**BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 2020**

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**GLOSSARY**

3G Third Generation (artificial turf)

AGP Artificial Grass Pitch

BDC Blaby District Council

BC Bowls Club

CC Cricket Club

ECB England and Wales Cricket Board

EH England Hockey

FA Football Association

FC Football Club

FIFA Fédération Internationale de Football Association

HC Hockey Club

LCC Leicestershire County Council

KKP Knight, Kavanagh and Page

LTA Lawn Tennis Association

LMS Last Man Stands

NGB National Governing Body

NPPF National Planning Policy Framework

NTP Non turf pitch

PPS Playing Pitch Strategy

PQS Performance Quality Standard

RFU Rugby Football Union

RUFC Rugby Union Football Club

S106 Section 106

TGR Team Generation Rate

TC Tennis Club

U Under

**PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

**1.1: Introduction**

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was appointed by Blaby District Council (BDC) to undertake an assessment of all formal outdoor playing pitch facilities across the authority to assist in strategically planning for the future.

The Council is developing a new Local Plan which will provide the planning framework for the District up until 2037. The PPS will form a key element of the evidence base to support local policy and the Local Plan as a whole, ensuring that it is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Assessment Report for the Blaby District. It presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and other outdoor sports facilities in the District in accordance with Sport England’s PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS. The guidance details a stepped approach that is separated into five distinct stages:

* Stage A: Preparation
  + - Step 1: Clarify why the PPS is being developed
    - Step 2: Set up the management arrangements
    - Step 3: Tailor the approach
* Stage B: Information Gathering
  + - Step 4: Develop an audit of playing pitches
    - Step 5: Develop a picture of demand
* Stage C: Assessment
  + - Step 6: Understand how each site is being used
    - Step 7: Develop the current picture of provision
    - Step 8: Carry out scenario testing
* Stage D: Key Findings & Issues
  + - Step 9: Identify key findings & issues
    - Step 10: Check and challenge key findings & issues
* Stage E: Strategy Development & Implementation
  + - Step 11: Develop conclusions & recommendations
    - Step 12: Develop an action & implementation plan
    - Step 13: Adopt, monitor and review the PPS

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D and Stage E covered in the subsequent strategy document. This Assessment and subsequent Strategy will run from 2019-2037, in line with the new Local Plan for the District.

**1.2: Local context**

***Blaby Local Plan***

The Council’s existing Local Plan comprises of the Core Strategy (adopted 2013) and Delivery Development Plan Document (adopted 2019). A review of the Local Plan has now commenced, and the full process is expected to take three years to complete (with adoption estimated for March 2022).

The new Local Plan will set out a blueprint for how the District will grow and change over the next 15 years. The new Local Plan, when adopted, will replace the current Local Plan.

*What makes the Blaby District different?*

The District comprises of 24 civil parishes, including the parish of Blaby. Pitch ownership and management is reflective of large parish network, with most provision falling under parish control.

Much of the northern eastern edge of the District is part of the Leicester Urban Area; this applies especially to the parishes of Braunstone, Glenfield, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East and Glen Parva. There are plans to extend this urban area significantly through large scale residential development (4,000 dwellings) in the rural parish of Lubbesthorpe and expansion of the industrial area in neighbouring Enderby.

Blaby District Council is also working with nine other partner organisations in Leicester & Leicestershire to produce a Strategic Growth Plan (SGP). This will set out an agreed strategy for housing and employment across the county up to 2050. The SGP is a non-statutory plan and its vision will be delivered through individual local authority Local Plans.

The District has a rich sporting heritage and is home to several clubs which compete within high performance league competitiFons. Football is the most prominent sport (in terms of participation) in the District and it is the home of Leicestershire & Rutland County Football Association. The County FA park is locally known as Holmes Park and is the home venue for Leicester City FC’s U23s team.

The highest level performance community football clubs are Saffron Dynamo FC and Kirby Muxloe FC. In additional to these, there are several clubs which also operate a significant number of teams, these include (but are not limited to); Glenfield United FC, Kirby Muxloe FC, Whetstone Juniors and Blaby & Whetstone FC.

Aside from football, the District is the home to various other high profile sports clubs including Leicester Lions RFC which compete in the National League South (level 4) and thus provide a very competitive rugby union environment within the area. There is also a prominent cricket scene with several clubs competing at high levels, these include Countesthorpe CC, Leicester Ivanhoe CC and Enderby CC.

For tennis, there are a range of clubs ranging from rural community clubs to high level performance clubs of particular note is Leicester Forest East TC, which is one of the most successful clubs in Leicestershire.

**1.3 Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach**

***Management arrangements***

A project team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, and to the required quality standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, a 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. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Blaby District Council, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

It will be important for the 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 that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

***Why the PPS is being developed***

The rationale for undertaking this study is to update current levels of provision within the District across the public, private, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand.

Its primary purpose is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor sports facilities meet local and community needs of existing and future residents. The strategies will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future sporting provision throughout the District.

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. Paragraph 96 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 96 and 97 discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. Paragraph 99 and 100 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

This PPS will act as a further evidence base and will update the existing evidence to take account of changes in provision, planned development and the local needs of the community and changes to planning policy context. This may provide opportunities to develop new playing pitches or improve the quality of existing playing pitches in the District (as well as the accompanying ancillary offer) by use of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator[[1]](#footnote-1). Where possible, this will be aligned to existing community sport clubs in the District, which play an integral part in providing sport and physical activities to the local community.

**Scope**

The scope of the PPS will focus geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Provision included within the project is as follows:

* Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
* Cricket pitches
* Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
* Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
* Other pitch sports as relevant including American football
* Tennis and netball courts
* Bowling greens
* Golf

Please note that there is no rugby league provision is presently considered to exist in the District. If no current or future demand is identified, it will not be included within reports that are produced. Further to this, although there is existing provision, there is no identified existing demand for hockey.

Pitch sports (i.e. football, rugby union, rugby league, hockey and cricket) will be assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England’s Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. In addition, any other grass sport pitches identified during the project will also be included.

Non-pitch sports (e.g. bowls, golf and tennis/netball) will be assessed using Sport England’s Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). This requires a different methodology to assess supply and demand to that used for pitch sports.

With regards to each sport, the PPS will specifically consider the number of pitches/facilities and will take into account the size, quality, location, accessibility and capacity of the provision as well as accompanying ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation, toilets and car parking.

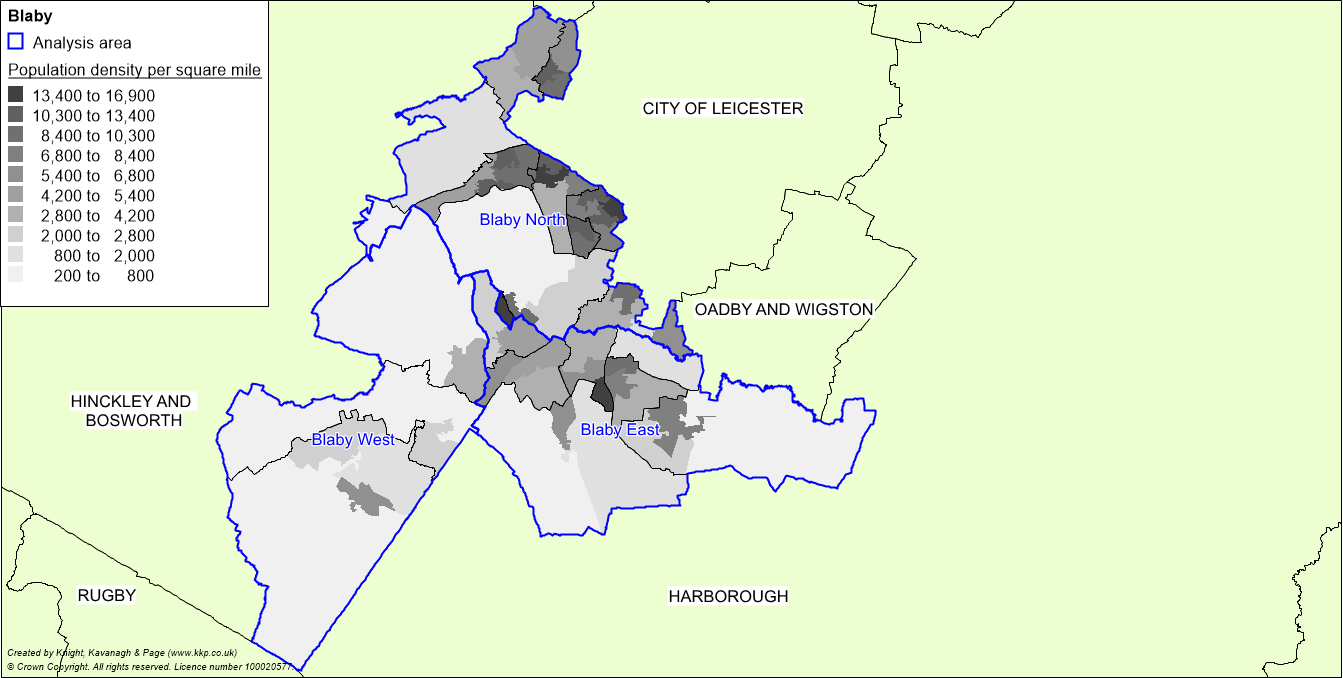
***Study area***

The study area will comprise the whole of the District Council’s administrative area. In addition, cross-boundary issues will also be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand from neighbouring authorities such as Leicester and Hinckley.

Further to this, analysis areas have been created to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. The agreed analysis areas are:

* Blaby North
* Blaby East
* Blaby West

*Figure 1.1: Blaby District analysis area map*

**

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

A clear picture of supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities in Blaby needs to be provided to include an accurate assessment of quantity and quality. This is achieved through consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that they inform the subsequent strategy. It informs current demand, adequacy, usage, future demand and strategies for maintenance and investment for outdoor sports facilities.

***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]](#footnote-2)

* ***Playing pitch*** – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
* ***Playing field*** – the whole of a site of at least 0.2ha or more which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field which meets a minimum size, this PPS takes into account smaller sized site that contribute to the supply side, for example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch. This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all of the outdoor sports facilities within the District; however, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch do not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

*Quantity*

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England’s Active Places web based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting 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 upon completion of the project as an electronic file):

* Site name, address (including postcode) and location
* Ownership and management type
* Security of tenure
* Total number, type and quality of outdoor sports facilities

*Accessibility*

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

* ***Community use*** -facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
* ***Available but unused*** -facilities 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*** - facilities 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.
* ***Disused –*** provision that is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed sites’.
* ***Lapsed -*** last known use was more than five years ago (these 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).

*Quality*

The capacity of provision 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 provision affects the playing experience and people’s enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

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

The quality of all outdoor sports facilities 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 facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each. These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity 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 outdoor sports facilities (i.e. recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment.

Demand for outdoor sports facilities in Blaby tends to fall within the following categories:

* Organised competitive play
* Organised training
* Informal play

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

In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section. Unmet and latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available, whereas exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority of choice.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate such demand information. Firstly, face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised.

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation and Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews.

As key providers and users of outdoor sports facilities, educational establishments were also consulted. This involved face to face meetings with secondary schools and colleges and an online survey being sent to primary schools.

***Future demand***

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using ONS population projections, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

Team generation rates 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. Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases to the population increases in each analysis area. This figure is then applied to the team generation rates and is presented on a sport by sport basis.

Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand, especially for non-pitch sports (where team generation rates are not applicable) include:

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

*Population growth*

The current resident population in Blaby is 98,977 (2017 MYE). By 2037 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the Local Plan period) the District’s population is projected to increase to 110,640[[3]](#footnote-3) representing an increase of 11,663 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 11.7%) according to ONS data.

As ONS figures are available by individual age brackets (to reflect team growth) this is considered the most accurate data set to apply to team generation rates (as identified above) to calculate likely future demand within the Assessment Report.

*Housing growth*

BDC is still working to understand what its overall housing target will be for its new Local Plan. Leicester City Council has recently published its unmet housing figures and there is a need for neighbouring authorities to re-distribute this housing demand through a Statement of Common Ground. Until this point has been reached, the future housing requirement for Blaby will remain undetermined.

The table overleaf outlines existing major housing developments (over 100 dwellings) in the District and the current completion rate of development.

*Table 1.1: BDC existing residential housing commitments*

| **Site** | **Planning status** | **Completions (2019)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Land Off Cork Lane, Glen Parva | Outline for 165 dwellings | 0 |
| Land north of A47 Hinckley Road, Kirby Muxloe | Local Plan Delivery DPD allocation for 750 dwellings | 0 |
| Lubbesthorpe SUE | Local Plan Core Strategy allocation for at least 4250 dwellings | 271 |
| Land south of Cambridge Road, Cosby | Outline for 180 dwellings | 0 |
| Land south of Hinckley Road, Sapcote | Outline for 125 dwellings | 0 |

**1.5 Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views**

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Blaby. It 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 sessions 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. |  |
| At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain. |  |
| Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain. |  |

As a guide, the FA, RFU and the ECB have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality.

*Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches*

| **Sport** | **Pitch type** | **No. of match equivalent sessions** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Good** | **Standard** | **Poor** |
| Football | Adult pitches | 3 per week | 2 per week | 1 per week |
| Youth pitches | 4 per week | 2 per week | 1 per week |
| Mini pitches | 6 per week | 4 per week | 2 per week |
| Rugby union | Natural Inadequate (D0) | 2 per week | 1.5 per week | 0.5 per week |
| Natural Adequate (D1) | 3 per week | 2 per week | 1.5 per week |
| Pipe Drained (D2) | 3.25 per week | 2.5 per week | 1.75 per week |
| Pipe and Slit Drained (D3) | 3.5 per week | 3 per week | 2 per week |
| Cricket | One grass wicket | 5 per season | 4 per season | 0 per season |
| One synthetic wicket | 60 per season | 60 per season | 0 per season |

For tennis, the capacity of courts is determined by membership levels rather than through matches. The LTA suggests that a floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 40 members. This varies for other court types (e.g. grass).

For all remaining non-pitch sports (i.e. bowls, netball, American football and golf) there are no nationally recognised capacity recommendations set out by NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site by site basis following consultation and site assessments.

***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 this 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.

***Identify the key findings and issues***

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in Blaby. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to development of the Strategy and Action Plan for Blaby.

***Develop the future picture of provision (scenario testing)***

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, latent, exported 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.

The scenario testing generally occurs in the Strategy report that proceeds this document and therefore does not form part of the Assessment Report.

# PART 2: FOOTBALL

**2.1: Introduction**

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in the District is Leicestershire & Rutland County FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches) which are the preferred AGP (artificial grass pitch) surface type for football. In future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

***Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)***

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy (NGS), the FA has commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation. It is expected that all LFFPs will be signed off by spring 2020.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (The FA, Premier League, DCMS, Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP will build upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP will also incorporate consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities. This could include those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA NGS priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls’ football, disability football and futsal.

LFFPs will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding.  As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area.  Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will however build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The Blaby District LFFP was completed in 2019 and identifies 20 potential projects for investment which are outlined in this section.

***Consultation***

There is a total of 48 clubs identified as operating in the District. Each club was contacted by Leicestershire & Rutland County FA via email, giving each club an opportunity to complete an online survey. In addition to this, the following three clubs were met with face to face.

* Blaby & Whetstone FC
* Oadby & Wigston FC
* Croft Juniors FC

Through both face to face meetings and survey responses, a total of 21 clubs responded to consultation requests, which equates to a 44% club response rate and 78% team response rate. All major clubs in the District have been consulted with most of the non-responsive clubs being single team clubs.

**2.2: Supply**

The audit identifies a total of 116 grass football pitches in the District across 43 sites. Of the pitches, 107 are available, at some level, for community use across 35 sites. All unavailable pitches are located at primary school sites.

As presented in the table below, the Blaby East Analysis Area contains the most football pitches in the District with 49 (equating to 46% of overall provision). In contrast, the Blaby West Analysis Area contains the least provision with 16 pitches identified (15% of overall provision).

*Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community*

| **Analysis area** | **Available for community use** | | | | |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Adult** | **Youth 11v11** | **Youth 9v9** | **Mini 7v7** | **Mini 5v5** | **Totals** |
| Blaby East | 19 | 2 | 15 | 9 | 4 | 49 |
| Blaby North | 17 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 42 |
| Blaby West | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 16 |
| **Blaby District** | **41** | **5** | **28** | **19** | **15** | **107** |

Figure 2.1 overleaf identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing the District. For a key to the map, see Table 2.12.

Most available pitches in the District (38%) are adult sized which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. This is not ideal for youth players at U13-U16 and is not in line with the recent FA Youth Review. Just five available pitches are youth 11v11 sized representing 5% of the available supply, which is low in relation to the proportion of youth teams (56 teams – 23% of all teams) which should be playing matches on this sized pitch.

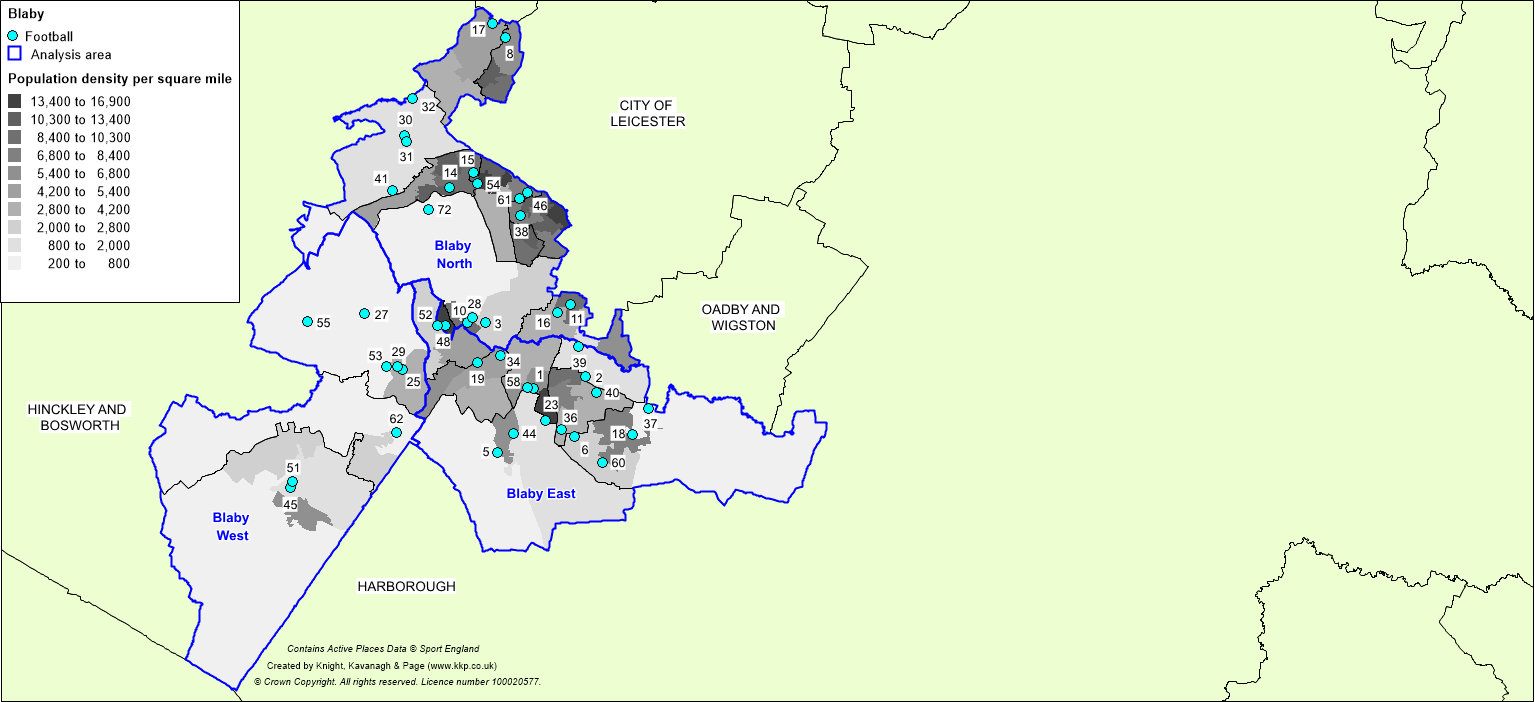
In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17 and U18 teams can play on adult pitches. The FA’s recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres. Please refer to the table overleaf for more detail.

*Table 2.2: FA recommended grass/3G pitch sizes*

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

*Loss of grass pitch provision*

Kirby Muxloe FC (based at Muxloe Sports Club) has secured grant funding from the Football Foundation to convert its stadia grass pitch to a 3G surface. Development will begin in May 2020 with the pitch expected to be ready for use from the start of the 2020/21 football season.

*Figure* 2.1: Location of football pitches

***Pitch quality***

The quality of football pitches across the District have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

* Good
* Standard
* Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%).

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality.

Conversely, well maintained pitches that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use in the District. In total, two pitches are assessed as good quality, 47 as standard quality and 58 as poor quality. All good quality pitches are located at Blaby Thistle Meadow Primary School and Holmes Park.

*Table 2.3: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis area** | **Adult pitches** | | | **Youth pitches** | | | **Mini pitches** | | |
| **Good** | **Standard** | **Poor** | **Good** | **Standard** | **Poor** | **Good** | **Standard** | **Poor** |
| Blaby East | 1 | 9 | 9 | - | 9 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| Blaby North | - | 4 | 13 | - | 6 | 5 | - | 6 | 8 |
| Blaby West | - | 2 | 3 | - | 4 | 1 | - | - | 6 |
| **Blaby District** | **1** | **15** | **25** | **-** | **19** | **14** | **1** | **13** | **19** |

Pitches maintained by parish/town councils and schools often undergo limited maintenance regimes due to restricted budgets. This is true of many providers in the District, with most pitches basically maintained. This is shown by 59 pitches (55% of the total supply) being poor quality. Poor quality pitches are located at the following sites:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Blaby and Whetstone Youth Club | * Brockington College |
| * Cosby Recreation Ground | * Dorothy Avenue Playing Field |
| * Glenfield Sports Ground | * Huncote Sports & Social Club |
| * Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground | * Leicester Road Recreation Ground |
| * Meadow Sports Ground (not whole site) | * Mossdale Meadows |
| * Northfield Park | * Oakfield Park |
| * Sapcote Recreation Ground | * Shakespeare Park |
| * Southey Close | * Thorpe Astley Community Centre |
| * Thurlaston FC | * Warwick Road Recreation Ground |
| * Willoughby Road Recreation Ground | * Winston Avenue Sports Ground |

*Table 2.4: Summary of poor quality pitch comments*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Club name/s** | **Club comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4 | Cosby Recreation Ground | Cosby United FC | The pitches on site do not drain well and get particularly heavy in the winter months. |
| 17 | Glenfield Sports Ground | Glenfield United | The site suffers from poor drainage. The mini 7v7 pitch is particularly poor quality. |
| 34 | Leicester Road Recreation Ground | Narborough Foxes FC | The sites two main pitches have been unplayable for long periods due to bad weather and drainage issues. |
| 37 | Meadow Sports Ground | Oadby & Wigston FC | Pitches drain poorly and unplayable for large parts of a season. |
| 62 | Winston Avenue Sports Ground | Croft Juniors FC | Certain areas of the playing field are unusable due to pitch quality. This affects both midweek training and match play opportunities for all teams. |

***FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)***

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP). As part of the PIP, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG).

In the District, the following sites have had a PIP visit from the IOG undertaken and if recommended actions are implemented, it is expected that these sites will see an increase in quality in the coming years:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Blaby and Whetstone Youth Club | * Cosby Recreation Ground |
| * Glenfield Sports Ground | * Holmes Park |
| * Kirby Muxloe Sports Club | * Meadows Sports Ground |
| * Sapcote Recreation Ground | * Stoney Stanton Memorial Playing Field |

***Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)***

The LFFP for the District highlights nine priority sites for potential investment. These sites were identified based on high levels of existing demand and having the poorest quality pitches. The nine sites identified are:

* Countesthorpe Leysland Community College
* Cosby Recreation Ground (Victory Park)
* Dorothy Avenue Playing Field
* Glenfield Sports Ground
* Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground
* Mossdale Meadows
* Oakfield Park
* Thurlaston Sports Club
* Winston Avenue Sports Ground

***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 also causes logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are playing at the same site. The following sites have overmarked pitches:

* Brockington College
* Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground
* Thurlaston FC
* Winston Avenue Sports Ground
* Meadow Sports Ground

***Ancillary facilities***

Similar to football pitches, the quality of ancillary facilities in the District has been assessed via a combination of site visits and user consultation. Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing.

The findings of the non-technical audit are consistent with the findings of the LFFP in the District, in which 11 sites are identified as needing either refurbishment or replacement. The 11 identified sites are:

* Countesthorpe Leysland Community College
* Kirby Muxloe Sports Club
* Cosby Recreation Ground (Victory Park)
* Dorothy Avenue Playing Fields
* Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground
* Lutterworth Road (Whetstone JFC)
* Meadow Sports Ground
* Mossdale Meadows
* Oakfield Park
* Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields
* Thurlaston Sports Club
* Winston Avenue Sports Ground (Croft Juniors FC)

Further to the above, consultation with local clubs also identifies two issues not identified in the LFFP. Epsworth Forest JFC highlight that recently upgraded changing room and shower facilities at Forest East Park were not designed to FA specifications and therefore just one set of communal showers has been provided for all site users. As a result of this, players often must wait for referees and youth boys and girls have separate showers.

Narborough Foxes FC report that its changing facilities at Leicester Road Recreation Ground have developed a persistent leak which is causing long term damage to provision.

***Security of tenure***

Tenure arrangements in the District are generally secure for clubs. Nearly all clubs either have long term lease arrangements in place or alternatively have long standing rental arrangements in place with parish or town councils. Where pitches are operated by parish or town councils there is a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years, and therefore these are secure. An exception to this is found at schools and academies that state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use.

The following is a full list of schools that have grass football pitches but do not allow community use:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Danemill Primary School * Glen Mills Primary School * Kirby Muxloe Primary School * New Lubbesthorpe Primary School | * Fossebrook Primary School * Huncote Primary School * The Pastures Primary School |

For school sites that are available to the community, it is recommended that clubs enter into community use agreements to ensure long-term access. In the District, no schools are identified as having formal community use agreements in place.

***Football pyramid demand***

The football pyramid is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men’s football clubs in England. It begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of seven steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA[[4]](#footnote-4). The higher the level of 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 and H being the requirement for Step 7 clubs.

