooms currently being built.
96	Sir Thomas Boteler High School	Standard	
102	St Benedict's Primary School (Junior pitch)	Standard	No changing rooms available.
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	Good	
131	Victoria Park	Poor	Changing rooms have reached the end of their lifespan.
132	Victoria Park Arena	Poor	Whilst changing rooms are reasonable quality they are very small and not big enough to accommodate 13v13 rugby league formats.
132	Victoria Park Stadium	Good	

Demand

Demand for rugby league in Warrington tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training. As the majority of rugby league play takes place during the summer period, when the nights are lighter, a significant amount of training takes place on pitches in addition to the competitive match play.

Competitive Play

Through the audit and assessment a total of 88 teams were identified as playing competitive rugby league based in Warrington. This consists of 15 senior men teams (19 years +), 28 junior teams (12 – 18 years) and 44 primary teams (7 – 11 years).

Table 47: Summary of where competitive teams play in Warrington by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of competitive rugby league teams			
	Senior	Junior	Primary	Total
Central neighbourhood	5	5	15	25
East neighbourhood	3	9	14	26
South neighbourhood	3	6	6	15
West neighbourhood	4	8	9	21
Warrington	15	28	44	88

Peak time for senior teams to play is Saturday PM and junior and primary teams are Sunday AM.

The table above shows that the East neighbourhood analysis area (26) is where most teams have their competitive pitch located, closely followed by the Central neighbourhood area (25) and then the West neighbourhood area (21). There are a low number of teams in the South neighbourhood analysis area (15). The most prevalent playing format is the primary team types category (44); however each format is fairly well represented.

The Central and East neighbourhood analysis areas account for the highest proportion of primary teams (34% and 32% respectively). The East and West neighbourhood areas have the highest percentage of junior teams (32% and 29% respectively) with the Central and South neighbourhood areas having 21% and 18% of the total respectively.

Senior teams make up 15% of teams playing rugby league competitively in Warrington, with the highest number of teams being in the Central neighbourhood analysis area (33%). The other neighbourhood analysis areas are well represented with senior teams with the West neighbourhood area having 27% and the East and South neighbourhood areas each having 20% of the total senior teams.

Whilst the primary teams are mixed, it is important to note that there are no identified female junior or senior teams.

Training

Winter rugby training is accommodated across a combination of indoor sports halls, 3G artificial grass pitches (AGP) and other open spaces including a dedicated floodlit training area located at Victoria Park and Farm Land. Finding appropriate facilities is a regular issue identified by clubs.

There are three 3G AGP's in Warrington that during the consultation were highlighted as being constructed with the shock pad required for rugby use. These are located at Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub (full size pitch), University of Chester (Warrington Campus) and University Academy Warrington (need to check this has shock pad). However whilst these pitches can be used for non-contact formats of the game (touch rugby), in order to be used for contact rugby league, these pitches require testing and certification. Currently none of these pitches are certified for rugby league. Indeed there is a lack of clarity as to whether any of the three pitches do in fact have the necessary shock pad installation.

The 3G AGP located at University of Chester (Warrington Campus) is a purpose built, indoor training facility to support the Warrington Wolves professional team and academy. It has limited community use. Through the audit it has been identified that this pitch is not certified for contact rugby league.

The 3G AGP located at Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub is heavily used with 100% of the usage being football.

The 3G AGP at University Academy Warrington does have some rugby league use however the pitch is predominately used for football.

Casual Use

As the majority of rugby league is played on pitches owned and/ or managed by either Warrington Borough Council or Parish Councils these sites tend to be as open public spaces and are used for recreational play, dog walking etc. This additional wear and damage is an issue for clubs as it decreases the quality of pitches and in turn the carrying capacity for matches and training.

Displaced demand

Displaced demand is existing demand that is being met by provision outside of the Warrington boundary. There are a number of reasons why displacement may occur such as Central Venue League, where one location/site is used as the venue for all competitive fixtures with no teams having home or away fixtures or because teams choose to hire pitches outside of the boundary due to pitch quality or hire costs.

There was no displaced demand identified through the consultation with clubs.

Unmet and latent demand

There was no unmet or latent demand identified by clubs through the consultation.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, housing growth and using population forecasts. Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

Housing Growth Scenarios for each of the sports is contained within the Strategy Report.

Population Increase

Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2027) based on population growth.

Table 48: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (19-45)	35,656	12	2971	35,799	12.0	0.0
Senior Women (19-45)	35,267	0	0	34,209	0.0	0.0
Junior Boys (12-18)	8,928	25	357	9,758	28	3
Junior Girls (12-18)	8,330	0	0	9,305	0.0	0.0
Primary rugby mixed (7-11)	11,957	44	272	13,189	49	5

Using the 2027 projected population increases it demonstrates that additional teams are forecasted to be generated for both junior boys and primary teams. The most significant growth is predicted to be in primary rugby with 5 teams anticipated. A further 3 teams are anticipated to be generated in junior rugby.

Based on the anticipated additional teams, this equates to the need for access to rugby league pitches that could cater for 3.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

Participation Increase

During the consultation process a number of clubs indicated that they had plans to grow their number of teams in the future. Whilst some of the teams highlighted specific detail in terms of future growth, other teams did not provide any detail. The table below highlights the specific latent demand expressed by the clubs that could potentially be introduced in the coming years.

Table 49: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Latent demand	Analysis area	Match equivalents	Type
Burtonwood Bulldogs / Burtonwood Bridge	Indicated but not specified	West neighbourhood	0	Unknown
Bank Quay Bulls	1 x senior 1 x junior girls 1 x primary	Central neighbourhood	0.5 0.5 0.25	Senior Junior Primary
Crosfields	Indicated but not specified	West neighbourhood	0	Unknown
Culcheth Eagles	Indicated but not specified	East neighbourhood	0	Unknown
Latchford Giants	1 x U8 1 x U13 1 x U18 1 x U19	South neighbourhood	0.25 0.5 0.5 0.5	Primary Junior Junior Senior
Rylands Sharks	Indicated but not specified	Central neighbourhood	0	Unknown
Woolston Rovers	Indicated but not specified	East neighbourhood	0	Unknown
Totals			0.5	Primary
			1.5	Junior
			1	Senior

The quantifiable future demand indicated by clubs through the consultation is concentrated in Central and South neighbourhood analysis areas. However there was also future demand identified in the East and West neighbourhood analysis area but the lack of detail provided by clubs meant that match equivalent detail could not be established.

Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during the peak period and off peak times.

As previously indicated the carrying capacity of a pitch is dependent upon the quality of a pitch which is outlined below:

Category	Capacity
Good	3 matches per week
Standard	2 matches per week
Poor	1 match per week

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that takes place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis. Where actual spare capacity exists it is highlighted in table 44.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. As the majority of competitive rugby league takes place on senior rugby league pitches the peak period is considered to be Saturday PM and Sunday AM.

Education sites

To account for curricular/ extra-curricular use of education pitches it is deemed that usage should be adjusted and increased by 1 match equivalent session per pitch. The only time this does not apply is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is that made by the community.

Table 50: Rugby league capacity table

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
7	Beamont Collegiate Academy	Central neighbourhood	Senior	Poor	2	2.5	2	0.5	Site is poor quality with education use therefore has no capacity. Current community use means pitch is over played.
11	Birchwood Academy Trust	East neighbourhood	Senior	Standard	1	1	2	1	PE/ Extracurricular use only recorded on this pitch.
33	Culcheth Community Campus	East neighbourhood	Senior	Standard	1	1.75	2	0.25	Current community use from Rylands Sharks for training only.
38	Dallam Recreation Ground	Central neighbourhood	Senior	Standard	2	5.25	4	1.25	Currently used by Bank Quay Bulls for training and competitive match play.
43	Fir Tree Lane	West neighbourhood	Junior	Standard	1	2	2	0.5	Currently used by Burtonwood Bulldogs and Burtonwood Bridge.
43	Fir Tree Lane	West neighbourhood	Senior	Standard	2	2.25	4	1.75	
55	Great Sankey Parish Council Playing Fields	West neighbourhood	Senior	Poor	1	0	1	1	No current community use. Site has poor ancillary facilities, with no parking or changing facilities.
59	Hillock Lane Playing Fields	East neighbourhood	Senior	Poor	3	10	3	7	Extensively used by Woolston Rovers for both training and matches. The site is overplayed by 7 match equivalent sessions per week.

