



**Broxbourne Borough Council
Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy
2023 - 2033**

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1. Introduction – Brief, Scope, Vision and Aims

1.1 Background

The new Broxbourne Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2023-2033 produced in line with Sport England's latest guidance forms the updated evidence based to the previous Indoor Sports Facility Strategy adopted in 2013.

Continuum Sport and Leisure were commissioned by the Council to lead on the production of the new strategy, following the Sport England process which has been agreed by all the key indoor and outdoor national governing bodies of sport. Each authority in the country is encouraged to produce this evidence base to inform future decisions regarding the demand and supply of existing and new playing pitches and built sports facilities in a given area. The strategy documents inform an action plan which detail potential facility developments based on the demand and supply analysis. This action plan will be reviewed and amended, in partnership with stakeholders and the Strategy Steering Group where necessary on an annual basis.

The supply side information contained in the strategy is generated through standard facility audits used for all levels of facility from park to elite sport, with findings then corroborated by the relevant national governing body of that sport. The demand side information is generated from surveys of current and potential users including local sports clubs as well as club and team data provided by the relevant governing bodies of sport and facility booking records where available. The Council's Leisure and Culture Service and Broxbourne Sport have provided context and a local perspective on the overarching vision and principles driving the strategy and the outcome objectives.

The resulting action plan is a guide on how enhanced and new facilities might be developed, pending viability testing, funding confirmation and planning permission where necessary, where they might be developed and the lead organisation to meet identified demand, exploit opportunities that may arise and provide sustainable management and operational models. Often projects are delivered through the Council or the sport's governing body engaging with voluntary, education or commercial partners. Each potential project identified in the action plan will be reviewed and re-evaluated considering the situation at the time. The strategy and action plan provide a 'snapshot' of the position at the time of writing. Factors on both the demand and supply side may have changed as well as the cost and viability of the project at the point when an individual project is being considered during the life of the strategy.

When applying for funding to develop new facilities, Sport England, National Governing Bodies of Sport, and most other funding organisations, require evidence of the current demand and supply of facilities in an area to justify the proposed project. This strategy - developed and agreed in partnership with these same organisations - is the document that provides this information and is vital to the success of any funding bid.

Through the implementation of this strategy, the Council has a major role to play in providing access to sporting opportunities at a cost that is acceptable to the wider community. The council has a role to play as a direct provider of entry level facilities such as free to use casual football pitches and park tennis courts as well as pay and play summer and winter sports pitches and leisure facilities with changing and toilet facilities to allow clubs to play competitively.

The Council also play an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and empowering community organisations through the asset transfer process to independently manage and operate existing and new facilities.

The strategy document comprises two parts – Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1) and Built Sports Facilities (part 2) – each with an action and implementation plan.

1.2 Why the Strategy Has Been Developed

Alongside the need for the Council to ensure an up-to-date evidence base and need within the local plan, the purpose of the strategy is to support the Council’s overarching principles of positively shaping the future of Broxbourne. A key part of the future provision is the Council’s important direct and indirect contribution to improving health and increased physical activity levels of Broxbourne residents. The strategy will assist in establishing how to best meet the current and future health and wellbeing needs of Broxbourne’s community clubs, organisations and residents, contributing to the priority of making the borough of Broxbourne a better place to live and work.

The Council’s main rationales for producing this updated strategy and associated action plan are detailed below:

- To ensure that the Borough has an up to date framework for the prioritisation, provision and development of sports and leisure facilities across the public, private and independent sectors.
- To support the implementation of the Council’s adopted local plan policies relating to the protection, enhancement and provision of community sport and physical activity facilities
- Provide an evidence-based framework to support negotiations with developers who may provide funding or other assistance to improve local provision.
- Help set the context for decisions on the future and priority of sports / leisure facilities in the Borough.
- Provide a robust evidence base to support funding bids.
- Support the Council’s Corporate Plan, adopted Local Plan, Sustainable Strategy as well as County wide and regional priorities.

1.3 Improvement Projects Achieved

The Council has achieved a number of projects since the last strategy in 2013.

These include the improvement to playing pitches such as:

- New 3G pitch provision at Cheshunt FC, Goffs Academy, The Broxbourne School, Rosedale Sports Club and Goffs Churchgate Academy.
- Improvements to grass football pitches at Wormley Sports Club.
- New Rugby 365 artificial pitch at Rosedale Sports Club

and the following Built Facilities projects:

- Modernisation of the Laura Trott LC public pools in 2015 and the school based Goffs-Churchgate pool in 2016.
- New buggy pathway around all 18 holes of the Cheshunt Park Golf Course.
- The new dual use sports hall at Broxbourne School opened in 2021.
- Upgrade of air handling unit, relocation and new roof on the Laura Trott LC pool in 2021.
- Gym refurbishment and upgrade of gym equipment including new spin bikes at Laura Trott LC in 2021 and further eGym expansion in 2023.
- New Gym provision at Goffs Academy opened in 2022 (Lifestyle Fitness)

1.4 Vision and Key Deliverables

The vision for the Broxbourne Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy is to facilitate the creation of a sporting infrastructure across the borough that provides residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds with the opportunity to be active and participate in indoor and outdoor sports and recreational activities.

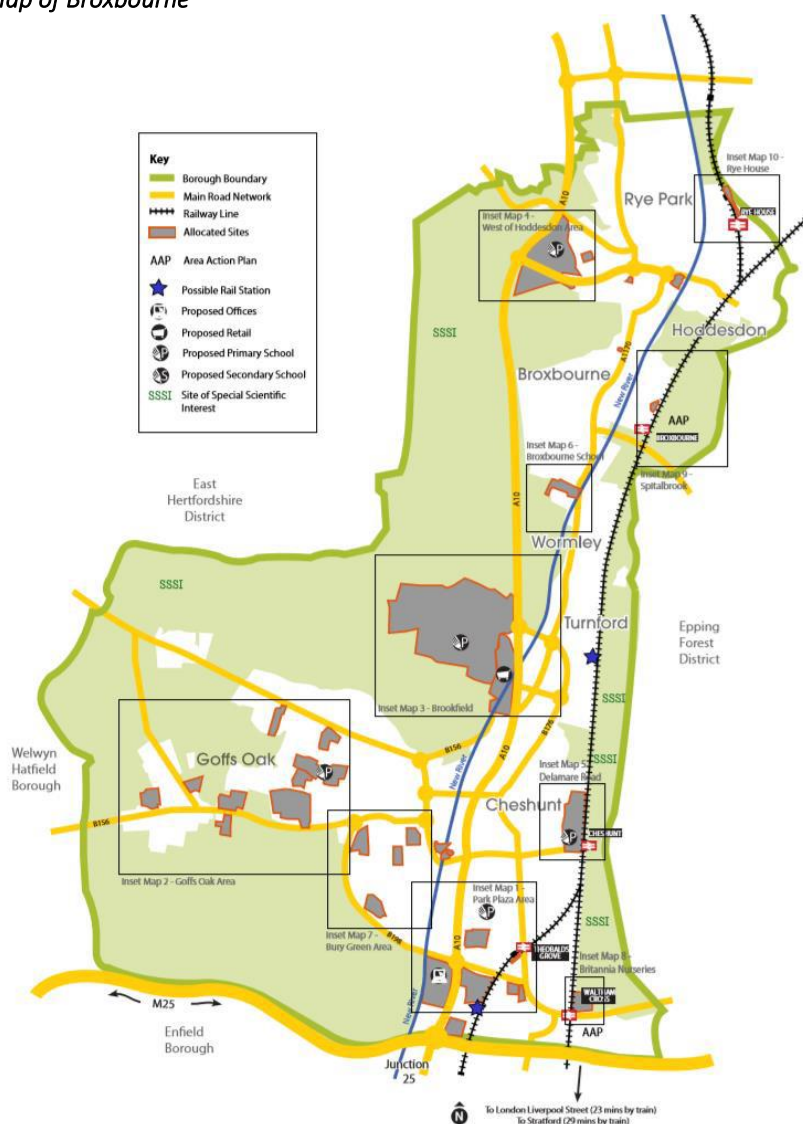
The 5 key deliverables of the Broxbourne Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy are as follows:

1. Review of existing national, strategic and local policies for sport and recreation
2. Audit of existing sports and recreation facilities using existing data where possible to include public, private and educational provision.
3. Analysis of demand including, unmet, latent and dispersed demand highlighting the need for sports and recreation facilities across the Borough of Broxbourne including projections for future years using population growth projections.
4. Assessment of potential surpluses and deficiencies in sports and recreation assets in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility in comparison to national and regional data sets where relevant.
5. Identification of any specific geographic and / or individual facility needs arising from the findings of the assessment.

1.5 The Extent of the Study Area

The study area will cover the entirety of Broxbourne. As an important part of the Strategy will be to identify future need for pitch provisions and facilities based on population growth and areas of housing growth, consideration is given to leading areas of growth such as Cheshunt, Turnford and Hoddesdon as shown in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1 – Map of Broxbourne



There are also sports teams from inside Broxbourne that use facilities outside the borough boundary as well as teams from neighbouring local authority areas that use facilities in Broxbourne. This cross-boundary movement has been taken into consideration when considering future needs for each particular sport both in terms of specialist and strategic facilities that serve a sub-regional catchment area, and the local community sporting needs for Broxbourne residents.

1.6 The Approach to Developing the Strategy

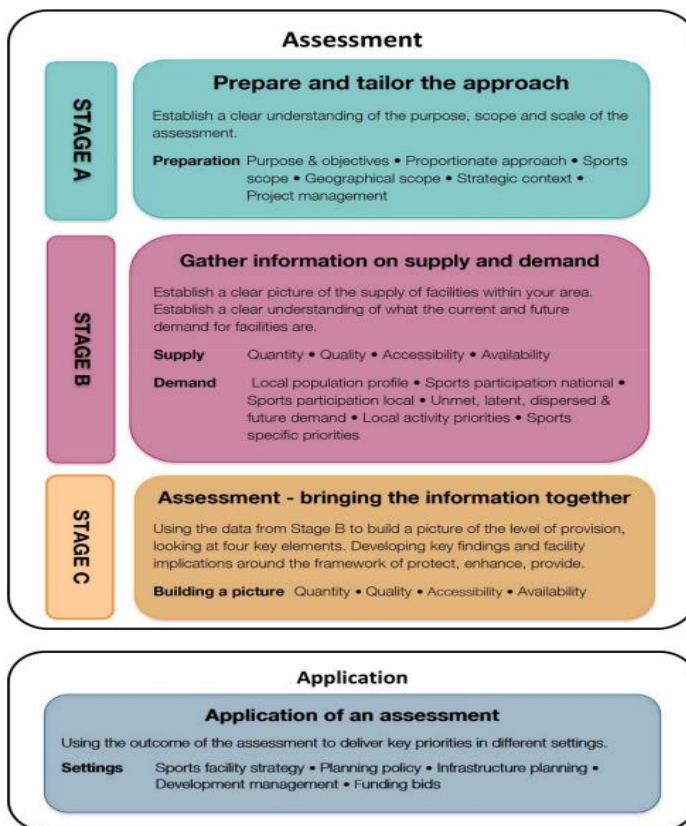
The strategy aims to be robust, based on local needs (currently and projections to 2033), and deliverable. This objective is assured by adhering to the 'ten steps' advocated in the current Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance' and the 'Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities'. This guidance is detailed below.



Figure 1.2 - Ten Stage Approach to a PPS

- Stage A** - Step 1: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- Stage B** - Step 2: Gather supply information and views.
- Step 3: Gather demand information and views.
- Stage C** - Step 4: Understand the situation at individual sites.
- Step 5: Develop the current and future pictures of provision.
- Step 6: Identify the key findings and issues.
- Stage D** - Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan.
- Step 8: Write and adopt the strategy.
- Stage E** - Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy.
- Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up to date.

Figure 1.3- Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities (ANOG)



Stage A – Prepare and tailor the approach: Establish a clear understanding of the purpose, scope and scale of the assessment.

Stage B – Gather information on supply and demand: Establish a clear picture of the supply of facilities within the area and the current and future demands for facilities.

Stage C – Assessment – Bringing the information together: Using the data from Stage B to build a picture of the level of provision, looking at four key elements. Developing key findings and facility implications around the framework of protect, enhance, provide.

Application – Application of an assessment: Using the outcome of the assessment to deliver key priorities in different settings.

National Policy Adherence

There is also a need to adhere to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Para 98 of the NPPF states: *“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate”.*

Sport England’s guidance highlights the importance of undertaking detailed assessments of sports facility needs and the benefits of sports and physical activity within local authority areas (as well as considering the range of possible options and scenarios for meeting priority needs and achieving positive outcomes identified through this process), before making recommendations for future action.

Specifically, the guidance recommends that local authorities:

1. *Recognise and give significant weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity.*
2. *Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessments of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them.*
3. *Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles.*

The guidance published by Sport England also advocates that strategic recommendations and action planning consider the following hierarchy of needs:

1. **Protect** existing sports facilities where these are sustainable and continue to perform a valuable role in meeting community needs.
2. **Enhance** existing facilities that meet these criteria but need improvement to continue to be of value; and, lastly,
3. **Provide** new or extended facilities where there is found to be substantial unmet needs currently or predicted for the future.

1.7 Tailoring the Approach - What makes the study area different?

There are a number of sport specific issues which the Council had consulted with the leading NGBs on prior to the commencement of this strategy, these include:

- o John Warner Sports Centre management up for tender, which may affect community use.
- o Rugby – only one club in the area who are a rugby 365 site but have a challenge in terms of capacity for development.
- o Football – a number of large clubs with site capacity issues.
- o Significant housing growth in the area.

Population Profile and Growth

The retention, and development opportunities, of new facilities in Broxbourne will need to address the needs of the borough's population, both current and forecasted. Findings from The Office of National Statistics (ONS) 2018 population projections help to enable future planning for local populations. The most recent figures for Broxbourne suggested that Broxbourne's population was projected to remain largely the same between 2021 and 2033, with a slight decrease in population from 97,016 to 96,988. The recent Census 2021 data however showed an increase in population since 2011 by 5.8%, from 93,600 in 2011 to around 99,000 in 2021 and based on housing projections further growth in population of 16,387 is expected. This increase of population indicates that the current provision of facilities for sport, physical activity, and recreation in Broxbourne will be under pressure in the coming years as this growth occurs.

Based on the ONS's 2021 mid-year population estimates, 48.4% of residents in Broxbourne are male and 17.4% of residents are aged 65 or over. Census 2021 data shows that the largest ethnic group in Broxbourne's resident population is White British (81.1%) with the largest minority populations being Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African (6.7%) and mixed or multiple ethnic groups (4.0%).

Health

It is useful to understand the health profile of Broxbourne both in regard to identifying health issues which investment into provision can contribute to addressing, as well as understanding the propensity of a local population to be active. Broxbourne's Local Authority Health Profile (statistics ranging from 2018 to 2020) states that the health of residents is better than the national average with a higher life expectancy for both men and women.

Figure 1.4 provides an overview of the performance of Broxbourne across several Department of Health key health indicators in comparison with national averages. Where figures for Broxbourne are

highlighted in red, they are worse than the national average, however, many of Broxbourne’s health statistics are better than the national average.

Figure 1.4 Table of health indicators in Broxbourne and England

Indicator	Broxbourne	England
Deprivation (IMD Score)	18	21.7
% Children in low-income families (U16)	12.6	19.9
% Overweight children (including obesity (Year 6)	25.6	23.4
% Physically active adults	65.7	67.3
% Obese or overweight adults	63.3	63.8
% Estimated diabetes diagnosis rate	74.8	78.0
Life expectancy: male	79.5	78.7
Life expectancy: female	83.8	82.8
Under 75 mortality: cardiovascular	57.5	76
Under 75 mortality: cancer	126.9	121.5
Emergency Hospital Admissions for Intentional Self Harm	81.8	163.9

Figure 1.4 shows that Broxbourne performs well in comparison to the national averages with scores that are above the national average for 7 out of eleven health indicators. However, some of the statistics are slightly worse than the national average. Therefore, it is vital that facilities for leisure are built so they can help contribute to maintain the positive indicators shown and reducing the growing levels of poor health including diabetes, adult obesity and overweight children. According to Sport England, sport and physical activity can help with several different physical and mental issues including reducing the risk of diabetes, heart disease, depression and many more health indicators listed previously. Therefore, by improving the provision, availability and accessibility of indoor and outdoor sports facilities in Broxbourne, the residents will have more opportunity to prevent poor health, to improve their health and to sustain good health.

Deprivation

When planning for new provision for sport and recreation, it is important to consider deprivation levels within the borough and the surrounding catchment area. Deprivation and the social and economic factors behind the figures directly affect the propensity and ability of the catchment population to access and use facilities and be active. Investment into community facilities can also form an important element of the regeneration of deprived areas. An awareness of how deprivation affects a local population can also influence how activities are delivered and what type of initiatives are launched to increase participation.

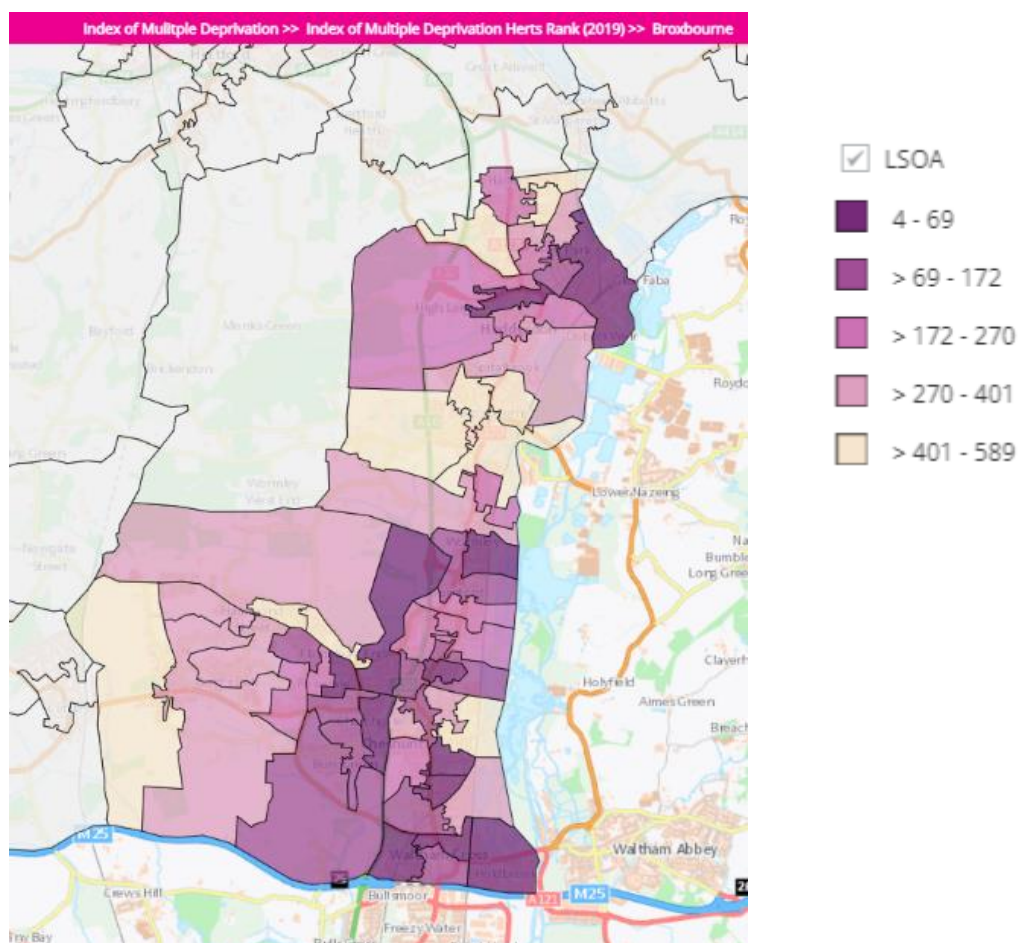
Figure 1.5 below illustrates Broxbourne’s deprivation rank nationally and regionally for the years 2015 and 2019. As shown on the table, for both England Rank and Hertfordshire Rank, Broxbourne’s deprivation rank has decreased from 2015 to 2019 (where rank 1 is most deprived), signalling a trend of slight decline across Broxbourne for those years.

Figure 1.5 Broxbourne National and Regional Deprivation rank

	2015 Rank	2019 Rank
England Rank	171/317	153/317
Hertfordshire Rank	2/10	2/10

Figure 1.6 shows a ward map of Broxbourne and the relative Indexes of Multiple Deprivation. Understanding the locations of the areas with the highest levels of deprivation will assist in indicating where valuable community leisure assets are currently based and serving those communities most in need as well as decisions on future investment that can add to and serve those areas are key outcomes of the overall approach to this borough wide strategy.

Figure 1.6 Levels of deprivation across Broxbourne by Lower Super Output Area

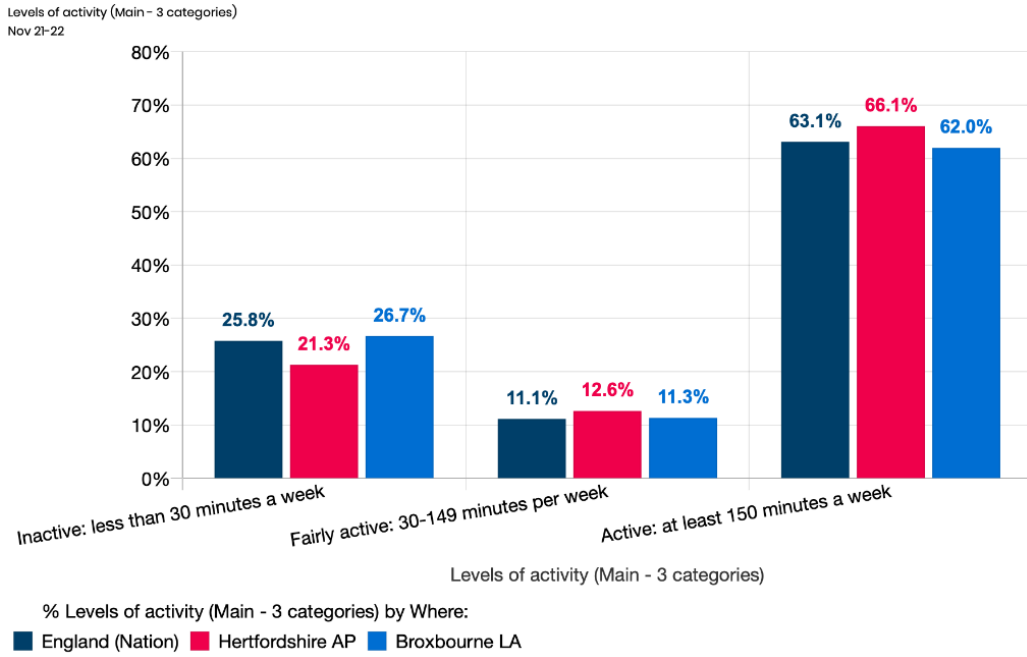


The most deprived areas on the map (coloured dark purple – most deprived 20% in England) are within the LSOA’s 013C and 013D in the Waltham Cross area. The location of facilities within and adjacent to these neighbourhoods are important such considerations.

How does the population participate?

Figure 1.7, taken from Sport England’s latest Active Lives Survey results (November 2021 – November 2022), show that more adult residents of the borough (aged 16+) are physical ‘inactive’ (26.7%) compared to the national average (25.8%) and the regional average (21.3%). Also, a lower percentage (62.0%) is classed as ‘active’ than regionally (66.1%) and nationally (63.1%).

Figure 1.7 Levels of Activity



Regular participation – defined in the survey as participation at least twice in the last 28 days – is also lower among adults in Broxbourne (75.7%) than across Hertfordshire and nationally (76.7%) as shown in Figure 1.8 below.

Figure 1.8 Participation in the last 28 days

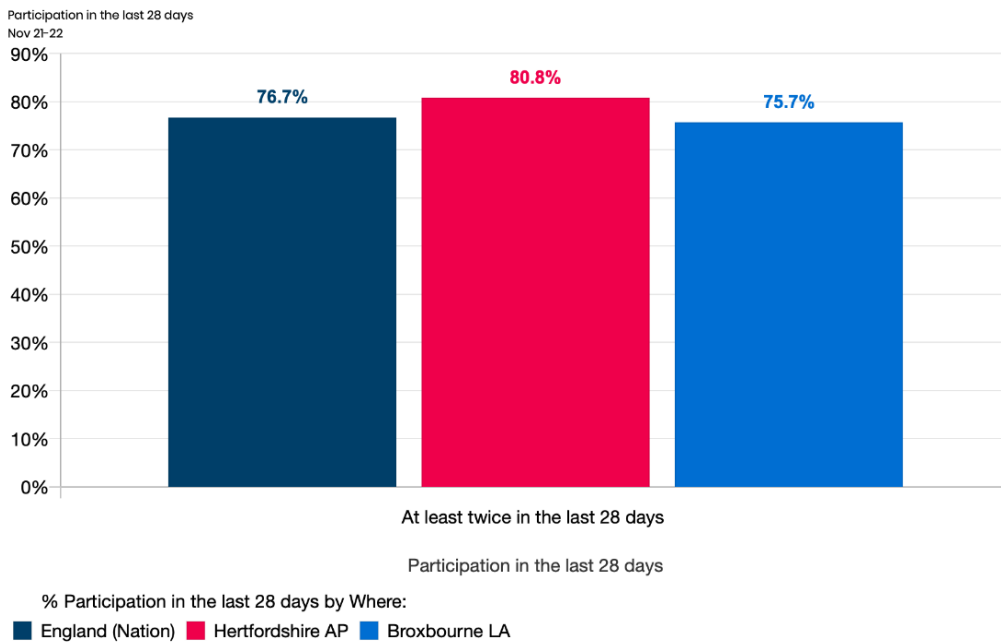
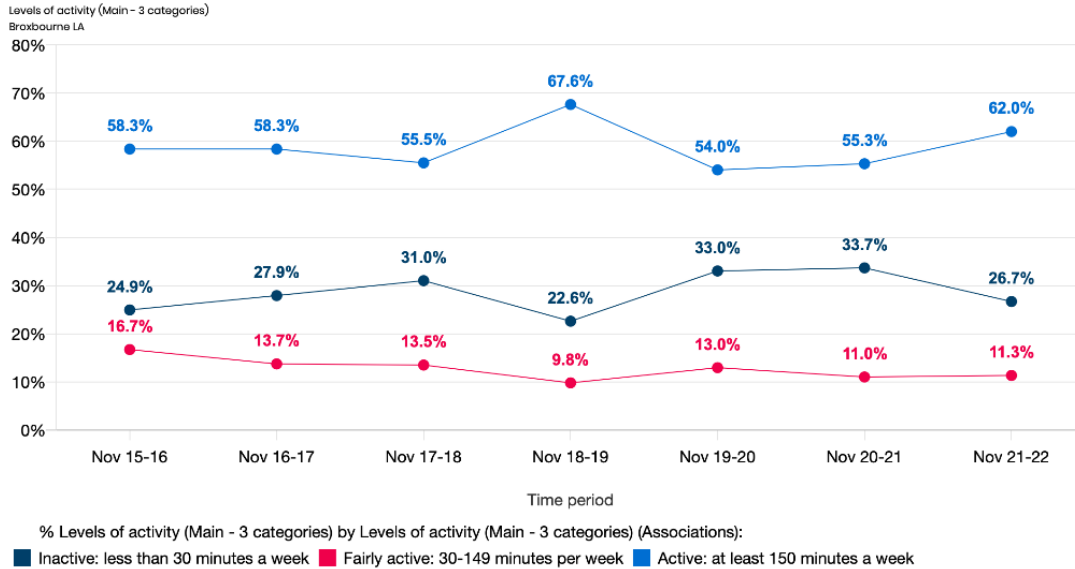
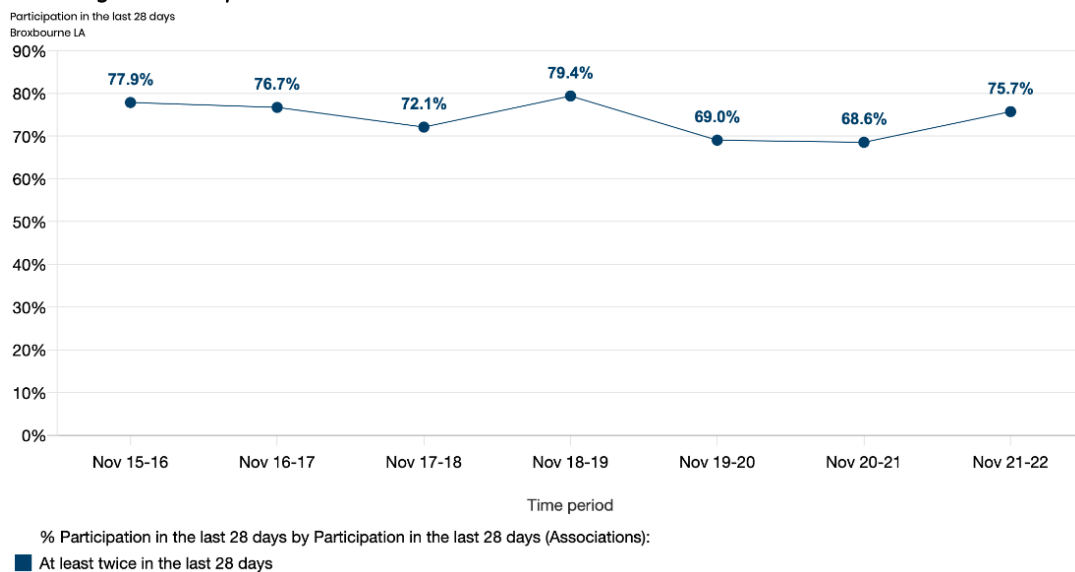


Figure 1.9 Levels of activity Participation Trends



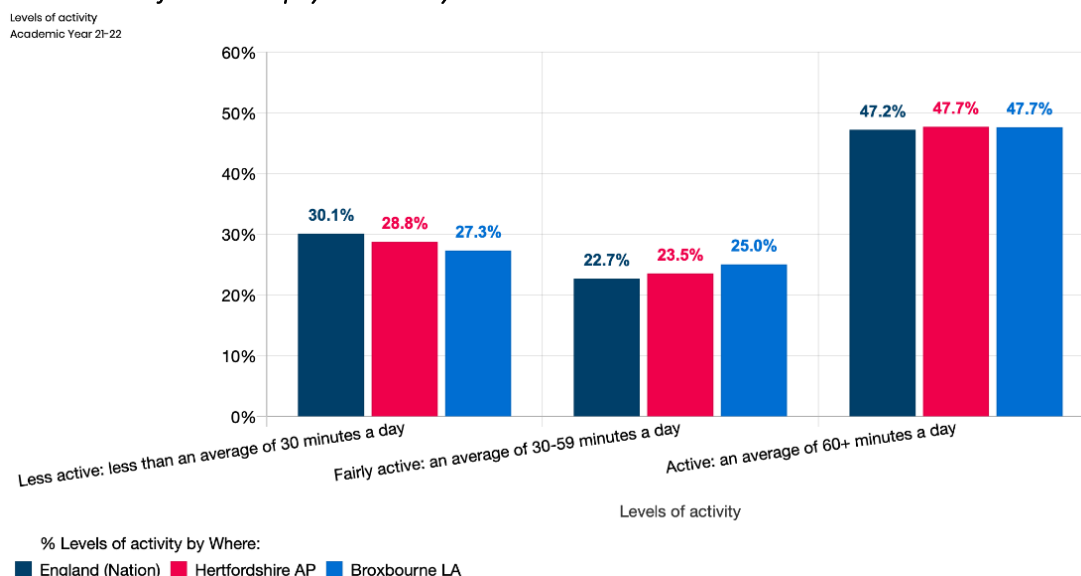
The proportion of adults in the borough classed as ‘Active’ (at least 150 minutes a week) has increased by 3.7% (from 58.3% to 62.0%) since Nov 15-16. Over the same period, the figure for ‘inactive’ (less than 30 minutes a week) has decreased by 5.4% (from 16.7% to 11.3%). Regular adult participation (at least twice in the last 28 days) has decreased since Nov 15-16 from 77.9% to 75.7%, a decrease of 2.2% (Figure 1.10).

Figure 1.10 Regular Participation Trends



Well over a quarter of adults in the borough (26.7%) were found to be ‘inactive’ in the 2021 ALS. This emphasises the importance of provision of accessible and affordable facilities for sport and active recreation in Broxbourne.

Figure 1.11 Levels of Children’s physical activity



The last available data on the Active Lives Children & Young People Survey for the area of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire and Nationally is the 21-22 academic year. Overall, the level of activity of children in Broxbourne is similar to the regional and national picture. 27.3% of children are ‘less active’ in Broxbourne comparing to 28.8% of children in Hertfordshire and 30.1% of children in England. There are also similar levels of ‘Active’ children in Broxbourne (47.7%) in comparison to the regional (47.7%) and national (47.2%) average.

Figure 1.12 Children’s physical activity during school hours or outside school hours

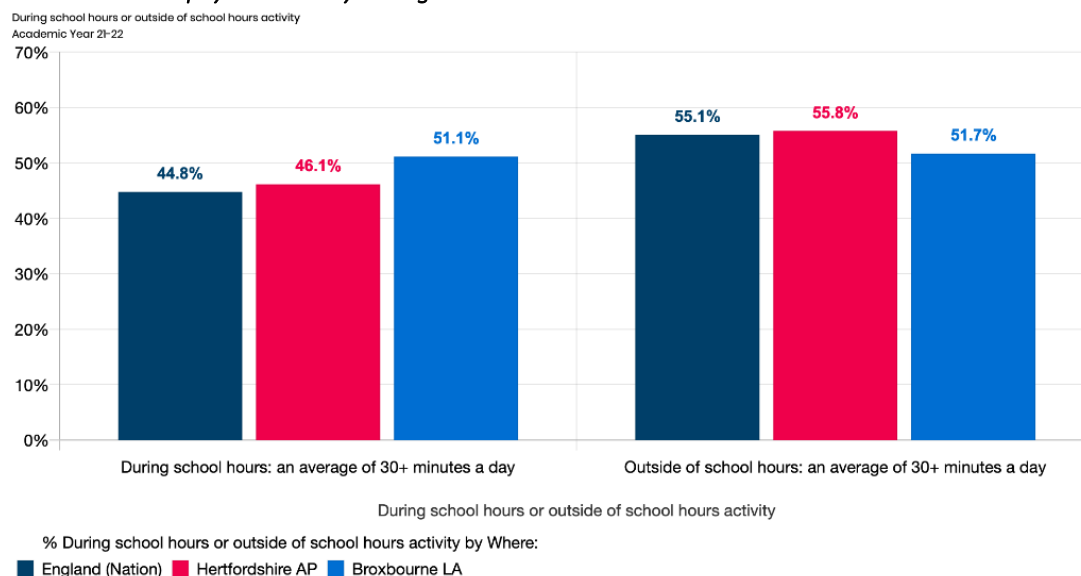
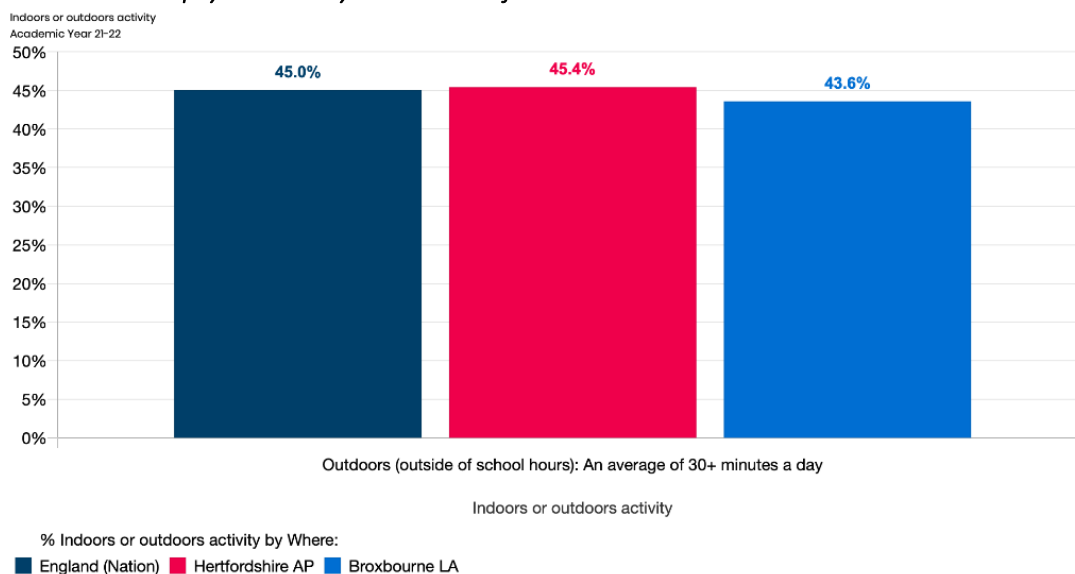


Figure 1.12 considers the extent of activity by children during school hours and outside of school hours. In contrast, to figure 1.11, this data shows that children in Broxbourne are participating significantly more in activity during school hours but partake in physical activity significantly less outside of school hours than the regional and national averages.

During school hours, 51.1% of children participate in activity (30+ minutes a day), this is greater than the regional average (46.1%) and the national average (44.8%).

Outside of school hours children activity in Broxbourne is 51.7%, lower than the average for children in Hertfordshire (55.8%) and the average for children in England (55.1%).

Figure 1.13 Children’s physical activity outdoor out of school hours



A similar analysis can be made from figure 1.13 as figure 1.11. An average of 43.6% of children in Broxbourne participate in outdoor activities outside of school hours, this is mostly similar to the regional (45.4%) and national (45.0%) averages.

Club Survey Overview

To understand the current landscape of clubs in Broxbourne, the demand and issues facing each specific sport covered within the strategy, data was collected from a survey which was distributed to the sports clubs in the borough. By analysing the data, it provides insight into whether the current level of provision for sport and physical activity is meeting the demands of these sports, the existing and latent demand for growth as well as potential priority project developments. A summary of the results of the club survey is provided below.

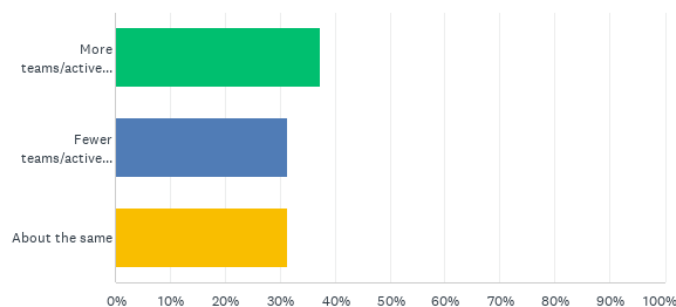
Figure 1.14 Club Responses – Spread of Responses

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Athletics	1.92%	1
Badminton	5.77%	3
Basketball	0.00%	0
Bowls	11.54%	6
Boxing	1.92%	1
Cricket	13.46%	7
Exercise, movement or dance	13.46%	7
Football	40.38%	21
Gymnastics	1.92%	1
Hockey	5.77%	3
Judo	1.92%	1
Netball	9.62%	5
Rugby Union	3.85%	2
Rugby League	0.00%	0
Squash	1.92%	1
Swimming	3.85%	2
Table Tennis	1.92%	1
Taekwondo	0.00%	0
Tennis	3.85%	2
Volleyball	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	25.00%	13
Total Respondents: 52		

52 individual sports clubs responded to the invitation to complete the survey, these clubs are compiled of both indoor and outdoor sports. Table Figure 1.14 shows the spread of responses for each sport.

Figure 1.15 Club Responses – Growth Trend last 3 years

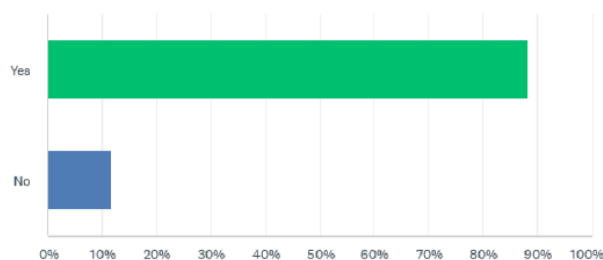
Q7 Does your Club/Organisation have more or fewer teams/active members than three seasons/years ago, or has the number of teams/active members stayed about the same?



37.25% of sports clubs reported an increase in active members from three years ago with nearly a third of clubs reporting similar and fewer active members. Whilst this is a mostly positive response, the impacts of COVID-19 on active members in the three years prior to the survey would lead to a more significant prevalence of clubs with increased active members once the restrictions on travel and facility usage have been lifted. Over a third of sports clubs have experience growth in the last three years, therefore, increasing the need and demand for sporting provisions.

Figure 1.16 Future Growth

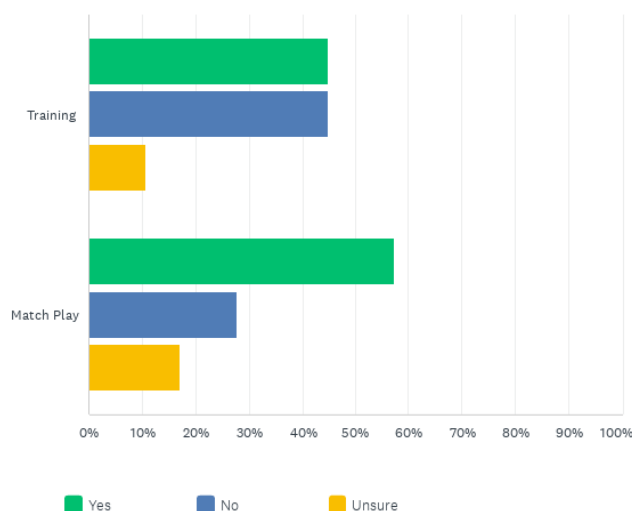
Q8 Does your Club/Organisation have plans to grow in the next three seasons/years?



Looking to the future, almost 90% of the clubs surveyed were positive regarding plans for growth over the next three years/seasons, emphasising further the strength of the club sector in Broxbourne as well as likely rising demand. The rest of the respondents do not have any further plans to grow, this signals that there is a need to maintain the current provisions for these clubs to remain sustainable. Further sport and club specific needs are detailed in both the Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Facilities Strategy sections in the main strategy.

Figure 1.17 Club Needs – Meeting Demand

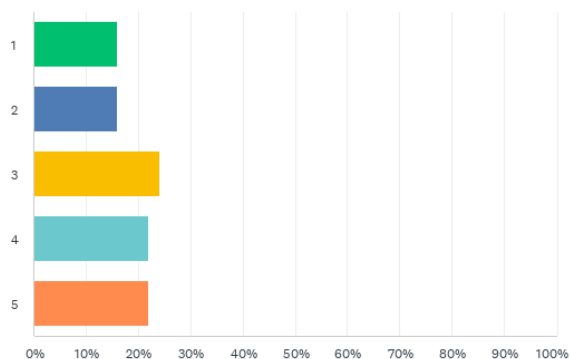
Q11 Is your current number of hours/pitches/evenings sufficient to meet the demand for your Club's/Organisation's activities for training and match play?



Over 40% of the clubs responded that they do not have sufficient programming time available at the sporting venues they access to meet current training demand from their memberships and 27% for match play. This shows the supply or availability of facilities and resources is not meeting the demands of the sports clubs, signalling a potential need to increase accessibility and capacity of sport facilities.

Figure 1.18 Club Response – Ratings

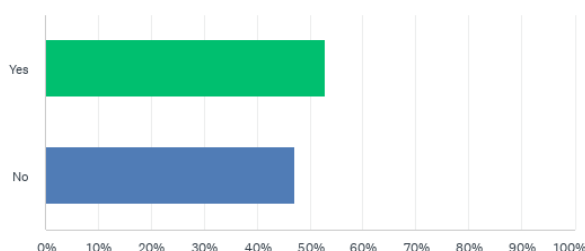
Q16 How do you rate the quality of your Club's/Organisation's main playing facilities, including playing surface? (1 being very poor and 5 being very good)



In terms of the quality of the stock of sports facilities available to the sports clubs in the area, just over 30% of those surveyed rated the playing facilities they use as 'poor' or 'very poor' and 24% as 'average'. Almost half of clubs surveyed (44.0%) consider their main playing facilities to be 'good' or 'very good'. Whilst this is a reasonably positive response, this set of data does reflect the need to upgrade facilities and look at the need for better maintenance and where possible enhancing the facility stock within the borough. Site and sport specific venue needs are detailed further in the Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Facility Strategy sections.

Figure 1.19 Main site – improvements

Q18 Is there a need to change your Club's/Organisation's main playing facilities to sustain or grow your club/Organisation?

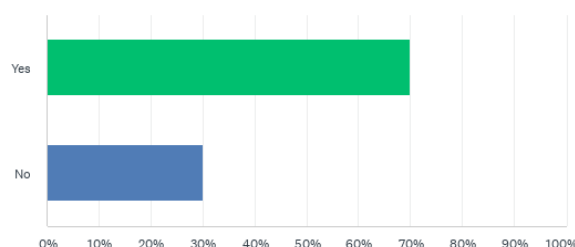


52.94% of sport clubs believe they are in need of change or improvements to their current main playing facilities to sustain or grow their club. This data shows that support is clearly needed for those clubs who are keen to promote growth or in many cases to ensure sustainability and longevity. Whilst the strategy details a number of enhancements and investment needs for sport and physical activity, the Council also acknowledges that in difficult financial times, the maintenance of the current stock of facilities is of prime importance as well as planning for the future.

The clubs surveyed cited a range of aspirations and facility needs to grow their clubs, individual club responses, from a range of sports, and these are included in Appendix F.

Figure 1.20 Club Growth and Sustainability

Q19 Is there a need to improve the quality of the facilities to sustain or grow your Club/Organisation?



70% of the respondent clubs consider they need to improve their facilities to sustain the appeal of their club to existing members and to attract new members. This is an evident issue for accommodating the growth of sports clubs as over a third of sports clubs in the area have grown in the past three years, as identified in figure 1.15. Therefore, whilst a high majority of clubs are keen to expand further, there appears a link to need to invest in the wider infrastructure for clubs such as ancillary / support facilities to support this. Further site and sport specific issues are detailed in the main strategy sections that follow.

Survey summary

Many clubs seek to expand over the next three years, and they are reporting needs for further development of facilities to achieve these goals. The data has shown that many clubs are not currently in the position they would like to be and are not completely satisfied with the facilities that they have access to. Most clubs believe they are in need of funding to grow for a range of reasons, many of which are linked directly to facilities and improving the accessibility of provisions to members.

A few of the challenges surrounding the facilities in Broxbourne have been mentioned in the survey through an ‘additional comments’ question. Through these comments, it is clear that there are barriers surrounding the lack of facilities, preventing many clubs from growing and extending their offer. There are also challenges around the quality of facilities amongst sports clubs in Broxbourne and larger venues are in demand in the area as clubs struggle to have enough time for their growing memberships as the need for more sessions increase. Further site specific and sport specific issues are picked up in the main strategy sections that follow.

Which sports to include?

The Council agreed that the indoor sports facilities to be included in the strategy are:

- Swimming pools
- Sports halls (to include consideration of both multi-sport halls and specialist facilities for the sports of indoor cricket, gymnastics, trampolining, cheerleading, table tennis, martial arts, boxing, badminton, basketball, tennis and bowls)
- Health and Fitness venues (gyms, dance and exercise class/spin studios).

It was also agreed that the outdoor facilities to be included in the strategy are:

- Football
- Rugby (Union & League)
- Cricket
- Tennis
- Pickleball
- Hockey
- Bowls
- Athletics and running
- Netball
- Squash
- Golf
- Water based activities – angling / canoeing / kayaking / sailing / white water rafting / open water swimming / rowing / windsurfing / paddleboarding.
- Cycling – BMX / Cycle hubs
- Multi use games areas / Playzones used for sport and recreation formal and informal.
- Skate parks
- Riding / equestrian
- Outdoor exercise equipment

Within these sports and facilities, the strategy seeks as far as is practicable, to include consideration of all forms of play, whether:

- Club and league based (formal) play and training (including reference to indoor nets for cricket),
- Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g., friendly and recreational game formats outside the sport’s governing bodies affiliated structures), and
- Un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students out of school.

1.8 Management and Delivery

The development of the strategy has been managed by the Broxbourne Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy Steering Group. Internal stakeholders within the steering group include representatives from Broxbourne Council’s Sports, Leisure & Culture, Parks and Planning services and Be. Broxbourne, the Council’s operator of the two main public sports venues Laura Trott Leisure Centre (Cheshunt), John Warner Sports Centre (Hoddesdon) and Cheshunt Park Golf Course.

The external stakeholders included in the Steering Group made up of representatives from Sport England, Herts Sports Partnership, Football Foundation, Hertfordshire Football Association, the Lawn Tennis Association, England Rugby, the Rugby Football League, England Hockey, Hertfordshire Cricket, England & Wales Cricket Board, Swim England, and Continuum Sport & Leisure Ltd, the consultants appointed to co-ordinate the strategy development to the point of the recommendations and action plan.

As part of the process the consultant team also consulted with the following other National Governing Bodies: British Gymnastics, Bowls England, British Cycling, British Canoeing, England Golf, England Netball, England Athletics, Royal Yachting Association, Table Tennis England and British Equestrian.

The views of the National Governing Bodies consulted are reflected in the sport's specific sections. Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby (Union and League) in the Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment of Needs Appendices and the others as part of the Built Facilities Strategy Section 2 - Sports Specific Analysis.



Broxbourne Indoor and Outdoor
Sports Facilities Strategy
2023 – 2033

Section 2 (part one) –
Playing Pitch Strategy

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1 - Introduction

This document is Part 1 of Broxbourne’s Indoor and Outdoor Facilities Strategy 2023-33 – the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The PPS, when adopted, will replace the previous Outdoor Facilities Strategy adopted by the Borough Council in December 2013.

Consistent with the previous strategy this PPS includes consideration of facility supply, demands, accessibility and availability for the four primary playing pitch sports:

- Cricket
- Football
- Hockey
- Rugby

Within these sports, the strategy seeks as far as is practicable, to include consideration of all forms of play, whether:

- Club and league based (formal) play and training (including reference to indoor nets for cricket),
- Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g., friendly and recreational game formats outside the sport’s governing bodies affiliated structures), and
- Un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students out of school.