In the District, four teams (provided by three clubs) play in the football pyramid. Both Kirby Muxloe FC and Saffron Dynamo FC compete at Step 6, and Blaby & Whetstone FC and Kirby Muxloe FC (Reserves) at Step 7.

A common issue for clubs entering the pyramid is changing facilities. For Step 7 football (ground grading H), existing changing rooms must be a minimum size of 12 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas. Where clubs are planning to build new changing rooms, these must be planned to be a minimum size of 18 metres, excluding showers and toilet areas.

The general principle for clubs in the football pyramid is that they have to achieve the appropriate grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard.

***Women’s National League System***

Correspondingly there is a Women’s National League System (WNLS) similar to the adult men’s which provide structure to the women’s game. As seen in the table below this ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 7 with each tier requiring differing ground grading requirements.

*Table 2.5: Summary of ground grading for women’s football*

| **Level** | **League** | **Grading category** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Tier 1 | FA Women’s Super League | Step S1 |
| Tier 2 | FA Women’s Championship | Step S2 |
| Tier 3 | FA Women’s National League Premier Division  (Northern and Southern) | Step W1 |
| Tier 4 | FA Women’s National League Division 1  North / Midlands / South East / South West | Step W2 |
| Tier 5 | Regional Premier Division | Step W3 |
| Tier 6 | Regional Division One | - |
| Tier 7 | County Leagues | - |

Although women’s clubs still require ground grading requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men’s National League System. Ratings range from Step S1 to W3 each with differing minimum requirements. Step S1 and S2 in the Women’s National League System is akin to Step 3 and 4 of the men’s National League System, however, not exactly the same. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

In 2017, the FA announced plans to restructure the women’s league for the highest performers in the football pyramid. The changes were implemented from the start of the 2018-19 season and saw the top league, FA WSL 1, expand from ten clubs to 14 and the creation of a new national league established at tier two for a maximum of 12 teams.

There is one team in the District which compete in the Women’s National League System; Oadby & Wigston FC Women. It competes at Tier 6 of the Women’s Regional League.

**2.3: Demand**

Through the audit and assessment, 247 teams from within 48 clubs are identified as playing in the District. This consists of 50 adult men’s, three adult women’s, 97 youth boys’, 14 youth girls’ and 83 mini mixed teams. The Blaby East Analysis Area provides for the highest number of teams, with 111. The analysis area with the fewest number of teams is Blaby West, with 46 teams provided.

*Table 2.6: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in the District*

| **Analysis area** | **Number of teams** | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Adult** | **Youth 11v11** | **Youth 9v9** | **Mini 7v7** | **Mini 5v5** | **Total** |
| Blaby East | 26 | 36 | 21 | 16 | 12 | 111 |
| Blaby North | 16 | 24 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 90 |
| Blaby West | 11 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 10 | 46 |
| **Blaby District** | **53** | **69** | **42** | **44** | **39** | **247** |

Youth 11v11 football is the most prominent format of play, whilst mini 5v5 is the least common.

***Women’s and girls’ demand***

There are 28 dedicated women/girls’ teams playing in the District, representing just over 11% of the total number of teams from the following clubs:

* Blaby & Whetstone FC
* Blaby Bullets FC
* Cosby United Youth & Junior FC
* Croft Juniors FC
* Kirby Muxloe FC
* Oadby & Wigston FC
* Saffron Dynamo FC
* Whetstone Juniors FC

The FA currently has a drive to increase women’s and girls’ participation by 50%. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities become suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

***Exported demand/imported***

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of the study area, despite being registered to the District. Likewise, imported demand is demand from neighbouring authorities accessing pitches in the District to play competitive matches. As of the 2019/20 football season, there are no identified cases of either imported or exported demand in the District.

***Latent demand***

Latent demand refers to potential demand; clubs that would like to field more teams but currently do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack pitches, appropriate facilities and qualified coaches. Clubs that report latent demand relating to facilities and the reasons provided for this latent demand can be seen in the table below.

*Table 2.7: Latent demand summary*

| **Club** | **Need for more match pitches** | **Need for more/better training facilities** | **Need for better/more appropriate changing provision** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Blaby Meadows FC | - | Yes | - |
| United Revolution FC | Yes | Yes | - |
| Whetstone Juniors FC | Yes | Yes | - |
| Kirby Muxloe FC | Yes | Yes | - |
| Oadby & Wigston FC | Yes | Yes | - |
| Saffron Dynamo FC | Yes | - | - |
| Croft Juniors FC | Yes | Yes | - |
| Thurlaston FC |  | Yes | Yes |
| Braunstone United FC | Yes | Yes | - |
| Epworth Forest JFC | - | Yes | Yes |
| Cosby United FC | - | Yes | Yes |
| Narborough Foxes FC | - | - | Yes |
| Glenfield United FC | Yes | - | - |
| Huncote Sports & Social FC | Yes | - | - |

As previously noted, a 3G pitch is being provided at Kirby Muxloe FC which will be in place for the beginning of the 20/21 season. This will alleviate all identified latent demand from the Club.

***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 the growth of the league. No unmet demand is expressed by responsive clubs in the District.

***Future demand***

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

*Participation increases*

Seven clubs’ report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. In total, these potential demand increases would lead to the creation of 37 teams. Croft Juniors FC highlight the highest future growth aspirations, with 11 teams.

*Table 2.8: Potential team increases identified by clubs*

| **Club** | **Analysis area** | **Future demand** | **Pitch size** | **Match equivalent sessions[[5]](#footnote-5)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Whetstone Juniors FC | Blaby East | 1 x Adult | Adult | 0.5 |
| 1 x Youth 9v9 | Youth 9v9 | 0.5 |
| 1 x Mini 7v7 | Mini 7v7 | 0.5 |
| 1 x Mini 5v5 | Mini 5v5 | 0.5 |
| Kirby Muxloe FC | Blaby North | 5 x Adult | Adult | 2.5 |
| Oadby & Wigston FC | Blaby East | 1 x Mini 7v7 | Mini 7v7 | 0.5 |
| 1 x Mini 7v7 | Mini 7v7 | 0.5 |
| Croft Juniors FC | Blaby West | 1 x Adult | Adult | 0.5 |
| 6 x Youth 11v11 | Youth 11v11 | 3 |
| 2 x youth 9v9 | Youth 9v9 | 1 |
| 2 x Mini 5v5 | Mini 5v5 | 1 |
| Epworth Forest JFC | Blaby North | 4 x Youth 11v11 | Youth 11v11 | 2 |
| 1 x youth 9v9 | Youth 9v9 | 0.5 |
| 2 x Mini 7v7 | Mini 7v7 | 1 |
| 2 x Mini 5v5 | Mini 5v5 | 1 |
| Cosby United FC | Blaby East | 1 x Adult | Adult | 0.5 |
| 1 x Mini 7v7 | Mini 7v7 | 0.5 |
| 1 x Mini 5v5 | Mini 5v5 | 0.5 |
| Huncote Sports and Social FC | Blaby West | 1 x Youth 11v11 | Youth 11v11 | 0.5 |
| 2 x youth 9v9 | Youth 9v9 | 1 |

Future demand aspirations have been aggregated by analysis area and pitch format and are detailed in the table below.

*Table 2.9: Potential increases by analysis area*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis area** | **Future demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | | | |
| **Adult** | **Youth 11v11** | **Youth 9v9** | **Mini 7v7** | **Mini 5v5** | **Totals** |
| Blaby East | 1 |  | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | **4.5** |
| Blaby North | 2.5 | 2 | 0.5 | 1 | 1 | **7** |
| Blaby West | 0.5 | 3.5 | 2 |  | 1 | **7** |
| **Blaby District** | **4** | **5.5** | **3** | **2.5** | **3.5** | **18.5** |

*Population increases*

Team generation rates (TGRs) 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. ONS population growth is applied to the TGRs to identify a predicted number of teams that will be generated. As such, TGRs are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth up to 2037[[6]](#footnote-6).

*Table 2.10: Team generation rates* *(2037)*

| **Age group** | **Current population within age group** | **Current no. of teams[[7]](#footnote-7)** | **Team Generation Rate (TGR)** | **Future population within age group** | **Predicted future number of teams (2037)** | **Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Senior Men’s (16-45) | 15,780 | 50 | 1:316 | 17,406 | 55 | 5 |
| Senior Women (16-45) | 16,731 | 3 | 1:5577 | 17,704 | 3 | - |
| Youth Boys (12-15) | 3,337 | 56 | 1:60 | 4,026 | 67 | 11 |
| Youth Girls (12-15) | 3,216 | 9 | 1:357 | 3,873 | 10 | 1 |
| Youth Boys (10-11) | 1,227 | 30 | 1:41 | 1,339 | 32 | - |
| Youth Girls (10-11) | 1,184 | 5 | 1:237 | 1,286 | 5 | 0 |
| Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9) | 2,496 | 39 | 1:64 | 2,579 | 40 | - |
| Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7) | 2,461 | 23 | 1:107 | 2,549 | 23 | 0 |

Application of TGRs forecast that there will be a potential increase of 20 teams. This equates to five senior men’s, 11 youth 11v11 boys, one youth 11v11 girls, two 9v9 youth boys’ teams and one mixed mini 7v7 team. However, once TGRs are applied to individual analysis areas a more detailed representation of where exactly the predicated growth will occur emerges.

*Table 2.11: Additional teams by analysis area (2037)*

| **Age group** | **Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by analysis area)** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Blaby East** | **Blaby North** | **Blaby West** | **Total** |
| Senior Men’s (16-45) | 2 | 1 | 1 | **4** |
| Senior Women (16-45) | - | - | - | **-** |
| Youth Boys (12-15) | 5 | 4 | 1 | **10** |
| Youth Girls (12-15) | 1 | - | - | **1** |
| Youth Boys (10-11) | 1 | 1 | - | **2** |
| Youth Girls (10-11) | - | - | - | **-** |
| Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9) | - | - | - | **-** |
| Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7) | - | - | - | **-** |

As can be seen in the table above, once TGRs are applied to individual analysis areas it is forecast that a total of 17 teams will be generated, with demand split each analysis area.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that team generation rates are based exclusively on future population forecasts and do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, they cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus on developing female participation within Leicestershire and nationally which, as mentioned previously, is likely to lead to more women’s and girls’ teams in the future and therefore increase demand for pitches.

Outside of women’s and girls’ increases, given the large amounts of future demand identified through team generation rates, it is considered unlikely that aspirations from clubs will happen exclusively of population growth. Instead, it is thought that the ambitions will be absorbed within the increases.

*FA Wildcats Centres*

FA Wildcats Centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, which provide opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment. There are already 200 established centres which delivered the Wildcats pilot in 2017, with a further 800 centres to be in place for 2018. As part of the expansion process, organisations extending beyond affiliated clubs to include other providers or community groups were invited to apply in late 2017 to become one of the new centres.

All organisations delivering Wildcats centres receive a £600 start-up grant and 30 branded footballs in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl’s participation, organisations receive a secondary grant of £300 in the secondary year of operation to help sessions run sustainably. In the District, there is one Wildcat Centre ran by Oadby & Wigston FC. Leicestershire & Rutland County FA highlight that this is expected to increase in the future.

In light of both FA aspirations to double female participation in football through its Game Changer strategy and the establishment and foreseen future effect of the Wildcats programme, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women’s and girl teams may exceed that shown through population growth, however, at present to what extent is not quantifiable.

*Future demand summary*

On balance, it has been agreed that total future demand in the District should account for population and participation increases added together and as such, these are the figures applied in the supply and demand conclusions tables.

**2.4: Capacity analysis**

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people’s enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality.

The following ratings were used in the District:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 2.12 overleaf applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play 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.

In the District, site capacity at education sites has been reduced by one match equivalent session per pitch to account for curricular and extra-curricular use. This is based on consultation and the discovery that all pitches are in use, as well as from experience of how school sites use pitches from other strategies in the locality and nationally.

***Informal use***

Several football pitches in the area are located within open access sites. As such, these pitches are subject to informal use in the form of dog walkers, unorganised games of football and exercise groups. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime.

***Peak time***

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In the District, peak time is Sunday AM for all pitches, as most teams across all age groups play at this time. Please note that, on occasions, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity, overplayed or having more spare capacity identified in the peak period than what exists overall. This is because most of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period; therefore, the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increases overall capacity.

*Table 2.12: Football pitch capacity analysis*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **Community use?** | **Management** | **Security of tenure** | **Pitch type** | **Pitch size** | **No. of pitches** | **Quality rating** | **Current play**  **(match sessions)** | **Site capacity[[8]](#footnote-8)**  **(match sessions)** | **Overused, at capacity or spare capacity** | **Spare capacity in peak period** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Blaby and Whetstone Youth Club | Blaby East | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Standard | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | Pitch overplayed. |
| 1 | Blaby and Whetstone Youth Club | Blaby East | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | Pitch overplayed. |
| 2 | Blaby Thistly Meadow Primary School | Blaby East | Yes | School | **Unsecure** | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Good | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 0.5 | Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. |
| 3 | Brockington College | Blaby North | Yes | School | **Unsecure** | Adult |  | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | - | - | Pitch at capacity. |
| 3 | Brockington College | Blaby North | Yes | School | **Unsecure** | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Poor | 2.5 | 1 | 1.5 | - | Pitch overplayed. |
| 3 | Brockington College | Blaby North | Yes | School | **Unsecure** | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | - |  | Pitch at capacity. |
| 5 | Cosby Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Adult |  | 2 | Poor | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 1.5 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 5 | Cosby Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 6 | Countesthorpe Community College | Blaby East | Yes | School | **Unsecure** | Adult |  | 3 | Standard | 3.5 | 6 | 2.5 | 3 | Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. |
| 6 | Countesthorpe Community College | Blaby East | Yes | School | **Unsecure** | Mini | (5v5) | 2 | Standard | 2 | 8 | 6 | 2 | Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. |
| 6 | Countesthorpe Community College | Blaby East | Yes | School | **Unsecure** | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 2 | 2 | - | - | Pitches at capacity. |
| 6 | Countesthorpe Community College | Blaby East | Yes | School | **Unsecure** | Youth | (9v9) | 3 | Standard | 4.5 | 6 | 1.5 | 1.5 | Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. |
| 8 | County Hall Sports Ground | Blaby North | Yes | County Council | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Standard | 2 | 2 | - | - | Pitches at capacity. |
| 11 | Dorothy Avenue Playing Field | Blaby North | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Adult |  | 2 | Poor | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 14 | Forest East Park | Blaby North | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Standard | 0.5 | 4 | 3.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity on pitch. |
| 14 | Forest East Park | Blaby North | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 17 | Glenfield Sports Ground | Blaby North | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult |  | 2 | Poor | 4 | 2 | 2 | - | Pitches overplayed. |
| 17 | Glenfield Sports Ground | Blaby North | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 4 | 3 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 17 | Glenfield Sports Ground | Blaby North | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Standard | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 17 | Glenfield Sports Ground | Blaby North | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 2 | Standard | 2.5 | 4 | 1.5 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 19 | Greystoke Primary School | Blaby East | Yes | School | **Unsecure** | Adult |  | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. |
| 23 | Holmes Park | Blaby East | Yes | CFA | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Good | 2 | 3 | 1 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 27 | Huncote Sports And Social Club | Blaby West | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult |  | 2 | Poor | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | Pitches overplayed. |
| 28 | King George V Playing Field | Blaby North | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Standard | - | 4 | 4 | 1 | Actual spare capacity on pitch. |
| 29 | King George's Field | Blaby West | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | Actual spare capacity on pitch. |
| 31 | Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground | Blaby North | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Adult |  | 3 | Poor | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 31 | Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground | Blaby North | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Poor | 2 | 2 | - | - | Pitch at capacity. |
| 31 | Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground | Blaby North | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Poor | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 31 | Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground | Blaby North | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 32 | Kirby Muxloe Sports Club | Blaby North | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Standard | 5.5 | 2 | 3.5 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 32 | Kirby Muxloe Sports Club | Blaby North | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | Pitch overplayed. |
| 34 | Leicester Road Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Poor | 1.5 | 1 | 0.5 | - | Pitch overplayed. |
| 34 | Leicester Road Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 34 | Leicester Road Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 36 | Lutterworth Road | Blaby East | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Standard | 3.5 | 2 | 1.5 | - | Pitch overplayed. |
| 36 | Lutterworth Road | Blaby East | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 2 | Standard | 1.5 | 8 | 6.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity on pitch. |
| 36 | Lutterworth Road | Blaby East | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 2 | Standard | 2 | 8 | 6 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 36 | Lutterworth Road | Blaby East | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 4 | Standard | 2.5 | 8 | 6.5 | 1 | Actual spare capacity on pitch. |
| 37 | Meadows Sports Ground | Blaby East | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult |  | 3 | Poor | 4 | 3 | 1 | - | Pitches overplayed. |
| 37 | Meadows Sports Ground | Blaby East | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Standard | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity on pitch. |
| 37 | Meadows Sports Ground | Blaby East | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 37 | Meadows Sports Ground | Blaby East | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1.5 | 1 | 0.5 | - | Pitch overplayed. |
| 38 | Mossdale Meadows | Blaby North | Yes | Town Council | Secure | Adult |  | 2 | Poor | 2.5 | 2 | 0.5 |  | Pitches overplayed. |
| 38 | Mossdale Meadows | Blaby North | Yes | Town Council | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 2 | Poor | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 38 | Mossdale Meadows | Blaby North | Yes | Town Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 2 | Poor | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 38 | Mossdale Meadows | Blaby North | Yes | Town Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 0.5 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 39 | Northfield Park | Blaby East | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Poor | 0.5 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 40 | Oakfield Park | Blaby East | Yes | Oakfield Park | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Poor | 1.5 | 1 | 0.5 | - | Pitch overplayed. |
| 40 | Oakfield Park | Blaby East | Yes | Oakfield Park | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Standard | 0.5 | 4 | 3.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity on pitch. |
| 40 | Oakfield Park | Blaby East | Yes | Oakfield Park | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 2 | Poor | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 41 | Old Newtonians RFC | Blaby North | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | - |  | Pitch at capacity. |
| 41 | Old Newtonians RFC | Blaby North | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Standard | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 41 | Old Newtonians RFC | Blaby North | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 2.5 | 2 | 0.5 | - | Pitch overplayed. |
| 44 | Saffron Dynamo FC | Blaby East | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult |  | 2 | Standard | 4 | 4 | - | - | Pitches at capacity. |
| 44 | Saffron Dynamo FC | Blaby East | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 45 | Sapcote Recreation Ground | Blaby West | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Poor | 0.5 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 46 | Shakespeare Park | Blaby North | Yes | Town Council | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 46 | Shakespeare Park | Blaby North | Yes | Town Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Poor | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 46 | Shakespeare Park | Blaby North | Yes | Town Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | - | - | Pitch at capacity. |
| 48 | Southey Close | Blaby North | Yes | Council | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | - | - | Pitch at capacity. |
| 51 | Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields | Blaby West | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Adult |  | 2 | Standard | 2.5 | 4 | 1.5 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 51 | Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields | Blaby West | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 2 | Standard | 2 | 4 | 2 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 53 | The Pavilion Leisure Centre | Blaby West | Yes | Commercial | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 54 | Thorpe Astley Community Centre | Blaby North | Yes | Town Council | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Poor | 0.5 | 1 | 0.5 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 55 | Thurlaston Football Club | Blaby West | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Poor | 2.5 | 1 | 1.5 | - | Pitch overplayed. |
| 55 | Thurlaston Football Club | Blaby West | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 2 | Poor | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 55 | Thurlaston Football Club | Blaby West | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1.5 | 1 | 0.5 | - | Pitch overplayed. |
| 58 | Warwick Road Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Adult |  | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | - | - | Pitch at capacity. |
| 58 | Warwick Road Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 3 | Poor | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 60 | Willoughby Road Playing Field | Blaby East | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Poor | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | Pitch overplayed. |
| 60 | Willoughby Road Playing Field | Blaby East | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. |
| 61 | Winstanley Community College | Blaby North | Yes | School | **Unsecure** | Adult |  | 2 | Standard | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 0.5 | Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. |
| 61 | Winstanley Community College | Blaby North | Yes | School | **Unsecure** | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Standard | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 0.5 | Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. |
| 61 | Winstanley Community College | Blaby North | Yes | School | **Unsecure** | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | No capacity in the peak period. |
| 62 | Winston Avenue Sports Ground | Blaby West | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 2 | Poor | 4 | 4 | - | - | Pitches at capacity. |
| 62 | Winston Avenue Sports Ground | Blaby West | Yes | Parish Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 2 | Poor | 4.5 | 4 | 0.5 | - | Pitches overplayed. |
| 10 | Danemill Primary School | Blaby North | No | School | **Unsecure** | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | Pitch unavailable for community use. |
| 15 | Fossebrook Primary School | Blaby North | No | School | **Unsecure** | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | Pitch unavailable for community use. |
| 16 | Glen Hills Primary School | Blaby North | No | School | **Unsecure** | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | Pitch unavailable for community use. |
| 18 | Greenfield Primary School | Blaby East | No | School | **Unsecure** | Mini | (5v5) | 2 | Standard | 2 | 8 | 6 | - | Pitches unavailable for community use. |
| 25 | Huncote Primary School | Blaby West | No | School | **Unsecure** | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 4 | 1 | - | Pitch unavailable for community use. |
| 30 | Kirby Muxloe Primary School | Blaby North | No | School | **Unsecure** | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | Pitch unavailable for community use. |
| 52 | The Pastures Primary School | Blaby East | No | School | **Unsecure** | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 4 | 1 | - | Pitch unavailable for community use. |
| 72 | New Lubbesthorpe Primary School | Blaby East | No | School | **Unsecure** | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 4 | 1 | - | Pitch unavailable for community use. |

***Spare capacity***

To determine ‘actual spare capacity’, each site with ‘potential capacity identified in Table 2.12 has been reviewed. A pitch is only said to have ‘actual spare capacity’ if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criterion has consequently been discounted.

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

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to their already low carrying capacity. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn, will aid the improvement of pitch quality.

Unless tenure is considered secure through the operator, 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.

Given the above, actual spare capacity in the District equates to five match equivalent sessions per week. This has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type.

*Table 2.13: Summary of actual spare capacity*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis area** | **Actual spare capacity**  **(match equivalent sessions per week)** | | | | |
| **Adult** | **Youth 11v11** | **Youth 9v9** | **Mini 7v7** | **Mini 5v5** |
| Blaby East | 0.5 | - | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Blaby North | - | - | - | 1.5 | - |
| Blaby West | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| **Blaby District** | **0.5** | **-** | **2** | **2** | **0.5** |

In addition to the above, it is worthy of note that 11. Cosby Recreation Ground match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity have been discounted due to either sites having unsecure tenure or poor quality.

***Match equivalent sessions (MES)***

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

At this stage, match equivalent sessions do not equate to a number of pitches. This is because an analysis area might show three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity, however, this is likely to be spread across a number of sites. Further to this, minimal spare capacity on one site may be required to accommodate strategic reserve and as such retained. If the 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.

***Overplay***

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). Only sites which are overplayed and have current community use have been included in the overplay summary, therefore school sites which do not currently have any community use but may be overplayed due to curriculum use and school fixtures have not been included.

In total, 23 pitches across seven sites are overplayed by a combined total of 14.5 match equivalent sessions.

*Table 2.14: Summary of overplay*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **Pitch type** | **No. of pitches** | **Capacity rating**  **(match sessions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Blaby and Whetstone Youth Club | Blaby East | Adult | 1 | 1 |
| Youth 9v9 | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | Brockington College | Blaby North | Youth 11v11 | 1 | 1.5 |
| 17 | Glenfield Sports Ground | Blaby North | Adult | 2 | 2 |
| 27 | Huncote Sports and Social Club | Blaby West | Adult | 2 | 1 |
| 32 | Kirby Muxloe Sports Club | Blaby North | Adult | 1 | 1 |
| 34 | Leicester Road Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Adult | 1 | 0.5 |
| 36 | Lutterworth Road | Blaby East | Adult | 1 | 1.5 |
| 37 | Meadows Sports Ground | Blaby East | Adult | 3 | 1 |
| Youth 9v9 | 1 | 0.5 |
| 38 | Mossdale Meadows | Blaby North | Adult | 2 | 0.5 |
| 40 | Oakfield Park | Blaby East | Adult | 1 | 0.5 |
| 55 | Thurlaston Football Club | Blaby West | Adult | 1 | 1.5 |
| Youth 9v9 | 1 | 0.5 |
| 60 | Willoughby Road Playing Field | Blaby East | Youth 11v11 | 1 | 1 |
| 62 | Winston Avenue Sports Ground | Blaby West | Mini 7v7 | 2 | 0.5 |

A breakdown of overplay by analysis area and pitch type is shown in the table below. 70% of all overplay is identified as being on adult pitch formats. There are no mini 5v5 pitches identified as being overplayed.

*Table 2.15: Overplay summary by analysis area*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis area** | **Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)** | | | | |
| **Adult** | **Youth (11v11)** | **Youth (9v9)** | **Mini (7v7)** | **Mini (5v5)** |
| Blaby East | 4.5 | 1 | 1.5 |  | - |
| Blaby North | 3.5 | 1.5 | - |  | - |
| Blaby West | 2.5 | - | 0.5 | 0.5 | - |
| **Blaby District** | **10.5** | **2.5** | **2** | **0.5** | **-** |

**2.5: Supply and demand analysis**

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and any exported demand) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions.

Total future demand in the District accounts for population and participation increases added together and as such, these are the figures applied in the tables below.

***Adult pitch analysis***

*Table 2.16: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis area** | **Actual spare capacity[[9]](#footnote-9)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Future demand** | **Total** |
| Blaby East | 0.5 | 4.5 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Blaby North | - | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3 | 6.5 |
| Blaby West | - | 2.5 | 2.5 | 1 | 3.5 |
| **Blaby District** | **0.5** | **10.5** | **10** | **6** | **16** |

The table above highlights that there is an insufficient supply of adult pitches in the District both now and in the future. The current picture is a shortfall of ten match equivalent sessions per week, once giving consideration to future demand figures, this figure is exacerbated and totals 16 match equivalent sessions per week.

***Youth 11v11 pitch analysis***

*Table 2.17: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis area** | **Actual spare capacity[[10]](#footnote-10)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Future demand** | **Total** |
| Blaby East | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Blaby North | - | 1.5 | 1.5 | 4 | 5.5 |
| Blaby West | - | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| **Blaby District** | **-** | **2.5** | **2.5** | **11** | **13.5** |

There is a current shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week across youth 11v11 pitch formats. When accounting for future demand, the shortfall increases to 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

It must also be noted that a large number of youth 11v11 teams are playing on adult pitches, meaning shortfalls would greatly exacerbate should these transfer to the correct pitch type.

