

Cabinet Agenda

Date: Tuesday, 11th April, 2017
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and in the report.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cabinet meetings are webcast and the recording of the webcast will remain available for public viewing on the Council's website.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

3. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos.11 and 35 a period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to address the meeting on any matter relevant to the work of the body in question. Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes but the Chairman or person presiding will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned where there are a number of speakers. Members of the public are not required to give notice to use this facility. However, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours' notice is encouraged.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at the meeting should provide at least three clear working days' notice in writing and should include the question with that notice. This will enable an informed answer to be given.

4. **Questions to Cabinet Members**

A period of 20 minutes is allocated for questions to be put to Cabinet Members by members of the Council. Notice of questions need not be given in advance of the meeting. Questions must relate to the powers, duties or responsibilities of the Cabinet. Questions put to Cabinet Members must relate to their portfolio responsibilities.

The Leader will determine how Cabinet question time should be allocated where there are a number of Members wishing to ask questions. Where a question relates to a matter which appears on the agenda, the Leader may allow the question to be asked at the beginning of consideration of that item.

5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2017.

6. **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Task and Finish Group** (Pages 15 - 34)

To receive the report of the Task and Finish Group.

7. **Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Update** (Pages 35 - 44)

To consider an update report on the work carried out by the Council and its partners to welcome refugee families under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation (SPVR) programme and the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) programme.

8. **Connecting Communities - Connected to Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector** (Pages 45 - 52)

To consider a report on how the Council plans to connect with the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector across Cheshire East.

9. **Middlewich Eastern Bypass** (Pages 53 - 68)

To consider the Outline Business Case for Middlewich Eastern Bypass for submission to the Department for Transport.

10. **Sydney Road Replacement Bridge** (Pages 69 - 80)

To consider a report on accommodation works required to enable the delivery of Sydney Road Replacement Bridge.

11. **Crewe Green Roundabout Improvements - Increase to Funding Provision** (Pages 81 - 92)

To consider a report on progress with the pre-construction phase of the scheme and an update on the estimated scheme cost. The report also seeks approval to vary the budget for the scheme and to continue with the procurement process.

12. **Highway Service Contract Procurement** (Pages 93 - 108)

To consider a report which makes recommendations on the proposed procurement strategy for the next Highway Services Contract.

13. **Public Space Protection Order - Poynton Sports Club** (Pages 109 - 140)

To consider a report on a proposed public space protection order in relation to Poynton Sports Club.

14. **Indoor and Built Facility Strategy & Playing Pitch Strategy 2030** (Pages 141 - 602)

To consider a report which provides the background and strategic context to the delivery of the Cheshire East Indoor and Built Facility Strategy and the Cheshire East Playing Pitch Strategy.

THERE ARE NO PART 2 ITEMS

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet**
held on Tuesday, 14th March, 2017 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor D Brown (Chairman)

Councillors P Bates, J Clowes, L Durham, J P Findlow and D Stockton

Members in Attendance

Councillors C Andrew, Rhoda Bailey, B Burkhill, S Corcoran, B Dooley, I Faseyi, R Fletcher, S Hogben, L Jeuda, D Mahon, N Mannion, B Moran, J Nicholas, S Pochin, J Saunders, A Stott, B Walmsley, L Wardlaw, M Warren and G Williams

Officers in Attendance

Mike Suarez, Kath O'Dwyer, Peter Bates, Bill Norman, Mark Palethorpe, Andrew Ross, Mark Wheelton and Paul Mountford

Apologies

Councillors Rachel Bailey, A Arnold and P Groves

The Chairman welcomed Councillor J Nicholas to his first meeting of the Cabinet following his recent election to the Council.

107 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor L Durham declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 (Proposed Transfer of Former MMU Campus in Alsager) as she had been involved with the consideration of the related planning application as a member of the Strategic Planning Board. Councillor Durham took no part in the discussion or voting on the matter.

108 **PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

Sue Helliwell asked if the Council would consider a trial using an effective waste management programme for dealing with dog fouling, matching unscooped waste to the canine offender through DNA.

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Health outlined the technical difficulties with DNA profiling. The Council was aware of the public concern over dog fouling and had run three successful Dog Watch campaigns in Cheshire East this year, involving the issuing of fixed penalty notices and information reminding dog owners of their responsibilities. The campaigns had been well received and there were plans to extend them to areas such as Alsager. The Council's Senior Community Enforcement Officer would welcome the chance to speak further with the questioner to

consider ways of working together utilising both the Community Enforcement Officers and Kingdom patrols to address the issues in Alsager.

Ben Wye asked how local cyclists would be effectively engaged in supporting the planning and engineering of the high quality infrastructure needed to realise, and exceed the CEC cycling strategy ambition, and whether cyclists would be part of the evaluation process before final plans were made.

The Chairman, as Portfolio Holder for Highways and Infrastructure, replied that the Council had engaged widely with local cyclists regarding the development of the cycling strategy and would continue to do so. In particular, the Council would organise a workshop following adoption of the strategy to provide advice and resources to local cycle groups, so that communities could develop local cycling delivery plans. A cycle audit process would also be established to review facilities for cyclists. Interested parties (including the cycling community), were encouraged to make comments as part of the consultation on future schemes.

Peter Hall of the South East Cheshire Cycling Action Group commented that with regard to the development of the cycle network and securing developer funding for the development of cycle infrastructure, the only Council Departments put forward as responsible partners were Cheshire East Highways/Strategic Infrastructure and Highways Development Control. He asked how, if only highways departments were to be involved and not planning or the local cycling communities, new developments could achieve meaningful cycling infrastructure.

The Chairman responded that the Highways Development Management Team was responsible for providing specialist recommendations to the Planning Case Officer regarding highways impacts and mitigation measures for new development. This advice encompassed all highways users, including cyclists. Responses from the Highways Development Management Team would be enhanced with the utilisation of the Cycling-Proofing Toolkit promoted through the Cycling Strategy and subsequent best practice workshops / training to ensure officer awareness and implementation. Interested parties (including the cycling community) could make comments regarding planning applications on a 'self-service' basis via the planning portal. Finally, the emerging Cheshire East 'Urban Design Guide' promoted the inclusion of cycling through good design thus encouraging active travel.

Councillor David Latham, Middlewich Town Council, asked why the Council, after receiving the past three year mean air quality test results for the A553 Lewin Street, Middlewich had not made this area an air quality management area. Councillor Jonathan Parry, Middlewich Town Council referred to a similar question which he had raised at the last Council meeting specifically relating to the test results outside the White Horse Public House in Lewin Street and the response given at the time that

the average NO2 level over the last 12 months was below 40. Referring to figures he had since obtained for the last three months and extrapolating them across a twelve month period, he commented that the average figure was closer to 47. He commented that this was a dangerous level and he asked that Lewin Street be designated an air quality management area.

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Health replied that air quality figures were reported on a mean annual basis and that the last set of complete figures was for 2015. A complete set of figures for 2016 was not yet available. The 2016 data was about to be assessed and if it proved to be the case that the average figure was above 40, Lewin Street would be declared an air quality management area. The Chairman asked the Portfolio Holder to confirm the matter in writing.

Councillor Latham also asked the Council to explain how its new joint venture partnership with Staffordshire Moorlands to deliver waste collection and other environmental services would benefit the people of Middlewich and Sandbach when past released statements had indicated that ANSA intended to use its services, which were based in Middlewich, to support and benefit the new formed joint company. He felt that Middlewich and Sandbach would suffer through extra traffic and air pollution.

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration replied that as a wholly-owned company of Cheshire East Council, Ansa had a public duty to deliver best value through collaboration. An opportunity had arisen for Ansa to collaborate and share the benefit of its expertise with neighbouring councils. Ansa proposed to develop a partnership arrangement with High Peak and Staffordshire Moorland Councils. Ansa would work collaboratively with High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands delivering services within each authority from their facilities located in High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands. The arrangement would be a stand-alone arrangement from Ansa's current activities within Cheshire East and would have no impact on Ansa's new facility in Middlewich and the surrounding community. The income generated from the new partnership would benefit the residents of Cheshire East.

Carol Bulman referred to the new funding formula for schools and asked the Portfolio Holder to give the exact amounts for Middlewich schools affected by the changes. She added that Cheshire East Council was set to receive the least nationally with regard to school funding. In these circumstances, she asked the Council to send a strong message to the Secretary of State for Education opposing the New Funding Formula and requesting fair funding for Cheshire East schools as such cuts could only lead to a lowering of the standard of educational provision for its children.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Families replied that for 2017/18 additional funding had been provided to Cheshire East Schools where pupil numbers had increased. Figures quoted by the questioner in relation to local schools related to the impact of the schools national funding

formula which was currently subject to a national consultation process closing on the 22nd March 2017. They reflected the illustrative_school level figures that had been issued by the DfE based on 2016/17 base data for pupils and the proposed national funding formula as per the consultation. There would be transitional protection for schools to reduce the impact to - 1.5% per annum per pupil starting from 2018/19. Therefore, they were not the final figures but an estimate at this time if the proposed formula were to be adopted by the DfE. As such the figures had not been approved by the Council or Cabinet. The Council and many other local authorities, schools and interest groups were raising concerns over the impact of the proposals, and the Council had been active in meeting the Minister for Schools, MPs and the DfE to express its concerns. The most recent meeting had taken place on 7th March. All interest parties were encouraged to respond to the DfE consultation process.

Bob Norton, Chairman of Congleton Cycling Club, welcomed the Council's long term commitment to cycling as embodied in its cycling strategy and recognised that in some circumstances the segregation of cycles and vehicles was helpful. However, he felt that if cycling was to become a serious alternative transport mode and sustainable leisure activity, cycling on the road needed to be given more emphasis and in this respect he called on the Council to support schemes to improve road user behaviour and gave a number of examples. The Chairman thanked Mr Norton for his comments and asked him to leave a copy of his statement with the clerk.

109 **QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS**

Councillor N Mannion referred to a recent incident in which a pack of hunting dogs ran through a superb of Macclesfield, causing distress to local residents and a potentially dangerous traffic situation. In light of this incident, he asked if the Council would assure local residents that it would not allow hunting with dogs to take place on its land. The Chairman responded that the Council had a policy on hunting which would be reviewed and a report would be submitted to the next Cabinet meeting.

Councillor S Corcoran referred to a report to Cabinet last year which had indicated that the Council could accept up to 52 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children at a cost of £200,000. He asked if the offer had been communicated to the Government and if so, why it had not been taken up. The Chairman asked the Executive Director People to give a written response. The Portfolio Holder for Children and Families added that the Council had accepted 20 unaccompanied asylum seeking children to date.

Councillor R Fletcher referred to the fact that pedestrian crossings had not been provided for Sandbach Road North and Sandbach Road South, Alsager, despite the need for such crossings having been identified by the former County Council in 2007. He also asked for an update on the provision of a crossing on Crewe Road and the provision of a footway from Goss Place towards the centre of Alsager. The Chairman replied that the

matters would be investigated and a formal written response would be made following that investigation.

Councillor L Jeuda referred to a recent decision by the Government to restrict the number of Syrian refugee children coming to the UK on the basis that local authorities could not accommodate greater numbers. A number of authorities had indicated that they had not been consulted prior to the Government's decision and would have been willing to accept more refugees. Councillor Jeuda asked if Cheshire East had indicated that it was prepared to accept more refugees. The Chairman referred to the response to the earlier question on the matter by Councillor Corcoran and undertook to give a written reply.

Councillor J Nicholas, referring to Item 6 on the agenda relating to Available Walking Routes to Schools, asked for the study which showed that the installation of a crossing in Silk Road would make it a safe walking route to school when the only study available assessed the suitability of the location of the crossing but not the suitability of the walking route. He asked why the walking route assessment was being undertaken after £200,000 had been spent on the provision of a crossing over Silk Road. The Chairman replied that the designated available walking route was Middlewood Way and not Silk Road.

Councillor A Stott referred to the designation of Silk Road as a safe walking route to school and asked the Council to provide an assurance that the Middlewood Way would be undesignated as an available walking route. The Portfolio Holder for Children and Families reiterated that Middlewood Way remained the designated available walking route and that the crossing in Silk Road was being provided as a mitigation measure.

110 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2017 be approved as a correct record.

In relation to Minute 95 concerning the Council's Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Integration announced that in the light of the budget last week, the Council had been identified as a recipient of some of the £2bn that had been allocated nationally for adult social care, the Council receiving approximately £10.5M over the three year period, to be implemented through the Improved Better Care Fund. The Council was awaiting guidance from the Government on the conditions that would apply, including how the money could be spent. The Council had also become aware that with regard to business tax and the discretionary tax fund, there would be a national pot of £300M, but details of allocations were still awaited.

111 **AVAILABLE WALKING ROUTES TO SCHOOLS - PROGRESS UPDATE**

Cabinet received a progress update providing information on the actions taken to date to implement local infrastructure measures necessary to enable the Council to designate additional Available Walking Routes to Schools.

The update addressed the following motions discussed at Council on 23rd February 2017:

Council approved the amendment to Motion 1, "The Council requests that Cabinet defers implementation of its decision made on 18th October 2016 to withdraw free school transport from Bollington to Tytherington High School via the Middlewood Way, until a toucan crossing for pedestrians and cyclists has been installed and is operational, and its operational safety has been assessed and evaluated, adjacent to the roundabout on the A523 Silk Road, at the junction with the B5090".

Council approved the amendment to Motion 2, "The Council requests that Cabinet defers implementation of its decision made on 18th October 2016 to withdraw free school transport from Willaston to Malbank School and Brine Leas School until such time as Network Rail have provided an assessment as to whether they consider the London Road level crossing to be safe for pedestrians to use, and this Council has accepted the assessment, in the light of the fact that there is potential for an additional 64 pupils to walk that route.

The update summarised how these matters had been addressed within the implementation programme.

A letter from the Executive Director Place to Network Rail was circulated at the meeting which asked Network Rail to update its risk assessment on the suitability of the Automatic Half Barrier Crossing in London Road, Nantwich, and requested a timeline for related mitigation measures.

112 **NOTICE OF MOTION - SPACE FOR CYCLING**

Cabinet considered the following motion which had been moved by councillor S Corcoran and seconded by Councillor H Murray at the Council meeting on 15th December 2016 and referred to Cabinet for consideration:

"This Council supports the Space for Cycling process promoted by Cycling UK and commits to providing the funding to implement its cycling policy effectively."

Councillor S Corcoran attended the meeting and spoke in support of the motion.

RESOLVED

That the motion be supported, it being noted that the aims of the 'Space for Cycling' campaign are consistent with the objectives of the new Cheshire East Council Cycling Strategy, which is being presented to Cabinet today for adoption.

113 CYCLING STRATEGY FOR CHESHIRE EAST

Cabinet considered a report on Cheshire East Council's Cycling Strategy.

The strategy set out the vision for cycling within the Borough and provided a strategic framework that could shape policy, planning and design decisions.

RESOLVED

That

1. the vision and objectives set out in the Cycling Strategy (Appendix 1 to the report) be approved and adopted as a part of the Council's transport strategy framework; and
2. the Executive Director of Place be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Infrastructure, to finalise the Executive Summary of the strategy as a shortened public facing document (Appendix 2).

114 TRANSFER OF FORMER MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY (MMU) CAMPUS IN ALSAGER WITH ASSOCIATED SPORTING FACILITIES

Cabinet considered a report on the transfer of the former Manchester Metropolitan University Campus in Alsager.

The report sought approval for Cheshire East Council to accept the freehold transfer of the land shown edged in red on the plan attached to the report from David Wilson Homes and to complete a modification of contract and a back-to-back lease of the property to Everybody Sport & Recreation Ltd (ESAR). The site would be redeveloped to provide 407 new homes and sports and leisure facilities. The proposal also included a financial contribution to extend the existing facilities at the Council's nearby Alsager Leisure Centre. Further details were set out in the report.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

1. approves the freehold transfer of the Property from David Wilson Homes to the Council and the simultaneous lease of the Property from the Council to ESAR on terms to be agreed by the Assets Manager;
2. authorises the Asset Manager to provide Sport England with written confirmation that the Council will accept a transfer of the Property for the purposes of providing public open space and leisure facilities required as a result of DWH's planning application;
3. notes that such facilities will be built on site by David Wilson Homes and approved by the Council prior to transfer of the Property;
4. agrees that the lease of the Property to ESAR will be conditional on a modification of the operating contract for the remainder of the existing term (currently a ten year lease from 2014 with an option for a further 5 years) during which period ESAR will run the facilities on the Council's behalf; and
5. authorises the Director of Legal Services to enter into all legal documentation required to effect the transfer and the lease of the Property, including any licence agreements or deeds of covenant which may be required and to complete any variation/modification to the ESAR contract which may be required.

115 **REASSURANCE PROJECT**

Cabinet considered a report on the outcome of work to provide assurance that the wellbeing of staff was aligned to best practice and organisational values. The project had confirmed that the wellbeing of staff was aligned to best practice and values and it had increased confidence that appropriate HR processes were in place for staff to speak out on matters of concern.

The Staffing Committee had recommended that Cabinet endorse the outcome of the project.

RESOLVED

That the outcome of the Reassurance Project be endorsed.

116 **CONNECTING COMMUNITIES - CONNECTED TO SERVICES -
INITIAL OUTCOMES OF DELIVERING DIFFERENTLY IN
MACCLESFIELD**

Cabinet considered a report on some of the work done to connect services to communities, which was one of the key themes of the Connecting Communities Strategy.