In accordance with the national guidance for the development of playing pitch strategies, section 2 of the Broxbourne PPS sets out the findings of the assessment of needs for playing pitch facilities in the study area, both currently and in the future.

The findings are presented in summary format and should be read in conjunction with separate appendices for each playing pitch sport (Appendices A – D). These documents provide the findings of the detailed research and consultation undertaken to ensure that the facility needs findings summarised in section 2 are fully robust.

The section concludes with recommendations for the protection and enhancement of existing facilities and for the provision of new facilities where considered necessary to address identified current or future needs to 2033.

Section 3 of this PPS sets a range of potential future change scenarios (e.g. loss of key playing pitch sites, new provision, substantial population growth in a particular area) and strategic scenarios for addressing identified needs (e.g. change of use from one pitch sport or pitch surface to another, greater community use of education playing pitches).

The PPS scenarios considered have emerged from discussion with the members of the Broxbourne Sports Facilities Strategy Steering Group and inform the policy recommendations and action plan that follow in Sections 3 and 4 of the overall Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy.

1.1 Trends in Participation in Pitch Sports

Nationally, Sport England’s Active Lives Survey (ALS) shows that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taking part at least twice in the last 28 days) in the leading playing pitch sports in England by adults (aged 16+) has generally recovered to pre covid levels (November 2021-2022).

- **Football** – has returned to pre covid levels of 4.4% from 3.2% in 2020/21. In the three years prior to Covid, regular adult football participation fell from 5.0% in 2016/17 to 4.4% in 2018/19.

- **Cricket** – has increased to 0.8% above pre covid levels of 0.7%, which matches its highest level of participation since ALS started recording figures in 15/16 at 0.8%. In the three years prior to Covid, regular adult cricket participation was consistent at 0.7%.
- **Rugby Union** – has not fully recovered to pre covid levels of 0.5% but has increased to 0.4% from 0.3% in 2020/21. In the three years prior to covid, regular adult participation dropped from 0.6% in 2016/17 to 0.5% in 18/19.
- **Hockey** – has returned to pre covid levels of 0.3% from 0.2% in 2020/21. In the three years prior to covid, regular adult participation increased from 0.2% in 2016/17 to 0.3% in 2018/19.

In the ten years since the last playing pitch study was carried out in Broxbourne, there has been significant changes in the local picture of both pitch supply and pitch demand.

In the case of cricket, whilst adult demand has remained about the same overall at 20 regular teams despite the folding of one club (Wormley CC) and the loss of two fine-turf pitches, junior demand has grown substantially. 10 new junior teams have formed since 2013 supported by a small increase in supply of artificial non-turf pitches (1 additional NTP) and, more significantly, by the delivery of ECB junior development initiatives by several of the borough's leading clubs.

Football pitch supply has undergone even greater change with the provision since 2013 of 4.5 new full sized 3G artificial turf pitches at Cheshunt FC, Goffs Academy, The Broxbourne School, Rosedale Sports Club and Goffs Churchgate Academy (0.5 pitch) as well as some improvements to the drainage of grass pitches at Wormley Sports Club.

There has been a significant increase in football demand as the number of registered teams has increased by 82 to 256 teams, an increase of nearly 47% since the previous audit in 2013. There has been a small decrease in adult teams (-4 teams) reflecting a national trend but a large increase in youth and mini soccer teams including substantial growth in girls' teams, 36 in 2023 compared to just 4 in 2013.

With regard to hockey, since 2013 the main club, Broxbourne Hockey Club, has added one adult team and refurbished its pitch at Broxbourne Sports Club in 2021. The smaller Cheshunt Hockey Club remains fully reliant on unsecured access to a poor quality hockey AGP with no changing rooms at Haileybury Turnford School as the other sand dressed pitch in the area at The Goff's Academy has been resurfaced as football 3G. The Council-owned sand filled pitch at John Warner Sports Centre in Hoddesdon in the north of the borough has been refurbished but is only used occasionally for hockey as an overflow site for Broxbourne Hockey club.

Rugby has had a very significant change in the supply with the development in 2017 of a full-size floodlit World Rugby compliant 3G pitch and, in 2018, the development of a new clubhouse at Rosedale Sports Club, the home of the only borough-based club, Cheshunt Rugby Club.

The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions impacted very significantly on playing pitch sports in the 2020 season. However, demand had largely recovered to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2022 and in some cases has exceeded previous participation levels.

1.2 Natural Turf Playing Pitches

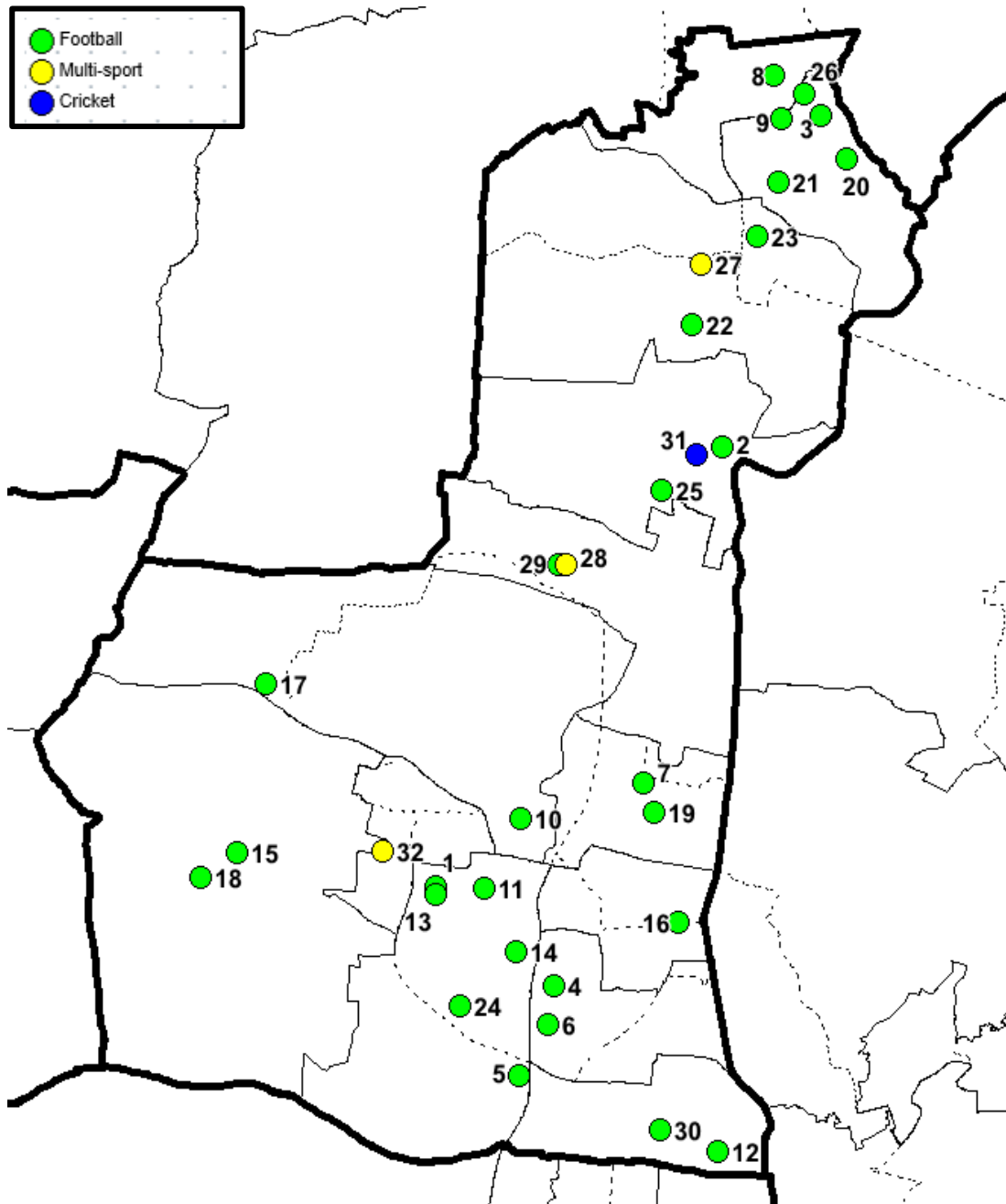
The sites with natural turf playing pitches in Broxbourne are listed in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1 Natural turf playing pitches in Broxbourne.

Map No	Site Name	Postcode	Sports
1	Broxbourne Borough V&E FC	EN7 5QN	Football
2	Broxbourne Rec. Ground	EN10 7AU	Football
3	Castle Road Playing Fields	EN11 0NF	Football
4	Cheshunt Community Sports Park	EN8 8XG	Football
5	Cheshunt Country Club	EN8 8YA	Football
6	Cheshunt FC	EN8 8RU	Football
7	Churchfields COE Academy	EN8 0LU	Football
8	Cranbourne Primary	EN11 9PP	Football
9	Forres Primary School	EN11 0RW	Football
10	Flamstead End Rec. Ground	EN8 0EY	Football
11	Goffs Lane Playing Fields	EN7 5EG	Football
12	Goodman Centre Playing Fields	EN8 7QD	Football
13	Goffs Academy	EN7 5QW	Football
14	Goffs Churchgate Academy	EN8 9LY	Football
15	Goffs Oak Playing Fields and Pavilion	EN7 5ET	Football
16	Grundy Park (Laura Trott Leisure Centre)	EN8 9AJ	Football
17	Hammond Street Playing Fields	EN7 6PG	Football
18	Jones Road Open Space	EN7 5JS	Football
19	Nightleys Playing Fields	EN8 0JX	Football
20	Old Highway Park / Rec. Ground	EN11 0HS	Football
21	Pound Close Playing Fields	EN11 0JR	Football
22	Robert Barclay Academy	EN11 8JY	Football
23	St Catherine VC CE School	EN11 8HT	Football
24	St Mary COE School	EN7 5FB	Football
25	The Broxbourne School	EN10 7DD	Football
26	The John Warner Sports Centre	EN11 0QF	Football
27	The Stewart Edwards Stadium (Lowfield Sports Ground)	EN11 8PX	Football / Cricket
28	Wormley Sports Club	EN10 7QE	Football / Cricket
29	Wormley Playing Fields	EN10 7QE	Football
30	Waltham Cross Playing Fields	EN8 7LU	Football
31	Broxbourne Sports Club	EN10 7BA	Cricket
32	Rosedale Sports Club	EN7 6TB	Cricket / Rugby

Figure 1.2 shows the distribution of natural turf playing pitch sites across Broxbourne.

Figure 1.2 Map of Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites



1.3 Artificial Turf Playing Pitches

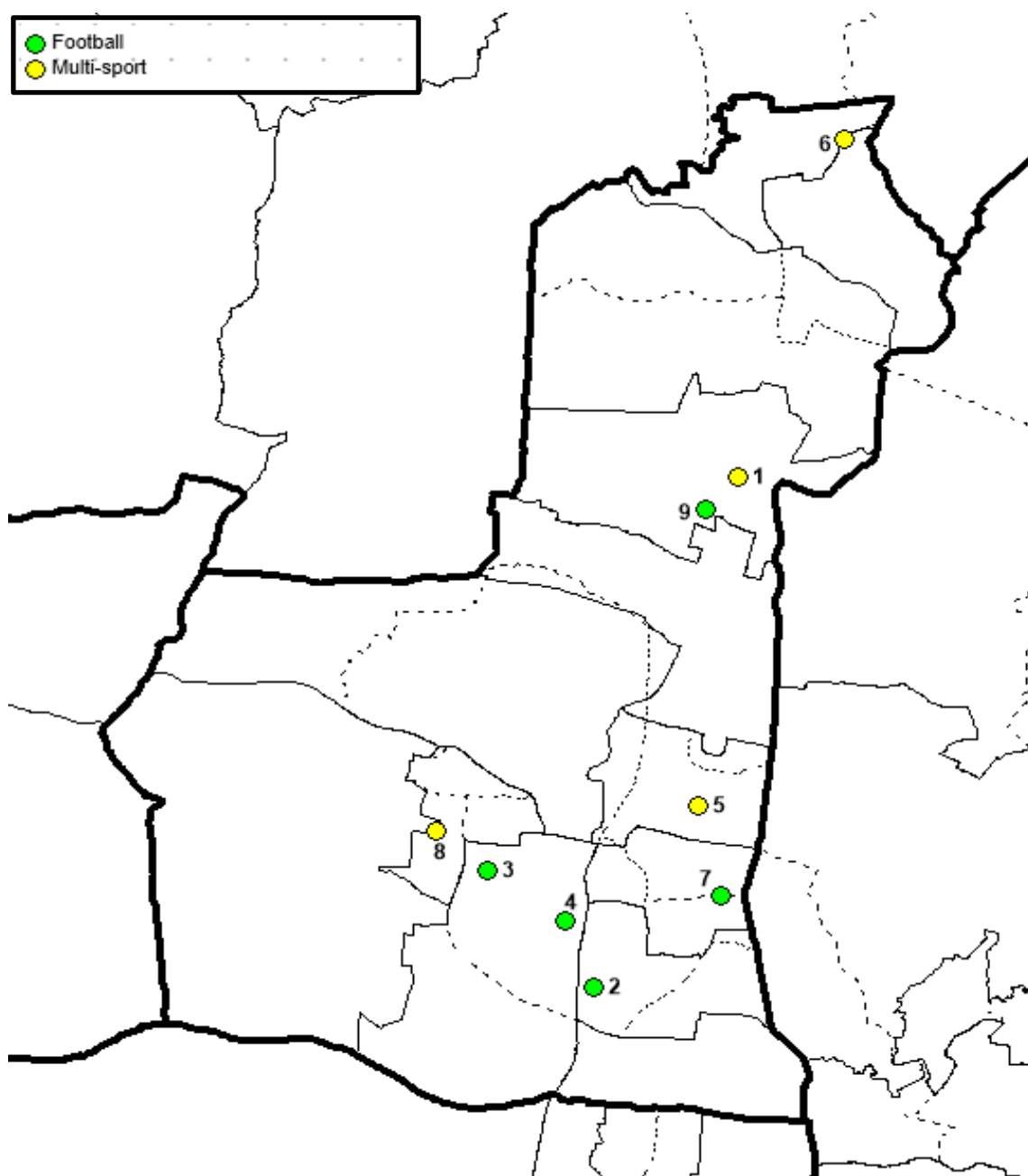
Sites in Broxbourne with artificial grass playing pitches (and the sports the sites provide for) are listed in Figure 1.3. The locations of these artificial pitches showing their distribution throughout Broxbourne are in Figure 1.4.

For cricket, NTP means Non-Turf Pitch which is an artificial strip located adjacent to a fine turf table or as a standalone wicket instead of a fine turf wicket table, this type of facility is used mainly for junior and low level adult cricket.

Figure 1.3 – Artificial Turf Playing Pitches in Broxbourne

Map No	Site Name	Post Code	Sports
1	Broxbourne Sports Club	EN10 7BA	Football / Hockey
2	Cheshunt FC	EN8 8RU	Football
3	Goffs Academy	EN7 5QW	Football
4	Goffs Churchgate Academy	EN8 9LY	Football
5	Haileybury Turnford School	EN8 0JU	Football / Hockey
6	John Warner Sports Centre	EN11 0QG	Football / Hockey
7	Laura Trott Sports Centre	EN8 9AJ	Football
8	Rosedale Sports Club	EN7 6TB	Football / Rugby
9	The Broxbourne School	EN10 7DD	Football

Figure 1.4 - Distribution of ATP sites in Broxbourne





PPS Section 2 –
Findings and Facility Needs

2 – Findings and Facility Needs

The key findings of the detailed Assessment of Need studies for the four major playing pitch sports played in Broxbourne are summarised in this section of the PPS leading to conclusions as to the playing pitch facility needs.

Detailed Assessment of Need reports of findings (covering Stages B and C of Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance) and supporting site-specific audit reports have been checked and challenged by representatives of the relevant sport's governing bodies and are appended as follows:

- Appendix A: Cricket - Assessment of Need and Site Audit
- Appendix B: Football - Assessment of Need and Site Audit
- Appendix C: Hockey - Assessment of Need and Site Audit
- Appendix D: Rugby - Assessment of Need and Site Audit

This chapter provides an overall summary of supply, planned and proposed changes to supply, current and latent demand covering the following leading questions as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy methodology.

- What are the main characteristics of the current supply of and demand for provision?
- Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?
- Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?
- What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?
- Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

2.1 Current supply and demand

The number of playing pitch sites and playing pitches in Broxbourne available for community use - both in 2022 (when the site audits were carried out) and in 2013 (the date of the previous Outdoor Sports Strategy) - are set out in Figure 2.1 below for each pitch type (natural turf and artificial turf) and for each of the playing pitch sports for which there is a current demand in the borough.

Figure 2.1 – Supply of Community Use Pitches and Sites

	No. of Sites		No. of Pitches	
	2022	2013	2022	2013
Cricket fine turf	4	6	5	7
Cricket NTP	1	0	1	0
Football grass	26	26	80	78
Football ATP ¹	10	7	14	10
Hockey ATP	3	4	3	4
Rugby grass	1	1	2	4
Rugby ATP	1	0	1	0

The main characteristic of the current playing pitch supply is the substantial increase in the number of 3G AGP sites and pitches with community availability and use for football over the last ten years.

There has also been the development of the first rugby compliant artificial grass pitch in the borough at Rosedale Sports Club.

¹ All surface types & pitch sizes, with and without lights

In terms of expressed demand, the main changes since the last assessment is the continued growth in playing pitch sports at community sports clubs by children (including girls, most particularly in the younger age groups) and in demand among adults for opportunities to play pitch sports recreationally outside the traditional sports club model, including informal participation in small sided and shorter game formats.

In terms of sports clubs and teams, the current picture of demand in the borough in comparison with the position in 2013 is shown in Figure 2.2 below. All the pitch sports have seen growth in overall numbers and diversity of teams although there has been a fall in the number of clubs and/ adult men’s teams in all four sports. This fall in adult men’s teams is offset to a large degree by growth in women and girls and mixed football and cricket, disability football and in junior cricket.

Figure 2.2 – Community Demand for Pitches and Sites

	Clubs		Teams	
	2022	2013	2022	2013
Cricket	5 ²	6	35: 20 adult (16 men, 2 women, 2 mixed) 17 junior plus Dynamos & All Stars children’s coaching groups	27: 20 adult (all men), 7 junior
Football	50	72	256: 51 adult (49 men, 3 women), 103 youth (14 boys, 19 girls, 70 mixed), 93 mini-soccer (of which 17 girls only), 8 disability/futsal/rec	174: (56 men, 4 women), 68 youth (all boys), 46 mini-soccer
Hockey	2	2	19: 9 adult (4 men, 5 women), 10 junior (5 boys, 5 girls)	25: 13 adult (7 men, 6 women), 12 junior
Rugby	1	2	15: 4 adult (2 men, 1 men occasional, 1 women), plus 5 boys age grade teams and 6 mixed mini squads	18: 6 adult (all men), 6 boys age grade teams and 6 mixed mini squads

2.2 Is there enough provision for current demand?

Cricket - The assessment of facility needs shows that the fine turf pitches in the area are largely over played, and clubs require additional facilities to cater for current demand. A number of clubs are reliant on using facilities outside of the borough, with Hoddesdon CC using Thundridge CC’s ground in Ware and, until recently, Cheshunt Rosedale CC using a ground in Cuffley in Welwyn Hatfield District. There is unused capacity at Wormley Playing Fields due to the recent folding of Wormley CC which provides an opportunity for Hoddesdon CC to utilise the facilities as a second site rather than travelling out of the borough.

Football - A number of playing field sites in Broxbourne have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed, in the main, they are sites that are the home ground for Clubs with a large youth section, such as The Stadium (Cheshunt FC), Nightleys Playing Fields (East Herts Youth FC), Flamstead End (Hoddesdon Youth), and Wormley Sports Club (Wormley Rovers FC). There are also areas such as Waltham Cross with a very small number of pitches for the demand in the area. One club, Waltham Cross Football Club reported unmet demand stating lack of space in the local area has meant the club has to pause the potential of adding 22 more team’s boys/girls from U7 to U17.

There is little to no spare capacity for adult 11v11 and youth 11v11 pitches in the peak period once poor pitches and those unsecured are discounted. There are several Adult 11v11 pitches currently mothballed that have been included in the current supply so these need to be brought back into use in addition to providing new pitches to accommodate future population growth. There is some spare pitch

² Since 2022, Wormley Cricket Club has folded leaving 4 borough-based clubs

capacity for youth football (9v9,7v7,5v5), however the lack of or standard of ancillary facilities and/or pitches mean some sites have little use whilst others are at capacity or overused as shown in figure 2.3.

Figure 2.3: Grass pitches Supply / Demand Balance –community football sites *

Pitch Type	Secured Capacity (MES / Week)	Estimated Use (MES/ Week)	Supply / Demand Balance	Capacity discounted	Capacity in Peak period
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	74	51.5	+22.5	-23.5	-1
Youth 11v11 (U13-U16)	22	17.5	+4.5	-4.5	0
Youth 9v9 (U11-U12)	29	18.5	+10.5	-4.5	+6
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	54	31	+23	-11	+12
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	22	12.5	+9.5	-6	+3.5
Total	201	131	+70	-49	+20.5

*Includes new pitches at The Broxbourne School being provided in Sept 24 and mothballed sites

There are also a number of sites that are affected by recreational use. Overall improvements to pitch maintenance and changing room provision on key sites would be required to achieve a more even distribution of use as well as securing pitches on educational sites through community use agreements.

For youth/mini soccer football and training, shortfalls remain. Pinch points continue to be experienced by several clubs, particularly on Sunday mornings for match play and midweek early evenings for squad training, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand, particularly for girl's football. Currently, there are over 5 affiliated youth football teams for every available grass pitch and in the case of mini soccer (7v7 or 5v5) there are nearly 4 teams per grass pitch. There are also several clubs who travel outside of the borough for training. To meet the shortfall in current supply investment is needed in the provision of more full size 3G football ATP linked to large youth clubs to help to meet the needs of these clubs for training and matches.

Hockey – There is sufficient provision in the borough to meet current demand. However, the access for Cheshunt HC, at Haileybury Turnford School is not secure and the pitch is of poor quality.

Rugby - Cheshunt RFC has good security of access with a long lease on the facilities they use for home matches. They have 12 hours of agreed usage on the Rugby AGP as part of the Rugby 365 programme.

Overall, the rugby pitches in Broxbourne are at capacity for the current demand for matches and training.

2.3 Is the provision of sufficient quality?

Cricket - Fine turf pitches at Lowfield Sports Ground and Broxbourne Sports Ground are well maintained, however improvements in the pitch quality at Rosedale Sports Club could increase capacity.

The non-turf practice net systems need upgrading at Lowfield Sports Ground and there is also a need to improve the fencing around the Cricket club due to balls going into the Tennis club next door and the surrounding streets.

An investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at Lowfield Sports Ground and Broxbourne Sports Club.

Football – The football AGPs in the area are good quality, many with newly laid playing surfaces. A number of grass pitches are of low quality suffering from poor natural drainage, compaction of the ground and overuse, thereby limiting the playing capacity of these pitches. To address this issue on a large scale it would require significant additional investment in maintenance works at the frequencies required to effectively aerate and de-compact the playing surfaces of the poor-quality natural turf pitches.

The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at the three key sites assessed. In most cases, this will necessitate increased revenue investment in enhanced pitch maintenance regimes supported by grant funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Fund.

New, or upgraded pavilions are required at a number of sites to accommodate existing demand and better cater for growth in women and girl's football. These include Cheshunt Community Sports Park, Cheshunt FC, Flamstead End Rec. Ground, Goffs Churchgate Academy, Goffs Lane Playing Fields, The Stewart Edwards Stadium, Wormley Sports Club and Waltham Cross playing Fields. The following sites Goodman Centre Playing Fields, Jones Road Open Space and Nightleys Playing Fields have no current provision and consideration should be made to provide basic provision for youth football especially at the Goodman Centre Playing Fields and Nightleys Playing Fields.

Hockey - The pitch quality at Haileybury Turnford School needs refurbishment and the club has no access to changing rooms on match days.

Rugby - The maintenance at Cheshunt RFC is good but drainage on the site could be improved to further increase capacity.

2.4 Future supply and demand

On the future supply side, there are committed projects (or current planning applications) for new and enhanced playing pitch provision in the borough as follows:

At its Stadium site, Cheshunt FC has recently secured planning consent (on appeal) to convert the grass main pitch to 3G. If delivered, this project would provide a second full size 3G AGP on this site increasing playing capacity. In terms of submitted planning applications the only project of note currently is at the Rosedale Sports Club site. The proposed changes are to the configuration of the grass rugby pitches with improved drainage. This planning application is still to be determined. At this site there are also pre-planning proposals to improve the quality of the existing fine-turf cricket pitch and to provide a second pitch with an NTP to support the Cheshunt Rosedale Cricket Club's growth plans for juniors and women.

Pre-planning proposals are also in development at the Council's Laura Trott Leisure Centre as part of a park improvement scheme to replace the site's two 5-A-side 3G pitches (15 x 32m) by one pitch sized 33 x 20.3m in a new location within the park. This is a net loss of overall space and subject to planning

approval. There is also a current planning application for a 3G pitch at Robert Barclay Academy in Broxbourne as part of the mitigation from Cheshunt Country Club site.

There is an existing proposal with planning consent for a new fine-turf cricket pitch in Hoddesdon at High Leigh Garden Village to address housing-led population growth in this northern part of the borough providing additional playing capacity for Hoddesdon Cricket Club.

The council has secured Levelling up funding to improve facilities at Waltham Cross Playing Fields this includes installing drainage to the 11v11 pitch and making improvements to the pavilion, which will include a new community meeting room.

In terms of future demand, to meet playing pitch demand from 16,387 additional residents by 2033 (as currently forecast³) and assuming current levels of demand by sport and age group for matches and training in the peak period, Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) indicates that the equivalent capacity of 23 additional grass playing pitches (21 for football and one each for rugby and cricket) and the equivalent of just over one full size floodlit 3G artificial turf football pitch and approximately half a hockey compliant AGP will be needed in the borough by the end of this strategy period (see Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4 – Estimate of Playing Pitch Demand due to Population Change

Sport and Pitch Type	Additional Capacity Needed by 2033
Cricket – fine turf	+ 1.25
Football – grass	+ 20.93 (7.85 mini; 8.69 youth; 4.39 adult)
Football – 3G ATP	+ 1.10
Hockey – sand/water ATP	+ 0.32
Rugby - grass	+ 0.89

However, it is important to recognise that these Playing Pitch Calculator estimates assume static demand i.e., the proportion of the population by age group and gender that currently play pitch sports will remain the same in future.

However, the overall trend takes no account of the likelihood of a substantial increase in demand for rugby, football and cricket among women and girls stimulated by recent successes of the national teams, the hosting of major tournaments such as the 2022 Women’s Football Euros and the upcoming 2025 Women’s Rugby World Cup to be held in England, together with recently announced changes to physical education policy and practice in schools aimed at equal opportunities for girls.

For this reason, it is recommended that, for the purposes of facility planning, the PPC estimates in Figure 2.3 should be considered as the minimum future requirement for new playing pitch provision in the borough that is likely to result from population growth to 2033.

A further key consideration in the assessment of future playing pitch needs is the extent to which the clubs based in the borough achieve their development aspirations. Research and consultation for this strategy has found that a significant number of playing pitch sports clubs in the borough have embraced the youth, women and girls and recreational participation development initiatives and programmes of the national governing bodies. Accordingly, these clubs aspire to convert latent demand for their sport into new teams and/or to develop more playing opportunities at a recreational level alongside traditional league competition.

For example, in cricket, all three borough-based clubs have aspirations to grow their junior sections or offer sessions for women and girl’s cricket which will increase future demand for cricket pitches.

³ ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

Hertfordshire Cricket estimate a growth of 6 girl's teams across the area which would require additional capacity of 0.85 cricket pitches.

Similarly, ten football clubs responded to the survey indicating they have aspirations to increase the number of teams they run over the coming seasons provided they have sufficient volunteers and pitches for matches and training can be secured.

Both the borough-based hockey clubs have plans to grow over the next 3 years. Broxbourne Hockey Club state they have capacity to offer more teams and they utilise space at John Warner Sports Centre when needed. There is also some additional capacity at Haileybury Turnford School to provide for growth at Cheshunt Hockey Club.

In rugby, Cheshunt RFC has current ambitions to re-establish their third team, introduce a women's recreational team and offer girls rugby in the future.

2.5 Is there enough provision to meet future demand?

The clear conclusion of the assessments of need for playing pitches in Broxbourne is that, by 2033, there will be a requirement to provide additional playing and training capacity for three of the four major playing pitch sports – cricket, football and rugby.

Cricket - There is insufficient accessible and secured community use provision in the borough to meet future demand. There is a need for two additional fine turf cricket pitches in the area. If the proposed developments of new pitches at Rosedale Sports Club and High Leigh Village Gardens proceed and provision at Wormley Sports Club is retained this will provide sufficient provision in the area to support the growth of clubs in the area.

Additional NTP's at Broxbourne Sports Club and Lowfield Sports ground will help to alleviate the pressure on their fine turf pitches and support the growth of their junior sections.

Investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at Lowfield Sports Ground and Broxbourne Sports Club.

There is also no informal park provision in the borough so discussions with ECB and Hertfordshire cricket should be had to consider the need for facilities, particularly in the diverse areas of the borough.

Football - Over the period of the strategy to 2033, to address forecast population growth, unmet demand identified by clubs, particularly for women and girls' football, and to deliver on the FA's strategy to transfer more affiliated competitive football to 3G surfaces, further secured provision of 3G ATP pitches is needed.

Investment in at least 4 additional full-sized FA registered 3G ATP's to be located in key areas to facilitate training and match play demands of large youth clubs should be the priority over the plan period. This includes three 3G pitches to meet the FA's calculation of one pitch for every 38 existing teams (as per the Football Foundation's Local Football Facilities Plan, May 2020) and one additional 3G to meet forecasted population growth requirements.

Additional natural turf pitches are needed for adult 11v11 and youth 11v11 teams for match play by 2033 in light of the scale of forecast population growth. Securing community use on education sites and additional 3G ATP's in the area will help with growth aspirations of youth football and

improvements made to pitch quality should be explored to increase capacity on key grass football sites such as Nightleys Playing Field and Wormley Playing Fields.

Hockey - Whilst both the clubs aspire to grow, it is not beyond the capacity of the pitches in the area to accommodate forecast growth. As such there is no demand for additional supply in Broxbourne. However, there is a need to protect the current supply of sand dressed pitches and improve the quality of the provision by resurfacing the pitch at Haileybury Turnford, as well as opening up access to changing facilities.

Rugby - There is not sufficient existing provision for rugby to meet future demand. There are proposed changes to the configuration of grass pitches at Rosedale Sports Club with improved drainage however the planning application is still to be determined. It is essential the club retain two full size grass pitches on site, with at least one of these being floodlit. Improved drainage (pipe and slit drainage) to one floodlit pitch would create an additional 1.5 match equivalent sessions, which will support the training demands. Improved drainage to both would result in an additional 3 match equivalent sessions, which would cater for the future growth of the club. all future demand. To support population growth and the need for an additional pitch the opportunity to use the pitch at The Broxbourne School for community use should be explored.

The equivalent additional capacity required (as a minimum) expressed in playing pitches is shown in Figure 2.5 below. It should be noted that new provision of playing pitches is just one of a number of the available options in planning to provide the additional capacity required to address the forecast future needs. For example, as shown under hockey, strategic enhancements to the existing pitch supply is likely to be sufficient to provide the required additional playing capacity without the need for new provision. The options or scenarios in Broxbourne for meeting the identified capacity needs are explored in more detail in the following section.

Figure 2.5 – Estimate of Minimum Future Provision Needs

Sport	Minimum Future Provision Needs
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 additional fine turf pitches (Rosedale Sports Club, High Leigh Village Gardens) ● 2 additional non-turf pitches (Broxbourne Sports Club, Lowfield Sports Ground) ● 2 replacement or upgraded pavilions (to include better provision for women and girls) at Broxbourne Sports Club, Lowfield Sports Ground
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 additional 3G ATPs FA registered as suitable for match play - 2 in south (Cheshunt), central (Broxbourne), north (Hoddesdon) ● Improvement to grass pitches at key multi-pitch sites (Nightleys PF and Wormley PF) ● Bring mothballed sites/ pitches back into use (Goffs Lane PF -1 pitch, Goff Oak PF, Hammond Street PF) ● Provision of basic welfare facilities for youth football at Goodman Centre PF, Jones Road OS, Nightleys PF ● Upgraded or replacement pavilions (to include better provision for women and girls) at Cheshunt Community Sports Park, Cheshunt FC, Flamstead End RG, Goffs Churchgate Academy, Goffs Lane PF, The Stewart Edwards Stadium, Wormley Sports Club and Waltham Cross PF
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve the quality of the provision by resurfacing the pitch at Haileybury Turnford, as well as opening up access to changing facilities
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improved drainage (pipe & slit systems) to both grass pitches at Rosedale Sports Club ● 1 additional pitch (The Broxbourne School)

A photograph of two women practicing field hockey on a green artificial turf field. The woman on the left is older, with short white hair, wearing a blue jacket over a bright green top and black leggings with teal accents. The woman on the right is younger, with brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a black Adidas hoodie with a red stripe and black leggings with a white butterfly pattern. Both are wearing black athletic shoes with teal laces. They are both leaning forward, focused on their hockey sticks. The older woman's stick is white with blue and yellow accents, while the younger woman's is black. A yellow ball is on the ground between them, and several blue and yellow cones are scattered around. In the background, there is a green fence and a field of yellow flowers.

PPS Section 3 – Meeting the needs
(‘How to’ Scenarios)

3 – Meeting the needs ('How to' Scenarios)

As part of the Strategy Development process a number of scenarios have been identified as options to meet the future facility needs summarised in the preceding section. The Steering Group has considered these scenarios along with their potential implications on the future picture of provision for the leading playing pitch sports in Broxbourne and how best to meet existing and future playing pitch facility demand. These scenarios have also been considered in relation to setting the priorities for future enhancement and provision detailed in the action plan for playing pitches in the first part of Section 4 of this Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy – i.e. the initial action plan.

3.1 Improved quality of sites

Before considering the provision of new playing fields it is important to first consider the potential for increasing capacity of existing sites (particularly those grounds owned or leased by community clubs) as these have resources and structures in place (e.g., grounds maintenance, coaching) and an established sporting identity developed over many years.

Improving the quality of ancillary facilities such as practice, changing and social provision can also have an impact by sustaining and retaining existing demand and on attracting under-represented groups (e.g. the provision of suitable changing provision for women and girls).

Cricket – Improvements to the quality of the cricket square and outfield at Rosedale Sports Club (from standard to good) would provide additional capacity for the growth of Cheshunt Rosedale CC - i.e. two additional matches per season for each wicket on the square. This would enable the club to reduce overplay on the square and, potentially, to accommodate more midweek or Sunday games. However, with four Saturday league teams, quality improvements alone will not resolve the issue of displaced demand for this club in the peak period. A second home pitch would be needed to allow the club to accommodate all cricket play at the Rosedale Sports Club (see 3.5 below).

Meeting the identified needs for improvements to ancillary facilities at Lowfield Sports Ground (practice nets, perimeter ball catch fencing, pavilion) and at Broxbourne Sports Club (pavilion), would impact by both helping to sustain existing demand and encouraging new players to join the cricket clubs. With regard to pavilion improvements at these sites, these will be important to the attraction of more women and girls to the sport.

Football - The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at selected club sites supported by funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund. Specifically, the PitchPower report findings for Cheshunt FC's Stadium, The Stewart Edwards Stadium (Lowfield) and Wormley Sports Club identify strong potential for enhanced playing capacity at these sites if the ongoing pitch maintenance regimes can be improved. For example, improvement of the Cheshunt FC's main stadium pitch from poor quality to standard quality would eliminate overplay by increasing the playing capacity of the pitch from 1 to 2 match equivalent sessions a week in season. Further improvement to good quality would allow a further weekly session on the pitch.

Improvements to the six standard quality pitches at Wormley Sports Club ground to good quality, and the single poor quality 5v5 pitch to standard quality, would provide considerable additional playing capacity at this key community football site. Increasingly, youth football and mini soccer leagues allow flexibility over kick off times enabling clubs to schedule some games back to back. Good quality mini soccer and youth pitches can therefore significantly reduce peak time congestion and displaced

demand. Furthermore improvements to the adult pitches neighbouring this site at Wormley Playing Fields and The Broxbourne School will help address the shortfall of adult 11v11 pitches at peak times. There are several Adult 11v11 pitches currently mothballed that have been included in the current supply (Goffs Lane PF, Goff Oak PF, Hammond Street PF) which should be brought back into use on a regular basis and improved to at least a standard condition.

Hockey – The poor quality of the school hockey pitch hired by The Cheshunt Hockey Club at Haileybury Turnford School puts the future of this club and its three league teams (2 men’s, 1 women’s) at risk as there are no alternative suitable AGPs with unused capacity in the peak weekend period in the hockey season. Retention and upgrade of the hockey playing surface at this site linked to security of access to the pitch and changing facilities on match days should therefore be afforded priority in this strategy.

Rugby – Major improvement works to the two pitches at Cheshunt RFC’s Rosedale Sports Club ground (i.e. the installation of RFU approved pipe and slit under-soil systems) would have substantial impact on the playing capacity for rugby in Broxbourne. The playing capacity of each pitch would be increased from 2 to 3.5 match equivalent sessions per season, an overall increase of 3 MES per week at the site. In addition, the incidence of fixture cancellations due to waterlogging as a consequence of the clay sub-soil base would be resolved.

3.2 More community use at education sites

The shortfall of provision of youth and mini soccer football pitches to meet future demand from population growth (i.e. 16 to 17 small sided pitches by 2033) could, theoretically, be met through securing access in the peak weekend period to more of the 38 small sided pitches at the 22 education sites that do not provide access currently. However, consultation with these education sites indicates that there is no clear potential to open up these facilities for community use in the future.

A further education site at Haileybury Turnford School has four grass pitches (1x 7v7, 1x 9v9, 2x 11v11) but no community use, despite having community access to other facilities at the school, including (on an unsecured basis) access to the hockey AGP for Cheshunt Hockey Club. Whilst there could be a potential for these grass pitches to be used in the future, the school is due to be rebuilt and work is likely to affect the playing fields. The timetable and configuration of future facilities is still to be decided. Securing community use to the playing pitches at the rebuilt school – whether by means of a formal Community Use Agreement or via a condition of grant and/or a condition of planning consent - should be a leading priority for this strategy.

3.3 Change of use from one sport or pitch type to another

The key risk to community sport under this scenario is loss of the hockey pitch at Haileybury Turnford School should the school decide to replace the sand based playing surface with a 3G football playing surface when the pitch is next resurfaced.

Should this happen, 10 hours a week of community hockey would be displaced and any potential to accommodate future growth of the club from either population increases or development activities would be lost. As a result of competing youth and mini soccer football demand in the peak weekend matchplay slots, there is no spare capacity for the Cheshunt HC’s three teams to be accommodated at the remaining two hockey AGPs in the borough at Broxbourne Sports Club and John Warner Sports Centre in Hoddesdon.

Provision of additional 3G Football AGPs in the borough could potentially release more peak slots at the three hockey AGPs by transferring football use to the new 3G pitches (see 3.5 below).

The needs assessment for cricket supports retention and expansion of the existing supply of fine turf pitches to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate forecast growth from population change and from demand growth, particularly the women and girl's game. However, now that lower league adult cricket can be played on non-turf pitches (NTPs), there is also a strong needs case for the provision of more NTPs at cricket grounds in Broxbourne (either on existing fine turf cricket tables or, where there is sufficient land, as junior pitches separate from the cricket table). A well-maintained NTP has a playing capacity of up to 60 adult match equivalent sessions or 80 junior sessions in a season compared to 5 adult/7junior for a fine turf strip.

In Broxbourne, the identified priority sites for additional or upgraded NTPs are Broxbourne Sports Club and Lowfield Sports Ground.

3.4 Potential loss of availability of a key site or sites

No imminent threat to availability of key community playing pitch sites in Broxbourne has been identified in the course of the research and consultation for this PPS. However, it should be recognised that, in the absence of a formal Community Use Agreement, there is always a risk of loss of availability of school pitches for community use.

Aside from the hockey pitch at Haileybury Turnford School where this risk has already been identified, the risk of loss of access also exists at 3 key academy school playing fields currently used by community teams for football matches and/or training on an unsecured basis i.e. Churchfields CoE Academy, Goffs Academy and Robert Barclay Academy. Together, these schools currently accommodate 14.5 community football match equivalent sessions a week in season in the peak demand period at weekends.

In the event of loss of floodlighting to either of the two floodlit grass rugby pitches at Rosedale Sports Club, the remaining floodlit pitch would be overplayed as a result of transfer of junior training. However, the additional playing and training capacity required would be available if the quality of the remaining grass pitch was increased by installing pipe and slit drainage (see 3.1 above). The Rugby 365 floodlit artificial pitch on the site is currently used at capacity in the peak midweek evening training slots and therefore not an option to accommodate the displaced training demand under this scenario.

Whilst not a permanent loss, there is a potential loss of grass rugby and cricket pitches at Rosedale Sports Club during the reconfiguration of the site and improvement works. If these works impact on the season of either sports, the club would need to find alternative venues, for rugby the only other provision in the borough would be at The Broxbourne School if community use could be agreed but this would not be able to accommodate all the usage required. Cricket may be able to be accommodated at either Wormley Sports Club or High Leigh Garden Village, however playing fixtures away from the clubs main venue is likely to affect the revenue of the club, so ideally the works should be scheduled appropriately to ensure as little disruption as possible to the facilities during the main season of each sport.

3.5 New pitches in borough or catchment

A new, second fine-turf cricket pitch at Rosedale Sports Club in Cheshunt as part of the proposed extension of the sports grounds to the south will address overplay of the single pitch as well as existing displaced demand. A second pitch in this location would also help to address future demand from population growth proposed in the Local Plan for 'Cheshunt Lakeside' (aligning with concept proposals in the current Local Plan for Rags Brook Park within Rosedale – see 3.6 below).

Provision of additional 3G floodlit football AGPs of FA register standard would have very significant impact on the supply and demand balance for community football in the borough. New 3G capacity with secured community access would benefit community football by reducing the reliance of clubs and teams on unsecured access to school playing fields for local league match play.

It would also address the identified shortfall of 3G supply to accommodate demand for midweek evening team training, a significant proportion of which is currently met on sand based AGPs in the borough.

Transfer of this football demand to additional 3G AGP supply would also increase hockey capacity in the peak midweek and weekend slots on the sand based AGPs and reduce reliance of the Chestnut Hockey Club on unsecured access to the Haileybury Turnford School pitch.

3.6 Significant increase in demand in specific part of the borough

The Broxbourne Local Plan 2018-2033 (June 2020) provides for around 7,700 homes by 2033, mainly located in and around Cheshunt. Three strategic development locations are identified as follows:

- ‘Brookfield Garden Village’ - including 1,250 homes north and west of Brookfield Riverside, to the north and west of Cheshunt
- ‘Cheshunt Lakeside’ - a new mixed-use urban village including 1,750 homes as well as businesses and a primary school on the east side of Cheshunt (the existing Delamere Road Employment Area)
- ‘Rosedale Park’ between Cuffley and Cheshunt - comprising around 820 homes (plus a 64-bed care home) and a primary school at linked developments, on the former Tudor Nurseries site and at Rags Brook, opening up the valley to public access for the first time and creating a parkland setting for existing and future developments.

The remainder of the residential development is proposed at a range of smaller sites, in some cases taking advantage of opportunities to support local facilities, and also includes some sites which already have planning permission, such as High Leigh Garden Village in Hoddesdon and Haslemere Marina in Waltham Cross.

It is likely therefore that the majority of future demand for playing pitches resulting from population growth will be concentrated in the Cheshunt area. This scenario is addressed in the Local Plan, most particularly in the concept proposals for The Rosedale Park housing development area. This strategic development location is located a short distance to the north of Rags Brook Park and the Rosedale Sports Ground where extension to the existing sports grounds to provide additional pitches is proposed.

Rosedale Sports Ground already serves as a key hub site for community sport in Cheshunt – with provision for rugby, hockey, cricket and football (on the rugby compliant 3G). Given the likely housing-based population growth in this part of the borough, a strategic approach to expand the existing supply in this location (as currently proposed in the Local Plan) is supported by the needs assessment and is likely to be significantly more cost effective than new provision across multiple sites.

The proposed new Brookfield Garden Village to the north and west of Cheshunt is in the same part of the borough as Haileybury Turnford Secondary School, itself proposed for replacement and expansion. This presents a key strategic opportunity to secure new and improved facilities for sport, most particularly for hockey and for football, with access secured via a Community Use Agreement as a condition of future planning consents.

The existing proposal for a new fine-turf cricket pitch in Hoddesdon with planning consent at High Leigh Garden Village will address housing-led population growth in this northern part of the borough providing additional playing capacity for Hoddesdon Cricket Club. If delivered, this will provide the club with a second home pitch reducing displaced demand of its Saturday league teams currently playing home pitches at Thundridge Cricket Club ground in East Herts District.

The Council should look to ensure all proposals (including small / medium developments) secure contributions (or provide provision) for sport to address the shortfalls identified in this strategy.

3.7 Significant demand growth in a particular sport, gender or age group

The governing bodies of football, cricket and rugby all have a clear strategic focus on delivering more opportunities for women and girls to play and compete. As identified in the detailed assessments of future need for each sport, it is demand growth from women and girls that is likely to be the most significant over the next planning period and place the most pressure on the available capacity in the peak hours at existing pitches – particularly football small-sided game pitches and 3G ATPs – and on the existing stock of pavilions many of which do not have adequate changing and toilet facilities.

In hockey, equal opportunities and participation by gender are already in place at the two clubs based in Broxbourne, both of which attract a third or more of their adult playing members (both men and women) from outside the borough. In terms of hockey demand from residents, the areas of greatest demand growth from within the local resident population are likely to continue to be children and juniors and, among adults, the mixed recreational game.

This should be closely monitored by the steering group as part of the annual review (stage E process) to assess whether the PPS may need to be updated.

PPS Section 4 – Recommendations by Pitch Sport



4 – Recommendations by Pitch Sport

Based on the findings of the assessment of current and future facility needs for the four major playing pitch sports summarised in section 2 of this strategy and detailed in sport-specific reports at appendices A to D, the following recommendations are made for strategic provision of playing pitch facilities in Broxbourne Borough to 2033.

The recommendations assume the quantum of population growth forecast in the ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020) – i.e. +16,387 additional residents by 2033 and take into consideration the range of potential scenarios available to the Council and its partner sports bodies to address the facility needs detailed in section 3 above.

4.1 Protect

In the context of current demand, future net population growth and the development aspirations of key sports clubs – particularly to grow opportunities for more women and girls to play cricket football and rugby - the over-riding priority recommendation of the PPS is to continue to retain the existing overall quantity of land in the borough available for use as playing pitches.

Protecting the supply of playing fields, playing pitches and ancillary provision should continue to be a core principle in the planning policies of Broxbourne Borough Council in its Local Plan.

The relevant existing planning policies for the protection of playing pitches in Broxbourne are detailed in Appendix G of the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy.

Strategic recommendations aimed at maximising the effectiveness of local planning policy in Broxbourne and the planning process to both protect playing fields, playing pitches, ancillary provision and to secure community access are set out in Section 3.3 of the overall Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy.

Effective use of the planning process to ensure protection of access to education playing pitches is particularly critical to community sport. In Broxbourne, the Cheshunt Hockey Club currently relies fully on unsecured access to an artificial grass pitch on a school site and has no access the changing facilities. Continued access to school playing fields at weekends is also key to many community football clubs in the borough to deliver their programmes of match play for growing numbers of youth and mini-soccer teams.

4.2 Enhance

It is recommended that a number of existing playing pitch facilities should be prioritised for investment in upgrades (subject to funding, planning and feasibility) in order to continue to meet existing demand from community teams and individuals and to ensure, where possible, that additional capacity is provided to contribute to meeting demand growth.

Greater playing capacity will be needed in future as a result of population growth and the sports development initiatives of local clubs supported by the Council and other stakeholders including the relevant sports governing bodies. Improved ancillary facilities will also be critical to attracting and retaining players, particularly women and girls who remain under-represented in cricket, football and rugby participation.

Figure 4.1 – Recommended Facility Enhancement by Sport

Pitch Sport	Site(s)	Recommendation
Cricket	Rosedale Sports Club	Fine turf pitch improvements
	Lowfield Sports Ground	Upgrade or replace NT practice nets
	Broxbourne Sports Club Lowfield Sports Ground	Upgrade or replace pavilions
Football	Cheshunt FC’s Stadium, The Stewart Edwards Stadium (Lowfield) and Wormley Sports Club,	Grass pitch improvements as Pitch Power reports (Cheshunt FC subject to retention - Club has planning consent for conversion to 3G)
	Nightleys Playing Fields Wormley Playing Fields, Goffs Lane PF, Hammond Street PF	Grass pitch improvements
	Cheshunt Community Sports Park, Cheshunt FC, Flamstead End RG, Goffs Churchgate Academy, Goffs Lane PF, The Stewart Edwards Stadium, Wormley Sports Club and Waltham Cross PF	Upgrade or replace pavilions to include better provision for women and girl’s
	Churchfields CoE Academy, Goffs Academy and Robert Barclay Academy, replacement Haileybury Turnford School	Work with Active Partnership on opening Academy secondary school facilities programme to secure community access to football pitches
Hockey	Replacement Haileybury Turnford School	Resurfaced floodlit sand-based ATP linked to secure community access
	Haileybury Turnford School	Secure access to school changing rooms or provide new modular changing by upgraded hockey AGP
Rugby	Rosedale Sports Club	Improved pitch drainage (2 grass pitches, at least one to be floodlit)

4.3 Provide

To meet forecast future needs to 2033, it is recommended that the following new provision should be considered subject to the availability of suitable space and feasibility assessment:

- Two new fine turf cricket pitches - Rosedale Sports Club proposed playing field extension to south; High Leigh Garden Village, Hoddesdon
- Two additional NTPs - Broxbourne Sports Club; Lowfield Sports Ground
- Four additional 3G ATPs FA registered as suitable for match play
- Additional sites for adult and youth 11v11 grass pitches
- One additional rugby pitch if community use of The Broxbourne School cannot be achieved

The locations of new 3G AGPs should be subject to detailed feasibility. However, to best address club needs (both existing demand and growth ambitions) and to address future demand from housing-led population growth it is likely that this new provision will need to be strategically distributed with 2 in south (Cheshunt area), central (Broxbourne area), north (Hoddesdon area).