***Youth 9v9 pitch analysis***

*Table 2.18: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis area** | **Actual spare capacity[[11]](#footnote-11)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Future demand** | **Total** |
| Blaby East | 1 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 1 | 1.5 |
| Blaby North | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Blaby West | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 |
| **Blaby District** | **2** | **2** | **-** | **4** | **4** |

The table above shows that on a District wide level, youth 9v9 pitches are at capacity. When accounting for future demand, shortfalls are apparent in all analysis areas.

***Mini 7v7 pitch analysis***

*Table 2.19: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis area** | **Actual spare capacity[[12]](#footnote-12)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Future demand** | **Total** |
| Blaby East | 0.5 | - | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1 |
| Blaby North | 1.5 | - | 1.5 | 1 | 0.5 |
| Blaby West | - | 0.5 | 0.5 | - | 0.5 |
| **Blaby District** | **2** | **0.5** | **1.5** | **2.5** | **1** |

The table above shows that there is a sufficient supply on mini 7v7 pitches in the District despite a minor shortfall in the Blaby West Analysis Area. Anticipated future demand is expected to utilise all available spare capacity and a District wide shortfall emerges.

***Mini 5v5 pitch analysis***

*Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis area** | **Actual spare capacity[[13]](#footnote-13)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Future demand** | **Total** |
| Blaby East | 0.5 | - | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1 |
| Blaby North | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Blaby West | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| **Blaby District** | **0.5** | **-** | **0.5** | **3.5** | **3** |

There is currently a sufficient supply of mini 5v5 pitches in the District to accommodate for current demand. When accounting for future demand, a small shortfall emerges in each analysis area.

**2.6: Conclusions**

Using the supply and demand analysis tables, it is determined that there are both current shortfalls on adult and youth 11v11 pitches. When accounting for future demand, shortfalls are expected on all pitch formats. Adult and youth 11v11 pitch types are expected to see the highest shortfalls.

*Table 2.21: Summary of supply and demand in Blaby District*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pitch format** | **Actual spare capacity[[14]](#footnote-14)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Future demand** | **Total** |
| Adult | **0.5** | **10.5** | **10** | **6** | **16** |
| Youth 11v11 | **-** | **2.5** | **2.5** | **11** | **13.5** |
| Youth 9v9 | **2** | **2** | **-** | **4** | **4** |
| Mini 7v7 | **2** | **0.5** | **1.5** | **2.5** | **1** |
| Mini 5v5 | **0.5** | **-** | **0.5** | **3.5** | **3** |

The current supply vs demand balance also been aggregated by analysis area in the table below. As can be seen in this, the highest shortfall of 5.5 match equivalent sessions is in the Blaby East Analysis Area. The lowest is in the Blaby West Analysis Area with two match equivalent sessions.

*Table 2.22: Summary of supply and demand in Blaby District by analysis area*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis area** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | | |
| **Adult** | **Youth 11v11** | **Youth 9v9** | **Mini 7v7** | **Mini 5v5** |
| Blaby East | **4** | **1** | **0.5** | **0.5** | **0.5** |
| Blaby North | **3.5** | **1.5** | **-** | **1.5** | **-** |
| Blaby West | **2.5** | **-** | **0.5** | **0.5** | **-** |

In the main, shortfalls are apparent due to high levels of overplay across specific club sites across in the District as well as multiple sites identified as being poor quality. The proceeding Strategy & Action Plan will explore specific scenarios to alleviate identified shortfalls.

|  |
| --- |
| **Football – grass pitch summary**   * **Current supply of football pitch provision is insufficient with shortfalls evident on adult and youth 11v11 pitch formats.** * **When considering future demand, these shortfalls will worsen on all formats, with shortfalls emerging on mini pitch types.** * The audit identifies a total of 116 grass football pitches in the District across 43 sites. Of the pitches, 107 are available, at some level, for community use across 35 sites. * Kirby Muxloe FC (based at Muxloe Sports Club) has secured grant funding from the Football Foundation to convert its stadia grass pitch to a 3G surface * In total, two pitches are assessed as good quality, 47 as standard quality and 59 as poor quality. * 247 teams from within 48 clubs are identified as playing in the District. This consists of 50 adult men’s, three adult women’s, 97 youth boys’, 14 youth girls’ and 83 mini mixed teams * 23 pitches across seven sites are overplayed by a combined total of 14.5 match equivalent sessions. * 11 pitches are identified as having spare capacity equating to five match equivalent sessions per week. * There are current and future shortfalls identified across adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 pitch formats. |

# PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

**3.1: Introduction**

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard (IMS) tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality (previously FIFA One Star), as well as for training purposes. 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.

England Hockey’s (EH) Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

*Table 3.1: 3G type and sport suitability*

| **Surface** | **Category** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rubber crumb | Long Pile 3G  (60mm with shock pad) | Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby regulation 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile. |
| Rubber crumb | Medium Pile 3G  (55-60mm) | Preferred football surface. Suitable for non-contact rugby union/league practice or play. |
| Rubber crumb | Short Pile 3G (40mm) | Acceptable surface for some competitive football, able to be used for low level curricular hockey. |

It should be noted that the FA generally refers to 3G pitches as 3G football turf pitches, though this term is not adopted in this PPS as 3G pitches can be and are used for other sports including rugby union, rugby league, lacrosse and American football, amongst others.

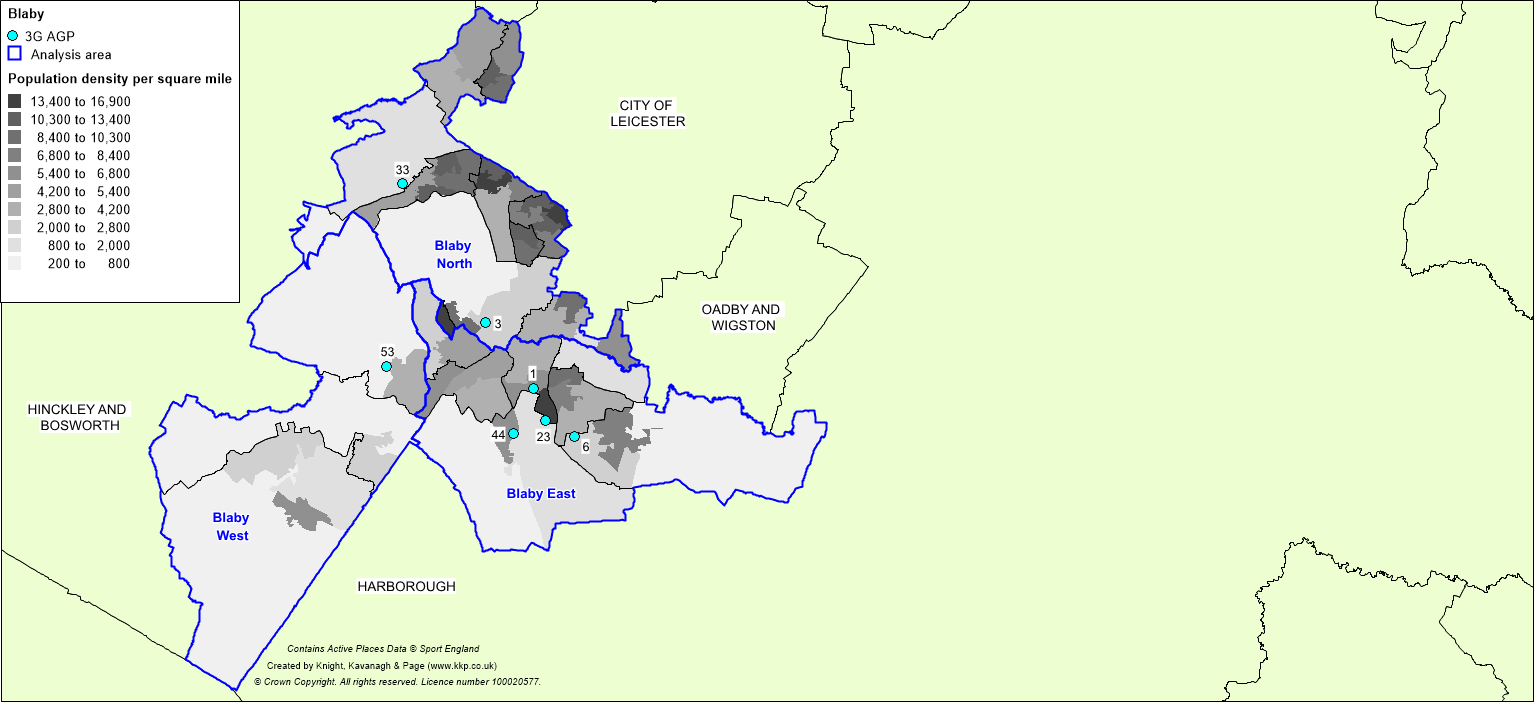
**3.2: Current provision**

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100 x 64 metres (106 x 70 metres including run offs); however, for the purposes of this report, all pitches measuring over 100 x 60 metres (inclusive of run offs) are considered to be full size due to the amount of demand they can accommodate. Nationally, many 3G pitches are slightly undersized due to being converted from sand-based provision (dimensions for hockey are smaller than for football).

There are two full size 3G pitches in the District that fully comply with the above specification, both are based in the Blaby North Analysis Area.

All the pitches are available to the community and are floodlit.

Figure 3.1 overleaf identifies all 3G pitches currently servicing the District. For a key to the map, see Table 3.2 and 3.3.

*Figure 3.1: Locations of 3G pitches*

*Table 3.2: Full size 3G pitches in the District*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **Community use?** | **Floodlit?** | **Size (metres)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | Brockington College | Blaby North | Yes | Yes | 106 x 70 |
| 33 | Leicester Forest RFC | Blaby North | Yes | Yes | 122 x 76 |

In addition, there are six smaller size 3G pitches servicing the District across five sites. Such pitches are generally not suitable for adult match play but can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches provided they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with adequate run-off areas. More commonly, they are used to accommodate commercial football leagues and social play.

*Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G pitches*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **No. of pitches** | **Community use?** | **Floodlit?** | **Size (metres)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Blaby and Whetstone Youth Club | Blaby East | 1 | Yes | Yes | 34 x 23 |
| 6 | Countesthorpe Community College | Blaby East | 1 | Yes | Yes | 35 x 30 |
| 23 | Holmes Park | Blaby East | 1 | Yes | Yes | 44 x 30 |
| 44 | Saffron Dynamo FC | Blaby East | 1 | Yes | Yes | 61 x 43 |
| 53 | The Pavilion Leisure Centre | Blaby West | 2 | Yes | Yes | 36 x 20 |

67% of small sided 3G pitch provision is based in the Blaby East Analysis Area. This is the only provision servicing this analysis area, with no full size provision located in the area. Likewise, there are two small pitches servicing the Blaby West Analysis Area, with no other 3G pitches available in the analysis area.

***Future provision***

Kirby Muxloe FC (based at Muxloe Sports Club) has secured grant funding from the Football Foundation to convert its stadia grass pitch to a 3G surface. Development will begin in May 2020 with the pitch expected to be ready for use from the start of the 2020/21 football season.

The Blaby District LFFP also identifies four full size pitch projects and two small sided 3G projects.

* Countesthorpe Leysland Community College
* Holmes Park – Leicestershire CFA
* Lubbesthorpe Leisure Centre Football Hub (two pitches)
* Winstanley School (7v7)
* Enderby Leisure Centre (5v5 pens x3)

In addition to the above, Blaby and Whetstone FC has expressed an interest in developing a full size 3G pitch on its site, Blaby and Whetstone Youth Club.

***FA pitch register***

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch (previously FIFA One Star) or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch (previously FIFA Two Star), with pitches commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. This comes after FIFA announced changes to 3G performance in October 2015 following consultation with member associations and licenced laboratories. The changes are part of FIFA’s continued ambition to drive up performance standard in the industry and the implications are that all 3G pitches built through the FA framework will be constructed to meet the new criteria.

The changes from FIFA One Star to FIFA Quality will have minimal impact on the current hours of use guidelines, which suggests that One Star pitches place more emphasis on the product’s ability to sustain acceptable performance and can typically be used for 60-85 hours per week with a lifespan of 20,000 cycles. In contrast, pitches built to FIFA Quality Pro performance standards are unlikely to provide the hours of use that some FIFA Two Star products have guaranteed in the past (previously 30-40 hours per week with a lifespan of 5,000 cycles). Typically, a FIFA Quality Pro pitch will be able to accommodate only 20-30 hours per week with appropriate maintenance due to strict performance measurements.

The full size pitch at Leicester Forest RFC is on the FA register and can therefore be used for competitive match play. The pitch at Brockington College is also currently on the FA register, it is however noted that there is a need for remedial improvements to be undertaken in the next year for it to remain registered.

Further to this, the small sided pitch based at Saffron Dynamo FC is also on the FA pitch register. None of the remaining small sided pitches in the District are on the FA pitch register.

***World Rugby compliant pitches***

To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

The RFU investment strategy into 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. There is one 3G pitch in the District, which is World Rugby compliant, based at Leicester Forest RFC.

The RFU reports that there are no current plans to develop new World Rugby Compliant provision in the area.

***Management***

The 3G facility at Brockington College is managed inhouse by the School which has full control of facility access. The pitch at Leicester Forest RFC is managed and operated by the RFU as part of its RFU Rugby 365 terms and conditions of delivery.

There are mixed management models for the six small sided 3G pitches in the District. Pitches at Saffron Dynamos FC and Blaby and Whetstone Youth Club are managed by football clubs, the two pitches provided at the Pavilion Leisure Centre are managed commercially, the pitch at Holmes Park is managed by Leicestershire & Rutland County FA and the pitch at Countesthorpe Community College is managed inhouse by the School.

***Availability***

The availability of both full size pitches is summarised in the table below.

*Table 3.4: Summary of 3G pitch availability*

| **Site ID** | **Site** | **Analysis area** | **Availability** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | Brockington College | Blaby North | Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday. The pitch is available from 09:00 to 18:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. |
| 33 | Leicester Forest RFC | Blaby North | The pitch is available for booking through the RFU Rugby 365 website. The pitch is available for use from 09:00 – 21:00 Monday through to Sunday. |

Provision at Holmes Park and at the Pavilion Leisure Centre is generally available from 09:00 – 21:00 throughout the week and the weekends. The pitch at Countesthorpe Community College is available at the same times as Brockington College.

Small sided provision based at football clubs is predominately accessible around club opening hours and therefore, is generally only accessible during peak times for training and match days.

***Quality***

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (60-79%), Poor (<60%). The quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

The pitch at Brockington College was installed 11 years ago and is therefore considered to be at the end of its anticipated life expectancy. Following a re-test for the FA register it was identified that remedial improvements are required within the next year to ensure that the pitch remains on the register and can maintain its current usage levels.

The pitch at Leicester Forest RFC was installed in 2018 and is of an excellent quality.

*Table 3.5: Age and quality of full size 3G pitches*

| **Site ID** | **Site** | **Analysis area** | **Year installed** | **Quality** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | Brockington College | Blaby North | 2009 | Poor |
| 33 | Leicester Forest RFC | Blaby North | 2018 | Good |

In terms of the small sided provision in the District, pitches located at Holmes Park and Saffron Dynamo FC are good quality have either developed or resurfaced in the last year. Pitches at the Pavilion Leisure Centre and Countesthorpe Community College are standard quality and there is one poor quality pitch at Blaby & Whetstone Youth Club.

***Ancillary facilities***

All full size 3G pitches are accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate and no issues were raised during consultation or via site assessments.

**3.3: Demand**

The pitch at Brockington College is identified as being at capacity during the peak time periods for midweek training. During non-peak hours the pitch is used for small sided recreational football and operates a 6-aside league competition.

The pitch at Leicester Forest RFC was provided to predominately service rugby union. As such, during the peak periods for both midweek training and competitive matches the pitch is at capacity through usage by Leicester Forest RFC or other rugby union clubs in the District which may have a requirement to utilise the facility. The pitch has 10 hours of recorded football usage a week which is made up of a mixture of recreational football programming on Monday evenings and some off peak midweek training.

***Football***

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The pitches can support intensive use and as such are great assets for football use. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they 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.

Of clubs responding to consultation, ten report that they require additional training facilities and specifically mention demand for 3G pitches. Some teams currently access sand-based pitches or indoor sports halls, whilst others do access 3G pitches but do so at undesirable times. The clubs that express a need for more 3G pitches or for greater access to the existing stock are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Blaby Meadows FC * Whetstone Juniors FC * Oadby & Wigston FC * Thurlaston FC * Epworth Forest JFC | * United Revolution FC * Kirby Muxloe FC * Croft Juniors FC * Braunstone United FC * Cosby United FC |

The FA’s long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. In order to calculate the number of football teams a 3G pitch can service for training, peak time access is considered to be from 18:00 until 22:00 Tuesday-Thursday resulting in an overall peak period of 12 hours per week. Mondays and Fridays are not included within this calculation as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match.

Full size 3G pitches are divided into thirds or quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers, it is estimated that 38 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch for training.

Given the above, with 247 teams currently affiliated to the District there is a need for six full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 6.5). As there is currently one full size pitch at Brockington College servicing football, it is considered that there is a need an additional five full size pitches in the District to accommodate all affiliated football demand. For the purposes of the analysis, the pitch at Leicester Forest RFC has been discounted as its primary function is to service rugby union clubs in the Leicestershire area and therefore midweek peak time slots are unavailable to football clubs.

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the analysis area in which they play. As can be seen below, it is clear there the highest shortfall of full size 3G provision is in the Blaby East Analysis Area with a total of three required to meet midweek training demand. There is a need for an additional pitch in both the Blaby North and West analysis areas to also service current levels of demand.

*Table 3.6: Current demand for 3G pitches in the District (based on 38 teams per pitch)*

| **Analysis area** | **Current number of teams** | **3G requirement[[15]](#footnote-15)** | **Current number of 3G pitches[[16]](#footnote-16)** | **Potential shortfall** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Blaby East | 111 | 3 | - | 3 |
| Blaby North | 90 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Blaby West | 46 | 1 | - | 1 |
| **Blaby District** | **247** | **6** | **1** | **5** |

When accounting for future demand through both club aspirations and population growth (an overall forecasted growth of 54 teams) the shortfall increases to seven full size pitches.

It is recognised that for the start of the 2020/21 football season that there will be a full size 3G pitch provided at Kirby Muxloe FC and this will alleviate the shortfall in the Blaby North Analysis Area.

*Match play demand*

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is FA approved, floodlit and available for community use during the peak period.

In the District, both full size 3G pitches, and the small sided pitch at Saffron Dynamo FC have undergone testing and are therefore FA approved to host competitive matches. This is rare when compared to other local authorities and it should enable the stock of pitches to accommodate as much match play as possible. The caveat to this is that programming may need to be adjusted to allow more teams to utilise the facilities and pricing can often be a barrier as grass pitches remain generally cheaper to access.

***Rugby***

As mentioned previously, there is one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in the District located at Leicester Forest RFC. The pitch is utilised by the Club and other District based clubs to accommodate both midweek training and demand for competitive matches. The RFU states that this provision currently meets the local need for 3G pitches for rugby union.

**3.4: Supply and demand analysis**

In conclusion, there is an insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football training demand based on the FA training model in the District. As such, it is determined that an increase in provision is required, with future provision best placed in the Blaby East and Blaby West analysis areas. It is considered that demand in Blaby North will be serviced once the full size pitch at Kirby Muxloe FC is established.

To ensure that current supply and any future supply is of a good enough standard to accommodate demand, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place to ensure long-term sustainability. This will allow for re-surfacing to take place when required and will ensure that FA certification remains in place.

For rugby union, the 3G pitch at Leicester Forest RFC is sufficiently accommodating both training and match demand for the Club (and other clubs in the District) and is therefore considered to be adequate in meeting demand for rugby union.

|  |
| --- |
| **3G summary**   * There are two full size 3G pitches in the District, both of which, are floodlit and available to the community. * In addition, there are six smaller sized 3G pitches located across five sites. * The full size pitch at Leicester Forest RFC is on the FA register and can therefore be used for competitive match play. The pitch at Brockington College is also currently on the FA register for match play but it is identified that remedial improvements are needed to ensure it stays registered for use. * A new full size 3G pitch will be developed at Kirby Muxloe FC and ready for use for the 2020/2021 football season. * The pitch at Leicester Forest RFC is World Rugby Compliant and can also host competitive matches and contact training. The pitch has been developed to service rugby union. * The full size pitch at Brockington College has reached the end of its life expectancy is poor quality. The full size pitch at Leicester Forest RFC is good quality. * There is one poor quality small sided 3G pitch at Blaby & Whetstone FC. Small sided pitches located at Holmes Park and Saffron Dynamo FC are good quality and pitches at the Pavilion Leisure Centre and Countesthorpe Community College are standard quality. * All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate. * With 247 teams currently affiliated to the District there is a shortfall of five full size 3G pitches identified. The 3G pitch being provided at Kirby Muxloe FC will reduce the overall shortfall to four full size pitches. * When studying demand by analysis area, shortfalls are apparent in Blaby East and Blaby West. |

# PART 4: CRICKET

**4.1: Introduction**

Leicestershire Cricket serves as the governing and representative body for cricket across the District. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies. It is working in partnership with the ECB to deliver its refreshed strategy called “Inspiring Generations” which was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

This five-year plan for 2020-24 sets six clear priorities of action. These are:

* Grow and nurture the core
* Inspire through elite teams
* Make cricket accessible
* Engage children and young people
* Transforming women’s and girl’s cricket
* Supporting communities

***Consultation***

There is a total of 15 cricket clubs identified as playing cricket in the District. Countesthorpe CC and Enderby CC were met with face to face whilst the remaining clubs were offered an opportunity to complete an online survey. In total, nine clubs responded to consultation attempts resulting in a 60% response rate.

Non-responsive clubs were offered several opportunities to complete an online survey and were chased via-telephone to inform this section.

*Table 4.1: Consultation summary*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Club name** | **Responded?** |
| Sapcote Cricket Club | No |
| Kirby Muxloe CC | No |
| Leicestershire Teachers & Mossdale CC | Yes |
| Cosby CC | No |
| Whetstone CC | Yes |
| Wigston Town CC | Yes |
| Countesthorpe CC | Yes |
| Blaby CC | Yes |
| Anstey & Glenfield CC | Yes |
| Leicester Ivanhoe CC | No |
| GNG CC | Yes |
| Enderby CC | Yes |
| Narborough & Littlethorpe CC | Yes |
| Braunstone Cricket club[[17]](#footnote-17) | No |
| Huncote Cricket Club | No |

Further to the clubs identified above, it is noted that three cricket clubs have folded in the past three years, these are Croft CC, Sharnford CC and Leicester Forest East CC.

**4.2: Supply**

There are 18 natural turf wicket squares in located across 17 sites. Of these, all are available for community use.

*Table 4.2: Cricket square supply*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Site ID** | **Site** | **Analysis area** | **Community use?** | **No. of squares** |
| 5 | Cosby Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Yes | 1 |
| 7 | Countesthorpe Cricket Club | Blaby East | Yes | 1 |
| 8 | County Hall Sports Ground | Blaby North | Yes | 1 |
| 13 | Enderby Cricket Club | Blaby North | Yes | 1 |
| 17 | Glenfield Sports Ground | Blaby North | Yes | 1 |
| 27 | Huncote Sports and Social Club | Blaby West | Yes | 1 |
| 32 | Kirby Muxloe Sports Club | Blaby North | Yes | 1 |
| 34 | Leicester Road Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Yes | 1 |
| 37 | Meadow Sports Ground | Blaby East | Yes | 1 |
| 39 | Northfield Park | Blaby East | Yes | 1 |
| 44 | Saffron Dynamos FC | Blaby East | Yes | 1 |
| 45 | Sapcote Recreation Ground | Blaby West | Yes | 1 |
| 58 | Warwick Road Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Yes | 1 |
| 61 | Winstanley Community College | Blaby North | Yes | 1 |
| 62 | Winston Avenue Sports Ground | Blaby West | Yes | 1 |
| 66 | Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club | Blaby North | Yes | 2 |
| 67 | Braunstone Lane | Blaby North | Yes | 1 |

In relation to the distribution of facilities across the District, the Blaby North has the highest level of provision with eight grass squares (44% of overall provision. The Blaby West Analysis Area has the least amount of provision with three square identified (17% of overall provision).

Figure 4.1 overleaf identifies all cricket squares currently servicing the District. For a key to the map, see Table 4.2.

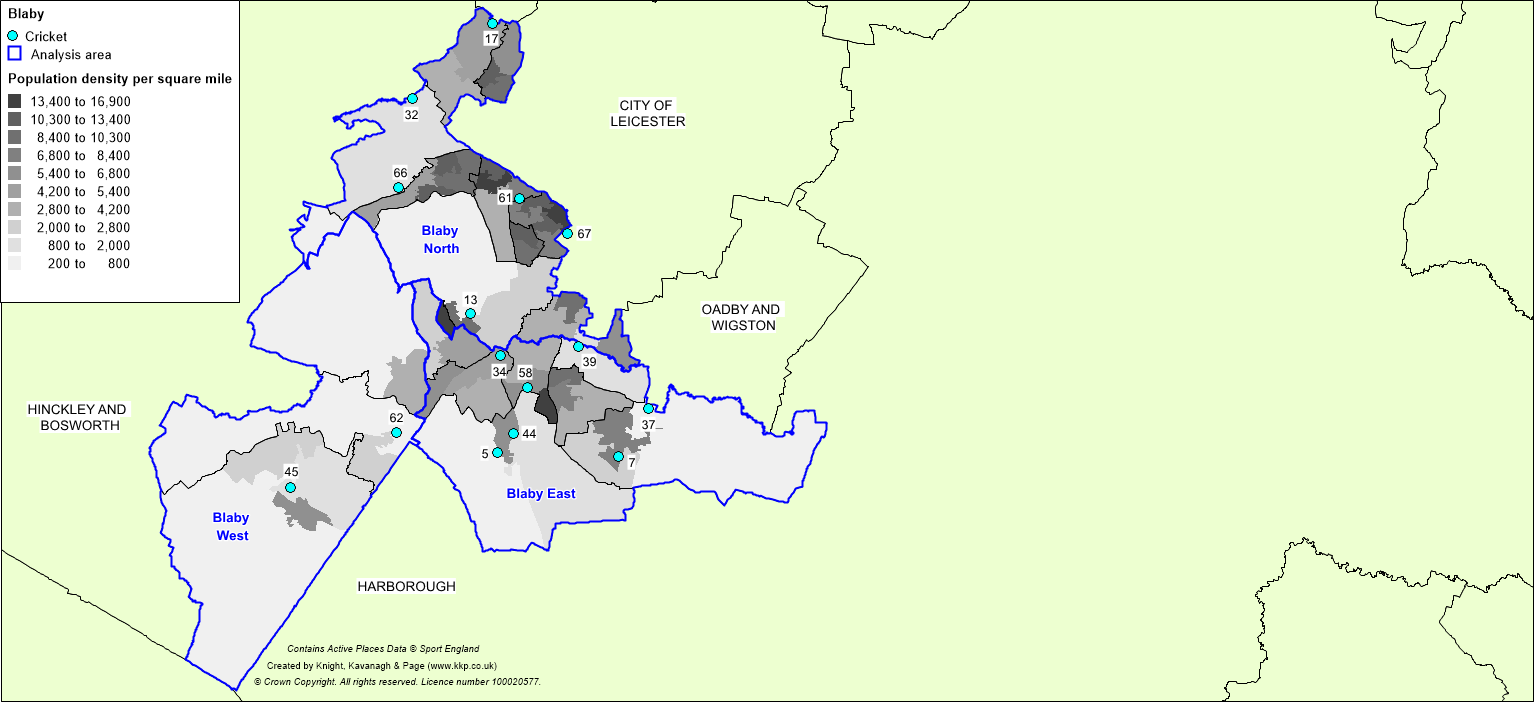
***Disused and lapsed provision***

Playing fields which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed sites’.