									Adjacent school are also requesting access for curricular and extra-curricular purposes.
61	Hood Lane Recreation Centre	West neighbourhood	Senior	Standard	4	15.25	8	7.75	Currently used by Crosfields for both training and matches. The site is overplayed by 7.75 match equivalent sessions per week.
65	Loushers Lane Recreation Ground	South neighbourhood	Senior	Poor	1	1	1	0	Currently used on an ad hoc basis by Latchford Albion and Priestly College for rugby league. Site has poor ancillary facilities, with no parking or changing facilities. Predominantly used as football site.
72	Monks Sports & Social Club	East neighbourhood	Senior	Good	1	3.5	3	0.5	Used by Woolston Rovers for both training and matches. The site is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
91	Rylands Recreation Ground	Central neighbourhood	Primary	Standard	1	3	2	1	Currently used by Rylands Sharks for both training and matches. The site is overplayed by 6 match equivalent sessions per week.
91	Rylands Recreation Ground	Central neighbourhood	Senior	Standard	1	8	2	6	
95	Shaw Street Recreation Ground	East neighbourhood	Senior	Standard	2	8.5	4	4.5	Currently used by Culcheth Eagles for both training and matches. The site is overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
96	Sir Thomas Boteler High School	South neighbourhood	Senior	Standard	1	1	2	1	PE/ extracurricular lessons only recorded on this pitch.
102	St Benedict's Primary	Central neighbourhood	Junior	Standard	1	4	2	2	Currently used by Rylands Sharks for both training and matches. Pitch also has PE/ extracurricular use.

	School								
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	East neighbourhood	Senior	Standard	1	4	2	2	Dual use RFL & RFU pitch. Used by Warrington Wolves 1 st team and reserves for training. Winter use from University Rugby Union team
131	Victoria Park	South neighbourhood	Senior	Good & poor mix	3	7.5	5	2.5	Currently used by Latchford Giants for both training and matches. The site is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
132	Victoria Park Stadium	South neighbourhood	Senior	Good	1	2.5	3	0.5	The pitch is predominantly used by Warrington Wolves with some usage from Latchford Albion.
132	Victoria Park Arena	South neighbourhood	Senior	Good	1	0.5	3	2.5	The pitch has some community rugby league use along with community football use.

Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand scenarios above, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas based on match equivalent sessions.

Table 51: Spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ³⁴	Current Demand (match equivalent sessions)		Future demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand (population growth)	Future demand (participation increase)	Unmet demand ³⁵	Total
Central neighbourhood	0	10.75	10.75	-	1.25	0	12
East neighbourhood	1.25	14	12.75	-	-	0	12.75
South neighbourhood	1	2.5	1.5	-	1.75	0	3.25
West neighbourhood	2.25	7.75	5.5	-	-	0	5.5
Warrington	4.5	35	30.5	3.25	3	0	36.75

³⁴ In match equivalent sessions

³⁵ Based on club consultation

Overall in Warrington there is a shortfall of 30.5 match equivalent sessions to meet current demand.

Each of the four analysis areas has a current deficit of provision. The south neighbourhood analysis area has the lowest deficit with 1.5 match equivalent sessions. The west neighbourhood has a deficit of 5.5 match equivalent sessions. The largest deficits are present in the central and east neighbourhood analysis areas which have deficits of 10.75 match equivalent sessions and 12.75 match equivalent sessions respectively.

The situation is further exacerbated when accounting for future demand resulting in a shortfall of 36.75 match equivalent sessions to meet current and future demand across Warrington.

The shortfall of pitches is generally down to overplay, which is a direct result of teams training on match pitches due to a lack of dedicated, floodlit training areas combined with the quality of some of the pitch provision.

Spare capacity

Some sites are shown to have potential spare capacity but not all is actual spare capacity. The sites where potential spare capacity is not actual spare capacity are summarised in table 46 below.

Table 52: Sites with potential spare capacity but actual spare capacity does not exist

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Reasons for not having actual spare capacity
55	Great Sankey Parish Council Playing Fields	West neighbourhood	Senior	Site has poor ancillary facilities, with no parking or changing facilities.
132	Victoria Park Stadium	South neighbourhood	Senior	In order to protect pitch quality, usage needs to be managed.
132	Victoria Park Arena	South neighbourhood	Senior	The pitch is located within an athletics track which limits its availability. The pitch has some community rugby league use. Furthermore the pitch also has potential for football fixtures.

Table 53: Actual spare capacity by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity
Central neighbourhood	0
East neighbourhood	1.25
South neighbourhood	1
West neighbourhood	2.25
Warrington	4.5

The west neighbourhood analysis area has the most actual spare capacity with 2.25 match equivalent sessions identified. The East neighbourhood area has 1.25 match equivalent sessions actual spare capacity, with the south neighbourhood having 1 match equivalent session. There is no actual spare capacity identified in the central neighbourhood area.

Overplay

Ten sites are overplayed by 35 match equivalent sessions per week. There are two main reasons for this which are the number of teams playing and training at the same sites along with the varying quality of pitches across Warrington.

Overplay, in some circumstances, can be dealt with by improving quality of pitches or by providing more training pitches. It is important to acknowledge however that there is not enough spare capacity available in the areas of overplay to meet this level of demand.

Scenario testing to identify the level of overplay that could be addressed through pitch improvements will be explored in the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Table 54: Overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay
Central neighbourhood	10.75
East neighbourhood	14
South neighbourhood	2.5
West neighbourhood	7.75
Warrington	33

The table above shows that the east neighbourhood analysis area has the highest level of overplay (14 match equivalent sessions per week), closely followed by the central neighbourhood area (10 match equivalent sessions). The west neighbourhood area has 7.75 match equivalent sessions per week of overplay. The south neighbourhood area has the lowest amount of overplay recorded with 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

RUGBY LEAGUE SUMMARY

Overall picture

- There is insufficient supply of rugby league pitches in Warrington to meet demand.
- Overall in Warrington there is a current shortfall of 30.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Overall in Warrington there is a predicted shortfall of 36.75 match equivalent sessions based on anticipated future demand.

Supply

- There are a total of 31 grass rugby league pitches that are available for community use. The West neighbourhood area has the highest total number of grass football pitches (9), followed by the East neighbourhood area (8). The Central and South neighbourhood areas both have seven pitches.
- 28 of these pitches are senior rugby league pitches, one is a junior pitch and two are primary pitches.
- There is a total of 4.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across Warrington with half (2.25) expressed in the West neighbourhood analysis area.

Demand

- A total of 88 teams were identified as playing competitive rugby league on pitches located within the Warrington boundary. This consists of 15 senior men teams, 28 junior teams and 44 primary teams.
- The East (26) neighbourhood analysis areas is where most teams have their match play pitch located, closely followed by the Central (25) neighbourhood area and West (21) neighbourhood. The lowest number of teams is in the South (15) neighbourhood analysis area.
- Through the consultation process no clubs reported any unmet demand.
- Team generation rates predict an increase of 3 junior teams and 5 primary teams.
- A number of clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Of the clubs which quantify their potential increase, there is a predicated growth of 1 senior men team, 2 junior teams and 1 primary team.
- Overplay amounts to 33 match equivalent sessions. The East neighbourhood analysis area has the highest level of overplay (12 match equivalent sessions), followed by Central (10.75 match equivalent sessions), then the West (7.75 match equivalent sessions). The South neighbourhood analysis area has 2.5 match equivalent sessions of overplay.
- One of the main reasons for overplay is training on match pitches. However, another reason for overplay is mini teams playing on senior pitches.

Quality

- The majority of pitches are either poor (30%) or standard quality (57%). Only 13% of pitches are rated as good quality.
- Warrington Borough Council's Environment Service deliver a basic level of sportsground maintenance on the majority of its sites that is restricted to grass cutting, topdressing and seeding, with no ring fenced budgets available for any further level of upkeep or for improvement works.

Accessibility

- **Management:**
 - Of the community available rugby league pitches, 17 are managed by Warrington Borough Council, 5 are managed by Parish Councils, 4 are managed in house by schools/ colleges/ universities, 3 are managed privately by sports clubs and 3 are managed by LiveWire (a Community Interest Company).