Preliminary options identified for consideration are:

- North: Robert Barclay Academy
- South: Nightley’s PF/Haileybury Turnford School (separate to sand dressed ATP); Cheshunt FC Stadium Pitch (has planning consent)
- Central: Wormley Playing Fields



PPS Section 5 – Conclusion

5 –Conclusion

The review of Playing Pitches has highlighted a number of facility investment needs for the Council and partners, bringing together the analysis, consultation and assessment work.

Broxbourne Council has a history of supporting sport and leisure, and commitment to improving levels of physical activity and health for their residents and communities and the needs within this section will result in the Council considering some important and key decisions to make over the coming years.

Given the on-going financial challenges for the public sector, it will not be possible to deliver or support all of the sport specific investment needs identified within this strategy.

Section 3 of the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy that follows sets out a number of overarching policy recommendations aimed at facilitating and addressing the sports specific needs identified in this Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1) and in the Built Facilities Strategy that follows (part 2).

The final Section (4) is an initial prioritised Action Plan identifying priority projects arising out of this strategy as well as the partners and stakeholders who are likely to be central to facilitating this change.



**Broxbourne Borough Council
Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy
2023 – 2033**

Part 2 Built Facilities Strategy

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BFS Section 1: Introduction




CONTINUUM
SPORT & LEISURE LTD

Section 1: Introduction

This document is Part 2 of Broxbourne’s Indoor and Outdoor Facilities Strategy 2023-33 – the Built Facilities Strategy. Part 2 includes the following built sports facilities for indoor and/or outdoor sport:

- Swimming pools
- Sports halls (and any locally relevant sport and community centres)
- Gymnastic and Trampolining facilities
- Indoor Bowls halls
- Health & Fitness facilities (studios and gyms)
- Squash
- Indoor and outdoor courts for Tennis, Netball, Basketball and Pickleball
- Boxing, judo and other martial arts venues
- Bowls greens
- Athletics and running tracks.
- Multi use games areas (MUGAs– more detail in PPS section)
- Outdoor gyms (Park-based exercise equipment / trim trails)
- Cycling tracks, BMX and Skate Parks
- Water sports facilities
- Golf courses and driving ranges.
- Equestrian centres

Significant specialist large-scale sports facilities in neighbouring authorities with good access for Broxbourne residents have been taken into consideration in determining current and future facility needs. Facility types in this category include swimming pools, sports halls, athletics tracks, water sports, squash, gymnastics, golf and cycling provision.

The methodology follows current national guidance published by Sport England - *Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities, Sport England (July 2014)*. In accordance with ANOG guidance, Section 2 sets out a detailed analysis of facility supply, demand and accessibility factors by sport facility type (informed by the use of available sports facility planning tools) along with a summary of consultation findings to identify club and NGB facility priorities in the study area. The section concludes with recommendations for the protection and enhancement of existing facilities and for the provision of new facilities where considered necessary to address identified current or future needs to 2033.

Section 3 sets out overarching sports facility planning policy recommendations. These ensure that the overall strategy (the combination of the Built Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy) continues to play a leading role in the on-going provision of high-quality built sport facilities and meet priority needs through the planning process.

Section 4 provides a delivery plan related to the potential priority projects and facility needs for sport and recreation identified in Section 2. This initial action plan will be subject to periodic review and update over the life of the strategy.



BFS Section 2 - Sport Specific Analysis



Section 2 - Sport Specific Analysis

2.1 Swimming

What's changed since the Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2013

With regard to the three indoor swimming pool sites in Broxbourne Borough - Laura Trott Leisure Centre, John Warner Sports Centre and Goffs-Churchgate Academy Pool - the previous strategy in 2013 identified issues of age and inefficiency and recommended further work be carried out with a view to significant refurbishment works and upgrades to the pool plant or full replacement.

Progress has been made with modernisation of the Laura Trott LC public pools in 2015 and the school based Goffs-Churchgate pool in 2016.

The small 20x8m school pool at Robert Barclay Academy (formerly Sheredes School) closed permanently in 2021 due to the high cost of necessary works to the pool plant displacing a number of clubs and swim schools.

To inform the current strategy and to better understand the current swimming pool needs in 2022 as a baseline to help inform future priorities for swimming provision in the Local Plan period to 2033, the Council commissioned a Standard Facilities Planning Model (FPM) Assessment of swimming pool provision from Sport England in January 2022.

Sport England's Facility Planning Model

The overall aims of the standard FPM assessment reports are to provide a current assessment of need for swimming pools in the borough (in this case at 2022), and across the study area.

It is most important to state that the FPM study is a quantitative, accessibility and spatial assessment of the supply, demand and access to swimming pools. The assessment is based on catchment area, so includes the swimming pools and population across the borough and the neighbouring local authorities. In determining the position across the borough, it is important to take full account of the swimming pools and population in neighbouring local authority areas located within the travel time catchment area for Broxbourne residents.

Also, the most attractive (and accessible) facility for some Broxbourne Borough residents may be outside the borough (known as exported demand). For residents of neighbouring local authorities, their most attractive (and accessible) swimming pool may be in Broxbourne (known as imported demand). To take account of these factors, the study area places Broxbourne at its centre and includes the neighbouring local authorities and their swimming pool supply.

Headline Strategic Overview from The FPM Analysis

The headline strategic finding is that, despite the three borough-based pool venues being located on the periphery of the borough, a high level (96%) of the total demand for swimming pools from Broxbourne resident is met by the existing supply in the study area.

The three borough-based pool venues have a draw effect. In part, this is because of their locations on the borough periphery. A further cause is that they provide all swimming activities and have dedicated pools for different swimming activities (e.g., Learn to swim, swimming for fitness, competition). Demand imported and met at the Broxbourne pool sites is 2,680 visits in the weekly peak period which equates to 40% of the used capacity of Broxbourne's pools.

However, at the same time, nearly a third of the satisfied demand (31%) of Broxbourne’s resident population is ‘exported’ to pool sites outside the borough particularly to the much newer venues at Haileybury Sports Complex to the northwest of Hoddesdon (opened in 2020) and to Waltham Abbey Leisure Centre east of Cheshunt (opened in 2018).

Secondly, although there is a good track record of modernisation of the pool sites in Broxbourne since the last strategy was completed (e.g., Laura Trott LC in 2015 and Goffs-Churchgate Academy pool in 2016), the pool stock is ageing ranging from 20 years old (John Warner SC) to over 50 years old (Goffs-Churchgate Academy). In light of this, replacement provision may need to be planned for within the study period.

In terms of need for new provision, the FPM finds that Broxbourne’s unmet swimming demand is just 4% of total demand and equates to just 57m² of water area. This unmet demand is spread across the borough with the result that there is insufficient unmet demand clustered in one location to consider providing a new swimming pool on grounds of increasing residents’ access to swimming pools.

Supply of Swimming Pools in Broxbourne

Supply is defined as the supply or capacity of the swimming pools available for community and club use in the weekly peak period. Supply is expressed in the number of visits that a pool can accommodate in the weekly peak period and in square metres of water. The total supply and available supply are different because of the hours available for community use in the weekly peak period.

The weekly peak period is when the majority of visits take place and when users have most flexibility to visit. The peak period for swimming pools is one hour on weekday mornings, one hour weekday lunchtimes, five and a half hours on weekday evenings, and seven and a half hours on weekend days. This gives a total of 52.5 hours per week. The modelling and recommendations are based on the ability of the public to access pool facilities during this weekly peak period.

The swimming pool facilities that meet the criteria to be included in the FPM modelling are listed in Figure 2.1 below and the locations of the current swimming pools (green diamonds) and proposed future provision (red diamonds) in Run 2 are shown in Figure 2.2.

Two other indoor pool venues in the borough are excluded from the model assessment. One at Hertfordshire Golf & Country Club is too small to be included but does accommodate some swimming demand. The other, a 20m x 8m pool at Robert Barclay Academy (formerly Sheredes School), is also excluded from the model due to the permanent closure of this site in 2021 by the school faced with an unfunded requirement for over £450k to address health and safety and other issues with the plant and other areas of the facility. Prior to 2021, many local organisations and swim schools/clubs used this pool for teaching (including Broxbourne Swimming Club, Cheshunt Swimming Club).

Figure 2.1: Details of Swimming Pools in Broxbourne

Site	Operation	Facility Type
Laura Trott Leisure Centre	Public	6 lane pool (25x13m)
		Teaching pool
John Warner Sports Centre	Public	6 lane pool (25x13m)
		Teaching pool
Goffs-Churchgate Academy	Education	6 lane pool (30x12m)

Figure 2.2 Location of Swimming Pool Sites in Broxbourne

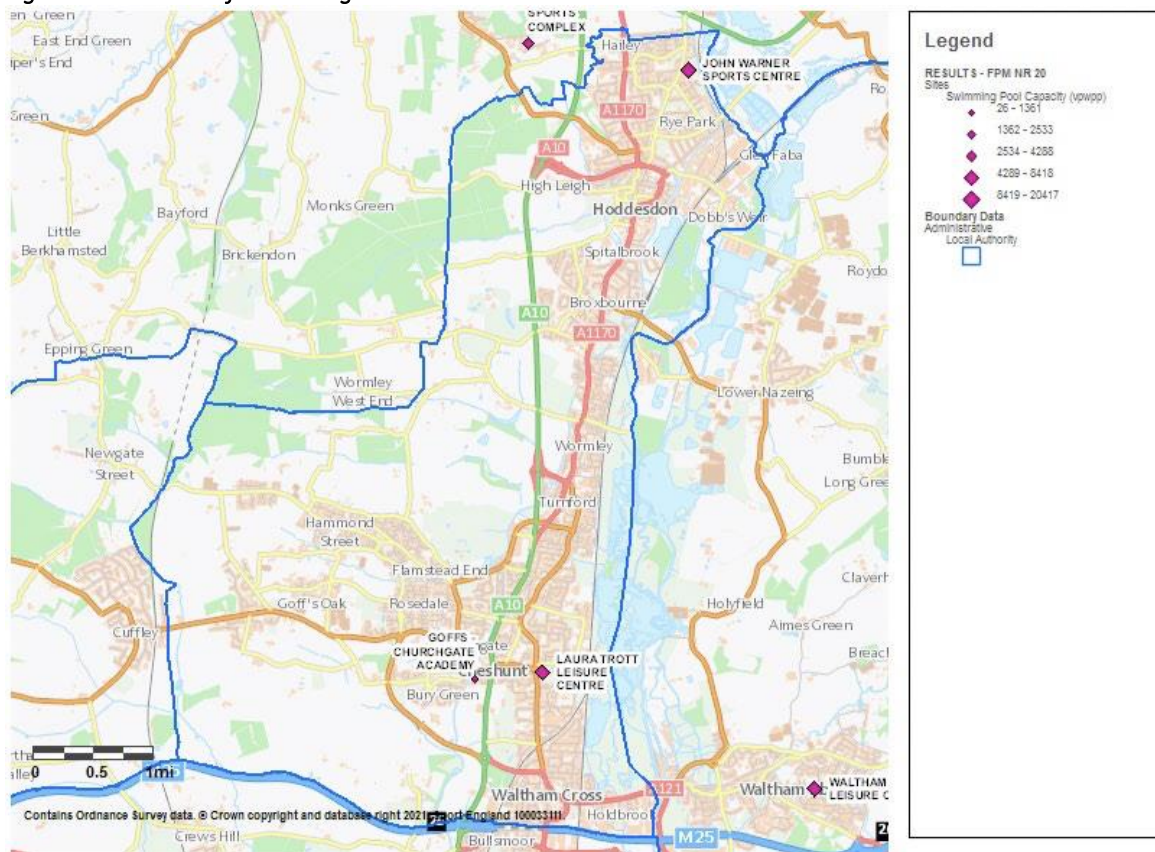


Figure 2.3: Supply of Swimming Pools in Broxbourne

Total Supply	2022
Number of pools	3
Number of pool sites	6
Supply in sqm of water	1,151
Supply in sqm of water scaled with hours available in peak period	897
Supply in visits per week in peak period	7,776
Average age of all swimming sites	37 years
Average age of public leisure centre sites	29 years

Two of the three swimming pool sites are public leisure centres located at opposite ends of the borough. They provide 69% of the water space available for community use.

The two public pool sites provide for the following swimming activities:

- Learn to swim.
- Casual recreational swimming
- Lane and fitness swimming activities
- Swimming development through clubs

Demand for Swimming Pools

Total demand is calculated by adding the participation by each five-year age band/gender of Broxbourne’s population with the frequency of participation in each age band/gender and is expressed in visits in the weekly peak period and square metres of water. The FPM parameters for the percentage and frequency of participation, for gender and age, are calculated from Sport England’s Active Lives survey up to November 2019.

Broxbourne’s resident population in 2022 was just below 97,000, smaller by far than the population of its neighbours – East Herts (150,000), Epping Forest (132,000), Welwyn Hatfield (125,000) and Enfield (338,000).

The total demand for swimming by Broxbourne residents in 2022 is 6,086 visits per week in the peak period which equates to 1,010 sqm of water. For context the total supply of water space in the borough is 1,151 sqm of which 897 sqm is available in the weekly peak period.

This comparison takes no account of the accessible supply to Broxbourne residents located in neighbouring boroughs within a 20 minute travel time catchment area (e.g., the new pools at Waltham Abbey Leisure Centre and Haileybury Sports Complex).

Given its relatively small population it is unsurprising that Broxbourne ranks lower than its neighbour local authority areas in the study area in terms of demand for swimming pools expressed as water space (see Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4: Demand for Swimming by Local Authority

Demand considering a ‘comfort’ factor*	Sqm of water
ENFIELD	3,622
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	1,554
EPPING FOREST	1,361
WELWYN HATFIELD	1,295
BROXBOURNE	1,010

** The FPM is designed to include a ‘comfort factor,’ beyond which the venues are too full. The pool itself becomes too crowded to swim comfortably, and the changing and circulation areas also become too congested. In the model Sport England assumes that usage over 70% of capacity is busy and that the swimming pool is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage.*

Deprivation

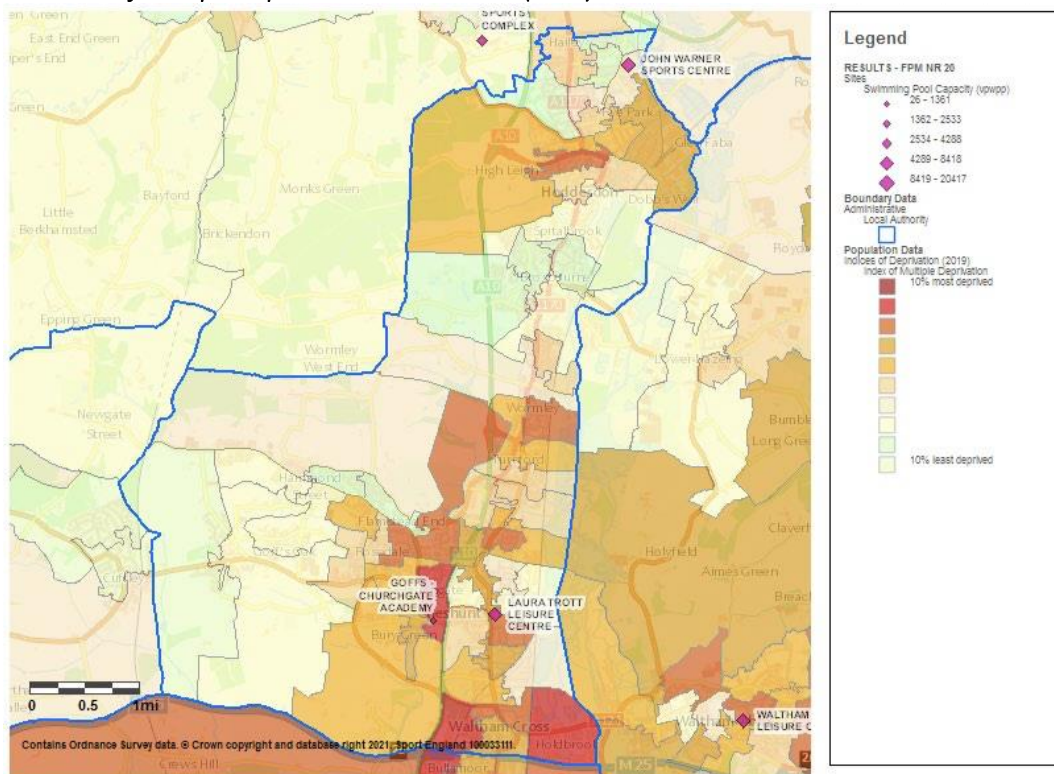
Broxbourne has no lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived 10% nationally, and overall Broxbourne ranks in the middle of all local authorities for deprivation.

However, deprivation ranges across the Borough as shown in Figure 2.7. The deciles are calculated by ranking the LSOAs from most deprived to least deprived and dividing them into ten groups.

The IMD score is used in the FPM to limit whether people will use commercial facilities, however, there are no commercial swimming pools in Broxbourne. A weighting factor is incorporated to reflect the cost element often associated with commercial facilities. The assumption is that the higher the IMD score (less affluence), the less likely the population of the LSOA would choose to go to a commercial facility.

The two pool sites located in the south of the Borough are in areas where deprivation is higher. There are also areas south of these sites on the boundary with Enfield that have the highest deprivation in Broxbourne. John Warner Sports Centre is located in an area of lower deprivation (see Figure 2.7).

Figure 2.7: Index of Multiple Deprivation in Broxbourne (2019)



Accessibility of swimming pools

For residents without access to a car, travel to swimming pools by public transport, by bike or on foot is the choice of travel. The FPM uses a distance decay function where the further a user is from a facility, the less likely they will travel. On average, a 20-minute travel time accounts for approximately 90% of visits to a swimming pool. The travel time limits used are:

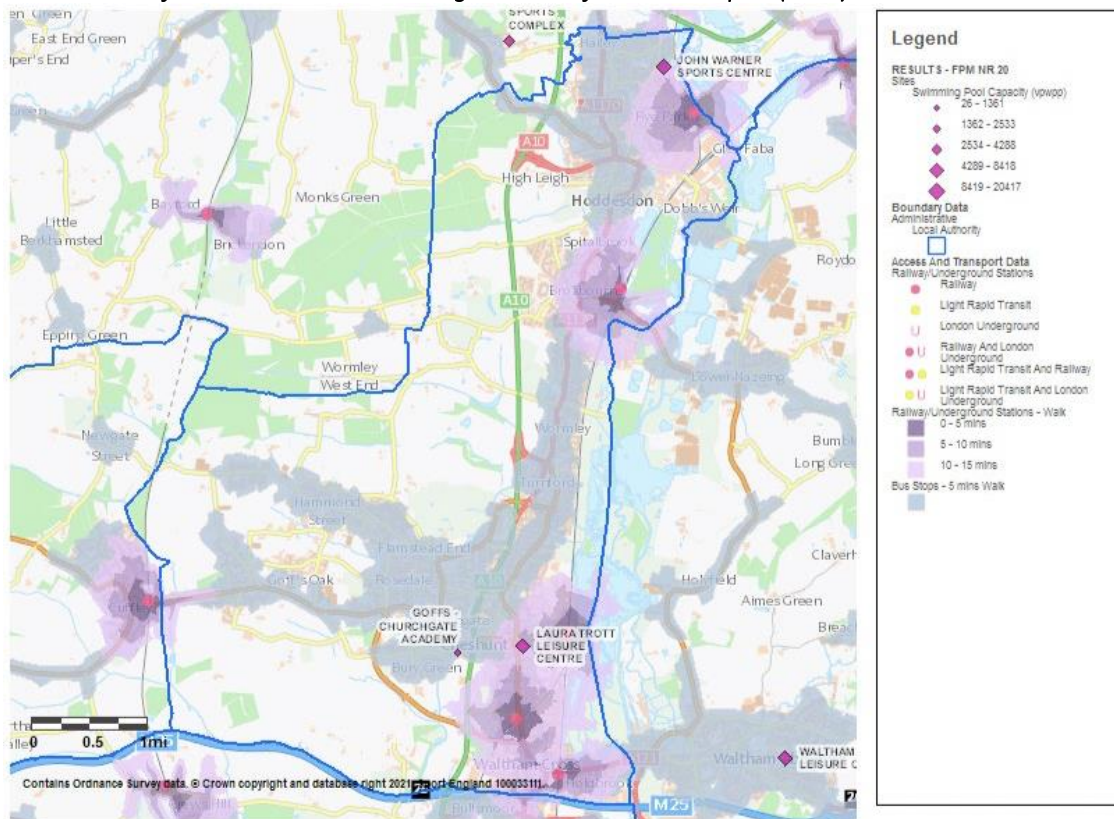
- Driving - 20 minutes
- Public transport - 20 minutes (at half speed of car)
- Walking - 20 minutes (one mile)

The proportion of the resident population in Broxbourne who do not have access to a car is 16% which is slightly lower than the regional average of 18% and much lower than the national average of 25%.

The percentage of the population without access to a car influences travel patterns to swimming pools. A low percentage, as in this case, means that there is likely to be a larger number of visits to swimming pools by car. For residents without access to a car, travel to swimming pools by public transport and walking becomes the choice of travel, and a network of local accessible swimming pools is important for these residents to encourage participation.

To gain some understanding of how accessible swimming pools are by public transport in Broxbourne, Figure 2.8 shows the areas of the Borough that are within 0-15 minutes' walk of a railway station (purple areas) and within 0-5 minutes' walk of a bus stop (grey areas). Laura Trott Leisure Centre and John Warner Sports Centre are both located within rail and bus travel time areas. Laura Trott Leisure Centre is also located in an area of the Borough with higher deprivation where more residents are likely to travel to pools by public transport, making this site more accessible for these residents.

Figure 2.8: Areas of Broxbourne within Walking Distance of Public Transport (2020)



Over threequarters of all visits to swimming pools by Broxbourne residents are by car. Residents who choose to travel by car have access to several swimming pools within 20 minutes travel time.

Satisfied Demand for Swimming Pools

In 2022, 96.3% of total demand for swimming from Broxbourne residents is satisfied by the existing pool supply located either in the borough or in a neighbouring local authority within the driving, walking or public transport catchment areas for Broxbourne residents.

Just over 30% of the total swimming demand generated by Broxbourne residents is met by pools in the catchment area located in neighbouring local authorities in the study area – i.e., ‘exported demand’. Whilst exported demand is a significant proportion of total demand, it is clear from Figure 2.10 that this is not adversely impacting on the levels of satisfied demand in the neighbouring authorities which have rates of satisfied demand of between 93.7% (Welwyn Hatfield) and 97.2% (East Herts).

Figure 2.9: Satisfied Demand for Swimming in Broxbourne

Satisfied Demand	2022
Number of visits which are met per week in peak period	5,861
% of total demand satisfied	96.3%
Number of visits retained per week in peak period	4,065
Demand retained as a % of satisfied demand	69.4%
Number of visits exported per week in peak period	1,796
Demand exported as a % of satisfied demand	30.6%

Figure 2.10: Percentage of Satisfied Demand in Study Area

% of Total Demand Satisfied	2022
East Hertfordshire	97.2%
Broxbourne	96.3%
Enfield	94.2%
Epping Forest	94%
Welwyn Hatfield	93.7%

Retained Demand for Swimming Pools

Another key measurement is retained demand which is a subset of satisfied demand and shows how much of Broxbourne residents’ satisfied demand for swimming is retained at pools within the borough. This assessment is based on the catchment area and appeal of the borough’s pools and residents in the borough swimming at these pools.

It is apparent that the age and quality of Broxbourne’s swimming pools does not make them as attractive to borough residents as newer pools in the study area. Hence, at present, 31% of Broxbourne’s satisfied demand for swimming is met by pool sites outside the borough. Although the standard model does not identify which sites, it is reasonable to assume given their locations and quality that Haileybury Sports Complex and Waltham Abbey Leisure Centre are the primary sites accommodating exported demand from Broxbourne.

Unmet Demand for Swimming Pools

Unmet demand is important to note as it is demand for swimming pools which cannot be met because there is either too much demand for any particular swimming pool within its catchment area and there is a lack of capacity; or because demand is located too far away from any swimming pool.

In Broxbourne, unmet demand amounts to a relatively small 3.7% of total demand, equivalent to just 37sqm of water area. This is shown in Figure 2.11.

This total unmet demand is aggregated from across the whole borough and not concentrated in a single location.

Figure 2.11: Unmet Demand for Swimming in Broxbourne

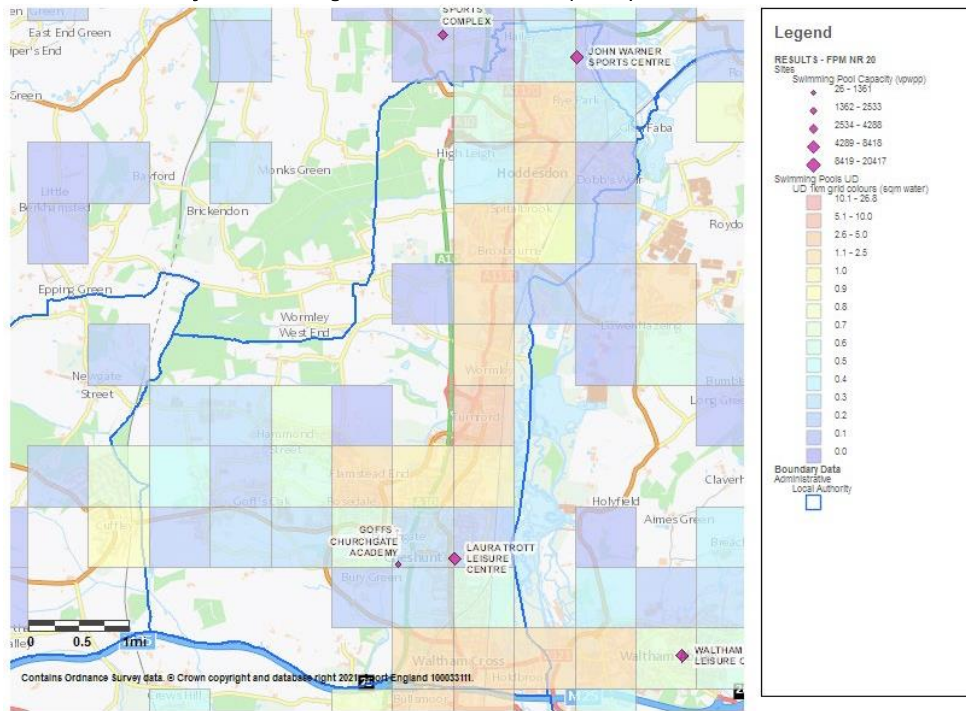
Unmet Demand	2022
Number of visits unmet per week in peak period	224
Unmet demand as a % of total demand	3.7%
Equivalent in sqm of water with comfort factor	37sqm
Facility too far away:	98.4%
Without access to a car	85.4%
With access to a car	12.9%
Lack of facility capacity:	1.6%
Without access to a car	1.3%
With access to a car	0.3%

Some unmet demand will always exist because it is not possible to achieve complete spatial coverage whereby all areas of an authority are within walking distance of a swimming pool providing sufficient capacity in the peak period and not everyone will want, or be able, to drive to a facility.

Figure 2.12 shows that unmet swimming demand in Broxbourne is highest in the centre of the Borough between the public leisure centre sites and where there are no swimming pools, and totals between

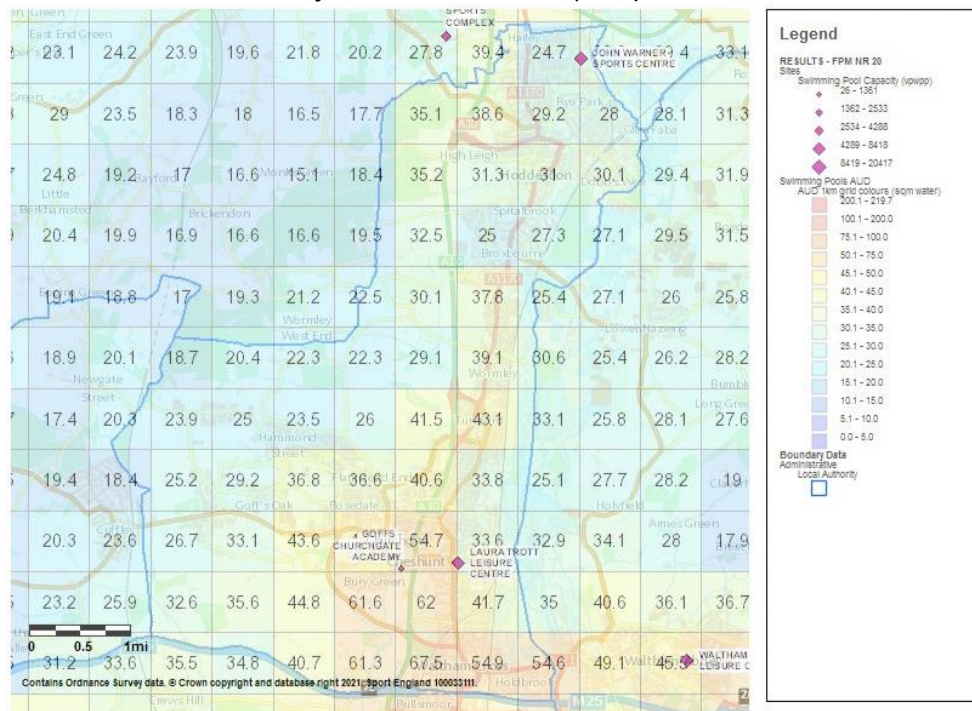
11 sqm and 13 sqm of water. In the area west of the Goffs-Churchgate Academy pool site, unmet demand totals 5 sqm of water, dispersed over quite a large area.

Figure 2.12: Unmet Demand for Swimming Pools in Broxbourne (2020)



Finally, Figure 2.13 illustrates that there is insufficient reachable unmet demand in any one area of the borough to justify the provision of additional pools.

Figure 2.13: Reachable Unmet Demand for Pools in Broxbourne (2020)



Used Capacity of Swimming Pools

Sport England define used capacity as a measure of usage at swimming pools that estimates how well used or how full facilities are in the peak hours; the pools and ancillary changing rooms etc. expressed as a percentage. The assumption is that usage over 70% of capacity is busy and that the venue is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage.

The estimated used capacity of Broxbourne’s swimming pools in the weekly peak period, across the borough is 86.7% (see Fig. 2.14).

Figure 2.14: Used Capacity of Swimming Pools in Broxbourne

Used Capacity	2022
Number of visits used of capacity in weekly peak	6,745
% of overall capacity of pools used	86.7%
Number of visits imported in weekly peak period	2,680
Visits imported as a % of used capacity	39.7%
Imported visits less exported visits	+884

This is 17 percentage points above the Sport England comfort level of 70% used capacity in the weekly peak period.

The Goffs-Churchgate Academy with limited hours of public availability in the weekly peak period (21.5hrs) has 100% used capacity and the Laura Trott LC pools 99% whereas the John Warner SC pools have used capacity of 69% (i.e., within Sport England’s comfortable level).

Given that these pool sites are located at opposite ends of the Borough, it would appear there is no scope to manage their programmes of use in order to achieve a more even balance of use.

Both pool sites are almost the same in terms of scale, pool configurations and weightings, although John Warner Sports Centre has 3% more water area than Laura Trott Leisure Centre. Therefore, the variation in the estimated used capacity of each site is most likely a reflection of the different levels of demand for swimming in their catchment areas.

The unmet demand from lack of swimming pool capacity is 2% of total unmet demand, at 5 sqm of water. Therefore, the focus should be on managing current demand and not accommodating a low level of unmet demand.

The clear conclusion of the FPM is that there is no current need to increase swimming pools provision in Broxbourne based on the used capacity findings of the existing pool supply.

Local Share of Swimming Pools in Broxbourne

This measure helps show which areas have a better or worse share of facility provision and is useful for looking at ‘equity’ of provision. It considers the size, availability and quality of facilities, as well as travel modes and decreases as facilities age. Local share is the available capacity at the locations that people want to visit in an area (taking into account deprivation), divided by the demand for that capacity in the area.

A value of 1 means that there is enough quality supply reachable by the demand. A value of less than 1 indicates a shortage of quality supply that can be reached by the demand and a value greater than 1 indicates a surplus of reachable quality supply.

Broxbourne has a local share for swimming pools of 1.1. This is higher than in Enfield (0.8) but lower than in Epping Forest (1.5), Welwyn Hatfield (1.4) and East Hertfordshire (1.3).

Comparative Measure of Provision

A comparative measure of swimming pool provision by local authority area is water space per 1,000 population. In 2020, there is wide variation in provision across the study area, ranging from 8.0 sqm of water per 1,000 population in Enfield to 24 sqm of water per 1,000 population in East Hertfordshire. Broxbourne has 12 sqm of water space per 1,000 population which is on a par with the average across the East Region and England as a whole.

What next based on the FPM analysis?

The age of the current stock and the need to start to plan for a future refurbishment of the swimming provision at the John Warner SC (now 21 years old and not yet upgraded) and further future refurbishment (or replacement) of the Laura Trott LC pools and the Goffs-Churchgate Academy pool (last upgraded 7 and 8 years ago respectively) are a strategic theme arising from the FPM study.

Second, it is important to consider the projected increase in population in the Borough in terms of scale and location, and how this will impact on the future demand for swimming pools. There is a projected increase in population of 16,387 by 2033 which, based on this one-year assessment, may mean the current sites are unlikely to be able to accommodate a sustained increase in demand.

Swimming Pool Sites and Consultation

The Laura Trott Leisure Centre pool was closed in July 2021 for a 9 month period to upgrade a move the air handling and water temperature unit, which was previously housed above the pool, making it difficult to access. The changing rooms were last upgraded in 2013 and remain in good condition. The pool has a learn to swim programme and is used by Cheshunt Swimming Club.

Goffs Churchgate Academy pool was undergoing refurbishment / maintenance works at the time of the site visits in preparation for the new school term and the changing rooms have also been recently refurbished. The pool is used to capacity by the pupils of Goffs Academy Trust and pupils from other local schools, as well as various community groups for lessons and classes.

John Warner Leisure Centre pool has an issue with the underwater lights, and getting access to change them, and the large windows along the pool cause glare / extra heat in the summer. The changing rooms need an upgrade, but any improvement works are on hold at present. The pool is split 50:50 with the school Monday to Friday term time. The centre has a strong learn to swim programme which is has recovered to 70% of membership numbers since Covid. Swim England report that nationally figures for learn to swim program recovery rates are between 55 to 70%. The John Warner Sports Centre joint use agreement expired in July 2023, the Council is currently running the site under a tenancy at will, an agreement on the future management of the site needs to be made to protect hours for community use.

Hertfordshire Golf and Country club have a small pool (16.5 meters) and hydro pool. The size of the pool means it is not included in the FPM assessment, but they do offer children's swimming lessons in the afternoons and during the school holidays.

The Consultation with Swim England emphasised the need for the Council to ensure the level of provision is maintained and where possible enhanced.

Club Consultation

Cheshunt Swimming Club (CSC)

The club has 482 youth members with 90% coming from the borough of Broxbourne. The club has seen a growth of approximately 20% since Covid. The club are looking to grow further by increasing numbers in their competitive squads. Their main facility is Goffs Churchgate Academy, and they also use Laura Trott LC and Queenswood School. The club have identified a need for more pool time at the Laura Trott LC to make this their main facility, Goffs Churchgate Academy pool is not suitable for competitive swimming due to the pool shape and lack of diving blocks.

Quality ratings – Main facility - 3/5 Changing facilities - 4/5

Hoddesdon Swimming Club (HSC)

HSC has 117 members from youth to adult of which the club state approximately 40% come from the borough of Broxbourne, the club suffered a decline in membership following Covid 19 but is increasing slowly, the club is looking to grow but struggles with pool availability. The club use the John Warner Leisure Centre as their main facility, Simon Balle School (East Hertfordshire) and Haileybury Sports Complex (East Hertfordshire). The club have identified a need for more pool time and have to juggle hours between the pools based on the availability.

Quality ratings – Main facility - 4/5 Changing facilities - 4/5

Priorities and Actions - Swimming Pools

Swimming		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of the current levels of water space and peak period availability at all three pool sites (including to the education site) within the borough and ensure that, as far as is feasible, the pools continue to operate during the next planning phases for any future refurbishment works or pool replacements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further modification of pool sites where feasible to reduce energy costs and reduce carbon emissions. Review the timetabling at Laura Trott Leisure Centre to try and accommodate additional hours for Cheshunt Swimming Club. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to plan for major refurbishment or replacement of the existing pool stock and options to expand water area to meet future demand – options appraisal. The council to work with John Warner School to agree the future management of the site to enable community use to continue Refurbish / upgrade the changing rooms at John Warner Leisure Centre.
<p>Prioritised Actions:</p> <p>Short Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council to work with John Warner School to agree the future management of the site to enable community use to continue Refurbish / upgrade the changing rooms at John Warner Leisure Centre. <p>Long Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out detailed Options and Affordability assessment for upgrade / replacement of the public pools at John Warner SC and Laura Trott LC to retain existing water space as a minimum and, if possible, expand the available water area to provide greater comfortable capacity in the peak, meet future demand and offer more flexible programming (e.g., Consider moveable floor retrofit options). 		

Sports Halls

What's changed since the Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2013

Unlike in many local authority areas where community sports halls are located exclusively on education sites, Broxbourne has two public sports centres with sports halls strategically located at either end of the borough (Laura Trott LC with a 6 court hall and John Warner SC with a 4 court hall). These two public sports halls are available for community use during the day as well as in the evenings and at weekends. Both venues have been modernised since the last strategy was completed in 2013.

In addition, the supply of sports halls with community access on education sites in the borough has grown since 2013. The sports halls at Goffs Academy, and St Mary's High School continue to be available, however Hertford Regional College, has reduced the amount of community use it offers.

In 2021 a further 4 court sports hall opened for dual education and community use at Broxbourne School. Planning and funding is also secured for a further dual use 4 court hall to be provided at Haileybury Turnford School, however this project has been superseded by a whole school development which will include a new 4 court sports hall and activity studio, but it is unknown when this new hall will be built and available for community use.

Notwithstanding these new additions to the educational supply, the age and condition of the existing two sports halls on education sites – none of which have been modernized - is of some concern.

Sport England's Facility Planning Model

To inform the new strategy and to better understand the sport hall needs in 2022, the Council commissioned an FPM analysis from Sport England which reported in January 2022.

As with swimming pools, the FPM sports hall assessment for Broxbourne includes the sports halls and population in the borough as well as those located in neighbouring local authorities that fall within a defined travel time catchment.

Headline Strategic Overview from the FPM Analysis

The headline strategic overview is that a very high level of demand is being met with unmet demand being very low.

However, the existing sports halls are estimated to be full (i.e., operating on average above a defined comfortable capacity level in the peak period) and exported demand is already quite high so that, should demand increase (for example through population growth), there may be a need for additional supply.

It is important to note that the FPM finding does not take into account that Hertfordshire Regional College has significantly reduced its availability to community use from 39 hours in the peak period to just 10 hours (two evenings) or the addition of the recently opened new sports hall at Broxbourne School. These two sites are within 1.5 miles (5 minutes' drive), so it can be assumed that available capacity for community use at Hertfordshire Regional College has transferred to The Broxbourne School. The finding's does not also include the project to provide a further dual-use sports hall at Haileybury Turnford School as part of the school redevelopment. The addition of this sport hall and community capacity to the supply will help to satisfy future demand in the study period.

Supply of Sports Halls

In the FPM modelling for sports halls, there are 5 sports hall facilities located at 5 sites in Broxbourne. As noted above, this will increase from to 6 halls and sites with the addition of the new Haileybury Turnford school sports hall (to be included as part of the new school build), subject to a community use agreement.

Figure 2.15: Supply of Sports Halls in Broxbourne, 2020⁴

Total Supply	2020
Number of halls	5 (6)
Number of hall sites	5 (6)
Supply in badminton court equivalents	22 (26)
Supply in courts scaled with hours available in peak period	19.6
Supply in visits per week in peak period	7,136
Average year built of sites	1999
Average year built of public sites	1993

In general, a four-court sports hall can provide for most indoor hall sports at the community level of participation. However, four of the five halls included in the FPM assessment have dimensions which are less than the Sport England and National Governing Bodies’ recommended size of 34.5m x 20m. Dimensions less than this, limit the run-off area between and behind courts and restrict the levels of competition play that can be programmed for some sports.

Supply is defined as the supply or capacity of the sports halls available for community and club use in the weekly peak period. The supply is expressed in the number of visits that a sports hall can accommodate in the weekly peak period and in the number of badminton courts. The total supply and available supply are different because of the hours available for community use in the weekly peak period.

The weekly peak period is when the majority of visits take place and when users have most flexibility to visit. The peak period for sports halls is one hour on weekday mornings, five hours on weekday evenings and eight hours on weekend days. This gives a total of 46 hours per week. The modelling and recommendations are based on the ability of the public to access facilities during this weekly peak period.

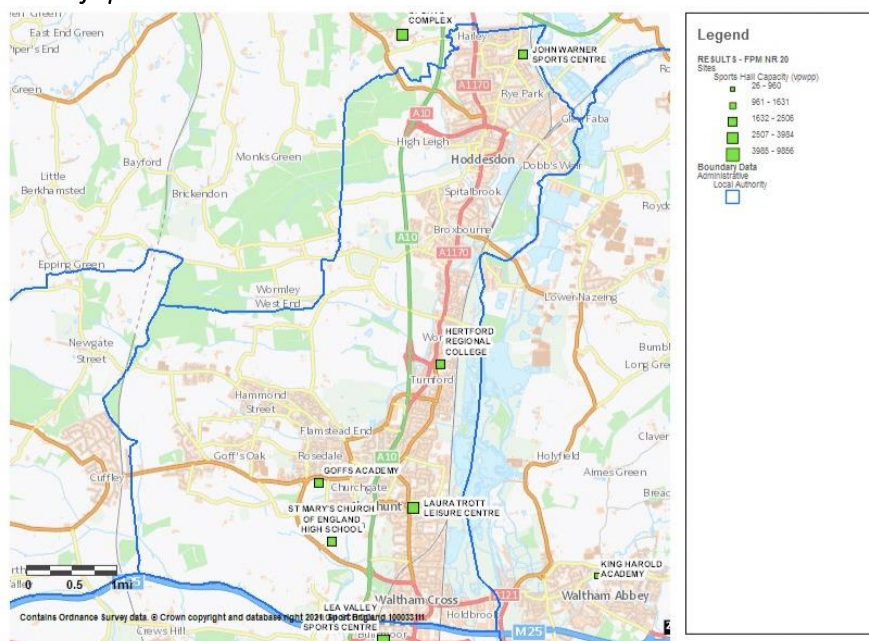
The number of hours available for community use at the three educational sites included in the FPM assessment range from 34 to 39 in the weekly peak period averaging at 36 hours. There is an opportunity to increase the hours for community use in the peak period at Hertfordshire Regional College above the 10 hours it currently provides to increase capacity.

Figure 2.16: Details of Sports Halls Included

Site	Operation	Sports Hall Type
Goffs Academy	Educational	4 court (690 sqm)
Hertford Regional College	Educational	4 court (690 sqm)
John Warner Sports Centre	Public	4 court (594 sqm)
Laura Trott Leisure Centre	Public	6 court (931.5sqm)
St Mary’s CoE High School	Educational	4 court (594 sqm)

⁴ These totals exclude The Broxbourne School hall and the planned new 4 court hall at Haileybury Turnford School.

Figure 2.17: Location of Sports Hall Sites in 2020⁵



Demand for Sports Halls

Total demand is calculated by adding the participation by each five-year age band/gender of Broxbourne’s population with the frequency of participation in each age band/gender and is expressed in visits in the weekly peak period and number of badminton courts. The FPM parameters for the percentage and frequency of participation, for gender and age, are calculated from Sport England’s Active Lives survey up to November 2019.

Broxbourne’s resident population of approximately 97,000 generates a demand for sports halls of 7,915 visits per week in the peak period. This is equivalent to 27 badminton courts with an 80% comfort factor*. This is more than the available supply in 2020 of 22 courts and similar to the future supply of 26 courts that will be available with the addition of the Haileybury Turnford School’s 4 courts, once the school has been redeveloped.

**The FPM is designed to include a ‘comfort factor’, beyond which the venues are too full. When the venues are too full, the time taken to change the sports hall programme and equipment starts to impinge on the activity time itself and the changing and circulation areas become congested. In the model, Sport England assumes that usage above 80% of capacity is busy and the sports hall is operating at an uncomfortable level.*

As detailed in the swimming pools section, Broxbourne has no lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived 10% nationally, and overall Broxbourne ranks in the middle of all local authorities for deprivation.

The three sports hall sites located in the south of the Borough – Laura Trott LC, Goffs Academy and St Mary’s High School are in areas where deprivation is higher. There are also areas south of these sites on the boundary with Enfield that have the highest deprivation in Broxbourne.

Accessibility of Broxbourne’s Sports Halls

As is the case with swimming pools, the FPM uses a distance decay function where the further a user is from a facility, the less likely they will travel. On average, a 20-minute travel time accounts for approximately 90% of visits to a sports hall. Again, as with pools, the travel-time limits used for sports halls are:

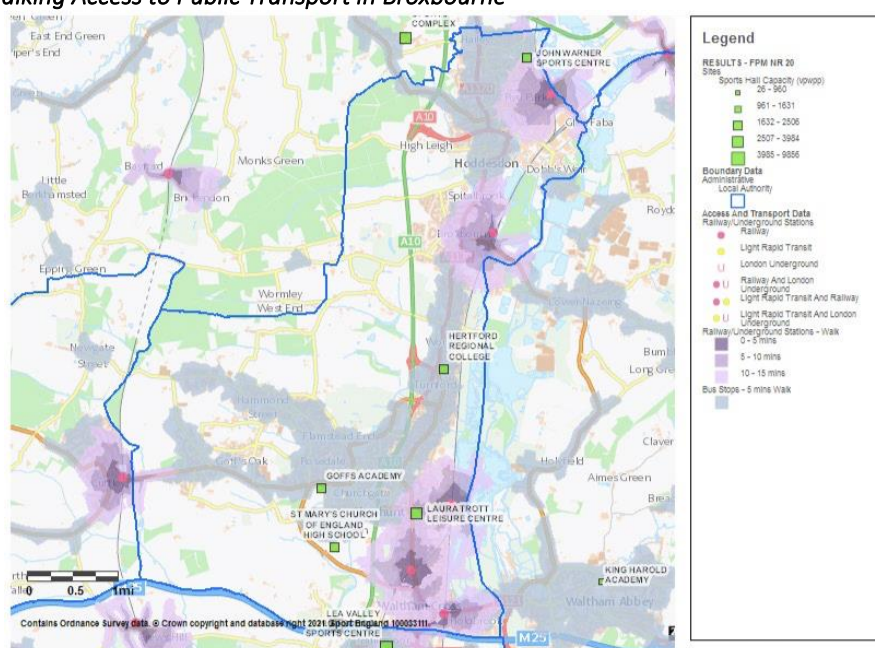
⁵ Figure 2.18 includes Hertfordshire Regional College and excludes the Broxbourne School and Haileybury Turnford School

- Driving - 30 minutes
- Public transport - 30 minutes (at half speed of car)
- Walking - 40 minutes (two miles)

The FPM findings are that 80.9% of all visits to sports halls by Broxbourne residents are by car, 12.5% are on foot and 6.7% are by public transport.

To gain some understanding of how accessible sports halls are by public transport in Broxbourne, Figure 2.18 shows the areas of the Borough within 0–15 minutes’ walk of a railway station (purple areas) and within 0–5 minutes’ walk of a bus stop (grey areas). All the sports hall sites are within or just over a 5-minute walk from a bus stop and the two public leisure centres are within a 15-minute walk of a railway station. Overall, there is reasonably good access to sports halls for residents who chose to travel by bus.

Figure 2.18: Walking Access to Public Transport in Broxbourne⁶



Satisfied Demand for Sports Halls

Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand for sports halls generated by residents of Broxbourne that is met by the available capacity at sports halls within the travel time catchment area (by car, public transport or walking), either in the borough or in a neighbouring local authority area.

The FPM analysis at Figure 2.19 shows that there is enough sports hall capacity within a suitable travel time to meet more than nine out of ten desired visits to a sports hall by a Broxbourne resident (94.7%).

It should be noted that the satisfied demand percentage in Broxbourne will have increased closer to 100% with the opening of the new Haileybury Turnford School with Sports Hall with community availability secured through a Community Use Agreement (CUA). Even without this new supply, a 94.7% level of satisfied demand is above the national and averages of 92%.

⁶ Figure 2.18 excludes the Broxbourne School and Haileybury Turnford School

Figure 2.19: Percentage of Sports Hall Demand from Broxbourne Residents Currently Met by Supply, 2020⁷

% of Total Demand Satisfied	
Local Authority	2020
Broxbourne	94.7%
East Hertfordshire	95.3%
Enfield	91.2%
Epping Forest	95.1%
Welwyn Hatfield	94.5%
East Region	92.0%
England	92.0%

Retained Demand for Sports Halls

Retained demand is a subset of satisfied demand and shows how much of Broxbourne residents’ demand for sports halls is retained at sports halls within the borough. This assessment is based on the catchment area and appeal of Broxbourne’s sports halls and Broxbourne residents using these facilities. In 2020, more than six out of ten visits to a sports hall (62.2%) by a Broxbourne resident were retained within the borough. The remaining 37.8% of visits by Broxbourne residents were to sports halls in neighbouring local authorities. Again, with the new supply of dual use sports halls at Broxbourne School in 2021 replacing the older provision at Hertfordshire Regional College and the addition of Haileybury Turnford School when opened, a significantly higher percentage of satisfied demand is likely to be retained within sports hall sites in the borough.