Sharnford Cricket Club folded in 2017 and as such the site is now disused with no formal cricket activity affiliated to the site.

In addition, Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground is identified as having a disused cricket square which has not been maintained as a formal cricket offer for several years. However, the remaining site is regularly used and accessed for competitive football.

*Figure 4.1: Cricket square locations*

**

***Non-turf pitches (NTPs)***

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets.

In the District, no standalone squares are identified. There are, however, eight NTPs which accompany existing cricket squares based at club sites:

* Leicester Road Recreation Ground
* Enderby Cricket Club
* Leicester Ivanhoe CC
* Countesthorpe CC
* Cosby Recreation Ground
* Winston Avenue Sports Ground
* Kirby Muxloe Sports Club
* Glenfield Sports Ground

***Future provision***

There are no set plans to create new cricket provision in the District. However, Countesthorpe CC aspires to develop a new cricket ground in Countesthorpe to accommodate its peak time senior match play. It has identified a plot of agricultural land on Leicester Road (opposite Meadow Sports Ground) as a potential location for development. The Club acknowledge that development of this site is cost prohibitive and therefore unlikely to go ahead.

*ECB Ball Strike*

Where there is either new cricket provision being put in place, or more commonly a development which may prejudice the use of the cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such, the ECB recommends that the clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken; further information can be provided by the ECB.

Countesthorpe CC highlight that it is actively looking to purchase netting to surround its ground to prevent potential ball strike issues with nearby housing. The square used by Cosby CC (based at Cosby Recreation Ground) is located near to a children’s play area. Whilst there have not been any historical issues with this, it is still considered to be a risk area.

***Security of tenure***

The table below shows the tenure arrangement of cricket clubs in the District. Based on feedback from consultation, most clubs in the District are considered to have secure tenure. Clubs which are based at parish council owned facilities are likely to play on facilities which are secure and therefore no perceived issues with tenure have been identified.

GNG CC and Bharat Sports CC are the only clubs which have unsecure tenure in the District as a result of having short term rental agreements in place for use of Braunstone Lane, from Leicester City Council. While there are no perceived issues with this for either club, the site cannot be considered to be a secure site to clubs from the Blaby District with it operating primarily for Leicester City based clubs.

Winston Avenue Sports Ground is included in the table below, but currently has no regular site user. It was the previous home venue to Croft CC and before it folded several years ago. Croft Parish Council (which manage the site) state that it will only permit use of the square to users from the Village and therefore at the present time, this provision has been inaccessible for other clubs/teams in the District and the wider Leicestershire region.

*Table 4.3: Club tenure arrangements*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Club** | **Tenure arrangement** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | Cosby Recreation Ground | Cosby CC | Rental |
| 7 | Countesthorpe Cricket Club | Countesthorpe CC | Freehold |
| 8 | County Hall Sports Ground | County Officers CC | *Unknown* |
| 13 | Enderby Cricket Club | Enderby CC | Long term lease |
| 17 | Glenfield Sports Ground | Anstey and Glenfield CC | Long term lease |
| 27 | Huncote Sports and Social Club | Huncote CC | *Unknown* |
| 32 | Kirby Muxloe Sports Club | Kirby Muxloe CC | Freehold |
| 34 | Leicester Road Recreation Ground | Narborough & Littlethorpe CC | Long term lease |
| 37 | Meadow Sports Ground | Wigston CC | Long term lease |
| 39 | Northfield Park | Blaby Village CC | Freehold |
| 44 | Saffron Dynamos FC | Leicestershire Teachers and Mossdale CC | Unknown |
| 45 | Sapcote Recreation Ground | Sapcote CC | *Unknown* |
| 58 | Warwick Road Recreation Ground | Whetstone CC | Long term lease |
| 61 | Winstanley Community College | Braunstone CC | Rental |
| 62 | Winston Avenue Sports Ground | **-** | No current user |
| 66 | Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club | Leicestershire Ivanhoe CC | Freehold |
| 67 | Braunstone Lane | GNG CC/Bharat Sports CC | Annual rental |

***Pitch quality***

The quality of cricket pitches in the District have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

* Good
* Standard
* Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%).

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to nearby players.

The non-technical assessment of community available grass wicket squares in the District found four squares to be good quality and 14 squares to be standard. No squares were identified as being poor quality through the non-technical audit.

*Table 4.4: Quality ratings for community available grass wicket squares (site by site)*

| **Site ID** | **Site** | **No. of squares** | **Square quality** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | Cosby Recreation Ground | 1 | Standard |
| 7 | Countesthorpe Cricket Club | 1 | Standard |
| 8 | County Hall Sports Ground | 1 | Standard |
| 13 | Enderby Cricket Club | 1 | Good |
| 17 | Glenfield Sports Ground | 1 | Good |
| 27 | Huncote Sports and Social Club | 1 | Standard |
| 32 | Kirby Muxloe Sports Club | 1 | Standard |
| 34 | Leicester Road Recreation Ground | 1 | Good |
| 37 | Meadow Sports Ground | 1 | Good |
| 39 | Northfield Park | 1 | Standard |
| 44 | Saffron Dynamos FC | 1 | Standard |
| 45 | Sapcote Recreation Ground | 1 | Standard |
| 58 | Warwick Road Recreation Ground | 1 | Standard |
| 61 | Winstanley Community College | 1 | Standard |
| 62 | Winston Avenue Sports Ground | 1 | Standard |
| 66 | Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club | 2 | Standard |
| 67 | Braunstone Lane | 1 | Standard |

Leicestershire Teachers and Mossdale CC highlight that the quality of its outfield has declined in the past season due to the outfield being maintained by the joint site user, Saffron Dynamo FC. The Club is one of the largest football clubs in the District and plays competitive fixtures on the outfield of the square, where there are several football pitches marked.

Whetstone CC highlight that it struggles to achieve good grass coverage on its outfield and that has issues maintaining weeds. More so, it notes that weeds are prone to spreading on to the square, affecting overall square quality. It also suggests that due to a lack of resources, its square has declined in quality over the past year.

GNG CC states that the square at Braunstone Lane is poor quality (maintained by Leicester City Council), with opposing clubs often commenting to league officials about the playability of the playing surface.

No other clubs in the District highlight any specific issues with the quality of their respective squares.

Many clubs in the District are located at parks, recreation grounds or shared sites with local football clubs. Consequently, issues can emerge relating to cricket outfields. The following sites have outfields which are overmarked with football pitches:

* Glenfield Sports Ground
* Huncote Sports and Social Club
* Saffron Dynamo FC (Leicestershire Teachers and Mossdale CC)
* Warwick Road Recreation Ground
* Winston Avenue Sports Ground

To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards, which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsman.

*Table 4.5: Performance Quality Standard Ratings*

| **Quality rating** | **Details** |
| --- | --- |
| Premier (High) | Where the surface is intended for Premier League play, with those within the top quartile capable of holding minor county and 1st class one day matches. May include some of the better schools and university pitches. |
| Club (Standard) | A Club pitch suitable for league, school and junior cricket. |
| Basic | An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket and where the surface is designed and maintained within tight financial limitations such as local authorities. |
| Unsuitable | This is where the surface is deemed unfit or unsafe for play. |

Clubs can contact the ECB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports (comprehensive/mini/verbal) that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

***Ancillary facilities***

Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site and their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire, spectator facilities and boundary fencing.

Wigston Town CC (based at Meadow Sports Ground) highlight that its clubhouse is located around 100 metres from the onsite cricket square and therefore pitch side facilities are wholly inadequate for match day competition. The non-technical audit of the clubhouse also found it to be poor quality, with the facility being dated, showing high levels of wear and tear and a general need to be modernised. The facility is shared with football clubs; Magna 73 and Oadby and Wigston FC.

Whetstone CC highlight that its ground has suffered from high levels of vandalism in the past year, with graffiti, burglary and burnt out motorbikes on its ground. It also adds that its changing pavilion is poor quality due to its old age and lack of investment over recent years.

The ancillary offer at both Winston Avenue Sports Ground and GNG CC is similar to Whetstone CC whereby facilities are outdated and not generally suitable to accommodate modern day cricket.

The table below highlights ancillary quality on a site by site basis.

*Table 4.6: Site by site breakdown of ancillary quality*

| **Site ID** | **Site** | **Club** | **Ancillary quality** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | Cosby Recreation Ground | Cosby CC | Standard |
| 7 | Countesthorpe Cricket Club | Countesthorpe CC | Standard |
| 8 | County Hall Sports Ground | County Officers CC | Standard |
| 13 | Enderby Cricket Club | Enderby CC | Good |
| 17 | Glenfield Sports Ground | Anstey and Glenfield CC | Good |
| 27 | Huncote Sports and Social Club | Huncote CC | Standard |
| 32 | Kirby Muxloe Sports Club | Kirby Muxloe | Good |
| 34 | Leicester Road Recreation Ground | Narborough & Littlethorpe CC | Good |
| 37 | Meadow Sports Ground | Wigston CC | Poor |
| 39 | Northfield Park | Blaby Village CC | Standard |
| 44 | Saffron Dynamos FC | Leicestershire Teachers and Mossdale CC | Good |
| 45 | Sapcote Recreation Ground | Sapcote CC | Good |
| 58 | Warwick Road Recreation Ground | Whetstone CC | Poor |
| 61 | Winstanley Community College | Braunstone CC[[18]](#footnote-18) | Standard |
| 62 | Winston Avenue Sports Ground | **-** | Poor |
| 66 | Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club | Leicestershire Ivanhoe CC | Standard |
| 67 | Braunstone Lane | GNG CC/Bharat Sports | Poor |

***Training facilities***

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Of clubs which responded to consultation, just one, GNG CC highlights a need for new provision. It suggests a need for practise nets at its site on Braunstone Lane to help improve its ability to undertake training.

No other responding club identified a specific need for training facilities.

**4.3: Demand**

There are 16 clubs competing in Blaby District, generating 57 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 32 senior men’s and 24 junior boys’ teams as seen below.

*Table 4.7: Summary of teams*

| **Club name** | **No. of competitive teams** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Senior men’s** | **Senior women’s** | **Junior boys’** | **Junior girls’** |
| Anstey & Glenfield CC | 2 | - | - | - |
| Blaby Village CC | 1 | - | - | - |
| Braunstone CC | 1 | - | - | - |
| Bharat Sports | 1 | - | - | - |
| Cosby CC | 2 | - | 1 | - |
| Countesthorpe CC[[19]](#footnote-19) | 2 | 1 | 7 | - |
| Enderby CC | 3 | - | 5 | - |
| GNG CC | 1 | - | - | - |
| Huncote CC | 2 | - | - | - |
| Kirby Muxloe CC | 2 | - | 4 | - |
| Leicester Ivanhoe CC | 4 | - | 4 | - |
| Leicestershire Teachers & Mossdale CC | 3 | - | - | - |
| Narborough & Littlethorpe CC | 2 | - | 3 | - |
| Sapcote Cricket Club | 2 | - | - | - |
| Whetstone CC | **2** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| Wigston Town CC | **2** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| **Blaby District** | **32** | **1** | **24** | **-** |

Most ECB affiliated senior teams play in the Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket League and most junior teams play in the Leicestershire & Rutland Youth Cricket League, with junior teams also playing in friendly competitions.

Participation levels for ECB affiliated cricket clubs within the District are mixed with most clubs offering one or two senior men’s teams, with no associated junior section. Six of the 16 clubs offer a junior section, with Countesthorpe CC having the largest, with a total of seven dedicated junior teams.

Clubs which operate with a small number of senior teams should be monitored to ensure that they do not fold in the future, with support offered (where possible) to sustain participation.

*All Stars Cricket*

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine cricket clubs in the District can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs.

The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

* Increase cricket activity for five to eight year olds in the school and club environment
* Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition
* Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle
* Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment
* Use fun small sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game

Several clubs in the District operate as All Star centres. These are Enderby CC, Narborough & Littlethorpe CC, Anstey and Glenfield CC, Kirby Muxloe CC, Sapcote CC, Wigston Town CC and Leicestershire Ivanhoe CC. Countesthorpe CC has historically run sessions but has since stopped due to a lack of volunteers to operate sessions.

The ECB has launched Dynamos Cricket, a new programme to inspire kids aged 8-11 to play cricket. Dynamos Cricket is the latest launch by the ECB, building on the existing All Stars programme for 5-8-year-olds. Participants will continue to develop their skills and be introduced to a countdown style of cricket match.

*Softball cricket*

Softball cricket is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections are enjoyment and participation; without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats. Playing equipment is supplied by festival organisers, with all participants provided with a t-shirt for taking part.

Each match consists of two teams of six to eight people, with everyone having an opportunity to bat and bowl. Each team bats once, with a pair of batters facing two or three overs. Batters are dismissed in traditional ways, but bowling can be either overarm or underarm, depending on the bowler’s preference. Each batting team starts with a score of 200 runs, with runs added to this total by running between the wickets or by hitting the ball to a boundary. Two runs are added to the total for each wide ball; whilst five runs are removed when a batter is out.

There are no specific Softball cricket opportunities in the District. Leicestershire & Rutland Sport often run an annual Softball festival to encourage demand. In 2019, this was based in Leicester Electricity Cricket Club in neighbouring City, Leicester.

***Cricket Playing Survey***

The ECB’s most recent Cricket Playing Survey (2019[[20]](#footnote-20)) identified:

* A 1.2% increase in player numbers between 2018 and 2019.
* Of the 822,000 players nationally, 229,000 are ‘core’ players (playing at least 12 weeks per season), 353,000 are ‘occasional’ players (playing between three and 11 weeks per season) and 238,000 are ‘cameo’ players (playing once or two weeks per season).
* 81.4% of completed fixtures were played in 2019, 5.4% of completed fixtures were abandoned and 7.5% of completed fixtures were cancelled.
* Compared to 2018, conceded fixtures decreased by 15% to 5.7% of completed fixtures and short sided games also decreased by 11% in 2019 v 2018 to 11.7% of completed fixtures.

***Exported demand***

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

Countesthorpe CC is the only Club in the District which exports demand outside of the area. Its 3rd and 4th team travel to Gilmorton CC into neighbouring authority, Harborough, to play competitive fixtures. It specifically states an aspiration to play its fixtures for these teams within Countesthorpe.

***Imported demand***

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

GNG CC and Bharat Sports CC both import demand into the District from Leicester. The teams share the facility at Braunstone Lane on a rotational basis. This isn’t a perceived issue given the management and ownership of Braunstone Lane, via Leicester City Council.

***Latent demand***

Latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available, whereas exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area. There is no identified latent demand in the District.

***Last Man Stands***

Last Man Stands (LMS) is a social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on non-turf wickets. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the ‘Last Man Stands’ on his own. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and is increasing in popularity.

There are two LMS leagues which service residents from the Blaby District, but are in Leicester. The specific leagues which Leicester Midweek League Premier and the Leicester Midweek League Division 1.

***Future demand***

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

The ECB’s refreshed strategy called “Inspiring Generations” was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

Inspiring Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women’s and girls’ cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

* Growing and nurture the core
* Inspiring through elite teams
* Making cricket accessible
* Engaging children and young people
* Transforming women’s and girl’s cricket
* Supporting communities

*Participation increases*

Five clubs in the District highlight aspirations to increase the current number of teams they currently operate. In total, this aspirational growth equates to two senior men’s, one senior ladies’ and four junior boys’ teams.

*Table 4.8: Cricket club growth aspirations*

| **Club** | **Analysis area** | **Identified future demand** | | | | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Senior men** | | **Senior**  **ladies** | | **Junior boys** | | **Junior girls** | | **Total** | |
| Countesthorpe CC | Blaby East | - | | - | | 1 | | **-** | | **1** | |
| Enderby CC | Blaby North | 1 | | 1 | | - | | **-** | | **2** | |
| Blaby Village CC | Blaby East | 1 | | - | | - | | **-** | | **1** | |
| Narborough & Littlethorpe CC | Blaby East | - | | - | | 2 | | **-** | | **2** | |
| Anstey & Glenfield CC | Blaby North | - | | - | | 1 | | **-** | | **1** | |
| **Blaby District** | | | **2** | | **1** | | **4** | | **-** | | **7** | |

Of the above, it is noted that Blaby Village CC has registered a senior men’s team for the 2020 cricket season.

*Population forecasts*

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2037) based on population growth. When team generation rates are applied across the District is considered enough demand to create three junior boys’ teams.

*Table 4.9: Team generation rates (2037)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age group** | **Current population within age group** | **Current no. of teams** | **Team Generation Rate[[21]](#footnote-21)** | **Future population within age group** | **Predicted future number of teams** | **Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population** |
| Senior Men’s (18-55) | 23,031 | 32 | 1:720 | 24,010 | 33 | 1 |
| Senior Women’s (18-55) | 24,175 | 1 | 1:24175 | 24,808 | 1 | 0 |
| Junior Boys (7-18) | 7,022 | 17 | 1:413 | 7,982 | 19 | 2 |
| Junior Girls (7-18) | 6,764 | 0 | 0 | 7,660 | 0 | 0 |

ONS population increases are likely to result three additional teams in the District. However, once TGRs are applied to individual analysis areas a more detailed representation of where exactly the predicated growth will occur emerges. Applied this way, it forecasts the growth of one junior team in the Blaby North Analysis Area, with all remaining growth likely to complement existing team numbers.

Please note that due to limited women’s or girls’ teams currently existing in the District, team generation rates automatically predict that none will be created in the future as it takes current participation as a baseline.

It is important to acknowledge that whilst team generation rates project team growth as a factor of population and existing teams, there are plans and strategies to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends suggest, due to a desire to change such trends. For example, female growth at women’s and girls’ age groups is relatively small, however, there are planned increases in activity around female participation through both All Stars Cricket which are likely to reflect in growth above levels shown through team generation rates. As such, based on feedback provided by Leicestershire Cricket, a total of three junior teams of future demand have been added to the overall total to account for local participation programmes.

As anticipated growth in cricket through population rises is expected to be low, this figure (one boys’ team) and identified club aspirations will be used as future demand figures. Further to this, additional demand for junior cricket, equating to three teams, will be added to account for local participation programmes. In total, future demand equates to two senior men’s teams, one senior ladies and eight junior boys teams.

***Peak time demand***

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturday, with most teams playing at this time (29 teams). The remaining three senior teams play on Sundays.

For junior cricket, peak time demand is midweek, with all clubs’ youth sections playing between Monday and Friday. As a result, squares have greater capacity to carry junior demand as play can be spread across numerous days (providing the squares are not overplayed).

**4.4: Capacity analysis**

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than weekly basis. This is due to playability (i.e. only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening). Wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and allow repair. Therefore, it is more accurate to assess capacity seasonally rather than weekly. The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section presents the current square stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

As a guide, The ECB has set a standard number of matches that each grass wicket pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Adult wickets** | | **Junior wickets** | |
| **Pitch quality** | **Matches per week** | **Pitch quality** | **Matches per week** |
| Good | 5 | Good | 7 |
| Standard | 4 | Standard | 4 |
| Poor | 0 | Poor | 0 |

To help calculate square capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality natural turf wicket should be able to take five matches per season per natural turf wicket (adults). This information is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

*Table 4.10: Capacity of cricket squares*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **Site users** | **Security of tenure** | **Community use?** | **No. of squares** | **Pitch quality** | **No. of grass wickets** | **Capacity**  **(sessions per season)** | **Actual play**  **(sessions per season)** | **Capacity rating (sessions per season)** | **Potential spare capacity for senior Saturday cricket?** | **Potential spare capacity for midweek junior cricket?** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | Cosby Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Cosby CC | Secure | Yes | 1 | Standard | 10 | 40 | 17 | 23 | No | Yes |
| 7 | Countesthorpe Cricket Club | Blaby East | Countesthorpe CC | Secure | Yes | 1 | Standard | 11 | 44 | 40 | 4 | No | Yes |
| 8 | County Hall Sports Ground | Blaby North | County Officers CC | Secure | Yes | 1 | Standard | 8 | 32 | 16 | 16 | No | Yes |
| 13 | Enderby Cricket Club | Blaby North | Enderby CC | Secure | Yes | 1 | Good | 9 | 45 | 36 | 9 | No | Yes |
| 17 | Glenfield Sports Ground | Blaby North | Anstey and Glenfield CC | Secure | Yes | 1 | Good | 9 | 45 | 18 | 34 | No | Yes |
| 27 | Huncote Sports and Social Club | Blaby West | Huncote CC | Secure | Yes | 1 | Standard | 8 | 32 | - | 12 | No | Yes |
| 32 | Kirby Muxloe Sports Club | Blaby North | Kirby Muxloe | Secure | Yes | 1 | Standard | 9 | 36 | 30 | 6 | No | Yes |
| 34 | Leicester Road Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Narborough & Littlethorpe CC | Secure | Yes | 1 | Good | 13 | 65 | 30 | 35 | No | Yes |
| 37 | Meadow Sports Ground | Blaby East | Wigston CC | Secure | Yes | 1 | Good | 8 | 40 | 20 | 20 | No | Yes |
| 39 | Northfield Park | Blaby East | Blaby Village CC | Secure | Yes | 1 | Standard | 6 | 24 | 12 | 12 | Yes | Yes |
| 44 | Saffron Dynamos FC | Blaby East | Leicestershire Teachers and Mossdale CC | Secure | Yes | 1 | Standard | 9 | 44 | 22 | 22 | No | Yes |
| 45 | Sapcote Recreation Ground | Blaby West | Sapcote CC | Secure | Yes | 1 | Standard | 8 | 32 | 18 | 24 | No | Yes |
| 58 | Warwick Road Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Whetstone CC | Secure | Yes | 1 | Standard | 6 | 24 | 16 | 8 | No | Yes |
| 61 | Winstanley Community College | Blaby North | Braunstone CC | **Unsecure** | Yes | 1 | Standard | 9 | 36 | 11 | 25 | No | No |
| 62 | Winston Avenue Sports Ground | Blaby West | **-** | Secure | Yes | 1 | Standard | 9 | 36 | - | 36 | Yes\* | Yes |
| 66 | Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club | Blaby North | Leicestershire Ivanhoe CC | Secure | Yes | 2 | Standard | 10 | 40 | 30 | 10 | No | Yes |
| 7 | 28 | 16 | 12 | No | Yes |
| 67 | Braunstone Lane | Blaby North | GNG CC/Bharat Sports | **Unsecure** | Yes | 1 | Standard | 10 | 40 | 18 | 22 | No | No |

\* For the purpose of the capacity analysis, it is considered that Winston Avenue Sports Ground has spare capacity during the peak time period for senior and junior cricket. This is on the basis that the square may become accessible for clubs in the future and a solution can be agreed with Croft Parish Council. The forthcoming Strategy & Action Plan will explore the effect of this being remaining unavailable to the the overall supply vs demand balance.

***Spare capacity***

A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage at peak time. For senior cricket, peak time is Saturday as this is when most demand exists. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Saturday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Saturday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Saturday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified.

Notwithstanding the above, there may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

As such, two sites in the District are considered to have actual spare capacity in the peak period for senior cricket, these are; Northfield Park and Winston Avenue Sports Ground. Based on current demand at Northfield Park, there is the potential for one additional Saturday cricket team to access the site for competitive matches. Winston Avenue had no identified cricket usage in the 2019 season and therefore has capacity to accommodate two additional Saturday cricket teams. No other site has capacity for senior cricket.

For junior cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because junior matches are generally played during midweek, where matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams. Moreover, where there is the of NTPs, this provides further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for junior cricket, it must not be poor quality, have secure tenure, not be overplayed or have more than four match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is the average number of matches an additional junior team would play. Furthermore, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play junior fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars).

In relation to junior cricket, all sites but one is considered to have capacity to accommodate additional match play. As junior cricket is predominately played midweek or Sundays, there is a higher scope to accommodate this demand on various dates. Only Braunstone Lane is discounted due clubs having unsecure tenure on the site. The table below looks to highlight the potential number of additional teams all available sites could accommodate if demand increased.

*Table 4.11: Spare capacity summary of junior cricket*

| **Site**  **ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **No. of squares** | **Actual spare capacity**  **(MES)** | **Number of additional team that could be accommodated** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | Cosby Recreation Ground | Blaby East | 1 | 23 | 5 x teams |
| 7 | Countesthorpe Cricket Club | Blaby East | 1 | 4 | - |
| 8 | County Hall Sports Ground | Blaby North | 1 | 16 | 4 x teams |
| 13 | Enderby Cricket Club | Blaby North | 1 | 9 | 1 x team |
| 17 | Glenfield Sports Ground | Blaby North | 1 | 34 | 6 x teams |
| 27 | Huncote Sports and Social Club | Blaby West | 1 | 12 | 3 x teams |
| 32 | Kirby Muxloe Sports Club | Blaby North | 1 | 6 | 1 x team |
| 34 | Leicester Road Recreation Ground | Blaby East | 1 | 35 | 3 x teams |
| 37 | Meadow Sports Ground | Blaby East | 1 | 20 | 5 x teams |
| 39 | Northfield Park | Blaby East | 1 | 12 | 3 x teams |
| 44 | Saffron Dynamos FC | Blaby East | 1 | 22 | 5 x teams |
| 45 | Sapcote Recreation Ground | Blaby West | 1 | 24 | 6 x teams |
| 58 | Warwick Road Recreation Ground | Blaby East | 1 | 8 | 2 x teams |
| 62 | Winston Avenue Sports Ground | Blaby West | 1 | 36 | 6 x teams |
| 66 | Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club | Blaby North | 2 | 22 | 5 x teams |

***Overplay***

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain. While it is possible to sustain certain minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a resolution is recommended to ensure that there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

In the District, no sites are identified as being overplayed. More established clubs with both senior and junior sections, such as Countesthorpe, Kirby Muxloe and Enderby, are operating closer to capacity when compared to other clubs in the District, which only offer opportunities for competitive senior cricket, although as stated, none are overplayed.