Section 6: Rugby Union

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the governing body for the sport across England. It is split into six areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. A development officer is responsible for Warrington and works with clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, including working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures. The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are 3 amateur rugby union clubs located in Warrington. Each of these clubs responded to an online survey resulting in a 100% response rate. Results from this consultation has been used to inform the key issues within this section of the needs assessment.

Supply

In total there are 13 grass rugby union pitches (11 senior and 2 mini) in Warrington located across 6 sites. All of the pitches are available for community use with 12 of the pitches being used. The pitch that is available for community use but not used is located at University of Chester (Warrington Campus).

Please note that the audit only identified dedicated, line marked pitches. For the purposes of this report, being available for community use refers to pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) that are recorded as being available for use/ hire by teams/clubs.

There are currently no 3G AGP's in Warrington that are World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant.

Table 55: Rugby Union sites in Warrington

Site ID	Site Name	Analysis area	Clubs playing at pitches	Notes of ownership/ management
2	Appleton Thorn Playing Fields (New Lane)	South	Warrington RUFC (ad hoc)	Rented from WBC on an ad-hoc basis.
14	Bridgewater High School (Upper)	South	Warrington RUFC (ad hoc)	Rented from school on an ad-hoc basis.
69	Lymm Rugby Club	South	Lymm Rugby Club	Owned by club
127	Thornton Road Recreation Ground	West	Eagle RUFC	Rented from WBC on annual seasonal fee.
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	East	None	Owned and managed by University
133	Warrington Sports Club	South	Warrington RUFC	Owned by sports club. Rugby Club is independent section within the club with secured use of the facilities.

Table 56: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis Area	Available for community use	
	No. of senior pitches	No. of mini pitches
Central neighbourhood	0	0
East neighbourhood	1	0
South neighbourhood	9	2
West neighbourhood	1	0
Warrington	11	2

As shown in table 56, the vast majority of rugby union pitches are located within the south neighbourhood analysis area (85%). There is 1 senior pitch located in the east neighbourhood analysis area, 1 senior pitch in the west neighbourhood but no rugby union pitches in the central area.

Ownership/ management

Pitch ownership and management across Warrington is varied. Of the 13 pitches available three are managed by Warrington Borough Council, three are managed in house by schools/ colleges/ universities; five are owned and managed by Lymm RUFC with the remaining two owned and managed by Warrington Sports Club. Warrington Rugby Club is an independent section of the main club with secured use of the rugby union facilities available at the site.

Lapsed/ disused sites

As part of the audit there was one disused pitch identified as outlined below:

Sow Brook Playing Fields

During the consultation WBC parks team identified that due to drainage issues at the site, the pitch has been unplayable for rugby union for approximately the last 4 seasons.

There was one lapsed sites identified as outlined below:

Bridge Lane

Owned by Warrington Borough Council, and the former home of Warrington RUFC, the site became disused in 2004 following a fire which destroyed the club house at the site. Warrington RUFC continues to lease the site under terms dating back to 1959 however the condition of the site and the associated pitches has deteriorated significantly. The current lease has around 40 years still to run.

The site previously provided two pitches (1 senior / 1 junior), one of which was floodlit.

As part of the consultation Warrington RUFC indicated aspirations to return to the site in the future.

Future supply / current developments

As part of the needs assessment any pitch development plans that have funding in place and/or planning permission (where required) have been highlighted in this section.

Lymm Rugby Club (south neighbourhood analysis area)

Lymm Rugby Club had planning permission granted in February 2017 to build a new 2,390 square metre purpose-built clubhouse, along with four illuminated tennis courts, all-weather 3G pitch, squash courts and changing rooms.

The proposed work will see the existing clubhouse transformed into four homes, with a further 10 also to be built.

The RFU are fully supportive of the clubs plans to redevelop their home site and have approved the design for the changing rooms. The RFU are currently (March 2017) providing support to the club in the pursuit of delivering the scheme for which planning has been granted. The RFU has identified the Lymm Rugby Union site as one that could host an RFU operated Artificial Grass Pitch through the RFUs 'Rugby Turf' Investment Programme.

Informal pitches

Through the audit there were no informal rugby union pitches identified.

Pitch quality

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated.

Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Significant improvements to maintenance programme required
M1	Minor improvements to maintenance programme required
M2	No improvements to maintenance programme required

Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

Table 57: Rugby Union pitch ratings

Site ID	Site Name	Agreed Quality Rating
2	Appleton Thorn Playing Fields (New Lane)	M0 / D0
2	Appleton Thorn Playing Fields (New Lane)	M0 / D0
14	Bridgewater High School (Upper site)	M0 / D0
14	Bridgewater High School (Upper site)	M0 / D0
69	Lymm Rugby Club (mini pitch)	M2 / D2
69	Lymm Rugby Club (mini pitch)	M2 / D2
69	Lymm Rugby Club	M2 / D2
69	Lymm Rugby Club	M2 / D2
69	Lymm Rugby Club	M2 / D1
127	Thornton Road Recreation Ground	M0 / D1
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	M0 / D0
133	Warrington Sports Club	M1 / D2
133	Warrington Sports Club	M1 / D2

Of the five pitches at Lymm Rugby Club, four of the pitches have pipe and slit drainage systems that were installed in 2009 with financial support from the RFU. The remaining pitch at the site, which is floodlit, has not had a new drainage system installed in the last 8 years as per the RFU guidance and is heavily overplayed as it is used for club training. This pitch is earmarked to become a World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant 3G AGP as part of the proposed Lymm Rugby Club development outlined earlier.

Of the remaining pitches, only pitches at Thornton Road Recreation Ground and Warrington Sports Club have pipe drainage installed. The age of these systems is not known, but maintenance regimes at the sites are identified as requiring significant improvements.

The remaining 5 rugby pitches assessed have no drainage systems and inadequate maintenance regimes.

The table below provides a summary of the facility improvements that have occurred over the past 10 years at rugby union sites in Warrington. These works have been supported by investment from the Rugby Football Union amounting to £1,039,127.

Table 58: Summary of RFU and club facility improvements in Warrington over the past 10 years

Year	Club Name	Works
2007	Warrington	Portable floodlights
2007	Lymm	Land and buildings
2009	Lymm	Pitch Improvements
2012/13	Lymm	Pitch maintenance equipment
2012/13	Warrington	Goalpost Safety
2012/13	Warrington	Changing rooms
2013/14	Lymm	200 Lux Lighting
2015/16	Lymm	Pitch Improvements & Changing Room Refurbishment

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facilities including the condition of the clubhouse, changing accommodation, toilets, showers, medical room, car parking and boundary fencing.

Eagle RUFC identified that the ancillary facilities at Thornton Road Recreation were poor, and this was confirmed through consultation with Warrington Borough Council. The two remaining WBC owned and managed sites at Appleton Thorn Playing Fields and Sow Brook Playing Fields were also deemed to be poor quality.

Both Lymm RUFC and Warrington RUFC home grounds were identified as having standard quality ancillary facilities overall, this has been supported through significant investment by

both the clubs and the RFU in recent years. Warrington RUFC have invested significantly in their changing rooms in recent years and the quality of their changing facilities is good. Lymm RUFC changing rooms and club house are poor quality and require improvement.

Table 59: Agreed site ancillary ratings for community use sites

Site ID	Site Name	Analysis area	Agreed ancillary facilities rating	Comments
2	Appleton Thorn Playing Fields (New Lane)	South neighbourhood	Poor	Limited car parking capacity. No changing room facilities.
14	Bridgewater High School (Upper site)	South neighbourhood	None	Car parking available.
69	Lymm Rugby Club	South neighbourhood	Standard	Recent minor improvements to changing rooms but still fall short of standard and configuration required. Clubhouse in poor condition. Planning permission granted for a scheme that will provide state of the art ancillary improvements for the club when delivered.
97	Sow Brook Playing Fields	South neighbourhood	Poor	Replacement changing rooms required. Car parking limited and poor condition.
127	Thornton Road Recreation Ground	West neighbourhood	Poor	Limited car parking and poor quality. Recent minor improvements to changing rooms but still fall short of standard and quantity required.
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	East neighbourhood	Good	
133	Warrington Sports Club	South neighbourhood	Standard	Changing rooms underwent significant refurbishment in 2012/13 and are good quality.

Demand

Demand for rugby union pitches falls within the categories of competitive play and organised training.