If residents in neighbouring authorities participate at a sports hall in the borough, their usage becomes part of the used capacity of the borough’s sports halls, this is known as imported demand. In Broxbourne imported demand accounts for more than a third (one in three) of the used capacity of sports halls in the borough. In 2020 when the FPM data was compiled, Broxbourne imported 2,472 visits per week in the weekly peak period while a slightly higher number of visits in the weekly peak (2,833) were exported to sport halls in neighbour local authority areas.

Unmet Demand for Sports Halls

Unmet demand is important to note as it is demand for sports halls which cannot be met because there is either too much demand for any particular sports hall within its catchment area and there is a lack of capacity; or because demand is located too far away from any sports hall. As shown under Satisfied Demand above, just 5.3% of sports hall demand is not satisfied (i.e., ‘Unmet’). This equates to 1.4 badminton courts (see Figure 2.20). The table also shows that the main reason for the small amount of unmet demand that does exist is that some residents – most particularly those without access to a car - live too far away from a sports hall (i.e., outside a 30 minute travel time by public transport or 40 minute walk).

Figure 2.20: Unmet Demand for Sports Halls in Broxbourne, 2020⁸

Unmet Demand	2020
Number of visits unmet per week in peak period	418
Unmet demand as a % of total demand	5.3%
Equivalent in courts with comfort factor	1.4
% of unmet demand due to:	
Facility too far away:	78.2%
○ Without access to a car	73.8%
○ With access to a car	4.4%
Lack of facility capacity:	21.8%
● Without access to a car	20.1%
● With access to a car	1.6%

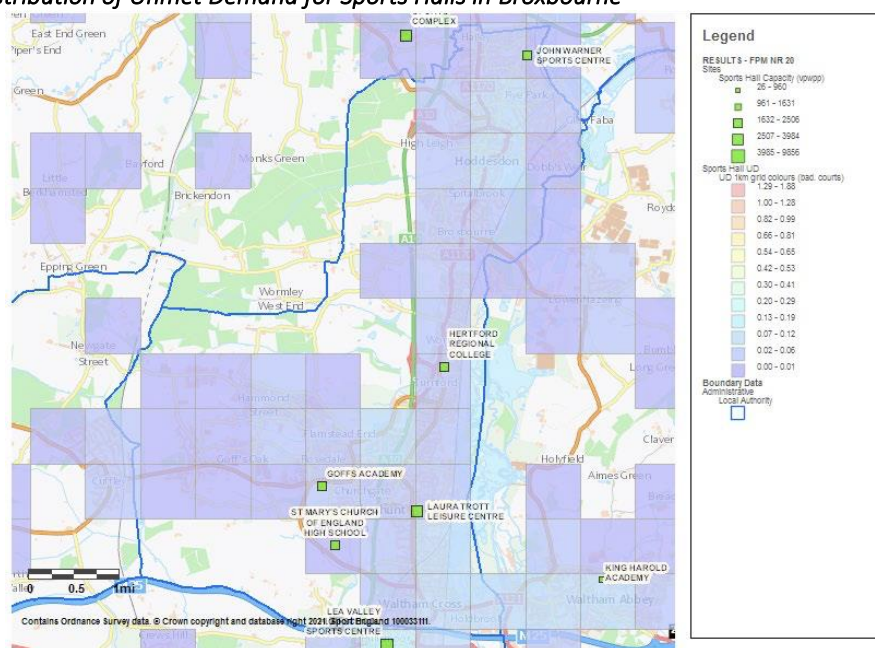
⁷ Figure 2.19 excludes the Broxbourne School and Haileybury Turnford School

⁸ Figure 2.20 excludes the Broxbourne School and Haileybury Turnford School

Figure 2.21 shows that the unmet demand for sports halls is spread across Broxbourne at very low levels. Unmet demand is set out in units of badminton courts within one-kilometre colour-coded grid squares. Unmet demand is in the lowest categories: the indigo squares 0.00–0.01 of a badminton court; and the two shades of blue squares, 0.02–0.06 and 0.07–0.12 of a badminton court. These extremely low values are not surprising given that the total unmet demand is only 1.4 badminton courts (excluding the new sports hall from 2021 at Broxbourne School).

Waltham Cross in the south of the borough is the area where this unmet demand could be best reached. However, this level of unmet demand is insufficient to consider providing a new sports hall to improve access to residents.

Figure 2.21 Distribution of Unmet Demand for Sports Halls in Broxbourne⁹



Used Capacity of Sports Halls

This is a measure of usage at sports halls and estimates how well used or how full facilities are. The FPM is designed to include a ‘comfort factor,’ beyond which the venues are too full. When the venues are too full, the time taken to change the sports hall programme and equipment starts to impinge on the activity time itself and the changing and circulation areas become congested. In the model, Sport England assumes that usage over 80% of capacity is busy and that the sports hall is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage.

The model estimates that used capacity of the Broxbourne sports halls is at the maximum (100%) in the weekly peak period i.e., well above the comfortable capacity allowing for changeovers etc. It is also noted that all the surrounding local authorities have a lower used capacity, and the regional average is 65%.

The redevelopment of Haileybury Turnford School to include a dual use 4 court hall with community availability will increase the available supply in the peak period from 22 to 26 badminton courts. This increase in the supply should reduce the used capacity in the peak period to a more comfortable level closer in line with the regional average provided there is no reduction in the number of peak hours of community use at any other sports halls on school sites.

⁹ Figure 2.21 excludes the Broxbourne School and Haileybury Turnford School

There are also smaller activity halls, not included in the FPM report due to their size but would help to cater for some of the demand for community sports use, such as those on educational sites e.g., Goffs – Churchgate Academy (2-court) and Robert Barclay Academy (1-Court), as well as church halls and community buildings. These provide vital space in the community for group exercise, martial arts and multisport provision.

Sports Hall Sites and Consultation

The oldest sports hall at Goffs Academy, built in 1980, has a sprung wooden floor enabling it to also be used for gymnastics and dance groups. At the time of the site visit the hall was in good condition and the school reported no issues. The Academy reported the hall was near to capacity outside school hours with community use.

The John Warner Sports Centre Hall is available after 6pm term time. The floor was last sanded and resealed 9 years ago. The hall has a variety of community uses including badminton, martial arts, table tennis, indoor cricket and basketball. During the school holidays the hall is used for kids’ clubs and the HAF programme. The Laura Trott Leisure Centre sports hall has bleacher seating however this has not been serviced for the past 6 years due to the cost and demand not being sufficient. The hall is used for Karate, short mat bowls, pickleball, tennis, walking football and GP referral sessions. There is good daytime usage by the local U3A group.

The Broxbourne School Sports Hall opened in 2021, there were initial issues with the flooring when first laid but this has now been resolved. The sports hall is home to Turnford Netball, who play in the Netball Premier League and Russell Hoops Basketball, as well as a community badminton group. The school states that there is currently capacity for additional community usage.

Badminton England’s supply and demand analysis suggests a projected demand of 1,679 additional participants in the area. The area profile data supplied showed a supply and demand balance of -1.7 courts increasing to -2 courts, by 2030, based on the supply of 30 courts in the borough. This strategy identified only 22 courts available (based on 4 court halls), which would suggest the need for more courts is higher. As highlighted above there are a number of smaller activity halls with 1 to 2 courts that could also accommodate some badminton provision but the competition for space from other activities is likely to be high.

The need for additional indoor space for cricket training was highlighted by 4 cricket clubs in the area Broxbourne, Cheshunt Rosedale, Hertfordshire Harriers Disability and Hoddesdon Cricket Club.

Club Consultation

Hertfordshire Badminton Association (Goffs Academy). The association has 4 squads for girls at U12/14/16/18, the number of teams has grown in the last 3 years and the organisation is looking to grow further. Entry level badminton has started to develop in the borough, with support from the NGB and it is hoped Junior and Senior clubs will develop from the initiative. Goffs Academy is their main facility with John Warner and Laura Trott LC also used. The Association identifies the need for better quality facilities in the area.

Quality ratings – Main facility - 1/5 Changing facilities - 3/5

Lee Valley Karate Academy (Hoddesdon Methodist Church) The academy has 410 members (of which 60% comes from the Borough of Broxbourne) and seen a decrease in numbers in the last few years due to Covid and the closure of halls, the organisation has ambitions to grow and run a number of school clubs as well as offering a month’s free membership. The organisation uses a number of facilities through the borough including Hoddesdon Methodist Church (Main facility), Goffs Churchgate Academy, Cheshunt Club and some outside the borough in Hertford, Welwyn Garden and Newgate. They struggle to access sufficient space in community halls and have identified a need for a dedicated martial arts facility in the area.

Quality ratings – Main facility - 2/5 Changing facilities - 3/5

Sports Halls Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of the existing overall sports hall supply including the availability of sports halls on education sites as a minimum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broxbourne Council to work with Broxbourne School to maximise community use of the Sports Hall Broxbourne Council to review new school build plans with Haileybury Turnford School to ensure community use is maximised as part of the planned school redevelopment. Broxbourne Council to explore opportunities with Herts Regional College to increase community use. Investigate the options to increase the number of sports hall with indoor Cricket facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council to work with John Warner School to agree the future management of the site to enable community use to continue New 4 court sports hall with CUA to be provided as part of redevelopment of Haileybury Turnford School. Investigate the feasibility to provide a dedicated martial arts facility in the area.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broxbourne Council to work with Broxbourne School to maximise community use of the Sports Hall. Broxbourne Council to review new school build plans with Haileybury Turnford School to ensure community use is maximised as part of the planned school redevelopment. New 4 court sports hall with CUA to be provided as part of redevelopment of Haileybury Turnford School. Broxbourne Council to explore opportunities with Herts Regional College to increase community use. <p>Medium / Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the options to increase the number of sports hall with indoor Cricket facilities. Investigate the feasibility to provide a dedicated martial arts facility in the area. 		

Health and Fitness Provision in Broxbourne

Health and fitness provision has played a key part in the Covid-19 pandemic recovery process for leisure centres and will continue to be vital in improving the health and wellbeing of local residents.

Health and Fitness Facilities

There are currently 7 sites with 25 stations or more that offer health and fitness and studio facilities in the borough. Two schools in the area, Haileybury Turnford school and Goffs Churchgate Academy only has studio provision, used primarily by dance groups rather than for running fitness classes, see figures 2.22 and 2.23. The existing provision provides accessible opportunities across the range of access types (pay and play or pay as you go and membership), budget and mid-range price points and types of provision (cardio, weights, functional fitness, circuits, exercise to music classes, studio cycling). There are also smaller specialist gyms within Broxbourne such as The Rep Room in Cheshunt, Cre8 Gym in Hoddesdon (just over the borough border in East Herts) and other gym facilities based at sports clubs primarily for the use of players/athletes. Schools with gyms for pupil use only are not included.

Figure 2.22: Health and Fitness Facilities in Broxbourne with 25+ stations

Facility Name	Postcode	Approx. Stations	Access Type	Ownership
Energie Fitness (Hoddesdon)	EN11 8HD	80	Reg. Members Use	Commercial
Hertfordshire Golf & Country Club	EN10 7PY	43	Reg. Members Use	Commercial
John Warner Sports Centre	EN11 0QG	114	Pay and play	Educational
Laura Trott Leisure Centre	EN8 9AJ	120	Pay and play	Local Authority
PureGym (Cheshunt Brookfield Shopping Park)	EN8 0QE	220	Pay and play	Commercial
Target Fitness (Cheshunt Community Sports Park)	EN8 8XG	25	Reg. Members use	Commercial

Facility Name	Postcode	Approx. Stations	Access Type	Ownership
Lifestyle Fitness (Goffs Academy)	EN7 5QW	Unknown	Reg. Members use	Educational
	Total	602+		

Figure 2.23: Studio Facilities in Broxbourne

Facility Name	Postcode	No of Studios	Access Type	Ownership
Energie Fitness (Hoddesdon)	EN11 8HD	1	Pay and play	Commercial
Haileybury Turnford School	EN8 0JU	1	Sports Club / Comm Assoc.	Educational
Hertfordshire Golf & Country Club	EN10 7PY	2	Reg. Members Use	Commercial
Goffs Churchgate Academy	EN8 9LY	1	Sports Club / Comm Assoc	Educational
John Warner Sports Centre	EN11 0QG	2	Pay and play	Educational
Laura Trott Leisure Centre	EN8 9AJ	3	Pay and play	Local Authority
PureGym (Cheshunt Brookfield Shopping Park)	EN8 0QE	1	Pay and play	Commercial
Target Fitness (Cheshunt Community Sports Park)	EN8 8XG	2	Reg. Members use	Commercial
Lifestyle Fitness (Goffs Academy)	EN7 5QW	3	Reg. Members use	Educational
	Total	16		

Only one of the major high street budget gym companies offering low cost 24/7 access is present in the area, PureGym in Cheshunt, offering contract free access from just £19.99 a month. In recent years, the market has seen a significant increase in the number of low-cost 24-hour gyms that offer residents the flexibility to exercise when it is appropriate for them. In light of the revenue contribution made by health and fitness to the financial sustainability of the area’s main public leisure and sport centres, it will be important to ensure that the health and fitness offers at these centres remain competitive in relation to availability (opening hours), access (affordable membership options) and attractiveness (the quality of the studios, equipment, training and instruction).

There is a good level of health and fitness provision in the Council owned and operated leisure centres. Both the Laura Trott Leisure Centre and John Warner Sports Centre offer pay and play options as well as memberships and have eGYM facilities, offering a digital personalized training programme delivering a balanced full body workout with automated progression. The Laura Trott Leisure Centre has a separate eGYM hub area and boutique studio area (Studio Escape) offering specialist 6 weeks classes such as yoga, pilates, mindfulness, gong therapy etc. Both centers have a dedicated spin studio and offer a range of exercise classes.

Hertfordshire Golf & Country Club gym is housed on the first floor of a grade 2 listed building, the weights room and cardio rooms are above the main dining room and restaurant area respectively. The noise levels from the Gym provision impact on events held on site such as weddings. During Covid an outside high impact floor area was constructed (over disused tennis courts) to be able to deliver sessions outside. This is still used in the warmer weather and in the winter classes revert inside. The Club have submitted planning to build 30-35 flats onsite and a new gym area, which will increase the space available and offer dedicated studio space.

Lifestyle fitness at Goffs Academy opened in 2022 and is open to the community throughout the day from 6am to 10pm and at weekends 8am to 6pm. The gym is set across two floors with a large variety of equipment and includes a functional training zone. There are 3 studios, one for spinning studio, one for dance and the third is multi functioning, offering a range of fitness classes and sessions throughout

the week. They have two changing rooms which are fully accessible. The school also has their own school gym with approx. 20 stations primarily used by the pupils, but due to the limited use of this space they are considering making this an additional studio to cater for demand.

Target fitness is located at Cheshunt Community Sports Park and provides personal training, group training and sport specific training sessions. Sessions are primarily aimed for people with disabilities (including visual impairments), those in rehabilitation from injury or illness or those with limited mobility. There are plans to develop and refurbish the suite to cater for Children and Young people with behavioral or special educational needs.

Energie Fitness is based on Hoddesdon High Street, offering monthly membership from £24 per month. The gym is a reasonable size offering cardio, weights and a functional area. They also offer personal training and 6-7 classes during the week. All the health and fitness facilities listed offer some form of disability access.

Quality of Health and Fitness Facilities

The majority of the facilities that were assessed by the Consultant Team were in a good or a very good standard. The exception to this was the facilities at Target Fitness which would benefit from general maintenance but is currently fit for purpose and not a priority investment for the organisation as they are looking to refurbish / replace the changing rooms which have been condemned.

Health and Fitness Participation

In terms of health and fitness demand trends, the latest annual state of the industry report found that, in 2022, the penetration rate (i.e., the proportion of the adult population in the UK that were members of a gym in either the public or private sector) has dropped from 15.6% in 2019 to 14.6%. Currently in the UK, 1 in every 10 people is a member of a gym. The 2022 report highlights that the pandemic has knocked the industry back around three years and the 3-year period to the end of March 2022 has seen decreases of 2.4% in the number of fitness facilities, 4.7% in the number of members and 4.3% in market value. The industry is taking time to recover to pre pandemic levels as consumers adapted to new exercise habits, including online and hybrid models. Group exercise remains popular for its social aspects.

This evidence of the reduction of UK health and fitness participation is supported by the findings of the Active Lives Survey for England. 10.5% of adults (16+) in England took part in a gym session at least twice in the previous 28 days in 2021/22 i.e., 4,842,600 people. This has decreased from 13.3% in 2018/19, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but has increased from 7.7% in 2020/21, showing signs of some recovery. The number of people taking part in a fitness class was higher at 12.5% (5,779,400 people), which is a decrease from 14% in 2019/20, the first time there has been a reduction in participation since the start of the survey in 2015/16.

Health and Fitness Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community health and fitness facilities through planning policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure council owned/operated health and fitness facilities and equipment are maintained to a good quality standard whilst offering affordable pricing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review health and fitness facility and equipment needs in relation to changes in accessible supply (e.g., 24/7 budget gyms and high street / retail town centre provision), fitness participation and industry trends and population growth.

Health and Fitness Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
Prioritised Actions Short Term (1-2 years) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a community focused presence within the market of health and fitness provision in the area. Longer Term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for the future refurbishment of the council leisure facilities and equipment. 		

Squash Provision in Broxbourne

Introduction

The summary below provides the assessment of squash provision in Broxbourne alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this study. The priorities to be adopted for squash provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Squash Facilities

There are currently 8 squash courts in Broxbourne, with a good number of these being glass backed, enabling spectating of matches.

Figure 2.24: Squash Facilities in Broxbourne

Site Name	Postcode	No of courts	Court type	Ownership Type	Management Type
Broxbourne Sports Club	EN10 7BA	5	4 x Normal, 1 x Glass backed	Sports Club	Sports Club
Cheshunt Community Sports Park	EN8 8XG	2	2 x Glass backed	Not for profit members club	Not for profit members club
Laura Trott Leisure Centre	EN8 ONJ	1	Glass backed	Local Authority	Local Authority
TOTAL COURTS		8			

England Squash has a benchmark quantitative guidance standard of 1 court per 10,000 people. The latest population figures for Broxbourne indicate a population of around 99,000 (Census 2021), meaning based on a supply of 8 accessible courts, the level of provision in Broxbourne falls just below this benchmark at approximately 1 court per 12,375 people. Whilst this is close to the England Squash benchmark it should be noted that this will increase with population changes. Based on the estimated population increase of 16,387, the level of provision by 2033 will be 1 court per 14,423 if the level of provision stays the same.

Location of Squash Facilities in Broxbourne

The current facilities are located at either end of the borough providing relatively good access for most of the population.

Quality of Squash Facilities

During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits to the squash facilities in the study area and gave them a quality rating of poor, standard or good. The ratings can be seen below in figure 2.25.

Figure 2.25: Quality of Squash Facilities in Broxbourne

Squash Facilities	Quality Rating
Broxbourne Sports Club	Good
Cheshunt Community Sports Park	Standard (but due to be refurbished in the coming months)
Laura Trott Leisure Centre	Good

The standard of facilities in the area is good but the facilities need to be maintained on a regular basis to ensure the current level of activities can be continued.

Squash Facilities in Neighbouring Local Authorities

Within a 20 minute drive time there are 4 courts at Haileybury Sports Complex (East Herts) that are likely to attract residents of in the North of Broxbourne.

Squash Participation

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁰ indicate the adult demand for squash nationally is almost back to pre-covid levels following a decline in previous years. 0.6% of adults (16+) in England played at least twice in the last 28 days in 2021/22 i.e., 264,100 people, in 2018/19 (pre covid) the percentage was 0.7%, and although Squash is showing signs of recovery participation levels are still significantly lower than 1.0%, the benchmark figure for ALS in 2015/16, overall, a decrease of -0.4%.

Broxbourne Squash Club has 5 squash courts including one which is glass backed, they have 5 league teams and use the Club Spark online system. They offer squash and racketball activities and in February hosted the East of England Racketball open. The club maintain the courts to a good standard and is looking to grow its junior membership.

Cheshunt Community Sports Park has 2 glass backed courts used for both squash and racketball. The courts were in a standard condition as part of the visit, but the venue highlighted they had plans in place to repaint the courts and sand the floors in the near future. The courts are used by club members and on a pay and play basis. Laura Trott Leisure Centre previously had 4 squash courts but changed 3 of these into studios and general storage, just one glass backed court remains, which is available on a pay and play basis.

England Squash has a number of engagement programmes aimed at encouraging more people to become involved with the sport, helping to create thriving communities including Squash 101 programmes - Squash Stars, Junior 101, Adult 101, Squash 57 (Racketball) and Squash Girls Can. For these programmes to be successful facilities need to be well maintained to provide a positive experience along with a partnership approach between the various clubs/ centre management teams.

Club Consultation
<p>Broxbourne Squash Club has approx. 250 members and has seen a growth in membership in the last few years. The club has plans to grow further through expand in junior coaching programmes. The club has identified a need to improve the changing provision at the club to enable the facilities to be more accessible for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 2/5</p>

Squash Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect the current quantity and the availability of community squash facilities through this strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the current supply of squash courts are maintained to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review squash facility needs with England Squash and the leisure management service provider in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Long Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the current supply of squash courts are protected and maintained to a good quality standard. 		

¹⁰ Active Lives Adult Survey November 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

Gymnastics and Trampolining Provision in Broxbourne

Introduction

The summary below provides the assessment of gymnastics and trampolining provision within the study area alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this study. The priorities to be adopted for gymnastics and trampolining provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities

There are 3 gymnastics/trampolining clubs in Broxbourne, with only one having a small, dedicated facility, with the others operating from leisure centres or educational facilities. In addition to this Hertfordshire Gymnastic Club have a dedicated facility at Rye House Stadium which is just over the border and comes under East Herts CC, however it is part of Hoddesdon and serves the residents of Broxbourne, so is included in this section. There is also a trampoline park in the borough, Jump City, which offers dedicated Under 5's and SEND sessions as well as fitness bootcamps.

Figure 2.26: Facilities in Broxbourne used by Gymnastics clubs.

Site Name	Postcode	Facility Type
Affinity Gymnastics	EN11 OLB	Dedicated facility
Grundy Park Gymnastics Club (Laura Trott Leisure Centre)	EN8 9AJ	Leisure Centre
Hertfordshire Gymnastics Club	EN11 OEH	Dedicated facility
Turnford Gymnastics Club (Haileybury Turnford School)	EN8 OJU	Education site

Affinity Gymnastics has its own small, dedicated facility at Plumpton House and also use Sheridene Primary School and Goffs Churchgate School. They have a partnership with Sapphire Cheerleading and have approx. 800 members in total with 450 based at the Plumpton house venue. They offer gymnastics, trampolining, cheerleading, tumbling and parkour. Ideally, they would like a purpose built facility to enable a larger gymnastics area and have foam pits. They lost 70% of their membership through Covid and have struggled to recruit new coaches and instructors. The club is no longer affiliated to British Gymnastics due to the amount of paperwork involved and the time it takes to qualify staff. They now train staff independently.

Turnford Gymnastics Club is based at Haileybury Turnford School, they run preschool and recreational classes as well as squad sessions in the 4 disciplines of Women's Artistic Gymnastics, Vault, Asymmetric bars, beam and floor. The gymnasium they use is in a poor state of repair and there are no available toilets in the block. The school highlighted the floor has dead patches and whilst the club have access to a storage area the school need this space back. The Club have been seeking an alternative venue for over 15 years in order to shorten their waiting list and offer further classes for boys, adults and people with disabilities. The school has been granted permission for a new sports hall and has recently announced it has been successful with a bid to the Department of Education's School Rebuilding Programme, to include new classrooms, a Sports Centre, and dining areas. This could provide an opportunity for the school and the club to work together to provide suitable facilities for both curriculum and community use. Although it is likely the club could be displaced while work is being carried out.

Grundy Park Gymnastics Club is based at the Laura Trott leisure centre and Blackwater Leisure Centre (Maldon, Essex) and offers sessions from 18 months upwards, including Diddy Gym (18 months to 4 years), preschool (3-4 years) and recreational gymnastic classes (5-16+ years). The club has 374 registered members with British Gymnastics.

Hertfordshire Gymnastics Club has its own dedicated facility at The HGH Centre at Rye House Stadium in Hoddesdon, they cater for girls and boys from walking age upwards and offer disciplines of parent and toddler, preschool, recreational for 5-13 years and tumbling squads. The facility includes a full-length tumble track, a fast track into a foam pit, and a sprung floor area. The club has around 400 members, which is slightly down on pre-covid numbers of 500. Approximately 20% of members have special needs or disabilities, including autism, adhd or dyspraxia, and are included in classes rather than part of a disability specific session.

Quality of Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities

During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits at most of the facilities in the area currently used for gymnastics and trampolining. Each facility was given a quality rating of poor, standard or good. The ratings can be seen below in figure 2.27.

Figure 2.27: Quality of Gymnastic Facilities

Gymnastic Facilities	Quality Rating
Affinity Gymnastics	Standard
Haileybury Turnford School (Turnford Gymnastics Club)	Poor
Laura Trott Leisure Centre (Grundy Park Gymnastics Club)	Standard
Hertfordshire Gymnastics Club	Good

The clubs using Leisure Centre and School facilities use standard sports hall space, with mats, springboards, and trampolines. Affinity Gymnastics is based on the first floor of a warehouse and whilst a dedicated facility is quite small, meaning there is limited space for equipment and class numbers have to be limited. Hertfordshire Gymnastics club opened their new facility in 2020, which is in good condition, however the sprung flood area is 12 by 8m which means the club is unable to host competitions as the floor area does not meet British Gymnastics standards of 14m squared.

Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities in Neighbouring Authorities

There are several gymnastics clubs in the neighbouring boroughs, but they all rely on the hire of school facilities or leisure centres, the nearest club with dedicated facilities other than Hertfordshire Gymnastics Club (included in main section) is Harlow Gymnastics Club (Essex).

Gymnastics Participation

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicated a return to pre covid levels of adult demand for gymnastics and trampolining nationally with 0.4% of adults (16+) in England participating in gymnastics or trampolining at least twice in the last 28 days in 2021/22 i.e., 204,900 people. However, it should be noted that adult data is of limited value in estimating overall demand for the sport of gymnastics as most participation is by children under 16 excluded from this data source.

The Active Lives Children and young people data shows 28.7% of young people (2,097,900) participated in Gymnastics, trampolining or cheerleading in the last 7 days during the academic year of 21-22, this is slightly lower than previous years (prior to covid) 31.3% in 17-18, 32.6% in 18-19 and 29.8% in 19-20 but an increase from 25.6% in 20-21.

British Gymnastics state the main issue for gymnastic development is having access to sufficient dedicated space for clubs to grow and extend their programmes. The NGB are in support of the Turnford Gymnastic Club need for improved facilities and highlighted that the previous strategy identified this need, but little progress has been made.

Club Consultation
<p>Turnford Gymnastics Club has approx. 130 members and has seen a decline in membership in the last few years, due to a lack of coaches and poor facilities. The club has plans to grow further by gaining new volunteers and ideally improving their facilities. The club has identified a need to move to new facilities to enable growth, with better toilet facilities and storage.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 1/5 Changing facilities - 1/5</p> <p>Hertfordshire Gymnastics Club has approx. 400 members and estimate that 60% of members come from Broxbourne, whilst numbers have increased since covid they are not yet back to pre-covid levels of 500 members. The club has plans to grow and have a waiting list of members wanting specific sessions. The club has identified a need to widen their facility to increase the sprung floor area and enable them to grow further.</p>

Gymnastics and Trampoline Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for gymnastics and trampolining through planning policy and this strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with British Gymnastics and the local clubs to support the ongoing refurbishment needs of facilities in order to maintain the current level of provision. Identify suitable space to ensure Turnford Gymnastics Club can continue provision during rebuild of Haileybury Turnford School. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities for Turnford Gymnastics club to have dedicated secured provision, which could be part of the rebuild at Haileybury Turnford school or at an alternative suitable location. Regularly review gymnastics and trampolining facility needs with British Gymnastics, and the clubs based in the study area in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with British Gymnastics and the local clubs to support the ongoing refurbishment needs of facilities in order to maintain the current level of provision. Identify suitable space to ensure Turnford Gymnastics Club can continue provision during rebuild of Haileybury Turnford School. <p>Medium / Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities for Turnford Gymnastics club to have dedicated secured provision, which could be part of the rebuild at Haileybury Turnford school or at an alternative suitable location. 		

Athletics Facilities in Broxbourne

There are no outdoor synthetic 400m facilities located in Broxbourne, however the area is currently well serviced by standard 400m tracks in neighbouring local authorities, with 4 facilities within a 20 minute drive time the Gosling Stadium (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council), The Lea Valley Athletics Centre (LB Enfield), Mark Hall Sports Centre (Harlow) and Stuart Storey Athletics Track (East Herts).

Broxbourne Runners are based at Broxbourne Sports Club and organises two sessions a week, a coaching session on a Wednesday and a longer endurance run on a Sunday. Members participate in a number of events throughout the year.

England Athletics feel there is a potential for new demand for track and field / recreational running from new housing developments and as such feel an ActiveTrack (walk/jog/run/cycle loops) should be considered as part of any future housing developments.

Parkrun

There is a Parkrun every Saturday at 9am in Barclay Park, Hoddesdon. The average attendance is 87 finishers across 352 events. Just outside the Borough, catering for those in the South is another parkrun at Gunpowder Park, with the average attendance across 534 events being 133 finishers. There is a junior parkrun’s run every Sunday in the area, at Cheshunt Park, with 32 average finishers across 188 events.

Participation in Athletics and Running

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹¹ indicate a slight decrease in adult demand for running, or athletics multi sports nationally in the last two years compared to a relatively stable period prior to this. 13% (down from 13.7%) of adults (16+) in England went running or took part in track or field athletics at least twice in the last 28 days in 2021/22 (i.e., 5.9 million people). The period between 2015/16 and 2019/20 participation was relatively stable at 15.6%. The current participation figure, however, is now higher than gym-based health and fitness membership.

Walking

The NHS provides evidence of countless health benefits to walking, centered around heart health, general fitness levels and burning excess calories. Beyond medical benefits the NHS recommend walking as one of the cheapest and easiest ways to become healthier. Whilst physical and mental health is key to the promotion of walking, the environmental benefits are vast in terms of reduced transport by other means and therefore cleaner air and reduced pollution. Broxbourne’s open spaces and parks provide excellent opportunities for walking and good quality and safe walking routes are part of the wider picture for better provision for physical activity. Broxbourne Council and Active Herts organises a number of free wellbeing walks with walk leaders across the borough, that cater for a range of abilities.

Athletics Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the lighting, waymarking and other signage along footpaths and in parks used for jogging and walking for health, are maintained to a good standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider improved lighting, waymarking and signage in parks to encourage more jogging and walking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the feasibility to provide an Active Track as part of future housing developments. Regularly review athletics and running facility needs with England Athletics, clubs and the leisure providers in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the feasibility to provide an Active Track as part of future housing developments. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review future facility needs with England Athletics clubs and the leisure providers in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. 		

¹¹ Active Lives Adult Survey November 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

Tennis provision in Broxbourne

The section below provides the assessment of tennis provision within Broxbourne alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this study. The priorities to be adopted for tennis provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Tennis Facilities in Broxbourne

There are 6 sites that offer accessible tennis courts in the area, with a total of 40 outdoor tennis courts. There are 31 floodlit courts in the study area, figures 2.39, 2.40 and 2.41 shows the sites. Two floodlit courts at Old Highway Recreation ground are unusable and there were also previously 4 hard courts at Cheshunt Country club which is now closed.

There are no indoor tennis venues in Broxbourne, although Hoddesdon LTC install a temporary bubble over two of their hard courts in the winter and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is working with Goffs Academy on a school project to provide 2 indoor courts and 3 outdoor courts.

Tennis Clubs in Broxbourne

There are a total of 2 tennis clubs located within the study area and are listed in figure 2.28. These account for 18 (15 floodlit) of the total courts within the study area.

Figure 2.28 Club Tennis Sites in Broxbourne

Site	No. Courts	Floodlit
Broxbourne Sports Club	10	7
Hoddesdon LTC	8	8
Total	18	15

Broxbourne Sports Club is a multisport facility that includes 10 courts in total, 7 of which are floodlit (2 hard courts, 3 tiger turf courts, 2 acrylic courts) and 3 grass courts without floodlights. They also have two mini hard courts, which are rarely used, the surface is in a reasonable condition, but the lines are fading, and the club is considering looking at how this space can be repurposed. The club maintains the courts to a good standard and has recently installed new LED lights on the tiger turf courts. The acrylic courts can drain slowly in heavy rain, but the surface is good. The main clubhouse on site requires updating including a new roof and reconfiguration of changing provision. There is a separate small tennis pavilion which comprises of a small function area, two changing rooms and a small kitchen area. There is a need to refurbish the flooring in the toilet / changing area. The club has ambitions to enlarge access to the courts and relay the path to enable wheelchair access. They have recently installed a fully accessible toilet facility and are in the process of installing a lift. The tennis section of the club has approx. 150 adult members and 150 junior members.

Hoddesdon LTC has 8 floodlit courts, 6 artificial grass and 2 hard courts plus 2 pickleball courts (not floodlit) converted from a discussed hard court a few years ago and 2 mini tennis courts. The club usually installs a bubble over the hard courts in the winter, however, they were having issues with the supplier in terms of availability for installation for the 22/23 winter. The hard courts are next due for resurfacing, but the priority for the club is to upgrade the floodlights to LED to help with increased energy costs. The club runs 19 tennis teams including U10 girls, U11 boys, 12 adult (6 men and 6 female), 5 older adults (2 male, 3 female) and 4 pickleball teams. The club holds an adult disability session weekly for the nearby day centre and interest has been received from other day centres. They also plan to start Walking Tennis - for the over 55s – and enter into a friendly Orchard Ladies league for those unable to commit to weekend games and of lower skills set. The club has had issues with stray cricket balls entering the courts since the safety netting on the boundary was damaged and have had to move their junior coaching sessions and take one court out of action when Cricket games are on.

Park Tennis Sites

There are tennis courts available in only one public park in the area at Old Highway Recreation Ground. Whilst there are 4 floodlit courts in total, only two are currently usable and open for public access. The site was previously managed by Rye Town Tennis Club, who folded during the Covid 19 pandemic. LTA have identified the two (currently open) courts for renovation as part of their strategy for parks investment but only if a suitable operator can be found. The other two courts require a full rebuild of the sub base and court resurface and refencing. The borough had been working with the LTA to identify another provider to manage the courts.

Figure 2.29: Park Tennis Sites

Site	No. Courts	Floodlit
Old Highway Rec. Ground	4 (only 2 usable)	4 (only 2 usable)
Total	2	2

In addition to the tennis clubs and park tennis court sites in Broxbourne there are also 20 tennis courts on educational sites. The courts at Goffs Academy are floodlit and available for use up to 10pm. The line markings are faded, and the surface appears old. The courts at St Mary’s CEO School are in reasonable condition and available for community use but the lack of floodlights limits this to summertime only. The courts at Broxbourne school were newly laid in 2021, with LED floodlights and usage permitted up to 10pm.

Figure 2.30: Educational Tennis Sites

Site	No. Courts	Floodlit
Goffs Academy	6	6
St Marys COE High School	6	0
The Broxbourne School	8	8
Total	20	14

Quality of Tennis Courts in Broxbourne

During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits to the following tennis facilities in the study area. Each facility visited was given a quality rating of Poor, Standard or Good. The ratings can be seen below in figure 2.31. Not all tennis court sites were visited for a range of reasons including those courts at private members’ clubs where courts were assumed to be of good quality, those on school sites with limited community use and single courts with no ancillary facilities.

Figure 2.31: Quality of Tennis Courts audited.

Tennis Courts	Quality Rating
Broxbourne Sports Club	• Good (10), Poor (Mini Courts)
Hoddesdon LTC	• Good (8), Poor (Mini Courts)
Goffs Academy	• Poor (6)
Old Highway Rec. Ground	• Poor (2), Unplayable (2)
St Mary COE High School	• Standard (6)
The Broxbourne School	• Good (8)

The non-technical site assessments highlight that the tennis courts within the area vary in quality, with the club courts being in a good condition in the main, whilst the park and education facilities are of a lesser quality. There are eight courts in poor condition, plus the mini courts in the area, as well as two courts that are unplayable. There is a good provision of floodlit courts across the borough enabling year-round tennis activity. There is an unusual lack of park sites in the borough which limits community provision although the education sites and Hoddesdon LTC offer pay and play sessions.

Padel

The LTA also oversees the running of Padel, a new sport which is growing fast across the country that provides an exciting addition to the traditional game of tennis, enjoyed by both existing players and complete beginners. Already popular across Europe, a wave of new Padel facilities is being built in parks and other settings and, in some cases, traditional tennis courts are being converted to Padel courts.

Broxbourne Sports Club has recently installed 2 padel courts and they opened in July 2022, both are floodlight and fully accessible and available to book online. The club has 115 padel members and runs two social sessions a week as well as offering lessons. They have partnered with Game 4 Padel who help run padel facilities nationwide.

The LTA calculate the demand for Padel to be 1,701 based on their periscope mapping report, which would equate to a need for 7-8 courts in the Borough (based on an estimated 200 players per court). As there are only two courts in the area this would suggest a further 6-7 courts are needed.

Tennis Participation

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹² indicate there has been an increase in adult demand for tennis nationally over the last year and is back to the highest recorded level since the benchmark Active Lives Survey in 2015/16. 2.0% of adults (16+) in England participated in tennis at least twice in the last 28 days in 2021/22 i.e., 915,000 people. This shows the initial post covid resurgence of demand for outdoor park tennis has now converted into regular participation.

The LTA have a record of 620 LTA members in the area, based on tennis profiles created by the LTA the largest groups are Senior Stalwarts at 53% (Older group of players for whom tennis is a social habit) followed by Tennis Troupers at 25% (often club members, largely family orientated, middle aged players for whom tennis is a hobby). There is further potential in the area to target these two groups particularly in the Cheshunt area (Tennis Troupers) and Hoddesdon area (Senior Stalwarts).

Ponsbourne Tennis Club, who lost their facility in 2019, had 200 members who have now integrated into clubs in the Broxbourne area. The club have been looking to establish themselves in the borough at a new facility and are looking for space to have 6-10 courts, however the LTA feel there is no need for new club facilities to be provided in the area as the current clubs have capacity for new members.

Club Consultation

Hoddesdon LTC runs 19 teams and have seen a decrease in membership in the last few years, with people being unable to commit to matches at the weekend. The club has plans to grow further by offering a range of recreational activities. The club has identified a need for the floodlights to be changed to LED as an immediate priority to help with energy costs. There is also a need for the safety netting between the Cricket club and the Tennis club to be repaired.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 4/5

¹² Active Lives Adult Survey November 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

Tennis Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for tennis through planning policy. Club sites to be maintained to a good quality standard (club led) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the LTA to identify an operator for Old Highway Rec Courts and refurbish at least two courts initially. Work with the LTA to provide support for tennis clubs in the area to enhance and increase their facilities further. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the LTA and Goffs Academy to upgrade tennis facilities and ensure community use of facilities continues. Review funding options to rebuild the other courts at Old Highway Rec, making all four available. Investigate the feasibility of providing further Padel courts in Broxbourne on suitable sites. Regularly review tennis and padel facility needs with the LTA, the tennis clubs based in the area in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the LTA to identify an operator for Old Highway Rec Courts and refurbish at least two courts initially. Review funding options to rebuild the other courts at Old Highway Rec, making all four available. Work with the LTA to provide support for tennis clubs in the area to enhance and increase their facilities further. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the LTA and Goffs Academy to upgrade tennis facilities and ensure community use of facilities continues. Investigate the feasibility of providing further Padel courts in Broxbourne on suitable sites, ensuring it limits the impact on existing sporting provision. 		

Netball Provision in Broxbourne

Broxbourne has a total of 34 courts across 8 different sites. There are 29 outdoor courts and 5 indoor courts in the study area.

Figure 2.32 Netball Sites in Broxbourne

Site	No Courts	Indoor	Outdoor	Floodlit
Goffs Academy	7	1	6	Yes
Goffs Academy Churchgate	2	1	1	No
Haileybury Turnford School	2	0	2	No
Hertfordshire Regional College	1	1	0	-
Laura Trott Leisure Centre	1	1	0	-
The Broxbourne School	7	1	6	Yes
St Mary's COE High School	5	1	4	No
Wormley Playing Fields	7	0	7	Yes
Total	34	5	29	

All of the indoor courts are on education sites, with the exception of the Laura Trott Leisure Centre. There are floodlit outdoor courts at Goffs Academy, The Broxbourne School, and Wormley Playing Fields.

There are 2 clubs in the area and a strong netball league holding matches in the borough. The Broxbourne & District League has 420 participants from 47 teams at U11, U12, U13, U14 and adult. They were previously based at Wormley Playing Fields but have recently moved to Broxbourne School due to the deterioration of these facilities.

Turnford Netball club has 270 members and is one of the strongest clubs in the south of England, with a team in the National Prem 1, the highest league and division in the country. They have 31 teams from U7 girls up to adult female, including teams for older women 35+ and 50+. They previously used Wormley Playing fields for the majority of training and matches but due to the quality of the facilities, they have moved to Broxbourne School.

Cheshunt NC has 6 teams, 4 adult female teams and an U14 and U15's girls' team. They have also moved from Wormley Playing Fields to Broxbourne School.

Wormley playing fields is still used for a back to Netball programme which has 40+ members with an average of 20 attending each session.

The Laura Trott Leisure Centre runs a U3A netball session which has 60 members, with an average of 18 members attending each session.

Netball Participation

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹³ indicate there has been an increase in adult demand for Netball nationally over the last year and is almost back to pre-covid levels of 0.7%. In 2021/22 0.6% of adults (16+) in England participated in tennis at least twice in the last 28 days i.e., 290,200 people.

England Netball's supply and demand analysis suggests a projected demand of 2,806 additional participants in the area and based on 28 courts in the borough showed an oversupply of 3 courts. This strategy has identified 34 courts available in the area, which would suggest an oversupply of 9 courts. This indicates that the 7 courts at Wormley Playing fields are now surplus to requirements and the space could be utilised for other sports.

Club Consultation

Broxbourne & District Netball League (Wormley Playing Fields) provides competition for 47 teams (420 participants) and have seen a stable number of teams in the last few years. The league has plans to grow further by encouraging new teams to join. At the time of completing the survey the league was still based at Wormley Playing Fields and the league identified a need for the courts to be updated as they are becoming unsafe, and teams are refusing to play on them.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 1/5 Changing facilities - 2/5

Cheshunt Netball Club (Wormley Playing Fields) has approximately 72 members and have seen an increase in membership in the last few years. They have ambitions to grow further moving the youth teams into adult teams. The club use Wormley Playing Fields and Broxbourne School. The club state the courts at Wormley Playing fields are often unplayable and need improvement.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 1/5 Changing facilities - 1/5

Turnford Netball Club (Wormley Playing Fields) has approximately 270 members and have seen a stable membership level in the last few years. The club has ambitions to grow and offers regular trial days. The club use Wormley Playing Fields, Broxbourne School, St Marys COE High School and Goffs Academy. Previously most of their matches and training was at Wormley Playing fields but they have now managed to secure indoor venues at education sites. The club have identified a need to change facilities as the courts at Wormley are unsafe and parking is an issue.

Quality ratings - Playing surface – not answered Changing facilities - 2/5

¹³ Active Lives Adult Survey November 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

Netball Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for netball through planning policy, with the exception of the courts at Wormley Playing fields that is surplus to demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Education sites to ensure the courts, fencing and nets at all venues are maintained to a good quality standard and club activity is secured. Work with England Netball to ensure the back to netball programme at Wormley Playing Fields can be secured at an alternative facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options for the netball courts at Wormley Playing fields to be used for alternative sports. Regularly review netball facility needs with England Netball, netball clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with England Netball to ensure the back to netball programme at Wormley Playing Fields can be secured at an alternative facilities. <p>Long Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options for the netball courts at Wormley Playing fields to be used for alternative sports. 		

Cycling, BMX and Stake Park Provision in Broxbourne

Introduction

The summary below provides an assessment of cycling provision within Broxbourne alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this study. The proposed priorities to be considered for cycling provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Cycling Facilities

There are no formal cycling or pump tracks in Broxbourne but there are skate ramps in a number of parks and open spaces across the borough including Cheshunt Park, Pound Close playing fields and Waltham Cross Playing Fields.

There is a network of 124 footpaths, four bridleways and 11 roads used as public paths available for cycling covering a combined distance of 43 miles. The Lee Valley Regional Park also has a variety of cycle routes which form part of Routes 1 and 61 of the National Cycle Network.

Cycling Provision in Neighbouring Local Authorities

There are significant cycling facilities accessible to residents in Broxbourne within a 20 minute drive time in the surrounding areas including the floodlit outdoor velodrome at Gosling Sports Park (Welwyn Hatfield) and the BMX pump Track at Lordship Recreation Ground (Haringey)

Road and Track Cycling

There are no cycling clubs in the borough, however Hoddesdon Triathlon club is based at Broxbourne Sports Club for its running and cycling. It has a thriving junior, youth and senior sections, with its cycling sessions usually starting at either the sports club or Wodson Park (East Herts) on a Saturday morning led by coaches or ride leaders.

There are also a number of cycling clubs across the Hertfordshire area likely to attract residents of Broxbourne including Hertfordshire wheelers, North Road Cycling Club, South Herts Cyclists and Forty Plus cycling club.

Participation in Cycling

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁴ indicate a slight decrease in adult demand for cycling for leisure and sport nationally over the last year. There was a significant increase likely due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019-20 where 16% of adults (16+) in England participated in cycling at least twice in the last 28 days, this dropped to 13.8% in 2021/22 i.e., 6,363,300 people, which is in line with activity in prior years.

British Cycling are actively working across the Hertfordshire area and have a community club and group developer in place, looking to focus work on areas of deprivation to increase opportunities for Women and Girls, Children and young people, disability groups and ethnic communities through their Breeze and guided rides programmes. They are also encouraging Council’s to consider opportunities to run a Pedal Party (Parkrun for cycles) for families at park sites near leisure centres. The council offers free cycling courses to residents but has struggled to recruit ride leaders recently.

Cycling for community and active travel purposes

Cycling forms part of the active travel offer in Broxbourne which includes walking to school, cycling to work or other everyday journeys, which can offer a convenient, accessible and affordable way to move more. Helping residents get moving through walking and cycling can make a powerful, lasting difference to their physical and mental health and well-being. The council promote cycling as a good way to help everyone lead a more active lifestyle, a local travel map has been produced by Sustrans, a sustainable transports charity, on behalf of Broxbourne Council and Hertfordshire County Council which displays the cycle routes and lanes in the local area. Through the maintenance of parks, cycle routes and investment into a more active environment Broxbourne Council will continue to encourage people to choose more active modes of transport in the area.

Cycling		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council should continue to protect the existing skate park facilities through planning policy. The Council should ensure that existing cycle paths, cycle routes, lighting, waymarking and other signage are maintained to a good standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council should investigate opportunities with British Cycling to establish a pedal party in the borough. The council to maintain, refurbish and update the skate parks in the area when needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with British Cycling to recruit ride leaders to run adult courses. Regularly review cycling facility needs with British Cycling and local clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. Work with schools to link to national cycling networks and promote opportunities for active travel. Investigate the feasibility of providing a BMX pump track in the area.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure through planning conditions that any new developments create the conditions for active travel between all locations. Investigate the opportunity to work with British Cycling to establish a pedal party in the borough. <p>Medium / Long Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility of providing a BMX pump track in the area. 		

¹⁴ Active Lives Adult Survey November 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

Bowls provision in Broxbourne

There are 5 bowls clubs in Broxbourne area affiliated to the Hertfordshire bowling Association and Bowls England and one Indoor Bowls club.

Cheshunt Indoor Bowls Club is part of Cheshunt Community Sports Park. The club has 6 rinks. The roof has recently been replaced and the facility repainted. The club was closed briefly due to a handover in ownership, but numbers are gradually growing. There is a digital booking system for members and the club have an aim to increase participation rates of younger bowlers. Cheshunt Bowls club is based on the site. There is also an outdoor bowls green on site, used by Cheshunt Outdoor Bowls Club, it has 6 rinks and pay for a specialist greenkeeper to maintain the green, other area are maintained by club volunteers, unless specialist skills are required. They have 7 years left on their lease and are looking to update their facilities to provide better access for those with limited mobility.

Hoddesdon Bowls Club (Rose Hill) has 6 rinks, but it is undersized meaning for friendly matches they play North to South but for competition change to West to East. They currently have a 29 year lease pay a peppercorn rent and complete their own maintenance. They would ideally like to secure a longer lease of between 50-99 years. They have recently created an outdoor decking area and are applying for planning in retrospect. They also have planning for floodlights for a further two years but are waiting to understand the impact of the neighbourhood street lighting on the green before they consider installation. They have small changing rooms, club house, kitchen, bar area and social space available for members only. They have 76 playing members (including 30 women), 25 associate members and 20 social members. They have activities most evenings including the U3A group on a Tuesday and have indoor short mat bowls sessions in the winter. They have previously looked to encourage younger members, with members undertaking safeguarding courses, but found despite advertising there was no demand.

Hoddesdon and Rye Park Bowls Club is based in Old Highway Recreation Ground. They have 6 rinks and have contractors who undertake the maintenance of the green since the council stopped a few years ago. The club maintain the inside of the building with the council responsible for the outside. The club have 2 years left of their current 21 year lease. Membership numbers are up to 55, with 10 newly recruited women to the club. They have changing space but no showers and disabled toilets. They previously shut the club during the winter but now offer crib and darts nights, social activities and meals for members. The fencing between the bowls club and tennis courts needs replacing and access to the club is either through the park or down steps at the corner.

Rosedale Bowls Club is part of a Rosedale Sports Club, and the club are celebrating their centenary season. The green has 6 rinks, and the club are responsible for the maintenance of the site. In the winter months the use the clubhouse to play short mat bowls and crib matches. The club have two coaches to support beginners. The bowls green is due to be re-laid and the club are looking to schedule the work to ensure the bowls season is not impacted on.