**4.5: Supply and demand analysis**

Consideration must be given to the extent in which provision can accommodate current and future demand.

The table below looks at actual spare capacity during the peak period (Saturday) for senior cricket against identified exported and future demand. Future demand is based on club aspirations; with population growth predicting relatively no growth, it is considered that such demand will be absorbed via club-driven increases in participation.

For this, please note that actual spare capacity is converted from squares to match equivalent sessions. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (ten) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (one team per 0.5 squares that are available). The entirety of spare capacity available at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time (the maximum amount of spare capacity that can be accommodated on one square at peak time is 20 match equivalent sessions). Any remaining spare capacity could be used outside of this (midweek or Sunday).

Similarly, match equivalent sessions for future demand are based on the average number of matches played per season by the respective team type (ten matches for senior men’s matches).

*Table 4.12: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior Saturday cricket*

| **Analysis area** | **Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)** | **Demand (match sessions)** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Future demand** | **Exported demand** | **Total** |
| Blaby East | **10** | **-** | **10** | **10** | **20** | **20** |
| Blaby North | **-** | **-** | **-** | **10** | **-** | **10** |
| Blaby West | **20** | **-** | **20** | **-** | **-** | **20** |
| **Blaby District** | **30** | **-** | **30** | **20** | **20** | **10** |

The analysis identifies that there is currently spare capacity for senior cricket in the District, with this aligned to Northfield Park and Winston Avenue Sports Ground. In contrast, it identifies that there are potential future shortfalls aligned to the Blaby East and North analysis areas. Future demand is a result of aspirations expressed by Enderby and Blaby Village cricket clubs for more teams and exported demand from Countesthorpe CC (3rd and 4th team play at Gilmorton CC in Harborough).Overall, future shortfalls for senior cricket equate to ten match equivalent sessions per season (or access to 0.5 squares).

***Junior cricket capacity balance***

The table below looks at actual spare capacity during the peak period (midweek) for junior cricket.

For this, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams playing home and away) multiplied by four (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because additional demand at peak time is not limited to one day.

Future demand is quantified by multiplying the predicted future number of junior teams and multiplying is by the average number of matches played during a season (four). Future demand includes population growth identified by TGRs, club aspirations and additional growth identified by Leicestershire Cricket. The additional demand identified by Leicestershire Cricket is accounted for through the District total. This is because this cannot be fully aligned to any specific club at this point.

*Table 4.13: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for junior cricket*

| **Analysis area** | **Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)** | **Demand (match sessions)** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Future demand** | **Exported demand** | **Total** |
| Blaby East | 92 | **-** | 92 | **12** | **-** | 70 |
| Blaby North | 68 | **-** | 68 | **8** | **-** | 60 |
| Blaby West | 60 | **-** | 60 | **-** | **-** | 60 |
| **Blaby District** | **220** | **-** | **220** | **32** | **-** | **188** |

As can be, there is sufficient capacity to accommodate demand for junior cricket both now and in the future across the District, with no potential shortfalls identified.

**4.6: Conclusion**

In conclusion, based on current demand levels, there is sufficient capacity in the District to accommodate existing demand for cricket provision. While demand levels are suitably accommodated, with no overplay identified, it is noteworthy that many sites provide standard quality cricket squares and therefore have scope for quality improvements to

It is also apparent that there are future shortfalls for senior cricket at peak time (Saturday) in the District, with this aligned to the Blaby East and North analysis areas. Largely, this is associated to future demand from club aspirations and exported demand from Countesthorpe CC, which specifically state an aspiration to play within the District.

For junior cricket, it is clear that there is sufficient capacity both now and, in the future, to accommodate demand, with most sites having the potential to accommodate additional midweek demand.

|  |
| --- |
| **Cricket summary**   * **In summary, there is sufficient supply of cricket provision to cater for current demand in the District.** * **When accounting for identified future demand and exported demand, a shortfall emerges for senior cricket.** * There are 18 grass wicket squares in the District across 17 sites. Of these all are available for community use. There are also two disused sites which are disused following clubs folding. These are located at Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground and Sharnford CC. * There are eight NTPs that accompany grass wicket squares, these are all located at club sites. * Most clubs based in the District are considered to have secure tenure. Teams imported into the District are not considered to have secure tenure. * The non-technical assessment of community available grass wicket squares found four squares to be good quality and 13 squares to be standard. No squares were identified as being poor quality through the non-technical audit. * The audit of ancillary facilities determines that provision at four sites is poor quality, these are at Meadow Sports Ground, Warwick Road Recreation Ground, Winston Avenue Recreation Ground and Braunstone Lane East. * There are 15 clubs competing in the Blaby District, generating 57 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 32 senior men’s, one senior women’s and 24 junior boys’ teams. * Countesthorpe CC exports senior demand outside of the District to accommodate competitive fixtures. * Future demand in the DIstrict equates to two senior men’s teams, one senior woman’s and eight junior boys’ teams. This is derived from club aspirations, TGRs and ECB participation programmes. |

# PART 5: RUGBY UNION

**5.1: Introduction**

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for rugby union. It is split into six areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions, Blaby falls into Area 4. A full-time development officer is responsible for the District (as part of the wider region) and works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, 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 five rugby union clubs playing in the District. Three clubs were responsive to consultation attempts resulting in a response rate of 60%. Non-responsive clubs were offered several opportunities to complete an online survey and were chased via-telephone to inform this section.

*Table 5.1: Consultation summary*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Club name** | **Responded?** |
| Cosby RFC | No |
| Old Newtonians RFC | Yes |
| Leicester Forest RFC | Yes |
| Leicester Lions RFC | Yes |
| Vipers RFC | No |

**5.2: Supply**

In the District there are 12 senior and two mini/junior rugby union pitches provided across seven sites. All pitches are available, at some level, for community use. No pitches are identified as being unavailable for community use.

*Table 5.2: Supply of rugby union pitches available for community use*

| **Analysis area** | **No. of senior pitches** | **No. of mini/junior pitches** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Blaby East | 7 | - |
| Blaby North | 5 | 2 |
| Blaby West | - | - |
| **Blaby District** | **12** | **2** |

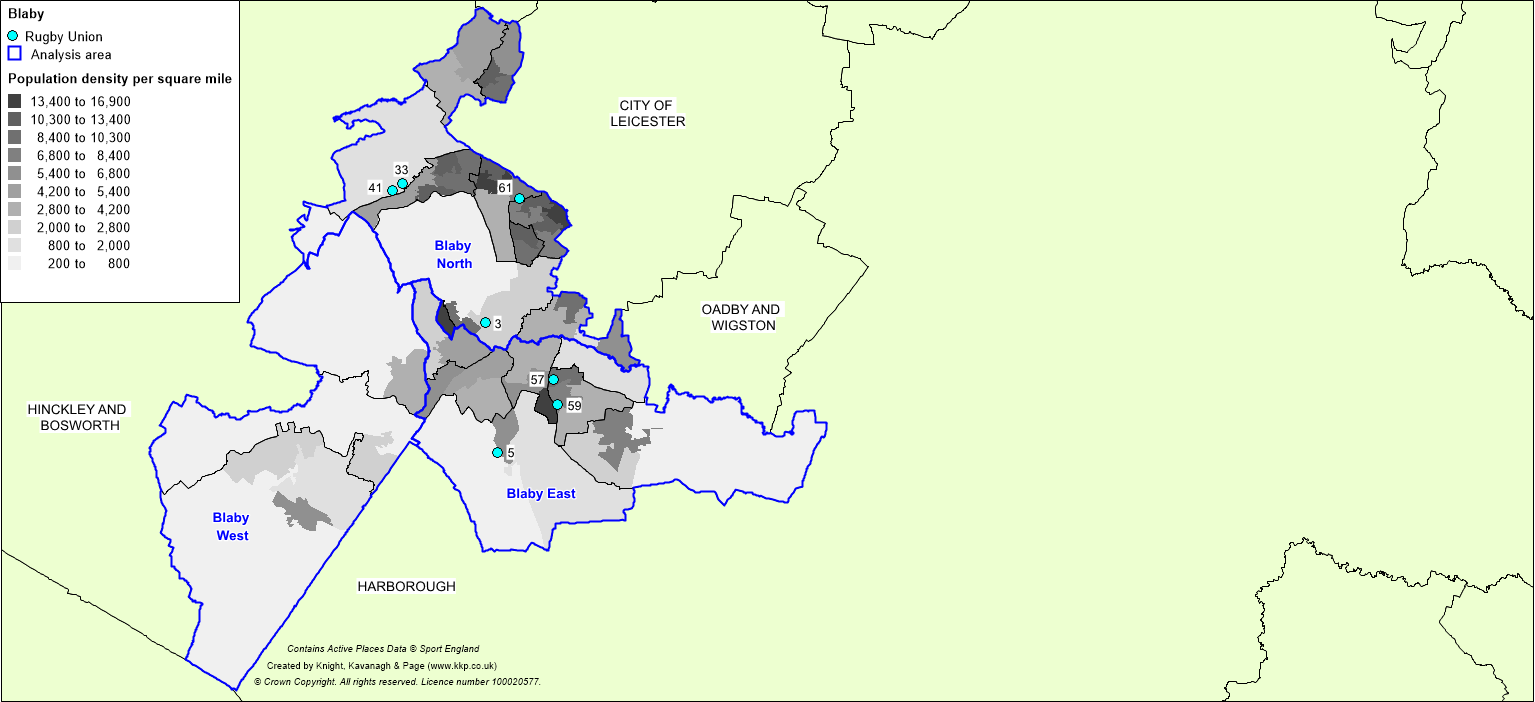
Traditionally, mini and junior rugby takes place on over marked senior pitches and this largely the case across the District with mini and junior teams from all clubs accessing senior pitches for both training and competitive matches.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please see the table below.

Figure 5.1 overleaf identifies all rugby union pitches currently servicing the District. For a key to the map, see Table 5.8.

*Table 5.3: Pitch dimensions*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Age** | **Pitch type** | **Maximum pitch dimensions (metres)*[[22]](#footnote-22)*** |
| U7 | Mini | 20 x 12 |
| U8 | Mini | 45 x 22 |
| U9 | Mini | 60 x 30 |
| U10 | Mini | 60 x 35 |
| U11 | Mini | 60 x 43 |
| U12 | Mini | 60 x 43 |
| U13 | Junior | 90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls) |
| U14 + | Senior | 100 x 70*[[23]](#footnote-23)* |

*Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches*

***Security of tenure***

Four of the five rugby union clubs in the District (80% of all clubs) have freehold of their respective sites as follows:

* Leicester Forest RFC
* Leicester Lions RFC
* Old Newtonians RFC
* Vipers RFC

Cosby RFC is the only club in the District which does not have freehold of its site. The Club has a licence to access the site from Cosby Parish Council. Despite not having freehold of the site, the Club is considered to have secure tenure as facilities at the site will be provided for the foreseeable future.

***Pitch quality***

The quality of rugby pitches across the District have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by RFU) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

* Good
* Standard
* Poor

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. 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:

*Table 5.4: Definition of maintenance categories*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Definition** |
| M0 | Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme |
| M1 | Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme |
| M2 | Action is no improvements to maintenance programme |

*Table 5.5: Definition of drainage categories*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Definition** |
| D0 | Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch |
| D1 | Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch |
| D2 | Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch |
| D3 | No action is needed on pitch drainage |

*Table 5.6: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores*

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

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 that has been installed in the last five years.

Based on the above criterion, there are ten standard quality pitches and one poor quality pitch in the District.

In addition to this, there is one standard quality mini pitch at Old Newtonians RFC and one poor quality junior pitch at Winstanley Community College.

A breakdown of senior pitch quality by analysis area is shown in the table below.

*Table 5.7: Quality of senior rugby union pitches*

| **Analysis area** | **Senior pitch quality** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Good** | **Standard** | **Poor** |
| Blaby East | - | 6 | 1 |
| Blaby North | - | 4 | 1 |
| Blaby West | - | - | - |
| **Blaby District** | - | 10 | 2 |

The majority of senior rugby union pitches are standard quality. Standard quality pitches are located at the four club sites; Vipers RFC, Leicester Forest RFC, Leicester Lions RFC and Old Newtonians RFC. All clubs suitably maintain pitches at each site which correlates to no significant issues being identified during the non-technical assessments. The RFU report that pitches at Vipers RFC are also considered to be close to reaching an M2 maintenance score.

Of the ten standard quality pitches, it is noted that the 1st xv pitch at Leicester Lions RFC has a recently installed drainage system. The system was installed as part of a mitigation in which the club disposed of one senior pitch for residential development.

Cosby RFC (based at Cosby Recreation Ground) is the only club based pitch in the District which is poor quality. The pitch is maintained by Cosby Parish Council to a basic standard which consist of cutting and lining the pitch as required, this falls below the standard to meet a standard quality pitch (M1) rating. Likewise, the remaining poor quality senior pitch is located at Brockington College, where the onsite maintenance regime is basic.

Of the remaining junior and mini pitches, the latter is of a standard quality and maintained to the same equivalent as the senior pitches at Old Newtonians RFC. The former, at Winstanley Community College is basically maintained and is therefore of a poor quality.

*Table 5.8: Site quality ratings*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **Community use?** | **Number of pitches** | **Floodlit?** | **Pitch type** | **Non-technical assessment score** | **Quality rating** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | Brockington College | Blaby North | Yes | 1 | No | Senior | M0/D1 | Poor | The pitch is basically maintained. |
| 5 | Cosby Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Yes | 1 | Yes  (half pitch) | Senior | M0/D1 | Poor | The pitch is basically maintained. |
| 33 | Leicester Forest RFC | Blaby North | Yes | 2 | No | Senior | M1/D1 | Standard | The two pitches are suitably maintained and achieve a standard quality score. |
| 41 | Old Newtonians RFC | Blaby North | Yes | 2 | No | Senior | M1/D1 | Standard | The three pitches are suitably maintained and achieve a standard quality score. |
| 1 | No | Mini | M1/D1 | Standard |
| 57 | Vipers RFC | Blaby East | Yes | 1 | Yes | Senior | M1/D1 | Standard | The three senior pitches are suitably maintained. Noted as being close to being considered as good quality by the RFU. |
| 2 | No | Senior | M1/D1 | Standard |
| 59 | Leicester Lions RFC | Blaby East | Yes | 1 | Yes | Senior | M1/D3 | Standard | The 1st XV pitch has a recent pipe drainage system installed. |
| 2 | No | Senior | M1/D1 | Standard | Two pitches are well maintained. |
| 61 | Winstanley Community College | Blaby North | Yes | 1 | No | Junior | M0/D1 | Poor | The pitch is basically maintained. |

***Ancillary facilities***

The term ancillary facilities relates to built facility infrastructures at sites. Typically, this includes (but is not limited too) clubhouses, changing rooms, showers, carparking and toilet facilities.

From a club perspective, the ancillary facilities at Leicester Lions RFC are excellent having been newly provided in 2018. Consultation with the Club did not raise any issues, with all provision meeting the latest RFU specifications.

In contrast, the ancillary offer at Old Newtonians RFC is poor. The building is a 1960s build, with all internal facilities being outdated and poorly functioning. The kitchen is limited to what it can offer members and is the top priority for the Club to replace. The bar and social space offer are small and old, and the boiler is reaching the end of its anticipated lifespan, with the Club highlighting that it struggles to suitably heat both the showers and bar area. There is one communal shower block servicing all changing rooms on site and whilst currently adequate for the club and the number of teams it offers, will not be suitable in the future if it is to increase the number of teams it offers.

Facilities at Cosby RFC (Cosby Recreation Ground) are reported to be poor by both the RFU and Cosby Parish Council. The facility services football, cricket as well as rugby union and is highly outdated. The RFU consider the refurbishment of the onsite changing facilities to be a priority for the Club.

Vipers RFC has access to a large clubhouse and changing facility block. The facility is largely outdated and consequently it is acknowledged that there is a need to refurbish the existing changing rooms and to increase disability access. The Club has recently received a grant award from the RFU towards improve the quality of its social space and therefore its bar and function area are of sufficient quality.

The ancillary offering at Leicester Forest RFC is standard quality with no key issues raised during consultation or identified during the non-technical site assessment.

**5.3: Demand**

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

***Competitive play***

There are five community rugby union clubs based in the District operating a total of 49 teams. In terms of participation, Leicester Forest RFC is the largest club in the District operating 17 teams. In contrast, Cosby RFC is the smallest club with it operating one senior men’s team. The remaining three clubs offer a range of senior and junior teams. A full breakdown of club demand can be found in Table 5.8.

All senior teams in the District compete in either RFU league structures or local merit league systems with fixtures played on a home vs away basis most weeks.

Competitive play for mini and junior teams mainly consists of friendly matches against other local clubs; with training weekends often built into the season, allowing players to develop core skills and tactical awareness. Junior teams will also compete in County level cup competitions as an introduction to competition rugby. Colts teams, U17 (Junior) and U19 (Senior) often compete in organised league structures; providing frequent competitive fixtures; with the leagues acting as a bridge to senior rugby.

*Table 5.9: Summary of club demand*

| **Club** | **Analysis area** | **No. of rugby union teams** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Senior**  **(19+)** | **Colts**  **(17-19)** | **Junior**  **(13-16)** | **Mini**  **(6-12)** |
| Cosby RFC | Blaby East | 1 | - | - | - |
| Leicester Forest RFC | Blaby North | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| Leicester Lions RFC | Blaby East | 3 | - | 2 | 7 |
| Old Newtonians RFC | Blaby North | 2 | - | - | 4 |
| Vipers RFC | Blaby East | 3 | - | 3 | 7 |
| **Blaby District** | | **11** | **2** | **12** | **24** |

Of the 49 teams operating in the District, four are dedicated women’s and girls’ teams. Leicester Forest RFC operates three junior girls’ teams and Old Newtonians RFC has a senior women’s teams. The remaining teams are either dedicated men’s and boys’ teams or mixed gender at mini team level.

***Training demand***

Throughout the Country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of floodlighting.

An alternative to training on floodlit grass pitches is via World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitches, with one currently provided in the District at Leicester Forest RFC. For a 3G pitch to be suitable for contact rugby, it must have a 3G surface and must be approved by WR. Use of these pitches also enables the transfer of match demand from grass to 3G, which can alleviate overplay and as a result, protects grass pitch quality.

Leicester Forest RFC uses its onsite WR 3G pitch for all its midweek training need (Tuesday/Wednesday and Thursday). This facility has helped reduce the midweek training pressures on its grass pitches which has had a positive effect on pitch quality. The only remaining training on grass pitches throughout the rugby union season is on Sunday mornings by the Club’s mini and junior teams, which do not need access to floodlighting.

Old Newtonians RFC accesses a dedicated floodlit training area which services all midweek demand. The Club trains one night per week with both its senior men’s and women’s teams training for 1.5 hours each on a Tuesday night. Its mini teams train on weekends or play friendly matches against other local clubs.

Leicester Lions RFC train on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening on a dedicated floodlit training area adjacent to its senior backs towards the back of its site. This area is similar size to a senior pitch and therefore sufficient for the majority of the clubs midweek training activity. On Tuesday and Thursday, its senior men’s teams train for 1.5 hours per night. On Wednesday nights, its two junior teams train for one hour.

Vipers RFC train on a floodlit grass pitch which accommodates all its midweek training demand (in addition to competitive matches). The Club’s senior sections train on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for 1.5 hours each with select junior teams training on Wednesdays.

Cosby RFC train on Wednesday evening for one hour as a senior team. It trains on a proportion of its main pitch which is floodlit.

***Infrequent play***

The RFU has plans to encourage participants which have previously played rugby union to re-engage through participation as part of a more casual sporting offer. The league will provide opportunities for teams and players which are unable to play weekly or frequently for various reasons and will operate on an occasional basis. The league will also act as an entry point for newly created clubs and provide competitive opportunities. Matches will take place outside of peak time for senior rugby (Saturday PM), with Friday evenings or midweek being the most likely times for matches to take place.

***Touch rugby***

To actively encourage participation in rugby union clubs may provide alternative offers to traditional club competition. Touch rugby is one possible format which clubs can use; touch rugby is non-contact rugby sessions, during which participants compete in teams to score tries, following similar laws to traditional rugby union formats. Clubs, schools or community organisation can establish their own touch rugby sessions or can become hosts of O2 touch rugby sessions.

O2 touch rugby are 90 minutes long and combine music, fitness and rugby skills. Sessions are mixed in terms of gender, ability and age and is based on touch rugby being a social activity. There are presently no identified O2 touch sessions identified in the District.

***Walking rugby***

Walking rugby is a slower game of touch rugby that is accessible for disability groups and older participants, generally aged 55 years and above. The game is less physical that traditional rugby, but the general aim remains the same, with passing and scoring laws applying; and tackling involves a two-handed touch to the waist or below. Sessions for over 55’s are an opportunity for participants to become physically active and for others to re-engage with rugby at a less strenuous pace. At present there are no formal walking rugby sessions taking place in the District.

***Use of artificial pitches***

Nationally, clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost. Further detail on use of 3G pitches can be found in Part 3: Third Generation Artificial Pitches.

As part of the RFU Investment Strategy, Leicester Forest RFC was selected for the development of a full size 3G WR compliant pitch. In February 2018, the pitch was opened to accommodate its first competitive match. The pitch has since been used by both Leicester Lions RFC and Vipers RFC (on an ad hoc basis) for training and by Leicester Forest RFC as its main pitch for both competitive matches and midweek training. It is a priority for the RFU to ensure that the pitch remains accessible to all local rugby union clubs at peak time to reduce pressures on the stock of playing pitches at club sites throughout the District.

***Exported/imported demand***

Exported demand refers to existing demand which is transferred outside of the study area; whilst imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities in the District due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

Coalville RFC is the only club identified as importing demand into the District. The Club utilise the 3G pitch located at Leicester Forest RFC for ad hoc training sessions throughout the season when onsite pitches are unfit for use.

***Unmet/latent demand***

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. No clubs responding to consultation identify any latent demand.

***Future demand***

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

*Participation increases*

Based on consultation with clubs in the area, two identify aspirations to grow the number of teams they current operate. A realistic growth assumption has been made around clubs which have been unresponsive to consultation attempts to ensure *potential* future growth is accounted for.

Leicester Lions RFC highlights a growth aspiration of four teams. This consist of one senior ladies’ team and three junior boy’s teams.

Old Newtonians RFC reports significant future demand aspirations equating to one senior team, an additional four mini teams and five junior boy’s teams.

The RFU highlight that it does not expect any future growth at Cosby RFC. The Club operates as a single men’s team with a social focus and does not affiliated to the RFU.

Leicester Forest RFC is involved with the RFU All Schools Programme (detailed further below). The Club is already the largest in the District but given its current facilities and links to local schools, future demand equating to two junior teams is deemed to be realistic.

Vipers RFC was also unresponsive to consultation requests, but one junior team of future demand has been aligned to the Club to allow for future growth into its colts age group, which it has historically operated.

*Population increases*

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 (2037).

*Table 5.10: Team generation rates (2037)*

| **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) | 15,200 | 11 | 1:1,382 | 16,757 | 12 | 1 |
| Senior Women’s (19-45) | 16,178 | 1 | 1:16,178 | 17,098 | 1 | 0 |
| Junior Boys (13-18) | 3,335 | 10 | 1:334 | 3,997 | 12 | 2 |
| Junior Girls (13-18) | 3,246 | 3 | 1:1,082 | 3,845 | 3 | 0 |
| Mini rugby mixed (7-12) | 7,205 | 24 | 1:300 | 7,796 | 26 | 2 |

When TGRs are applied to the District as a whole, the forecasted growth in demand leads to the creation of one senior men’s, two junior boys’ and two mini teams.

However, when TGRs are applied to individual analysis area growth, a more detailed representation of where exactly the predicated growth will occur emerges. On this basis, it is anticipated that there will be the growth of one junior boys’ and one mini team in the Blaby East Analysis Area and the creation of one junior team in the Blaby North Analysis Area.

It is important to note that TGRs are based exclusively on current team numbers and do not account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as coaching activity within schools linking to local clubs or specific RFU targets.

The RFU is focused on actively exploring opportunities to assist with the transition between late junior years and senior rugby with a specific focus on growing the senior game with the addition of adult teams (both men’s and women’s). This area has a strategic focus from the RFU and is being facilitated by encouraging casual play and midweek senior matches, along with O2 touch and cross pitch 7s. The RFU recognises the traditional reduction in participation numbers at this time and it is hoped that be addressing the decrease and offering alternative match times then clubs may be able to retain a larger number of players.

This is not the sole focus of the RFU, which is developing junior participation within Blaby, based on a model of coaching sessions delivered in schools and local communities. Intentions are to form junior teams from these training groups which are linked to local schools and will use pitches at school sites, in some cases also linking to existing clubs to provide a performance pathway.

Please note that due to only having a relatively small number of women/girls’ teams in the District, team generation rates applied to future growth automatically predict that no further demand will be created in the future as it takes current participation as a baseline. However, an increase in population could potentially result in the creation of dedicated female teams, particularly with female rugby being a focus for the RFU.

*Future demand summary*

On balance, it has been determined that total future demand in the District should account for population and participation increases added together and as such, these are the figures applied in the supply and demand conclusions tables.

***Education***

Rugby union is traditionally a popular sport within independent schools; however, the RFU is also active in developing rugby union in local state schools through its All Schools programme. This aims to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union, with such schools linking to a local team of RFU rugby development officers (RDOs) which deliver coaching sessions and offer support to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme. In the District, Winstanley School is part of the RFU All Schools programme.