The Council had been part of a Government pilot called 'Delivering Differently in Neighbourhoods' which had been assessing how communities could become more engaged in service delivery and policy

and how this could influence priority and budget setting. The pilot had been operated in Macclesfield and details were set out in the report.

The Chairman announced that following the closure of the Cabinet meeting, a short film would be presented on Delivering Differently.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

1. welcomes the excellent progress made to date in 'Delivering Differently in Macclesfield';
2. agrees that this is the blueprint for the future model of delivery of connecting communities to services in the future and looks forward to receiving a report in September 2017 that sets out the work that has been undertaken to make this a reality across Cheshire East;
3. recognises and gives thanks for the significant contribution that local community organisations and ward members in Macclesfield have made in making this such a success and continues to support this initiative;
4. recognises that Cheshire East-commissioned services and resident-led initiatives should, where possible, be directed to deliver from Connected Community Centres based on local need;
5. notes the continued relationship with DCLG as they continue to monitor the progress of this work and regard it as a leading example of innovative community development; and
6. agrees to promote the success of this at a national level to share best practice and influence Central Government policy setting.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.50 pm

Councillor D Brown (Chairman)

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Cheshire East Council

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	11 th April 2017
Report of:	Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Subject/Title:	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Task and Finish Group
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Liz Durham, Children and Families

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report introduces the CSE Task and Finish Group's findings, conclusions and recommendations.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That Cabinet receive the Task and Finish Group's Report (attached).
- 2.2. That Cabinet be requested to respond to the Task and Finish Group's recommendations, which are contained in the attached report at paragraph 14.

3. Other Options Considered

- 3.1. None

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1. As outlined in the accompanying report.

5. Background/Chronology

- 5.1 In November 2015, the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee re-convened a Task and Finish Group which had completed the first stage of a review of the Council's arrangements to protect children and young people from CSE. The second phase of the review, under the Chairmanship of Councillor Rhoda Bailey, investigated how the various strategies and policies currently in place are put into practice across Cheshire East

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

- 6.1 All

7. Implications of Recommendation

7.1. Policy Implications

7.1.1 Consideration of policy implications is not known at this stage.

7.2. Legal Implications

7.2.1 There are no legal implications.

7.3. Financial Implications

7.3.1 As most recommendations relate to processes, there would potentially be no cost to the recommendations. In respect of potential changes to accommodation, these would need to be considered in terms of the available budget for re-location and refurbishment within facilities management.

7.4 Equality Implications

7.4.1 There are no equality implications.

7.5 Rural Community Implications

7.5.1 There are no rural community implications

7.6 Human Resources Implications

7.6.1 There are no human resource implications.

7.7 Public Health Implications

7.7.1 There are no public health implications.

7.8 Implications for Children and Young People

7.8.1 As with all forms of abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation can impact on all aspects of a child's development and relationships, including their physical and mental health, their friendships and educational achievement. These effects can continue into adulthood influencing their health and wellbeing and undermining their resilience. It is therefore critical that the Council is confident not only of their role in acting to identify and intervene where a child is at risk of CSE, but also in promoting children and young people's understanding of healthy relationships, and how to get advice and help, including the knowledge and confidence of their parents. For this reason the findings and implications of this report are relevant for all our children and young people

7.9 Other Implications

7.9.1 None

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 Failure to continually review and amend strategies in relation to CSE may result in services which do not address the best needs of vulnerable children and young people.
- 8.2 With respect to hackney carriage and private hire licensing arrangements, there are potential risks around information sharing with other local authorities and agencies on applications around data protection that may require data sharing agreements and protocols to ensure compliance with the data protection act and avoidance of any data breaches and associated impact on individuals as well as the Council.
- 8.3 In relation to closer integration of working arrangements, the threat to implementing these recommendations would be that demand and resources in individual service areas and within other agencies (e.g. Police) may result in an inability to improve closer working arrangements even if there is a willingness, if there is insufficient resource to allow them to participate.
- 8.4 The risks concerning the re-location of teams relate to the availability of sufficient financial budget or physical availability to make the changes requested either immediately or in the longer term.

9. Access to Information/Bibliography

- 9.1 None

10. Contact Information

- 10.1 Contact details for this report are as follows:

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A word cloud centered around the theme of child sexual abuse. The largest words are "SIGNS", "PROCEDURES", "ABUSE", "EXPLOITATION", "GROOMING", and "ORGANISATIONS". Other prominent words include "ONLINE", "OFFENCES", "DISCLOSURE", "CASES", "RISKS", "TRAFFICKING", "EVIDENCE", "EMOTIONAL", "SAFETY", "BULLYING", "INVESTIGATION", "COMMUNICATION", "GANGS", "HITTS", "PREVENTION", "VIOLENCE", "CARE", "HONOUR", "IMPACTS", "LAW", "SUPPORT", "SEXUAL", "NEGLECT", "AWARENESS", "PROSECUTION", "PHYSICAL", "PREVALENCE", "POLICE", "DISTANCE", "SLAVERY", "MARRIAGE", "FORCED", "DOMESTIC".

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1.0 Chairman's Foreword

- 1.1 Following the issue of the Interim Report of the CSE Task and Finish Group, a reconstituted group was formed. This had become necessary following the sad and untimely death of the previous chairman, Phil Hoyland, and the local elections which brought new membership on to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 The new group met collectively on seven occasions, and other meetings took place involving two, or one, members with other individuals on five occasions.
- 1.3 Our task, we considered, was to ensure that the service provided by the council was as good as it could be for those young people who are caught up in CSE and that they are given the support they need in efforts to try to deal with this problem.
- 1.4 The additional meetings referred to in para 2 above, took place as follows:
- 1.5 13th June, 2016 - Cllrs. Dorothy Flude and Rhoda Bailey visited the Youth Engagement Service (YES) at Delamere House, Crewe, where they met the, Operations Manager and, Senior Manager, (see separate notes).
- 1.6 30th June, 2016 – Cllrs. Dorothy Flude and Rhoda Bailey attended a meeting of the Operations Group at Cledford House, Middlewich, where they met the Head of Service, Children's Safeguarding and manager of the Safeguarding Children in Educational Settings (SCIES) team, together with representatives from agencies including the police, NHS nursing, YES operations manager, Catch 22, and a Missing from Home care worker.
- 1.7 13th July, 2016 – Cllr. Dorothy Flude and Rhoda Bailey visited the CSE Integrated Team at Sandbach House where they met the manager and representatives from the police, Catch 22, a Missing from Home care worker and a nurse specialist (see separate notes).
- 1.8 In addition, Cllrs. Gill Merry and Dorothy Flude each visited social workers engaged with young people who were involved in or at risk of being involved in CSE.
- 1.9 We are grateful to Kate Rose, Head of Safeguarding, and all participants in this process who have helped us in the production of this report and to Mark Nedderman for his guidance and work in collating the information.

2.0 Introduction and Background

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 1 December 2014, the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (the Committee) appointed a Task and Finish Group (the group) to investigate the adequacy of the Council's arrangements to protect young people in Cheshire East from sexual exploitation. The members of the task and finish group were:



Chairman: The late Councillor Phil Hoyland

Councillors: Arthur Moran, Gill Merry

(The task and Finish group was assisted also by Councillor Jos Saunders)

- 2.2 The Task and Finish group agreed the following terms of reference:

“To seek assurances about the Council's safeguarding arrangements in relation to CSE, to advise the Cabinet and the Council's partners on any improvements that are considered appropriate to local arrangements and to raise awareness of CSE across the whole community of Cheshire East. This will be achieved through a review to be undertaken over a 2-month period beginning on 1 December 2014 and concluding on 31 January 2015 by a Task and Finish group comprising 3 Members of the Children Families and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny committee, supported as the need arises by other members of the Committee”

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 The group met 7 times over the period 15 December 2014 to 31 January 15 and interviewed 10 key individuals who were directly involved in the development and delivery of the Council's strategy to protect young people from sexual exploitation. These included the then Director of Children's Services, Portfolio holder, Chair of the LSCB, Head of Safeguarding, police and education representatives and the Council's licensing manager.

- 3.2 In March 2015, the group issued an interim report which summarised the findings of the group at that point in time. It did not make any formal recommendations but did highlight a number of issues that required attention. The findings of the interim report are included in this report.
- 3.3 Sadly, the Chairman Phil Hoyland, passed away in March 2015 and the review was halted as a mark of respect to Phil.
- 3.4 In June 2015, the newly appointed Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee reconvened the CSE task and finish group with the following revised membership and requested the group to complete the review



Councillor Rhoda Bailey Chairman



Councillor Dorothy Flude



Councillor Gill Merry



Councillor Arthur Moran



Councillor Jos Saunders

- 3.5 The group reconvened in November 2015. Having taken advice on which direction the review should process, it was agreed that the review should move away from examining the various strategies and policies that were in place to guide the Council and its partners and instead, to test the application of the strategies and policies by reviewing real cases.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 The starting point for the investigation was the national focus given to CSE resulting from the high profile cases of grooming and sexual exploitation of young people in Rochdale and Rotherham. The subsequent publication of the Jay report, which had been critical of the various agencies responsible for

safeguarding in Rotherham and the report produced by Anne Coffey MP, commissioned by the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner to review the Greater Manchester response to CSE added to the evidence that some local authorities had questions to answer in respect of their procedures for dealing with CSE. In light of these and other high cases reported in the national media, Members decided to review Cheshire East's arrangements to protect against CSE; specifically to seek assurances that arrangements are fit for purpose and agile enough to address any issues relating to CSE in Cheshire East.

5.0 Methodology

5.1 Witnesses:

5.2 Members met with the following people during the review:

- DI C Morral – Cheshire Police
- DI S Blanchflower – Cheshire Police
- Tony Crane – Director of Children's Services
- Heather Grimbaldeston – Director of Public Health
- Kate Rose - Head of Service - Children's Safeguarding
- Ian Rush - Chair Local Safeguarding Children's Board
- Councillor Rachel Bailey Children and Families portfolio Holder
- Fiona Field – South Cheshire CCG
- Moira McGrath – South Cheshire CCG
- Karen Porter - Safeguarding Children in Education Settings Manager
- Councillor Paul Whitely – Chair of Licensing Committee Cheshire East
- Kim Evans - Licensing Officer
- Stephen Pepper – Team Manager
- Debbie Tattersall – Social Worker
- Stephen Mills -Practice Manager
- Laura Murrell – Social Worker
- Tom Dooks – Senior Manager YES team
- Joanne Boulton - Operations Manager YES team
- Kate Press - Independent Safeguarding Chair
- Elise Cox – Catch 22
- Karen Chan – Independent Review Officer

Date	Meeting / Site Visit
13/11/ 2014	Task and Finish Group Meeting Pre- scoping meeting
27/11/2014	Task and Finish Group Meeting

15/12/2014	Task and Finish Group Meeting with Licensing
16/12/2014	Task and Finish Group Meeting with Director Children's Services and Chair of LSCB
12/01/2015	Task and Finish Group Meeting with South Cheshire CCG
15/01/2015	Site Visit – Dalton House Middlewich meeting with Police and Children and Families Portfolio Holder
19/10 2015	Task and Finish Group Meeting with Head of Safeguarding
27/10/2015	Task and Finish Group Meeting
26/11/2015	Task and Finish Group Meeting
18/01/2016	Task and Finish Group Meeting
11/02/2016	Task and Finish Group Meeting
23/02/2016	Task and Finish Group Meeting
15/03/2016	Councillor D Flude case meeting with social workers
4/05/2016	Task and Finish Group Meeting
6/05/2016	Councillor G Merry case meeting with social workers
25/05/2016	Task and Finish Group Meeting
13/06/2016	Visit to the YES team
30/06/2016	Visit to CSE Operations Group
13/07/2016	Visit to the Multi Agency Integrated Team
8/09/2016	Visit to Safeguarding Chairs
26/09/2016	Task and Finish Group meeting with Karen Porter and discussion about the final report

6.0 November 2015 to date

- 5.1 Having already looked at the Council's strategies and policies relating to CSE in the first phase of the review, and having been assured that these were adequate and robustly applied by the Council and partners, the group decided to shift its emphasis away from the strategic overview, and spend time looking at how the policies were applied to real cases, to test whether the Council makes a difference to children and young people where CSE is a vulnerability.
- 6.2 The Ofsted framework for judging Local Authority response on CSE gave some pointers for the group:
- The quality and impact of referral, assessment and planning.
 - The effectiveness of direct work with children and families and of services to support children.
 - The level of awareness among professional staff, including their willingness and effectiveness to listen and receive feedback from children and young people.

- The arrangements to protect care leavers who are at risk of or who have been sexually exploited.
- What is known about the authority culture in terms of:
- listening to children, hearing what they say and acting appropriately
- hearing from staff at the frontline and engaging with what they say
- elected member engagement with the local community
- the quality of work with partners to disrupt offenders or preventative work
- children and families' views on the service they have received

6.3 The group decided therefore to break their detailed investigations into five specific tasks:

- Track two children chosen randomly
- Visit to the Youth Engagement service
- Observation of CSE Operations Group
- Visit to the Multi Agency CSE Integrated team
- Observation of a CSE Case Conference

6.4 Due to the sensitivity of the subject matter involved in the case discussions involving the two children chosen, it was considered appropriate for those visits to be undertaken by single members of the group only. It also became apparent during the investigation that not all people involved in the live cases were content to speak to elected Members. It was not possible therefore to attend a CSE conference. This was due to the parent of the child involved in the case not wishing members of the task and finish group to be present. The group fully understood the position taken by the parent involved. Unfortunately, there were no further opportunities within the time frame of the review to attend another CSE conference. Instead, the group met the chair of the Safeguarding Chairs group who explained how CSE conferences were conducted.

7.0 Case Studies

7.1 Councillor Gill Merry investigated a case in the north of the Borough involving a male victim of CSE. Councillor Dorothy Flude investigated a case in the south of the Borough involving a female victim.

- 7.2 No details of the cases can be revealed in this report. In both cases, the members met with case workers associated with the case, but did not meet the victims or parents of the victims. What surprised members was the reluctance of the young people involved in the cases to engage with the case workers and partners. They had both refused to disclose who the perpetrators were in their respective cases. This was clearly frustrating for the staff involved but the group discovered that this was not uncommon.
- 7.3 The conclusion drawn from the investigation of the two cases is not particularly satisfactory under the circumstances. The professionals are clearly providing all the support that they possibly can to protect the young people involved but are being thwarted by the refusal of victims to co-operate. Unfortunately, in both cases, the young people remain at risk as they do not view or understand the nature of their relationship with their perpetrators to be exploitative. They believe it to be loving and feel trapped and unable to escape from it. They also often feel guilty and all these things prevent them from disclosing who is harming them. There is however, ongoing work and encouragement to disclose, via the establishment of a relationship between the social worker and young person.

8.0 Visit to the Youth Engagement Service (YES)

- 8.1 The group met representatives of the YES team including, one of three senior managers. We were told there are two parts to the service – prevention, particularly for those under the age of criminal responsibility (10), and those aged 10 – 17. Broadly, this means 8 – 18. The work spans pre-court work, including those who have never been arrested but are considered to be at risk, to those who have been found/recorded guilty of more serious offences. They work with the Youth Prevention Team which tries to keep them out of the courts system and the Youth Offending Team through referrals from court.
- 8.2 No single agency can tackle all the factors that cause criminal behaviour. There is representation from the Police, Probation, Social Care, Health and Education. There used to be two full time police officers that were designated, but police budget pressures had resulted in a cut of 50%. The Youth Offending Service (YOS) was now a pan-Cheshire service to achieve economies of scale and deliver a more sustainable model going forward.
- 8.3 All staff are trained, with the LSCB delivering training; at both the strategic level and the operational level. Senior practitioners on the

team train the staff. Different learning tools are used, including a bulletin, to make sure they are getting the up-to-date screening tool from the LSCB. They have read-only access to Liquid Logic. On 1st July 2016 the Prevention Team moved on to Liquid Logic.

- 8.4 The group learned that there are many common routes for children and young people to get involved in CSE but mainly through relationships. The YES team have regular contact with vulnerable young people in order to monitor activity. They see the young people regularly, twice weekly, which is a massive benefit – the more the young people see the staff, the more they engage. This led the team to believe that on the prevention side, they were strong. When young people said they didn't want to work with the YES team, the staff would persist.
- 8.5 There is a full complement of staff on the YES team, and agency staff are not used. The number of young people seen varied from month to month. They deal mainly with young people considered to be in a risky situation, including those who display perpetrator behaviour. Most situations centre on a girlfriend/boyfriend model rather than organised groups.
- 8.6 A big part of the work of the team is in building relationships. It is important for team members to spend time getting to know the young people. Councillors were shown some work with a 14-year-old boy, on ascertaining attitudes to online chat, Facebook, Instagram etc. and eliciting understanding about what could be happening, linking it up with their interests. They talked about conversations online and how they could become threatening, and identified the risks. Some work was being done in schools through Catch 22, although there was not a consistent level of approach.

9.0 CSE Integrated Team

- 9.1 The team is based at Sandbach House on Crewe Road Sandbach. The group met five team members representing the Police, Catch 22, a Missing from Home worker, the nurse specialist, and the manager of the integrated team.
- 9.2 The group discovered that the integrated team was not a 'case holding' team but are there to facilitate good practice across the LSCB that front line practitioners should be taking on board. The primary function of the team of nine is prevention and awareness raising, including community safety partnerships and the faith sector. They do a lot of work with schools, working with the Safeguarding Children in Education

Settings (SCIES) team, teaching children about healthy relationships, identifying children at risk, linking with and supporting social workers. A CSE screening tool has been developed for every front line practitioner to use.