Competitive Play

There are a total of 34 competitive rugby union teams within Warrington. A breakdown of the number of teams within each club is shown in the table below.

Table 60: Summary of demand from clubs

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams			
		Mini	Junior	Colts	Senior
Eagle RUFC	West neighbourhood	0	0	0	2
Lymm RUFC	South neighbourhood	6	4	2	4
Warrington RUFC	South neighbourhood	6	4	2	4
Warrington		12	8	4	10

Organised training

Consultation confirms that all 3 clubs train at their home ground during the winter however the training facilities vary greatly between clubs. A breakdown of the training facilities utilised by each club is shown in table 61 below.

Table 61: Summary of training facilities

Club	Facilities available	Organised training
Eagle RUFC	1 floodlit tarmac strip. <i>The RFU are currently working with Eagle RUFC to support them with a funding application for portable floodlights which would enable them to train on a more appropriate facility.</i>	Senior – Tuesday & Thursday 7.00pm
Lymm RUFC	1 floodlit pitch	Touch Rugby – Thursday 7.30pm Senior - Tuesday and Thursday 7.00-9:00pm Colts Academy – Thursday 6.00–7.00pm U16 – Wednesday 6.00-7.00pm U15 – Wednesday 6.00-7.00pm U14 –Thursday 6.00-7.00pm U13 – Tuesday 6.00-7.00pm U12 – Friday 6.00-7.00pm Mini (U5 – U12) – Sunday (match or training. In late season March/April a number of these age groups may organise mid-week training to coincide with better weather and lighter evenings)
Warrington RUFC	1 grassed paddock area with 3 x portable floodlights	Senior – Thursday 7.00pm Senior Colts – Tuesday & Thursday 7.00pm Junior Colts – Wednesday 7.00pm U15 – Wednesday 6.00pm U14 – Wednesday & Friday 6.30pm U13 – Friday 6.30pm U11 – Wednesday 6.00pm U10 – Friday 6.30pm Mini & Micros (U7 – U12) – Sunday (match or

		training)
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In addition to the summary above, one of Warrington RUFC mini teams train at a 3G pitch at Whitecross Community Centre.

Warrington RUFC identified through the consultation process that their portable floodlights are at the end of their life and require replacing. The RFU have indicated during the consultation that they are aware of this and are looking to support the club with funding to secure replacement portable floodlights.

Warrington Borough Council parks team highlighted during the consultation process that the training facilities identified by Warrington RUFC is actually located on WBC land which is managed as an overflow car park as part of Walton Hall Gardens and Estate. WBC has not granted Warrington RUFC permission for training to take place on the area.

Casual or other use

Through the consultation Warrington RUFC identified that the rugby union pitches at Warrington Sports Club is used by the rugby union team from University of Chester (Warrington Campus) usually for approximately 2-3 fixtures per season when their pitch is waterlogged.

Furthermore Warrington RUFC currently have a partnership with Bridgewater High School. This partnership see's the school play there Saturday morning matches on Warrington Sports Club rugby union pitches.

Warrington Sports Club pitches are also used for 2 sessions per season as part of the Sale Sharks Developing Player Pathway (DPP) programme.

Displaced demand

Displaced demand is existing demand that is being met by provision outside of the Warrington boundary. There are a number of reasons why displacement may occur such as Central Venue League, where one location/site is used as the venue for all competitive fixtures with no teams having home or away fixtures or because teams choose to hire pitches outside of the boundary due to pitch quality or hire costs.

Warrington RUFC identified that they had demand that is currently expressed outside of the Warrington boundary at Moore Rugby Club. This currently consists of senior training on a Wednesday evening, at a cost of £90 per session and approximately 8 junior matches when pitches at Warrington Sports Club are unavailable due to condition or capacity.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering growth.

Warrington RUFC identified that they have unmet demand due to not having enough access to pitches. The club stated that they cannot train or play as frequently at home (Warrington Sports Club) or in Warrington which means that they have to organise to play a higher percentage of games away from home.

Due to the lack of appropriate training facilities available for all 3 clubs there is clearly a high level of unmet demand with regards to training.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, housing growth and using population forecasts.

Housing Growth Scenarios to estimate the demand for each pitch sport type generated from housing growth is contained within the Strategy Report.

Participation increases

Consultation with clubs suggests that they have a desire to increase the number of teams within their club in the near future.

During the consultation Lymm RUFC stated that they always looking to increase the playing membership at all levels and actively encourage new members to join and past members to re-join. Of specific interest at this time is the;

- Development of a Ladies section, however this is currently limited by the number and type of changing rooms that we have within our current club house.
- Retention of senior players at ages range 19-45 to ensure we can continue to field 4 senior sides
- Expansion of our Touch Rugby activities.

Table 62: Future demand of clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Match equivalent sessions required ³⁶
Eagle RUFC	West neighbourhood	1 x senior	1
Lymm RUFC	South neighbourhood	1 x senior 1 x junior	1.75
Warrington RUFC	South neighbourhood	2 x senior 3 x junior	4.25
Warrington		4 x senior 4 x junior	7

In addition to the above Warrington RUFC also indicated they hope to develop Touch Rugby teams in the future.

³⁶ Also factors in additional training demand that will be generated by these teams e.g. two teams training on one pitch one evening = one match equivalent session

Future demand expressed by clubs equates to an increase of 8 teams (4 senior, 4 junior and 0 mini) in Warrington. This is converted into requirements for 7 match equivalent sessions per week (based on both competitive match play and training). The majority of this future demand is aligned to the south neighbourhood analysis area (6 match equivalent sessions) with the remainder being aligned to the west neighbourhood (1 match equivalent session).

Population increases

Table 63: Team Generation Rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (19-45)	35,656	13	2743	35,799	14	1
Senior Women (19-45)	35,267	0	0	34,209	0.0	0.0
Junior Boys (13-18)	7,686	12	641	8,408	14	2
Junior Girls (13-18)	7,190	0	0	8,010	0.0	0.0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	14,339	12	1195	15,802	14	2

Based on population growth by 2027 in Warrington it is anticipated that there will be an increase of 1 senior mens team, 2 junior boys teams and 2 mixed mini rugby teams. This is converted to 4 match equivalent sessions per week³⁷ (1 for senior mens, 2 for junior boys and 1 for mini rugby). Due to the majority of rugby union infrastructure currently being in the south neighbourhood it is likely that much of this growth will occur in this analysis area.

Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. At minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

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

- All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches are included on the supply side.
- All competitive play is on senior-sized pitches unless mini pitches are provided.
- From U13 upwards, teams play 15-a-side rugby and use a full senior-sized pitch.
- Mini teams (U7-12) play across half one adult pitch i.e. two matches per senior pitch.
- For senior and junior teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played 'away').

³⁷ Also factors in additional training demand that will be generated by these teams e.g. two teams training on one pitch one evening = one match equivalent session

- For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half one adult pitch.
- All male adult club rugby takes place on Saturday afternoon.
- All U13-18 rugby takes place on Sunday morning.
- Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by addition of team equivalents.
- Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate. Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and the club survey as follows:

		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

This guide should only be used as very general measure of potential pitch capacity and does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the last five years.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time for senior male rugby union matches in Warrington is Saturday PM, for senior female rugby union peak time is Sunday PM with all junior and mini rugby taking place on Sunday. As the majority of junior and mini rugby in Warrington takes place on senior pitches, the overall peak time for senior pitches is Sunday.

Education sites

To account for curricular/ extra-curricular use of education pitches it is deemed that usage should be adjusted by 1 match equivalent session per pitch. The only time this does not apply is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is that made by the community.