Whit Hern Bowls Club is based in Whit Hern Park and has a 6 rink green. The club are responsible for the maintenance of the site and have a 20 year lease. The clubhouse has a dining area, bar, kitchen and two changing rooms and toilets. They hold regular social events and monthly winter walks. The club have their own coaches who provide training for beginners to more experienced bowlers.

England Bowls have not identified a need for any additional facilities in the area but improvements to the quality of greens and ancillary provision is needed as well as support for clubs to increase membership levels through promotion and recruitment.

French Boules / Pentanque

There is a Boules / Pentanque court in Old Highway Recreation Ground and Cedars Park. The court at Old Highway Recreation Ground is used by the U3A group on a regular basis. They run sessions every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and play matches against other groups on a Sunday. The court at Cedars park is used by a local group 3-4 times a week.

Club Consultation
<p>Cheshunt Outdoor Bowls Club (Cheshunt Community Sports Park) has approximately 36 members and have seen a decrease in membership in the last few years. The club has plans to grow further and are inviting groups to attend and try the sports for team building events. They have identified a need to improve their changing facilities to provide better access for those with limited mobility.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 2/5</p>
<p>Hoddesdon and Rye Park Bowling Club (Old Highway Rec. Ground) has approximately 55 members and have seen a relatively stable membership in the last few years. They have ambitions to grow further and offers free tuition, coaching and equipment to new members trying the game for the first time. The club have identified no facility needs for the club but would like to see the plans to improve the recreation ground is continued.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 4/5</p>
<p>Hoddesdon Bowls Club (Rose Hill) has approximately 78 members and have seen a relatively stable number of members in the last few years. They have ambitions to grow with an active recruitment team. The club have identified a need for better parking, as they only have a few spaces available on site.</p> <p>Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 5/5 Changing rooms – 3/5</p>
<p>Whit Hern Bowls Club (Whit Hern Park) has approximately 75 members and has seen a decline in membership numbers in the last few years. They have ambitions to grow and are focusing on recruitment. The club have not identified any facility needs.</p> <p>Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 4/5 Changing rooms – 5/5</p>
<p>Broxbourne U3A Boules group (Old Highway Rec. Ground) has approximately 48 members and has seen an increase in membership in the last few years. They have ambitions to grow and has recently started offering a third session on a Thursday. The group have identified a need for more seating and improvements to parking in the area.</p> <p>Quality Ratings – Playing surface – 4/5 Changing rooms – N/A</p>

Bowls Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for bowls if there continues to be demand, through planning policy. In liaison with clubs, seek to ensure the existing facilities for bowls continue to be maintained to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Bowls England and Cheshunt Outdoor bowls club to make their changing facilities more accessible. Support clubs to recruit new members through promotion of open days. Review and look to improve the parking arrangements at Old Highway Rec Ground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Rosedale Bowls Club to relay their green with minimal impact on their season. Regularly review bowls facility needs in the area with the Bowls Development Alliance, England Bowls, England Indoor Bowls Association, and the established bowls clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support clubs to recruit new members through promotion of open days. Review and look to improve the parking arrangements at Old Highway Rec Ground. <p>Long term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Bowls England and Cheshunt Outdoor bowls club to make their changing facilities more accessible. Support Rosedale Bowls Club to relay their green with minimal impact on their season. 		

Boxing Provision in Broxbourne

There are currently 3 Boxing clubs in Broxbourne, well spread throughout the borough, enabling access to a boxing club by most residents.

Cheshunt Boxing Club has over 200 members with sessions from 8 years old to adult. The club was closed for a period due to the sale of their previous site. They are reestablishing themselves at Goffs Churchgate Academy School, where they have a permanent gym set up, with two rings and 5 hanging bags but they can only access the facilities during the day which limits the activities they can offer. They run sessions for children with downs syndrome and have children with adhd and autism.

Hoddesdon Boxing Club is based in Robert Gilling Hall. The club run sessions from 7 years to adult, including boxing development sessions, self defence, women's only sessions and weightlifting, conditioning and strength sessions. They also work with a number of schools. They are waiting for the delivery of two new canvases and while the building is tight for space it is adequate, but the changing facilities need improvement. The club affiliate to England Boxing.

Waltham Cross Amateur Boxing Club offers sessions from 8 years to adult, they have recently installed a new canvas but the building they are in is small and suffering from subsidence with holes in the roof. They are in talks with the insurance company and Hertfordshire Couty Council around extending the building as they would like to open more during the day to support people with mental health problems. They are affiliated to the Amateur Boxing Alliance. They have 12 years left on their lease and are responsible for the maintenance of the building. The club feel they are an asset to the Holdbrook estate, where they are based and engage with all the community, the building is old, but they don't want to move away from the heart of the community.

The Cre8 Gym in Hoddesdon (just over the borough boundary in East Herts) has a combat arena offering specific boxing classes for Women, kids (5-9 years) and juniors (10-17 years), as well as sessions in MMA and Muay Thai.

There has also been interest from Victor Smith at Essex Fight Academy to establish additional provision in the Cheshunt area, specifically focused on working with children at risk of exclusion from school following referrals from the police and social workers. Living locally Victor has identified a need for this support and is working with 112 children in the area already but needs a base to be able to better support these children and young people.

Participation in Boxing

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁵ indicate a slight increase in adult demand for boxing (including boxing fitness classes) nationally over the last year. 1.3% of adults (16+) in England participated in boxing at least twice in the last 28 days (593,900 people), this has increased from 1.1% in 2021/22, but down on previous highs of 1.7% between 2016/17 and 2018/19.

England Boxing highlights that Boxing is a sport that is centrally placed to tackle deep rooted societal issues and inequalities and with boxing clubs located in the heart of the communities they provide a service to people from that community and importantly are run by people who know and understand the issues and challenges being faced by their members.

¹⁵ Active Lives Adult Survey November 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

Club Consultation
<p>Cheshunt Boxing Club has approximately 200 members. The club plans to grow further and is reestablishing itself after a closure of 6 months. They would like their own facility to be able to offer daytime and one to one sessions.</p> <p>Hoddesdon Boxing Club has approximately 200 members and have seen an increase in membership in the last few years. The club has plans to grow and have identified a need to improve their changing facilities.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 2/5</p> <p>Waltham Cross Amateur Boxing Club has approximately 50 members and have seen an increase in membership in the last few years. The club has plans to grow further and support more groups in the community. They have identified a need to improve and extend their current building to be able to grow.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 2/5 Changing facilities - 2/5</p>

Boxing Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for boxing through planning policy and, in liaison with the local clubs, seek to ensure the facilities are to be maintained to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Waltham Cross ABC and Hertfordshire CC to support the improvement and extension of their facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look to identify a suitable location to provide additional provision for a boxing in the Cheshunt area. Regularly review facility needs for boxing in the area with the clubs based in the area and England Boxing in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Medium / Long Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Waltham Cross ABC and Hertfordshire CC to support the improvement and extension of their facilities. Look to identify a suitable location to provide additional provision for a boxing in the Cheshunt area. 		

Golf Facilities in Broxbourne.

There are 3 golf facilities in Broxbourne, two 18-hole courses (Cheshunt Park Golf Course and Hertfordshire Golf and Country Club), one 9-hole course (Broxbourne Golf Complex).

Broxbourne Golf Complex is a 9-hole 3 par course, with an additional 18 hole crazy golf course and a footgolf course that runs in parallel to the main course. The complex is run on a pay and play basis and has a family ethos with a loyalty scheme for regular customers. The profile of users tends to be older golfers that cannot manage a full 18-hole course, beginners, families and special needs groups. The crazy golf area is floodlit so it can be used in the evenings as part of an additional offer to those hiring the facility for functions. Plans are in place to refurbish the Crazy golf in the winter period to add more characters and improve pathways. The course is good with a few areas where water collects, but it general drains well, there is an irrigation system in place but was not working when the owners took on the site and it will cost £60k to repair, if they can get longer term security on the site, they will invest in this. The owners took over on an initial 5-year lease which was extended to 10 years, they are now looking for a longer lease or to buy the freehold in order to continue to invest in the facility.

Cheshunt Park Golf Course is an 18-hole par 71 golf course, with a 9 bay floodlit driving range, with a Top Tracer system. As well as a putting green and chipping area. The course is available to members or on a pay and play basis. Membership options include anytime golf (7 day or 5 day), off peak and a combined option with leisure centre membership. Additional facilities on site include a restaurant, function rooms and a halfway house providing drinks and snacks. Cheshunt Golf club, a private

member’s golf club is based on site, with access to the course. The club organises a number of competitions between members and enter into County and National Competitions. The Brookfield Housing development will impact on an area of the course but there is pace to realign the holes elsewhere on the course.

Hertfordshire Golf and Country Club is an 18-hole par 70 course, with a driving range with a Top Tracer system consisting of 27 floodlit and heated bays. The club has a junior golf academy and a girls’ golf rocks programme. The golf course is good with no problems reported. The course and driving range are open to members and non-members and the site offers wider facilities including a gym, exercise classes, a swimming pool and spa.

Golf Facilities in Neighbouring Local Authorities

There is a good distribution of golf facilities that are accessible for Broxbourne residents within a short journey time, including Brickendon Grange Golf Club.

Figure 2.33 Neighbouring facilities

Neighbouring Facilities	Local Authority	Provision
Brickendon Grange Golf Club	East Herts	18-hole, par 71 course, private course.
Chadwell Springs Family Golf Centre	East Herts	9-hole, par 3 pitch and putt course. Footgolf, 17 bay floodlit driving range.
Lee Valley Golf Club	Lee Valley Regional Park Authority	18 Hole, par 67 course, public course.

There is a good mix of types of courses and range of provision, including practice facilities, with both Cheshunt Park Golf Course and Hertfordshire Golf having driving ranges and Broxbourne Golf complex being more suited to beginners. All courses are accessible to non-members and Broxbourne Golf complex provides provision for those with special needs and older adults.

Quality of Golf Facilities in Broxbourne

During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits at each of the golf facilities in the borough. Each golf facility was given a quality rating of poor, standard or good. These ratings can be seen below in figure 2.45.

Figure 2.34 Quality of Golf Facilities in Broxbourne

Golf Facilities	Quality Rating	Comments or Issues
Broxbourne Golf Complex	Standard to Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course is good with a few areas where water collects. The crazy golf course is due to be refurbished.
Cheshunt Golf Club	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course is good but is due to be realigned as part will be lost to housing. Small (9 bay) driving range.
Hertfordshire Golf Course	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good course with large driving range (27 bays).

In terms of the quality of the supply, the 'Golfshake' website provides online customer reviews; figure 2.35 shows quality ratings for formal golf courses in Broxbourne and the wider area. The overall review scores are averaged from individual scores for factors including quality of course, facilities and services, course condition, pace of play, food and drink, practice facilities and value for money. The review ratings show that the golf venues in Broxbourne both have a high percentage of players (who submitted reviews) that would play them again or recommend the venue to others. Broxbourne Golf Complex was not listed on 'Golfshake', but online Google reviews were positive (4.4/5 from sample of 156).

Overall ratings from the player reviews from sites in neighboring boroughs range from between 2.8/5 (Lee Valley Golf Club) and 4.3/5 (Brickendon Grange Golf Club), showing the courses in Broxbourne are comparable to facilities in neighboring borrows, with ratings from a significantly larger sample of reviews.

Figure 2.35: Online Ratings of Broxbourne Golf Courses and Comparators¹⁶

Club	Rating out of 5	% Would Play Again or Recommend	Sample No
Broxbourne Golf Facilities			
Cheshunt Park Golf Course	3.6	93%	247
Hertfordshire Golf Club	4.0	99%	309
Neighbouring Facilities			
Brickendon Grange Golf Club	4.3	96%	67
Chadwell Springs Family Golf Centre	3.8	100%	57
Lee Valley Golf Club	2.8	90%	148

Golf Participation

In terms of demand, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁷ indicate an increase in adult demand with participation at its highest with 2.2% (1,035,700) of adults (16+) in England participating in golf at least twice in the last 28 days, following a decline during the pandemic when level dipped to 1.7% in 2020/21, participation since 2015 (the first year in which survey results are available) and 2019 (the last full year before the pandemic) were very slowly declining with from 2.2 to 2.1%. Similarly, research gathered by Sporting Insights shows participation in Great Britain and Ireland has returned to growth in 2022 with 5.8 million on-course adult golfers – the second highest number since monitoring began – enjoyed playing on full length courses (9 or 18 holes).

England Golf

The demand for golf in Broxbourne sites above the county and regional averages. Membership figures are strong at the two affiliated clubs (Cheshunt Park Golf Course and Hertfordshire Golf Club) at with the current 2023 average 442 members placing Broxbourne 9% above the national average 18-hole course in England (407 members). There has also been a substantial increase in members at Cheshunt Park who have grown by over 70% since 2015.

In terms of golf development initiatives, England Golf are promoting a number of targeted programmes working with its affiliated member clubs and other operators to address some of the key barriers to growing golf demand. They are also encouraging clubs to offer more low-cost opportunities for beginners to learn to play and to offer quicker, short 6-hole team competition formats (such as Golf Sixes), initiatives to attract more girls into golf (Girls Golf Rocks) as well as introducing complementary fun games to golf courses that have the potential to attract new and younger audiences (such as Footgolf). As a borough, Broxbourne has a number of these initiatives in place with footgolf at Broxbourne Golf Complex, pay and play opportunities at all courses and Girls Golf Rocks at Hertfordshire Golf Club.

England Golf feel the existing facilities are clearly servicing a demand as evidenced by the membership numbers at the affiliated courses, as such the facilities should be retained and protected to ensure no gaps in provisions are created.

Golf Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to continue to protect through planning policies the availability of a core supply of golf facilities - both traditional courses and entry-level, any proposals for development on golf course sites would require an objective and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review lease terms at Broxbourne Golf complex to enable further investment into the facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and consider additional community facilities at Cheshunt Park Golf course to broaden appeal to local residents. Design and realign the course holes at Cheshunt Park Golf Course due to be lost to housing.

¹⁶ Source: www.Golfshake.com (July 2023)

¹⁷ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

<p>comprehensive golf needs assessment to be prepared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that operational golf sites in the Council's ownership continue to be maintained to a good quality. 		
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review lease terms at Broxbourne Golf complex to enable further investment into the facility. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and consider additional community facilities at Cheshunt Park Golf course to broaden appeal to residents. Design and realign the course holes at Cheshunt Park Golf Course due to be lost to housing. 		

Watersports provision in Broxbourne

The close proximity of the Borough to the River Lee and Lee Valley Regional Park provides residents with access to a range of watersports within a reasonable travel distance. The range of watersports activity available includes, sailing, rowing, white water rafting, paddleboarding, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, sailing, dragon boating, powerboating, windsurfing and open water swimming.

Broxbourne Sailing Club is a family friendly, fully inclusive club run by members. They are a RYA accredited training centre and offer RYA's National Sailing Scheme for youths from 8-18 and adults. They have three challenger trimarans, purpose built for a wide range of disabilities as well as a purpose built pontoon and hoist to assist entry and exit.

Broxbourne Rowing Club is a friendly rowing club based on the River Lee, with a fleet of boats. They have a spacious club house, bar and gym, with rowing machines and also offer circuit training and yoga sessions. They run regular learn to row courses for juniors and adults. They have competitive and recreational rowing squads and offer junior coaching.

Lee Valley White Water Centre, an Olympic facility built for the 2012 London Olympics offers a range of activities from 8 years to 80 including white water rafting on the Olympic course, to paddleboarding, kayaking and recreational/ family paddlers on the lake. There is also a large kitchen and bar area and green space to enjoy after activities. The Lee Valley Paddlesports Club is based at the centre and offers canoeing, kayaking and rafting, they have a large membership and are a talent club partner with the England Slalom Programme.

Herts Young Mariners Base, in Cheshunt has a sailing lake, offering sailing, canoeing, kayaking and paddleboarding. They also have an outdoor climbing wall and cave complex, part of which is fully accessible. They have struggled to find sufficient staffing for sessions since covid and have had to limit group numbers to 60, from the previous high of 180. The site also offers open water swimming, which started in Covid and has continued since and can attract 60+ people in the summer dropping to 20+ in the winter, their first open water swimming competition attracted 86 participants.

ESSA Water Activities Center has a 22-acre lake, offering a variety of watersports - Sailing, kayaking, canoeing, dragon boating, SUPs, mega SUPs, katanuung, windsurfing, traditional rafting, first aid and powerboating. They provide courses and activities for a number of groups including schools, colleges, youth groups as well as regular sessions and holiday activities.

Watersports Participation

In terms of demand, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁸ indicate an increase in adult demand

¹⁸ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

with participation close its highest recorded level at 1.4% (693,600) of adults (16+) in England participating in watersports at least twice in the last 28 days, following a decline during the pandemic when level dipped to 0.9% in 2019/2020 and 1.1% in 2020/21. The highest recorded level of participation was in 2015 (the first year in which survey results are available) at 1.5%, with levels dropping slightly to 1.4% in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

British Canoeing highlighted the key facility needs for canoeing in the area was access to the River Lee via Pontoons and trail signage encouraging active travel along the river. The Royal Yachting Association highlighted there was a reasonable amount of local provision with a number of providers in the area able to deliver RYA training courses to members and the general public. They felt that many of the clubs were not at capacity and any limitations on activity was due to the number of volunteers rather than a need for additional facilities.

Club Consultation
<p>Lee Valley Paddlesports Club (Lee Valley Watersports Centre) has approximately 464 members (with only 10% coming from the Borough of Broxbourne) and have seen an increase in membership in the last few years. The club has plans to grow further and is aiming to recruit more local paddlers, more females and more from ‘hard to reach’ areas. They have identified a need for improved access to the facility and access to flatwater outside of the centre.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 4/5</p> <p>ESSA Water Activities Centre (Central Lagoon) has seen an increase in activity in the last few years and are looking to grow further by increasing customer awareness. The organisation run courses and taster sessions and estimate only 20% of usage is by residents of Broxbourne. The have identified a need to improve access and signage to the site and would like to work with Broxbourne council to raise awareness of the facility in local schools.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 4/5</p> <p>Competition Paddlesports (COP), (Central Lagoon) has approximately 34 members (60% from Broxbourne) and has seen decrease in the last few years as the club recovers from an enforced move. The club aims to grow providing affordable paddlesports to all groups including older adults and children and adults with disabilities. The club have no access to changing facilities. They have identified a need for changing facilities, the addition of landing stages at locks along the River Lee and repairs made to the weir gates at Dobbs Weir.</p> <p>Quality rating – playing surface 3/5 Changing facilities – 1/5</p>

Watersports recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for water sports through planning policy and, in liaison with the local clubs, seek to ensure the facilities are to be maintained to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local clubs to promote the range of watersports opportunities to residents, schools and youth groups. Work with British Canoeing to promote Paddle Trails along the River Lee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review facility needs for watersports with clubs and NGB’s. in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local clubs to promote the range of watersports opportunities to residents, schools and youth groups. Work with British Canoeing to promote Paddle Trails along the River Lee. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review facility needs for watersports with clubs and NGB’s in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. 		

Equestrian

There are two facilities providing equestrian activities in the borough, with Broxbournebury Riding school now closed, neither site is registered with British Equestrian Members Bodies, but do have a licence from the council.

Wood Green Farm that has a riding school, livery stables, dressage area and equestrian centre.

Tree Farm Stables, Church Lane livery that has a range of stables and a large floodlit menage with sand surface, jump and a secure tack room. They report having vacancies for 5 or 7 day or assisted DIY Livery.

Equestrian Participation

In terms of demand, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁹ indicate a stable level of adult demand with participation at 0.6% (283,800) of adults (16+) in England participating in equestrian at least twice in the last 28 days. Equestrian suffered a very minimal decrease in participation during the pandemic but remained at 0.6%, which is only just below the highest level recorded of 0.7% in 2015 (the first year in which survey results are available) and in 2016-17

The British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) National Equestrian Survey for 2022/2023 found a small increase in participation, of 4.8% compared with 4.7% in 2018, and that 3.2 million people have ridden in the UK over the last 12 months, based on the 6,681 respondents. However there has also been a slight decline in the number of households responsible for the daily upkeep of horses, with 331K, which is estimated at around 1.2% of GB households, with cost being the greatest factor for giving up riding across all age brackets.

Equestrian recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of equestrian facilities through planning policy and, in liaison with owners seek to ensure the facilities are registered with the council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local equestrian facilities to encourage registration with British Equestrian. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review facility needs for equestrian with British Equestrian and clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
Prioritised Actions Short Term (1-2 years) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local equestrian facilities to encourage registration with British Equestrian. 		

¹⁹ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

Summary

This section has highlighted a number of potential facility investment needs for the Council and partners bringing together the analysis, consultation and assessment work.

Broxbourne Borough Council has a history of supporting sport and leisure, and commitment to improving levels of physical activity and health for their residents and communities and the needs within this section will result in the Council considering some important and key decisions to make over the coming years.

Given the on-going financial challenges for the public sector, it will not be possible to deliver or support all of the investment needs identified within this strategy. Section 4 of this report sets out the priority projects arising out of this strategy as well as the partners and stakeholders who are likely to be central to facilitating this change.

Section 3 - Policy Recommendations



3. Strategic Recommendations

3.1 Introduction

This section of the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy sets out a number of overarching strategic recommendations, endorsed by the Strategy Steering Group, aimed at ensuring the on-going provision of high-quality, accessible playing pitches and built sport facilities and can meet the needs and demands of the borough's current and future populations. The recommendations respond to the facility needs highlighted in Section 2 i.e., the Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1) and the Built Facilities Strategy (part 2).

3.2 Planning Policy

The need to protect and enhance the existing scale of facility provision for key facility types – pools, sports halls, artificial and natural turf playing pitches, gymnastics centres and health and fitness facilities - remains similar to the findings of the previous strategy in 2013.

Given the evidence presented, the principles established in the current Local Plan Policies with respect to community, sport and recreation facilities i.e., Policy ORC1 (re: New Open Space, Leisure, Sport and Recreational Facilities) and Policy ORC2 (re: Loss of Open Space, Leisure, Sport and Recreational Facilities) - need to be maintained.

These planning policies are set out in full at Appendix G to this document.

3.3 Protect

Broxbourne Council has undertaken an Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy and assessed existing and future needs for all provision across the borough. The firm conclusion is that there is an identified need to retain the existing overall quantity of sports facilities within the borough whilst recognising that the distribution of facilities may change (for example, through closure of sites of poor quality or of limited value for community sport offset by new provision). This headline finding and recommendation is also applicable when examined at the LPA level.

It is therefore recommended that the broad approach and principles established in existing policies in respect of the protection of existing provision be carried forward into the next Local Plan as it is developed. Specifically, the new Local Plan should continue to maintain a policy framework to resist granting planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss, or would prejudice the use, of a sports facility unless:

- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

Should a current or newly created sports facility exist in Broxbourne Borough that is not mentioned in this Facilities Strategy and appendices, its omission is not an endorsement by the Council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport or its disposal.

It is also recommended that the Council continue to work with strategic sports partners (Sport England and the National Governing Bodies of sport) to seek agreements to secure access for community sport at those sites in the borough where there is existing access, but long-term access is currently unsecured.

Where sports facility sites are in the Council's ownership, the policy of securing community access through asset transfer to community clubs and/or sports associations should continue to be applied, provided that:

- I. The facilities are assessed as 'good' quality by the relevant governing bodies of sport prior to transfer, and
- II. The transferee is able to demonstrate it has the capacity and resources to maintain the facilities to good quality (and this forms part of any service level agreement). It is recommended that the terms of future transfer agreements include incentives for the clubs to deliver sports development outcomes (e.g. grow numbers of teams, volunteering, and sporting opportunities for under-represented groups).

It is recommended the Council continue to seek to influence the design and specification of any new education sports facilities and extensions to existing facilities to ensure their suitability for both education and community use (i.e., provided to Sport England and/or the relevant sport's national governing body design dimensions and standards as opposed to education dimensions and standards).

It is further recommended that the Council negotiates secure affordable community access as a condition of planning consent (via formal Community Use Agreements) for applications from education providers of sports facilities relating to:

- I. Extending hours of permitted use
- II. Extensions to existing sports facilities
- III. Provision of new sports facilities

3.4 Enhance and Provide

It is recommended that the Local Planning Authority continue to seek the advice of appropriate sport national governing bodies whenever pre-planning proposals or planning applications involving new sports facilities are brought forward or new S106 Agreements for sports facilities are drafted. This to ensure that the design, layout and management plans maximise the community value of the new facilities and that any maintenance plans meet any relevant Performance Quality Standards.

For all developments involving the creation of one or more residential units, contributions should be sought (under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or through the Community Infrastructure Levy mechanism) towards the delivery of 'off site' priority projects as identified in the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy within the locality of (or easily accessible without a car from) the proposed development. Appropriate contributions should also continue to be sought for ongoing maintenance of any new sports facilities.

The priority projects are those set out in the Action Plan current at the time the planning application is submitted. The initial Action Plan is at Section 4 of this document.

The priority projects include sites in private ownership and on school sites outside the control of the Council. Accordingly, the lead party responsible for progressing the actions is identified in the Action Plan along with the key supporting agencies.

For strategic scale proposals comprising 300 or more dwellings, active design principles²⁰ should be followed, and on-site provision may be sought in place of securing contributions towards off-site projects. On-site provision will be promoted instead in those instances where there is no existing sports provision within the locality which is easily accessible to the site and is capable of absorbing the additional demand arising from the development, and where the site is physically able to accommodate appropriate facilities. This process will be guided by the needs identified in the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy. On-site provision will typically be secured via a legal agreement and

²⁰ <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/active-design>
www.continuumleisure.co.uk

contributions may be sought (under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or through the Community Infrastructure Levy mechanism) towards its delivery and maintenance.

The latest version of Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) tool (for indoor sports facilities) or the Playing Pitch Calculator (for playing pitches) should be used to scope the appropriate scale and approximate costs of new sports provision and to provide the starting point for project specific negotiations of S106 and/or CIL developer contributions. (For example, if 1,500 new dwellings are proposed at an average of, say, 2.4 persons per dwelling, the additional population total to enter into the calculator will be 3,600). The figure per dwelling can be adjusted based on local factors and specific development details. For example, figures 3.1 and 3.2 shows the facilities needed and costs required for playing pitches and swimming pools to meet the demand of from 16,387 additional residents (as currently forecast) over the strategy period until 2033.

Figure 3.1: Example demand for Playing Pitches from estimated population growth to 2033

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²¹	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²²	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	(4) 4.39	£2,090,349	£436,576	8.78	£1,740,085
Youth football	(8) 8.69	£483,997	£102,123	9.62	£1,906,297
Mini soccer	(8) 7.85	£775,588	£162,873	0.00	£0
Rugby union	(1) 0.89	£247,279	£51,929	1.77	£351,320
Rugby league	(0) 0.00	£148,904	£31,865	0.00	£0
Cricket	(1) 1.25	£0	£0	2.51	£497,134
Artificial Pitches					
Sand based	(0) 0.32	£285,855	£8,862	0.63	£125,477
3G	(1) 1.10	£1,243,419	£43,816	2.20	£436,642

Figure 3.2: Example demand for Swimming Pools from estimated population growth to 2033

Swimming Pool Facility Requirements	
Demand adjusted by	0%
Square meters	179.76
Lanes	3.38
Pools	0.85
Cost	£3,735,466

It is recommended that in the case of all planning applications with implications for sports facilities (both indoor and outdoor), the latest version of Sport England's Model Planning Conditions should be used as appropriate. Current model conditions cover the following:

- I. Protection/New Provision of Sport & Recreation Facilities.
- II. Compensatory Provision, Continuity of Use and Phasing of Development.
- III. Built Design and Layout.
- IV. Playing Field Provision.
- V. Operational Matters.


Broxbourne has a number of multi-sport sites which serve a wide range of sport and activity. The Playing Pitch Strategy process of consultation and analysis has highlighted a number of important improvements and potential investment needs across these sites for outdoor sport. However, the

²¹ Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2022)

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

coordination of these opportunities (alongside the National Governing Bodies and resident sports clubs) with indoor and built facilities will remain a key priority for the Council. Whilst the specific actions and timings are dealt with in the action plan set out below given the importance of these sites to the leading sports within the overall Indoor and Outdoor Strategy opportunities to provide a more diverse and wider reaching range of facilities for sport and physical activity on current sites will be pursued by the Council.

The Council's Strategy Steering Group, comprising of membership from Sport England, Herts Sports Partnership and the NGB's, is required to review and update the Action Plan and priority projects annually during the strategy period. In line with Sport England guidance a full review of the strategy will be required after 5 years. If no annual monitoring takes place a full review is required after 3 years.

A man with a beard is wearing a red boxing headgear and black boxing gloves. He is wearing a blue t-shirt with a white logo that reads "CONTINUUM SPORT & LEISURE LTD". He is in a boxing ring, and his right arm is extended forward. The background shows a wall with several framed photographs of boxing matches.

Section 4 – Action Plan


CONTINUUM
SPORT & LEISURE LTD

Section 4 – Action Plan

This section of the strategy provides an outline draft delivery plan related to the potential development and delivery of the priority projects and facility needs for sport and recreation as set out in the previous sections.

Figure 4.1 (Playing pitches) and 4.2 (built facilities) presents the projects in alphabetical order with a reference to their potential to be progressed either in the short term (defined as within 2 years approximately) the medium term (defined as within 2-5 years) or longer to progress - for example projects dependent on acquisition of land, the outcome of wider area development planning or large-scale review of options, feasibility and viability. Figure 4.3 that follows highlights a number of sites which present opportunities for providing or extending community sports. These sites sit outside of the main action plan as further work is required to investigate relevant permission, access, suitability and funding.

Figure 4.4 identifies those sites that are not identified either in Fig 4.1/4.2 (for enhancement or new provision) or 4.3 (opportunity sites) but are in need of protection for community sport through the planning system. The omission of any playing pitch site from this Strategy is not an endorsement by the Council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport of its disposal.

The updates to the Action Plan should in turn inform periodic updates of the Council's priorities for investment and future decision on funding either through capital grant and / or financing and budgetary planning.

The action plan is a guide to how facilities might be developed, pending funding confirmation and planning permission where necessary, where and whom they might be developed by to meet identified demand, exploit opportunities that may arise and provide sustainable management and operational models often through engaging with either voluntary or commercial partners. A number of project proposals within the strategy are subject to design and cost analysis and for some projects feasibility testing and options appraisals.

Each potential project must be evaluated considering the current situation, as the strategy and action plan set out the position at the time of writing; so, factors on both the demand and supply side may have changed as well as the cost and viability of the project at the point when an individual project is being considered within the lifespan of this strategy. The action plan should be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis by the Strategy Steering Group to ensure these factors are taken into consideration.

The immediate priority for Broxbourne, as with many local authorities at the time of this strategy, is to protect and continue to maintain the current level of facilities to ensure no loss of provision during the current challenging time for local authorities. The current pressures on public sector budgets alongside increasing operational costs and capital costs (for maintenance and new facilities) means Broxbourne Council must plan prudently for future needs.

Figure 4.1 Priorities and Actions in Broxbourne (Playing Pitches)					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Broxbourne Sports Club	Medium	Cricket	Provision of new Non-Turf Pitch	Club	ECB
	Long	Hockey	Advise club as required on upgrading clubhouse and changing provision on site.	EH	Club
Cheshunt Comm. Sports Park (Albury Ride)	Medium	Football	Advise club as required on upgrading or replacing the changing provision on site.	BoB / FA	Club
Cheshunt Football Club	Short	Football	Conversion of stadium pitch to 3G	Club	FA
	Medium	Football	Consider the club's proposal to upgrade or replace stadium changing provision to meet ground grading and wider community use requirements.	Club	FA
Churchfields C of E Academy	Short	Football	Work with Herts Sports Partnership on accessing the Opening School Facilities Fund to secure community access to football pitches	HSP / Academy	BoB
Cranbourne Primary	Short	Football	Investigate feasibility of pitches being brought back into community use.	BoB / School	HSP/FA
Forres Primary School	Short	Football	Investigate feasibility of pitches being brought back into community use.	BoB / School	HSP / FA
Flamstead End Rec. Ground	Long	Football	Work with Sea Cadets to investigate the feasibility of providing improved changing facilities.	BoB / Sea Cadets	FA
Goffs Lane Playing Fields	Short	Football	Mothballed pitch to be brought back into regular use, with improved maintenance	BoB	FA / Sunset
	Long	Football	Investigate options for refurbishing the changing facilities	BoB	FA / Sunset
Goodman Centre Playing Fields	Long	Football	Investigate the feasibility of providing basic welfare facilities for youth football on site.	BoB / FA	
Goffs Academy	Medium	Football	Work with Herts Sports Partnership on accessing the Opening School Facilities Fund to secure community access to football pitches	HSP / Academy	BoB / FA
Goffs Churchgate Academy	Medium	Football	Work with academy to support the improvement of changing facilities on site for community use	Academy	HSP / FA
Goffs Oak Playing Fields	Short	Football	Mothballed pitch to be brought back into regular use, subject to wider developments in Goffs Oak.	BoB	FA
Grundy Park (Laura Trott LC)	In progress	Football	Finish installation of new 3G pitch	BoB	FA
Hammond Street Playing Fields	Short	Football	Mothballed pitch to be brought back into regular use, with improved maintenance.	BoB	FA / Sunset

Figure 4.1 Priorities and Actions in Broxbourne (Playing Pitches)					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Haileybury Turnford School	Medium	Hockey	Work with School to ensure the sand based Artificial Turf Pitch is resurfaced and secured for community hockey use, along with changing provision as part of any community use agreements for the school rebuild.	BoB (Planning) / School	EH
	Long	Football	Secure the community use of grass football pitches.	BoB (Planning) / School	FA
High Leigh Village Gardens	Short	Cricket	Work with Sport England, National Governing Bodies and local clubs to consider all options for active spaces and sport facilities as part of housing developments at High Leigh, seeking where possible to align with priority needs identified in the Strategy.	BoB	ECB / SE
Jones Road Open Space	Medium / Long	Football	Investigate the feasibility of providing basic welfare facilities for youth football on site, subject to available finances.	BoB	FA
Nightleys Playing Fields	Short	Football	Make improvements to the maintenance of grass pitches	BoB	FA
	Long	Football	Investigate the feasibility of providing basic welfare facilities for youth football, subject to available finances. Investigate the feasibility of providing a 3G ATP on site for community use (possibly linked to Haileybury Turnford school site).	BoB	FA
Robert Barclay Academy	Short	Football	Work with Herts Sports Partnership on accessing the Opening School Facilities Fund to secure community access to football pitches.	Academy / HSP	FA/ BoB / Sunset
	Medium	Football	Provide 3G Artificial Turf Pitch with secured community use through planning process.	Academy / HSP	FA/ BoB / Sunset
Rosedale Sports Club	Short	Cricket	Work with club to improve the existing fine turf cricket square.	Club / ECB	Bob
	Medium	Cricket	Work with club to ensure provision of new fine turf square as part of housing development.	Club	ECB
	Medium	Rugby	Work with club to ensure improved drainage (pipe and slit system) to two rugby grass pitches, with at least one being floodlit, as part of housing development.	Club / RFU	BoB
St Catherine VC CE School	Short	Football	Work with Herts Sports Partnership on accessing the Opening School Facilities Fund to secure community access to football pitches.	HSP / School	BoB / FA
The Broxbourne School	Short	Rugby	Work with Herts Sports Partnership on accessing the Opening School Facilities Fund to secure community access to the rugby pitch.	HSP / School	Bob/ RFU

The Stewart Edwards Stadium (Lowfield Sports Ground)	Short	Football	Improvement to the maintenance of grass pitches	Club	
	Short	Cricket	Support clubs as required to access support to ensure boundary nets are repaired / replaced	Club	ECB
	Medium	Cricket	Investigate the feasibility of providing a new NTP on site. Work with club to upgrade or replace the cricket nets	ECB	Club
	Long	Cricket /Football	Work with clubs to provide improved changing facilities suitable for both sports	Clubs	ECB / FA
Wormley Sports Club	Short	Football	Improvement to the maintenance of grass pitches	Club	
	Ongoing	Cricket	Protect use of Cricket Square	BoB / Club	ECB
	Long	Football	Work with club to upgrade or replace changing facilities.	BoB / Club	FA
Wormley Playing Fields	Short	Football	Improvements to the maintenance of grass pitches.	BoB	FA
	Medium	Football	Investigate the feasibility of providing a 3G Artificial Turf Pitch or Playzone Multi Use Games Area on site for community use in place of netball courts.	BoB	FA
Waltham Cross Playing Fields	In progress	Football	Utilise Levelling up fund to improve drainage of the pitch and upgrade the pavilion.	BoB	FA
Site to be determined	Long	Cricket	Investigate the feasibility of providing free to use cricket facilities in at least one park, particularly in those parts of the borough with a more ethnically diverse population	BoB/ ECB	
Sites to be determined	Long	Football	Additional sites to be identified suitable for adult and youth 11v11 grass pitches, especially in Waltham Cross	BoB/ FA	

Figure 4.2 Priorities and Actions in Broxbourne (Built Facilities)

Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priorities/Action(s) and Associated / Estimated Cost	Lead	Partners
Broxbourne Golf Complex	Short	Golf	Review lease terms at Broxbourne Golf complex to enable further investment into the facility	BoB (Property)	
Cheshunt area	Long	Boxing	Look to identify a suitable location to provide additional provision for a boxing in the Cheshunt area. (The club has been provided with the current list of vacant units and contact details for local sporting facilities who may have space to accommodate the club)	Club / EB	BoB
Cheshunt Outdoor Bowls Club	Medium / Long	Bowls	Work with Bowls England and Cheshunt Outdoor bowls club to make their changing facilities more accessible	Club	BoB / BE
Cheshunt Park Golf Course	Medium	Golf	Design and realign the course holes at Cheshunt Park Golf Course as part of the Brookfield project.	BoB / EG	
	Long	Informal recreation	Investigate and consider additional community facilities at Cheshunt Park Golf course to broaden appeal to local residents. The possibility for an Adventure Golf course is being considered.	BoB / EG	
Goffs Academy	Medium / Long	Tennis	Work with the Lawn Tennis Association and Goffs Academy to upgrade tennis facilities and ensure community use of facilities continues.	Academy/ LTA	BoB

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Haileybury Turnford School	Medium / Long	Sports Hall Multi sports	Community Use Agreement in place for new 4 court sports hall and activity studio as part of school redevelopment at Haileybury Turnford School. Broxbourne Council to review new school build plans with Haileybury Turnford School to ensure community use is maximised as part of any future redevelopment.	BoB / School	SE / BG / Club
Hertfordshire Regional College	Short	Sports Hall	Council to explore opportunities with Herts Regional College to increase community use	BoB / College	HSP
John Warner SC	Short	Multi sports	The council to work with John Warner School to agree the future management of the site to enable community use to continue.	BoB / School	
	Short / Medium	Swimming	Refurbish / upgrade the changing rooms	BoB	SE / Swim England
	Long	Health & Fitness	Plan for the future refurbishment of the council leisure facilities and equipment.	BoB	
	Long	Swimming	Set out detailed Options and Affordability assessment for upgrade / replacement of the pool.	BoB	SE / Swim England
Laura Trott LC	Long	Swimming	Set out detailed Options and Affordability assessment for upgrade / replacement of the pool to retain the existing water space as a minimum.	BoB	SE / Swim England
	Long	Health & Fitness	Plan for the future refurbishment of the council leisure facilities and equipment.	BoB	
Old Highway Rec Ground	Short	Tennis	Work with the Lawn Tennis Association to identify an operator for Old Highway Rec Courts and refurbish at least two courts initially.	BoB / LTA	SE
Rosedale Outdoor Bowls Club	Medium / Long	Bowls	Support Rosedale Bowls Club to relay their green with minimal impact on their season.	Club	BoB / BE
The Broxbourne School	Short	Sports Hall	Work to maximise community use of the Sports Hall	BoB / School / HSP	
Waltham Cross ABC (Goodman Centre)	Medium / Long	Boxing	Work with Waltham Cross ABC and Hertfordshire County Council to support the improvement and extension of their facilities.	Club / HCC	BoB / EB
Wormley Playing Fields	Medium / Long	Netball / Alternative Sport (TBD)	Explore options for the netball courts at Wormley Playing fields to be used for alternative sports. If required, work with England Netball to ensure the back to netball programme at Wormley Playing Fields can be secured at an alternative facilities.	BoB / EN	
Venue to be decided	Short	Cycling	Deliver pedal party in the Borough in conjunction with British Cycling from June 2024 onwards	BoB / BC / HSP	
	Long	Cycling	Investigate the feasibility of providing a BMX pump track in the area.		
Venue to be decided	Medium / Long	Tennis	Investigate the feasibility of providing further Padel courts in Broxbourne.	BoB / LTA	
Venue to be decided	Medium / Long	Athletics	Explore the feasibility to provide Active Tracks	BoB	SE / EA
Venue to be decided	Medium / Long	Gymnastics	Explore opportunities for Turnford Gymnastics club to have dedicated secured provision, which could be part of the rebuild at Haileybury Turnford school or at an alternative suitable location.	Club / BoB / HCC	SE / BG

Venue to be decided	Long	Martial Arts	Investigate the feasibility to provide a dedicated martial arts facility in the area.	BoB	
Venue to be decided	Long	Cricket	Investigate the options to increase the number of sports halls with Indoor Cricket facilities	BoB / Schools / ECB	
Borough-wide	Ongoing	Equestrian	Work with local equestrian facilities to encourage registration with British Equestrian.	BoB / Stables	
Borough-wide	Short	Gymnastics	Work to support the ongoing refurbishment needs of facilities in order to maintain level of provision	Clubs / BG	
Borough-wide	Ongoing	Netball	Work with Education sites to ensure the courts, fencing and nets at all venues are maintained to a good quality standard and club activity is secured.	Schools / EN	
Borough-wide	Long	Squash	Ensure the current supply of squash courts are protected and maintained to a good quality standard.	Clubs / Squash England /BoB	
Borough-wide	Ongoing	Watersports	Work with local clubs to promote the range of watersports opportunities to residents, schools and youth groups	Clubs / LVRPA / NGBs	

Figure 4.3 Opportunities for providing or extending community sports opportunities to be investigated further at the following sites, all pending funding and relevant permissions; all potential opportunities listed are dependent on the support of the site owners/operators

Site	Facility Type	Timescale	Potential actions	Partners
New School Sites	Multi Sports	Medium / Long	Ensure community use of facilities is included as part of any new development through planning policy.	BoB / HCC / Education providers

Figure. 4.4 Other Playing Pitch Sites for Protection	
Site	Sport
Broxbourne Borough V&E FC	Football
Broxbourne Rec. Ground	Football
Castle Road Playing Fields	Football
Old Highway Park / Rec. Ground	Football
Pound Close	Football
St Mary COE School	Football
The John Warner Sports centre	Football / Hockey



Section 5 - Summary



Section 5 - Summary

5.1 Summary

Throughout the development of this strategy Broxbourne Council and key partners have continued to emphasise the importance of facilities for sport and physical activity to the health and wellbeing of the local population. Alongside this is the recognition of the vital contribution these facilities make to the local economy and quality of life for all residents, communities and visitors.

Through this strategy a number of priorities have emerged including the need to protect the majority of sports facilities in the borough and continue to maintain council facilities in light of increasing costs, alongside these are a number of leading indoor sports projects, including new Sports Hall provision at Haileybury Turnford School, as well as projects for Golf, Gymnastics and Boxing. The growing (and changing) population puts pressure on the current facility stock and longer term the council should start to plan for the replacement / refurbishment of the leisure centres.

The primary needs are clearly to protect the overall quantity, maintain the quality and secure availability for the wider community to the existing supply of sports facilities. Within Broxbourne, like many local authorities, the majority of sports halls are located on school sites and where not currently in place community use agreements need to be developed with education sites to protect future usage and extend community access where possible.

Alongside direct provision Broxbourne Council also plays an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and empowering community organisations through the asset transfer process to independently manage and operate facilities funded through partnerships with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport as well as other funding organisations.

The Playing Pitch Strategy (Part 1) also highlights a number of priority projects for the Council to consider and plan for.

Football is popular team sport in Broxbourne and the council plays an important role in providing grass sports pitches for local clubs to use. There is a need to improve pitch maintenance to facilitate the growth of larger clubs in the area, as well as a need for additional 3G artificial pitches across the borough. There is a need for up to three new fine turf cricket pitches in the area and existing club sites in the area need enhancements including fine turf pitch improvements and new NTP's. The key priority for hockey is for improved pitch quality and the Rugby club in the area needs better pitch drainage on both grass pitches to accommodate the demand for matches and training.

As the country and the public sector, as a key provider of these essential services for leisure and physical activity, continues to recover from the pandemic, and now grapples with the rise in utilities and the cost-of-living crisis for many of its services, business and residents, the important role physical activity has in positively impacting on the health of the nation is even more evident. Investment into the future health and wellbeing of Broxbourne's residents will be impacted very positively by the priorities highlighted within this part of the strategy. This will be in the form of both protecting the current facility stock for both indoor and outdoor sport as well as investing in improved and new facilities where the opportunities arise.

Broxbourne Council has always recognised and must continue to do so, despite the ongoing challenges, the importance of protecting and investing in accessible and sustainable community sports facilities which play a critical role in providing activities and opportunities and improving the lives and wellbeing of all of their residents.



CONTINUUM
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Broxbourne Borough Council
Playing Pitch Strategy 2023
Appendix A –
Assessment of Need Report Cricket

Appendix A: Cricket - Assessment of Needs (Stages B and C)

The findings of the assessment of needs for cricket facilities in Broxbourne Borough Council are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. Affiliated cricket clubs registered to Broxbourne and playing their home fixtures in the area have contributed to this assessment either by submitting an online club survey and/or through in person consultation during site visits. All the cricket clubs in the borough were consulted with as part of this process.

Since the last assessment was carried out in 2013 there has been some change in the supply of cricket pitches in the borough, with a reduction of 2 fine turf pitches, but there is an additional non-turf pitch available in the area.

There has been a reduction in clubs since the last PPS from 6 clubs to just 5, including Wormley CC who folded this year, however the number of teams in the area has increased from 27 to 37 teams. There are the same number of adult teams at 20, but there has been a growth in junior sides (+10).

The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions impacted very significantly on community cricket in the 2020 season. However, cricket demand largely recovered in 2021 and summer 2022 saw most larger clubs recover to pre-pandemic levels.

1. Cricket Supply (Step 1)

The findings of the assessment of supply of cricket facilities in Broxbourne are summarised in this section and detailed by site both for fine turf pitches and for non-turf artificial grass pitches. The supply side information is generated through standard facility audits based on the visual assessment, grading and playing capacity guidance (as set out by Sport England and the ECB in the national guidance for the development of playing pitch needs assessments) augmented by consultation with the Council, Hertfordshire Cricket and user clubs.

1.1 Cricket Pitches in Broxbourne

A total of 5 fine turf pitches are identified as available for community cricket in the borough in 2022, on 4 playing pitch sites. There are 3 non-turf pitches on two sites, although only one is currently available for community use. Figure 1.1 details the supply of cricket sites in the borough.

There has been a reduction in the number of sites available for cricket since the last PPS where 7 pitches were available across the borough, but an increase in community accessible non-turf pitches with 1 now available, compared to none previously.

Figure 1.1: Cricket sites in Broxbourne

Site Name & Address	Access Security	Pitches / wickets	NTP	NT Nets	Pavilion / Changing Rooms	Pitch & Outfield Rating	Pavilion Rating	Fine Turf Cap. (MES)	Fine Turf Use (MES)	Cap. Def. / Surplus	Peak Period Cap.	RAG	Demand Summary	Maintenance & Facility Issues
BROXBOURNE SPORTS CLUB, EN10 7BA (BROXBOURNE CC)	Secured	2/ 18 wickets	No	Yes - 2 lanes	Changing in main clubhouse and small scoring hut by second pitch	Good	Poor - needs updating.	90	146 (162%)	Def 56 MES	0		Broxbourne CC has 4 men's, 1 ladies' team, 12 junior teams and LGBTQ+ team	Pitches well maintained with weekly maintenance throughout the season, Club has own grounds team. Outfield used for other community activity including junior football and croquet
LOWFIELD SPORTS GROUND, EN11 8PX (HODDESDON CC)	Secured	1 / 12 wickets	No	Unusable	Yes. Two small changing rooms off main hall.	Good.	Standard.	60	70 (117%)	Def 10 MES	0		Hoddesdon CC use facility 5 months of year. They have 5 adult teams and 5 Junior teams and run dynamos and all stars. The club have recently lost two Sat sides.	Cricket club manage maintenance. The clubhouse is an old building shared with Hoddesdon FC; both want a new pavilion but do not have funding. Cricket club looking to establish a new net area. Issues with balls going into tennis court next door, fallen tree has damaged netting.
GOFFS ACADEMY	Education site	N/A	Yes	No	Yes. 4 changing rooms and toilet facilities.	NTP only	Standard changing rooms.	NTP only			N/A	N/A	School use only currently but considering future community use	School report NTP in good condition but over 20 years old so unlikely to be playable.
ROBERT BARCLAY ACADEMY, EN11 8JY	Education site	N/A	Yes	No	Yes, pavilion with changing and toilet facilities.	NTP only	Standard changing rooms.	NTP only			N/A	N/A	School use only - no community use	School report NTP in reasonable condition but over 20 years old so unlikely to be playable.

Site Name & Address	Access Security	Pitches / wickets	NTP	NT Nets	Pavilion / Changing Rooms	Pitch & Outfield Rating	Pavilion Rating	Fine Turf Cap. (MES)	Fine Turf Use (MES)	Cap. Def. / Surplus	Peak Period Cap.	RAG	Demand Summary	Maintenance & Facility Issues
ROSEDALE SPORTS CLUB, EN7 6TB (CHESHUNT ROSEDALE CC)	Secured	1 / 8 wickets	Yes	Yes-portable	New clubhouse in 2018 Inc. 6 CR's, physio and official's room. Function space Fully accessible.	Standard. Club	Good	24	24 (100%)	0	0	Yellow	Usage by Cheshunt Rosedale CC - 3 adult teams, all-stars and Dynamos and developing ladies' team. 1st / 2nd team use grass wicket for matches and training with portable nets. Assumed junior cricket using NTP. Hertfordshire Harriers disability team also use NTP but state its prone to vandalism.	Club report pitch is not very flat- looking to use development money to level pitch and improve wicket. Also, possible second grass pitch being considered on far field (where NTP is) however concerns over being able to maintain area as it is public open space. Club feels there is a lack of indoor facilities in the area.
WORMLEY SPORTS CLUB, EN10 7QE (WORMLEY CC)	Secured	1 / 9 wickets	No	Unusable	Yes. but dated and in need of refurbishment.	Standard	Poor	27	0 (0%)	+27 MES	+18 MES	Green	Wormley CC one team using facility but since folded due to lack of players.	Outfield used for football. Square maintained to a reasonable condition. Second square on site not been used for quite a while, now accommodates football.