- 9.3 The team is a relatively new concept having first been brought to the group's attention in early 2015. The team is trying to gain the confidence of the front line practitioners to liaise with them and share information. Concerns are escalated as appropriate. The group had previously been made aware of the benefits of having such teams co-located with other professionals as had been the case at Dalton House Middlewich in 2014. It is crucial that members of the team work together on the same floor so that they can pick up on one another's conversations to identify links between young people and their contacts. Even having to use a set of stairs to speak to colleagues can form a natural barrier.
- 9.4 The team is contracted to provide a service based upon the assessed needs of the child involved and work with the child as long as needed . This may involve a relatively small number of sessions (6-8) although they opt for flexibility and extend that where necessary. They use the positive relationships they build with young people to help them access other services, e.g. the sexual health clinic.
- 9.5 The team now have access to Liquid Logic but this is still being embedded and the team needs stability to develop further.
- 9.6 It was noted that the team did not have a representative from Education Welfare, which would be a valuable addition as they sometimes come across children missing from education and not necessarily missing from home. Stronger links between the two devices would be advantageous.

10.0 – Visit to the CSE Operations Group

- 10.1 The meeting investigated the current situation of a number of young people individually, and was used as a good opportunity for information sharing. There was no representative from the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) which the team considered was an omission that should be rectified. The group would like to pay tribute to their 'early intervention' work in spotting young people, through their contacts and other information, who may be at risk of being drawn into CSE.

11.0 Safeguarding Chairs Group

- 11.1 The group met three safeguarding chairs to learn about the way in which CSE case conferences were carried out.
- 11.2 It was explained that Case conferences were held at the centres in Macclesfield and Crewe. The room layout used for the Macclesfield and Crewe centres was identical. The aim was to make the conference as informal as possible without tables which form an artificial barrier. Chairs are set out in a semi-circular fashion. This makes the atmosphere less intimidating for participants. Macclesfield also had the benefit of an ante room which was used to allow young people to retire to if matters became too difficult or during periods when it was not appropriate for the young person to be in the main conference room. Crewe did not have such a room at Delamere House and this was considered to be a disadvantage.
- 11.3 Conferences are attended by the young person, health professionals, Education provider, carers and any other relevant agencies such as catch 22.
- 11.4 The conference aims to put the child at ease and begins by talking about who is important to the child. This is to start on a positive note. Often there are surprises as to who the child identifies as a person important to them, but often, it is a social worker, teacher, and school nurse or family member. This can itself provide a revealing insight into the lifestyle of the child/young person. Likewise, it is considered telling if the young person is unable to identify somebody who is important to them.
- 11.5 This initial conversation provides vital clues for the conference to identify an individual who may be able to work with the child/young person. The conference attempts to establish what is going well in the life of the child/young person, again to give emphasis to the positive aspects of their life e.g. Education, family relationships, activities etc. The conference seeks to identify aspects of the child's life that are being managed well. This could be for instance that an improvement has been made in the number of times a child goes missing, or maybe having agreed to allow parents to see social media accounts and sharing passwords etc. It is found that people often find it hard to discuss difficult matters; so again, this positive discussion takes place first in order to open up dialogue.
- 11.6 The conference also tries to identify matters that the child/young person is worried about. This could be inappropriate relations involving

peer group, meeting people on line, - in the modern world 'E safety' is very important, doing favours for people in return of something e.g. packet of cigarettes. The conference is always wary about new things being acquired, especially alcohol. Conference is alert to missing from home incidents, especially if they are for prolonged periods. The group learned that there is a high correlation between children going missing and being at risk of CSE . Another concern would be discovering that the child/young person has travelled to areas that they have never been to before and continually go back to. There is a need to discover how child/young person have made connections – how are they getting there? It is accepted that teenagers are very secretive but is the secrecy beyond what you would normally expect? Other warning signs are:

- Self-harm
- Internet use
- Frequenting CSE hotspots
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

- 11.7 Occasionally, the child/young person can be hostile to this approach especially if they come unprepared for the meeting. An added complication is that many are convinced that they are in a genuine relationship but don't see the signs. Cheshire East has a very good attendance rate with 80% of children/young people attending case conferences. It was suggested that the attendance rate was good because the focus of the conference is on the child/young person and not on their parents.
- 11.8 In terms of working to make improvements, the conference identifies an individual who is best to work with the child/ young person. Parents are always involved. Conference works with the police to disrupt and prevent inappropriate relationships continuing and aims to build self - esteem and self-worth. Also measures are identified to improve health, especially if they are sexually active, including contraception. Emotional health is also an important consideration, as is sexual identity as some sexual exploitation relates to sexual orientation.
- 11.9 Conferences put review arrangements in place three months after conference with a mid-point meeting between the chair and social worker. If something has not been done, practice alerts can be issued at this stage. The group was informed that 86 practice alerts were

issued last year. Finally, a timetable of actions is produced so that everybody is clear as to who needs to take action and when.

12.0 SCIES Team

- 12.1 The group met the manager of the SCIES team twice. The first time at the beginning of the enquiry and the second time at the end of the enquiry. The group were pleased to see the positive progress made in the intervening twelve months and were particularly encouraged to hear evidence that relationships between the team and schools was good and that schools were fully engaged in the process. Training for schools was well received and the team provided lots of useful additional advice through news bulletins and a dedicated website. However, the group felt that opportunities could be developed for the team to engage with trainee teachers who were studying at the Crewe Campus of Manchester Metropolitan University in order to raise awareness of all the initiatives provided by the Council at the earliest opportunity and this forms one of our recommendations.

13.0 Conclusions.

- 13.1 The second phase of this review was completed many months after the work led by the late Cllr Hoyland in phase one. As with all child protection issues, those that affect children who are victims of child sexual exploitation are complex. These children often believe that they are in a loving relationship with their abuser. Whilst the group acknowledges achievements in this area have been steady, we also recognise that the Council and its partners must remain ever vigilant. This report is not exhaustive and the length of time between the two phases has inevitably led to things moving on. The improvements made to stabilise the workforce in children's social care since this review started in 2014 is welcomed, particularly the 'grow your own' initiative which is now beginning to bear fruit. One recurring message that has appeared throughout this investigation is 'We only know what we know'.
- 13.2 Although not directly falling within the terms of reference of this review, many individuals we met raised genuine concerns about the current Taxi/Private Hire Licensing arrangements. This became a recurring theme throughout our investigations which inevitably led us to the conclusion that the concerns expressed by the group in phase 1 of the review should be reiterated in this final report and be the subject of a formal recommendation. We acknowledge this is a national issue that only the Government can address, but if we at Cheshire East can at least start the ball rolling by taking the lead at regional level, enough impetus may be generated to begin a national debate.

14.0 Recommendations

- 14.1 That the Cabinet Member for Communities and Health in conjunction with Licensing Committee be requested to take up at regional and national level this group's concerns regarding the current licensing arrangements for private hire and hackney carriage drivers, which the group consider to be unsatisfactory. The group is of the view that the government should consider introducing a uniform set of licence conditions across all local authorities to ensure that the standard required by an individual to obtain a licence is the same irrespective of where the application is made. In addition, the group believes that consideration should be given to the introduction of measures to require authorities to share/publish information relating to applications that have been refused to prevent the continuation of the current situation which allows an applicant, who may have had an application for a licence refused by one authority, to subsequently obtain a licence elsewhere.
- 14.2 In conjunction with the recommendation above, the Council's five Members of Parliament be requested to take up this matter with HM Government to urge it to review current arrangements with a view to tightening up licensing conditions so that there is a uniform minimum standard across the whole country.
- 14.3 That the Council's Licensing manager be requested to report to the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress made to date to improve information sharing with other local authorities, the police and other agencies on licensing applications for Hackney carriage and Private Hire drivers.
- 14.4 That the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), Education Welfare Service and the Integrated Team be encouraged to develop closer integrated working arrangements, to continue to identify and to close potential gaps in the current arrangements, as the PRU and welfare services sometimes come across children who may be missing from education but not necessarily missing from home.
- 14.5 That consideration be given to re-locating the CES Integrated Team from its current location at Sandbach House, where there are presently nine staff working in cramped conditions in one room, to a building that will enable the whole team to be located on one floor in the same building; this to encourage better communication at an informal level which was considered to be a big part of the success of arrangements at the previous location at Dalton House Middlewich.

- 14.6 That in recognising the strong police commitment to CSE, the integrated team and wider support, Cheshire Police be asked to continue with and to improve working arrangements with the integrated team, in particular to consider putting in place arrangements for greater involvement of Police Crime Support Officers (PCSOs).
- 14.7 That in the interests of consistency, the current accommodation arrangements that exist at Macclesfield Town Hall in respect of CSE conferences, which includes a separate ante room/break out area for young people to retire to, be replicated at Delamere House Crewe.
- 14.8 That the Director of Education be requested to report to the Schools Forum on the impact on Education support services of the withdrawal of Education Support Grant in the Autumn of 2017.

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Cheshire East Council

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 11 April 2017

Report of: Mark Palethorpe – Strategic Director of Adult Social Care & Health
Nigel Moorhouse - Director of Children's Social Care

Subject/Title: Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation (SVPR) & Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Update

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Paul Bates (Communities and Health)
Cllr Liz Durham (responsible for Children and Families)

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This is an update report on the significant work carried out by the Council and our partners to welcome refugee families under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation (SPVR) programme and the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) programme.
- 1.2. We welcomed our first refugee family in January 2017. Our second family arrives in March 2017 and three further families in April 2017. This demonstrates the Council's commitment to fulfilling the agreed recommendation on 13 September 2016 to welcome up to 3-5 families as part of SPVR.
- 1.3. The work that has been done in preparation for the families arriving has been phenomenal in terms of the commitment from Council staff, partner agencies and the local community, in particular the faith community. We recognise that this is the very start of their new lives here and we are sensitive to the fact that we must be ready to provide the necessary support that is needed as and when it is required.
- 1.4. In relation to UASC, we have transferred three groups of young people into the Council's care in June, October and December of 2016 and now have responsibility for 20 young people in total, either as Looked After Children or Care-Leavers. We are particularly grateful to one of our 16+ accommodation providers whose staff have repeatedly demonstrated their flexibility and commitment to assisting us in meeting the needs of this group of young people. As a result, young people who have endured extraordinary life experiences in their journeys to this country have been fully supported in settling into their new lives in Cheshire East.

- 1.5. We have governance established for this Council's work in these areas. Strategic responsibility sits with the Head of Communities for SVPR and with the Director of Children's Social Care for UASC. We have a Multi-Agency Group established that oversees all refugee programme delivery in our borough, and SVPR Co-ordination Group has been established to manage the co-ordinated delivery of the SVPR programme. A Finance Governance Group for the SVPR programme has also been established.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1. Note the contents of this report and endorse the actions that have already taken place regarding UASC and SVPR.
- 2.2. Authorise that further requests of assistance from either the Home Office or the NW Strategic Migration Partnership are responded to appropriately having given due regard to the wider demands on services, the allocation of resources and the overall regional picture, by the respective officer leads – Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health and Director of Children's Social Care for UASC in conjunction with the Cabinet Members for Communities, Health and Children and Families.
- 2.3. That the work of partners especially the faith community and local providers of UASC support is recognised and appreciated by the Council.

3. Other Options Considered

- 3.1. Cabinet confirmed agreement that Cheshire East Council would receive 3-5 SVPR families at their meeting on 13 September 2016. The Multi Agency Group agreed to prepare to receive two families initially, to ensure we were collectively prepared to support these vulnerable families. This group then determined that the further families could best be received soon after the initial arrivals, as all the appropriate support arrangements were effectively established.
- 3.2. Cabinet confirmed agreement that Cheshire East Council would receive a further three unaccompanied children who were currently accommodated with Kent Council in this financial year, taking account of the learning from our previous support and current looked after children and care leavers. This further transfer took place in October as outlined below (section 5.3.1), as did the settlement of two young people under the Lord Dubs amendment in December.
- 3.3. This update report focuses on Cabinet decision implementation, and therefore no further options have been considered.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1. To provide an update to Cabinet on the latest position and to recognise the ongoing significant partnership working and commitment.

5. Background/Chronology

5.1 SVPR Preparation:

- 5.1.1 A contract with 'Refugees Welcome' to provide pre arrival and post arrival voluntary support to the SVPR programme, with Care4CE, Mental Health Reablement providing the Case Work support, has been established for an initial 12 months. The Partnerships & Communities team are monitoring these arrangements.
- 5.1.2 Housing Agreements between the Council and the Private (faith sector sourced Landlords) and a Social Landlord providing homes for the identified families has been put in place, and Strategic Housing are monitoring these agreements.
- 5.1.3 A family and professionals 'Welcome Pack' developed with 'Refugees Welcome' has been completed and translation of these documents and other key documents has been undertaken. The families have greatly valued this as a resource.
- 5.1.4 Translation and Interpretation service provision has been sourced with the support of the Procurement team.
- 5.1.5 Transport arrangements from the airport to the families new homes have been sourced.
- 5.1.6 School arrangements have been discussed with families and are in place.
- 5.1.7 We have modelled the Home Office grant income for this programme, and we have controls in place to monitor the expenditure incurred.
- 5.1.8 We continue to liaise with the Home Office and the Regional Strategic Migration Partnership (RSMP) in relation to families' needs as required.
- 5.1.9 We have developed a One Minute Guide on the SVPR Programme, and the Councils website has been updated to provide information on this work:
http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/search.aspx?search_keywords=refugees
- 5.1.10 English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) access has been arranged through Life Long Learning for the families.
- 5.1.11 A Data Sharing Agreement, to confirm partners involved in this work would abide by the Home Office Data Sharing guidance, has been completed.
- 5.1.12 'Refugees Welcome' established a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to be able to trade and hold a Council contract in support of this programmes delivery.

- 5.1.13 Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group (ECCCG), and other key partners have worked positively and proactively with the Council on this programme.

5.2 Reflections on first Arrival

- 5.2.1 Very positive first and subsequent arrival experience has been noted with much commitment and positive support for the family being evident from our own Council services and officers and also from our partners and indeed neighbours and the wider community.

5.3 Reflective Learning for UASC

- 5.3.1 Throughout the past year or more, the Council has provided a proactive and flexible response to the developing national situation regarding UASC. Activity is coordinated with the Home Office through the NW Regional Strategic Migration Partnership which is administered by our colleagues at Manchester City Council. Depending on the circumstances of the UASC transfer as identified below, the Home Office provides varying levels of funding to Local Authorities which we are accessing as appropriate. We now have responsibility for 20 young people (either as Looked After Children or Care-Leavers) who have arrived under one of the four main routes by which UASC can come into the Council's care:

- As Cabinet had committed in March 2016 of last year, we collected three Syrian boys from our colleagues at Kent County Council under the in-country transfer scheme at the beginning of June 2016. They were initially placed in supported 16+ accommodation whilst they secured their legal status as refugees and attended a local college to develop their English; they have now passed their 18th birthdays, are living independently in the community and being supported by our Personal Advisors as care-leavers. In October, we arranged a second transfer from Kent of two young people from Eritrea and a third from Ethiopia; two of this group were 17 year old girls who have been identified as particularly vulnerable amongst the overall population of asylum seekers.
- In December, we accepted the transfer of two further Eritrean girls who had been brought into the country by the Home Office under the Lord Dubs amendment following the closure of the camps at Calais. Together with the three young people who arrived in October, we are now in the process of settling them to live independently in the community as they turn 18 yrs.
- At any time, we could be asked to take UASC under the Dublin III amendment; these are young people who have been transferred on the basis that they have identified a relative who lives in the area; in these circumstances, we would have to assess the suitability of the family member and either offer ongoing support to them to care for the young person, or find alternative accommodation if the identified person turned out to be unsuitable. Thus far, no cases of this type have been identified for Cheshire East.

- With all the attention that has inevitably been focused on Kent and the closure of the camps, it will be less well known that a steady trickle of UASC have always been able to make it this far independently and are occasionally picked up in the area; we are currently supporting a number of young adults as care-leavers who arrived in this way and a young person that has been placed with a family member.

5.3.2 Inevitably we have learned that when transfers of young people are being arranged at short notice, there are limited opportunities to make detailed plans for their arrival; however, the flexibility and commitment that has been shown both by our own staff and those of our accommodation providers has ensured that every Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child who has arrived in Cheshire East has had a positive experience and been able to settle quickly. Looking ahead, it will be recognised from the regular media coverage of this issue that it is a fast moving situation in which the position can change frequently and suddenly. The Regional Partnership has advised that following the scaling down of the commitment to accept Dubs cases, the focus will potentially shift back towards Kent and the National Transfer Scheme. The extent of our activity thus far has left the Council well placed in the region and able to respond to future requests for assistance as it is appropriate.

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

- 6.1. The resettlement of SVPR families has been in the north of the borough. As you will understand the families we have received are vulnerable due to their experience of the war in Syria and also their experience of living in a refugee camp for a number of years. We hope that families have the privacy and time that they need to settle into their new homes and communities.
- 6.2. UASC who have arrived under the transfer schemes have been accommodated in a single supported accommodation project initially and then settled throughout the borough. In recognition of the vulnerability of any young people in these circumstances, we have chosen not to make their detailed whereabouts public.

7. Implications of Recommendation

7.1. Policy Implications

- 7.1.1. There are no immediate policy implications for consideration.

7.2. Legal Implications

- 7.2.1. The legal implications were reported to Cabinet 13 September 2016. This report set out in full the Council's powers and duties in relation to the SVPR & UASC programme and there are no further immediate legal implications for consideration.