Table 64: Rugby union quality and capacity summary

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Actual match equivalent sessions (MES) per week	Pitch capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week) ³⁸	Comments
2	Appleton Thorn Playing Fields (New Lane)	South	Senior	M0 / D0	No	0.5	0.5	0	Pitches are used by Warrington RUFC on an ad-hoc basis
			Senior	M0 / D0	No	0.5	0.5	0	
14	Bridgewater High School (Upper)	South	Senior	M0 / D0	No	1.25	0.5	0.75	Pitches have curriculum and extra-curricular use from school. Warrington RUFC use on an ad-hoc basis.
			Senior	M0 / D0	No	1.25	0.5	0.75	
69	Lymm Rugby Club	South	Senior	M2 / D2	No	2.5	3.25	0.75	Pitch two, with floodlights, used by all teams for training due the winter period. It is also used for touch rugby.
			Senior	M2 / D1	Yes	7.5	3	4.5	
			Senior	M2 / D2	No	2.5	3.25	0.75	
			Mini	M2 / D2	No	1.5	3.25	1.75	
			Mini	M2 / D2	No	1.5	3.25	1.75	
127	Thornton Road Recreation Centre	West	Senior	M0 / D1	No	2	1.5	0.5	Pitch is used by 1 st & 2 nd teams for matches.
130	University of Chester (Warrington Campus)	East	Senior	M0 / D0	No	1.25	0.5	0.75	Pitches are used by the university.
133	Warrington Sports Club	South	Senior	M1 / D2	No	3.25	2.5	0.75	Pitches are used by Warrington RUFC senior, junior and mini teams subject to availability.
			Senior	M1 / D2	No	3.25	2.5	0.75	

³⁸ One match equivalent session equates to 90 minutes of pitch usage per week and could be made up of training sessions and/or competitive match play. One team playing on a home and away basis i.e. a home match every other week is equal to 0.5 match equivalent sessions for senior and junior teams or 0.25 match equivalent sessions for mini teams

Supply and demand analysis

Actual spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and other activities that are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Table 65: Actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	MES available in the peak period	Comments
69	Lymm Rugby Club	South	Senior	2	1.5	1	The 2 non-floodlit senior pitches could accommodate 2 senior teams
69	Lymm Rugby Club	South	Mini	2	4.5	0	No spare capacity at the peak time
Total				4	6	1	

There are two senior pitches identified as being available in the peak period equating to 1.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity. On review the number of match equivalent sessions available in the peak period equates to 1.

It is important to highlight that good quality pitches often have to have their use managed to maintain its quality. The more play a pitch accommodates, the more its condition can deteriorate. Following discussions with the the Rugby Football Union it has been agreed that the actual spare capacity identified at Lymm Rugby Club should be discounted to protect the pitch quality.

Therefore there is no actual spare capacity recorded.

Table 66: Overlay by site

Site ID	Site Name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Match equivalent sessions	Quality rating
14	Bridgewater High School (Upper site)	South	Senior	2	1.5	M0 / D0
69	Lymm Rugby Club	South	Senior	1	4.5	M2 / D1
127	Thornton Road Recreation Ground	West	Senior	1	0.5	M0 / D1
133	Warrington Sports Club	South	Senior	2	1.5	M1 / D2
Total				6	8	

Supply and Demand Balance

Having considered supply and demand above, the table below identifies the overall supply/demand balance in each of the analysis areas, based on match equivalent sessions.

Table 67: Spare capacity of match equivalent sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ³⁹	Current Demand (match equivalent sessions)			Future demand (match equivalent sessions)		Total
		Overplay	Unmet demand ⁴⁰	Current total	Future demand (population growth)	Future demand (participation increase)	
Central neighbourhood	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
East neighbourhood	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
South neighbourhood	0	7.5	3	10.5	3	6	19.5
West neighbourhood	0	0.5	0	0.5	1	1	2.5
Warrington	0	8	3	11	4	7	22

Overall in Warrington there is a shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions to meet current demand. This is further exacerbated when accounting for future demand resulting in a shortfall of 22 match equivalent sessions to meet current and future demand. The shortfalls expressed are mostly in the south neighbourhood analysis area where the two biggest rugby union clubs are located. There is some shortfall expressed in the west neighbourhood analysis area.

³⁹ In match equivalent sessions

⁴⁰ Based on club consultation

RUGBY UNION SUMMARY

Overall picture

- There is insufficient supply of rugby union pitches in Warrington to meet demand.
- Overall in Warrington there is a current shortfall of 10 match equivalent sessions.
- Overall in Warrington there is a predicted shortfall of 21 match equivalent sessions based on anticipated future demand.

Supply

- There are a total of 13 grass rugby union pitches that are available for community use. The vast majority of these are located in the south neighbourhood area (85%). There is one pitch located in the East neighbourhood area, one in the West and none in Central.
- Nine of these pitches are senior pitches and two are mini pitches.
- There is a total of 1 match equivalent session of actual spare capacity across Warrington expressed in the South neighbourhood analysis area.

Demand

- A total of 37 teams were identified as playing competitive rugby union on pitches located within the Warrington boundary. This consists of 12 senior teams, 4 colt's teams, 8 junior teams and 12 mini teams.
- 35 of these teams are based in the South neighbourhood analysis area. The remaining 2 are based in the West neighbourhood analysis area.
- Warrington RUFC identified significant displaced demand and also indicated they had unmet demand.
- Team generation rates predict an increase of 1 senior men's team, 2 junior boys team and 2 mixed mini rugby teams.
- All three clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Based on this there is a predicated growth of 4 senior men's teams and 4 junior teams.
- Overplay amounts to 7 match equivalent sessions. The South neighbourhood analysis area has the highest level of overplay (6 match equivalent sessions) and the West neighbourhood has 1 match session of overplay.
- One of the main reasons for overplay is training on match pitches.

Quality

- The two mini pitches located at Lymm Rugby Clun are rated as good quality (M2/D2).
- The majority of adult pitches are either poor (55%) or standard quality (18%). Only 27% of pitches are rated as good quality.

Section 7: Cricket

Cheshire County Cricket Board (CCCB) is the main governing body for cricket across Warrington. In its aims and objectives the CCCB identifies the importance of recruiting, retaining and developing players and volunteers, and acknowledges a need to nurture a strong Club network which it identifies as the bedrock of Cheshire Cricket.

For adult cricket in Warrington the Cheshire Cricket League provides the main offering with fixtures generally taking place on Saturdays for males, Sundays for females and weekdays for veteran teams. The majority of junior provision takes place during mid-week through club based matches.

Consultation

There are 7 cricket clubs located in Warrington. Of these, 6 clubs responded to an online survey resulting in a response rate of 86%. Results from this consultation have been used to inform the key issues within this section of the needs assessment.

The club that did not respond to the online survey was Rylands Cricket Club. Information in this assessment relating to Rylands CC has been gathered through online research and consultation with CCCB.

Supply

There were a total of 20 sites within Warrington identified, providing a total of 21 cricket pitches. 12 of these pitches are available for community use, six pitches are not available for community use whilst three pitches have become disused during the last 5 years.

Table 68: List of disused sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Comments
50	Grappenhall Hall School	South neighbourhood	The school closed in July 2015 and the site is current vacant with consultation currently being undertaken to inform whether or not the land will be sold off. No community use has ever been recorded for this site.

In total there are 11 grass cricket squares providing 90 natural grass cricket wickets. 10 of the grass cricket squares are available for community use providing 85 natural grass wickets. The grass cricket square not available for community use is at Lymm High School, and this also has a non-turf wicket accompanying the grass square.

Table 69: Summary of pitches available for community use by neighbourhood area

Analysis area	Number of pitches available for community use	Number of natural grass wickets available for community use	Number of non-turf wickets available for community use
Central neighbourhood	1	7	0
East neighbourhood	2	8	1
South neighbourhood	8	70	0
West neighbourhood	1	0	1
Warrington	12	85	2

All of the cricket club based pitches provide separate artificial grass wicket practice nets which provide areas for training and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets. In addition there are seven standalone non-turf wicket pitches.

Table 70: Table of cricket facilities

Site	Site Name	Available for Community Use	Analysis Area	No. of Natural grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets
1	Appleton Cricket Club	Yes	South	10	
11	Birchwood Academy Trust	No	East		1
13	Bridgewater High School (Lower)	Yes	South	5	
24	Cardinal Newman High School	No	South		1
35	Culcheth Sports Club	Yes-unused	East		1
36	Dakota Park	Yes	West		1
45	Glazebury Cricket Club	Yes	East	8	
48	Grange Sports & Social Club	Yes	South	8	
49	Grappenhall Cricket Club	Yes	South	10	
60	HM Prison (Thorn Cross)	No	South		
66	Lymm High School	No	South	5	1
68	Lymm Oughtrington Park Cricket Club	Yes	South	10	
86	Pewterspear Sports Pavilion	Yes	South	7	
91	Rylands Recreation Club	Yes	Central	7	
106	St Gregory's High School	No	West		1
129	University Academy Warrington	No	East		1
133	Warrington Sports Club	Yes	South	10	
133	Warrington Sports Club	Yes	South	10	

Management and Security of Tenure

The ownership and management of cricket pitches in Warrington is mixed. Nine of the cricket pitches identified are located on education sites and managed in house. Three of these sites however have pitches that have become disused within the last 5 years.