1.2 Junior Pitches

In general, the clubs with junior sections set aside one strip on the main square for junior matches requiring shorter dimensions and/or use of the non-turf pitches where these are available on their grounds. At most sites, Kwik cricket for younger children is generally played on temporary pitches set up on a mown strip in the outfield (or several strips around the outfield in the event of Kwik cricket tournaments and festivals).

1.3 Closed Sites

There are no closed sites in the area.

1.4 Non-Turf Pitches (NTPs)

In the younger age groups (U10 to U13), some hardball match play takes place on non-turf pitches (NTPs). NTPs are also used for training and adult play including most short format friendly games between non-traditional single team clubs without a secured home ground. NTPs are provided at 3 playing field sites in the study area, but only one is currently available for community use. Goffs Academy reported that they are considering allowing community use of the NTP in the future.

- Goffs Academy (no current community use)
- Robert Barclay Academy (school use only)
- Rosedale Sports Club

1.5 Non-Turf Practice Nets

There is a mix in provision of non-turf practice nets, some clubs with their own grounds have functioning outdoor practice net systems e.g., Broxbourne Sports Club, others rely on mobile net cages such as Rosedale Sports Club. Others at more open sites are in poor condition and have been subject to damage and vandalism such as Wormley Sports Club. The cost of maintaining and inspecting nets systems is an issue on open access sites.

Figure 1.2 – Non-turf permanent net systems: locations, number of lanes and quality

Location	No.	Quality
Broxbourne Sports Club	2	Good
Lowfield Sports Ground	2	Unusable
Rosedale Sports Club	1	Standard
Wormley Sports Club	1	Unusable
John Warner Leisure Centre	4	Standard

1.6 Indoor Practice Nets

Pull out cricket nets are available and well used in the sports halls at the following sites, St Mary's COE School and John Warner Leisure Centre. Indoor sports hall space is in high demand across the area so the main constraint on cricket hires is the competing demand from sports hall team sports and badminton, these are all year-round activities whereas demand for indoor cricket nets is generally limited to peak evening or weekend slots from January to March and therefore disruptive to the core programme and income. The nearest dedicated indoor cricket facility is over 20 minutes' drive away in East Herts District Council at the Herts and Essex Cricket Centre.

1.7 Facilities for Non-Traditional Forms of Cricket

Hertfordshire Cricket is working along with the ECB towards the aim to inspire a new generation to believe that 'Cricket is a game for me'. Hertfordshire Cricket believe that Cricket is a powerful way of connecting communities, building friendships and helping people to achieve through playing the wonderful game. In furtherance of this aim, Hertfordshire Cricket encourages the provision of suitable facilities in accessible locations for playing non-traditional, short format cricket which has a broad

appeal across all ages and communities. Non traditional facilities range from non-turf pitches (NTPs) for organised cup and league 20 over matches and 'Last Man Stands' (games of 75 minutes approximately for teams of 8 players played in public parks) down to hard-court Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) for informal games of 'Cage Cricket' using a softball or tapeball (a tennis ball wrapped in tape). There is no 'Last Man Stands' league within Broxbourne or within neighbouring authorities that could be easily reached by those in the borough.

1.8 Ownership and Security of Access

Cricket pitches in the study area fall into one of two different categories of ownership.

- **Club owned sites** - The most secure type of provision is those cricket grounds where the home club either owns the freehold or has a long lease (over 90 years), such as Broxbourne Sports Club (Broxbourne CC).
- **Council Sites leased to Sports Clubs** – Facilities owned by Broxbourne Council leased to Sports Clubs over varying terms such as Rosedale Sports club (Cheshunt Rosedale CC), Lowfield Sports Ground (Hoddesdon CC) and Wormley Sports Club (Wormley CC).

Overall, the cricket clubs in Broxbourne benefit from good security of access on their home grounds, subject to Hoddesdon agreeing a new lease with the Football club and Broxbourne Council. There are no Council operated park sites for Cricket or education sites with community use.

1.9 At Risk Sites

The pitch at Wormley Sports Club is at risk due to Wormley CC folding.

1.10 Opportunity Sites for Cricket

A second pitch for Rosedale Sports Club is proposed, funded via housing contributions from Rosedale Park and as part of the High Leigh Garden Village development (west of Hoddesdon) new sports provision is allocated and proposed for Cricket.

1.11 Pitch Quality

The table below shows the quality of pitches within the study area based on their operation.

Figure 1.3 – Pitch square and outfield quality and operation (S = Square O = outfield)

Rating	Club		Council Leased		Totals
	S	O	S	O	
Good	2	2	1	1	3 squares; 3 outfields = good
Standard	0	0	2	2	2 squares; 2 outfields = standard
Poor	0	0	0	0	0 square; 0 outfields = poor

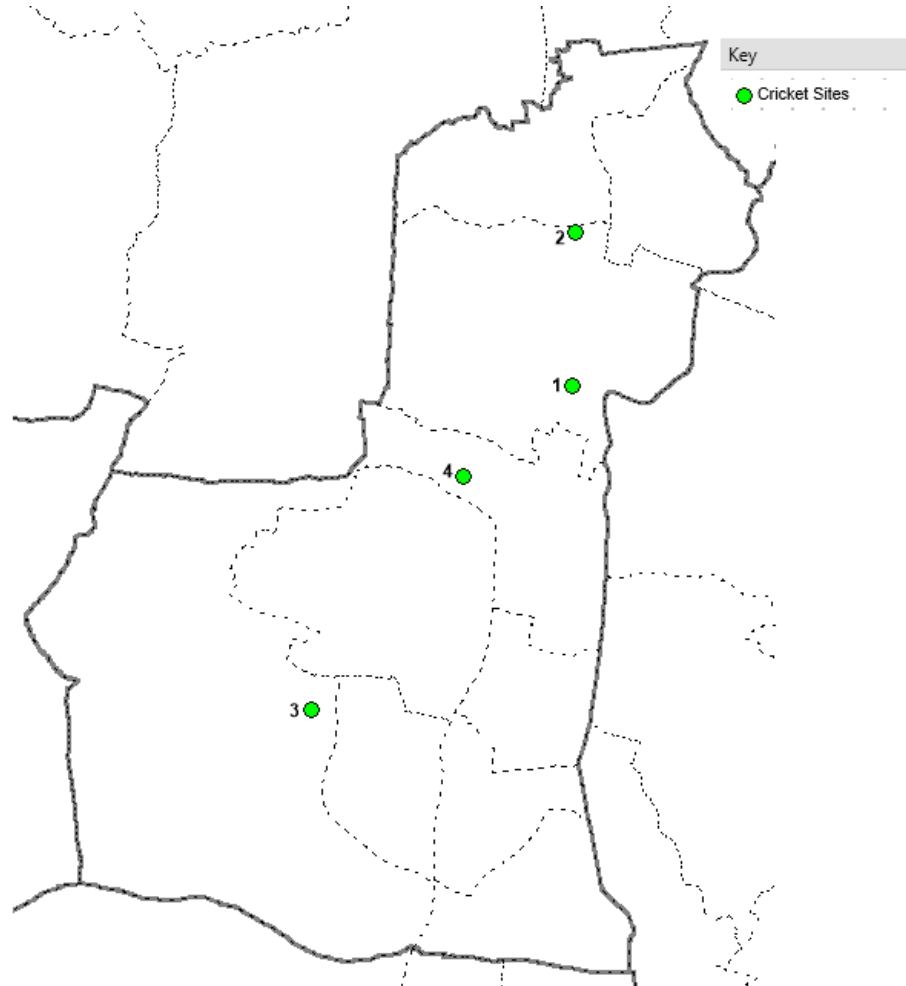
The maintenance of sites in the borough are of good or standard quality, with the difference likely to be down to the expertise of staff / volunteers maintaining the squares and club's budgets for maintenance. The open access nature of Wormley Sports Club is likely to face more incidences of damage and acts of vandalism than are experienced on sites where access is controlled.

In theory, there is scope to increase the playing capacity of the existing supply by improving the quality of the club sites although, in practice, it is wear due to heavy demand and use of these pitches along with damage caused by other park users (as opposed to lack of maintenance) that impacts on the quality of these sites.

1.12 Distribution of Cricket Sites

Figure 1.4 shows the distribution of fine turf cricket sites across Broxbourne. This shows that most of the residents from the study area will be within a reasonable journey time (estimated at 20 minute drive time or 30 minute public transport journey) of a community club pitch (restricted to club members and guests). Although there is only one site in the South of the Borough, and it should be noted there is no park-based pitches available on a play and play basis.

Figure 1.4 – Broxbourne Cricket Site Distribution



Key: Cricket site distribution		
No	Name	Postcode
1	Broxbourne Sports Club	EN10 7BA
2	Lowfield Sports Ground	EN11 8PX
3	Rosedale Sports Club	EN7 6TB
4	Wormley Sports Club	EN10 7QE

1.13 Cricket Supply of Relevance in Neighbouring Local Authorities

The nearest pitches with secured community access for cricket clubs are between 5 to 10 miles away from Broxbourne BC in East Herts at St Margaretsbury CC (*The Recreation Ground*) to the North, in Epping Forest at Roydon CC (*Roydon Playing Fields*) to the East, in East Herts at Bayford & Hertford CC (*Bayford Green*) to the West and in London Borough of Enfield at North Enfield CC (*Crewes Hill*)

2. Cricket Demand (step 2)

Findings relating to cricket pitch demand in Broxbourne are summarised below.

2.1 Cricket Clubs and Teams

In the 2022 cricket season, five clubs were identified through the consultation as being active in Broxbourne (although Wormley CC has since folded), between them entering 13 adult men's sides in affiliated Saturday cricket leagues and one club offers female specific adult cricket. One club offers mixed inclusive cricket for people irrespective of gender or sexual orientation and another offers mixed provision for individuals with a disability.

There are also 2 Sunday teams, 1 T20 team, one women's softball team. Three clubs provide junior provision Broxbourne CC, Cheshunt Rosedale CC, Hoddesdon CC with either formal teams, junior coaching or by providing All Stars or Dynamos sessions.

There has been a decrease in the number of men's league teams in the area (-7 teams) but growth in other areas e.g., women's and mixed cricket (+4), T20 (+1) and at the younger age groups (+10). In total it is estimated that, in the 2022 season, there were 16 men's teams (aged 18+), 2 women's teams, 2 adult mixed teams and 17 boys' teams (aged 7-18), playing cricket matches in the site area mainly at weekends. A large proportion of these teams also train on a midweek evening in season. Most of the senior teams will also train indoors pre-season in January/February.

Figure 2.1- Open Age Cricket Expressed Demand

Cricket clubs and teams	Home ground(s)	Other grounds used
Broxbourne CC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Sat League teams • 1 Women's team • 1 Sunday team • 1 T20 team • 1 Mixed LGBTQ+ team • 12 youth teams 	Broxbourne Sports Club	
Cheshunt Rosedale CC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Sat League teams • 1 Women's Softball team • Dynamos / Allstars sessions 	Rosedale Sports Club	Cuffley CC (Hertsmere)
Hoddesdon CC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Sat League teams • 1 Sunday team • 5 youth teams 	Lowfield Sports Ground	Thundridge CC (East Herts)
Hertfordshire Harriers Disability CC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Mixed team 	Rosedale Sports Club	

2.2 Active People Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ (Nov 2021) showed that self reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in cricket in England by adults (aged 16+) increased from 0.5% in November 2020-2021 to 0.8% in November 2021-2022 .

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 2021/22, Sport England, (April 2023)

If cricket participation in the study area was at the national average (i.e., 0.8%), this would indicate around 646 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play cricket out of a 16+ adult population of approximately 80,745.

With approximately 20 adult teams currently, the 'adult' cricket club playing membership in the area is close to 300 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). Assuming adult cricket participation in Broxbourne is in line with the national average of 0.8%, this suggests that over half (54%) of regular adult cricket played takes place either outside the borough or takes place outside of a club environment (i.e., through informal games with family, friends and/or work colleagues in parks).

2.3 Casual Cricket Demand

Demand for less formal forms of play - using free to use net systems and non-turf facilities in public parks, as well as hard-surface areas such as MUGAs, streets, footpaths and hard standing areas on housing estates - is a growing feature of cricket demand nationally, particularly among teenagers and young adults in the Black, Black/British, Asian and Asian/British minority ethnic (BME) communities.

Whilst the population of Broxbourne is predominately White British, the provision of facilities for free to access casual play across the area could help to increase cricket activity among all types of under-represented participant groups including families and groups of friends. As there is currently no provision for informal forms of cricket in the area (NTPs) and net systems, it would be worth the council investigating the feasibility of providing some form of provision particularly in more diverse areas of the borough.

2.4 Unmet / Latent Demand

There was no identified unmet demand in the area, but clubs highlighted ambitions for growth to meet perceived latent demand, e.g., teams that could be created if additional pitch provision was available. This information is drawn from the club consultation surveys carried out from November 2022 to May 2023 and therefore only includes those clubs that completed the survey. Conversion of this perceived latent demand into new teams will depend on these clubs engaging sufficient volunteer team managers and coaches as well as securing suitable pitches to play and train on in the peak period.

Figure 2.2 outlines the growth aspirations of clubs, and it is apparent that there is latent demand in the borough for youth and Women's and Girls cricket. Hertfordshire Cricket estimate a growth of 6 girls' teams.

Figure 2.2: Broxbourne Borough Cricket Clubs - Self-Reported Team Growth Plans

Club	Growth Aspirations
Cheshunt Rosedale cricket club	Junior and ladies section the real focus. Junior teams and competitive matches. Ladies work with Herts cricket to form a softball league.
Hertfordshire Harriers Disability Cricket Club	Always looking for new players from the county of Hertfordshire.
Hoddesdon Cricket Club	Junior development and senior recruiting.
Rosedale Sports Club	Develop new cricket pitch & increase cricket youth membership. Also increase Women's & Girls cricket team

2.5 Displaced Demand

In the consultations carried out, a number of clubs are reliant on using facilities outside of the borough, with Hoddesdon CC using Thundridge CC and Cheshunt Rosedale CC using Cuffley until this site was no longer available and the club were forced to drop a team.

2.6 Trends in Demand for Team Cricket

Nationally the ECB has reported a growth in teams in all areas with the greatest growth in the last few seasons in the youth age groups where the development of junior coaching and introduction of the ECB's Cricket All Stars (5-8yr olds) and Dynamos (8-11yr olds) initiatives for primary age children boosting demand. This is reflected in Broxbourne with several clubs reporting growth in their junior section as well as introducing T20 formats, and friendly only fixtures providing more flexible formats of the game to cater for people's busy lifestyles.

There has been an increased focus by the ECB for Women's and girl's cricket, and this is reflected in the increase in women's and mixed teams in the area, currently the teams in the area are at an early stage of developing girl's cricket. National trends (2022) are that the number of clubs with a women's or girls section increased by 54% and the number of fixtures recorded online was up by 97%.

3. The Situation at Individual Cricket Sites (Step 4)

The fine turf cricket pitches were assessed during the 2022 season. All of the sites were assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the ECB in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance and Appendices (2013) - i.e., a non-technical visual site assessment.

The findings of the site-specific audit assessments were reviewed with representatives of Hertfordshire Cricket and ratings for each agreed as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site can accommodate (i.e., site carrying capacity) against the amount of play that takes place.

Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per season for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use.

It was agreed with the ECB representative to adopt the following pitch carrying capacities according to each quality rating to be consistent with the approach adopted in similar assessments in other areas:

Figure 3.1: Cricket Pitch Carrying Capacity

Pitch Quality Rating	Carrying Capacity - Match equivalent sessions per prepared fine turf wicket (strip) per season
Good	5
Standard	3
Poor	1

The site-specific audit assessments detailed the situation at each cricket site with regard to:

1. *Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e., it's carrying capacity for community use).
2. *The amount of play that takes place at each site* (i.e., the expressed demand) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training.
3. *The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain, or
 - **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls significantly below the carrying capacity)

The following 2 sites are highlighted here from the audit as **RED** rated sites where the available fine turf cricket pitches are considered to be played over and above their estimated carrying capacity based on the size of the square (i.e., number of wickets/strips) and the assessed quality of the square.

- Broxbourne Sports Club
- Lowfield Sports Ground

One site from the audit is rated as **AMBER** indicating that the majority of the available natural turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity:

- Rosedale Sports Club

4. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Cricket (Step 5)

4.1 Current

Overall, the assessment of facility needs shows that the fine turf pitches in the area are largely over played, and clubs require additional facilities to cater for demand. There is though spare capacity at Wormley Sports Club following the folding of Wormley CC, which could be utilised as a second site.

The supply of accessible indoor practice nets in the study area is insufficient with a number of clubs identifying a need for more provision and many travelling outside of the borough to train. The non-turf practice net systems are in need of upgrading at Lowfield Sports Ground and there is also a need to improve the fencing around the Cricket club due to balls going into the Tennis club next door and the surrounding streets.

An investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at Lowfield Sports Ground and Broxbourne Sports Club.

4.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2033 on the need for cricket pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. Figure 4.1 shows that team generation rates for the area predicts there will be an increase of 6 teams in the area, 3 adult teams and 3 youth teams.

Figure 4.1: Team generation rates.

Age Group	Current Pop in Age group	Current no of teams	Team Gen. Rate	Future Pop in age group	Predicted future no of teams	No of home matches per season	No of matches per pitch per season	Natural Turf pitches
Men (18-55yrs)	22,635	17	1331	3821.75	2.87	28.70	40	0.72
Women (18-55yrs)	23,795	3	7932	4017.61	0.51	5.06	40	0.13
Boys (7-18yrs)	7,454	17	438	1258.55	2.87	22.96	56	0.41
Girls (7-18yrs)	7,144	0	0	1206.21	0	0	56	0
					6.25			1.25

To meet cricket demand from 16,387 additional residents (as currently forecast²) and assuming current levels of cricket demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +1.25 additional cricket pitches will be needed in the study area.

In addition, all three clubs have aspirations to grow their junior sections or offer sessions for women and girl's cricket which will increase future demand for cricket pitches. Hertfordshire Cricket estimate a growth of 6 girl's teams across the area which based on 8 home games a season and the number of matches per pitch person, being 56, create the need for additional capacity of 0.85 cricket pitches, making a total of 2.1 natural turf pitches required.

When the clubs' aspirations for team growth and the impact of cricket development initiatives with

² ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

regard to primary age children, women and girls' cricket and under-represented ethnic minority groups are added, it is estimated that there will be a need for two additional fine turf pitches in the area to cater for demand as well as additional NTP's at Broxbourne Sports Club and Lowfield Sports ground which will help to alleviate some of the pressure on their fine turf pitches and help these larger clubs to accommodate growth.

The proposed new fine turf pitch at High Leigh Garden Village provides an opportunity for Hoddesdon CC to utilise the facilities either as a home site or a second site rather than some of their teams travelling out of the borough. The proposals to improve the current fine turf pitch at Rosedale Sports Club and develop second pitch will enable the club to grow a youth section and the club to re-establish their 4th adult team.

There is also no informal park provision in the borough so discussions with ECB and Hertfordshire cricket should be had to consider the need for facilities, particularly in the diverse areas of the borough.

5. Key Findings and Issues for Cricket (Step 6)

Figure 5.1 - Cricket Key Findings and Issues

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision
<p>Five fine turf pitches are identified as available for community cricket across Broxbourne Borough in 2022, on 4 playing pitch sites. There are 3 non-turf pitches on 3 sites, although only one is available for community use. There has been a reduction in the number of sites available for cricket the last PPS where 7 fine turf pitches were available across the borough but an increase in non-turf pitches with one pitch available for community use.</p> <p>Five clubs were identified in Broxbourne through the consultation (although Wormley CC has since folded), there are 13 adult men's sides entered to compete in affiliated Saturday cricket leagues cricket in 2022, 2 clubs offer mixed adult provision and 2 also have female specific adult cricket. There are 2 Sunday teams and 1 T20 team. Three clubs – Broxbourne CC, Cheshunt Rosedale CC, Hoddesdon CC - all have increased junior sections, with either formal teams, junior coaching or by providing All Stars or Dynamos sessions.</p> <p>In total it is estimated that, in the 2022 season, there are 16 men's teams (aged 18+), 2 women's teams, 2 adult mixed teams and 17 boys' teams (aged 7-18 playing cricket matches in the study area mainly at weekends. A large proportion of these teams also train on a midweek evening in season. Most of the senior teams will also train indoors pre-season in January/February.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?
<p>A number of clubs are reliant on using facilities outside of the borough, with Hoddesdon CC using Thundridge CC and Cheshunt Rosedale CC using Cuffley until recently.</p> <p>Overall, the cricket clubs in Broxbourne benefit from good security of access on their home grounds, subject to Hoddesdon agreeing a new lease with the Football club and Broxbourne Council.</p> <p>The assessment of facility needs shows that the fine turf pitches in the area are largely over played, and clubs require additional facilities to cater for current demand.</p> <p>There is capacity at Wormley Playing fields due to the recent folding of Wormley CC which provides an opportunity for Hoddesdon CC to utilise the facilities as a second site rather than travelling out of the borough.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?
<p>Fine turf pitches at Lowfield Sports Ground and Broxbourne Sports Ground are well maintained, however improvements in the pitch quality at Rosedale Sports Club could increase capacity.</p> <p>The non-turf practice net systems are in need of upgrading at Lowfield Sports Ground and there is also a need to improve the fencing around the Cricket club due to balls going into the Tennis club next door and the surrounding streets.</p> <p>An investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at Lowfield Sports Ground and Broxbourne Sports Club.</p>

What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?

To meet cricket demand from 16,387 additional residents (as currently forecast³) and assuming current levels of cricket demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +1.25 additional cricket pitches will be needed in the study area.

In addition, all three clubs have aspirations to grow their junior sections or offer sessions for women and girl's cricket which will increase future demand for cricket pitches. Hertfordshire Cricket estimate a growth of 6 girl's teams across the area which would require additional capacity of 0.85 cricket pitches.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

There is not sufficient accessible and secured community use provision in the borough to meet future demand. There is a need for two additional fine turf pitches in the area. If the proposed development of new pitches at Rosedale Sports Club and High Leigh Village Gardens proceed and provision at Wormley Sports Club is retained this will provide sufficient provision in the area to support the growth of clubs in the area.

Additional NTP's at Broxbourne Sports Club and Lowfield Sports ground will help to alleviate the pressure on their fine turf pitches and support the growth of their junior sections.

Investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at Lowfield Sports Ground and Broxbourne Sports Club.

There is also no informal park provision in the borough so discussions with ECB and Hertfordshire cricket should be had to consider the need for facilities, particularly in the diverse areas of the borough.

³ ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)



Broxbourne Borough Council
Playing Pitch Strategy 2023
Appendix B –
Assessment of Need Report
Football

Appendix B: Football - Assessment of Needs (Stages B and C)

1. Introduction

The findings of the assessment of football facilities in Broxbourne Borough Council are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. FA affiliated football clubs registered to Broxbourne and playing home fixtures in the borough have contributed to this assessment by submitting an online club survey and/or through in person consultation during site visits. The number of clubs consulted with as part of this process represents 75% of teams playing football in the area.

Since the last assessment was carried out in 2013 there have been changes in both the supply of football pitches in Broxbourne and in football demand. On the supply side, there has been the provision of 4.5 new full sized 3G artificial turf pitches at Cheshunt FC, Goffs Academy, The Broxbourne School, Rosedale Sports Club and Goffs Churchgate Academy (0.5 pitch) as well as some improvements to the drainage of grass pitches at Wormley Sports Club.

There has been a significant increase in demand as the number of football teams in Broxbourne has increased to 256 teams, an increase of 82 teams - nearly 47% - since the previous audit in 2013 when 174 affiliated teams were registered in the borough. There has been a small decrease in adult teams (-4 teams) but a large increase in youth and mini soccer teams (+78), which includes a growth of 32 girls teams compared to just 4 in 2013.

The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions impacted very significantly towards the end of season 2019/20 and throughout 2020/21. However, football demand largely recovered to pre-pandemic levels during 2021/22 and is now showing signs of growth particularly in youth football.

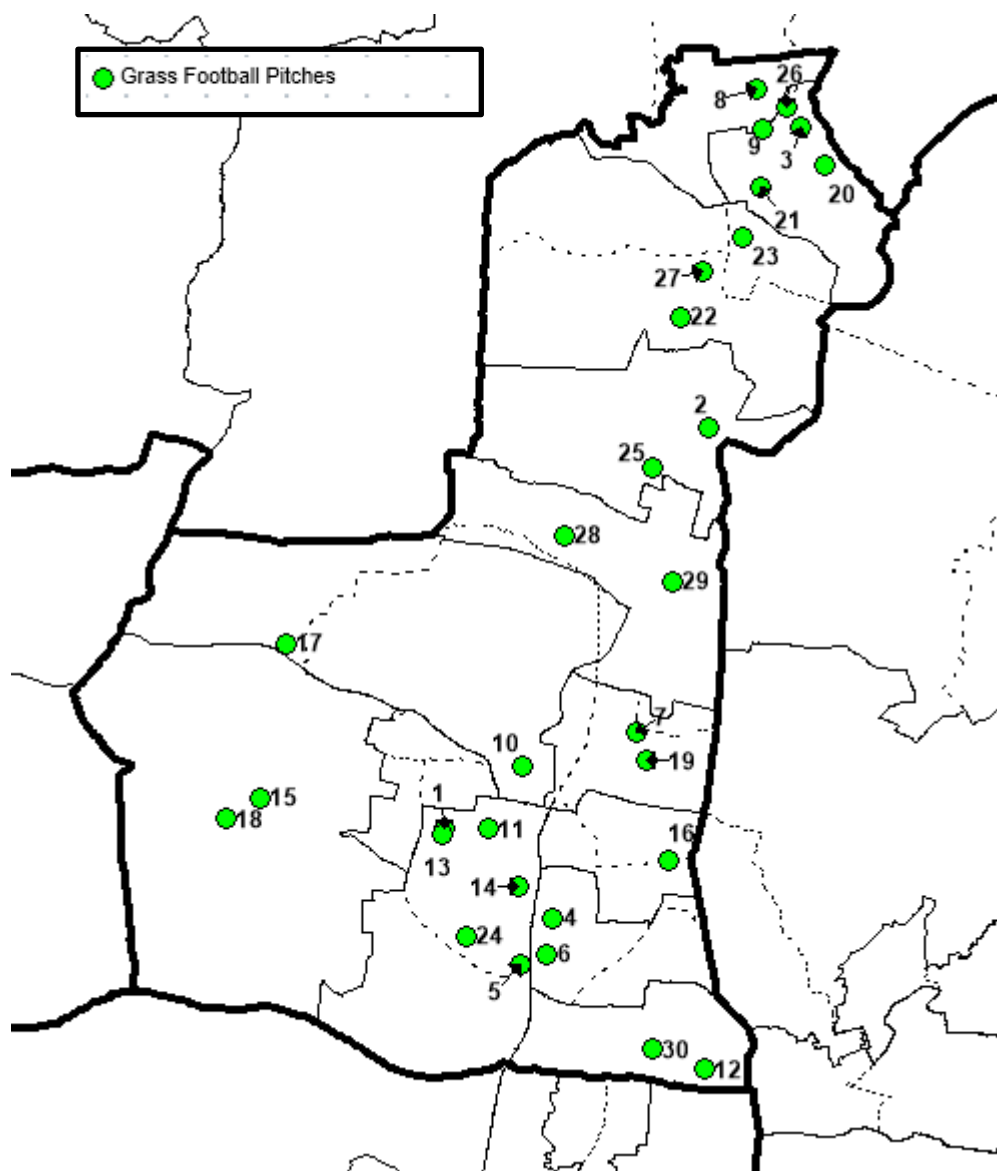
2. Football Supply (Step 2)

The findings of the assessment of supply of football facilities in Broxbourne are summarised in this section and detailed by site both for grass pitches (in the supporting additional appendices) and for artificial turf pitches. The supply side information is generated through standard facility audits based on the visual assessment, grading and playing capacity guidance (as set out by Sport England and the FA in the national guidance for the development of playing pitch needs assessments), augmented by consultation with the Council, Hertfordshire FA and user clubs. At a number of key football sites, more detailed pitch quality assessments were undertaken using the Football Foundation's 'PitchPower' methodology. At these sites, the estimates of playing capacity are informed by the results of the PitchPower assessments and Performance Quality Standards (PQS) ratings provided by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA).

2.1 Distribution of Football Supply

Figure 2.1 and 2.2 shows the distribution of football sites across Broxbourne.

Figure 2.1 - Distribution of grass football pitch sites in Broxbourne



Key: Grass Football Pitch Sites		
No	Site Name	Postcode
1	Broxbourne Borough V&E FC	EN7 5QN
2	Broxbourne Rec. Ground	EN10 7AU
3	Castle Road Playing Fields	EN11 0NF
4	Cheshunt Community Sports Park	EN8 8XG
5	Cheshunt Country Club	EN8 8YA
6	Cheshunt FC	EN8 8RU
7	Churchfields COE Academy	EN8 0LU
8	Cranbourne Primary	EN11 9PP
9	Forres Primary School	EN11 0RW
10	Flamstead End Rec. Ground	EN8 0EY
11	Goffs Lane Playing Fields	EN7 5EG
12	Goodman Centre Playing Fields	EN8 7QD
13	Goffs Academy	EN7 5QW
14	Goffs Churchgate Academy	EN8 9LY
15	Goffs Oak Playing Fields and Pavilion	EN7 5ET
16	Grundy Park (Laura Trott Leisure Centre)	EN8 9AJ
17	Hammond Street Playing Fields	EN7 6PG
18	Jones Road Open Space	EN7 5JS
19	Nightleys Playing Fields	EN8 0JX
20	Old Highway Park / Rec. Ground	EN11 0HS
21	Pound Close Playing Fields	EN11 0JR
22	Robert Barclay Academy	EN11 8JY
23	St Catherine VC CE School	EN11 8HT
24	St Mary COE School	EN7 5FB
25	The Broxbourne School	EN10 7DD
26	The John Warner Sports Centre	EN11 0QF
27	The Stewart Edwards Stadium (Lowfield Sports Ground)	EN11 8PX
28	Wormely Sports Club	EN10 7QE
29	Wormley Playing Fields	EN10 6EB
30	Waltham Cross Playing Fields	EN8 7LU

Figure 2.2- Distribution of ATP football pitch sites in Broxbourne

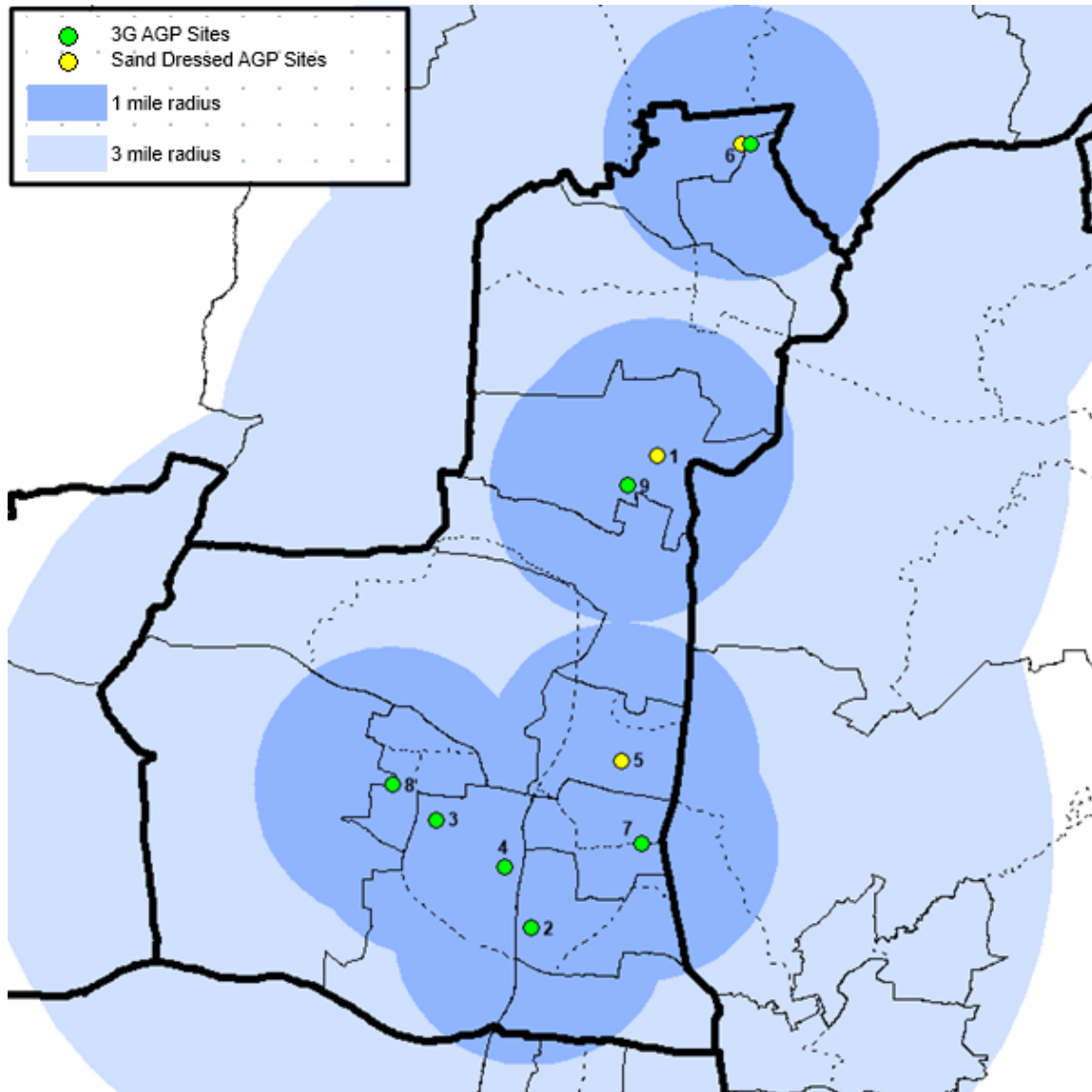


Figure 2.2 Key

Key: Artificial Pitch Sites		
	Site Name	Postcode
1	Broxbourne Sports Club	EN10 7BA
2	Cheshunt FC	EN8 8RU
3	Goffs Academy	EN7 5QW
4	Goffs Churchgate Academy	EN8 9LY
5	Haileybury Turnford School	EN8 0JU
6	John Warner Sports Centre	EN11 0QG
7	Laura Trott Sports Centre	EN8 9AJ
8	Rosedale Sports Club	EN7 6TB
9	The Broxbourne School	EN10 7DD

2.2 Grass Football Pitches in Broxbourne

In total there are 131 grass pitches on 54 sites used for football in Broxbourne, of these 38 pitches (22 sites) are on school playing fields in the borough that are not currently available for and have no known history of community use. Consultation with these sites indicates that there is no clear potential to open up these facilities for community use in the future. These include:

- Andrews Lane Primary School (3x 7v7 pitches)
- Bonneygrove Primary School (1x 7v7 pitch)
- Brookland Infant and Nursery School (2x 7v7 pitches)
- Broxbourne COE Primary School (2x 7v7 pitches)
- Burnleigh Primary School (2x 7v7 pitches)
- Dewhurst St Mary COE Primary (1x 7v7, 1x 9v9 pitches)
- Downfield JMI School (2x 7v7 pitches)
- Fairfields Primary School (2x 7v7 pitches)
- Four Swannes Primary School (2x 7v7 pitches)
- Goffs Oak Primary School (1x 7v7 pitch)
- Hailey Hall School (1x 11v11 youth pitch)
- Hurst Drive Primary School (2x 7v7 pitches)
- Longlands Primary School (1x 7v7 pitch)
- Millbrook Primary School (1x 7v7 pitch)
- Rivers Education Support Centre (1x 11v11 Youth pitch)
- Roselands Primary School (2x 7v7 pitches)
- St Augustine’s RC Primary School (1x 7v7 pitch)
- St Cross RC Primary School (2x 7v7 pitches)
- St Pauls RC Primary and Nursery (2x 7v7 pitches)
- Westfield Community Primary (2x 7v7 pitches)
- Wormley Primary School (2x 7v7 pitches)
- Woodside Primary School (2x 7v7 pitches)

A further site at Haileybury Turnford School has four grass pitches (1x 7v7, 1x 9v9, 2x 11v11) but no community use, despite having community access to other facilities at the school. Whilst there could be a potential for these to be used in the future the school is due to be rebuilt and work is likely to affect the playing fields. The timetable and configuration of future facilities is still to be decided.

Of the sites listed in figure 2.1 the following are excluded from the supply and demand calculations, as they are either not currently available for use by football teams or future community use of the site is unsecured.

- Cheshunt Country Club – (2x 11v11) The ground was owned by Tesco’s and closed in 2022, when the retailer decided to consolidate head office locations in Welwyn Garden City.
- Cranbourne Primary School – (3x 7v7) Previously used for community use but no longer available.
- Forres Primary School – (1x 9v9, 1x7v7) Previously used for community use but no longer available.
- The Broxbourne School – (1x 11v11 pitch) Existing pitch which suffers poor drainage so only available for school use.
- The John Warner Sports Centre – (1x 11v11 pitch) one pitch has rugby posts on top of football goals which is not permitted for community use.

When these unsecured and closed football sites are excluded, the number of secured pitches available for community football in Broxbourne is reduced to 80 pitches on 26 sites. This includes 3 council pitches currently mothballed at Goffs Lane Playing Fields, Goffs Oak Playing Fields and Hammond Street

Playing Fields and whilst not currently used they are well maintained could be made available in a short time frame if there was sufficient demand. As well as newly laid pitches at The Broxbourne School (2x 11v11) to be available for the start of 2023/2024 season. A number of the pitches included are over-marked to accommodate smaller sided games (e.g., 9v9 on 11v11 or 5v5 on 7v7).

Figure 2.3 below shows the number of secured pitches currently available compared with the number of FA affiliated teams by age group in February 2023.

Comparison of current team numbers with the available supply of natural turf pitches shows that the growth in youth and mini-soccer teams has greatly outstripped the increase in the number of available pitches. Currently, there are over 5 affiliated youth football teams for every available grass pitch and in the case of mini soccer (7v7 or 5v5) there are nearly 4 teams per grass pitch.

Whilst small-sided pitches have greater capacity for play than senior pitches (due to lower wear and tear by mini-soccer and youth players compared to heavier adult players), the additional demand is catered for in some areas by the over-marking of pitches, which in most cases leads to the over-play of pitches at these sites, in addition some of the demand is catered for by the increase in 3G pitches and match play being transferred to these sites. The future demand for grass pitches is outlined in Section 5 of this document.

Figure 2.3: Pitch Size / Team Comparison

Pitch Type	Available Pitch Supply		Teams playing in Broxbourne	
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	40*	50%	52	21%
Youth 11v11 and 9v9 (u11 - u16)	18	23%	103	42%
Mini 7v7 and 5v5 (u5 - u10)	22	27%	93	38%
Total	80		248**	

*Includes new pitches at The Broxbourne School being provided in Sept 24 and mothballed sites

** Total excludes Disability/Futsal/Rec teams. Source: Hertfordshire FA affiliation data (Feb 23) / Club Survey (Nov 22 – March 23)

2.3 Local Authority Owned Sites with Grass Football Pitches for Hire:

The following sites with grass football pitches within Broxbourne are available to community clubs to book and hire from the council: These playing fields offer a total of 22 pitches for clubs to hire and are detailed in figure 2.4.

2.4 Council Owned Grass Pitches with Leases or Management Agreements:

The Council plays an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and enabling community organisations through the asset transfer process to independently manage and operate existing and new facilities. The playing field sites listed in figure 2.5 have football pitches owned by Broxbourne that are leased to individual community sports clubs/ organisations to manage and maintain.

Figure 2.4: Local Authority Owned Sites with Grass Football Pitches for Hire:

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
CASTLE ROAD PLAYING FIELDS, EN11 ONF	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Pavilion refurbished in mid 90's and has ramps for accessibility, but outdated and needs a refurb.	Council	2	1.5	0.5	
GOFFS LANE PLAYING FIELDS, EN7 5EG	P1 - 11v11 (in front of car park, pavilion)	Standard	Pavilion dated 1970's council model, 4 CR's, toilets and showers, refs' area (no showers)	Council	2	1	1	
GOFFS LANE PLAYING FIELDS, EN7 5EG	P2 - 11v11 (left of play area, from road)	Poor		Council	1	1.5	-0.5	
GOFFS LANE PLAYING FIELDS, EN7 5EG	P3 - 11v11 (right of play area, from road)	Standard		Council	2	Not in use	2	
GOFFS OAK PLAYING FIELDS, EN7 5ET	P1 - 11v11 (Mothballed)	Standard	Pavilion dated 1970's council model, 4 CR's, toilets and showers, refs' area (no showers)	Council	2	Not in use	2	
GOODMAN CENTRE PLAYING FIELDS, EN8 7QD	P1 -11v11 (overmarked with 9v9)	Standard	No ancillary facilities	Council	2	2	0	
GOODMAN CENTRE PLAYING FIELDS, EN8 7QD	P2 - 7v7	Standard		Council	4	2.5	1.5	
GRUNDY PARK (LAURA TROOT LC) EN8 9AJ	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Outside changing room, one large room for two teams (cleaned by leisure centre). Parking charges recently introduced on a Sunday, which affects team use.	Council	2	1	1	
GRUNDY PARK (LAURA TROOT LC) EN8 9AJ	P2 - 11v11	Standard		Council	2	1	1	
HAMMOND STREET PLAYING FIELDS, EN7 6PG	P1 - 11v11 (Mothballed)	Poor	Modern building (built 2000)	Council	1	Not in use	1	
JONES ROAD OPEN SPACE, EN7 5JS	P1 - 11v11 (youth)	Standard	No facilities available, only hired to youth teams	Council	2	0.5	1.5	
JONES ROAD OPEN SPACE, EN7 5JS	P2 - 9v9	Standard		Council	2	0.5	1.5	
NIGHTLEYS PLAYING FIELDS, EN8 0JX	P1 - 11v11 (overmarked 9v9) closest to playground	Poor	No pavilion/ changing - Just portacabins meeting space, small kitchen area and toilets only.	Club previously had 25 yr. lease, now annual hire	1	2	-1	

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
NIGHTLEYS PLAYING FIELDS, EN8 0JX	P2 - 11v11 (overmarked 9v9)	Standard		Council	2	2	0	Yellow
NIGHTLEYS PLAYING FIELDS, EN8 0JX	P3 - 7v7	Standard		Council	4	2	2	Green
NIGHTLEYS PLAYING FIELDS, EN8 0JX	P4 - 5v5	Standard		Council	4	2	2	Green
OLD HIGHWAY PARK / REC GROUND, EN11 OHS	P1 -9v9	Standard	None	Council	2	0.5	1.5	Green
POUND CLOSE PLAYING FIELD, EN11 0JR	P1 - 11v11 (closest to park area)	Poor	Youth centre on site - changing rooms separate block, no showers, basic	Council	1	0.5	0.5	Green
POUND CLOSE PLAYING FIELD, EN11 0JR	P2 - 11v11	Poor			1	0.5	0.5	Green
WORMLEY PLAYING FIELDS, EN10 6EB	P1 -11v11	Poor	Council changing rooms x 4 Male & Female large and showers (opened by Wormley Sports Club).	Council	1	1	0	Yellow
WORMLEY PLAYING FIELDS, EN10 6EB	P2 -11v11	Poor		Council	1	1	0	Yellow
WALTHAM CROSS PLAYING FIELDS, EN8 7LU	P1 - 11v11	Poor	Pavilion dated 1970's council model, 4 CR's, toilets and showers, refs' area (no showers), to be refurbished through LUF. Parking can be an issue.	Council	1	1	0	Yellow

Figure 2.5 Council Owned Grass Pitches with Leases or Management Agreements:

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
BROXBOURNE BOROUGH V & E FOOTBALL CLUB, EN7 5QN	P1 - 11v11 (11v11 youth overmarked)	Standard	300 seater stadium, members bar, large function hall.	Club lease 7 years left	2	2	0	Yellow
BROXBOURNE BOROUGH V & E FOOTBALL CLUB, EN7 5QN	P2 - 7v7 (5v5 overmarked)	Standard	Portacabin type changing and toilets.	Club site	4	1	3	Green
BROXBOURNE BOROUGH V & E FOOTBALL CLUB, EN7 5QN	P3 - 7v7	Standard		Club site	4	2	2	Green
BROXBOURNE BOROUGH V & E FOOTBALL CLUB, EN7 5QN	P4 -5v5	Poor		Club site	1	1	0	Yellow
BROXBOURNE REC, STATION RD, EN10 7AU	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Park pavilion and café refurbished in 2008.	Broxbourne Trustees	2	1	1	Green
CHESHUNT FC (THE STADIUM), EN8 8RU	P1 - 11v11 (stadia)	Poor (PP)	Changing facilities within stadium - Away CR's do not meet ground grading	Secured	1	1.5	-0.5	Red
CHESHUNT FC (THE STADIUM), EN8 8RU	P2 - 11v11 (Youth)	Good (PP)	Shipping containers provide changing facilities for 3G and youth pitches.	Secured	4	4	0	Yellow
CHESHUNT FC (THE STADIUM), EN8 8RU	P3 - 11v11 (youth), overmarked 9v9	Good (PP)		Secured	4	4	0	Yellow
CHESHUNT FC (THE STADIUM), EN8 8RU	P4 - 9v9	Good (PP)		Secured	4	4	0	Yellow
CHESHUNT FC (THE STADIUM), EN8 8RU	P5 - 9v9	Good (PP)		Secured	4	4	0	Yellow
FLAMSTEAD END REC. GROUND, EN8 0EY	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Long term to sea cadets, hall space with changing limited for two teams.	leased to Sea cadets	2	2	0	Yellow
FLAMSTEAD END REC. GROUND, EN8 0EY	P2 - 11v11 overmarked 9v9	Standard			2	2	0	Yellow
FLAMSTEAD END REC. GROUND, EN8 0EY	P3 - 11v11	Standard			2	2	0	Yellow

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
THE STEWART EDWARDS STADIUM (LOWFIELD S.GROUND), EN11 8PX	P1 – 11v11 Stadia floodlit pitch	Standard (PP)	Two small changing rooms off main hall, not big enough for next level of ground grading.	Leased to trust (football & cricket)	2	1.5	0.5	
WORMLEY SPORTS CLUB, EN10 7QE	P1 - 11v11 Stadia floodlit pitch	Good (PP)	Fencing, stands, Clubhouse and café area. Nursery use facilities during the week. Access to Council CR's / Toilets.	Club has 21 years left on 25 year lease.	3	3	0	
WORMLEY SPORTS CLUB, EN10 7QE	P2 - 7v7 (alongside cricket square)	Standard (PP)			4	2	2	
WORMLEY SPORTS CLUB, EN10 7QE	P3 - 9v9 (alongside cricket square)	Standard (PP)			2	2	0	
WORMLEY SPORTS CLUB, EN10 7QE	P4 - 11v11 (youth)	Good (PP)			4	3.5	0.5	
WORMLEY SPORTS CLUB, EN10 7QE	P5 - 11v11 (youth)	Standard (PP)			2	2	0	
WORMLEY SPORTS CLUB, EN10 7QE	P6 - 11v11	Standard (PP)			2	3.5	-1.5	
WORMLEY SPORTS CLUB, EN10 7QE	P7 - 7v7	Standard (PP)			4	2	2	
WORMLEY SPORTS CLUB, EN10 7QE	P8 - 7v7	Standard (PP)			4	2	2	
WORMLEY SPORTS CLUB, EN10 7QE	P9 - 5v5	Poor (PP)			2	1.5	0.5	
WORMLEY PLAYING FIELDS, EN10 6EB	P3 - 11v11	Poor	Council changing rooms x 4 Male & Female large and showers (opened by Wormley Sports Club).	Education - The Broxbourne School	1	0.5	0.5	
WORMLEY PLAYING FIELDS, EN10 6EB	P4 - 11v11	Standard		Education - The Broxbourne School	2	0.5	1.5	
WORMLEY PLAYING FIELDS, EN10 6EB	P5 - 11v11	Standard		Education - The Broxbourne School	2	0.5	1.5	

Figure 2.6 Sports Association/Charity Owned Grass Football Pitches:

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
CHESHUNT COMMUNITY SPORTS PARK, EN8 8XG	P1 -11v11	Standard	Changing rooms (x4) have been condemned, Portacabins in place as a temp. fix, work ongoing to refurbish but limited funds.	Secured	2	2	0	
CHESHUNT COMMUNITY SPORTS PARK, EN8 8XG	P2 - 11v11	Standard		Secured	2	2	0	

Figure 2.7 Football Pitches on Education Sites:

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
CHURCHFIELDS COE ACADEMY, EN8 0LU	P1 – 5v5	Standard		Education site not aware of CUA	4	2	2	
CHURCHFIELDS COE ACADEMY, EN8 0LU	P2 – 7v7	Standard			4	1	3	
GOFFS ACADEMY, EN7 5QW	P1 - 11v11	Good	Changing available in school building	Education site not aware of CUA	3	1	2	
GOFFS ACADEMY, EN7 5QW	P2 - 11v11 (youth)	Good			4	1.5	2.5	
GOFFS ACADEMY, EN7 5QW	P3 - 9v9	Good			4	1	3	
GOFFS - CHURCHGATE ACADEMY, EN8 9LY	P1 - 5v5	Standard	Changing available although not used. Showers need refurbishment as they have recently been condemned.	Education Facility CUA in place	4	2	2	
GOFFS - CHURCHGATE ACADEMY, EN8 9LY	P2 - 5v5	Standard			4	3	1	
GOFFS - CHURCHGATE ACADEMY, EN8 9LY	P3 - 7v7	Standard			4	3	1	
GOFFS - CHURCHGATE ACADEMY, EN8 9LY	P4 - 7v7	Standard			4	3	1	
GOFFS - CHURCHGATE ACADEMY, EN8 9LY	P5 - 7v7	Standard			4	3	1	
GOFFS - CHURCHGATE ACADEMY, EN8 9LY	P6 - 9v9	Standard			2	2	0	
GOFFS - CHURCHGATE ACADEMY, EN8 9LY	P7 - 11v11 (youth)	Standard			2	2	0	

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
GOFFS - CHURCHGATE ACADEMY, EN8 9LY	P8 - 11v11	Standard			2	2	0	Yellow
ROBERT BARCLAY ACADEMY, EN11 8JY	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Outdoor pavilion with changing and toilet facilities. Club (BUFC) rate 3/5	Education Facility. No current CUA	2	1.5	0.5	Green
ROBERT BARCLAY ACADEMY, EN11 8JY	P2 - 11v11	Standard			2	1	1	Green
ROBERT BARCLAY ACADEMY, EN11 8JY	P3 - 9v9	Poor			1	1.5	- 0.5	Red
ROBERT BARCLAY ACADEMY, EN11 8JY	P4 - 7v7	Poor			2	1.5	0.5	Green
ROBERT BARCLAY ACADEMY, EN11 8JY	P5 - 5v5	Poor			2	1.5	0.5	Green
ROBERT BARCLAY ACADEMY, EN11 8JY	P6 - 5v5	Poor			2	1	1	Green
ST CATHERINE VC CE SCHOOL, EN11 8HT	P1 - 7V7	Standard		Education Facility. No current CUA	4	2	2	Green
ST CATHERINE VC CE SCHOOL, EN11 8HT	P2 - 7v7	Standard			4	2	2	Green
ST MARY'S COE SCHOOL, EN7 5FB	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Changing available in main school building.	Education Facility CUA in place	2	1.5	0.5	Green
ST MARY'S COE SCHOOL, EN7 5FB	P2 - 11v11	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	Green
ST MARY'S COE SCHOOL, EN7 5FB	P3 - 11v11	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	Green
ST MARY'S COE SCHOOL, EN7 5FB	P4 - 9v9	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	Green
ST MARY'S COE SCHOOL, EN7 5FB	P5 - 7v7	Standard			4	3	1	Green
THE BROXBOURNE SCHOOL, EN10 7DD	P1 - 11v11 (new pitches)	Good	Changing rooms available in school	Education Facility CUA in place	4	0	4	Green
THE BROXBOURNE SCHOOL, EN10 7DD	P2 - 11v11 (new pitches)	Good			4	0	4	Green

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
THE BROXBOURNE SCHOOL, EN10 7DD	P3 - 9v9 (new pitch)	Good			4	0	4	
THE JOHN WARNER SPORTS CENTRE, EN11 0QF	P1 - 11v11	Standard		Education facility with CUA in place	2	1.5	0.5	
THE JOHN WARNER SPORTS CENTRE, EN11 0QF	P2 - 9v9	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	

2.5 Sports Association/Charity Owned Grass Football Pitches:

There is one site in sports association or recreation charity/ trust ownership and have pitches that are used extensively by community football clubs, listed in figure 2.6.