**5.6: Capacity analysis**

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

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 (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
* Use of school pitches by schools increases demand by one match equivalent session, unless school activity levels are known.
* All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
* From U14 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch.
* Mini teams (U6-U13) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch or a dedicated mini pitch. See RFU Age Grade Rugby Guidance for more details.
* For senior and youth 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).
* For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, 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 of one senior pitch.
* Senior men’s rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
* Senior women’s rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
* Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
* Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
* Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, set out below.

*Table 5.11: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments*

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

Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

***The peak period***

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams, it is Saturday PM, as all senior men’s teams play at this time, with senior women’s teams playing on Sundays.

Peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

*Table 5.12: Capacity table for rugby pitches in the District*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **Community use?** | **Security of tenure** | **Number of pitches** | **Pitch type** | **Non-tech score** | **Quality rating** | **Floodlit?** | **Match equivalent sessions (per week)** | **Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)** | **Capacity rating** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | Brockington College | Blaby North | Yes – unused | **Unsecure** | 1 | Senior | M0/D1 | Poor | No | 1.5 | 1.5 | - | The pitch is at capacity through curricular use. |
| 5 | Cosby Recreation Ground | Blaby East | Yes | Secure | 1 | Senior | M0/D1 | Poor | Yes  (half pitch) | 1 | 1.5 | 0.5 | Spare capacity is discounted due to the poor quality of the pitch. |
| 33 | Leicester Forest RFC | Blaby North | Yes | Secure | 2 | Senior | M1/D1 | Standard | No | 4 | 4 | - | Pitch at capacity through match play demand, predominately from its mini and junior section. |
| 41 | Old Newtonians RFC | Blaby North | Yes | Secure | 2 | Senior | M1/D1 | Standard | No | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | The pitches have spare capacity. |
| 1 | Mini | M1/D1 | Standard | No | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 57 | Vipers RFC | Blaby East | Yes | Secure | 1 | Senior | M1/D1 | Standard | Yes | 3.75 | 2 | 1.75 | The floodlit pitch is used to accommodate all midweek training activity and therefore has high levels of concentrated demand. It is also used for matches on weekends for its mini and junior teams. |
| 2 | Senior | M1/D1 | Standard | No | 4 | 4 | - | Pitches at capacity through competitive match play. |
| 59 | Leicester Lions RFC | Blaby East | Yes | Secure | 1 | Senior | M1/D3 | Standard | Yes | 2 | 3 | 1 | Floodlit 1xv pitch. This accommodates circa 2/3 matches per week and select midweek training sessions. |
| 2 | Senior | M1/D1 | Standard | No | 2.75 | 4 | 1.25 | Pitches predominately used for mini and junior rugby. |
| 61 | Winstanley Community College | Blaby North | Yes – unused | **Unsecure** | 1 | Junior | M0/D1 | Poor | No | 1.5 | 1.5 | - | The pitch is at capacity through curricular use. |

***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 activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Generally, pitches located at education and/or unsecure sites which are available for community use but are currently unused, are not considered to have actual spare capacity as security of use cannot be formally evidenced as guaranteed. This is the case at both Brockington College and Winstanley Community College, although both pitches are played to capacity through current usage regardless.

Two club sites are considered to have actual spare capacity in the District; Old Newtonians RFC and Leicester Lions RFC. Spare capacity at Old Newtonians RFC equates to 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week (on its senior pitches), and at Leicester Lions RFC it is 2.25 match equivalent sessions.

***Overplay***

One pitch in the District is overplayed, this is located at Vipers RFC. As previously mentioned, it is a floodlit senior pitch which accommodates high levels of midweek training demand as well as use for competitive matches for its mini and junior teams.

**5.4: Supply and demand analysis**

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for senior rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week.

Total future demand in the District is based on adding population and participation increases.

*Table 5.13: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Actual spare capacity[[24]](#footnote-24)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Future demand** | **Future total** |
| Blaby East | 2.25 | 1.75 | 0.5 | 3.25 | 2.75 |
| Blaby North | 2.5 | - | 2.5 | 5 | 2.5 |
| Blaby West | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Blaby District** | **4.75** | **1.75** | **3** | **8.25** | **5.25** |

Overall, in Blaby there is a sufficient supply of senior rugby union pitches totalling three match equivalent sessions per week aligned to the spare capacity at Old Newtonians RFC and Leicester Lions RFC.

Considering future demand (8.25 match equivalent sessions), a shortfall emerges in the District equating to 5.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

**5.5: Conclusions**

In summary, when looking at provision on a District wide level, there is a sufficient supply of rugby union provision to accommodate current levels of demand. When accounting for anticipated levels of future demand, it is expected that all current spare capacity will be utilised, and a shortfall will emerge.

When accounting for sites on a club by club basis, there is a clear shortfall identified at Vipers RFC due to concentrated midweek demand on its training pitch. No other club has a current shortfall.

The Strategy & Action Plan will explore sport specific scenarios to reduce and alleviate identified overplay at Vipers RFC as well as other scenarios to alleviate potential District wide shortfalls in the future.

|  |
| --- |
| **Rugby union summary**   * **There is currently a sufficient level of rugby union provision in the District.** * **At peak time periods (Sunday mornings) there two are sites which are at capacity or are overplayed. These are Leicester Forest East RFC and Vipers RFC.** * **Anticipated future demand reduces all spare capacity and creates a shortfall equating to 5.25 match equivalent sessions per week.** * There is a total of 14 rugby union pitches across seven sites in the District; as a breakdown this equates to 12 senior and two mini/junior pitches. * All pitches are available for community use. * There are 10 standard quality senior pitches and one poor quality senior pitch. The mini pitch at Old Newtonians RFC is standard quality and the junior pitch at Winstanley Community College is poor quality. * There are five clubs operating in the District generating demand for 49 competitive teams. * All clubs are considered to have secure tenure on their respective sites. * Ancillary provision Old Newtonians and Cosby RFC is poor and in need of refurbishment. It is also noted that there is a need to enhance the quality of the existing changing rooms and disability access at Vipers RFC. * There is one WR compliant 3G pitch in the District based at Leicester Forest RFC which was provided as part of the RFU Rugby 365 programme. * There is one overplayed pitch in the District located at Vipers RFC. * There is currently a sufficient supply of rugby union pitches in the District with the current position being a spare capacity of three match equivalent sessions per week. Future demand reduces all spare capacity and creates a shortfall equating to 5.25 match equivalent sessions per week. |

# PART 6: BOWLS

**6.1: Introduction**

All bowling greens in the District are flat greens. Bowls England is the governing body for flat green bowls with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance. Regionally, it is administered by Bowls Leicestershire.

The flat green bowling season runs from April to September.

***Consultation***

There are seven bowling clubs identified in the District, all of which completed an online survey resulting in a response rate of 100%.

*Table 6.1: Summary of consultation*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Club name** | **Responded?** |
| Blaby Bowls Club | Yes |
| Countesthorpe Bowls Club | Yes |
| Enderby Bowls Club | Yes |
| Glenfield Bowls Club | Yes |
| Kirby Muxloe Bowls Club | Yes |
| Narborough & District Bowls Club | Yes |
| Shakespeare Park Bowls Club | Yes |

**6.2: Supply**

There are seven bowling greens in the District, located across seven sites, all of which, are available for community use. The distribution of bowling greens is split between the Blaby North (57%) and East (43%) analysis areas. There is no identified provision in the Blaby West Analysis Area.

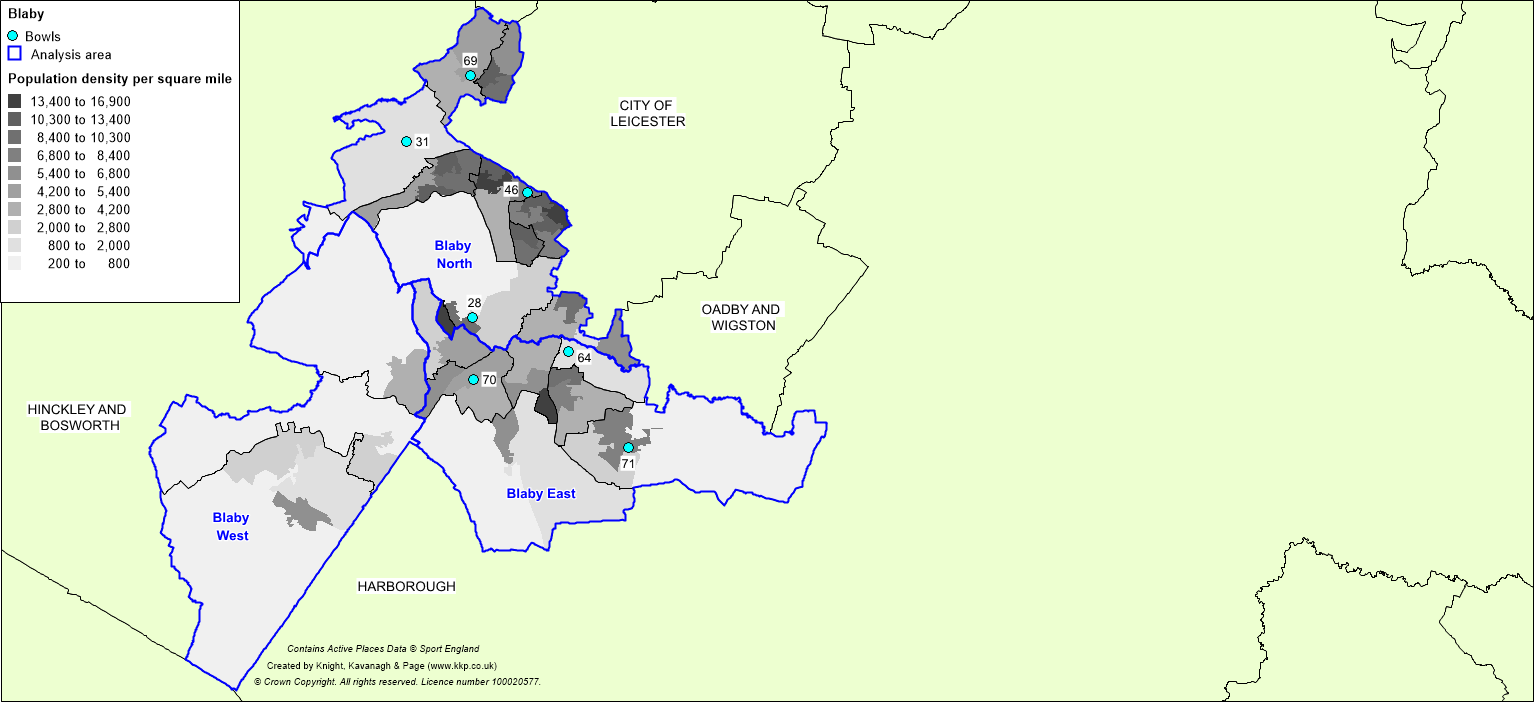
*Table 6.2: Bowling green supply*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **Community use?** | **Number of greens** | **Green type** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 28 | King George V Playing Field | Blaby North | Yes | 1 | Flat |
| 31 | Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground | Blaby North | Yes | 1 | Flat |
| 46 | Shakespeare Park | Blaby North | Yes | 1 | Flat |
| 64 | Blaby Bowls Club | Blaby East | Yes | 1 | Flat |
| 69 | Glenfield Bowls Club | Blaby North | Yes | 1 | Flat |
| 70 | Coventry Road | Blaby East | Yes | 1 | Flat |
| 71 | Countesthorpe Bowls Club | Blaby East | Yes | 1 | Flat |

Outdoor sports sites which have previously accommodated formal provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community use/hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed sites’.

There are no identified disused or lapsed bowling greens identified in Blaby District.

Figure 6.1 overleaf identifies all bowling greens currently servicing the District. For a key to the map, see Table 6.2.

*Figure 6.1: Bowling green locations*

***Ownership/management***

Bowling clubs in the District are largely considered to have secure tenure, meaning that its likely they will continue to operate on their current sites for the foreseeable future. No issues were raised responding clubs in relation to their current tenure situation.

The table below outlines current lease arrangements for all responding clubs in the District.

*Table 6.3: Club tenure arrangements*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Club** | **Tenure arrangement** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 28 | King George V Playing Field | Enderby BC | Leased until 2025 from Enderby Parish Council |
| 31 | Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground | Kirby Muxloe BC | Leased until 2075 from Kirby Muxloe Village Hall. |
| 46 | Shakespeare Park | Shakespeare Park BC | Leased from Braunstone Parish Council |
| 64 | Blaby Bowls Club | Blaby BC | Freehold |
| 69 | Glenfield Bowls Club | Glenfield BC | Rented per annum from Glenfield Parish Council |
| 70 | Coventry Road | Narborough & District BC | Leased until 2115 from Narborough Bowls Club Ltd |
| 71 | Countesthorpe Bowls Club | Countesthorpe BC | Freehold |

***Quality***

The quality of bowling greens across the District have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

* Good
* Standard
* Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (70-80%), Poor (<70%). For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs off unofficial use.

*Table 6.4: Summary of bowling green quality*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Club** | **Quality rating** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 28 | King George V Playing Field | Enderby BC | Good |
| 31 | Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground | Kirby Muxloe BC | Standard |
| 46 | Shakespeare Park | Shakespeare Park BC | Good |
| 64 | Blaby Bowls Club | Blaby BC | Good |
| 69 | Glenfield Bowls Club | Glenfield BC | Standard\* |
| 70 | Coventry Road | Narborough & District BC | Good |
| 71 | Countesthorpe Bowls Club | Countesthorpe BC | Good |

\* Bowls Leicestershire notes that the green at Glenfield BC lies between a standard and poor rating. Consultation with the Club highlights that the evenness of the green is poor, but overall states that the green is of a standard quality.

Of the responding bowls club, three state that the quality of their green has improved in quality over the past three years. Both Blaby BC and Narborough & District BC conclude the reason for an improve green is due to an improved maintenance regime which has been undertaken by its groundskeepers. Kirby Muxloe BC highlights that it has taken control of its green management with one of its playing members now undertaking the maintenance on site, with this resulting in a higher output, with better attention to detail payed to the surface.

***Ancillary facilities***

All clubs in the District have access to a clubhouse/pavilion on site. Of the responding clubs, three rated their clubhouse/pavilion as good quality and three as standard and one, Shakespeare Park BC rated its facility as poor.

The pavilion at Shakespeare Park is in disrepair and no longer fit for purpose, it is an aged wooden structure which has no heating system or disability access. Braunstone Town Council has announced plans to redevelop the clubhouse as a multi-use space (for football and tennis) to ensure that it can be a long term asset to the local community.

Glenfield BC highlights that it has a current funding application in place to upgrade its changing facilities and offer better facilities for disabled users. The notice on this grant is currently pending.

Enderby BC highlights that it has previously received grants from the Council allowing it to upgrade and modernise its social facilities and watering system for its green. It states that it is exploring grant opportunities to improve its toilet facilities and is likely to submit a grant application in 2020.

Kirby Muxloe BC states that whilst its pavilion is of an overall standard quality, the quality of its changing accommodation, toilet facilities and overall clubhouse facilities is poor, and that it is actively looking to secure grant funding to improve onsite facilities. However, it also highlights that it is lacking members/volunteers to assist it in writing suitable grant applications for funding.

*Bowls England grants[[25]](#footnote-25)*

Provided a club is affiliated to the Bowls England it is eligible to apply for a club loan. These loans can relate to a variety of ancillary issues and include the following:

* Fencing
* Car parking
* New pavilion/clubhouse development
* Changing rooms
* Purchase of lawn mowers, scarifies, turf irons or sprinkler systems
* Repair of ditches and banks

Clubs can repay these loans interest free over an eight year period. The highest amount available is £20,000.

***Floodlighting***

No greens in the District are serviced by floodlighting. This means that opportunities for practise and matches during evenings outside of the summer months is limited. However, floodlit bowling greens are relatively rare across the country and this should not necessarily be considered an issue.

**6.3: Demand**

***Current demand***

There are seven bowls clubs playing in the District, all of which, responded to consultation requests which provided membership information. Total club bowls membership across the District totals 489 members. As a breakdown, this consists of 344 senior men, 139 senior women and six juniors.

*Table 6.5: Current club membership*

| **Site** | **Club** | **Current** **membership** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Senior male** | **Senior female** | **Junior** | **Total** |
| King George V Playing Field | Enderby BC | 54 | 18 | 1 | **73** |
| Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground | Kirby Muxloe BC | 51 | 19 | 1 | **71** |
| Blaby Bowls Club | Blaby BC | 60 | 20 | - | **80** |
| Glenfield Bowls Club | Glenfield BC | 35 | 24 | 2 | **61** |
| Coventry Road | Narborough & District BC | 50 | 30 | 1 | **81** |
| Countesthorpe Bowls Club | Countesthorpe BC | 70 | 18 | 1 | **89** |
| Shakespeare Park Bowls Club | Shakespeare Park | 24 | 10 | - | **34** |
| **Total** | | **344** | **139** | **6** | **489** |

When looking at club membership on a regional basis it is evident that bowling clubs in the District have the highest membership per green in Leicestershire. The table below highlights the number of greens per local authority in Leicestershire and the average number of members per green. As shown, the Blaby District has the highest membership per green which evidences the high demand for the sport within the District.

*Table 6.6: Average green membership in Leicestershire*

| **Local authority** | **Number of greens** | **Average membership per green[[26]](#footnote-26)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Blaby District | 7 | 69.9 |
| Charnwood | 15 | 60.6 |
| Harborough | 8 | 51 |
| Hinckley | 13 | 47.6 |
| Leicester City | 16 | 38.8 |
| North West | 8 | 39.6 |
| Oadby & Wigston | 3 | 41.7 |
| Melton & Rutland | 5 | 41 |

***Future demand***

Using ONS projections (2016-2041), the number of persons aged 65 and over living in the District is likely to increase continuously from 20,374 in 2018 to 28,477 in 2037, representing an increase of 39.8%. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for bowling greens is likely to increase slightly in the future or at least remain static.

During consultation, clubs were asked if they aspire to increase the number of members they currently have. Three clubs were able to quantify growth aspirations, and these are identified in the table overleaf.

*Table 6.7: Future demand aspirations*

| **Site** | **Club** | **Identified future demand (members)** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Seniors** | **Juniors** | **Total** |
| Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground | Kirby Muxloe BC | 6 | - | **6** |
| Blaby Bowls Club | Blaby BC | 10 | - | **10** |
| Countesthorpe Bowls Club | Countesthorpe BC | 10 | 5 | **15** |
| **Blaby District** | | **26** | **5** | **31** |

Three clubs; Enderby, Glenfield and Countesthorpe, all highlight that they plan to grow their respective membership base although each were unable to quantify any specific growth aspirations. Narborough & District BC states it does not plan to increase its membership base.

It is also worth noting Royal Leamington Spa is hosting the 2022 Commonwealth Games Bowls Competition and therefore it is anticipated that there will be an increased interest in local demand for bowls. Clubs in Leicestershire are being encouraged to use this opportunity to recruit potential members by Bowls Leicestershire.

***Latent demand***

Sport England’s Segmentation Tool enables analysis of ‘the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so’. The tool identifies latent demand of 172 people who would like to participate in the sport within Blaby. The most dominant segment is ‘Frank’ – Twilight Year Gents (23.3%).

Notwithstanding the above, none of bowling clubs in Blaby are reported as being played to capacity, with all clubs able to accommodate new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within the District that would like to start participating could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence.

***Pay and play***

Countesthorpe, Enderby, Shakespeare Park and Kirby Muxloe bowls clubs all offer pay and play opportunities to the general public for between £1 - £3.50 per person, per session. Users do not have to be registered club members to access the facilities on site and can access provision on a casual basis.

**6.4: Supply and demand analysis**

Bowling green capacity is very much dependent upon the volume of organised bowling that exists and the day/time of these. Greens may have no spare/limited capacity at certain times of the day, especially when competitive bowling is taking place. There are many periods (everyday of the week) when the green is unused or well below capacity.

Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, as a guide, it states that any club with at least 20 members is generally considered be sustainable. In Blaby, all clubs have a strong membership base with all clubs operating with well over 20 members.

When asked if an additional bowling green would assist in accommodating current or future membership, no responding club suggested a green would be beneficial. Therefore, it is considered, based on consultation feedback with all clubs in the District, that the current supply of provision is suitable to accommodate both current and future demand levels in the District.

**6.5: Conclusions**

As there is no evidence to suggest a need for new bowling greens in the District, the priority should be based on supporting existing clubs to improve their ancillary offering and quality of green.

Several clubs in the District aspire to improve their ancillary offering, and therefore, achieving this will likely be the most beneficial action to bowls in the District. Further to this, improving the quality of existing bowling greens, which are not good quality, will likely improve the capacity for provision to accommodate increase levels of demand.

|  |
| --- |
| **Bowls summary**   * **There is a sufficient supply of bowling greens to accommodate current and future demand in the Blaby District.** * There are seven flat outdoor bowling greens located across seven sites, none of which, are floodlit. * Five greens are assessed as good quality and two as standard. None are poor quality. * There is no disused or lapsed bowling green provision in the District. * There are seven bowls clubs playing in Blaby, providing a total membership of 489. * Three clubs identify future demand aspirations equating to 31 members. * Glenfield BC, Enderby BC and Kirby Muxloe BC all highlight an aspiration to improve the quality   of their clubhouses/pavilions.   * Braunstone Town Council has announced plans to redevelop the clubhouse facility at Shakespeare Park. * No clubs highlight a requirement for additional bowling green provision to accommodate either current or future demand. |

# PART 7: TENNIS

**7.1: Introduction**

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across the District. The Vision of the LTA is to “Open Tennis Up” grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. There are three key objectives, which are:

* Increasing the number of fans engaging with tennis.
* Grow participation by increasing the number of adults and juniors playing tennis.
* Enabling new players to break into the world top 100

***Consultation***

There are five tennis clubs identified in the Blaby District. Of these, four responded to consultation requests resulting in a response rate of 80%. Only County Hall Tennis Club did not respond to consultation requests.

*Table 7.1: Summary of consultation*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Club name** | **Responded?** |
| Blaby Victoria Tennis Club | Yes |
| County Hall Tennis Club | No |
| Enderby Lawn Tennis Club | Yes |
| Leicester Forest East Tennis Club | Yes |
| Stoney Stanton Tennis Club | Yes |

**7.2: Supply**

There are 39 tennis courts identified in the District across 12 sites, with all courts available for community use.

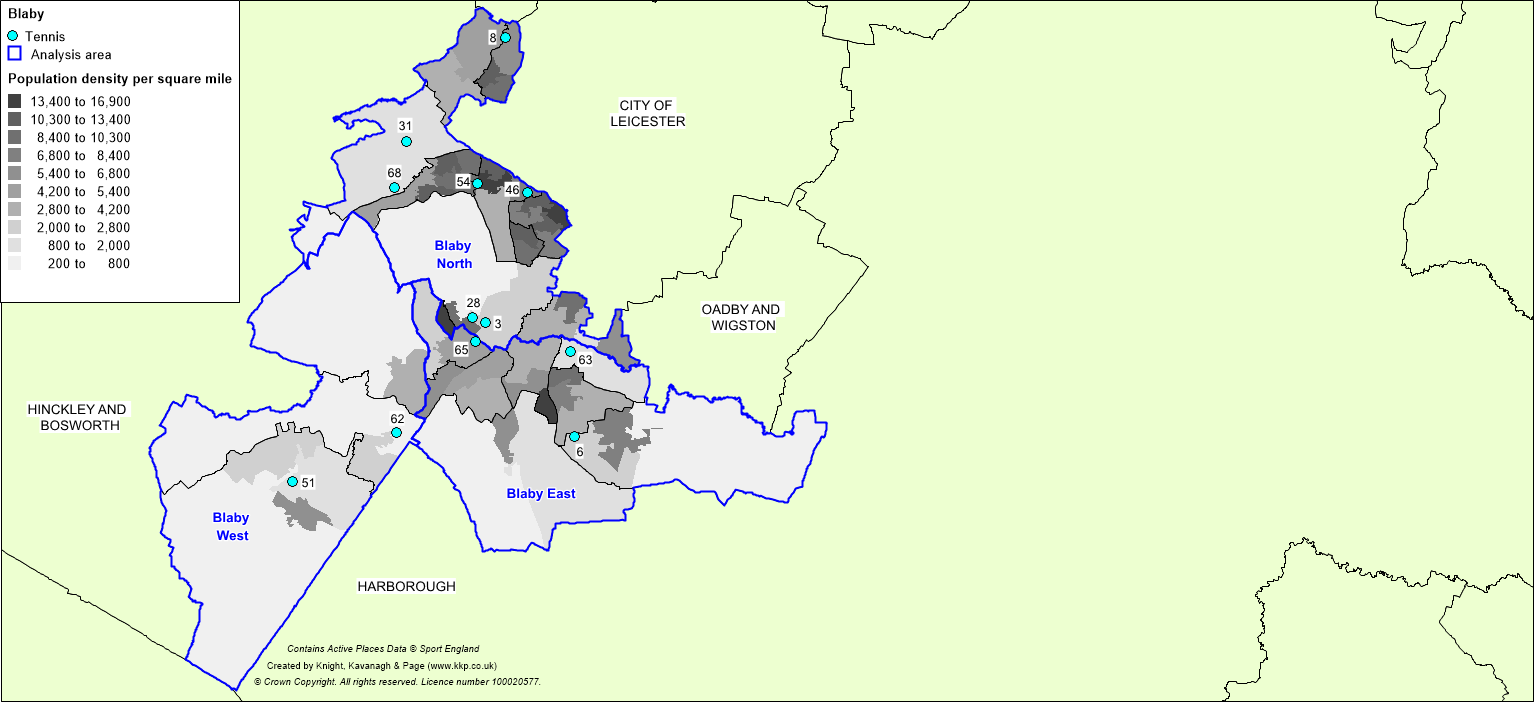
For the purposes of this report, availability for community use refers to courts in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management recorded as being available for hire by individuals, teams or clubs. This also includes availability for social use or pay and play.

Figure 7.1 overleaf identifies all tennis courts currently servicing the District. For a key to the map, see Table 7.2.

***Indoor provision***

There are eight identified indoor tennis courts located in the District. These are located at David Lloyd, Narborough (six) and Leicester Forest East TC (two). The LTA has identified the Leicester City as a potential target area to develop a dedicated indoor tennis facility. Whilst this is not likely to be aligned to development in Blaby, it may have an impact on the local tennis landscape. The LTA aspires to increase the number of high quality community accessible indoor facilities, which will be focussed on filling strategically identified gaps in provision. The criteria which the LTA has adopted is outlined below:

* 72 optimal locations have already been identified in England.
* The optimal locations will have a population in excess of 75,000 within a 20 minutes drive time in towns and cities and 75,000 within a 30 minute drive time in rural locations.
* The existing indoor tennis centre have had their catchment protected to a 30 minute radius to avoid competition reducing use of existing provision. This stock includes indoor courts in commercial centres.
* A facility mix of four to six indoor courts and access to outdoor floodlit courts as well as access to additional facilities.