- 7.2.2. Legal Services have supported the development of the Contracts and Agreements for the SVPR programme. These arrangements place obligations on these organisations to assist with the monitoring and reporting mechanisms which are required under the Home Office grant arrangement. This supports the Council's ability to meet the conditions attached to the funding requirements. Should Cabinet wish the SVPR programme to be expanded then contractual arrangements would need review as these are currently for 12 months (3/1/17 to 2/1/18).
- 7.2.3. The local authority will need to be mindful of the provisions of the Immigration Act 2016 that will end asylum support for refused families, limit the availability of Home Office support for refused asylum seekers, and introduce reforms to local authority support provision for destitute families and care leavers who have no immigration status.

7.3. Financial Implications

- 7.3.1. For the SVPR programme there should be no financial implications for the existing Council resources because the programme will be funded entirely from the Home Office SVPR grant. The activities of the programme will be subject to close financial control to ensure there is no requirement to support the programme from Council resources.
- 7.3.2. The SVPR financial governance group has calculated a set of modelled costs for each area of the programme. This exercise confirmed that the objectives of the programme can be met within the fixed resources of the grant. The modelled cost will be used as a draft financial plan by which senior managers can assess and approve expenditure. In addition the governance group has scheduled regular scrutiny meetings with both 'Refugee Welcome' and the internal service leads to monitor expenditure and to ensure compliance with the conditions of the grant.
- 7.3.3. The Council has incurred some small costs in relation to the transfers of UASC as it is clearly not straightforward to collect young people from Kent; we estimate that each of the two trips amounted to approximately £750 including staff salaries. Whilst our main accommodation costs are met by the Home Office there has been a need to make further payments to our accommodation project to ensure that their involvement remains financially viable; however, these costs have subsequently been offset when the young people move into independent accommodation meaning that the overall position is generally contained within the Home Office grant. There has also been an increase in costs for translators and interpreters who are inevitably in high demand across the region and the costs for which are not met by the Home Office.

7.4. Equality Implications

- 7.4.1. An Equality Impact Assessment is in place and is reviewed by the Multi Agency Group. This provides an active assessment to ensure we consider any unintended consequences for specific characteristic groups through the delivery of these humanitarian programmes.

7.5. Rural Community Implications

- 7.5.1. From our work to date it is seen as important that accommodation has good access to infrastructure services, and transport routes. Therefore it is considered that accommodation in rural areas may not best suit Syrian families who may need, or want, to travel readily to other areas to connect, to access Mosque and specialist food suppliers. This applies equally to UASC.

7.6. Human Resources Implications

- 7.6.1. The SVPR programmes delivery is highly dependent on officer time which affects the following areas:- Communities & Partnerships, Public Health, Housing, Children & Families, Care4CE, Procurement, Legal, Media & Communications, Insurance, Transport and Financial services.
- 7.6.2. Other key partners supporting the SVPR programmes work are as follows: Health (Primary & Secondary Care, Health Care Commissioning, Dentists and Opticians), Schools, Housing Providers, Transport Provider, Translation & Interpretation Provider.

7.7. Public Health Implications

- 7.7.1. The delivery of these programmes within the borough would have no specific adverse health implications for our population. Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group is also directly involved in the planning and operational delivery of the SVPR programme.

7.8. Implications for Children and Young People

- 7.8.1. The children in the SVPR families have accessed education, nursery or child care services as needed.
- 7.8.2. The initial priorities for UASC arriving in Cheshire East inevitably focus on meeting their primary needs in relation to accommodation and support, securing their immigration status as refugees to give them rights to remain, and enrolling them at local schools/colleges so that they can be supported in learning English. Primary health and dental needs are also addressed, as are cultural requirements around religion and diet. In the longer term, and in recognition of the life experiences that have brought young people into this country as

UASC, there will be a need to give greater consideration to issues around mental health and well-being.

8. Risk Management

8.1. The main areas of risk management relate to:

8.1.1 Ward Cllr Briefings (SVPR)

For each arrival, the Portfolio Holder and the Head of Communities have met with Ward Councillors prior to families arriving, to provide an overview of preparation, arrival information, and support information.

8.1.2 Financial Management SVPR:

Risk of Overspend - As a grant funded programme; there is an inherent risk that a situation could arise where an over-spend needs to be resolved by identifying an alternative source of funds.

Mitigation: Prudent financial modelling & scrutiny of expenditure – A contingency element of uncommitted spend has been built into the financial modelling; this is approximately 20% of the total funding. In addition all modelled costs have been prudently forecasted on worst case basis. Regular expenditure monitoring meetings are scheduled and procedures have been established to ensure effective recording and reporting.

Risk of regulation non-compliance– The Home Office has stipulated certain requirements relating to the grant claims. Failure to comply would risk there being a shortfall in funding.

Mitigation: The funding instruction has been thoroughly reviewed, and procedures are in place to ensure the grant claims are completed accurately and timely.

8.1.3 UASC - The Council's proactive approach in being amongst the first local authorities to respond to requests for assistance from Kent has left us well placed to make decisions about the extent of our future involvement in the various relocation schemes. Currently, it appears that the numbers will not reach the levels that we had originally been asked to anticipate and therefore the demand on social worker, IRO and other Children's Services resources ought to prove manageable. In the longer term however, it will be important to monitor both our ability to provide culturally sensitive services, and the extent to which traumatised young people from various war-torn parts of the world are genuinely able to settle into life in this area. In this respect, the demands on adult services focussing on mental health for example can probably not be estimated with any accuracy at this time.

9. Access to Information/Bibliography

9.1. Cabinet report and discussion 13/9/16:

[http://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cl
d=241&MId=6103](http://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cl
d=241&MId=6103)

10. Contact Information

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Cheshire East Council

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	11 th April 2017
Report of:	Mark Palethorpe, Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health
Subject/Title:	Connecting Communities – Connected to Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Paul Bates, Communities and Health

1. Report Summary

- 1.1 On 8 November 2016, Cabinet agreed to a new exciting approach to how as a Council we engage with communities through our Connecting Communities Strategy.
- 1.2 This report sets out how we plan to connect with the Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) sector across Cheshire East. Our focus is on how we can:
 - ensure that the VCF sector has a voice and can influence what the Council does
 - support the VCF sector to work with us to deliver services and activities to our most vulnerable communities and deprived neighbourhoods to prevent demand and intervene at an early stage
 - provide a clear understanding to the VCF sector on what our relationship with them is
- 1.3 The VCF sector is very diverse and incredibly vibrant. In Cheshire East, there are a range of different organisations that make up this sector from large national organisations such as Barnados who deliver services to people affected by domestic abuse and local organisations such as The Wishing Well which provide a range of services including supporting older people to come out of hospital and stay in their own homes. There is also a strong and well connected faith sector who provide services for the most vulnerable through foodbanks and somewhere for the homeless to get a shower and wash their clothes.
- 1.4 The key thing that all of our VCF sector have in common is a set of organisational values that are about making a difference. They are not for profit and in the main although they have customers they provide services for free or it's a nominal fee for using the services.

- 1.5 Cheshire East Council for Voluntary Services who are the umbrella body for the sector undertook some research with the sector in 2015 called Hidden Power. This showed that:
- 93% of the VCF sector have volunteers
 - the total estimated income of the sector in Cheshire East was over £200m per annum
 - the VCF sector employ about 5,000 people which represents 2.5% of the total workforce in Cheshire East.
 - on average, over 53,000 people volunteer in our community
 - each week volunteers contribute over 74,000 hours of their time. This is the equivalent to nearly 2,000 jobs.
- 1.6 This shows that the VCF sector is both a powerful economic partner and one that can help us as a Council achieve our outcomes in challenging times. We know that the VCF sector have faced increasingly tough times recently and the future continues to look challenging. This is partly, due to reducing levels of resources from national, local government and health partners as well as other funding sources which has made the access to resources incredibly competitive. This has been compounded by an increasing demand for services which is demonstrated in Cheshire East by an increasingly elderly population and areas of deprivation and need which are masked by the overall demographic of Cheshire East.
- 1.7 The focus of the work around Connecting Communities and Connecting to the VCF sector in particular is to provide support to the sector to enable us to achieve our shared outcomes together. Our key shared outcomes are as follows:
- Our Local Communities are Strong and Supportive
 - Our People have the Life Skills and Education they need to thrive
 - Our People Live Well and for Longer
- 1.8 To make these come alive we are committing to two key priorities for our engagement with the VCF sector as a Council:
- An approach to commissioning the sector that provides clarity around our expectations of what we want and how we will measure success
 - Commitment to supporting the sector to respond to what we want through infrastructure support which will:
 - help organisations get ready to deliver on our behalf
 - increase the number of volunteers to support building resilient communities
 - enable the VCF sector to create these opportunities and support volunteers
 - create a mechanism to enable us to engage with the sector and listen to their needs to influence, strategy, policy and service delivery where possible

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet agree to:

- (i) note that following a competitive process, a contract for VCF Infrastructure support has been awarded to Cheshire East Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) for a term of three years commencing on 1 April 2017
- (ii) the development of a VCF Commissioning Framework which will be formalised following consultation and will be presented to Cabinet for final approval prior to implementation in September 2017.
- (iii) the VCF Commissioning framework being embedded into the delivery of commissioning frameworks across the Council.
- (iv) the promotion of the benefits of volunteering and the VCF sector and the recognition of the value it plays in building resilient communities
- (v) commit to working with the VCF sector and listening to their views about the needs of communities, especially protected characteristics to influence service provision

3. Other Options Considered.

- 3.1 Other options would be to not develop a corporate approach and infrastructure support for the sector. This would not fit with our strong commitment to connecting with the sector.

4 Reasons for Recommendation.

- 4.1 To update on progress and agree a corporate approach to Connected to VCF focussed on ensuring that there is clarity around our relationship with the sector and how we can connect with each other to achieve our outcomes.

5 Background / Chronology.

5.1 An approach to commissioning the sector that provides clarity around our expectation of what we want and how we will measure success

- 5.1.1 The Strategic Director for Adults, Public Health and Communities led an event with the VCF sector in December 2016 which set out in broad terms our future ambitions against a set of key priorities linked to our shared outcomes – Early Intervention and Prevention; Health and Wellbeing; Increasing Community Resilience and Employment and Skills. This gave the sector a great opportunity to articulate how they could add value to these priorities and outline any ideas and opportunities for the future.

- 5.1.2 A clear outcome from this was that the sector welcomed some clarity about how the approach to VCF commissioning would be one that was clear and consistent. As part of our desire to connect with the VCF sector a VCF and Council planning group has been established which will look at a draft commissioning framework and a future event will be held which will engage the

wider sector to develop a VCF Commissioning Framework that feels fit for purpose. The ambition is to have a co-produced framework for consideration by Cabinet by September 2017.

5.1.3 Moving from demand led to prevention and early intervention, Adult Social Care is wanting to ensure the VCF Sector are at the centre of the redesign which aspires to empower communities in a sustainable way which is co-produced and resilient.

5.1.4 Therefore, this section of the report sets out a draft outline framework for discussion with the VCF sector as outlined above. The purpose of the VCF Framework is to set out the Councils priorities and future plans for commissioning the VCF sector. Given the increasing pressures on resources, the framework aims to ensure the best use of funding available through a fair and transparent process.

5.1.5 Suggestions for considerations for the sector in relation to the commissioning process include:

- Consortia approaches are the preferred method for making larger contracts accessible to smaller providers.
- Decisions made about the best funding channel (contract or grant funding) will clearly demonstrate full consideration of costs and benefits and take into account the impact on local providers and the sustainability of provider diversity
- Use Participatory Budgeting principles to ensure that communities can influence commissioning especially at a locality level
- Encourage the use of our connected community centres that have signed up to our community franchise models by the VCF sector
- The relationship between Council and VCF will be outcome focussed and based on partnership working.
- Innovative approaches to creating alternative delivery models, especially in shaping the adult social care market

5.1.6 To provide further clarity, we are proposing using a three Tiered approach to VCF commissioning. As there are reduced resources and an increased demand for services, there has to be a realisation that there will not be enough funding to cover everyone's needs and wants. We are proposing using our outcomes as an overarching theme and specific funding priorities identified within each theme.

5.1.7 Organisations that would be commissioned would have to demonstrate how their work will address these priorities.

5.1.8 The suggested approach to the Tiers is set out below:

Tier One – Community Wellbeing

These services are aimed at people who have no particular social care needs or illness. These are universal services that build the skills and capacity of the community to do more for themselves and prevent them from needing more intensive services. It also covers infrastructure support services for the VCF sector in which we expect to see the diversification of the market of providers and the development of consortia to respond to our commissioning needs.

Tier Two – Early Intervention and Prevention

These targeted services will identify those people at risk, in adults this could be to slow down any deterioration to their independence, or those at risk of domestic abuse. It could be young people who are at risk of reoffending.

Tier Three – Reablement (Specialist)

These are services aimed at enabling safe and rapid discharge from hospital and rehabilitation and reablement services for adults. There will be an emphasis as well on preventing seasonal deaths.

5.2 Commitment to supporting the sector to connect with the Council

5.2.1 Cheshire East CVS have been funded by Cheshire East Council through a grant award for a number of years to provide infrastructure support and a voice for the sector. As a snapshot in a year this enabled:

- Over 1,100 information and advice sessions were delivered
- 49 training sessions covering topics such as project management, income generation and equality and diversity were held
- 13 new VCF groups were established
- 23 groups completed a Diagnostic Health Check

5.2.2 However, Cabinet agreed last year that we would move to a procurement process for a three year period. Cheshire East Council for Voluntary Services in partnership with Cheshire Community Action have successfully won the tender and have been awarded the contract. The scope of the contract covers:

- Facilitating, shaping and supporting a diverse, sustainable and quality market of VCF providers
- Creating mechanisms to consult and engage with communities of interest
- Providing information and support to voluntary, community and faith groups
- Contract Holder to be representative of all sectors within VCF and establish effective working relationships
- Promoting and increasing volunteering opportunities across the whole of Cheshire East
- Developing a strong VCF sector

- Encouraging collaboration between large and small VCF providers and actively developing approaches to create efficiencies and opportunities in the sector

5.2.3 The Council recognises that the VCF sector is independent with its own set of core values and principles and is clear that it wishes to connect and work in partnership with the sector. This approach is one offer of support for the sector which deals with the Council's proposed deal and is one element of the work of the VCF sector who access funding and advice from a whole range of places.

6 Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

6.1 The Strategy applies across the whole borough.

7 Implications of Recommendation

7.1 Policy Implications

7.1.1 The Strategy sets out ways to meet Outcome 1, Our Communities are Strong and Supportive and Outcome 5 People Live Well and for Longer. It underpins the Sustainable Community Strategy, Ambition for All and supports the delivery of many other policies.

7.2 Legal Implications

7.2.1 In November 2016 Cabinet approved the Connecting Communities Strategy which involved both engagement with communities and the third sector and proposals to deliver projects. That Strategy is a statement of the Council's intentions and so the Council's actions can be compared against the Strategy (and potentially challenged). Development of the VCF framework must therefore be carefully framed to reflect the Strategy and be reviewed over time and in conjunction with review of and changes to the Strategy to ensure it continues to reflect the Council's strategic aims.

7.2.2 The VCF framework proposals include the Council procuring services and so any commissioning will need to be compliant with the Council's own Finance and Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

7.2.3 The VCF framework proposals include grant funding organisations. The Council has developed a Grant Funding Protocol which sets out guidance on grant funding, consideration of state aid implications, the process for allocation and the limited conditions that should apply to any grant funding (Constitution Finance Procedure Rules E.26). Grant funding within the VCF framework will need to be compliant with the Constitution and the Protocol.

7.2.4 Development of the VCF framework will include a VCF and Council planning group to look at draft framework proposals and consultation will take place with wider stakeholders (VCF organisations) as part of the overall process. Consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage.

- The proposer must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to enable intelligent consideration and response. Those consulted should be aware of the criteria that will be applied when considering proposals and which factors will be considered decisive or of substantial importance at the end of the Consultation process
- Adequate time must be given for consideration and response.
- The product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising proposals.
- Consideration should be given the scope of the consultation. If the proposals alter existing ways of working and/or delivery of services which impact more widely (i.e. on service users) then this may lead to challenge if those affected have not been consulted (and their views given consideration) as part of the development of the proposals.

7.2.5 In developing the VCF framework the Council must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty. The Public Sector Equality Duty as set out at S149 of the Equality Act 2010, states:

“(1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it... “

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed to assist Cabinet in making its decision to adopt the Connecting Communities Strategy in November 2016. The Council must have regard to the PSED and consideration need to be to the contents of that EIA and whether to complete a fresh assessment when considering whether the VCF framework as finally developed meets its equality duties.

7.3 Financial Implications

7.3.1 There are no further financial implications arising from this report. The resource implications were included in the report on the Connecting Communities Strategy on 8 November 2016.

7.4 Equality Implications

7.4.1 There are no specific equality implications and due regard has been taken to our Equality Duty. The scope of the contract covers how we will ensure that the views of groups with protected characteristics are afforded due regard in influencing strategy, policy and service delivery. The EIA will be reviewed once the VCF Commissioning Framework is formalised.

7.5 Rural Community Implications

- 7.5.1 Cheshire Community Action as part of the contract have a specific role to reach the more rural areas and ensure that voices are heard. The consultation with the VCF sector in developing the commissioning approach will take into account how we shape service delivery in rural communities. A key issue will be how we develop and promote volunteering in some of our more rural areas as we know that volunteers can be the lifelines for some people to enable them to access services and get to the shops and hospital appointments. Our excellent example of care for older people by the VCF sector in Audlem is one that the Council would wish to learn from and utilise in other areas as appropriate

7.6 Human Resources Implications

- 7.6.1 There are no specific HR implications.