2.6 Football Pitches on Education Sites:

Broxbourne Borough based community football clubs currently play on pitches on a number of education sites, as listed in figure 2.7. The clubs using pitches on education sites have little security of access as continued use from one season to the next depends on the consent of the sites management (head teacher, board of governors, management company and/or governing trust). There are community use agreements in place at Goffs – Churchgate Academy, St Mary’s COE School and The Broxbourne School, which provides protection for general community access, however it does not usually determine use by a specific club. The other education sites do not have community use agreements in place and whilst none of these education providers has indicated any intention to stop allowing access in future, without specific agreements in place for longer than a single season, security of access for football clubs at these sites must be considered a risk.

As stated previously, further youth and mini-soccer pitches (or space to accommodate pitches) exist in the borough on playing fields at other school sites across the borough. Whilst there may be potential to negotiate some access at weekends to some of these playing fields, the majority are primary schools able to offer little or no access to ancillary facilities. Arranging future access to these pitches at weekends at reasonable cost while safeguarding the security of the schools' buildings would be difficult to achieve in most cases.

2.7 Grass football pitch sites at risk

Cheshunt Country Club was closed in 2022, Broxbourne United FC who played at the site have relocated to Robert Barclay Academy and the site has been allocated for development in the Local Plan if alternative playing field provision can be identified. There are also proposals for Broxbourne Borough V and E FC’s site to be developed for housing, if a suitable alternative site was identified that could provide the same or enhanced facilities. The Broxbourne Local Plan 2018-2033, policy CH12 states that should a suitable relocation site for the club not be agreed within two years of the plan, the council will consider favourably proposals for a stand-alone residential development at Bonney Grove Field. The pitch at Goffs Oak Playing Fields has been mothballed and not used for a number of years, there is a proposal to redevelop part of this site for a care home, which may impact the pitch.

2.8 Facilities for Informal Football

Most of the parks and larger public open spaces in the borough provide flat grass areas suitable for casual recreational games of football and kick-about. Many open spaces across Broxbourne also offer a fenced but open access multi use games area (MUGA) and/or a smaller ball court (for football/basketball/skate), some of which are floodlit. Examples identified include:

- Barclay Park - Concrete MUGA
- Cheshunt Country Park - Floodlit Concrete MUGA
- Dig Dag Open Space - Concrete MUGA
- Fairfield Drive - Concrete MUGA
- Flamstead End Rec - Concrete MUGA
- Goffs Lane Playing Fields - Floodlit Concrete MUGA
- Goffs Oak Playing Fields - Floodlit Concrete MUGA
- Grundy Park (Laura Trott LC) - Concrete MUGA
- Hammond Street - Floodlit Concrete MUGA
- Holdbrook Old School - Floodlit Concrete MUGA

- Holmesdale Tunnel - Concrete MUGA
- Nightleys Playing Fields - Floodlit Concrete MUGA
- Old Highway Park – Concrete MUGA
- Pound Close Playing Field - Floodlit Concrete MUGA
- Waltham Cross Playing Fields - Floodlit Concrete MUGA
- Winnipeg Way - Concrete MUGA

2.9 Commercial Football Centres

There are currently no commercial football centres located in the area. However, Leisure Leagues run 5-A-side leagues at The Broxbourne School, John Warner Sports centre and Goffs Churchgate Academy.

2.10 Quality

The table below summaries the standard of the pitches assessed. The ratings attributed to each pitch are detailed in the audit spreadsheet. These were informed by a combination of visual assessment on site visits and PitchPower assessments as well as feedback from consultation with user clubs and the Council. The audit was also subject to a check and challenge process with the Hertfordshire FA.

Figure 2.8 – Broxbourne football pitch quality

	Total	Percentage
Good	12	15%
Standard	52	65%
Poor	16	20%
Total	80*	

* This final number will vary due to overmarking, and pitches closed / being improved at time of audit

19% of pitches in the area that have been assessed are of poor quality, and over half the stock (67%) of grass football pitches accessible for community use in Broxbourne are rated as ‘standard’ (i.e., providing a playing capacity for up to two match equivalent sessions a week on average for adults), 14% of the football pitches are rated as good.

Poor natural drainage and compaction of the ground are issues at some of the football pitch sites, particularly in the South of the Borough due to the high clay content in the soil. End of season renovations in Broxbourne have also been suspended over the last two years as the football season has been extended due to the pandemic. Few local authorities or their contractors have the resources of trained staff and specialist equipment necessary to carry out drilling at the frequencies required to aerate the ground and de-compact the playing surface.

16 pitches on 3 key club sites (Cheshunt FC, Lowfield Sports Ground and Wormley Sports Club) in Broxbourne have been assessed using the Football Foundation's PitchPower assessment and reporting tool. The PitchPower report findings for these sites identify the maintenance needs required together with budget costs.

2.11 Un-Booked Use of Formal Pitches by Teams

Informal recreational use and unauthorised use of the maintained pitches in Broxbourne parks is a challenge for the Council. Clubs tend to take advantage of these sites especially for early and late season training when there is sufficient daylight on weekday evenings.

This leads to reduced pitch quality for those that do book and pay for the pitch. The Council strives to address this whether it is by FA affiliated football teams, private soccer schools or independent coaches

by aiming to monitor the situation and contacting teams when armed with evidence. The Council also directs people to use other open spaces and not the formal pitch spaces.

2.12 Artificial Turf Pitches (ATPs) in Broxbourne

In total, there are 10 sites in Broxbourne with artificial turf surfaces suitable for football play at some level (i.e., either 3G preferred football surface, a rugby compliant surface or a sand-dressed hockey compliant playing surface), as outlined in figure 2.5 and 2.6. There is 5 FA compliant 3G pitches in the area, four of these are on education sites with high levels of community usage both for training and matches.

Half of all the football clubs consulted (9 clubs totaling 111 teams) stated that the current number of hours available to them for training did not meet their demand and had the following comments.

- *'Need more and better grass pitches and 3G to grow'*
- *'We train at random times wherever and whenever we can'*
- *'We struggle for training slots. The only available slots are very late at night between 9 and 10pm. For everyone that has an early job, they are unable to attend.'*
- *'We need more availability as the club has grown rapidly in the last 3 years. we only have times for training that nobody wants i.e., early slots like 4.30-5.30'*
- *'Not enough facilities available for peak times for training 7-9...no one wants to train post 9pm'*
- *'3G not very good availability and high prices'*
- *'We pitch/goal share amongst teams and it is not ideal as sometimes.... teams will train with limited space and resources'*

The future demand for 3G artificial pitches is outlined in Section 5 of this document. The nearest alternative full size floodlit 3G ATPs in neighbouring boroughs within a 20 minute drive (5 mile catchment area) based on application of the Active Places Power area access analysis mapping tool are as follows:

- East Hertfordshire (North) – Wodson Park, Ware Football Club and Richard Hale School
- Harlow (Northeast) - The Harlow Arena
- Enfield (South) - Lea Valley Academy & Orchardshire School
- Epping Forest (South) - Town Mead Leisure Park

2.13 ATPs at risk

The two 5-A-side 3G pitches (15 x 32m) at the Laura Trott Leisure Centre are due to be relocated as part of the new park improvement scheme and be replaced by one pitch sized 33 x 20.3m. This is a net loss of overall space and is subject to planning approval.

Figure 2.5: 3G ATPs - Situation at Individual Sites

Site	AGP Size and Type	Date Built (or last Refurb)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Est. Use in Peak Hours	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
THE STADIUM (CHESHUNT FC), EN8 8RU	Full sized Floodlit 3G AGP	2015	Good	Community changing in portacabins on site.	Club lease	34	34 Hours (100%)		Users include Waltham cross FC, Wormley Men's U18, Bushhill Rangers, Pander FC, FC Romania, Herts College FE prog, Goff oak girls, Spurs Women's Academy.
GOFFS ACADEMY, EN7 5QW	Full sized Floodlit 3G AGP	2017	Good	Changing in main school building	Education site - not aware of CUA	34	34 Hours (100%)		Used regularly by Bows Soccer, Broxbourne Borough FC, Waltham Cross FC, Goffs Oak girls FC. LED floodlights, good condition with clear line markings for 11v11, 7v7, 5v5.
GOFFS CHURCHGATE ACADEMY, EN8 9LY	76x32m Floodlit 3G AGP	2019	Good	Changing available although not used. Showers need refurbishing	Education Facility CUA in place	34	34 Hours (100%)		1 x 7v7 or 3x 5v5. Regular maintenance, weekly brushing and external organisation replaces rubber crumb. Used by Waltham Cross FC, Goff Oak girls FC, Tottenham Hotspur Junior sessions and Leisure Leagues. Project identified in LFFP for 3G and improved changing facilities.
JOHN WARNER SPORTS CENTRE, EN11 0QG	3 x 5-A-Side floodlit 3G pitches	2019 last refurbished	Good	Changing within centre	Education site, run by council - out to tender	29	26 Hours (90%)		70% block bookings, 30% pay and play.
LAURA TROTT LEISURE CENTRE, EN8 9AJ	2 x 5-A-Side floodlit 3G pitches	2015 last refurbished	Standard	Outside changing rooms	Council operated	34	24 Hours (70%)		One pitch is currently not in use due to tree damage in the storm. Pitches due to be lost to new Victorian park development. Proposal to replace it with one new pitch to be elsewhere in the park, subject to planning.
ROSEDALE SPORTS CLUB, (Cheshunt RFC) EN7 6TB	Full Sized Floodlit WRC (Rugby) 3G ATP	2017	Good	New clubhouse in 2018 Inc. 6 CR's, and official's room.	RFU have a 30yr lease on the AGP (Rugby365 prog.)	34	32 Hours (95%) Football use appx 5 hrs.		Pitch close to capacity in peak hours with Rugby usage, pitch also used by football clubs, Broxbourne Girls FC (8 teams), Elite Ballers, Real Cheshunt FC. RFU is responsible for bookings.
THE BROXBOURNE SCHOOL, EN10 7DD	Full sized Floodlit (LED) 3G ATP	2021	Good	Changing rooms in sports hall building - new in 2021	Education Facility CUA in place	34	28 Hours (80%)		Regular maintenance included brushing twice a month by school contractor and refresh / rubber left every 6 months. Facility used by Hoddesdon FC, Wormley Rovers Youth, Cheshunt FC and Wormley FC. There is capacity for use. Project identified in LFFP

There are also several artificial grass pitches in the borough with sand-based playing surfaces designed for hockey as the main sport, but which also accommodate a large amount of demand for small sided football and club training.

Figure 2.6: Hockey sand based AGPs only available for football training - Situation at Individual Sites

Site	AGP Size and Type	Date Built (or last Refurb)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Est. use in Peak Hrs	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
BROXBOURNE SPORTS CLUB, EN10 7BA	Full Sized (63 x 102m) sand dressed ATP	2012, redressed in 2021	Good.	Changing in the main clubhouse (needs updating). Club (BSC) rate 2/5	Club owned - in process of Charity registration.	30	30 Hours (100%) Football use appx 15 hrs.		Pitch has dugouts and small stand (approx. 50 seats) and disabled area. Hockey club has 11 teams, also used for junior team football sessions (3 nights a week) (Wormley Rovers FC, Broxbourne Utd), walking football, triathlon group. No availability in peak hours.
HAILEYBURY TURNFORD SCHOOL, EN8 0JU	Full Sized (60x100m) floodlit sand based ATP	2004	Poor	Changing in school, although not self contained.	Education Facility CUA in place	34	29 Hours (85%) Football use appx 19 hrs.		Use by Cheshunt hockey club, training and matches. Plus football training Broxbourne Utd, East Herts Youth FC, Cheshunt Ravens Walking Football.
JOHN WARNER SPORTS CENTRE, EN11 0QG	54x96m floodlit sand filled ATP	2016 last refurbished	Good. Club (HRFC) rate 3/5	Changing within centre. Club (HRFC) rate 4/5	Education site, management out to tender	29 (Marked for tennis in summer term)	24 Hours (83%) Football use appx 20 hrs.		Used for hockey by Broxbourne Hockey Club (as overflow site) and school. Other hires football, netball. School mark for tennis in summer. Hoddesdon Youth (23 teams), Hoddesdon Rovers FC use for training.

2.14 Proposed New ATPs

There are no committed projects (i.e., with planning consent and funding in place) for further provision of 3G pitches currently although Cheshunt FC has submitted planning for the redevelopment of their stadium to include the provision of a stadia 3G pitch which has been approved on appeal. There was also a proposal for a full sized 3G pitch at Hoddesdon, Rye House Stadium which comes under East Herts District Council, the planning application for this development remains undetermined. There is also a planning application for a new 3G ATP to be provided at Robert Barclay Academy as part of the mitigation from the Cheshunt Country Club site.

2.15 Ancillary Facilities

The ancillary facilities across the borough vary in quality with most sites in need of modernizing. Figures 2.4-2.7 details the situation at each site. Some sites have no provision which limits usage - Goodman Centre Playing Fields, Jones Road Open Space and Nightleys Playing Fields and others require investment to accommodate existing demand and better cater for growth in women and girl's football - Cheshunt Community Sports Park, Cheshunt FC, Flamstead End Rec. Ground, Goffs Churchgate Academy, Goffs Lane Playing Fields, Lowfield Sports Ground, Wormley Sports Club and Waltham Cross playing Fields.

3. Football Demand (Step 3)

The findings relating to football pitch demand in Broxbourne are summarised in this section of the report.

3.1 Clubs and Teams

In February 2023, Broxbourne had a total of 50 affiliated clubs (including separately constituted youth sections of adult clubs) registered to Hertfordshire FA with 234 teams all playing home fixtures on pitches in the borough, plus FAE youth FA with 22 teams who previously used facilities in the borough but have recently relocated to use a 3G artificial pitch in a neighbouring borough. The total of 256 teams is an increase of 82 teams - nearly 47% - since the previous audit in 2013 when 174 affiliated teams were registered to Broxbourne.

Of the 256 Hertfordshire FA affiliated teams in Broxbourne, 49 are adult men's teams (U19 + including veterans and walking football), 3 women's teams (U19+ including veterans), 103 youth teams (comprising of 14 boys' teams, 19 girls' teams and 70 mixed teams) and 93 mini-soccer teams (of which 17 are female specific teams). There are also 8 teams categorised as disability/futsal/rec teams likely to be playing small sided football in the area.

Seven of the clubs have youth sections with 10 or more age group teams. Of these clubs 3 have over 20 teams, Cheshunt Youth with 30 teams, FAE youth FA with 22, Hoddesdon Town Youth with 23, and Wormley Rovers Youth with 38. Hoddesdon Town Youth struggles for suitable training and match day facilities and are based across multiple venues in the borough with no real 'home' base. Wormley Rovers has their own site for matches but travel to multiple venues for training. Cheshunt have their own 3G pitch which helps cater for their match day and training demand as well as supporting other clubs in the area and FAE youth have moved to a neighbouring borough.

20% of teams in the borough are adult teams (down from 32% in 2013), 40% are youth teams (down from 41%) 36% are mini-soccer teams (up from 26%), 3% are teams playing small sided or indoor football in the borough.

3.2 Active Lives Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ (November 2021) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in football in England by adults (aged 16+) increased by 1.2% from 3.2% between November 2020 - November 2021 to 4.4% between November 2021 - November 2022.

If football participation in the borough were at the national average in November 2020-2021 (i.e., 3.2%), this would indicate around 2,584 adults (aged 18+) living in the borough of Broxbourne play football out of an 18+ adult population of approximately 80,745. At the 2021/22 national 16+ football penetration rate of 4.4%, this would suggest circa 3,553 over 18-year-olds in Broxbourne football.

With approximately 52 adult teams currently, the 'adult' football club playing membership in the borough is close to 780 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). Assuming adult football participation in Broxbourne is in line with the current national average of 4.4%, this suggests that over three quarters (78%) of all regular adult football played in the borough is unaffiliated football within small-sided leagues, friendly games, or park kick-about.

3.3 Expressed Demand

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey November 2021-22, Sport England, (April 2023)

Expressed demand in the borough for all levels and types of football is summarised in this section. Sources of demand information include FA databases, club and league websites, club survey returns, and information gathered from site visits and meetings.

Open Age Men's Football - one club based in the Borough of Broxbourne – Cheshunt FC - plays at Step 2 in the National League System (NLS) and one club – Hoddesdon Town FC – plays at Step 5 in the NLS, both of which need to comply with the FA's minimum Ground Grading Guidelines to maintain their league status. Progression in the NLS is dependent on a club's home ground meeting the ground grading requirements at each 'Step'.

Figure 3.1: Senior Adult Football League Clubs

Senior Football Clubs	League	Home Ground	Training Ground
NLS Step 2			
Cheshunt FC	National League South	The Stadium	The Stadium
NLS Step 5			
Hoddesdon Town	Spartan South Midlands FL Herts Senior County FL	Flamstead End	Unknown

Other adult clubs based in the borough and playing within the FA affiliated leagues below the NLS that have been identified are:

Figure 3.2: Men's Adult League Clubs

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
AC Nextgen FC	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Goffs Lane Playing Fields	Unknown
AFC Turnford	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Grundy Park	Unknown
Broxelona FC	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Wormley Playing Fields	Unknown
Broxbourne Badgers	Herts Senior County League	Wormley Sports Club	Ware Football Club
Bullys Crusaders	Hertford & District ORC Sport FL East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Castle Road Playing Fields	Unknown
CF Flamingoes	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Wormley Playing Fields	Unknown
Cheshunt Ravens Walking Football Club	N/A	The Stadium	The Stadium
Cheshunt Rovers	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Wormley Playing Fields	Unknown
Cheshunt Vets	Hertford & District ORC Sport FL	The Stadium	The Stadium
FC Alpha	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	St Marys COE School	Unknown
Goffs Oak Comrades FC	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Goffs Lane Playing Fields	Unknown
Greenbury United	Hertford & District ORC Sport FL	Flamstead End	Unknown
Hertford Stags	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Wodson Park Sport & Rec Centre	Unknown
Hertfordshire Regional College	ECFA East Region	The Stadium	Unknown
Hoddesdon Rovers	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Castle Road Playing Fields, Pound Close Playing Fields	John Warner Sports Centre
Inter Hoddesdon	Hertford & District ORC Sport FL	Goffs Academy	Goffs Academy
PM	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	St Mary's COE School	Unknown

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
Real Cheshunt FC	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Wormley Playing Fields	Rosedale Sports Club, Goffs Academy
Silver Fox	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Grundy Park	Unknown
Southbury FC	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Wormley Playing Fields, St Marys COE School.	Unknown
Spartans United	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Wormley Playing Fields	Unknown
The Herts Prodigies	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Hatham Common	Unknown
Unpredictable FC	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Wormley Playing Fields	Unknown
Warner Brothers	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Grundy Park	Unknown
Waltham Cross FC	Herts Senior County FL	The Stadium	Goffs School
White Hart FC	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Waltham Cross Playing Fields	Unknown
Woo United	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Grundy Park, Goffs Lane Playing Fields	Laura Trott Leisure Centre
Wormley Rovers	Thurlow Nunn League, Herts Senior County FL, Hertford & District ORC Sport FL, Helen Rollason Vets League	Wormley Sports Club	The Broxbourne School
Wormley United	East Herts Corinthian Sun. FL	Wormley Playing Fields	<i>Wodson Park (East Herts)</i>

Youth football - There are 12 youth football clubs in Broxbourne, eight of these have 10 or more teams playing in affiliated leagues. The two largest clubs – Cheshunt Youth and Wormley Rovers Youth regularly put out between 30 and 38 youth teams.

Figure 3.3: Youth and Mini Soccer Clubs

Youth and Mini Soccer Teams	League(S)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(S)
Bows Soccer Academy	Junior Premier League	Goffs Academy	<i>Wodson Park (East Herts)</i>
Broxbourne Borough Youth	Mid Herts Rural Minors League.	Broxbourne Borough V and E FC, Goffs Academy, Goffs Lane Playing Fields	Goffs Academy
Broxbourne United	Mid Herts Rural Minors League.	Robert Barclay Academy	Haileybury Turnford School, Broxbourne Sports Club.
Chars Youth	Mid Herts Rural Minors League.	Goffs – Churchgate Academy	Goffs Academy
Cheshunt Youth	Mid Herts Rural Minors League. Eastern Junior Alliance FL	The Stadium	The Stadium
East Herts Youth FC	Mid Herts Rural Minors League.	Nightleys Playing Field	Haileybury Turnford
Elite Ballers	Mid Herts Rural Minors League	Goffs – Churchgate Academy	Rosedale Sports Club
FAE Youth FC	Mid Herts Rural Minors League	<i>Town Mead (Enfield)</i>	<i>Town Mead (Enfield)</i>
HDYFC	Mid Herts Rural Minors League	Goffs – Churchgate Academy	<i>Lea Valley Academy Sports Centre (Enfield)</i>

Youth and Mini Soccer Teams	League(S)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(S)
Hoddesdon Town youth	Mid Herts Rural Minors League	Broxbourne Rec Ground, John Warner Sports Centre, St Catherines Primary School	The Broxbourne School, John Warner Sports Centre.
Unpredictable Youth	Mid Herts Rural Minors League	Wormley Playing Fields	Unknown
Waltham Cross Youth FC	Mid Herts Rural Minors League	The Stadium	Goffs – Churchgate Academy
Wormley Rovers Youth	Mid Herts Rural Minors League	Wormley Playing Fields	The Broxbourne School

Women's and Girls' Football – Women's and girls' football in Broxbourne has developed greatly since the last PPS with 39 teams across six clubs compared to just 4 teams in 2013. These are listed below. Goffs Oak Girls FC is an FA accredited 'Wildcats' centre offering sessions of non-competitive football for girls aged 5-11 delivered by FA qualified coaches.

Figure 3.4: Clubs with Women and Girl's Teams

Women And Girls' Teams	Leagues	Home Ground	Training Grounds
Broxbourne United Girls FC	Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League	St Mary's COE School, Churchfields COE Academy	Rosedale Sports Club
Cheshunt FC Women	Eastern Region Women's FL	The Stadium	The Stadium
Cheshunt Youth FC	Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League	The Stadium	The Stadium
Goffs Oak Girls FC	Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League	Goffs Academy	Goffs – Churchgate Academy
Waltham Cross FC	Unknown	The Stadium	The Stadium
Wormley Rovers Youth	Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League	Wormley Playing Fields	The Broxbourne School

Disability Football – Broxbourne Borough FC run Cerebral Palsy sessions every Saturday with over 55 players registered. Cheshunt FC provides Adult and Youth pan disability football sessions for all ages and enters teams in the Herts Youth Inclusive Football League.

3.4 Soccer Schools

There is also significant demand for playing space for children's football coaching in Broxbourne, whether from commercial soccer schools or coaching schools organised by local community football clubs. Several youth football clubs based in the borough run development sessions for u5s and u6s and/or soccer schools in the school holidays to generate income for their clubs and as a pathway to feed new teams. Others such as Bows Soccer Academy and Elite Ballers run coaching sessions and after school clubs as their main focus but also run teams as well.

3.5 Casual Demand

Casual football play among groups of children and adults, using free to use open access grass and non-turf facilities in public parks continues to be a major feature of football demand. Indeed, the Active Lives Survey data suggests that over three quarters (78%) of all regular adult football played in the area is unaffiliated football within small-sided leagues, friendly games or park kick-about. Leisure leagues

currently runs 5-A-side leagues one evening a week at Broxbourne School and John Warner Leisure Centre and 3 evenings a week at Goff Churchgate Academy.

As identified in the supply section of the report, Broxbourne provides for informal football demand by maintaining open areas of grass in parks and open spaces, open access MUGAs or single sets of small size goalposts. Where these informal play facilities are provided in parks alongside formal pitches designated for match play, they help to reduce wear of the formal pitches. However, formal pitches can still be subject to unauthorised use by organised teams and soccer schools for training and coaching.

3.6 Unmet / Latent Demand

One club, Waltham Cross Football Club reported unmet demand stating lack of space in the local area has meant the club has to pause the potential of adding 22 more team’s boys/girls from U7 to U17. Other clubs highlighted ambitions for growth to meet perceived latent demand, e.g., teams that could be created if additional pitch provision was available. This information is drawn from the club consultation surveys carried out from November 2022 to May 2023 and therefore only includes those clubs that completed the survey. Conversion of this perceived latent demand into new teams will depend on these clubs engaging sufficient volunteer team managers and coaches as well as securing suitable pitches to play and train on in the peak period.

Figure 3.5 outlines the growth aspirations of clubs, and it is apparent that there is latent demand in the borough for youth football and in particular Girl’s football, following the recent success of the England Women’s team as well as a number of clubs looking to start disability provision.

Figure 3.5: Broxbourne Borough Football Clubs - Self-Reported Team Growth Plans

Club	Growth Aspirations
Bows Soccer Academy	The Club aims to grow to include Girls only football clubs, Disability football and 16+ education.
Broxbourne Borough Youth	The club aims to grow teams but is waiting for a move to new premises with better facilities.
Broxbourne United Girls	We will grow by 1 age group per season and current age groups squad sizes will increase each year as the playing format (team and pitch size) will get larger.
Bullys Crusaders FC	The club has growth ambitions, (no specifics given).
Goffs Oak Girls FC	The club is growing the girls’ sessions from 3 years old up until 18+, their aim is to have a women's team to compete in the league but with that we need a home with a club house.
GT United Youth	The club is looking for a bigger venue and aiming to grow by an extra 4 teams this summer.
Hoddesdon Rovers	The club has growth ambitions, (no specifics given).
Hoddesdon Town Youth FC	To achieve FA accredited status 3 by adding girls, disability, and all age recreational opportunities but are dependent on better playing facilities locally.
Wormley Rovers Sports & Football Club	The club expects girls’ football to continue to grow because of the national team success and they are keen to introduce disability football and support local schools.

3.7 Displaced and Imported Demand

The research and consultation show that as far as match play is concerned, there is some displaced demand of football - i.e., teams of clubs based in Broxbourne having to travel outside the area to find pitches to play home fixtures, with Broxbourne CCFC who plays matches at Hartham Common in Hertford (East Herts) and FAE Youth FC who play on the 3G Artificial Pitch at Town Mead.

A few clubs travel to train on artificial grass pitches out of the borough - e.g., HDYFC at Lea Valley Sports centre, Bows Academy and Wormley United at Wodson Park and FAE Youth FC at Town Mead. Six clubs in the area are training on sand dressed artificial pitches (Broxbourne Utd, Cheshunt Raven Walking Football, East Herts Youth FC, Hoddesdon Rovers FC, Hoddesdon Youth and Wormley Rovers FC) and it is likely some youth training takes place on grass pitches. Some imported demand takes place at Cheshunt FC with FC Romania playing matches on the stadium pitch and Bushill Rangers and Pander FC using the ATP for training.

4. The Situation at Individual Football Sites (Step 4)

4.1 Grass Pitch Sites

The grass football pitches were assessed in November of the 2022/23 season. Most of the sites were assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the FA in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance and Appendices (2013) - i.e., a non-technical visual site assessment. Three of the grass pitch football sites had a more in-depth assessment using the Football Foundation's PitchPower methodology and reporting. Hertfordshire FA have reviewed the findings of these site-specific assessments and agreed the quality ratings as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site can accommodate (i.e., 'carrying capacity') against the amount of play that takes place. Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per season for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use.

The following pitch carrying capacities have been used are consistent with the PPS Guidance methodology, informed (where applicable) by the Performance Quality Standard ratings (from Poor to High) in the three PitchPower Assessment Reports.

Figure 4.1: Grass Football Pitch Carrying Capacity

PPS Guide ratings/ Pitch Power PQS ratings	Adult Football	Youth Football (9v9, 11v11)	Mini Soccer (5v5, 7v7)
	Number of match equivalent sessions a week		
Good / High or Advanced	3	4	6
Standard / Basic or Good	2	2	4
Poor / Poor	1	1	2

The full pitch audit details the situation at each individual football site with regard to:

1. *Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e., its carrying capacity for community use);
2. *The amount of play that takes place at each site* (i.e., the expressed demand where known) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training;
3. *The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
 - **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

There are no sites highlighted from the site audit spreadsheet as **RED** rated sites where the majority of the available natural turf football pitches are overplayed. Five sites have one pitch that is subject to over play, but other pitches are either at capacity or below.

Four sites from the full site audit are **AMBER** rated indicating that the majority of the available natural turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity:

- Cheshunt Community Sports Park (2 pitches)
- The Stadium (Cheshunt FC) (5 pitches)
- Flamstead End Rec. Ground (3 pitches)
- Nightleys Playing Field (4 pitches)
- Waltham Cross Playing Fields (1 pitch)

Figure 4.2 below compares estimates of the total football play on natural grass pitches against available capacity across all the football playing field sites in the areas.

Figure 4.2 total football play on natural grass pitches against available capacity

Pitch Type	Secured Capacity (MES / Week)	Estimated Use (MES/ Week)	Supply / Demand Balance
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	74	51.5	+22.5
Youth 11v11 (U13-U16)	22	17.5	+4.5
Youth 9v9 (U11-U12)	29	18.5	+10.5
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	54	31	+23
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	22	12.5	+9.5
Total	201	131	+70

The table shows that there is a positive supply balance (i.e., unused capacity) of natural turf pitches for football in the area as a whole. However, not all of this accounts for actual spare capacity in peak periods (Sunday AM for adult football, Saturday and Sunday AM for youth football), some sites may be managed to below capacity to account for recreational / friendly matches, others do not have secured community use e.g., education sites and pitches rated as poor quality should also be discounted. Figure 4.3 lists the natural turf playing pitch sites with capacity to determine if this capacity is available in the relevant peak period and secured.

Figure 4.3 - Does the Potential to Accommodate Additional Play Equate to Spare Capacity?

Pitch sites with spare capacity	Is there any reason why additional play could not take place (Y/N)?	Are all the pitches for the particular pitch type used during the relevant peak period (Y/N)?	Pitch Type	Total pitch surplus	Spare capacity in peak (MES)?	Capacity discounted	Comments/ Rationale
Broxbourne Borough V & E FC	N	N	7v7 5v5	3 2	3 2	0 0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football (Sat AM / Sun AM) due to flexible kick off times.
Broxbourne Rec	N	Y	11v11	1	0	1	Pitches used to capacity in peak time for Adult Football (Sun AM)
Castle Road PF	N	Y	11v11	0.5	0	0.5	Pitches used to capacity in peak time for Adult Football (Sun AM)
Churchfields COE Academy	N	N	7v7 5v5	3 2	0 0	3 2	Pitches available but discounted as not secured as no community use agreement in place.
Goffs Academy	N	N	11v11 11v11 (y) 9v9	2 2.5 3	0 0 0	2 2.5 3	Pitches available but discounted as not secured as no community use agreement in place.
Goffs Churchgate Academy	N	N	7v7 5v5	3 3	3 3	0 0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football (Sat AM / Sun AM) due to flexible kick off times.
Goffs Lane PF	N	N	11v11	2.5	1	1.5	P3 not in use offers spare capacity for Adult Football (Sun AM)
Goffs Oak PF	N	N	11v11	2	1	1	P1 currently mothballed but offers spare capacity for Adult Football (Sun AM)
Goodman Centre	N	Y	7v7	1.5	0	1.5	Pitches available during peak times for youth football but discounted due to lack of ancillary facilities.
Grundy Park	N	Y	11v11	2	0	2	Pitches used to capacity in peak time for Adult Football (Sun AM)
Hammond Street	N	N	11v11	1	0	1	P1 currently mothballed and discounted due to poor condition.
Jones Road Open Space	N	N	11v11 (y) 9v9	1.5 1.5	0 0	1.5 1.5	Pitches available during peak times for youth football but discounted due to lack of ancillary facilities.
Nightley's PF	N	N	7v7 5v5	2 2	0 0	2 2	Pitches available during peak times for youth football but discounted due to lack of ancillary facilities.
Old Highway Rec	N	N	9v9	1.5	1.5	0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football (Sat AM / Sun AM) due to flexible kick off times.
Pound Close	N	N	11v11	1	0	1	Pitches have capacity in peak time for Adult Football (Sun AM) but discounted as in poor condition.

Pitch sites with spare capacity	Is there any reason why additional play could not take place (Y/N)?	Are all the pitches for the particular pitch type used during the relevant peak period (Y/N)?	Pitch Type	Total pitch surplus	Spare capacity in peak (MES)?	Capacity discounted	Comments/ Rationale
Robert Barclay Academy	N	N	11v11 7v7 5v5	1.5 0.5 1.5	0 0 0	1.5 0.5 1.5	Pitches available but discounted as not secured as no community use agreement in place and 7v7 and 5v5 pitches are poor.
St Catherine VC CE School	N	N	7v7	4	0	4	Pitches available but not secured as no community use agreement in place.
St Mary's COE School	N	N	11v11 9v9 7v7	1.5 0.5 1	0 0.5 1	1.5 0 0	Most pitches available during peak times for youth football (Sat AM / Sun AM) due to flexible kick off times, except 11v11 pitches limited due to time available in peak.
The Broxbourne School	N	N	11v11 9v9	8 4	2 4	6 0	New pitches with capacity for youth matches and adult games, however not all available in peak period.
The John Warner Sports Centre	N	N	11v11 9v9	0.5 0.5	0 0.5	0.5 0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football (Sat AM / Sun AM) due to flexible kick off times.
The Stewart Edwards Stadium (Lowfield S. Ground)	N	Y	11v11	0.5	0	0.5	Pitches used to capacity in peak time for Adult Senior Football (Sat PM)
Wormley Sports Club	N	N	11v11(y) 7v7 5v5	0.5 6 2	0 6 1.5	0.5 0 0.5	Most pitches available during peak times for youth football (Sat AM / Sun AM) due to flexible kick off times, except 11v11 youth capacity limited due to time available in peak and some 5v5 as pitch poor.
Wormley Playing Fields	N	N	11v11	3.5	0	3.5	Pitches have capacity in peak time for Adult Football (Sun AM) but discounted as in poor condition.

Figure 4.4 below summarises the final capacity in the peak period across each type of natural turf pitch after discounting capacity due to unavailability in peak period or pitches being unsecured or of poor quality or having no ancillary facilities.

Figure 4.4: Grass pitches Supply / Demand Balance –community football sites *

Pitch Type	Secured Capacity (MES / Week)	Estimated Use (MES/ Week)	Supply / Demand Balance	Capacity discounted	Capacity in Peak period
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	74	51.5	+22.5	-23.5	-1
Youth 11v11 (U13-U16)	22	17.5	+4.5	-4.5	0
Youth 9v9 (U11-U12)	29	18.5	+10.5	-4.5	+6
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	54	31	+23	-11	+12
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	22	12.5	+9.5	-6	+3.5
Total	201	131	+70	-49	+20.5

*Includes new pitches at The Broxbourne School being provided in Sept 24 and mothballed sites

It should be noted that whilst the overall supply and demand balance shows a positive balance it should be noted that clubs will use sites based on a number of criteria such as location within the borough, standard of ancillary facilities or the ability to accommodate multiple game, especially for those clubs with a large youth teams, this leads to some sites being used compared to others.

4.3 The FA National Football Facilities Strategy

In 2018, in partnership with the Football Foundation and Sport England, the Football Association developed a ten-year investment plan in facilities for grass roots football - *The National Football Facilities Strategy 2018-2028*. The facilities strategy aims to ensure that by 2028:

- Every FA-affiliated club has access to a 3G artificial pitch for training and potentially matches.
- Accelerated improvements are made to the key grass pitch sites across England to reduce fixture cancellations.

To support delivery of the National Game Strategy aims, Hertfordshire FA - in partnership with the Football Foundation and the county local authorities - is focused on:

- Supporting the development of *Football Hubs*² in strategic locations
- Supporting an agreed portfolio of priority projects for new and improved facilities in each local authority area that will have a significant impact on participation and provide capacity for growth, activated through new *Local Football Facility Plans* (LFFPs), a ten-year vision for football facilities.

4.4 Broxbourne Local Football Facilities Plan

A Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) for Broxbourne was published separately by the Football Foundation in May 2020 informed by consultation with the Council, Hertfordshire FA and the large community football clubs based in the borough.

The priorities for Broxbourne were the delivery of three full size floodlit 3G ATPs, of the projects listed only one has yet to be delivered at Nightleys Playing Fields. Four prioritised projects remain for

² Football Hubs serve major towns and cities with multiple pitches and modern pavilion facilities based around a minimum of 2 full size artificial turf football pitches (FTP).

improvement of grass pitches, at Nightleys Playing Fields, Goffs Lane Playing Fields, Broxbourne Borough FC and Cheshunt Community Sports Park. Three key changing rooms projects are listed at Nightleys Playing Field, Goffs Churchgate Academy (to support 3G) and Flamstead End Recreation Ground.

The Playing Pitch Strategy methodology is more detailed than that used to inform the LFFP investment priorities. Accordingly, whilst in most instances there is a good deal of commonality between the PPS and LFFP in terms of the conclusions reached, this is not always the case. The LFFP does not provide an evidence base to inform the development planning process, so the PPS should be referred to as the evidence base.

4.5 FA Training Scenario for 3G AGP Assessments of Need

The FA has designed a model scenario to help with understanding what demand there may be for full size³ equivalent floodlit 3G AGPs if increased amounts of play were to take place on them. The scenario question tested is: *How many full size floodlit 3G AGPs may be required to meet demand within the borough if all teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G FTP to train on once a week?*

The answer to this scenario question for Broxbourne is set out below based on the current 3.5 full size (or near full size) floodlit 3G FTPs on the FA Register which have full community use for football during peak periods⁴ (The Stadium, Cheshunt FC, Goffs Academy, Goffs Churchgate (0.5) and The Broxbourne School). The ATP at Rosedale Sports Club is excluded as it is predominately used for Rugby.

As a guide the FA suggest that one full size floodlit 3G FTP could potentially accommodate the training demand from 38 teams. The information from the assessment indicates that there are 256 teams playing competitive football in Broxbourne. The 1:38 ratio suggests that 6.73 full size equivalent floodlit 3G FTPs would be required to meet 100% of team football training on 3G within the borough.

As such with only 3.5 accessible full size 3G ATPs, there is a need for at least an additional **3** full size 3G ATP across Broxbourne to meet the demand for training and match play, especially for mini soccer and youth teams.

It should be noted this calculation does not take into account of other demand during the peak period for small-sided leagues, recreational play and targeted community football development programmes outside the affiliated league structure. There are, however, several small sided 5-A-Side pitches in Broxbourne that could help to cater for this large and growing demand.

The club training scenario calculation also takes no account of the accessibility of the available AGPs to the clubs nor cost / affordability issues.

³ A full size 3G FTP measures 106m x 70m including run off/safety margins.

⁴ Weekdays 17:00 - 21:00 (or 19:00 on Fridays) and 09:00 - 17:00 on weekends.

5. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Football (Step 5)

5.1 Grass pitches

A number of playing field sites in Broxbourne have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed, in the main, they are sites that are the home ground for Clubs with a large youth section, such as The Stadium (Cheshunt FC), Nightleys Playing Fields (East Herts Youth FC), Flamstead End (Hoddesdon Youth), and Wormley Sports Club (Wormley Rovers FC). There are also areas such as Waltham Cross with a very small number of pitches for the demand in the area.

There is little to no spare capacity for adult 11v11 and youth 11v11 pitches in the peak period once poor pitches and those unsecured are discounted. There is also a need to improve the stadia facilities at Cheshunt FC and The Stewart Edwards Stadium (Lowfield Sports Ground) to meet the ground grading requirements for the club's current league status and future ambitions.

There is some spare pitch capacity for youth football (9v9, 7v7 and 5v5), however the lack of or standard of ancillary facilities and/or pitches sites mean some sites have little use whilst others are at capacity or overused. There is a large demand for youth and mini-soccer pitches for home fixtures and for some training by several clubs, particularly on Sunday mornings and midweek early evenings, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand, particularly for women and girl's football.

There are also a number of sites that are affected by recreational use. Overall improvements to pitch maintenance and changing rooms provision on key sites would be required to achieve a more even distribution of use as well as securing pitches on educational sites through community use agreements.

The PitchPower report findings for the key club sites (Cheshunt FC, Lowfield Sports Ground and Wormley Sports Club) in Broxbourne identify potential for enhanced quality and playing capacity at these sites if the ongoing pitch maintenance can be improved.

ATPs

Demand has recovered from the Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions in season 2021/22 and clubs experiencing further growth. The trends in football point to the continuing growth in the recreational game including walking football and women's recreation provision and, among the affiliated clubs, for more small-sided football teams for the younger age groups, especially girls' football, as such the provision of more full size 3G football ATPs linked to large youth clubs will help to meet the needs of these clubs for training and matches.

To contribute to the FA's strategic priorities, there is a need to improve the supply of FA registered 3G ATPs in Broxbourne to reduce the need for any training on grass pitches and accommodate more match play by youth teams which will reduce the number of over-marked and overused natural turf pitches.

5.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2033 on the need for football pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. Figure 5.1 shows that team generation rates for the area predicts there will be an increase of 42 teams in the area, 9 adult teams and 33 youth teams.

Figure 5.1: Team generation rates.

Age Group	Current Pop. in Age group	Current no of teams	Team Gen. Rate	Future Pop. in age group	Predicted future no. of teams	No of home matches per week	Natural Grass pitches per type
Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	17,630	49	360	2976.69	8.27	4.14	4.39
Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	17,959	3	5986	3032.24	0.51	0.25	
Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	2,588	43	60	436.96	7.26	3.63	4.81
Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	2,441	14	174	412.14	2.36	1.18	
Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	1,303	36	36	220.00	6.07	3.04	3.88
Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	1,239	10	124	209.20	1.69	0.84	
Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	2,431	55	44	410.46	9.28	4.64	4.64
Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	2,519	38	66	425.31	6.42	3.21	3.21
					41.86		20.93

To meet football demand from 16,387 additional residents (as currently forecast⁵) and assuming current levels of football demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +4.39 adult football pitches, +8.69 youth football pitches and +7.85 mini soccer pitches will be needed in the area (totaling +21 natural turf pitches) as well as +1.10 additional 3G pitches. Figure 5.2 outlines the effects of future demand on pitch capacity based on population growth.

Figure 5.2 Changes in capacity after accounting for future demand.

Pitch Type	Capacity in Peak period	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Future demand	Total
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	-1	4.5	-5.5
Youth 11v11 (U13-U16)	0	5	-5
Youth 9v9 (U11-U12)	+6	4	2
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	+12	4.5	7.5
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	+3.5	3	0.5
	+20.5	21	

Potential effect of demand trends (how pitch sports are played) – Among adults, national trends show a reduction in interest in taking part in sports that demand a commitment to regular attendance, in favour of more casual involvement. This national picture is reflected in Broxbourne where Hertfordshire FA adult team affiliations have decreased slightly (from 56 in 2013 to 52 in 2022), although there has been an increase in Women’s teams (0 in 2013 to 3 in 2022).

Youth football continues to show a growth trend, but this growth is hard to sustain through the older youth age groups from age 15yrs when exams and other interests tend to impact. The biggest growth

⁵ ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

in Broxbourne has been in youth and mini soccer teams with an additional 78 teams (from 118 in 2013 to 196 in 2022) and clubs through their survey returns have indicated further growth aspirations for youth teams. A total of ten clubs outlined growth aspirations and whilst clubs are reliant on volunteers to deliver this growth it is reasonable to suggest that with sufficient facilities each club could grow by 1-2 teams a year, resulting in a possible additional 10-20 youth teams a year.

Following the success of the England Women's team in the European championships and the FA's investment in development programmes such as the girls football school's partnership and Wildcats and Squad Girls at club level there is likely to be a further increase in demand for girls' football in particular.

In light of these trends, the clubs' aspirations for team growth and development initiatives, the balance of future need is likely to be greater than indicated by the PPC for 3G and natural turf pitches.

6. Key findings and Issues for Football (Step 6)

Figure 6.1: Football Key Findings and Issues

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision
<p>There have been changes to the facilities for football in Broxbourne since the last facility review in 2013 with the provision of 4.5 new full sized 3G artificial turf pitches at Cheshunt FC, Goffs Academy, The Broxbourne School, Rosedale Sports Club and Goffs Churchgate Academy (0.5 pitch) as well as some improvements to the drainage of grass pitches at Wormley Sports Club.</p> <p>80 grass pitches are identified as available for community football across the borough, on 26 operational playing pitch sites. This includes 3 adult council pitches currently mothballed at Goffs Lane Playing Fields, Goffs Oak Playing Fields and Hammond Street Playing Fields as well as newly laid pitches at The Broxbourne School (2x 11v11). A number of pitches in the area are over-marked to accommodate smaller sided games (e.g., 9v9 on 11v11 or 5v5 on 7v7).</p> <p>There are further pitches on school playing fields in the borough, however at most of these school sites, there is no clear potential to open up them up for community use. A recently closed site, Cheshunt Country Club had 2x 11v11 pitches and the site has been allocated for development in the Local Plan if alternative playing field provision can be identified.</p> <p>Key trends in football demand identified in 2013 have continued to impact. These include sustained growth in the recreational game (including veteran and walking football) and in youth football and mini soccer with increasing numbers of girls playing. The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions also impacted very significantly towards the end of season 2019/20 and throughout 2020/21. However, football demand recovered to pre-pandemic levels in 2021/22 and is now growing.</p> <p>In February 2023, Broxbourne had a total of 50 affiliated clubs (including separately constituted youth sections of adult clubs) registered to Hertfordshire FA with 256 teams. This is an increase of 82 teams - nearly 47% - since the previous audit in 2013 when 174 affiliated teams were registered to Broxbourne.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?
<p>A number of playing field sites in Broxbourne have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed, in the main, they are sites that are the home ground for Clubs with a large youth section, such as The Stadium (Cheshunt FC), Nightleys Playing Fields (East Herts Youth FC), Flamstead End (Hoddesdon Youth), and Wormley Sports Club (Wormley Rovers FC). There are also areas such as Waltham Cross with a very small number of pitches for the demand in the area. One club, Waltham Cross Football Club reported unmet demand stating lack of space in the local area has meant the club has to pause the potential of adding 22 more team’s boys/girls from U7 to U17.</p> <p>There is little to no spare capacity for adult 11v11 and youth 11v11 pitches in the peak period once poor pitches and those unsecured are discounted. There is some spare pitch capacity for youth football (9v9,7v7,5v5), however the lack of or standard of ancillary facilities and/or pitches mean some sites have little use whilst others are at capacity or overused.</p> <p>There are also a number of sites that are affected by recreational use. Overall improvements to pitch maintenance and changing room provision on key sites would be required to achieve a more even distribution of use as well as securing pitches on educational sites through community use agreements.</p> <p>For youth/mini soccer football and training, shortfalls remain. Pinch points continue to be experienced by several clubs, particularly on Sunday mornings for match play and midweek early evenings for squad</p>

training, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand, particularly for girl's football. Currently, there are over 5 affiliated youth football teams for every available grass pitch and in the case of mini soccer (7v7 or 5v5) there are nearly 4 teams per grass pitch. There are also several clubs who travel outside of the borough for training. To meet the shortfall in current supply investment is needed in the provision of more full size 3G football ATP linked to large youth clubs to help to meet the needs of these clubs for training and matches.

Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

The football AGPs in the area are good quality, many with newly laid playing surfaces. A number of grass pitches are of a poor-quality suffering from poor natural drainage, compaction of the ground and overuse, thereby limiting the playing capacity of these pitches. To address this issue on a large scale it would require significant additional investment in maintenance works at the frequencies required to effectively aerate and de-compact the playing surfaces of the poor-quality natural turf pitches.

The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at the three key sites assessed. In most cases, this will necessitate increased revenue investment in enhanced pitch maintenance regimes supported by grant funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Fund.

New, or upgraded pavilions are required at a number of sites to accommodate existing demand and better cater for growth in women and girl's football. These include Cheshunt Community Sports Park, Cheshunt FC, Flamstead End Rec. Ground, Goffs Churchgate Academy, Goffs Lane Playing Fields, Lowfield Sports Ground, Wormley Sports Club and Waltham Cross playing Fields. The following sites Goodman Centre Playing Fields, Jones Road Open Space and Nightleys Playing Fields have no current provision and consideration should be made to provide basic provision for youth football especially at the Goodman Centre Playing Fields and Nightleys Playing Fields.

What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?

Future demand for football facilities is likely to grow substantially increasing pressure on the existing supply. By 2033, assuming current levels of participation per capita and the forecast population growth, application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator tool indicates there will be a requirement to provide an additional 21 more natural turf pitches plus around 41 additional weekly training slots on a 3G artificial pitch.

The growth plans of the borough-based football clubs will also place further pressure on pitch supply. Ten clubs responded to the survey indicating they have aspirations to increase the number of teams they run over the coming seasons provided they have sufficient volunteers and pitches for matches and training can be secured.

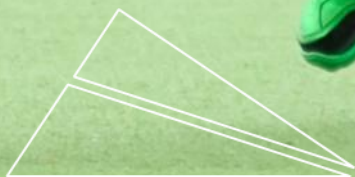
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

Over the period of the strategy to 2033, to address forecast population growth, unmet demand identified by clubs, particularly for women and girls' football, and to deliver on the FA's strategy to transfer more affiliated competitive football to 3G surfaces, further secured provision of 3G ATP pitches is needed.

Investment in at least 4 additional full sized FA registered 3G ATP's to be located in key areas to facilitate training and match play demands of large youth clubs should be the priority over the plan period. This includes three 3G pitches to meet the FA's calculation of one pitch for every 38 teams and one additional 3G to meet forecasted population growth requirements.

Additional natural turf pitches are needed for adult 11v11 and youth 11v11 teams for match play by 2033 in light of the scale of forecast population growth. There are several Adult 11v11 pitches currently mothballed that have been included in the current supply so these need to be brought back into use or alternative provision supplied elsewhere in addition to providing new pitches to accommodate future population growth. Securing community use on education sites and additional 3G ATP's in the area will help with growth aspirations of youth football and improvements made to pitch quality should be explored to increase capacity on key grass football sites such as Nightleys Playing Field and Wormley Playing Fields.

Broxbourne Borough Council
Playing Pitch Strategy 2023
Appendix C
Assessment of Need Report
Hockey



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Appendix C: Hockey - Assessment of Needs (Stages B and C)

The findings of the assessment of needs for hockey facilities in Broxbourne are summarised in this appendix of the main Playing Pitch Strategy.

There are two Hockey clubs based in the borough – Cheshunt HC and Broxbourne HC. Both clubs have contributed information and views on hockey facility needs via online survey returns and direct consultation.

Since the last assessment for the 2013 PPS a former floodlit sand-based pitch at Goffs academy has been upgraded to provide a football compliant 3G playing surface and is therefore no longer suitable for hockey.

1. Hockey Supply (Step 2)

1.1 Hockey Pitches in Broxbourne

There is currently three full sized (or near full sized) sand based artificial grass pitches (AGP) in Broxbourne currently available and used for community hockey:

The pitches were quality-assessed during the 2022 season on the basis of site visits and informed by consultation surveys with the user clubs and with England Hockey. Figure 1.1 details the situation at each site.

The availability of the pitches for community hockey use are usually dependant on bookings by other sports (e.g., football, touch rugby, lacrosse, tennis). For each site, this is noted in column headed ' Estimate use in peak hours.

The Red Amber Green (RAG) rating refers to whether, in the peak period in a typical week in the main hockey season, there is considered to be:

- Unused capacity for hockey - **Green**
- The available peak slots for hockey are used close to capacity - **Amber**, or
- The available peak slots for hockey are at capacity - **Red**.

Indoor Hockey

There are no sports hall in the area suitable for competition indoor hockey.

Figure 1.1: Situation at Individual Sites

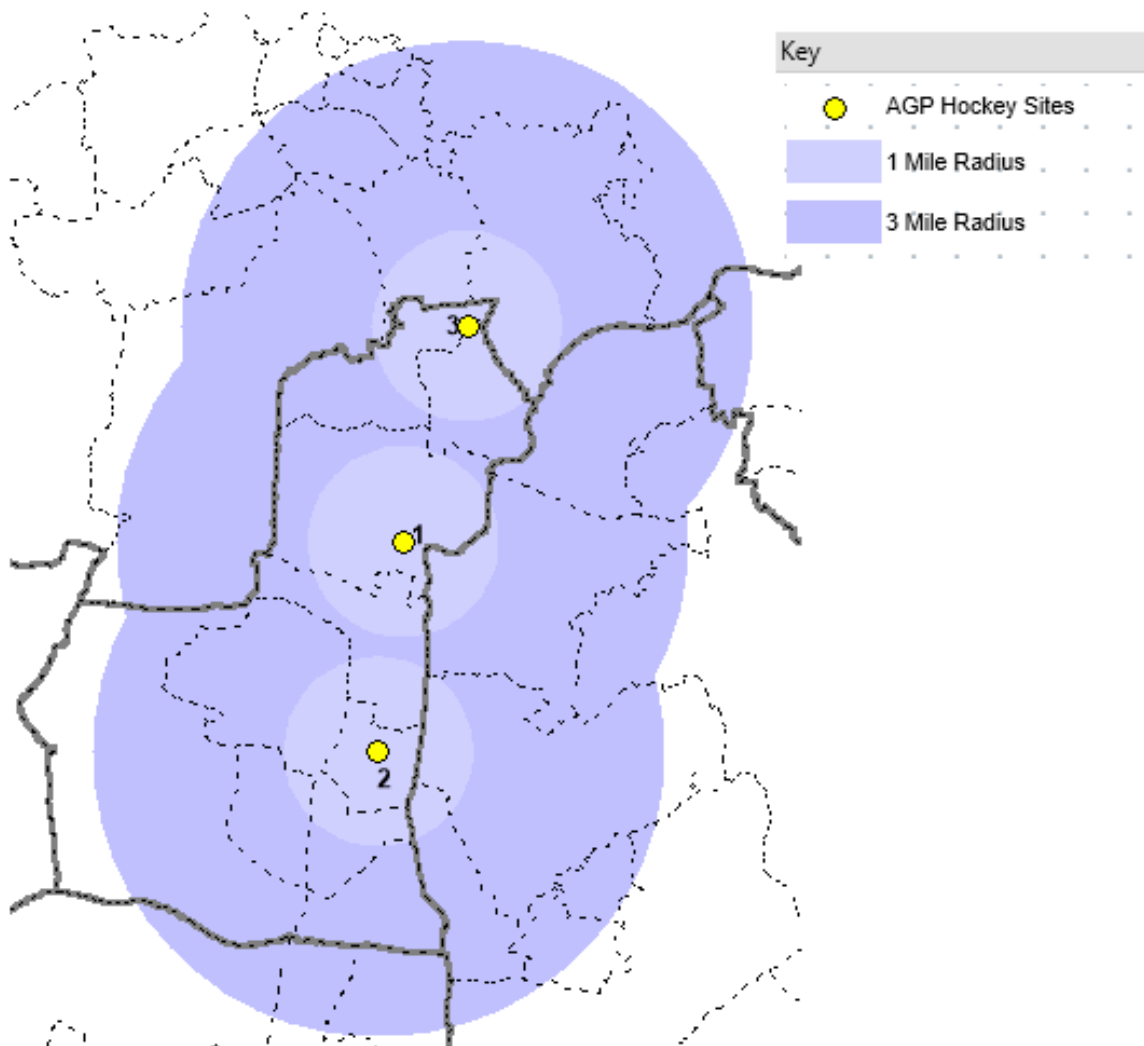
Site	AGP Size and Type	Date built (last refurb.)	Ancillary facilities	Security of access & ownership	Rating	Peak hours available	Est'd use in peak hours	RAG	Comments/ Assumptions
BROXBOURNE SPORTS CLUB, EN10 7BA	Full Sized (63 x 102m) sand dressed ATP	2012, redressed in 2021	Changing in main clubhouse (needs updating). Club (BSC) rate 2/5	Club owned - in process of Charity registration.	Good. Club (BSC) rate 5/5	30	30 Hours (100%) Hockey use appx 15 hrs		Pitch has dugouts and small stand (approx. 50 seats) and disabled area. Broxbourne hockey club has 9 adult teams (4 male, 5 female, 2 vets) and junior section (11 teams) and is at capacity for match space. Pitch also used for junior team football sessions (3 nights a week) (Wormley Rovers FC, Broxbourne Utd), walking football, triathlon group. No availability in peak hours.
HAILEYBURY TURNFORD SCHOOL, EN8 0JU	Full Sized (60x100m) floodlit sand dressed ATP	2004	Changing in school, although not self-contained.	Education Facility CUA in place	Poor	34	29 Hours (85%) Hockey use appx 10 hrs		Use by Cheshunt hockey club (3 teams - 2 male, 1 female), training and matches. Club report no access to changing facilities and state the pitch is in need of refurbishment. Also used for football training Broxbourne Utd, East Herts Youth FC, Cheshunt Ravens Walking Football.
JOHN WARNER SPORTS CENTRE, EN11 0QG	54x96m floodlit sand filled ATP	2016 last refurbished	Changing within centre.	Education site, management out to tender	Good.	29 (Marked for tennis in summer term)	24 hours (83%) Hockey use appx 4 hrs		Used by for hockey by Broxbourne Hockey Club (as overflow site) and school. Other hires football, netball. School mark for tennis in summer (no community tennis hire). Hoddeson Youth (23 teams), Hoddeson Rovers FC use for training

1.2 Distribution of Hockey AGP Sites

Figure 1.1 shows the distribution of full-sized (or near full sized) hockey AGP sites across Broxbourne. This shows that the distribution of sand based AGP sites is relatively even across the borough and most residents are within a 20 minute drive time of a pitch.

Key	Site Name	Postcode
1	Broxbourne Sports Club	EN10 7BA
2	Haileybury Turnford School	EN8 0JU
3	John Warner Sports Centre	EN11 0QG

Figure 1.2- Distribution of Hockey AGPs



1.3 Hockey AGP's in Neighbouring Boroughs

There is a sand filled pitch at Southbury Leisure Centre (LB Enfield) which is within a 20-minute drive time of residents in the South of the Borough of Broxbourne. The nearest Hockey clubs are between 20-30 minutes' drive away at Hertford HC (East Herts) to the north and Southgate Hockey Club (LB Barnet) to the South.

Generally, hockey players (and parents of junior players) are prepared to travel some distance to access good quality facilities, coaching and standards of match play.

1.4 Ownership, Operation, Quality and Access

Broxbourne Sports club is club owned and operated for the benefit of members with the hockey club represented on the committee. The other pitches are on education sites and used by the school for hockey, with community use being for hockey as well as football clubs for training. The club Cheshunt HC has no long-term security on the site with just an annual hire agreement.

The pitch at Haileybury Turnford has not been refurbished since it was built in 2004 and is now 19 years old and in poor condition, the club also reported it is in need of refurbishment and improved maintenance. The club also have no access to changing facilities for matches just toilets.

The other two pitches are in good condition having been refurbished in 2021 (Broxbourne Sports Club) and 2016 (John Warner Sports Centre).

1.5 At Risk Sites

Haileybury Turnford School is due to be rebuilt, it is currently unknown the affect this will have on the sports facilities at the school, but it is important to ensure these are protected for current community use and enhanced where possible.

1.6 Proposed New Supply

There is no known proposed new supply in the area.

2. Hockey Demand (Step 3 and 4)

Findings relating to hockey pitch demand in Broxbourne are summarised below.

2.1 Clubs and Teams

There are currently two hockey clubs based in the area – Broxbourne HC and Cheshunt HC

- **Broxbourne Hockey Club** serves both adult and junior players across the area. They have 160 adult members and 106 junior members with 40% of their membership coming from Broxbourne 60% from other areas including London, Essex, North and West Herts. The club has 9 adult teams (4 Male and 5 Female) playing every Saturday (and some Sunday's), a Male Vets team, an older adults' male team and a large junior section with squads at U8, U10, U12, U14 U16 for boys and girls. The club is continuously growing their junior base and state they have capacity to provide more teams if they need to.
- **Cheshunt Hockey Club** has four adult teams (2 Male, 1 Female and 1 Adult mixed). They have 56 members with 70% of their membership coming from Broxbourne, the remaining 30% from North Herts and Welwyn Hatfield. The club lost members during Covid and have been unable to attract new members due to the facilities available to them.

2.2 Club Players - Demand Trend

Player affiliation data by age provided by England Hockey in recent seasons shows demand for hockey participation is recovering but is still not back to pre-covid levels at 247 affiliated players.

- 2022/23 – 247 people (200 Broxbourne HC 47 Cheshunt HC)
- 2019/20 – 260 people (213 Broxbourne HC, 62 Cheshunt HC)

2.3 Displaced Demand

Due to the location of both clubs being in the North of the area it is likely some players from the South of the area may travel outside of the area to play hockey.

2.4 Active Lives Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ (November 2021) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in hockey in England by adults (aged 16+) had increased to 0.3% from 0.2% between November 2020 and November 2021.

If hockey participation in the area were at the national average (i.e., 0.3%), this would indicate around 242 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play hockey out of an 18+ adult population of approximately 80,745.

With 15 adult teams currently, the 'adult' hockey club playing membership in the borough is close to 225 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). Accounting for the percentage of imported demand as evidenced by the club's survey responses, membership from within Broxbourne accounts for approximately 106 adult players. If we then assume adult hockey participation in Broxbourne is in line with the national average of 0.3%, this suggests that as much as 56% of all regular adult hockey played by residents in Broxbourne is either 'displaced' to venues outside of the area (e.g., at other clubs) or takes place in informal, social game formats such as Back2Hockey which both clubs provide.

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey November 2021-22, Sport England, (April 2023)

2.5 Club Aspirations - Hockey Development Priorities and Facility Needs

- **Broxbourne HC** have plans to grow over the next 3 years and are always recruiting and growing their junior base. The club state they have capacity to take on more teams if needed.
- **Cheshunt HC** have plans to grow and add younger members by running back to hockey sessions. The club however state they struggle to attract new members due to the unwelcoming facilities.

3. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Hockey (Step 5)

3.1 Current

Since the last assessment of hockey facility needs in 2013, the main changes of relevance are:

- Loss of Goff’s Academy sand dressed AGP to a football specific surface (3G AGP).
- The deterioration of the surface at Haileybury Turnford school
- The refurbishment of John Warner Sports centre and Broxbourne Sports Club AGP’s.
- The continued growth in the size of the main hockey club in the area – Broxbourne HC – with the development an additional adult team.

Current priority facility issue facing the sport of hockey in Broxbourne are the deterioration of the surface at Haileybury Turnford School and lack of access to changing rooms, as well as the clubs lack of security on the site. Access to the site is likely to be complicated further by the proposed new school build.

3.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2033 on the need for hockey pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the number of teams and junior training squads likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. Figure 3.1 shows that team generation rates for the area predicts there will be an increase of 2.5 adult teams in the area and Figure 3.2 shows the predicted future number of junior training squads.

Figure 3.1 Team generation rates.

Age Group	Current population in Age group	Current no of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future Population of age group	Predicted future number of teams
Men (17-55yrs)	3914.10	8	2898	3913.90	1.35
Women (17-55yrs)	4113.00	7	3480	4112.74	1.18
					2.53

Figure 3.2 Junior Member Generation Rates.

Age Group	Current population in Age group	Current no of Junior Members	Junior Member Generation Rate	Future Population of age group	Predicted future number of junior training squads
Boys (14-16yrs)	326.20	20	96.60	326.18	0.08
Girls (14-16yrs)	301.38	20	89.25	301.33	0.08
Boys (11-13yrs)	328.91	10	194.80	328.74	0.04
Girls (11-13yrs)	309.32	16	114.50	309.17	0.07
Mixed (5-10yrs)	1257.37	40	186.18	1257.14	0.11

To meet hockey demand from 16,387 additional residents (as currently forecast²) and assuming current levels of hockey demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +0.32 additional sand based artificial grass pitches suitable for hockey

² ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

will be needed in the area based on the need for 1.27 additional match equivalent sessions and a total of 4.28 hours use per week (3.80 adult, 0.48 junior).

Whilst Broxbourne Hockey Club has aspirations to grow, they state the facility has capacity to provide for additional teams and they utilise space at John Warner Sports Centre when needed. There is also some additional capacity at Haileybury Turnford School to provide for growth at Cheshunt Hockey Club. Based on this there is no demand for additional pitches to be provided in the area, but the clear priority need is to protect the existing quantity of pitch supply in the area.

3.3 Conclusion

To better meet current and likely future needs for the sport of hockey in Broxbourne, the strategy should seek to:

- Protect the current supply of sand based artificial pitches in the area.
- To refurbish the pitch at Haileybury Turnford school and secure suitable access to changing rooms.

4. Key Findings and Issues for Hockey (Step 6)

Figure 4.1: Key Findings and Issues

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision
<p>There is currently three full sized (or near full sized sand based artificial grass pitches) in the borough currently available and used for community hockey at Broxbourne Sports Club Haileybury Turnford School and John Warner Sports.</p> <p>Since the last assessment for the 2013 PPS the sand-based pitch at Goffs Academy has been upgraded to provide a football compliant 3G playing surface and is no longer suitable for Hockey.</p> <p>Player affiliation data by age provided by England Hockey in recent seasons suggests demand for hockey is recovering but is still not fully back to pre-covid levels.</p> <p>There are two hockey clubs in the area; Broxbourne Hockey Club which caters for both youth and adult players, running a total of 11 adult teams (4 Male, 5 Female, a Male vet’s team and an older Adult’s Male team) and has a large junior section consisting of 11 teams, and Cheshunt Hockey Club who have 4 adult teams (2 Male, 1 Female and 1 Adult mixed).</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?
<p>There is sufficient provision in the area to meet current demand. However, the access for Cheshunt HC, at Haileybury Turnford School is not secure and the pitch is of poor quality.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?
<p>The pitch quality at Haileybury Turnford School is in need of refurbishment and the club has no access to changing rooms on match days.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?
<p>Both clubs have plans to grow over the next 3 years. Broxbourne Hockey Club state they have capacity to offer more teams and they utilise space at John Warner Sports Centre when needed. There is also some additional capacity at Haileybury Turnford School to provide for growth at Cheshunt Hockey Club.</p> <p>The forecast population growth to 2033 of over 16,387 additional residents based on 2018 ONS housing-led projections, is estimated to generate little demand for additional pitches.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>future</u> demand?
<p>Whilst the clubs have aspirations to grow, it is not beyond the capacity of the pitches in the area, as such there is no demand for additional supply in Broxbourne, however there is a need to protect the current supply of sand dressed pitches and improve the quality of the provision by resurfacing the pitch at Haileybury Turnford, as well as opening up access to changing facilities.</p>




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Broxbourne Borough Council
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Appendix D –
Assessment of Need Report
Rugby

Appendix D: Rugby - Assessment of Needs (Stages B and C)

The findings of the assessment of needs for rugby facilities in Broxbourne are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. Site visits have been made to the home grounds used by the clubs in Broxbourne and club officials/site managers have been consulted regarding floodlit training provision and use. Consultation with Rugby League suggests there is no current activity in the area, with the nearest club being in St Albans, approximately 30-40 minutes away.

Since the last assessment of needs for rugby union in 2013, there has been a change in the supply of rugby pitches with the loss of two grass pitches but the addition of a Rugby 365 Floodlit Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP).

A facility audit compiled from the research, consultation and site visits was reviewed by the RFU Facility Development Team and is included in this report (Figure 3.1).

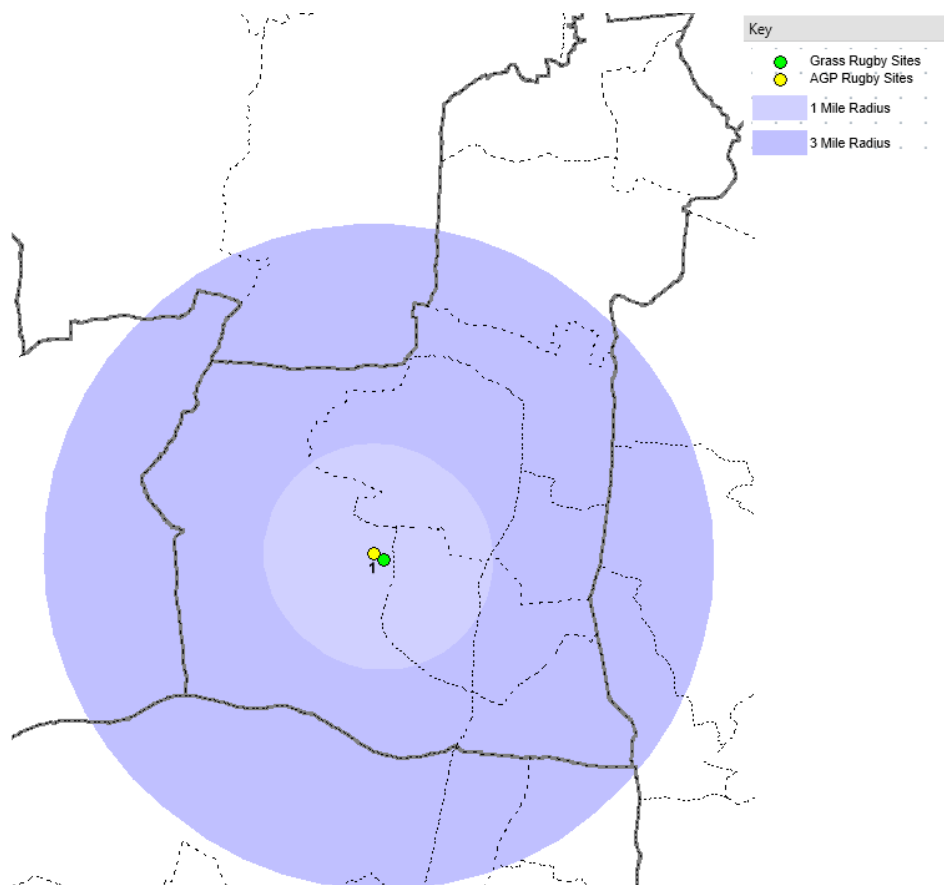
1. Rugby Pitch Supply (Step 2)

There is one rugby club based on playing field sites in Broxbourne with rugby pitches – Cheshunt RFC

Distribution of Rugby Sites

Figure 1.1 shows the distribution of grass and artificial rugby pitch sites across Broxbourne. The location of facilities is located in the South of the borough and whilst accessible to the majority of residents across the borough within a 20-minute drive time, there is a gap in provision to the North of the borough, so it is likely some residents may travel outside of the borough to play at Hertford RFC in East Herts.

Figure 1.1 – Broxbourne Rugby facilities



Broxbourne - Rugby facilities (Grass and compliant AGPs)		
Key	Site	Postcode
1	Rosedale Sports Club – Grass Pitches	EN7 6TB
2	Rosedale Sports Club - AGP	EN7 6TB

1.1 Rugby Pitches in Broxbourne

In the 2022/23 season, Broxbourne had a total of 4 adult size grass rugby pitches marked out with posts in situ (although only 2 are available for community use). There is also one rugby compliant floodlit AGP in the Borough. Details on individual sites can be found in Figure 1.2.

1.2 Ownership and Security of Access

Cheshunt RFC has good security of access with a long lease on the facilities they use for home matches. They have 12 hours of agreed usage on the Rugby AGP as part of the Rugby 365 programme. The RFU manage the bookings on the pitch for a period of 30 years from installation in 2017. 25 years are left on the agreement which covers the maintenance of the pitch and replacement of the surface twice (every 10 years). At the point the pitch is handed back to the club to control the surface will have 10 years of life left.

1.3 Pitch Quality – Maintenance and Drainage

Maintenance of grass rugby pitches in Broxbourne is the responsibility of the home club. As shown in figure 1.1 the maintenance of the grass pitches is good, but the drainage could be improved.

The artificial pitch is in good condition and maintained by the RFU centrally.

Figure 1.1 – Pitch Maintenance and Drainage Ratings from Site Visits and Club Consultation.

Number of pitches		Maintenance			Total
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)	
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)			2	2
	Natural Adequate (D1)				
	Pipe Drained (D2)				
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)				
	Total			2	

Figure 1.2: The Situation at Individual Site

The main characteristics of the current rugby facility supply and demand balance at each site are summarised as follows:

Site	Pitch	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Pitch capacity	Use 21/22	Capacity Def / Surplus	RAG	Comments/assumptions
ROSEDALE SPORTS CLUB (Cheshunt RFC) EN7 6TB	P1 (nearest carpark - floodlit)	M2/ D0	New clubhouse in 2018 Inc. 6 CR's, physio and official's room. Function space Fully accessible. Club (RSC) rate 5/5	Club has long term lease on facility, RFU has 30-year lease on pitch as part of Rugby 365 programme	2	Matches 1 (2 senior and 2 junior games a month)	0		Home to Cheshunt Rugby club who have 3 adult teams (3 men's, 1 ladies - merged men's 2 and 3rd team due to league issues this season but play ad hoc games) and full junior and mini section. Club reported the Grass rugby pitches suffer poor drainage due to clay base, often waterlogged, far pitch has recently had issue with horses trampling pitch. Floodlights only suitable for training and not match use. P2 - used occasionally for mini matches, also have grass field, not marked out but used for mini training.
						Training 1 (overflow Junior training)			
ROSEDALE SPORTS CLUB (Cheshunt RFC) EN7 6TB	P2 (furthest floodlit)	M2/ D0	Fully accessible. Club (RSC) rate 5/5	Club has long term lease on facility, RFU has 30-year lease on pitch as part of Rugby 365 programme	2	Matches 1.5 (mini)	0		Mainly all adult and junior training on AGP (some overflow onto grass) plus 1/2 matches, club state if needed they stagger kick offs.
						Training 0.5 (junior)			
Site	Pitch	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Peak hours available	Estimated use in peak hrs	Capacity Def / Surplus	RAG	Comments/assumptions
ROSEDALE SPORTS CLUB, (Cheshunt RFC) EN7 6TB	Full Sized Floodlit WRC (Rugby) 3G AGP, Installed 2017	Good	New clubhouse in 2018 Inc. 6 CR's, physio and official's room. Function space Fully accessible. Club (RSC) rate 5/5	Club has long term lease on facility, RFU has 30-year lease on pitch as part of Rugby 365 programme	34	32 (90%) Includes football use approx. 5 hrs	2 hours		Pitch close to capacity in peak hours with Rugby usage (Cheshunt RFC) Tues, wed eves and Sat PM / Sunday AM. (one/ two adult games plus junior games) Cuffley RFC Thursday eve half pitch training, Enfield Ignatians Half pitch Thurs eve, plus school / Herts RFU bookings and football clubs, Broxbourne Girls FC (8 teams). RFU responsible for bookings. Only availability Friday & Sunday evenings.

1.4 Park Pitches

There are no maintained open access rugby pitches in parks in Broxbourne.

1.5 At Risk Sites

There is a proposed change in the configuration of pitches at Rosedale Sports Club due to a neighbouring housing development and access required. The club currently has access to two floodlight grass pitches and a separate grass field they use for their mini teams training. The change is for one of the grass pitches to be rotated and drainage installed and a second pitch to be marked out on the field they use for their mini's training (currently an overflow site). It is essential that two full sized grass pitches are retained on site for club use, with at least one being floodlit. The planning application remains undetermined.

1.6 Proposed New Supply

There are no current committed projects for changes to the existing supply of rugby pitches in the site area, other than that proposed at Rosedale Sports Club.

1.7 Ancillary Facilities

The clubhouse and changing facilities at Rosedale Sports Club have recently been invested in and were rebuilt in 2018, however the club have identified a need for additional parking and enhanced social space to be accommodated on site.

1.8 Rugby Supply in Neighbouring Boroughs

The following rugby clubs have home grounds within reach of residents of Broxbourne:

- Hertford RFC – To the North, East Herts
- Cuffley RFC – To the South west, in LB Enfield
- Enfield Ignatians RFC – To the South, in LB Enfield

It is expected some of these clubs have members from Broxbourne, Hertford RFC is likely to attract residents from the North of the borough and both Cuffley and Enfield Ignatians RFC have grounds within reach of residents in the South of the borough and both clubs train on the AGP at Rosedale Sports Club.

2. Rugby Pitch Demand (Step 3)

Findings relating to rugby pitch demand in Broxbourne are summarised below.

2.1 Clubs and Teams

Cheshunt RFC has two regular adult men's Saturday league sides, one ladies team (see Fig 2.1) and a full junior section offering both youth boys age grade rugby and mixed mini rugby. They previously had 3 men's teams but due to issues with the league this season merged the men's 2nd and 3rd team. Although they still play ad hoc fixtures.

Figure 2.1: Table of senior rugby club information

Ruby Clubs	2022/23 League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
Cheshunt RFC 1 st XV	Counties 2 Herts/ Middx	Rosedale Sports Club	Rosedale Sports Club
Cheshunt RFC 2 nd XV	Merit 1 North	Rosedale Sports Club	Rosedale Sports Club
Cheshunt RFC 3 rd XV	Friendlies	Rosedale Sports Club	Rosedale Sports Club
Cheshunt RFC Ladies	Women's NC 3 South East	Rosedale Sports Club	Rosedale Sports Club

2.2 Active Lives Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in rugby in England by adults (aged 16+) increased from at 0.3% between November 2020 – 2021 to 0.4% in November 2021-2022.

If rugby participation in the Borough were at the national average (i.e., 0.4%), this would indicate around 323 adults (aged 18+) living in the area plays rugby out of an 18+ adult population of approximately 80,745.

With approximately 4 teams of players aged 16+ currently, the 'adult' rugby club playing membership in the Borough is close to 140 players (assuming an average of 35 squad players per team). Assuming adult rugby participation in Broxbourne is in line with the national average of 0.4%, this suggests that over half of adults (53%) play rugby at clubs outside of the area (displaced demand) or participate in informal, social game formats such as Touch at clubs and parks in Broxbourne and outside the Borough.

2.3 Imported and Displaced Demand

There is imported demand for training by Cuffley RFC and Enfield Ignatians RFC who both use Rosedale AGP for training. There is no known displaced demand of clubs using facilities outside of the borough.

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 2021/22, Sport England, (April 2023)

3. The Situation at Individual Sites for Rugby (Step 4)

The pitches were assessed during November in the 2022/23 season. These assessments were reviewed in discussion with the RFU and ratings for each agreed as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site could accommodate (its carrying capacity) against the amount of play that takes place.

Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per season for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use.

It was agreed with the RFU representative to adopt the following pitch carrying capacities according to each quality rating to be consistent with the approach adopted in similar assessments across the country:

Figure 3.1: Rugby Pitch Carrying Capacity

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

1. *Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e., its carrying capacity for community use):
2. *The amount of play that takes place at each site* (i.e., the expressed demand) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training:
3. *The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
 - **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

There are no sites highlighted from the site audit spreadsheet as **RED** rated sites where the majority of the available natural turf football pitches are overplayed.

Rosedale Sports Club is rated as **AMBER** indicating that the majority of the available natural turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity.

4. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Rugby (Step 5)

4.1 Current

Overall, the rugby pitches in Broxbourne are at capacity for the current demand for matches and training. The location of facilities is central to the borough and within a 20-minute drive time for most residents, however it is likely some residents in the South of the borough may travel outside of the area to clubs in Enfield such as Cuffley RFC and Enfield Ignatians RFC, especially as both clubs train in the borough as well.

4.2 Future

Planned growth – Cheshunt RFC have ambitions to re-establish their third team, introduce a women’s recreational team and offer girls rugby in the future. The club have limited capacity with their existing facilities at present.

Potential effect of population change - To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2033 on the need for rugby pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. Figure 4.1 shows that team generation rates for the area predicts there will be an increase of 2.5 teams in the area, with a need for an additional 1 match equivalent session.

Figure 4.1: Team generation rates.

Age Group	Current Pop in Age group	Current no of teams	Team Gen. Rate	Future Pop in age group	Predicted future no of teams	No of home matches per wk*
Men (19-45yrs)	15,936	3	5312	2690.67	0.51	0.25
Women (19-45yrs)	16,295	1	16295	2751.29	0.17	0.08
Boys (13-18yrs)	3,634	5	727	613.57	0.84	0.42
Girls (13-18yrs)	3,483	0	0	588.08	0.00	0.00
Mixed (7-12yrs)	7,481	6	1247	1263.11	1.01	0.13
					2.53	0.89

* Number of teams multiplied by 0.5 to calculate home matches for each age group except mixed where once halved is it quartered to reflect amount of play on an adult pitch.

To meet rugby demand from 16,387 additional residents (as currently forecast²) and assuming current levels of rugby demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +0.89 additional natural turf full size equivalent rugby pitches for matches will be needed in the Borough with sufficient floodlit provision to accommodate an additional 1 hour a week of training use. There is also likely to be increased demand for Women and girls’ rugby, following the announcement that England will host the 2025 women’s Rugby World Cup.

There are proposed changes to the configuration of grass pitches at Rosedale Sports Club with improved drainage however the planning application is still to be determined. It is essential two full size pitches are retained on site, with at least one of these being floodlit. Improved drainage (pipe and slit drainage) to one floodlit pitch would create an additional 1.5 match equivalent sessions, which will

² ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

support training demands. Improved drainage to both would result in an additional 3 match equivalent sessions, which would cater for the future growth of the club. To support population growth and the need for an additional pitch the opportunity to use the pitch at The Broxbourne School for community use should be explored.

5. Key Findings and Issues for Rugby (Step 6)

<p>The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision</p> <p>Since the last assessment of needs for rugby union in 2013, there has been a change in the supply of rugby pitches with the loss of two grass pitches but the addition of a Rugby 365 Floodlit AGP.</p> <p>There is one club in the area, Cheshunt RFC with 2 regular adult men’s Saturday league sides and a 3rd team playing ad hoc fixtures and a Woman’s team. They also have a full junior section offering both youth boys age grade rugby and mixed mini rugby.</p>
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?</p> <p>Cheshunt RFC has good security of access with a long lease on the facilities they use for home matches. They have 12 hours of agreed usage on the Rugby AGP as part of the Rugby 365 programme.</p> <p>Overall, the two grass rugby pitches in Broxbourne are currently at capacity for the current demand for matches and training.</p>
<p>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?</p> <p>The maintenance at Cheshunt RFC is good but drainage on the site could be improved to further to increase capacity.</p> <p>There is no need for improvements to auxiliary changing facilities in the area, as the clubhouse at Rosedale Sports Club was rebuilt in 2018 but the clubs has identified a need for additional parking and enhanced social space.</p>
<p>What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?</p> <p>To meet rugby demand from 16,387 additional residents (as currently forecast³) and assuming current levels of rugby demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the equivalent capacity of 1 additional natural turf full size equivalent rugby pitches for matches will be needed in the Borough with sufficient floodlit provision to accommodate an additional 1 hour a week of training use.</p> <p>The club has ambitions to re-establish their third team, introduce a women’s recreational team and offer girls rugby in the future.</p>
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>future</u> demand?</p> <p>There is currently not sufficient provision for Rugby to meet future demand. There are proposed changes to the configuration of grass pitches at Rosedale Sports Club with improved drainage however the planning application is still to be determined. It is essential the club retain two full size grass pitches on site, with at least one of these being floodlit. Improved drainage (pipe and slit drainage) to one floodlit pitch would create an additional 1.5 match equivalent sessions, which will support the training demands. Improved drainage to both would result in an additional 3 match equivalent sessions, which would cater for the future growth of the club. all future demand. To support population growth and the need for an additional pitch, the opportunity to use the pitch at The Broxbourne School for community use should be explored.</p>

³ ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

A photograph of a modern indoor sports facility. The room has a light-colored wooden floor and a white ceiling with recessed lighting. On the right wall, there is a large window with a black frame divided into several panes. In the foreground, there are several purple mats laid out on the floor. Two of these mats have a large, cylindrical roller with a colorful floral pattern (blue, pink, and white flowers on a dark background) placed on top of them. The background shows a wooden wall on the left and a white wall with a window on the right.

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Appendix E – Sport England FPM reports: Swimming Pools and Sports Halls - provided under separate cover.



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Appendix F – Sports Clubs' Aspirations

Appendix F- Sports Clubs’ Aspirations

To understand the current landscape of clubs in the Broxbourne area, data was collected from a survey which was distributed to the sports clubs in the area. 52 individual sports clubs responded to the invitation to complete the survey, these clubs provide opportunities for both indoor and outdoor sports. A summary of the results of the club survey is provided in the strategy Introduction. The clubs surveyed cited a range of aspirations and facility needs to assist in growing and developing their respective clubs. A number of these have been considered during the formation of the strategy action plan in discussion with the steering group, however not all of these needs were considered as priorities at the time of the strategy being developed. The table below outlines the full extent of the clubs aspirations and facility demands gathered as part of the survey process for reference and information.


Playing Pitch Sports

Club/Sport	Aspirations/Demands
Broxbourne Borough Youth	We need a new facility with new Clubhouse, 3G pitch and playing pitches, also to accommodate our Judo section and possibly accommodate Turnford Gymnastics Club. We have the land and funding but the sale and joint agreement to develop our existing land which was put into Local Plan for Development has been delayed.
Broxbourne Borough Hockey Club	Updating of changing facilities, catering and clubhouse is required. Parking is available however car park facilities is poor quality.
Broxbourne Sports Club	The priority area for development in the next 12 months is for improved changing facilities and clubhouse and plans are currently being drafted.
Broxbourne United Girls FC	The problem with the geese faeces at St Marys is a big issue for some parents/players. There is a need for 5 a side and an extra 7 a side pitch at St Marys. General maintenance of pitches, particularly the goal mouths of the 11 and 9 a side pitches, is pretty low and often has to be carried out by our volunteers.
Broxbourne Utd	More training facilities.
Bully Crusaders FC	Better quality Broxbourne pitches and changing rooms.
Cheshunt Hockey Club	Facilities need upgrading on existing site and schools plus need to support us more, often caught between them and the school over issues.
Cheshunt Rosedale Cricket club	Extra square needed and new nets. An indoor net facility in the borough would be a great for the sport.
East Herts Youth FC	Nightleys could give much more. Toilets, changing rooms and better pitches required.
Goffs Oak Girls FC	We need better pitches changing facilities and improved training facilities with better times.
GT United Youth	Toilets/changing facilities and possibly a cafe for refreshments for spectators.
Hertfordshire Harriers Disability Cricket Club	Indoor training facilities
Hoddesdon Cricket Club	The cricket club requires a new ‘net area’ and the football club requires a new warm up area. We have agreed in principal with the football club how this area can be created for the huge benefit of both clubs and all members, but funding would be required
Hoddesdon Town Youth FC	We could be offering so much more with our own clubhouse and access to a 3G surface and local gras pitches. We have close relations with HTFC but their main pitch and clubhouse cannot accommodate our youth teams and is in any event a shared facility with HT cricket club not able to offer tenure for more than 7 months a year.

Club/Sport	Aspirations/Demands
Real Cheshunt FC	The club would flourish if there were more 3G availability during the gold dust hours of 6pm - 9pm. The players are always moaning about the pitch and often gets called off due to the state of the goal mouth
Rosedale Sports Club	Main Cricket square needs maintenance. Second cricket square to be developed. AGP is perfect. Grass rugby pitches suffer as we are built on London clay and are often waterlogged, needs levelling and moving parallel to AGP. Bowls green needs re-laying.
Waltham Cross Football Club	We need to have our own facilities so that we can grow the youths with our area instead of renting 20 minutes' drive down the road.
Wormley Rovers Sports & Football Club	<p>We would like to improve the facility to enable us to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - grow the existing number of teams to cater for the interest in girls football and to enable us to offer football to all within the community which is one of our aims as a club - offer the facility to local communities and disability football throughout the week - move our training to the main site which would free space at our existing venue for other local teams - offer additional sports/activities e.g., cycling, running, walking, aerobics etc.

Built Facilities

Club/Sport	Aspirations/Demands
Broxbourne and District Netball League	We have played at Wormley Playing Fields for nearly 40 years. We desperately want to stay there but there are concerns regarding the safety aspect of the surface and the toilets need upgrading.
Cheshunt outdoor bowls club	Access needs improving to allow us to be more inclusive.
Cheshunt Swimming Club	We would like to grow the Club to enable more children within the local community better opportunities to reach their potential in competitive swimming. The only way we are going to be able to do this is to have an increased amount of pool time available at facilities that meet the standards for competitive training.
Competition PaddleSports (COPS)	COPS would like to see the River Lee Navigation made accessible to paddlers of all abilities by providing landing stages at all locks and at Club premises if between locks. This would enable a Canoe trail to be created linking Bishops Stortford on the River Stort with Lee Valley White Water Centre where plans are already underway to create a Canoe Trail linking it to the Olympic Park. They would also like to see repairs made to the listed weir gates at Dobbs Weir, so that cheap entry level moving water is again available within the Borough. Ideally, shower / changing facilities / toilets and storage would be provided adjacent to the Weir pool to provide facilities for groups using the site. Solar powered lighting of the Dobbs Weir Pool, and sections of the tow path in the vicinity of LVWWC would enable more winter / evening use of the facilities.
Hertfordshire Badminton Association	As badminton develops the need for better quality facilities will be required.
Hoddesdon Lawn Tennis Club	If we are to continue and progress, we need the LED lights as a priority and some posts also may need replacing.
Hoddesdon Swimming Club	It would be fabulous to have a pool that perhaps a few local clubs shared for training and gala events, rather than trying to squeeze into a sports centre's availability for us to use.
Lea Valley Karate Academy	To create a martial arts community hub HQ locally that is open to all martial arts and inclusive for all.
Lee Valley Paddlesports Club	LVWWC is a brilliant facility, the current limitation is cost - we pay for every use, even Flatwater. We need enough club time on the whitewater and to secure weekend access too.
Lucy (Coach)	Having a safe space for just women and their children would be very beneficial and there is a big requirement.
Turnford Gymnastics Club	Our club have been seeking an alternative venue so we can shorten our waiting list and offer further classes, (boys, adults, disabilities) for over 15 years now. We now desperately need to move as the current situation is making it very hard to continue to run the club. We require approx. 15 hours training a week, in a gymnasium of approx 3,000 sq ft (min height 5m), large storage cupboard for equipment if it can't be left out (we can fund), floor plates required for bars which we will fund and arrange installation for, toilets/changing, car parking.
Turnford Netball Club	We need courts that are safe for the benefit of all our members and the car park probably needs an attendant to ensure cars can get in and out with ease.
Waltham Cross Amateur Boxing Club	We are an asset to the Holdbrook Estate, we engage with all the community unfortunately the building is very old and needs to be extended. We don't want to move as we are in the Heart of the community but need to improve the premises.



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Appendix G – National, Regional & Local Planning Policies

CONTINUUM
SPORT & LEISURE LTD

Appendix G – National, Regional and Local Planning Policy: Sport and Recreation Facilities

National Planning Policy

The relevant policy protecting existing sports facilities and land in the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 is at paragraphs 98 and 99. Sport England has produced guidance¹ on planning for sport which covers the 12 planning for sport principles to support the implementation of paragraphs 98 and 99 of the NPPF.

Para 98 -

'Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.'

Para 99 -

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

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

Regional Planning Policy

The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East of England is the East of England Plan (published in May 2008) sets out the vision and strategic framework for growth to 2021. The current draft revision of this plan covers the ten years to 2031 and has a deeper focus on key policy areas including climate change. The overall spatial vision is:

By 2031, the East of England will be realising its economic potential and providing a high quality of life for its people, including by meeting their housing needs in sustainable inclusive communities. At the same time, it will continue adapting to and reaching its impact on climate change and the environment, including through savings in energy and water use and by strengthening its stock of environmental assets.

In Policy SS3: Key Centres of Development and Change, the regional plan places the key focus of housing and jobs growth on a number of the larger towns and cities in the region using urban land where possible. The nearest locations to Broxbourne borough identified in the policy for the concentration of new development growth are Welwyn & Hatfield to the north west and Harlow to the north east. The approach to development in 'Other Towns and Settlements in Rural Areas' is devolved in Policy SS4 to local development plan documents.

Policy C2: Provision and Location of Strategic Cultural Facilities supports the provision of regionally or nationally significant leisure, sport and recreation facilities in locations in the region where proposals:

- Will enhance existing facilities of regional or national significance
- Are designed to enhance the environment
- Meet sustainable development objectives of the RSS

¹ <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport>

- Maximise opportunities to means of transport other than the car
- Are well related to the RSS Regional Transport Nodes
- Minimise use of energy and natural resources
- Are of appropriate scale and impact.

This provides a criteria-based policy against which to assess culture development proposals of regional and national significance and complements national policy in the importance of high quality design standards. Wherever possible, such developments should be in or close to Key Centres for Development and Change. As noted above, none of the key centres identified in the RSS are within the borough of Broxbourne.

County Planning Policy

At the county level, Hertfordshire County Council has no planning responsibilities of direct relevance to sports facilities aside from provision for physical education and sport in its schools.

The Herts Sports & Physical Activity Partnership (HSP) is the lead organisation working to create the conditions for an active population in the county of Hertfordshire and to use the power of sport and physical activity to transform lives. The HSP team works alongside numerous public, private and voluntary partners, bringing together expertise, resources and ideas from all parts of the sports, health and physical activity arena in Hertfordshire.

The HSP Strategy 2022-2027 *'All Together Now – Uniting the Movement in Hertfordshire'* contains policies aimed at meeting needs and aspirations of the sector in the county. It prioritises those most in need and facing the greatest barriers to participation working in partnership across local government, sport, business and the voluntary sector to increase activity levels reduce inequality and transform lives through sport and physical activity.

Local Planning Policy

The Broxbourne Local Plan and the Minerals and Waste Local Plans (produced by Hertfordshire County Council) together comprise the statutory Development Plan for the Borough.

Broxbourne Council's Local Plan (adopted in June 2020) covers the period 2018 to 2033. The Local Plan sets out how Broxbourne will grow and develop to become a more desirable place to live, work, and visit, and for inward investment. It is a development strategy to 2033 for homes, jobs, shops, leisure, transport, and infrastructure all set alongside the long term protection and improvement of the borough's defined Green Belt and parks and open spaces. The Plan aims to promote growth and support economic prosperity for this generation and the next.

Good health provision and even better access to leisure facilities and open spaces alongside a clean and safe environment are critical elements of the Council's long-term vision. These ambitions are set out in the Council's existing strategies for economic development, health and well-being, and the environment which explain the approach to its three priorities. The Local Plan supports these existing priorities and expresses them spatially.

Objective 8 of the Local Plan relates directly to this Sports Facilities Strategy recognising the critical contribution of good quality, accessible sport and recreation facilities to individuals' health and wellbeing.

Objective 8) Health and wellbeing: Encourage active lifestyles and healthy choices through an integrated approach to active travel, clean and safe environments and enhanced access to indoor and outdoor sports, play and recreation.

Towards achieving this health and wellbeing objective, the Local Plan includes two key planning policies relating to proposals for new sport and recreation facilities and to proposals involving the loss of facilities.

The key Local Plan policies of relevance are as follows:

Policy ORC1 New Open Space, Leisure, Sport and Recreational Facilities

I. The Council will require contributions to the provision of new open space, community and leisure facilities for all residential development proposals, having regard to national guidance, the Council's Leisure Facilities Strategy, existing provision within the vicinity of a development and the potential for shared use of facilities, and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

II. Proposals for new leisure facilities, sports facilities, playing fields, children's playgrounds and allotments which meet a community need will be supported in principle, subject to their design and location, having regard to the following:

(a) the impact of the facilities on local residents in terms of environmental quality and general disturbance;

(b) the safety and security implications of the development and effectiveness of mitigation measures which could be put in place;

(c) access and parking arrangements to and from the facility for vehicles, cycles and pedestrians;

(d) opportunities for a net gain in the levels of biodiversity on the site.

III. Children's playgrounds should, where possible, provide a degree of flexibility to ensure they can provide a range of facilities for a mix of ages, and adapt to changing play trends.

IV. Arrangements for the maintenance and on-going management of open spaces and playgrounds must be clearly documented in the planning application.

V. Proposals should aim to provide for the dual or multiple use of facilities for wider community activities. Community Use Agreements will be sought where appropriate.

VI. The areas shown on the Policies Map and Concept Plans at Rosedale Park, Theobalds Park Farm south of Park Plaza West, North of Goffs Lane and at Newgatestreet Road in Goffs Oak, are all designated as new open space. Other specified areas of new open space (see policies CH1, GO5 and Chapter 5) should form part of the masterplan for each site. These areas will be kept permanently free from built development, and should include a mix of formal and informal recreational space, parks and gardens, planting schemes, or landscaping.

Policy ORC2 Loss of Open Space, Leisure, Sport and Recreational Facilities.

I. Open spaces, sport, recreational and leisure facilities, including playing fields, allotments and children's play areas, including but not limited to open spaces listed in Appendix A, will be protected from development.

II. Exceptions to this will be considered if they meet the following criteria:

(a) an assessment has been undertaken, which clearly shows the open space, facility, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; and

(b) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss; or

(c) 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.

Policy ORC2 above sets into local planning policy the principles of Paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

With regard to planned residential development, the Local Plan (in Policy DS1) makes provision for at least 7,718 homes in the period 2016-2033. The Key Diagram below sets out in a simple graphic form the development sites (the red bounded grey areas identified in the key as ‘Allocated Sites’).

The assessment of needs and opportunities for indoor and outdoor sports facilities which inform this Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy is a key part of the first stage of work to provide an updated evidence base that will underpin the policies for sports and recreation facilities to be included in the new Broxbourne Local Plan as it is developed.