In terms of the cricket pitches used by the seven local cricket clubs, the majority of these are owned or leased by the clubs. Appleton CC, Grappenhall CC and Warrington CC all own their home grounds. Glazebury CC and Stretton CC both lease their grounds from trusts, Rylands CC rent their pitch from a private sports club, whilst Lymm Oughtrington Park CC lease their pitch from Lymm High School for a peppercorn rent.

Table 71: Table of cricket ownership

Club	Home ground	Analysis area	Own, lease or rent
Appleton Cricket Club	Appleton Cricket Club	South neighbourhood	Own
Glazebury Cricket Club	Glazebury Cricket Club	East neighbourhood	Lease
Grappenhall Cricket Club	Grappenhall Cricket Club	South neighbourhood	Own
Lymm Oughtrington Park Cricket Club	Lymm Oughtrington Park Cricket Club	South neighbourhood	Lease
Rylands Cricket Club	Rylands Recreation Centre	Central neighbourhood	Rent
Stretton Cricket Club	Pewterspear Sports Pavilion	South neighbourhood	Lease
Warrington Cricket Club	Warrington Sports Club	South neighbourhood	Own

No clubs identified any issues with regards to security of tenure during the consultation process. However during the period the audit was carried there was press coverage regarding Rylands Recreation Ground and possible plans for the site to become dedicated to football and rugby league which highlights a query regarding the cricket provision available at the site that is used by Rylands Cricket Club.

Furthermore, through direct discussions with the Cheshire Cricket Board it was identified that Stretton Cricket Club were facing some challenges with their lease arrangements at Pewterspear Sports Pavilion.

Future supply / current developments

As part of the needs assessment any pitch development plans that have funding in place and planning permission (where required) have been highlighted in this section. There are a number of aspirational plans for facility improvements that either do not yet have funding and/ or planning permission. The aspirational plans can be viewed in appendix 1.

There only known development identified through the needs assessment was the planned installation of an artificial wicket at Rylands Recreation Ground, linked to the ECB Last Man Stands initiative. This development has taken place since the pitch assessments took place.

Pitch quality

The non-technical assessments of grass wicket cricket pitches in Warrington found nine pitches to be good quality, with the remaining two assessed as standard quality. Of the standalone non-turf wickets still in use, five were assessed as standard and one was assessed as poor.

Further to the site assessments, of the six clubs that responded to the consultation, four viewed their pitches as good quality with eight being deemed to be of standard quality.

Grappenhall CC identified that their pitch quality had got much better over the last year following a grant from Sport England that led to their entire outfield being replaced resulting in significant pitch improvements and led to their good quality pitch rating.

Appleton, Glazebury and Lymm Oughtrington CC's all indicated that they believed their pitches had slightly improved over the past 12 months.

Appleton CC identified their pitch as being good quality citing their new groundsman providing more dedicated hours to pitch preparation as a key reason along with the purchase of improved roller equipment. A big issue for Appleton CC however is their outfield which suffers from poor drainage and severe undulations in places.

Appleton CC also uses other local cricket pitches for competitive match play. They use the cricket pitches at Grange Sports and Social Club and Bridgewater High School. Both pitches they identify as standard quality with no real difference in pitch quality noted in the last year.

Glazebury CC rated their pitch as standard quality but stated that they can produce a better pitch as they now have the added advantage of covers. They indicate however that they had struggled to keep the uncovered squares and the outfield in as good condition due to issues with their maintenance equipment.

Lymm Oughtrington CC rated their pitch as good quality citing improved treatment of pitch as the reason behind the recent improvements.

Stretton CC deemed their pitch to be standard quality. They felt that the quality of the pitch had become slightly poorer in the last year due to extremely wet weather over the winter period and because time spent on the wicket preparation has decreased due to cost.

Following review of the site assessment reports, feedback from clubs and through discussions with CCCB, a quality rating was agreed for each pitch. These results are presented in table 72 and 73 below.

Table 72: Grass wicket pitch ratings

Site ID	Site Name	Analysis area	Agreed Quality Rating
1	Appleton Cricket Club	South neighbourhood	Good
13	Bridgewater High School (Lower)	South neighbourhood	Standard
45	Glazebury Cricket Club	East neighbourhood	Standard
48	Grange Sports & Social Club	South neighbourhood	Standard
49	Grappenhall Cricket Club	South neighbourhood	Good
66	Lymm High School	South neighbourhood	Standard
68	Lymm Oughtrington Park Cricket Club	South neighbourhood	Good
86	Pewterspear Sports Pavilion	South neighbourhood	Good
91	Rylands Recreation Club	Central neighbourhood	Standard
133	Warrington Sports Club	South neighbourhood	Good
133	Warrington Sports Club	South neighbourhood	Good

Table 73: Non-turf wicket pitch ratings

Site ID	Site Name	Analysis area	Agreed Quality Rating
11	Birchwood Academy Trust	East neighbourhood	Poor
35	Culcheth Sports Club	East neighbourhood	Poor
36	Dakota Park	West neighbourhood	Poor
106	St Gregory's High School	West neighbourhood	Poor
129	University Academy Warrington	East neighbourhood	Poor

Ancillary facilities

All cricket clubs in Warrington have access to changing room facilities at their main home ground. The quality does however vary from site to site. Appleton, Grappenhall, Stretton and Warrington CC view their changing facilities as good quality. Lymm Oughtrington CC rate their changing facilities as standard whilst Glazebury CC consider their changing facilities to be of a poor quality.

Car parking is identified as an issue at Glazebury CC and the car parking at Appleton CC is also limited.

Training facilities

Access to artificial grass cricket wickets and/or cricket nets is very important for cricket clubs to enable them to carry out their training, both during the season and the winter months. Three of the six clubs that responded to the consultation report a demand for additional training facilities.

Appleton CC highlighted a good non turf pitch, to ECB standard and which is easy to maintain as a need. In addition they suggested a mobile net cage may be useful plus access to indoor training facilities.

Glazebury CC identified a need for indoor practice nets or all non-turf practice areas. Stretton CC stated that an artificial turf wicket on the cricket square would support them.

Demand

The cricket clubs in Warrington vary in size with some having several senior teams and junior teams of various age-groups whilst others just have a handful of senior and junior teams. In total there are seven clubs providing a total of 26 senior male teams, two senior female teams and 28 junior teams.

As shown in the table below the vast majority of teams are based in the South neighbourhood area of Warrington, with a small number of teams in the Central and East neighbourhood areas. There are no teams based in the West neighbourhood area.

Table 74: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis Area	Number of competitive teams		
	Senior male	Senior female	Junior
Central neighbourhood	2	0	0
East neighbourhood	2	0	2
South neighbourhood	22	2	26
West neighbourhood	0	0	0
Warrington	26	2	28

Through the consultation both Glazebury CC and Stretton CC identified that the number of teams they have as a club have reduced over recent years. The other four clubs engaged in the consultation indicated that their number of members and teams had either remained at a similar level or increased slightly over recent years.

Educational use of education sites

To account for curricular/ extra-curricular use of education pitches it is deemed that usage should be increased by 7 match equivalent session per season. The only time this does not apply is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is that made by the community.

The only cricket pitch located on an education site and with both school and community use was located at Bridgewater High School, which is used by Appleton CC.

Unmet and latent demand

There was no unmet or latent demand identified by clubs through the consultation.

Displaced demand

None of the clubs that engaged in the consultation identified any demand that was displaced outside of the Warrington boundary.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, housing growth and using population forecasts.

The Strategy Report will contain a Housing Growth Scenario that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development.

Population Increases

Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2027) based on population growth.

Table 75: Team Generation Rates up to 2027

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2027)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (18-55)	52,755	26	2029	50,750	25.0	-1.0
Senior Women's (18-55)	52,111	2	26056	49,766	1.9	0
Junior Boys (7-17)	13,789	26	530	15,154	28.6	3
Junior Girls (7-17)	12,916	4	3229	14,311	4.4	1

As can be seen in table 75 above, using this indicates that there is a projected increase of three junior boys' teams and one junior girls' team. There is a projected loss of one senior men's team whilst senior female teams are anticipated to stay at the current level.