7.7 Public Health Implications

- 7.7.1 This has significant positive public health outcomes. Public Health are very keen to remain fully engaged in community based commissioning at a locality level and to ensure co-production and design of local services. The VCF work commissioned on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on behalf of Public Health in the community with those hardest to reach is a good example of how the Council working with the sector will use this information to influence service delivery.

7.8 Other Implications

- 7.8.1 None

8 Risk Management

- 8.1 Risks are identified through the Partnerships and Communities Business Planning process and are logged, reviewed and monitored.

9 Access to Information/Bibliography

- 9.1.1 Connecting Communities Strategy agreed by Cabinet on 8 November 2016.

10 Contact Information

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	11 th April 2017
Report of:	Frank Jordan, Executive Director of Place
Subject/Title:	Middlewich Eastern Bypass
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr David Brown, Highways and Infrastructure

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. The Council has responded to the concerns of residents and businesses in Middlewich by seeking means to secure the delivery of the Middlewich Eastern Bypass. Middlewich is a key service centre hosting four strategic sites for employment and housing. The bypass is a strategic highway scheme which will facilitate future sustainable growth in and around Middlewich
- 1.2. The Council took control of delivery of the bypass in 2015 and an intense programme of works has been underway since that time to achieve the objective of delivering the bypass. This approach was supported by a successful bid to the DfT's Development Funding programme for "Fast Track Local Major Schemes". This has enabled the Council to prepare an Outline Business Case to Government with a view to securing a capital funding award that will enable delivery of the scheme. Without this intervention from the Council, it is unlikely that the scheme would have progressed in the interim period.
- 1.3. In November 2016, Cabinet authorised feasibility work to finalise the options appraisal and business case, undertake appropriate consultation and prepare a funding plan for the preferred option to enable submission of the Outline Business Case to Government for the Middlewich Eastern Bypass.
- 1.4. This report details how the Outline Business Case has been prepared and provides the evidence that this is a scheme of high value-for-money. This business case is intended to secure a Government funding contribution which would enable delivery of the scheme. Cabinet is asked to endorse the Outline Business Case and agree that it be submitted to the Department for Transport for assessment. It is anticipated that a decision on acceptance of the scheme into the Local Majors Funding Programme will be determined by Ministers in the Summer 2017.
- 1.5. All activities necessary to complete an Outline Business case in accordance with DfT's published guidance (WebTAG) have been

completed, to ensure that the documentation provided to Government enables the scheme to be assessed for funding. The Core Elements of this submission are, as follows;

- **Strategic Case**
- **Economic Case**
- **Financial Case**
- **Management Case**
- **Commercial Case**

These are supported by the necessary technical reports, including;

- Options Assessment Report
- Report of Traffic Surveys
- Appraisal Specification Report
- Local Model Validation Report
- Traffic Forecasting Report
- Land Valuation Report
- Ground Investigations Primary Sources Report
- Report on Community & Stakeholder Engagement.

Delivery of this suite of documents fulfils the Council's obligations with regard to the bid to the Department for Transport's Fast Track Development Funding stream. This report recommends that Cabinet endorses submission of these documents to Government as a bid for programme entry and associated grant funding to deliver the Middlewich Eastern bypass. Subject to approval of this funding application, the delivery programme for Middlewich Eastern Bypass is expected to reach completion in 2020/21 (see Appendix 2).

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to

- 2.1. Endorse and note the submission of the Outline Business Case for Middlewich Eastern Bypass to the Department for Transport.
- 2.2. Agree that the Outline Business Case demonstrates that the proposed scheme (Preferred Option) fulfils the strategic objectives of the bypass, and that these can reasonably be considered to be affordable, achievable and value-for-money at this stage of project development.

- 2.3. Authorise the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Highways & Infrastructure to make all necessary arrangements for the preparation of a Planning Application for the preferred route option. It is anticipated that this application will be submitted to the Planning Authority towards the end of 2017.
- 2.4. Authorise the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 officer) and the Portfolio Holder for Highways & Infrastructure to agree a funding strategy for the project, especially the local funding contributions, in accordance with the funding requirements set out in this report.
- 2.5. Note that Cabinet receive future reports on the outcome of the bid for grant funding from DfT and the submission of a planning application for the project.

3. Options Appraisal

- 3.1 During the feasibility stage, detailed appraisal of options has been completed giving consideration to the strategic objectives of the bypass, environmental constraints, costs and deliverability.
- 3.2 Eight possible alignments for the bypass, including the existing consented route, have been assessed as part of the options appraisal. In November 2016, Cabinet approved a recommendation to consider Option 5 as the preferred scheme. The next best option, at this stage, is considered to be Option 1. (Appendix 1).
- 3.3 These options were appraised in detail during preparation of the Outline Business Case. In summary, the Outline Business Case provides detailed evidence to support this order of priorities.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1. There is a demonstrable need for infrastructure improvements in Middlewich to improve traffic flow and alleviate congestion. This is demonstrated through the traffic appraisal work completed as part of the business case. In addition, there is considerable local public support for the proposals, which is demonstrated by the outcomes of the Middlewich Transport Consultation which took place in August / September 2016. Through this consultation, 79% of respondents stated that there are severe issues affecting roads in Middlewich, with a further 15% considering the issue less severe, but still significant. When asked about priorities for improving transport, overwhelmingly the top priority for respondents was building a bypass (355 responses) exceeding the total number of preferences for all other interventions combined.
- 4.2. Earlier this year an opportunity was identified to apply to the Department of Transport (DfT) for funding for further scheme development during the current financial year through the fast-track stream of their Large Local Major Transport Schemes programme. The bid was successful and funding of £1.257m was awarded by DfT, which in addition to the Council's previously approved funding commitment of £0.75m, now gives a total

budget of approximately £2m for the development of the scheme to Outline Business Case (OBC) stage by 31st March 2017.

- 4.3. The Middlewich Eastern Bypass was one of only seven schemes nationally to have been awarded a share of the £10m funding available through the fast-track programme reflecting the strength of case that has been made to date. The award of DfT funding defined the requirements for development of the scheme to OBC stage in accordance with the Treasury's business case requirements. This work is now completed and ready for submission to the DfT.
- 4.4. Entry to the Large Local Major Programme requires rigorous assessment and compliance with well established DfT process and procedures in the assessment of the two options. The requirements are understood and are well known to the Council, with previous schemes having been subject to DfT requirements and progressing successfully.
- 4.5. The Outline Business Case has been prepared in accordance with DfT's technical guidance with the preliminary designs for the road prepared in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. The scheme will provide a bypass to the town centre and enable access to the Midpoint 18 strategic employment/logistics site. The bypass will support the economic growth agenda for Middlewich and the sub-region, facilitating 1,950 new dwellings and 6,500 additional jobs in the town.
- 4.6. The scheme is consistent with Cheshire & Warrington LEP's Strategic Economic Plan and is a key element of the HS2 Growth Strategy for the Northern Gateway & Constellation Partnership. It is considered to be policy compliant as it is embedded in the new Local Plan for Cheshire East which has recently been subject to Examination in Public, followed by a positive report from the Planning Inspectorate. The connectivity benefits from the scheme are realised by mitigating traffic congestion in the town and relieving delays on roads linking mid Cheshire towns – especially Middlewich, Winsford & Northwich – via the A54 to the M6 Junction 18.
- 4.7. The Business Case demonstrates that the scheme achieves High Value-for-Money, with a Benefit:Cost Ratio of 2.7. The OBC provides evidence to support a high degree of certainty over the accelerated delivery programme, in particular, there is considerable certainty that land can be assembled by negotiation, without the need for Compulsory Purchase. Completion is expected by the end of 2020.
- 4.8. An award of funding for the bypass, based upon a favourable outcome from the OBC, does not guarantee that future DfT funding meets all capital costs of the scheme. The bid is based on a 20% local contribution, comprising a mix of Cheshire East Council and developer contributions. It is essential that all avenues for funding continue to be investigated to identify the scale of funding which will be required from other funding sources, such as from nearby developments.

5. Background

- 5.1. The bypass has been a consented scheme for a number of years following the development of a scheme by Cheshire County Council to provide a bypass to the town centre and enable access to the Midpoint 18 strategic site. Initial sections of the scheme from the A54 have been constructed since 2000.
- 5.2. Development and delivery of the bypass was originally in the hands of the Private Sector, with funding largely flowing from development opportunities, but after the award of a planning consent for the Midpoint 18 masterplan and completion of the bypass in 2006, economic uncertainties restricted opportunities for further substantial development and funding opportunities for construction of the remainder of the bypass became severely restricted.
- 5.3. Due to continued lack of progress on the scheme the Council took control of delivery of the bypass in 2015 and a programme of works has been underway since that time to achieve the objective of delivering the bypass, whilst also developing the scheme to suit a broader set of local and regional objectives that have evolved since the original route was conceived. This approach was supported by a successful bid to the DfT's Development Funding programme for "Fast Track Local Major Schemes". This has enabled the Council to prepare an Outline Business Case to Government with a view to securing a capital funding award that will enable delivery of the scheme. Without this intervention from the Council, it is unlikely that the scheme would have progressed in the interim period.
- 5.4. An application for "Fast Track Local Major Schemes" funding was made through the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership, accompanied by letters of support from key stakeholders and developers. The application was required to demonstrate the strategic need for the bypass, alignment with local, sub-regional, and national policies; and presented the economic case for the bypass based upon estimated scheme costs and monetised benefits.
- 5.5. Securing this development funding from DfT was an important step in the delivery of the scheme but does not guarantee subsequent capital funding from DfT. Future approval of the OBC will move the scheme onto the DfT's Large Local Major Transport Schemes programme which will make future funding more likely, though not guaranteed.
- 5.6. The May report to Cabinet detailed the Strategic Case for the bypass and outlined how the objectives in the Strategic Case would be used in the options appraisal to develop a preferred solution.
- 5.7. The Strategic Case stated the primary objective for the bypass as being 'To deliver a highway scheme which functions as a bypass to deliver the traffic solution for Middlewich'. In so doing, the bypass will contribute to the following strategic outcomes;

- To support the economic growth agenda for Middlewich and the sub-region, facilitating the delivery of 1,950 dwellings and 6500 jobs in the town
- To mitigate problems of traffic congestion in the town, and on the strategic network linking mid Cheshire to M6 Junction 18
- To improve environmental conditions within the town, through reductions in traffic-related noise, air quality and severance.
- To facilitate the delivery of a package of complementary measures to support town centre regeneration, accessibility and public realm.

5.8. Implicit within these objectives are considerations relating to :

- The quality of the bypass alignment and route standard
- Alleviation of traffic congestion on the local highway network
- Alleviation of road safety concerns on the local highway network
- Impacts on non-peak journeys in terms of distance travelled and time taken

5.9. The May report also identified key requirements to be delivered by the bypass and their relative importance. It also outlined how the Strategic Case would be used as a primary “filter” of route options, followed by an assessment against site constraints and the delivery of the key requirements, to evaluate each route to objectively assess the relative merits of each option.

5.10. The key requirements were :

- Fulfilling the delivery of the Local Plan
- Delivery of further development opportunities
- Facilitation of high growth city HS2 objectives (Northern Gateway)
- Facilitation of an east-west by-pass (strategic future proofing)
- Connectivity with Cledford Lane
- Supporting the delivery of a new railway station site
- Facilitating rail opportunities
- Timeliness of delivery and length of construction period.
- Environmental impacts
- Cost effectiveness of environmental mitigations.

These factors have informed the assessment of the various options for the bypass, informing the recommendation of options to develop further for the Outline Business Case.

- 5.11. Throughout the feasibility stage, the Council has engaged with the land-owners / developers with interests affected by any of the options. As we proceed, this engagement will continue through this Stakeholder Engagement Group. This reflects the need to ensure that the project governance for the Fast Track process must be consistent with the Councils corporate project governance and assurance procedures, with major project assurance provided through the EMB giving members oversight of the programme.

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

Middlewich and Brereton Rural

- 6.1. Cllr Simon McGrory
- 6.2. Cllr Michael Parsons
- 6.3. Cllr Bernice Walmsley
- 6.4. Cllr John Wray
- 6.5. In addition, the Portfolio Holder for Highways & Infrastructure met with Middlewich Town Councillors on 14th December 2016 to discuss the options for the bypass. Periodic progress updates will be provided during on-going development of the proposals.

7. Implications of Recommendation

7.1. Policy Implications

The Scheme supports the emerging Local Plan Strategy Policy CO2 and is included in the associated Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The Eastern By-Pass also aligns strongly to Cheshire and Warrington Strategic Economic Plan and it is included in the Local Transport Plan 2015 Policy B2 – Enabling Development

7.2. Legal Implications

In accordance with the Council's Finance Procedure Rules (E21) Officers must seek Member approval before submitting any bid for specific grant funding that is aligned with the Council's priorities.

As outlined in the previous report to Cabinet (November 2016) the outputs of this Outline Business Case Stage will be prepared to ensure that the relevant requirements of the statutory planning process are met.

Engagement of key stakeholders, residents and members of the public is an obligation of the local authority during the planning and delivery of major highway projects. The proposed approach to consultation and engagement will ensure that the Council takes appropriate measures to discharge its obligations to stakeholders before confirming a preferred route option. That route will, of course, be subsequently subject to the normal, formal consultation process. The responses to the consultation will need to be conscientiously taken into account when Cabinet makes any future decisions.

The route of the scheme, alternative schemes, funding of the scheme, land acquisition, costs of land acquisition, potential consideration of the need for use of Compulsory Purchase Powers, and consideration of procurement and State Aid issues have all yet to be considered. All of these points will need separate legal consideration at the relevant time, on the points they raise, in light of the powers under the Constitution. In addition, funding to be provided by a capital contribution from the Council will have to be identified and form part of a capital bid and be a Key Decision.

As outlined in the Financial Implications below, the amount of funding from the Council is dependant on how much third party funding may be available through developer contributions. The Council is subject to strict rules on the pooling of funds through s106 agreements and cannot pool more than 5 contributions from such agreements. Additionally, there are significant drawbacks on the Council forward funding infrastructure projects on the basis of potential s106 funds. In particular, s106 agreements cannot be obtained for projects that have already been completed. The receipt of s106 monies is conditional on the terms of the individual s106 agreements and the ability of the developer to pay. It may be the case that valid s106 agreements never lead to the receipt of funds so this funding stream is not guaranteed.

7.3. Financial Implications

The Middlewich Eastern By-Pass will be delivered through a blend of scheme funding including third-party developer contributions secured by the Council. The viability and affordability of any scheme is a fundamental part of the Outline Business Case process.

A detailed cost estimate has been prepared to inform the Outline Business Case using specialist engineering and property cost consultants. The following table summarises the main cost elements for the scheme (preferred option). No prior expenditure is included in these values, which should be considered cost estimates to completion from 1st April 2017.

Scheme Element	Estimated Outturn Costs (2017 Q1 prices)
Construction incl. Preliminary works	£33.10m
Site supervision costs	£2.03m

Land acquisition & Part 1 Claims	£5.30m
Statutory utilities	£0.75m
Design fees	£5.33m
Inflation allowance	£4.24m
Risk Allowance	£7.73m
Total	£58.48m

The funding strategy for this project is reliant on a successful bid to the DfT's Large Local Major Schemes programme. The costs of Middlewich Eastern Bypass significantly exceed the LEP's guideline value (£48m), which is used to indicate when a scheme is unlikely to be funded through the Local Growth Deal (LGF). It is clear that LGF is not an appropriate funding route for this project.

The bid to the Large Local Majors programme will seek to maximise the reliance on local funding sources, referred to as the Local Contribution, from both Cheshire East Council and third party (developer) sources. However, there is a need to ensure that reliance on these funding sources is viable and does not adversely impact on the likelihood of future commercial or residential development being delivered. Therefore, for the purposes of this scheme, it is proposed that the local funding contribution be set at 20% of total scheme costs, with the remainder sought as grant funding from Government. DfT has indicated that this funding mix would be consistent with that adopted in bids for other Large Local Majors. Therefore, the funding mix for inclusion in the Outline Business Case is proposed as follows:

Funding Source		Value £ (2017 Q1 prices)
DfT Grant		£46.78m
Local Contribution	Cheshire East Council	£4.43m
	Third party	£7.27m
Total scheme costs		£58.48m

At this stage, third party contributions are estimated based upon committed or current S106 developer agreements (or equivalent). Over time, the proportion of third party funding is likely to change in response to development activity within the local area. For this reason, the local funding contribution is presented as a combination of both Council and Third party funding. Any change in either

element will have a direct impact on the funding obligation arising from the other source.

The Outline Business Case submitted to Government must include a statement by the Council's Section 151 officer confirming the funding strategy for the project, especially the local funding contributions necessary to match a DfT grant award.

Preparatory work to date on the project has been funded through a blend of Council and DfT resources. The Council's successful bid for DfT Local Major Development Funding awarded £1.257m from DfT, which is addition to the Council's previously approved funding commitment of £0.75m, now gives a total budget of approximately £2m for the development of the scheme to Outline Business Case (OBC) stage by 31st March 2017. At this time, the Council's expenditure to date on the project is approximately £1.5m, with £1.257. funded by DfT grant.

Cabinet should note that there is currently no approved budget to proceed to a Planning Application. Any commitment to further work will be made only with the prior approval of the S151 officer in consultation with Councillor Groves, Portfolio Holder for Finance.