*Figure 7.1: Tennis courts locations*

*Table 7.2: Outdoor tennis court supply*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **Community use?** | **Management** | **No. of courts** | **Floodlit?** | **Court type** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | Brockington College | Blaby North | Yes | School | 4 | Yes | Macadam |
| 6 | Countesthorpe Community College | Blaby East | Yes | School | 2  3 | Yes | Astro |
| No | Macadam |
| 8 | County Hall Sports Ground | Blaby North | Yes | Private | 3 | No | Artificial |
| 28 | King George V Playing Field | Blaby North | Yes | Parish Council | 3 | Yes | Artificial |
| 31 | Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground | Blaby North | Yes | Parish Council | 2 | No | Macadam |
| 46 | Shakespeare Park | Blaby North | Yes | Parish Council | 2 | No | Macadam |
| 51 | Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields | Blaby West | Yes | Sports Club | 4 | Yes | Macadam |
| 54 | Thorpe Astley Community Centre | Blaby North | Yes | Parish Council | 2 | Yes | Macadam |
| 62 | Winston Avenue Sports Ground | Blaby West | Yes | Parish Council | 1 | No | Macadam |
| 63 | Blaby Victoria Tennis Club | Blaby East | Yes | Sports Club | 3 | Yes | Macadam |
| 65 | David Lloyd Narborough | Blaby East | Yes | Private | 6 | Yes | Artificial |
| 68 | Leicester Forest East Tennis Club | Blaby North | Yes | Sports Club | 4 | Yes | Clay |
| Yes | Artificial |

In terms of distribution, 51% of identified tennis provision is located in the Blaby North Analysis Area. The Blaby West Analysis Area has the least provision, with five courts equating to 12% of overall supply.

Leicester Forest East TC highlight that it is planning to develop a new indoor court to expand on its indoor provision, this will involve covering an existing outdoor court.

Courts located at Shakespeare Park are currently inaccessible due to a development to the onsite pavilion. These will however be retrained in the supply of courts in the District as it is expected they will become available for use again in the future.

***Ownership/management***

Tennis clubs in the District are largely considered to have secure tenure, meaning that its likely they will continue to operate on their current sites for the foreseeable future. No issues were raised by any responding club in relation to their current tenure situation.

Tenure arrangements at County Hall TC are currently unknown but given it is based at Leicestershire County Council Offices (and a club based around providing opportunities for County Council Officers), it is likely that it also has secure tenure.

The table overleaf outlines current lease arrangements for all responding clubs in the Blaby District.

*Table 7.3: Club tenure arrangements*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Club** | **Tenure arrangement** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 28 | King George V Playing Field | Enderby Lawn Tennis Club | Long term lease from Enderby Parish Council. Lease expires in 2020. Looking to acquire 35 year lease. |
| 51 | Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields | Stoney Stanton Tennis Club | Facilities owned by Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields Association. Club uses through association. |
| 63 | Blaby Victoria Tennis Club | Blaby Victoria Tennis Club | Rented from Blaby Parish Council |
| 68 | Leicester Forest East Tennis Club | Leicester Forest East Tennis Club | Freehold |

***Floodlighting***

Floodlit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being particularly crucial for club development. In the District, there are 22 floodlit courts available for community use, these are all located at club sites. No tennis club is without floodlit provision in the District. A breakdown of this can be found in Table 4.2.

***Court type***

Most courts in the District have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can have continued to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. The LTA reports that this should cost £1,200 a year per non-floodlit macadam court and £1,800 per year for a floodlit macadam court.

Five courts (across three sites) have an artificial turf surface. Such provision generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells. Annual sinking funds for a non-floodlit artificial grass surface is £1,800 per year.

***Quality***

The quality of tennis courts across the District have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

* Good
* Standard
* Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (70-80%), Poor (<70%).

Maintaining high court quality is an important aspect of tennis and therefore the non-technical assessment assesses several factors which evidence court quality. The criteria for the non-technical assessment consists of; court surface grip underfoot, damage to a court surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size for competitive tennis.

Following the non-technical assessment, 17 tennis courts are identified as being good quality, ten standard, and three poor quality. A quality breakdown can be found in the table overleaf.

*Table 7.4: Site by site quality breakdown*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **Club** | **No. of courts** | **Quality** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | Brockington College | Blaby North | **-** | 4 | Poor |
| 6 | Countesthorpe Community College | Blaby East | **-** | 2 | Standard |
| 3 | Poor |
| 8 | County Hall Sports Ground | Blaby North | County Hall LTC | 3 | Standard |
| 28 | King George V Playing Field | Blaby North | Enderby TC | 3 | Good |
| 31 | Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground | Blaby North | - | 2 | Standard |
| 46 | Shakespeare Park | Blaby North | - | 2 | Poor |
| 51 | Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields | Blaby West | Stoney Stanton TC | 4 | Good |
| 54 | Thorpe Astley Community Centre | Blaby North | - | 2 | Standard |
| 62 | Winston Avenue Sports Ground | Blaby West | - | 1 | Poor |
| 63 | Blaby Victoria Tennis Club | Blaby East | Blaby Victoria TC | 3 | Standard |
| 65 | David Lloyd Narborough | Blaby East | - | 6 | Good |
| 68 | Leicester Forest East Tennis Club | Blaby North | Leicester Forest East TC | 4 | Good |

Poor quality courts are identified at Brockington College, Countesthorpe Community College, Shakespeare Park and Winston Avenue Sports Ground. The non-technical audit found that these courts had poor surface quality and grip underfoot.

From a club perspective, County Hall LTC and Blaby Victoria are serviced by standard quality courts with the remainder good quality. Despite the non-technical audit identifying courts at Blaby Victoria TC are standard, the Club suggests that the quality is poor, with the maintenance of the courts (which is undertaken by the Club) being limited in recent years.

In contrast, Leicester Forest East TC has recently spent £10,000 on court refurbishment and is planning to install a £7,000 electronic gate to enable online booking of all courts to the general public.

Improving park courts is a national priority for the LTA. Implementation of Gate Access systems and being part of LTA Rally, a national court booking website, is recommended for sites to help make courts sustainable through increasing awareness and accessibility of courts and implementing a way to offer and manage pay and play without the need for someone to be at the site.

***Ancillary provision***

The ancillary facilities servicing the tennis clubs in the District is largely good or standard quality. Leicester Forest East TC and Stoney Stanton TC both highlight that their facilities are good quality, with the latter having recently built new toilets to service its members.

Enderby TC highlight that its facilities are standard quality, but highly outdated. Specially, it states aspirations to develop a new clubhouse, with improved disability access, replacing its current provision to ensure that facilities servicing the Club are fit to service members in the future.

Looking forward the LTA are investigating the possibility of installing an electronic access gate that will mean we can let members of the public use our online booking system to book courts. The system collects the court fees, issues a PIN code and even switches on the floodlights if it is dark. Other parts of our community initiatives involve examining if we can participate in social prescribing and providing coaching sessions for Danemill Primary School children.

In contrast to the above, Blaby Victoria TC highlight that its ancillary offer is poor quality and in need of refurbishment. The current facility is an old wooden facility which offers little in terms of social space, changing or appropriate toilet facilities.

**7.3: Demand**

Combined, membership of the responding clubs in the District to a total of 561 members, which is derived from 337 senior and 244 junior members. Note this figure does not include demand at County Hall. LTC. A full membership breakdown can be found in the table overleaf below.

*Table 7.5: Summary of club membership*

| **Name of club** | **Number of members** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Seniors** | **Juniors** | **Total** |
| Enderby Lawn Tennis Club | 89 | 39 | 128 |
| Stoney Stanton Tennis Club | 88 | 64 | 152 |
| Blaby Victoria Tennis Club | 20 | 36 | 56 |
| Leicester Forest East Tennis Club | 140 | 85 | 225 |
| **Blaby District** | **337** | **224** | **561** |

***Latent demand***

Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack courts or appropriate facilities. There is no identified latent demand in Blaby.

Additionally, Sport England’s Market Segmentation Tool[[27]](#footnote-27) enables an analysis of ‘the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis in the District but are not currently doing so’. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,799 people, 272 (15.1%) of which are within the segment ‘Tim – settling down males’.

***Future demand***

Three clubs which responded to consultation indicate plans to increase membership in the future totalling 230 members. A breakdown of growth aspirations can be seen in the table below.

*Table 7.6: Summary of future demand*

| **Name of club** | **Future demand (members)** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Seniors** | **Juniors** | **Total** |
| Enderby Lawn Tennis Club | 50 | 50 | 100 |
| Blaby Victoria Tennis Club | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| Leicester Forest East Tennis Club | 60 | 50 | 110 |
| **Blaby District** | **120** | **110** | **230** |

Blaby Victoria TC also highlights aspirations to increase the number of members it has at the Club but was unable to quantify any growth aspirations.

**New Junior Programme (launching April 2020)**

In 2020 the LTA is launching a brand new Junior Programme and new Primary Schools programme. The Junior Programme will provide a clearer pathway for both children and their parents and will be delivered at a variety of venues including clubs, schools and parks by coaches, teachers and activators of the sport

The new Primary Schools programme launched in February 2020; LTA Youth Schools Programme ([www.lta.org.uk/schools](http://www.lta.org.uk/schools))

***Parks tennis***

Local Tennis Leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

Parks Tennis Leagues operate at Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground[[28]](#footnote-28).

***Tennis for Kids****[[29]](#footnote-29)*

Tennis for Kids is a six week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25 (plus £4.99 P&P), kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing. To date nearly 25,000 kids have participated in the Tennis for Kids programme this year.

***Tennis for Free****[[30]](#footnote-30)*

Tennis for Free is a community sports charity that work in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly sessions for all ages and abilities in local communities across the UK, especially those in low income areas. Tennis for Free offer a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support. Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the charity have recently launched ‘Tennis for Free Lite’, to unlock the large number of two court community venues that could benefit from the offer. Through its offer it aims to:

* Reinvigorate under-used public facilities
* Make tennis a sport for all
* Make tennis more financially accessible in the UK
* Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local communities through tennis.

In the District, there are currently no Tennis for Free sessions being operated.

***LTA Big Tennis Weekend***

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend is an initiative to help tennis venues attract new people from the local community to come and try out venues at fun and welcoming open days.

LTA Big Tennis Weekends is an initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs have the ability to sign up to host a Big Tennis Weekend open day, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

***Informal tennis***

It is not possible quantify the use of community available courts as there is no mechanism in place to capture this information

The venue management software Clubspark, developed by Sportslabs in partnership with the LTA could be explored at education and park sites in order to track court usage.

Braunstone Town Council has been engaged with the LTA to explore opportunities to develop gate access at Thorpe Astley Recreation Ground and at Shakespeare Park to help promote higher levels of tennis participation within the area

*LTA Clubspark Programme*

LTA insight has identified unclear, lengthy or analogue booking journeys to be a significant barrier to people getting on court more often. As a result, it has recently developed a venue management system called Clubspark in order to improve the customer journey for people wanting to get on court at club, community and education sites.

Instead of providing open access, an online booking system (Clubspark) allows members and pay and play users access through the use of an access code system via electronic gates. Not only does this deter misuse use of courts but it also allows genuine tennis participation to be more effectively tracked and monitored, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed and used. This online booking system sends an automated email as evidence as part of a self-policing system for managing court bookings.

Clubspark has three modules for venues; website, court booking and membership management (plus a coaching module for Accredited coaches)

Enderby Tennis Club and Leicester Forest East Tennis club use all three Clubspark modules

Stoney Stanton Tennis Club use the website and court booking modules.

Nationally, the LTA reports that over 2,000 hours of court time were booked in 2016 by a database of over 2,000 people held on Clubspark. Another advantage of securing access is to make tennis courts revenue generating rather than open access, with the income generation forming a sinking fund for the repair and eventual resurfacing of the courts at each site, thus making courts more sustainable in the long-term.

Further to this, the LTA has developed LTA Rally (https://lta-rally.org.uk), a website designed to improve the user journey to tennis provision. Rally will show users all Clubspark bookable courts in a given area, at a given time, in one place. The website will also support players to find people of a similar standard to play. Ensuring all key venues in the District are on Clubspark will enable them to be promoted via the website.

Enderby TC and Leicester Forest East TC are exploring opportunities to install an electronic access gate that will let members of the public use an online booking system to book courts. The system collects the court fees, issues a PIN code and even switches on the floodlights if it is dark.

**7.4: Supply and demand analysis at club sites**

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate 40 members whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. For air domed courts, membership of 100 is considered applicable and permanent indoor courts can accommodate 200 members. It should be noted that the abovementioned figures relate to LTA viability guidelines for clubs and are not the maximum capacity. The figure relates to what most clubs, based on the level of provision, would find sustainable.

Using these figures, the table overleaf analyses whether or not courts currently in use by clubs in the District are sufficient to meet both current and future demand.

*Table 7.7: Summary of supply and demand*

| **Club** | **Current demand**  **(members)** | **Future**  **Demand (members)** | **Number of courts**  **(floodlit)** | **Recommended capacity**  **(members)** | **Current capacity** | **Future capacity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Enderby Lawn Tennis Club | 128 | 100 | (3) | 180 | **52** | **48** |
| Stoney Stanton Tennis Club | 152 | - | (4) | 240 | **88** | **88** |
| Blaby Victoria Tennis Club | 56 | 20 | (3) | 180 | **124** | **104** |
| Leicester Forest East Tennis Club | 225 | 110 | (4) | 640\* | **415** | **305** |

\* Capacity guidelines have been adjusted to account for two indoor tennis courts.

From a club perspective, all are considered to have sufficient capacity to accommodate current levels of demand. When accounting for future demand, Enderby LTC will be overplayed if demand aspirations are achieved. However, it is worth noting that if future demand aspirations are achieved it will represent a 78% increase on its current membership.

There is no mechanism for capturing the use of publicly available non club courts. As such, the focus should be on improving quality, both in terms of the courts and the accompanying ancillary facilities (where applicable), as well as providing a smoother booking system for potential users. Initiatives such Tennis for Kids, Tennis for Free and the LTA’s Big Tennis Weekends can also be used at such sites to encourage the increase of tennis participation.

|  |
| --- |
| **Tennis summary**   * **Based on recommended LTA capacity guidance, there is sufficient supply of tennis courts at all club sites in the District to cater for current demand.** * **As all remaining, non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard and to increase informal activity.** * **In order to ascertain informal usage of community courts, ClubSpark online booking systems should be implemented, and venues should be part of LTA Rally.** * There are 39 tennis courts identified in the District across 12 sites, with all courts available for community use. * Tennis clubs in the District are largely considered to have secure tenure, meaning that its likely they will continue to operate on their current sites for the foreseeable future. No issues were raised by any responding club in relation to their current tenure situation. * A total of 17 tennis courts are identified as being good quality, ten standard, and three poor. * There is a total of five tennis clubs based in the Blaby District. Of the four responding clubs, total membership equates to 561 members. * Four clubs have aspiration to grow their membership bases, of these, three quantified growth which equates to 230 members. * Ancillary facilities at Blaby Victoria TC are poor quality. Provision at Enderby LTC is standard quality, but it has aspiration to replace current provision with a new modern clubhouse facility. |

# PART 8: NETBALL

**8.1: Introduction**

England Netball governs netball in England. Levels of participation are quickly increasing, with over 100,000 affiliated members and at least one million women and girls playing during a typical week. The NGB’s aim is to provide its members and partners with the best possible service and experience in sport.

Nationally, netball activity takes place both indoors and outdoors. England Netball is currently working on delivering its new five-year plan, Your Game Your Way. Its mission is for netball to be played in a diverse range of ideal environments that inspire and enable participation, growth and world class performance. It is to achieve this mission through directing tailored programmes to each of its segments of participation, which are:

* Minis, returners, adult casual, youth social and recreational
* I Heart Netballers, Hooked on Netball
* Hooked on netball, Aspiring to perform, Talented youth and developing excellence
* Elite and high performance, aspiring to perform, Talented youth and developing excellence

**8.2: Supply**

In total, there are six outdoor netball courts located across two unique sites in the District. All courts are located at education sites.

*Table 8.1: Netball courts in Blaby*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **Community use?** | **No. of courts** | **Floodlit** | **Court type** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | Brockington College | Blaby North | Yes | 3 | Yes | Macadam |
| 6 | Countesthorpe Community College | Blaby East | Yes | 1 | Yes | Astro |
| 2 | No | Macadam |

Figure 8.1 overleaf identifies all netball courts currently servicing the District. For a key to the map, see Table 8.1.

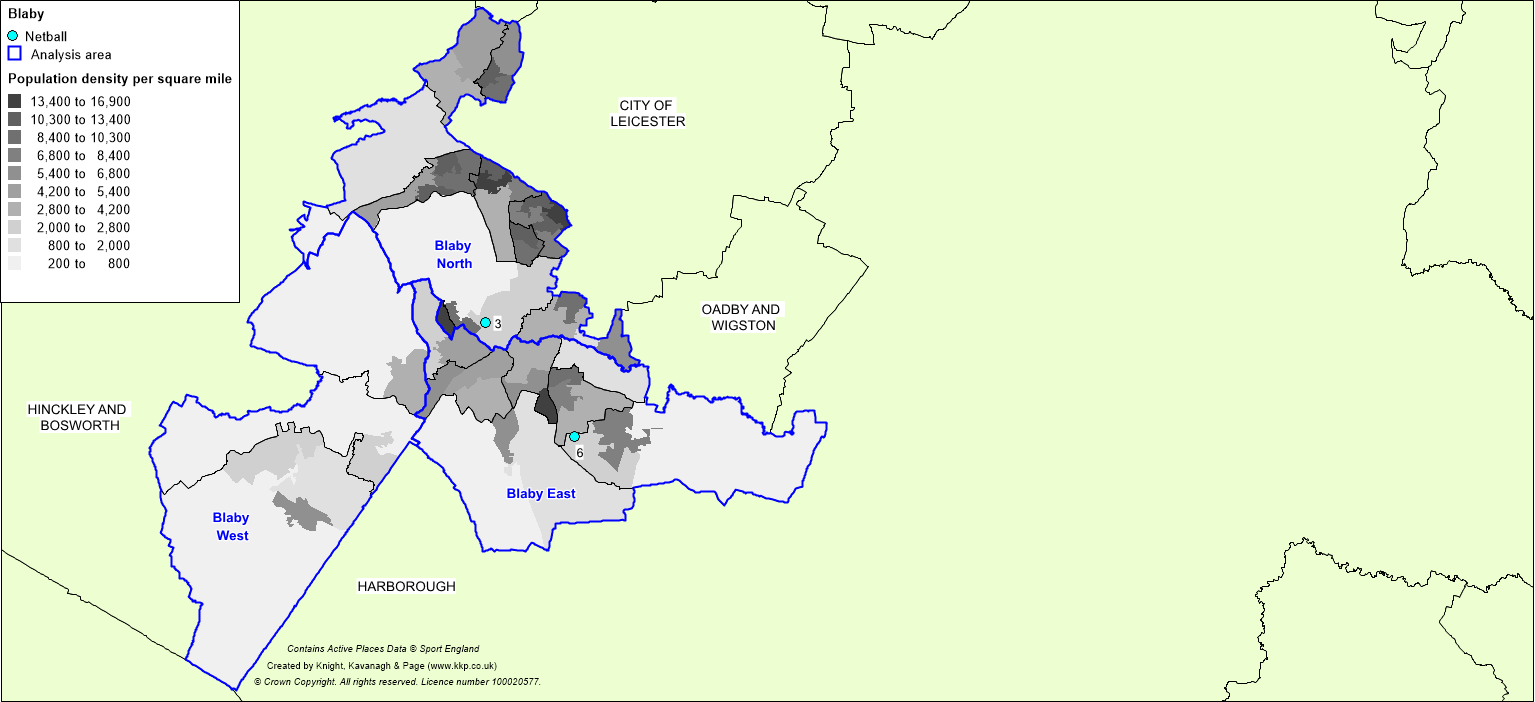
***Over marking***

Whilst it does help with usage levels and sustainability, an issue for netball nationally is that many of its courts are dual use tennis courts. This limits accessibility (especially during the summer when tennis nets are often permanently in place) and can impact on quality due to higher levels of wear and tear. This is true with all courts in the District, with each overmarked with tennis and small sided football markings.

***Court type***

The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. Artificial courts generally allow for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells, as well as requiring less frequent maintenance. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is more expensive despite the lifespan being similar.

Most of the courts in the District (five) have a macadam surface, one, has an AstroTurf surface.

*Figure 8.1: Netball ball locations*

***Court quality***

The quality of tennis courts across the District have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

* Good
* Standard
* Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (70-80%), Poor (<70%).

The criteria for the non-technical assessment consists of; court surface grip underfoot, damage to a court surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size for competitive tennis

Following a non-technical assessment, five netball courts were identified as being poor quality, and one standard quality. All five poor quality courts are based on macadam surfaces, each overmarked with tennis and/or football markings. None of the courts have had any significant investment in the past several years to ensure they remain of a suitable quality, with each school suggesting that they have other priorities for investment.

The one standard court is based on a sand based AstroTurf facility which was installed within the last ten years and has been well maintained by Countesthorpe Community College.

*Table 8.2: Netball court quality*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **No. of courts** | **Court type** | **Quality** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | Brockington College | Blaby North | 3 | Macadam | Poor |
| 6 | Countesthorpe Community College | Blaby East | 1 | Astro | Standard |
| 2 | Macadam | Poor |

**8.3: Demand**

Blaby Netball Club established in 2012 as a ‘back to netball’ Club. It has since evolved into a competitive Club with two senior teams. The first team compete in Premiership Division of the Leicester Netball League. Despite the name, the Club do not play fixtures or train within the District. The Club train on Monday evenings at the Wigston Academy (Oadby & Wigston) and play fixtures at Soar Valley Leisure Centre (Charnwood) as part of a central venue league structure.

*Leicester Netball League*

The Leicester Netball League is a Senior and Youth Netball League based at Soar Valley Leisure Centre (Charnwood). The League is played using two indoor courts and five outdoor floodlit courts.  The season runs generally from September through until April.

***Other demand***

I Heart Leagues

The England Netball ‘I Heart Leagues’ are a social and gentle introduction into match play. The leagues are designed for players which have participated in the Back to Netball program or Social Players looking for access to a lightly competitive game each week.

There is an I Heart Netball League at Soar Valley College (Charnwood) that runs from September time, on Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:30pm. The season runs for 10 weeks with a limit of six teams. £25 per team (40 minutes of play, four quarters of ten minutes).

*Back to Netball and Walking Netball*

Back to Netball sessions are running across England and provides women of all ages a welcoming re-introduction to the sport. Sessions cover the basics of the game including passing, footwork and shooting and finish with a friendly game. Since its creation in 2010, over 60,000 women have taken part. There is one session taking place in the District, located at Countesthorpe College

Walking netball has evolved from a growing demand of walking sports e.g. walking football. Walking netball is a slower version of the game. It has been designed so that anyone can play regardless of age and fitness level and therefore offers opportunities for older adults to participate and enjoy. There are no identified sessions in the District, the nearest is located at Soar Valley Leisure Centre.

***Latent demand***

Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack courts or appropriate facilities. There is no evidenced latent demand in the District, this is largely due to the nature of how netball is played in the region, with indoor central venue leagues being prominent. Furthermore, no school reports demand for its outdoor court facilities.

Additionally, Sport England’s Market Segmentation Tool[[31]](#footnote-31) enables an analysis of ‘the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball within the District but are not currently doing so’. The tool identifies latent demand of 280 people, 66 (24%) of which are within the segment ‘Chloe – fitness class friends’.

**8.4: Supply and demand analysis**

In summary, there is enough outdoor netball provision in the District to accommodate for all current demand and any potential future growth. As all competitive teams are likely to compete within the local Leicestershire league structure (which operates as central venue) outside of the District, there is no perceived demand likely to be generated for outdoor courts, other than, recreational sessions.

It is worthy of note that there is a national trend for competitive netball matches to be played indoors, where suitable sports hall provision exists, and this therefore enforces the point that the current provision in the District is suitable for current and any future demand generated.

The priority for the District should be placed on maintaining existing levels of provision and improving court quality.

|  |
| --- |
| **Netball summary**   * **In summary, there is enough netball provision in the District to meet current and future demand therefore a priority should be placed on retaining the supply of courts and improving quality when possible.** * In total, there are six outdoor netball courts located across two unique sites in the District. All courts are located at education sites. * Most of the courts in the District (five) have a macadam surface, one, has an AstroTurf surface. * The five macadam courts are poor quality, and the AstroTurf court is standard quality. * There are no netball clubs based in the District. There is however a ‘Back to Netball’ session operating at Countesthorpe College. * The local league structure for competitive netball operates on a central venue basis outside of the District. Consequently, it is not expected that there will be a significant rise in demand for outdoor netball courts. |

# PART 9: GOLF

**9.1: Introduction**

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 650,000 members belonging to one of 1900 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. Nationally, it is governed by England Golf. The role of the NGB includes providing competitions for all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules and introducing new golfers via its initiative ‘get into golf’.

As of March 2017, England Golf solely oversees the Whole Sport Plan and receive golf’s National Lottery grant under Sport England’s strategy. England Golf’s Whole Sport Plan identifies how England will achieve its vision of becoming ‘the leading golf nation in the world by 2020’ from grass roots through to elite level.

Since 2004, participation in golf and club membership has been in decline, with only recent signs showing that the reduction may be levelling off.

**9.2: Supply**

There are five golf courses in the District spread across five sites. In terms of distribution of golf facilities, three courses are in the Blaby West Analysis Area and two are in the Blaby East Analysis Area. There is no golf provision located in the Blaby North Analysis Area.