Population growth in Warrington is not expected to create additional teams at senior level, there is however a projected loss of one senior men's team. Population growth is expected to create three junior boys' teams and one junior girls' team. The potential growth of teams is likely to generate a maximum of 24 match equivalent sessions per season for junior cricket, on the basis a junior team will play a maximum of 8 home matches per year. It is considered that as the estimated growth is minimal this can be absorbed into current pitch provision.

Participation Increases

A number of clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide.

Table 76: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior	Junior
Appleton CC	South neighbourhood	0	1
Glazebury CC	East neighbourhood	1	3
Grappenhall CC	South neighbourhood	0	0
Lymm Oughtrington Park CC	South neighbourhood	0	2
Stretton CC	South neighbourhood	0	1
Warrington CC	South neighbourhood	0	0
Warrington		1	7

During the consultation Appleton, Glazebury, Lymm Oughtrington Park and Stretton CC indicated they had plans to increase their number of teams.

Appleton CC are hoping to increase numbers in their under 9 and under 11 age-groups to establish an extra junior team by working with CCCB and developing improved school-club links. Stretton CC are also looking to increase the number of participants at under 9 age.

Glazebury CC hope to get the three junior teams they have recently lost re-established as well as introducing an additional senior male team within the next five years.

Lymm Oughtrington Park CC are focussing on increasing participation amongst females and hope to introduce a junior girls team at under 9 and under 18 level.

All the clubs indicate that they expect to be able to accommodate these new teams on their current pitches. The table below summarises the future demanded suggested by the cricket clubs consulted and indicates a potential growth of one senior team and five junior teams. This equates to the need for 12 match equivalent sessions per year during the relevant peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday) on the basis that a senior team will play a maximum of 12 home matches per year. The increased demand for junior cricket equates to the need for 40 match equivalent sessions per season during the relevant peak periods for junior cricket (mid-week or Sunday), on the basis that a junior team will play a maximum of 8 home matches per year

Table 77: Projected future demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior (teams)	Junior (teams)
Central neighbourhood	0	0
East neighbourhood	1	2
South neighbourhood	0	3
West neighbourhood	0	0

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play data provided by cricket clubs indicates that peak time for cricket pitches in Warrington is dependent on the type of cricket being played. The peak periods are summarised below:

1. Mid-week is the peak period for younger age junior cricket and short game senior cricket
(22 match equivalent sessions = 38%)
2. Saturday is the peak period for senior male cricket
(21 match equivalent sessions = 36%)
3. Sunday's is the peak period for older age junior cricket, female cricket and senior male cricket (e.g. 3rd/ 4th teams)
(15 match equivalent sessions = 26%)

Capacity analysis

To determine capacity analysis for cricket it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket is able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

In order to determine how much play a site can accommodate, the carrying capacity needs to be determined. The carrying capacity of a site is not simply how much play currently takes place there. Carrying capacity for cricket pitches is defined as the amount of play a site can accommodate over the cricket season without it adversely affecting its quality and use.

To help calculate pitch capacity each National Governing Body for sport provides recommendations on how many matches pitches can accommodate based on their quality. England and Wales Cricket Board (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)
- 80 matches per season per non turf wicket (juniors)

Based on the above and the fact that some pitches have been rated as poor or standard quality, the pitch capacity for these sites have been revised as follows. A standard quality wicket should be able to take:

- 4 matches per season per grass wicket (adults)
- 6 matches per season per grass wicket (juniors)
- 40 matches per season per non turf wicket (adults)
- 60 matches per season per non turf wicket (juniors)

A poor quality wicket should be able to take:

- 3 matches per season per grass wicket (adults)
- 5 matches per season per grass wicket (juniors)
- 20 matches per season per non turf wicket (adults)
- 40 matches per season per non turf wicket (juniors)

Once the carrying capacity of the pitch has been identified and how much play takes place there (its current use by the community), it is then possible to compare the two as shown in figure 3.

Figure 3: Pitch capacity and community use



By doing the comparison as outlined above it is then possible to determine whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:

- **Being overplayed** (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain** (current use matches the carrying capacity); or
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play** (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

This information in relation to cricket is presented in table 78 below. Please note that the carrying capacity at Appleton Cricket Club has been reduced to reflect usage from United Utilities which was identified through the consultation process.

Agreed carrying capacity

For the purpose of this needs assessment and due to the fact that peak demand is evenly spread between junior and senior cricket, it is assumed that good quality wickets should be able to take 6 matches per season, standard quality wickets 5 matches per season and poor quality wickets 4 matches per season.

Table 78: Cricket pitch capacity (of pitches identified as available for community use)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch quality rating	No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets	Carrying capacity (per season)	Community use (per season)	Education use (per season)	Potential capacity rating (per season)
1	Appleton Cricket Club	South	1	Good	10	-	52	51	0	1
13	Bridgewater High School (Lower site)	South	1	Standard	5	-	25	15	10	0
35	Culcheth Sports Club	East	1	Poor	-	1	20	0	0	20
36	Dakota Park	West	1	Poor	-	1	20	0	0	20
45	Glazebury Cricket Club	East	1	Standard	8	-	40	23	0	17
48	Grange Sports & Social Club	South	1	Standard	8	-	40	24	0	16
49	Grappenhall Cricket Club	South	1	Good	10	-	60	100	0	40
68	Lymm Oughtrington Park CC	South	1	Good	10	-	60	80	0	20
86	Pewterspear Sports Pavilion	South	1	Good	7	-	42	30	0	12
91	Ryland's Recreation Ground	Central	1	Standard	7	-	35	20	0	15
133	Warrington Sports Club	Central	2	Good	10	-	120	120	0	0
				Good	10	-				

Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

Once the supply and demand information has been gathered the next step is to determine whether or not any identified potential capacity can be deemed to be actual spare capacity. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to protect the quality of the site.

As shown in table 79 there are seven pitches which show potential spare capacity. Five of these pitches are grass wicket pitches and two pitches are non-turf wicket. The total number of potential match equivalent sessions per season provided totals 101 however 40 of these derive from poor quality non-turf wickets that are located between football pitches which affect both the quality of the outfield and the availability. It has therefore been agreed to only count the availability of grass wicket pitches which provide a possible 61 match equivalent sessions per season.

Where potential spare capacity has been identified it is important to acknowledge that this may not truly represent actual spare capacity i.e. whether pitch capacity is available at the peak times identified. As indicated on page 119, the peak periods for cricket are mixed. Saturday is the peak period for senior male teams, mid-week for junior teams with Sunday's, being the competitive match play day for older age junior teams, female teams and senior male teams for veterans.

Table 79: Potential Spare Capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Potential spare capacity	Comments
1	Appleton Cricket Club	South	1	Discounted as capacity rating does not equate to any reasonable level of capacity.
35	Culcheth Sports Club	East	20	Discounted due to being non-turf wickets located between football pitches
36	Dakota Park	West	20	Discounted due to being non-turf wickets located between football pitches
45	Glazebury Cricket Club	East	17	Two senior teams currently use the pitch on a Saturday; therefore no capacity exists on a Saturday. Capacity exists on a Sunday and in mid-week to support junior cricket.
48	Grange Sports & Social Club	South	16	The pitch is currently utilised by Appleton CC, by a number of teams. As the wicket is located between football pitches, no additional capacity exists.
86	Pewterspear Sports Pavilion	South	12	Only 1 team currently uses the pitch on a Saturday, therefore capacity exists for an additional team. No use on a Sunday and limited use mid-week, therefore capacity exists to support junior, female and veteran cricket.
91	Rylands Recreation Ground	Central	15	Two senior teams currently use the pitch on a Saturday; therefore no capacity exists on a Saturday. No use on a Sunday or mid-week, therefore capacity exists to support junior, female and veteran cricket.

Despite seven pitches showing spare capacity, there are only three that are suitable and available and have reasonable additional capacity during the peak periods identified for the different peak periods identified for cricket:

- Mid-week is the peak period for younger age junior cricket and short game senior cricket
- Saturday is the peak period for senior male cricket
- Sunday's is the peak period for older age junior cricket, female cricket and senior male cricket (e.g. 3rd/ 4th teams)

There is only the equivalent of 12 match equivalent sessions available on a Saturday (the peak period for senior male cricket). This provides spare capacity for one additional senior male team.