7.4. Equality Implications

Equality implications will be considered in the options appraisal and completion of the Outline Business Case

7.5. Rural Community Implications

Any future planning application will require an Environmental Assessment which will take into account the effect on the rural community.

7.6. Human Resources Implications

N/A

7.7. Public Health Implications

The recommendations have no immediate impact on public health. Issues associated with noise and air quality will be assessed as part of the ongoing programme of works associated with the bypass leading ultimately to an Environmental Assessment.

7.8. Implications for Children and Young People

N/A

7.9. Other Implications (Please Specify)

N/A

8. Risk Management

- 8.1. Key risks to the Council continue to relate to the affordability of the scheme and this will be addressed through the continued development of the high level funding strategy.
- 8.2. The Council will be required to accept all responsibility for cost increases beyond the cost envelope stated in a business case that is approved for funding by DfT.
- 8.3. Risk management issues are unchanged from previous Cabinet reports. A risk register has been produced in the preceding stages of the project development and this will be reviewed and updated through the current stage of works. Capital cost risks are informed by a comprehensive Quantitative Risk Assessment, with a risk allowance of £7.7million included in the scheme costs. For appraisal purposes, a level of Optimism Bias is applied to uplift estimated costs by 44%, in accordance with DfT guidance, to ensure that the value-for-money of the scheme is not overstated.

9. Access to Information/Bibliography

- 9.1. The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.
- 9.2. Documents are held on file at :

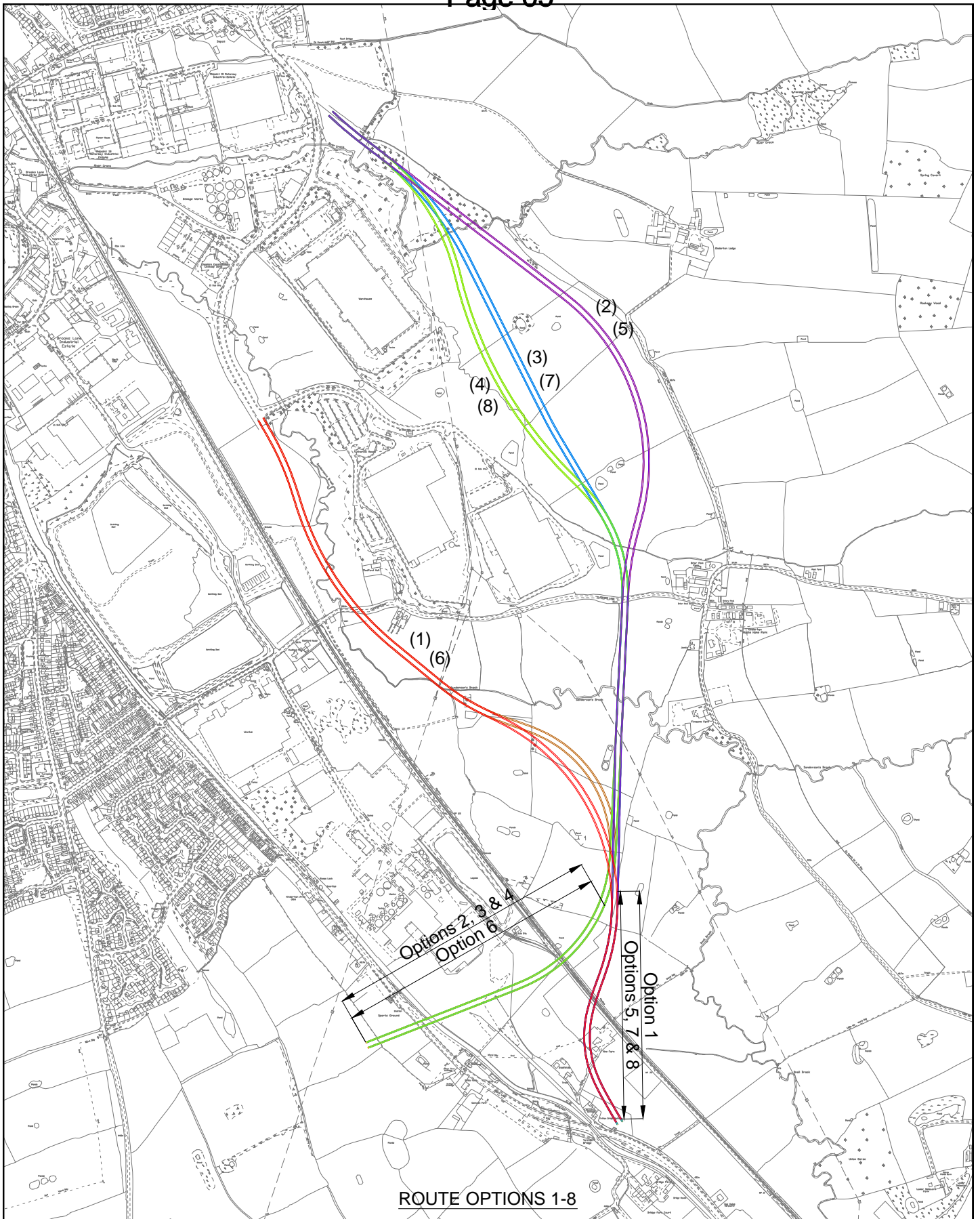
\\ourcheshire.cccusers.com\East\LTPEast\MiddlewichBypass.

10. Contact Information

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ROUTE OPTIONS 1-8

KEY

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| Option 1 | Option 5 |
| Option 2 | Option 6 |
| Option 3 | Option 7 |
| Option 4 | Option 8 |

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Client
CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Project
MIDDLEWICH EASTERN BYPASS

Drawing title

**PRELIMINARY ROUTE
OPTIONS**

Drawing status

Scale NTS @ A4 **DO NOT SCALE**

Jacobs No. B1832077

Client no.

Drawing number

B1832077-FIGURE-002

Rev

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Rev	Rev. Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Rev'd	Appr'd
P01						

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High Level Programme for Middlewich Eastern Bypass

Scheme	2016				2017				2018				2019				2020			
	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Middlewich Eastern By-Pass																				
Inception and Feasibility																				
Options Phase																				
Development Phase																				
Procurement																				
Construction																				

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Cheshire East Council

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	11 th April 2017
Report of:	Executive Director of Economic Growth and Prosperity
Subject/Title:	Sydney Road Replacement Bridge
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor David Brown, Highways and Infrastructure

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. The Council has set out a clear vision and strategy for employment led economic growth. An important element of this strategy is to improve the Borough's infrastructure to improve connectivity
- 1.2. As the largest town in the Borough, the role of Crewe in the economy of Cheshire East and the wider Cheshire and Warrington sub-region is crucial. Development is taking place in the north of Crewe and providing capacity improvements at Sydney Road Bridge will support this growth and enhance access to the key destinations; Bentley and Leighton Hospital.
- 1.3. Sydney Road Bridge is a classified B Road which acts as a main distributor route and crosses the West Coast Crewe to Manchester Mainline. The existing bridge is a narrow traffic signal controlled single carriageway only structure. The scheme seeks to increase capacity at this pinch point by replacing the existing bridge with a new wider structure capable of taking two way traffic without traffic signal restriction.
- 1.4. This report recommends the Cabinet approve expenditure to enable early delivery of accommodation works required to enable the delivery of Sydney Road Replacement Bridge.
- 1.5. Recommendations requested within this paper would not directly impact on the adjacent Crewe Green roundabout project. However, Sydney Road Bridge replacement is linked to the improvements planned for Crewe Green roundabout and both projects will work together to minimise disruption to the public and maximise any associated opportunities.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is recommended to:

Authorise the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, in advance of the determination of the planning application to:

- 2.1 Negotiate and approve the terms of an agreement with Scottish Power to undertake the design and delivery for the diversion of the 132KV power cable.
- 2.2 Negotiate and approve the terms of an agreement with Statutory Undertakers to divert their services to enable the construction of the replacement bridge.
- 2.3 Negotiate and approve the terms of an agreement with Network Rail Infrastructure Projects (NR IP) to undertake accommodation works. Advance works to include the cable diversion route and Overhead Line Equipment (OLE) modifications to enable the replacement of the bridge structure.
- 2.4 Authorise the Director of Legal Services to execute all necessary legal documents to give effect to the above agreements

3. Other Options Considered

- 3.1. An option to delay the enabling works until planning permission has been secured has been considered. However, recent discussions with Network Rail (NR) and Train Operating Companies (TOCs) suggest that railway possessions for bridge demolition and replacement could commence in Nov 2018, so in order to meet Network Rail deadlines and Scottish Power's programme for delivery of the cable diversion, enabling works would have to commence before conclusion of the planning process.
- 3.2. The option of Statutory Undertakers contracting directly with Network Rail was considered. However, the Council receives significantly greater discount than NR on fees levied by Statutory Undertakers. Additionally any monies paid through NR would be subject to 7.5% uplift for Risk and Fee Funds.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1. There is a need to drive forward the development of this £10.5m scheme as the DfT / Local Growth Funding grants of £5.85m are dependent on delivery during the 2015 – 2021 period. The design work completed to

date has identified a significant opportunity to commission some advanced enabling works that can be done without a full closure of the rail line. This will reduce the works necessary during the main bridge replacement works, thus reducing the duration of the main works and any resultant disruption.

- 4.2. Cheshire East Council and Network Rail (NR) discussions with the Train Operating Companies (TOC's) has identified that, in principle, an acceptable time for possession (blocking) of the railway to allow construction of the replacement bridge could be November 2018.
- 4.3. Actual possession dates may be driven by Scottish Power planned power outages which may dictate that the works be delayed until early 2019.
- 4.4. Reaching agreement with the TOC's on railway possessions has had to be approached carefully as in 2015 there was also a 9 day blockade (closure) of the line to accommodate Network Rail repairs to a viaduct. However, the TOC's have now in principle accepted the need for works to Sydney Rd Bridge and are anticipated to accept possessions which will also allow other essential Network Rail works to take place on the same section of track at the same time.
- 4.5. Network Rail (NR) will confirm possession booking in advance of the enabling works. NR plan to publish the necessary notices to fix the possession dates required for the construction of the new bridge.
- 4.6. The Scottish Power estimate and programme for the cable diversion indicates that they require 12 month programme of works to complete the necessary works for the 132 kV cable. This cable diversion is required in advance of the main construction works for Sydney Rd Bridge which may commence in November 2018.
- 4.7. The planning application for the bridge replacement scheme will be submitted shortly, leading to an 8 week determination period.
- 4.8. Enabling works will be limited in scope to that which is absolutely necessary to be done in advance of the main scheme so as mitigate the risk of expending finance before confirmation of planning approval.

5. Background/Chronology

- 5.1. Sydney Road is located on the north east side of Crewe. It is a Classified 'B' Road which acts as a distributor route serving the north side of Crewe and connecting it to key destinations such as the Bentley Motor Factory and Leighton Hospital.
- 5.2. Traffic flows on Sydney Road are restricted by the narrow, Network Rail owned Sydney Road Bridge, which currently operates a single-way traffic

system controlled by traffic lights at either end of the bridge. The bridge crosses the West Coast Main Line (Crewe – Manchester). There are planning consents for new developments along the Sydney Road corridor. The developments will increase road traffic and the Council wishes to undertake work to mitigate the pinch point at this bridge location.

- 5.3. To demonstrate the economic benefits of the scheme the value for money category is defined by the Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of the scheme using monetised impacts in line with Department for Transport guidance notes. The replacement Sydney Road Bridge scheme currently returns a BCR of greater than 3 which demonstrates the scheme offers High Value for Money.
- 5.4. In 2012 the Council commissioned Jacobs, the Council's term consultant to undertake a feasibility options study to create 2-way traffic working over Sydney Road Bridge and recommend a preferred option. Five options were considered in the June 2012 report: bridge widening; bridge replacement; a separate pedestrian footbridge to the north or south (in conjunction with two-way vehicular traffic on the existing bridge deck); and, a new bridge to carry westbound traffic, constructed immediately to the south of the existing bridge which would be retained to carry eastbound traffic and services. Bridge replacement was the preferred option of both the Council and Network Rail Infrastructure Projects (NRIP).
- 5.5. NRIP were commissioned to identify and assess options for replacement of the bridge structure and reinstatement of widened highway. A single option has been selected and design progressed to Network Rail's Approval in Principle (AiP) stage.
- 5.6. The preferred solution endorsed by Cabinet in November 2014 was to demolish the existing bridge and build a new bridge structure within the enlarged footprint of the old bridge. This solution has the main advantage of being constructed independently from the existing bridge without necessitating structural dependencies upon it. This will result in very low long term maintenance risk, less impact to the traffic flow and rail service providers during construction and a shortened programme.
- 5.7. A NR Basic Asset Protection Agreement (BAPA) was agreed and signed between the Council and NR. The agreement allowed for a small amount of scheme development together with live track access. The Council's consultants Jacobs have undertaken seasonal visual ecology surveys on the live railway to inform the proposed planning application.
- 5.8. The bridge is currently owned and maintained by NR. It is expected that NR will request that the ownership and associated liability for maintenance of the replacement structure is passed to the Council. It is expected that in return the Council could expect a contribution toward the scheme cost from NR.

- 5.9. The Cabinet has agreed that the delivery strategy for a new structure will be to contract with Network Rail (NR IP) to design and construct the scheme using a Contractor from their tendered OJEU compliant Construction Framework.
- 5.10. Council have also entered into a Development Services Agreement (DSA) with NR IP to deliver the scheme design to AiP. A further DSA will be required to take the scheme to detailed design and we have agreement from Cabinet to enter into an Implementation Agreement (IA) with NR IP to construct the scheme. A 2 month 'break clause' will be incorporated to permit the Council the opportunity to halt the scheme if the Scheme estimate is too costly, or for any other reason the Council no longer wishes to proceed.
- 5.11. Planning permission is required for a replacement structure at this location. At present it is considered that that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will not be required. The planning application will involve pre-application discussions with affected parties.
- 5.12. Land acquisition or licences for temporary use of land are required for the construction of the bridge and these negotiations are underway. If negotiations prove not to be positive, it may be necessary for the Council to implement use of its Compulsory Purchase Powers to undertake the acquisition of land required to deliver this scheme.
- 5.13. A high level programme for the delivery of the project is attached as Appendix 1.
- 5.14. Through papers previously submitted to Cabinet in Nov 2014 and October 2015, the Cabinet has to date authorised the following activities:-
- Entering into a Development Services Agreement ("DSA") with NR IP to enable the design and delivery plan of the scheme.
 - Planning application to Cheshire East Council as planning authority to enable lawful construction of the new bridge structure.
 - Officers to enter into discussions with land owners about acquiring the necessary land and rights to deliver the scheme and to delegate the entering into any necessary supporting legal agreements to the Head of Legal Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.
 - The use of the Council's Compulsory Purchase Powers ("CPO") to acquire land in order to construct the scheme. Note: CPO powers will only be used if land is unable to be acquired by negotiation.
 - The appointment of external legal to implement the CPO's if required.

- Council to adopt, if constructed the newly constructed bridge as a Cheshire East Council highway asset.
- Forward funding of up to £382,050 from the associated S106 agreements to fund the DSA.
- Enter into an Implementation Agreement with Network Rail Infrastructure Projects
- If required, authorise the publication of a Voluntary Ex-ante Transparency (VEAT) Notice in respect of the Implementation Agreement.
- Enter into negotiation with NR over funding contributions.
- Entering into a Basic Asset Protection Agreement (BAPA) with NR and any subsequent amendments to the BAPA as may be required as the scheme progresses

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

6.1. Crewe East

Councillors Suzanne Brookfield, Clair Chapman, David Newton (Crewe East)

7. Implications of Recommendation

7.1. Policy Implications

- 7.1.1. The Scheme supports the Council's policy for sustainable development and jobs growth as set out in the emerging Local Plan. The scheme also allows for the implementation of Broadband if required at that severance point.
- 7.1.2. The scheme would reduce the relative attractiveness of vehicles using alternative rural lanes that avoid the capacity constraints at the existing bridge.
- 7.1.3. Promoting greater connectivity along the corridor supports the housing allocation in the Local Plan and access to key locations such as the Bentley Motor Works and Leighton Hospital.

7.2. Legal Implications

- 7.2.1. The Councils legal section are content with the approach proposed in this report but note that this project will in the near future require

the execution of various documents and legal instruments which will require input from lawyers with expertise in planning, contract and property law.

7.3. Financial Implications

7.3.1. The estimated cost of the scheme is £10.5m although this cost may lessen with value engineering and with NR IP partnering. In order to secure the requisite NR IP technical specialist input into the development of the scheme the Council has entered into a DSA with NR IP. This agreement provides commitment for the Council to cover NR IP's professional fees and an estimated budget of £382,050 has been included within the proposed agreement.

7.3.2. Currently 4 signed developer S.106 agreements committing contributions totalling £4.522m have been agreed in respect of the following housing developments:-

- Maw Green
- Coppenhall East
- 138 Sydney Road
- 152 Broughton Road

These developments along the Sydney Road corridor have secured planning permission.

7.3.3. Funding from these Section 106 agreements will be available once the linked development has commenced and any triggers in the agreement have been met.

7.3.4. A further £2.35M of funding has been contributed to the Scheme from Department for Transport (DfT) devolved major scheme pot via the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). This funding is to be used for the (construction) of the scheme. This funding is dependent on the approval of the Business Case currently being developed. The Business Case is due to be submitted in March 2017. This funding will also dependent on delivery of the replacement bridge during the 2015 – 2021 period.