*Table 9.1: Existing provision*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Site ID** | **Site** | **Analysis area** |
| 72 | Blaby Golf Centre | Blaby East |
| 73 | Cosby Golf Club | Blaby West |
| 74 | Enderby Golf Course | Blaby East |
| 75 | Kirby Muxloe Golf Club | Blaby West |
| 76 | Whetstone Golf Club | Blaby West |

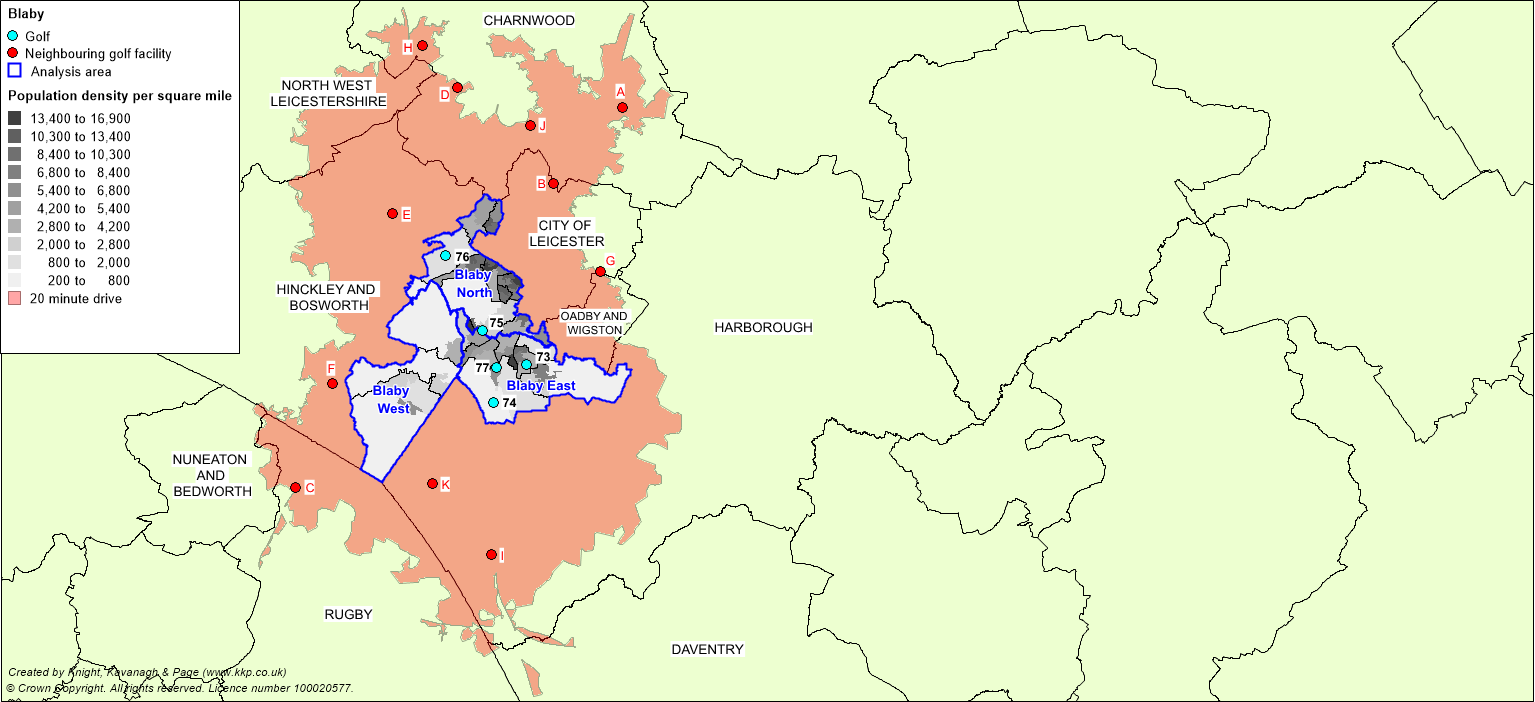
***Management***

Enderby Golf Club is managed by commercial operator, Everyone Active, as part of its leisure contract with Blaby District Council. The remaining four clubs’ sites are operated internally as dedicated sports clubs.

***Accessibility***

Sport England data indicates that most people will travel up to 20 minutes to access sports facilities, including golf courses. Given this, Figure 9.1 highlights all golf courses within a 20 minute drive time catchment of existing golf facilities in the District.

There are 11 golf facilities (either nine or 18 hole courses) in a 20 minute drivetime catchment of provision in the District. As can be seen below, it is considered that all residents of the District are able to suitably able to access golf provision, in either the District, or the surrounding authorities.

*Figure 9.1: Golf provision within a 20 minute drivetime catchment of existing facilities*

*Table 9.2: Golf provision within a 20 minute drivetime catchment of existing facilities*

| **Map ID** | **Site** | **District** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A | Beedles Lake Golf Centre | Charnwood |
| B | Birstall Golf Club | City of Leicester |
| C | Bramcote Water Golf Course | Rugby |
| D | Charnwood Forest Golf Club | Charnwood |
| E | Forest Hill Golf & Conference Centre | Hinckley and Bosworth |
| F | Hinckley Golf Club Ltd | Hinckley and Bosworth |
| G | Leicestershire Golf Club | City of Leicester |
| H | Longcliffe Golf Club | Charnwood |
| I | Lutterworth Golf Club | Harborough |
| J | Rothley Park Golf Club | Charnwood |
| K | Ullesthorpe Court Hotel & Golf Club | Harborough |

***Course facilities***

Blaby Golf Centre has several specific golf facilities on site to cater to a broad range of consumer demands. The centre does not formally operate as a golf club and its nine hole course is centred around a more casual golf segment, with the course primarily being available for pay and play, as such, there is no formal membership base aligned for golf aligned to the site. It also offers crazy golf and pitch and putt (nine hole) opportunities to casual users.

Cosby Golf Club operates a traditional 18 hole course and a nine bay driving range. To access the course, users must have a formal membership with the Club. The driving range is open to members and non-members (through pay and play opportunities).

Enderby Golf Club is the sole local authority owned facility in the District. It operates a nine hole municipal course on both a membership and pay and play basis. Enderby Golf Course also came third and achieved a bronze award in the HSBC ‘Best Value Golf Course’ Midland rankings.

Kirby Muxloe Golf Club offers an 18 hole traditional hole course. The course is an England Golf Championship venue which translates to it being of an exceptional quality for high level competitive golf. It also offers a ten bay driving range. Membership of the facility is the most premium in the District but pay and play opportunities are available for casual users.

Whetstone Golf Club offers an 18 hole traditional golf course and 30 bay driving range, which is the largest in the District. Membership prices are aligned to traditional, competitive, golf clubs.

*Table 9.3: Summary of golf courses in Blaby*

| **Site ID** | **Course name** | **Holes** | **Driving range?** | **Other facilities** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 72 | Blaby Golf Centre | 9 | No | Pitch and putt  Crazy golf |
| 73 | Cosby Golf Club | 18 | Yes | - |
| 74 | Enderby Golf Course | 9 | No | - |
| 75 | Kirby Muxloe Golf Club | 18 | Yes | - |
| 76 | Whetstone Golf Club | 18 | Yes | - |

***Quality***

All courses are good quality, with a dedicated maintenance regime carried out at each facility.

***Ancillary facilities***

Golf clubs need multiple revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a clubhouse can often be key for golf clubs as it can provide an income stream, not only from members but also through hiring the venue out for occasions (e.g. wedding receptions). Most clubs in the District have access to a dedicated clubhouse which offers opportunities for revenue generation. Enderby Golf Course is the only facility which does not offer a dedicated clubhouse for members.

Blaby Golf Centre has a dedicated clubhouse which offers a bar and pool tables for users of the site. As detailed earlier, the site largely caters for a casual golf consumer base and therefore the clubhouse is designed for this market.

Cosby, Kirby Muxloe and Whetstone golf clubs all have dedicated clubhouses which are designed to offer dedicated bar and function facilities. Each can cater for various events commercial or golf occasions throughout the year.

Enderby Golf Course is the only course which does not have a dedicated clubhouse. It does, however, offer a dedicated café facility which offers food and drink to users through the day. The facility forms part of Enderby Leisure Centre, which is managed by Everyone Active.

***Membership and costs***

Nationally, many clubs have begun to alter their pricing structure to allow for discounted rates following a decline in golf participation, with England Golf determining that clubs are more likely to experience growth with flexible membership packages. For instance, some now offer a five day membership (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not during a weekend), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21). Previously, many clubs throughout the country had a waiting list for membership but that is rarely the case in the present day.

In the District, all courses offer memberships and pay and play green fees. However, most clubs in the area are primarily membership clubs, with Blaby Golf Centre and Enderby Golf Course being the exception to this. Pay and play opportunities at clubs which primarily offer memberships is notably higher in cost to access when compared to the more casual golf offers in the District.

*Table 9.4: Summary of costs in Blaby*

| **Club name** | **Cost summary** |
| --- | --- |
| Blaby Golf Centre | For pay and play, full 9-holes is £8 and for two rounds of the course is £10. Pitch and Putt is available for £5 per person, as is Adventure Crazy Golf. |
| Cosby Golf Club | An annual flexible membership at Cosby Golf Club is £325. Driving range for members costs £1 for 26 balls and for non-members is £1 for 22 balls.  For green fees, 18-holes is £35. |
| Enderby Golf Course | At Enderby Golf Club, Annual membership prices range from £205 to £256 depending on the age of the member. Junior (Under 18) memberships are available for £56.  For pay and play at the site, an 18-hole round is £11.50 (weekday), or £13.99 (weekend). A 9-hole round is £9.50 (weekday) or £10.30 (weekend). For juniors and 60+, pay and play is £9.50 (weekday) for 9-holes or £10.30 (Weekend). |
| Kirby Muxloe Golf Club | A full membership for men at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club prices range from £302 to £1,140 depending on the age of the member and the restricted days of use. Junior (Under 18) memberships are available for £80. New members are asked to pay a joining fee which is £300, however £100 will be refunded at the end of the first three years of membership. Ladies are currently exempt from paying the joining fee. Annual membership for ladies is £400 on the flexible membership.  For green fees, 18-holes is £30per person (includes one course meal value £7.50) either Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, as Tuesday & Saturday are unavailable. Sunday rounds are £35per person. Monday is golf only and is available for £22.50per person. 9-holes is £12.50per person for the same days. |
| Whetstone Golf Club | At Whetstone Golf Club, Annual membership prices range from £75 to £680 depending on the age of the member. Junior (Under 18) memberships are available for £75. There is also no joining fee.  Green fees for adults are £14 (weekday), or £15 (weekend). Senior visitors or visitor with a member their fees are £11 (weekday), or £12 (weekend). |

***Leicestershire & Rutland County Card***

The Leicestershire & Rutland Golf Union currently run a County Card scheme. The card allows registered members of the Leicestershire & Rutland Golf Union to get discounted access to participating courses throughout the year. Card are provided free or charge to registered members and it is valid from 1st April to March 31st the following year.

In the District there are three participating clubs involved in the scheme:

* Cosby Golf Club
* Kirby Muxloe Golf Club
* Whetstone Golf Club

**9.3: Demand**

England Golf’s Club Membership Questionnaire (2018) highlights that the average number of members per golf course nationally is 484. As a breakdown, this consists of 381 adult males, 70 adult females, 27 junior boys and six junior girls.

England Golf has provided membership details of the three clubs which offer yearly membership opportunities. Both Blaby Golf Centre and Enderby Golf Course run as municipal courses and do not provide yearly memberships and therefore no yearly membership data exists.

*Table 9.5: Summary of demand*

| **Course name** | **2016**  **membership** | **2017 membership** | **2018 membership** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cosby Golf Club | 552 | 541 | **507** |
| Kirby Muxloe Golf Club | 485 | 505 | **526** |
| Whetstone Golf Club | 378 | 413 | **367** |

Cosby Golf Club and Kirby Muxloe Golf Club have higher than the national average membership figures, whilst Whetstone falls about 114 below the national average. Despite the varying levels of membership, it must be noted that each club will have a different financial model in terms of income generation from membership versus green fees.

***Participation trends***

Nationally, the average number of members per golf club has increased slightly from 460 in 2016 compared to 484 in 2018. A total of 38% of clubs saw an increase in membership over this time period. Clubs showing growth are increasingly offering more tailored packages, which provide flexibility and cater for less traditional golfers. These include flexible, points–based memberships for those who are time poor, corporate packages which provide opportunities to network, academy/trial memberships for those getting into the game and student/intermediate offers to enable younger people to manage the cost of a significant outlay.

***Ways to Play***

In partnership with England Golf, Ways to Play includes a broader range of golf opportunities than nine hole golf that Golf Express previously promoted. These include, but are not limited to Golf Sixes, nine hole golf, Footgolf, Adventure golf, pitch & putt and simulator play.

***FootGolf***

FootGolf is a relatively new activity that is played on a golf course using a football. The object of the game is to get the ball into the hole using only your feet in the fewest number of shots possible. It is governed by the UK FootGolf Association.

Nationally, there are currently 160 recognised Golf courses that incorporate FootGolf, with many clubs recognising it as a chance to provide an income stream that can provide sustainability at a time when participation in the traditional game has decreased. The sport is generally played on a smaller than average courses, with Par 3 courses being ideal.

In the District, no clubs/courses are identified as operating as FootGolf centres, however, this might be something for clubs to consider given its popularity elsewhere.

***Get into Golf***

Get into Golf is a national campaign, delivered locally, to inspire people to take up golf. The campaign is run by England Golf and is provided by local golf facilities and PGA professionals. Its purpose is to create awareness for the sport and opportunities for beginners by providing support and low-cost activities including:

* Taster sessions
* Beginner courses
* Learn golf in a day
* Improvers courses

**9.4: Supply and demand analysis**

The overall picture suggests that there is substantial demand for golf in the District which is demonstrated by the supply of facilities available to the Districts residents both in and outside of the District. Given the above, it is considered that the current supply of facilities can meet current and future demand.

Therefore, emphasis should be placed on capitalising on potential latent demand identified in the District, as well as exploring opportunities to increase club revenue through initiatives such as FootGolf.

Further analysis at club or facility level, along with some additional England Golf tools, could be used to better understand the existing members and visitors of each venue. This may help to establish a clearer picture of the overall facility landscape and how well it caters for the local demographic.

|  |
| --- |
| **Golf summary**   * There are five golf courses in the District spread across five sites. Three courses offer 18 hole courses and two offer nine hole courses. * There are no footgolf opportunities identified in the District. * Application of a 20 minute drive time catchment to all existing golf courses in the District shows 11 potential facilities which are likely to be accessible for the Districts residents. * Quality is considered to be good at all courses in the District. * All of the clubs within the District provide suitable ancillary facilities with an array of facilities from meeting rooms to wedding venues. * It is considered that the current supply of facilities in the District can meet current and future demand, with emphasis placed on ensuring sites are able to retain current members and users as well as assisting them in capitalising on any untapped demand and future demand. * Support should be provided to clubs to attract new members to ensure golf provision across the District can be retained. |

# PART 10: Hockey

**10.1: Introduction**

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

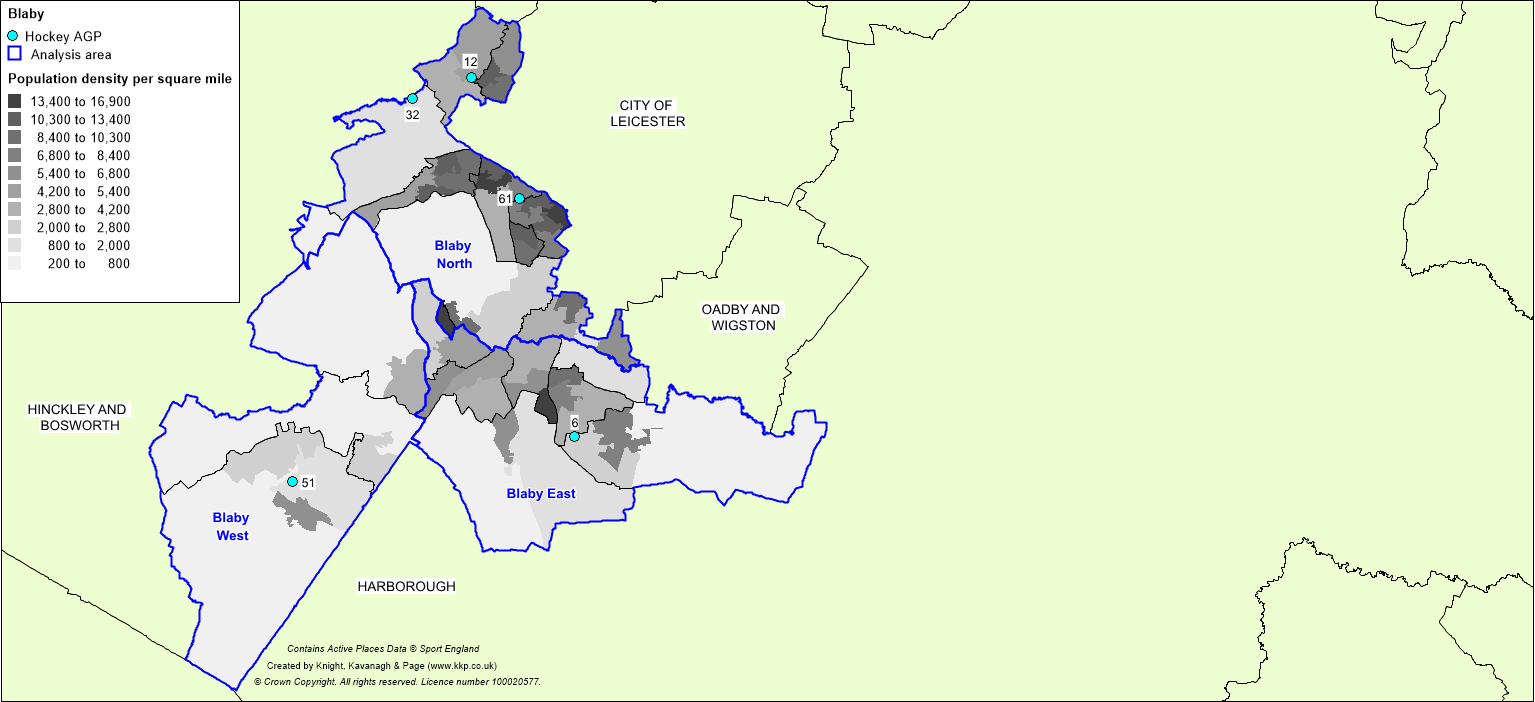
*Table 10.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 hockey 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 & three metres at the ends. England Hockey preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

**10.2: Supply**

There are no full size hockey suitable AGPs in the District, however, there are six small sided pitches. These are spread across five sites, with two pitches located at Ellis Park.

*Figure 10.1: Hockey AGP distribution*

For a key to the map, see Table 10.2.

***Quality***

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, on-going repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (60-79%), Poor (<60%). The quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

The quality of the pitch supply is largely poor, with many facilities provided over ten years ago. None have had significant investment into surface replacement and have been maintained to an adequate level over the past decade. As such, the current position is that the majority of pitches, with the exception of the two at Ellis Park, are poor quality.

*Table 10.2: Hockey suitable provision in the District*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis area** | **No. of pitches** | **Surface type** | **Quality** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 6 | Countesthorpe Community College | Blaby North | 1 | Sand Dressed | Poor |
| 12 | Ellis Park | Blaby East | 2 | Sand Dressed | Standard |
| 32 | Kirby Muxloe Sports Club | Blaby North | 1 | Sand Dressed | Poor |
| 51 | Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields | Blaby West | 1 | Sand Dressed | Poor |
| 61 | Winstanley College | Blaby North | 1 | Sand Dressed | Poor |

**10.3: Demand**

No pitches are used for either hockey training or for competitive matches and England Hockey reports that there is no identified community hockey demand in the District. The current facility stock is used entirely for curricular purposes and for recreational football.

Given the above, the Football Foundation has been in conversation with Countesthorpe Community College to understand if there is an opportunity to convert its small sided sand based to a 3G surface to meet identified demand for football training in the Area.

*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 geographical area.

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 EH should therefore 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 and drainage to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

**10.4: Conclusion**

There is a clear need to improve the quality of sand dressed AGPs in the District. However, given there is no reported current or future demand for community hockey to be played within the District, there could be an opportunity to explore converting some of these to 3G pitches to meet demand identified in the District for football training. On a site by site basis, this should still be done in consultation with England Hockey to ensure that this will not be detriment to the sport, particularly school participation.

|  |
| --- |
| **Hockey summary**   * There are no full size hockey suitable AGPs in the District, however, there are six small sided pitches. These are spread across four sites, with two pitches located at Ellis Park. * Four small sided pitches are poor quality, two are standard quality. * There is no identified demand for formal community hockey in the District. |

# PART 11: AMERICAN FOOTBALL

American football in the UK is governed and administered by the British American Football Association (BAFA). Adult men’s contact teams play within its National League (BAFANL) on Sunday afternoons and play five home fixtures per regular season with a playoff system to follow for those which qualify.

**11.1: Supply**

There are no dedicated American football pitches in the District. Traditionally in England, clubs often utilise overmarked rugby union pitches or 3G pitches to accommodate both training and competitive fixtures.

**11.2: Demand**

There is one community American football club based in the District; Leicester Falcons. The Club has been nomadic since its inception in 2006. In the 2019 season, it played its fixtures at Leicester Lions RFC but has since relocated to Leicester Forest RFC to play its fixtures on the recently developed World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch.

**11.3: Conclusion**

American Football in the District is essentially well catered for with Leicester Falcons accessing a 3G pitch for matches and training. Given its nomadic history, if it was to relocate again in the future, it is likely that its demand can be accommodated on an existing grass rugby union pitch.

|  |
| --- |
| **American Football**   * There are no dedicated American Football pitches in the District. * There is one community American football club based in the District; Leicester Falcons. The Club has been nomadic since its inception in 2006. It now plays fixtures on the World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch at Leicester Forest. * It is considered that the 3G pitch at Leicester Forest RFC adequately accommodate all demand from the Club. |

# APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

**National context**

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

***Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)***

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

* More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
* More people volunteering in sport.
* More people experiencing live sport.
* Maximising international sporting success.
* Maximising domestic sporting success.
* A more productive sport sector.
* A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
* A more responsible sport sector.

***Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)***

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy ‘Towards an Active Nation’. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government’s Sporting Future strategy.

* Physical Wellbeing
* Mental Wellbeing
* Individual Development
* Social & Community Development
* Economic Development

***National Planning Policy Framework (2018)***

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

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

The ‘promoting healthy and safe communities’ theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sports and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Local Football Facility Plans*

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites.  This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

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

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

***The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)***

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

* A high quality introduction to football
* Developing clubs and leagues
* Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
* Recruit, develop and support the workforce
* Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA’s objectives are to:

* Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
* Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
* Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
* Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2019-2024)***

“Inspiring Generations” is the new ECB participation strategy which was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

Inspire Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women’s and girls’ cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

* Growing and nurture the core
* Inspiring through elite teams
* Making cricket accessible
* Engaging children and young people
* Transforming women’s and girl’s cricket
* Supporting communities

***The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)***

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider marker influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

* Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
* Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
* Engage new communities in rugby
* Create a community 7’s offering

***England Hockey Strategy***

England Hockey’s Facilities Strategy can be found [here](http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075&sectionTitle=Facilities+Strategy).

[http:/www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075&sectionTitle=Facilities+Strategy](http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075&sectionTitle=Facilities+Strategy)

**Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

**Mission:**  More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

* There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

1. **IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)**

* The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

1. **DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**

England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

***Growing the Game of Golf in England (2017-2021)***

In 2014, England Golf developed its first national strategy to help golf in England rise to some serious challenges. Membership was declining, many clubs were facing financial and business problems and the perception of the game was proving damaging. As such, it decided to set out recommendations for actions that would help “raise the game”. The 2014 strategy helped achieve the following:

* 427,111 people being introduced to golf for the first time.
* 31,913 new members for England’s golf clubs from national initiatives.
* Over £25 million generated for golf clubs through new members.
* Four counties to merge their men’s and women’s unions associations.
* Support for 15,200 national, regional and county squad players.
* Over 150 championships and events organised across the country.

Following the above strategy, England Golf is now setting out to “grow the game” of golf through seven strategic objectives. Developed in consultation with the golfing community, six of these are developed from the previous work in 2014, whilst one (being customer focussed) is brand new and intends on boosting the impact of them all. The objectives are:

* Being customer focussed
* Stronger counties and club
* Excellent governance
* Improve image
* More members and players
* Outstanding championships, competitions and events
* Winning golfer

***Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017***

This version remains the most up to date available. The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

* Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
* Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
* Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31st March 2017.

* 115,000 individual affiliated members.
* 1,500 registered coaches.
* Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
* Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
* Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
* County development officer appointed by each county association.
* National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
* Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
* Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values.

The intention is to:

* Be progressive.
* Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
* Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
* Lead the sport.
* Support clubs and county associations.

***British Tennis Strategy 2019***

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

**Vision:** tennis opened up

**Mission:** to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

**Objectives**

* Increase the number of fans on our database from 623,602 to 1,000,000 by 2023.
* More people playing more often;
  + Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from 7.7% (4,018,600) of the population to 8.5% (4,420,460), and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from 1.9% (858.700)] of the population to 2.2% (1,000,000) by 2023.
* Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

**Strategies**

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

***England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17***

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business. To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

* Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
* Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
* Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
* Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
* Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

1. <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/playing-pitch-calculator> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Source: ONS 2016-based projections 2017-2041. Released: 24 May 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. TGRs are based on population forecasts which are in line with the District Local Plan Timeline. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Age group team numbers differ from Table 2.6 as forecasts are based on age rather than playing format. U17 and U18 teams affiliate to their respective County FA as juniors, however, are generally considered to play on and require adult pitches and are considered by age boundaries to be in the adult age group [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. In match equivalent sessions [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. In match equivalent sessions [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. In match equivalent sessions [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. In match equivalent sessions [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. In match equivalent sessions [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. In match equivalent sessions [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Figure rounded down to the nearest whole number. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Full size pitch at Leicester Forest RFC has been discounted. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Braunstone Cricket Club folded following the conclusion of the 2019 cricket season. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Winstanley Community College will be utilised by Braunstone Stars CC (imported demand from Leicester City) in 2020 season following Braunstone CC folding. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. The Club has a total of four senior teams of which two play in Harborough due to a perceived lack of facilities in the District. Teams playing outside of the District are not included in team breakdowns. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. The source of the above data is Play-Cricket.com and reflects club and league cricket only (for example doesn’t include Women’s Soft Ball Cricket, or junior cricket). [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Please note TGR figures are rounded up to the nearest whole number. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. *Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. *Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.* [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. In match equivalent sessions [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. <https://www.bowlsengland.com/funding/> [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Membership averages have been provided by Leicestershire Bowls. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. See Appendix 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. <https://localtennisleagues.com/courts/kirbymuxloetenniscourts> [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids> [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. <https://www.tennisforfree.com/index.php> [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. See Appendix 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-31)