There is some more availability during mid-week and on a Sunday which are the peak periods for younger age junior cricket and short game senior cricket (mid-week) and older age junior cricket, female cricket senior male cricket (Sundays). The spare capacity identified during mid-week is 32 match equivalent sessions providing capacity for 3 additional teams (junior or short game) whilst the spare capacity for Sunday is 1.5 providing capacity for 3 additional teams (either junior, senior female or senior male teams).

Table 80: Actual spare capacity by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity MES per season	Spare Capacity Availability
Central neighbourhood	15	Mid-week and Sunday
East neighbourhood	17	Mid-week and Sunday
South neighbourhood	12	Mid-week, Saturday and Sunday
West neighbourhood	0	
Warrington	44	

The spare capacity identified is quite evenly spread across Warrington, with the exception of the West neighbourhood area. There is very little infrastructure to support cricket in this neighbourhood area and the spare capacity is reflective of this.

Overlay

Guidance on cricket pitches is that any pitch having more matches per wicket per season than the identified carrying capacity is overplayed. There is overplay recorded at two pitches in Warrington, namely Grappenhall Cricket Club and Lymm Oughtrington Park Cricket.

The recommendation therefore is a reduction in play on these sites in order to ensure that there is no detrimental effect on quality over time. This however is dependent on alternative pitches being available which suit the users and allows teams to continue to play at the appropriate level.

It is important to acknowledge that a large proportion of play at the overplayed cricket pitches is junior age cricket which will not have as much as an adverse effect on quality as senior cricket due to the shorter format of the game.

Table 81: Summary of overplay by site

Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
Grappenhall CC	South neighbourhood	40
Lymm Oughtrington CC	South neighbourhood	20
Warrington		60

Table 81 shows that all the identified overplay occurs within the south neighbourhood analysis area which is not surprising given the significant infrastructure and prevalence of clubs in this area.

Supply/Demand Analysis

Table 82: Capacity of cricket pitches by analysis area and peak period

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (pitches)			
		MES	Overplay	Current total	Future demand
Central neighbourhood	15	0	15	0	15
East neighbourhood	17	0	17	28	11
South neighbourhood	12	60	48	24	72
West neighbourhood	0	0	0	0	0
Warrington	44	60	16	52	68

Taking into account current demand only, there is a shortfall of pitches across Warrington equating to 16 match equivalent sessions. Any spare capacity across the different peak periods is minimal. Most of the spare capacity that exists falls either within the mid-week or Sunday periods. There is very little spare capacity on a Saturday. We do know however that there is overplay at two sites in the south neighbourhood analysis area which accounts for the majority of overplay in Warrington.

When accounting for future demand based on team generation rates and participation growth the shortfalls are exacerbated in the south and a reduction of spare capacity in the East. It is important to acknowledge however that as the majority of cricket in Warrington is currently played in the south neighbourhood analysis area due to the infrastructure within this area, it is fair to assume that much of the future demand will be expressed in this area.

What the team generation rates did demonstrate was that the growth in cricket participation is likely to be derived from junior cricket which in Warrington is played either mid-week or on a Sunday, which is where the majority of the current spare capacity exists. Overall the supply/demand balance across Warrington, based on projected population growth, is one of shortfalls in the south and minimal spare capacity elsewhere.

Through the data collected and presented in this needs assessment it is important to consider whether current provision can accommodate the demand that is currently present and also anticipated future demand.

It is important to acknowledge that junior teams can play on non-turf wickets, with play generally occurring during mid-week for younger age junior teams and on Sunday's for older age junior teams.

Whilst considerable spare capacity exists on non-turf wickets the needs assessment has identified that there are several issues identified with these sites in relation to:

- poor quality of non-turf wickets
- geographic location (a large proportion are located in neighbourhood areas where there is little or no cricket club infrastructure)
- location of non-turf wicket (they are often located between football or other sports pitches which affect the quality of the outfield and can restrict availability)
- Cost and/or access (non-turf wickets are not located at club sites which means clubs will likely have to pay to hire. Also, a high proportion are located on education sites which could mean there may be challenges with regards to accessing during weekday evenings and weekends).

In order to quantify overplay an average square of ten wickets (60 match equivalent sessions) has been used (based on a mixture of junior and senior play). Overplay of current pitches equates to a total of 60 match equivalent sessions, suggesting that it could be accommodated through the provision of 10 additional wickets (1 pitch). However the overplay needs to be allocated across the different peak periods identified:

Table 83: Summary of overplay by cricket type/ peak period

Peak period	Cricket type	Peak Period Percentage (based on current play)	Match equivalent sessions of overplay (60)	Additional wickets (to the nearest whole number)
Mid-week	Younger age junior	38%	23	4
Saturday	Senior male	36%	22	4
Sunday	Older age junior, senior female and veteran	26%	15	3

CRICKET SUMMARY

Overall picture

- Overall in Warrington there is currently capacity for one additional senior male team on a Saturday, 3 junior, senior female or senior male teams on a Sunday and 3 junior or short game format teams during weekday evenings.
- When accounting for future demand based on team generation rates, there is a surplus of 0.5 pitches (equivalent to one team).

Supply

- In total, there are 21 cricket pitches identified in Warrington, of which 12 are available for community use. Six are not available for community use whilst three have become disused.
- Of the 12 pitches available for community use, 10 have grass cricket squares providing 85 natural grass wickets.
- There are a total 4 non-turf wickets available for community use across the borough.
- Despite seven pitches showing spare capacity there are only three of these pitches that are of suitable standard and have capacity during the peak periods.

Demand

- In total there are seven clubs in Warrington providing a total of 26 senior male teams, two senior female teams and 28 junior teams.
- 26 of these teams are based on the South neighbourhood analysis area, with the remaining two being based in the West neighbourhood.
- Team generation rates predict an increase of 1 senior men's team, 3 junior boys' teams and 1 junior girls' team.
- A number of clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Based on this there is a predicted growth of 1 senior team and 7 junior teams.
- Three of the six clubs reported a demand for additional training facilities, with a good quality non turf wicket being cited as a need.
- There is overplay of 60 matches per season recorded in the South neighbourhood analysis area.

Quality

- The audit of community use grass wicket cricket pitches found six pitches to be good quality and the remaining four to be standard quality.
- All five of the non-turf wicket pitches were rated as poor quality.

Accessibility

- Security of Tenure:
 - During the consultation process there were no issues highlighted with regards to security of tenure. However during the assessment there have been issues highlighted with regards to security of tenure and/ or lease arrangements at Rylands Recreation Ground and Pewterspear Sports Pavilion.

Appendix 1: Club development aspirations document provided by Warrington Borough Council

Appleton Thorn

Car park – upgrade/extension / 2nd car park
Storage
Re-site pitches/pitch drainage/ additional pitches
Changing rooms

Birchwood Forest Park

Upgrade changing rooms
Floodlight area ball court
Upgrade pitch drainage

Birchwood High School

Refurbishment of existing training facility

Crab Lane Rec

Upgrade and extend car park
Drainage to pitches
Upgrade changing rooms
Training

Doe Green

Pitch drainage
Replacement changing room

Hillock Lane

Pitch drainage
Changing facilities
Training
Upgrade and extend car park

Hood Lane Rec

All weather floodlit training

Car Parking

Drainage **Loushers Lane**

Upgrade car park

Storage

Changing rooms

Pitch reconfiguration

Mary Ann Meadows

Community room provision

Upgrade / extend car park

Training/floodlights

Pitch drainage

Morley Common

Drain pitches far end
Upgrade car park

Padgate Hall

Create car park
Changing rooms

Peel Hall Playing Fields

Changing rooms
Training
Drainage
Car Parking

Ridgeway Grundy

Pitch drainage
Replace changing rooms
Storage

Shaw Street

Pitch spectator rail
Training/floodlights

Sow Brook

Changing room replacement / relocation
Pitch drainage / reconstruction / redesign of layout
Car park upgrade & extension

St. Elphin's Park

Changing rooms
Redesign pitches/parking

Thornton Road

Upgrade and extend changing rooms
Pitch drainage
All weather pitch and floodlit training facility

Victoria Park

Park Changing room development
Pitch drainage/floodlight training area

Westy Park

Construction of sports pitches
Training

Woolston Park

Upgrade changing rooms
Pitch drainage Training