7.3.5. A further £3.5m of contribution has been committed directly from the Local Growth Fund.

7.3.6. A further contribution of £0.5m has been committed by the Council from the Local Transport Plan (LTP) grant allocation toward the development of the scheme.

7.3.7. It is expected that additional Developer S106 contributions toward the scheme may be secured from other proposed housing developments along this corridor.

- 7.3.8. A contribution toward the scheme cost would be expected from Network Rail although this may take the form of a commuted lump sum for future maintenance. Negotiations on NR contribution are ongoing.
- 7.3.9. The estimated total scheme cost in January 2017 is £10.50m. If, for any reason the scheme is delivered for less than the budget, the Section 106 funding is flexible and will be redirected towards the improvements proposed at Crewe Green Roundabout.
- 7.3.10. The scheme is included in the Council's Capital Programme approved by Full Council on 23rd February 2017.

	£M	
Estimated Total Scheme Cost	10.500	Jan 2017 Estimate
Funding Sources		
DfT Devolved Major Scheme Pot	2.350	Confirmed
Local Growth Fund Contribution	3.500	Confirmed
Local Transport Plan Grant	0.500	Confirmed
Section 106 funding	4.522	Unconfirmed *
Total Funding available	10.872	
Surplus	0.372	

*Requires forward funding from the Council until Section 106 funding is received (see paragraph 8.2 – 8.3 and 8.6)

7.4. Equality Implications

- 7.4.1. This scheme will support equality initiatives providing enhanced pedestrian and cycling access whilst improving the capacity of the highway.
- 7.4.2. The scheme includes a new pedestrian crossing that will improve access for pedestrians.

7.5. Rural Community Implications

- 7.5.1. The scheme would reduce the relative attractiveness of vehicles using alternative rural lanes that avoid the capacity constraints at the existing bridge.

7.6. Human Resources Implications

- 7.6.1. This scheme has no impact on human resources. The decision to employ NR IP removes any requirement to provide extra personnel or training.

7.7. Public Health Implications

- 7.7.1. This scheme may impact on air quality, noise and vibration during construction. Network Rail and their contractors will mitigate any impacts by adopting construction techniques and practices that will minimise impact on the public.
- 7.7.2. Following construction it is anticipated that the new bridge and two way traffic, without signalling, will improve air quality local to the structure. Increased volumes of traffic may have an impact on noise and vibration.

7.8. Implications for Children and Young People

- 7.8.1. The scheme provides improved safety for pedestrians including children and young people.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1. Key risk in delivery is securing the necessary possessions to enable the bridge to be constructed before the 2021 deadline for the £2.35M LEP funding. The Council have been supporting Network Rail in discussions with TOCs which should lead to agreed possession dates being confirmed by the end of Feb 2017. It is anticipated that the possessions may run from Nov 2018, with completion of the project by Summer 2019.
- 8.2. The Sydney Road bridge scheme is directly linked to Crewe Green roundabout improvement scheme. Benefits associated with the delivery of Crewe Green Roundabout, in advance of Sydney Road Bridge replacement, will be taken into consideration when the design of Sydney Road bridge and associated traffic diversions are finalised.
- 8.3. A series of joint public information and engagement events for the related Sydney Road Bridge and Crewe Green Roundabout will be held in March/April 2017.
- 8.4. There is reputational risk with the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and DfT around the late or non-delivery of the scheme. The Council is developing a strong reputation on delivery with Crewe Rail Exchange already completed and 3 other schemes on-site. It would be in the best interests of the Council to continue this trend.

- 8.5. Temporary and permanent land requirements have been established. Negotiations and agreement with home owners and businesses have ongoing. If agreements cannot be readily made we have Cabinet approval to proceed with CPO.
- 8.6. Scheme costs are based on Network Rail estimate of the AiP design. Detailed design will provide further detail and clarification of requirements. A QCRA has been held to review project risk and establish the contingency required for the project. Cost are as robust as we can achieve with the level of detail available.
- 8.7. Further Local Growth Fund (LGF) bids and development S106 negotiation will also be used to minimise the council's exposure to any additional costs.
- 8.8. The funding from Section 106 agreements to the scheme is dependent on the associated development being delivered. There is a risk that the forward funding arrangement may put the Council's capital resources in jeopardy, in the event of these contributions being delayed or not materialising.
- 8.9. Significant risk exists with constructing a complex scheme such as this in a constrained site and over the live West Coast Mainline. It is considered the most effective way of managing that risk will be by partnering with NR IP to develop and deliver the scheme. In this way NR can bring their vast experience and expertise in similar schemes to bear and thereby reduce the risk to the Council.
- 8.10. Although this project is a highways scheme the design and construction will be delivered by Network Rail. We have replaced the Council's project lead on the scheme to a Project Manager with significant rail experience. Our new PM will manage the risks associated with rail interface.
- 8.11. There is a risk that Sydney Road Bridge and Crewe Green Roundabout will be implemented within the same timeframe. The impact on the local community and businesses will be assessed to reduce the impact of the two major highway schemes.

9. Access to Information/Bibliography

- 9.1. The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer as detailed in section 10.

10. Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:

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APPENDIX

Scheme	2016				2017				2018				2019				2020			
	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Sydney Road Bridge																				
Inception and Feasibility																				
Options Phase																				
Development Phase																				
Procurement																				
Construction																				

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Cheshire East Council

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	11 th April 2017
Report of:	Executive Director Place
Subject/Title:	Crewe Green Roundabout Improvements – Increase to Funding Provision
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr David Brown, Highways and Infrastructure

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. The Council has set out a clear vision and strategy for jobs-led economic growth in the emerging Local Plan. It is vital that there is significant investment in transport infrastructure to support that growth.
- 1.2. The Crewe Green Roundabout is a key gateway to the Town and the scheme to improve it will unlock growth and improve access to a number of development and employment sites in and around Crewe that have been identified in Local Plan Strategy. Furthermore, it is a key infrastructure component in the delivery of the Council's emerging ambitions centred on the delivery of a HS2 Hub Station at Crewe. The scheme will also have environmental benefits, through reduced traffic congestion, increased freight efficiency and improved travel times.
- 1.3. The roundabout is a key congestion 'Pinch Point' on the main highway network in Crewe and on one of the main access routes to Leighton Hospital. Improvements to this junction will provide capacity for the predicted growth in traffic during the Local Plan period up to 2030.
- 1.4. Approval was given to proceed with the Scheme at the Cabinet meeting on the 18th October 2016.
- 1.5. This report gives an update on progress with the pre-construction phase of the scheme and updates the estimated scheme cost as a result of this work.
- 1.6. The report seeks approval to vary the budget for the Scheme and to continue with the procurement process.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1. Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £2.5m (intended to be partially funded by the Council's award through the National Productivity Investment Fund) to meet the forecast cost of the scheme.
- 2.2. Approve the total budget for the scheme costs (including risk) as outlined in the attached Project Funding Table shown at Appendix 1.
- 2.3. Authorise the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Highways and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder to enter into the construction phase of the works.
- 2.4. Authorise the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Highways and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder, to proceed with all necessary technical work, including finalising detailed design and agreement of a final target cost for the works, land assembly, investigation and conduct of diversions of statutory-undertakers apparatus to enable the Highway Works to be delivered.

3. Other Options Considered

- 3.1. A consultation exercise was held in summer 2016 on four design options for the Crewe Green Roundabout Junction Improvement Scheme. The consultation process found a strong overall preference for Option 3 and Option 4. Options 1 and 2 were less popular.
- 3.2. At the Cabinet meeting on the 18th October 2016, Option 3 was approved for design development as the preferred option for the Scheme and is shown at Appendix 2.
- 3.3. The Option 3 Scheme was originally identified as the lowest cost option. A feasibility review of the scheme in December 2016 alongside the appointed framework contractor, who were able to advise in detail on proposed construction planning, programming and coordination of the works, identified a potential final scheme estimate above the current funding provision.
- 3.4. In light of this, options 1, 2 and 4 were all re-examined to ascertain if Option 3 would remain as the preferred option. The conclusion was scheme options 1, 2 or 4 would result in higher scheme estimates than Option 3, confirming Option 3 as the preferred option. The work also confirmed that Option 3 offered the greatest potential for subsequent planning, programming and safety benefits during the construction phase. Some of these benefits will be realised during the Value Engineering development of Option 3.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1. The estimated final cost has increased from the previous budget estimate.
- 4.2. The original cost estimate was prepared in June 2016 on all of Scheme Options 1, 2, 3 and 4. The knowledge of the scope and extent of the proposed works was limited at this stage.
- 4.3. Option 3 was selected as the preferred option after assessing all options against a set of objective criteria and taking into account the public consultation work
- 4.4. The cost estimate was based on a limited level of project design information available at that early stage of option development. The estimating technique used appropriate estimating rates.
- 4.5. Detailed discussions with relevant utility companies are progressing and opportunities to reduce or remove requirement for diversion of statutory undertakers services are being considered in design development and construction planning and programming.
- 4.6. The updated cost estimate is based on a total scheme cost for Option 3 which has been significantly developed since the initial estimate to include updated, detailed information on construction planning, programming and traffic management and indicates a new funding gap (including risk) of £2.423m.
- 4.7. However, additional funding of £1.95m is available from the National Productivity Investment Fund which could contribute to addressing part of this shortfall.
- 4.8. The National Productivity Investment Fund is a good fit for supplementary funding for the Crewe Green Roundabout Improvement scheme and fits with Government targeting of funds towards economic infrastructure. The Council's £1.95m award, along with Local Growth Funding, forward funding from the Council and developer contributions from S106 planning obligations from nearby developments should ensure the scheme is fully funded (see Appendix 1)
- 4.9. The Sydney Road Bridge is another major infrastructure project immediately to the north of Crewe Green Roundabout. The close proximity of the related but separate scheme and the potential for significant disruption on the local road network is a major concern that has been taken into account within the early construction planning and programming of both schemes. Therefore, works at Crewe Green Roundabout are being planned in the most effective manner alongside the Sydney Road Bridge works to limit impact on the road network. Current thinking is to deliver the schemes sequentially and deliver relief to the heavily congested Crewe Green Roundabout allowing the roundabout to operate freely without traffic lights before starting the Sydney Road Bridge scheme. This approach allows a more efficient delivery of the works and less disruption to the public with a shorter construction period.

- 4.10. The opportunity to mitigate network disruption will continue to be assessed during the development and construction stages of the scheme.
- 4.11. A series of joint public information and engagement events for the related Crewe Green Roundabout Improvement and Sydney Road Bridge schemes are being held in March / April 2017.

5. Background/Chronology

- 5.1. Following on from an award of £142.7 million of Local Growth Fund (LGF) in July 2014, the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership was awarded a further £15.2 million in February 2015 as part of LGF Round 2. One of the projects included in Round 2 was Crewe Green Roundabout which was awarded an allocation of £3.3 million. This allocation was made as the scheme removed a key congestion 'Pinch Point' on the main distributor network in Crewe and improved access to strategic employment sites at Basford, Capricorn (J17) and directly opened up a housing site in the emerging Local Plan. The project also proposed to unlock 570 new homes, facilitate the creation of 750 jobs and contribute to an increase in GVA.
- 5.2. The remainder of the approved budget of was proposed to be sought from developer contributions in the form of S106 contributions from developments which will contribute to traffic growth at the roundabout.
- 5.3. The National Productivity Investment Fund is a broad initiative with the funds being determined on a formulaic basis. In future years the fund may be subject to competitive bidding process but not this year. It is un-ring fenced highways capital that must make an impact. It is there to improve the local highways and transport network, to address pinch points, to open up housing sites and to support economic growth. Crewe Green Roundabout Improvements fall within the NPIF initiative in that it is a pinch point scheme on a critical transport corridor from the M6 into Crewe. The Crewe Green Roundabout improvement will unlock growth potential and improve access to a number of development and employment sites in and around Crewe Town Centre that have been identified in the Local Plan Strategy. Furthermore, it is a key infrastructure component in the delivery of the Council's emerging ambitions centred on the delivery of a HS2 Hub Station at Crewe.

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

6.1. Wards Affected

- 6.1.1. Crewe East and Haslington Wards.

6.2. Local Ward Members

- 6.2.1. Cllr David Newton – Crewe East
- 6.2.2. Cllr Suzanne Brookfield – Crewe East

6.2.3. Cllr Clair Chapman – Crewe East

6.2.4. Cllr John Hammond - Haslington

6.2.5. Cllr David Marren – Haslington

7. Implications of Recommendation

7.1. Policy Implications

7.1.1. It relates directly to the Council's Corporate Plan; Outcomes 2 and 6.

7.1.2. The Scheme supports the emerging Local Plan Policy CO2 and is included in the associated Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

7.1.3. It is included in the Local Transport Plan 2015 Policy B2 – Enabling Development.

7.2. Legal Implications

7.2.1. The Scheme is subject to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and must be procured by way of a compliant procurement exercise. The Service has engaged with Procurement Officers and conducted an evaluation of the procurement options.

7.2.2. A planning application will need to be submitted prior to any works taking place and any requirements of such permission will need to be met as detailed in that permission. Further advice will need to be taken once the land issues have been fully investigated.

7.2.3. The Council is subject to strict rules on the pooling of funds through s106 agreements and cannot pool more than 5 contributions from such agreements. Additionally, there are some risks in the Council forward funding infrastructure projects on the basis of potential s106 funds. For example, s106 agreements cannot be obtained for projects that have already been completed; the receipt of s106 monies is conditional on the terms of the individual s106 agreements and the ability of the developer to pay. There is therefore a risk that valid s106 agreements never lead to the receipt of funds so this funding stream cannot be absolutely guaranteed at this stage.

7.2.4. Any use of the £1.95m National Productivity Investment Fund grant by the Council will be subject to the specific conditions of that grant. As at the date of this report, these specific legal terms are unknown but HM Treasury has indicated that the use of the National Productivity Investment Fund may be assessed by third parties:

“Specific projects will be decided in due course, using value for money assessments, following HM Treasury standards. Where relevant, expert sector bodies such as Highways England, the Homes and Communities Agency, and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) will make this assessment.”

The Council will therefore need to ensure that the use of the £1.95m grant accords with the specific grant conditions and that any third party assessment concurs with the Council's allocation of this funding to the current Scheme. There is therefore a risk that the £1.95m is not allocated to the current Scheme despite the Council's best efforts and that additional funding is required from the Council to complete the Scheme.

7.3. Financial Implications

7.3.1. The current scheme approved budget is £5m which is included in the approved capital programme. The post feasibility Forecast Cost for the scheme of £7.423m is therefore projected to be above current approved funding. The scheme actual cost will depend on finalisation of the target cost and any further savings opportunities realised during pre-construction and construction implementation stages.

7.3.2. Subject to approval, the additional £1.95m to be funded by the National Productivity Investment Fund should cover some of the shortfall in scheme costing, but it is prudent at this stage to also cover the full risk allowance of £0.656m (See Appendix 1) which has been attributed to the project at this stage, resulting in a request for approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £2.5m

7.3.3. The Council is due to receive the grant in full in April 2017. As the full terms of the grant conditions are still uncertain there could be a risk that if the Crewe Green Roundabout scheme does not meet the criteria set by the Department of Transport then there is a risk of paying back the grant in part or in full. We believe the likelihood of any payback is minimal. The Department for Transport have been verbally informed of our proposal and raised no issues, but if a clawback is required then the Council would have to fund any shortfall .

7.4. Equality Implications

7.4.1. There will be no equality implications as a result of this decision.

7.5. Rural Community Implications

7.5.1. There will be no rural community implications as a result of this decision.

7.6. Human Resources Implications

7.6.1. There will be no human resource implications as a result of this decision.

7.7. Public Health Implications

- 7.7.1. The detailed design of the scheme will accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists to prevent, as far as possible, the junction acting as a barrier to those wishing to walk and cycle to access town centre facilities and employment sites, including the new Lifestyle Centre.
- 7.7.2. The design will be subject to a safety audit process to ensure that vulnerable road users, including pedestrians and cyclists, are taken into account in the final scheme.
- 7.7.3. The scheme will have environmental benefits, through reducing traffic congestion, increasing freight efficiency and improving travel times and reliability.

7.8. Implications for Children and Young People

- 7.8.1. There will be no implications for Children and Young People as a result of this recommendation.

7.9. Other Implications (Please Specify)

- 7.9.1. There will be no other implications as a result of this recommendation.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1. Robust governance arrangements have been operating for the project and a risk register is in place and monitored on a regular basis. Mitigation measures; monitoring and effective control will continue to be exercised.
- 8.2. The three principal risks identified are safety in construction; timely completion and delivery within budget. They have all been considered in the selection, design development and construction planning and programming of the scheme.
- 8.3. The retention of the Designer as Principal Designer on the scheme will mitigate against cost escalation and provide Value Engineering input to the optimum design solution for the improvement works.
- 8.4. The Council's use of the SCAPE Framework and appointment of a Contractor for Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) in the pre construction stage will provide construction planning and programming expertise and will highlight mitigation opportunities on programme, cost, and construction management and safety and have already provided earlier certainty over overall scheme costings.
- 8.5. The procurement route for implementation and construction of the works will use the SCAPE Framework Contractor based on the NEC3 Engineering and Construction (ECC) Target Cost contract, incentivising the contractor to reduce costs to achieve a share of any gains resulting from an outturn cost below the Target.

- 8.6. A supplementary capital estimate of £2.5m is sought through funding to be secured by the Council from the National Productivity Investment Fund and the Council's capital programme to cover the total scheme forecast costs (including the risk allowance).
- 8.7. Local Enterprise Partnership funding (£3.3 million) has been awarded and a Conditional Assurance Business Case to secure funds submitted to the LEP in May 2017.
- 8.8. Third Party Funding from s.106 commuted sums developer contributions (£1.7 million) is not yet all secured, so there remains a risk that this may not be achieved. If this occurs, there is a risk that the council's forward funding element of the commuted sums element may not be recouped and the overall capital programme would need to be modified accordingly. Mitigation of this risk is underway via close working with the planning team and negotiations with developers to ensure that sufficient contribution will be secured, which along with LGF3 funding, will substantially fund the scheme.

9. Access to Information/Bibliography

- 9.1. The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

10. Contact Information

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APPENDIX 1

Crewe Green Roundabout Improvements

Project Cost Table

Project cost table		Estimated Final Actual Cost
Value £m		Revised Budget
Scheme costs		6.017
Utilities		0.750
Total Project Cost		6.767
Risk		0.656
Estimated Outturn Scheme Cost		7.423
Opportunities (Value Engineering)		-0.133
Potential Final Cost		7.290

Project Funding Table

£m	Outturn Project Cost (including Risk)	LEP Funding Contribution (LGF)	3rd Party Contribution (S106)	NPIF contribution	CEC
TOTAL	7.423	3.300	1.700	1.95	0.473
		↓		↓	
			5.000		2.423
			Already approved		SCE request

Expenditure and Funding Profiles

Years ended (31 March)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2018 onward	Total
	£k	£k	£k	£k		£k
Total capital expenditure	0.006	0.572	3.000	3.845		7.423
Cumulative expenditure		0.578	3.578	7.423		7.423
Funding:						
LEP Funding			1.050	2.250		3.300
NPIF Contribution			1.950			1.950
CEC (Inc Forward Funding)	0.006	0.572		1.595		2.173
S106 Funding (to repay forward funding)					1.700	1.700

High Level Programme

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Appendix 2

Plan of Scheme

The Crewe Green Roundabout scheme design is shown below:



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Cheshire East Council

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	11 th April 2017
Report of:	Frank Jordan, Executive Director of Place
Subject/Title:	Highway Service Contract Procurement
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr David Brown, Highways and Infrastructure

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. At the meeting of 17 January 2017, Cabinet approved the following recommendations:
 - That the Executive Director for Place progresses the process for procuring a new Highway Service Contract for the Council in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Highways and Infrastructure.
 - That they approve the establishment of a pre-procurement advisory cross-party Member Panel to make informal recommendations to the Portfolio Holder in respect of priorities for the Contract.
- 1.2. Cabinet also noted that the Procurement Strategy, incorporating the contract model, duration and value and procurement route, would be brought back to Cabinet for approval.
- 1.3. This report summarises the work of the Council officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and the Member Panel since January 2017 and makes recommendations on the proposed Procurement Strategy for the next Highway Services Contract.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - Approves the Strategic Aims and Contract Objectives for the next Highway Services Contract as set out in Section 4.3 and 4.4.
 - Approves the Procurement Strategy for the next Highway Service Contract to include:
 - An Integrated Services Contract model.
 - A full 15 year contract period with a pre-defined mid-term break clause (Year 8) linked to the performance framework and an upper limit on individual schemes through the Contract of £5M.

- A Competitive Procedure with Negotiation as the procurement route.
- Notes that all the recommendations have been informed by the cross-party Member Panel and the procurement route by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Authorises the Executive Director for Place, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Highways and Infrastructure to commence the process for procuring a new Highway Services Contract for the Council, including finalising its scope.
- Notes that following completion of the tender process, Cabinet will be requested to approve the award of contract to the preferred bidder.

3. Other Options Considered

- 3.1. Following the establishment of the Project Board and Member Panel, the entire range of highway delivery models open to the Council have been assessed and evaluated. The assessment followed the Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme guidance (*HMEP is the Department for Transport's transformation programme*) and tested all the options against the Council's strategic aims and objectives for the Highway Service.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1. The process of determining the future delivery of highway services has followed the Council's 'best fit' approach to the commissioning of Council services.
- 4.2. The process to determine what the Procurement Strategy should be included four key areas:
- Strategic Aims and Objectives
 - Contract Model
 - Contract Duration and Value
 - Procurement Route

Strategic Aims and Objectives

- 4.3. Officers in consultation with the Members Panel and the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Infrastructure have identified the following strategic aims for the next contract:
- To maintain and improve the condition of the highways network
 - To deliver value for money and savings for the Council
 - To improve customer satisfaction
- 4.4. It is recommended that the future contract model needs to promote the achievement of the following objectives:
- To generate market interest in the proposed contract

- To enable the Council to secure the required capability and capacity to deal with potential increases in capital investment
- To deliver efficiencies and ongoing savings for the Council
- To give the Council flexibility to respond to changing customer needs and national priorities
- To promote innovation and continuous improvement
- To focus on Asset Management
- To focus on long term planning
- To retain the ability to collaborate with other public bodies and the supply chain

See Appendix 1 as to how the Objectives align with and support achievement of the Strategic Aims.

Contract Model

- 4.5. The Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme has identified and published a range of delivery models open to the Council.
- 4.6. The range of identified delivery Models covers:
 - In-house service provision
 - In-house service plus “top-up” arrangements with external providers
 - Establishment of Publicly-owned company (“Teckal exempt”)
 - A Public-Private Joint Venture Company
 - External service provision via “Framework” contracts
 - External service provision via multiple term service providers
 - External service provision via a single term service provider
 - Private Finance Initiative
- 4.7. A description of the key features of each Model is included in the “HMEP Procurement Route Choices Toolkit” available at:
www.highwaysefficiency.org.uk
- 4.8. Each of the potential models has been evaluated against the proposed Contract Objectives in order to identify the best fit model. This evaluation has been tested through the Member Panel and scrutinised by Corporate Services. Even though this evaluation identified a preferred option, it was felt prudent at this stage in the process to test the top two highest scoring options through a market engagement exercise.
- 4.9. The two models ranked highest in the evaluation, with Model A scoring highest overall:
 - Model A – Integrated Services with a Single Provider

- Model B – Separate Contracts for Professional Services and Maintenance / Improvement Works.

The option of lots was not favoured in the market testing.

- 4.10. The market engagement has been undertaken through a Prior Information Notice issued via the OJEU seeking market feedback on aspects of the next Highway Services Contract via a Questionnaire.
- 4.11. A summary of the market engagement outcome is given in Appendix 3 of this report. What this has demonstrated is that in broad terms either model could deliver against the strategic aims and objectives. Having said this the market responses do reveal that Model A would best deliver against the Value for Money Strategic Aim. This outcome aligned with the Councils internal evaluation process which confirmed Model A as the highest ranked option.
- 4.12. Therefore it is recommended that the Integrated Services Option (Model A) be taken forward as the Contract model..

Contract Duration and Value

- 4.13. The duration of the Contract (the Service Period) can have a significant influence on the efficiency and effectiveness of the service and the market's appetite for the contract opportunity.
- 4.14. As a general principle, a longer service period will be more attractive to the market. A longer service period will provide greater predictability of workload and cashflow thereby enabling the Contractor to make long term investment decisions and to recover sunk costs such as tendering, mobilisation and service restructure costs.
- 4.15. A longer service period also provides the opportunity for the Council and the Contractor to develop long-term, collaborative relationships. The longer duration enables the parties to develop long-term plans for the service and the highway asset, with the opportunity to recover investments in the service.
- 4.16. A key factor is the ability to recover sunk costs, such as fleet and plant, over the service period. The largest single investment in equipment is likely to be the winter service fleet (gritters). This would avoid the contractor having to factor in the risk of redeploying or divesting of equipment that has not reached the end of its commercial life.
- 4.17. In order to balance the benefits of longer-term contracts with the risk of a loss of focus and competitiveness, it is recommended that the service period be a maximum of 15 years.
- 4.18. The market engagement exercise sought views on two principal options for the service period:
 - An initial service period that is extendable in single or multiple years based on performance up to the maximum of 15 years

- A full service period of the maximum of 15 years which is reviewed at defined intervals with the option for the Council to trigger a break-clause in the event of unsatisfactory performance
- 4.19. The Member Panel recommended an initial term, or break-clause, at year 7 to ensure sufficient focus on the performance requirements. A summary of the market engagement outcome is given in Appendix 3 of this report.
- 4.20. Given the longer term duration recommendation, it is vital that contract scope is fully assessed to allow the Council to take advantage of future opportunities and benefits which could arise during this service period. The major provision would be the inclusion of Major Infrastructure Schemes, potentially up to £5M, to be delivered through the Contract subject to robust assessment of Value for Money. The delivery of any Major Schemes is a key decision for the Council and would require Cabinet approval before progressing.
- 4.21. Therefore it is recommended that a full 15 year contract period is awarded with a pre-defined mid-term break clause (Year 8) linked to the performance framework and with an upper limit on individual schemes through the Contract of £5M.

Procurement Route

- 4.22. There are a number of procedures that can be utilised, listed below, which fall under the Public Procurement Regulation 2015:
- Open Procedure
 - Restricted Procedure
 - Innovative Partnership
 - Competitive Procedure with Negotiation (CPwN)
 - Competitive Dialogue Procedure
- 4.23. Each of these procurement route options has been evaluated against the requirements for the Highway Services Contract.
- 4.24. It is worth noting that the Council has been delivering the Highway Service through similar arrangements for the last five years and it can therefore be argued that it is able to establish the technical specifications with sufficient precision. However, there are complex elements of the service which the Council may wish to negotiate with bidders in order to achieve the best commercial outcomes. These include:
- how the provider will carry out the whole life planning of the highway asset to deliver the best outcomes for the Council (i.e. this is not an input based contract)
 - the need for significant investment in the service such as winter fleet and depots
 - the need for the solution to be flexible to respond to changes in demand and requirements for the services over the life of the contract

- 4.25. The Competitive Procedure with Negotiation enables the Council to negotiate elements of the initial tenders with bidders. Crown Commercial Services supports the ability of contracting authorities to use negotiation to achieve the best commercial outcomes.
- 4.26. The Market feedback supports the Competitive Procedure which has been endorsed through the Member Panel and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.27. Therefore it is recommended that the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation is the selected procurement route.

5. Background/Chronology

- 5.1. The current contract will end on 4th October 2018 having previously been granted the two year extension to utilise the maximum 7 year duration.
- 5.2. An outline programme is shown in Appendix 2 for delivery of a new Contract by October 2018.
- 5.3. Following Cabinet approval in January 2017 to commence the project, all work streams have been managed through the established project governance arrangements including:
 - Project Board
 - Scope Workshops
 - Member Panels
 - Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
 - Market Engagement Exercise

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

- 6.1. All Wards and Ward members are affected by this proposal.

7. Implications of Recommendation

7.1. Policy Implications

- The procurement will have a significant influence on the service's contribution to the delivery of the Cheshire East Corporate Plan outcomes:
 - Outcome 2: Cheshire East has a strong & resilient economy
 - Outcome 4: Cheshire East is a green & sustainable place
 - Outcome 6: A Responsible, Effective & Efficient Organisation
- Connectivity is an important component of delivering 'quality of place' which the Council sees as a strategic driver for the economy and character of Cheshire East.
- The Council has a suite of highway policies, which will be updated using an Environment & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task

and Finish group, to provide a challenge to the market to assess the most efficient way to deliver these policies.

7.2. Legal Implications

- The existing Highway Service Contract will expire in October 2018 and cannot be extended further as the Council previously approved the full two year extension at Cabinet in November 2014.
- The aggregate value of the Council's requirement for highway services is such that these services must be procured in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and in compliance with the Council's Finance and Contract Procedure Rules. This requires a fully OJEU compliant tender exercise.

7.3. Financial Implications

- The objectives of the new Contract are to maintain the condition of the Cheshire East highway assets in their current condition, and where possible to make improvements.
- Negotiation with the potential bidders will inform how services will be delivered within the existing financial constraints and determine the level of savings that can be achieved
- The financial effects of the new Contract will be reflected in future business planning rounds, for the year 2018/19 onwards.
- Funding for the procurement process is held within existing Highways revenue budgets in 2016/17 and 2017/18. It is expected that any underspend against the 2016/17 revenue budget will be carried forward to 2017/18 to match with expenditure.

7.4. Equality Implications

- An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and will continue to be reviewed by the Project Board on a quarterly basis as the project progresses.

7.5. Rural Community Implications

- 57% of the Cheshire East highway network is classed as rural serving over half of our population. The quality and availability of the rural network is vital to the local economy, not just in rural areas. It needs to take account of the specific needs of rural residents and visitors as well as the impact on the character and connectivity of our rural areas. This in turn impacts on the Borough's 'quality of place'.
- The future Highway Service delivery will take account of the Council's strategy for rural areas, will link to other key strategies, outcomes and have a focus on quality of place. As part of the procurement the Council will seek ideas and innovations as to how to deliver services to our rural communities and businesses in the most effective and efficient manner, recognising the relative needs, characteristics and significance of the rural network and its users.

7.6. Human Resources Implications

- The transfer of staff allocated to the current highway contract will require a TUPE process between service providers, and the same duties apply in any second-generation outsourcing situation.
- The Corporate Trade Unions have been briefed and affected staff will be engaged following the Cabinet resolution.

7.7. Public Health Implications

- The highway service plays an important role regarding public health, through promotion of walking and cycling, and delivery of infrastructure to promote more sustainable travel.
- The management of the highway network plays a key role in the borough's air quality, the improvement of air quality will be a consideration as part of the procurement.

7.8. Implications for Children and Young People

- The highway service delivers, and assists other Council departments to deliver, improvements and road safety training specifically targeted at our children and young people.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1. A risk register has been developed for this procurement and is reviewed by both the Project Team and Board on a monthly basis. All risks have assigned owners who are responsible for mitigating and managing the risks. The 3 Key Risks are:

Risk No & RAG Rating	Description	Impact	Mitigation
1	Time – contract to be awarded by October 2018.	Significant reputational risk to the Council if the new contract is not in place prior to October 2018.	Dedicated project team in place to establish the optimum Procurement Strategy. Detailed Project Plan with key milestones and activities. Critical Path defined
2	Scope of contract to be defined	A scope that is not attractive to the market place and/or partners that may want to collaborate. Scope limits future activities and could incur undue costs & delay.	Options appraisal to be undertaken.
3	Market Appetite – this is shown as an opportunity to fully engage with the market place and manage/mitigate any perceptions or conflicts of interest.	Ability to engage with the market place will inform on the potential procurement routes and optimum model(s) available.	Authority to conduct supplier engagement event. PIN & Questionnaire issued to the market with positive feedback received.

9. Access to Information/Bibliography

9.1. The following information is available:

- Contract Model Evaluations
- Contract Duration assessments
- Procurement Route options

10. Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:

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Appendix 1 – Contract Strategic Aims and Objectives

Strategic Aim	Objectives for the Contract
Deliver Value for Money	Model needs to generate strong market interest
	Model needs to deliver efficiencies and ongoing VfM
	Model needs to promote innovation and continuous improvement
	Model should enable collaboration with public bodies and the supply chain
Maintain / Improve Network Condition	Model to enable a focus on Asset Management
	Model to enable long term planning
	Model is to have the capability and capacity to deal with potential increases in capital investment
Improve Customer Satisfaction	Model to be flexible to respond to changing customer needs and national priorities

Appendix 2 – Outline Programme

Activity / Milestone	Indicative Date
Finalise Recommendations	March 2017
Cabinet Meeting	11 April 2017
Contract Notice Issue	June 2017
Shortlisting Completed	August 2017
Initial Tenders Submitted	October 2017
Negotiations Concluded	November 2017
Final Tenders Submitted	December 2017
Contract Award	March 2018
Contract Start	October 2018

Appendix 3 – Market Engagement Summary

Background

A Prior Information Notice was issued via the OJEU seeking market feedback on aspects of the new Highway Services Contract via a Questionnaire.

The questions are summarised in the table below:

Question No	Question
1	Level of interest in Model A (Integrated), on a scale of 0-5
	Level of interest in Model B (2 separate contracts), on a scale of 0-5
	Level of interest in bidding for both contracts if Model B was selected, on a scale of 0-5
2	Details of any proposed alternative Models
3	Service Period of 15 years
4	Mechanism for adjusting the Service Period
5	Ability to provide investment in assets
6	Use of the CPN Procurement Procedure

17 Questionnaires were received via the Chest by the closing date of 14th March 2017. 2 of the Questionnaires did not provide relevant information. Of the remaining 15 Questionnaires:

- 12 were from organisations that provide highway maintenance works and services (referred to as Contractors herein for ease)
- 3 were from organisations that provide professional services only (referred to as Consultants herein for ease)

This Appendix provides a summary of the market responses. All responses are anonymised and reflect the overall market views and not those of any one organisation.

Question 1 – Level of Interest in Models

Note: For Models A and B, an interest level of 0-1 is classified as “not interested”; an interest level of 2-3 is classified as “neutral”; an interest level of 4-5 is classified as “interested”

Model A (Integrated)

Of the 3 Consultants, 2 were neutral and 1 was interested in Model A.

Of the 12 Contractors, 4 were neutral and 8 were interested in Model A.

Model B (2 separate contracts)

Of the 3 Consultants, 3 were interested in Model B.

Of the 12 Contractors, 2 were neutral and 10 were interested in Model B.

Bidding for both contracts if Model B was selected

Of the 3 Consultants, none were interested in bidding for both contracts if Model B was selected. Of the 12 Contractors, 6 were not interested in bidding for both contracts, 5 were interested and 1 was neutral.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The market consultation indicates that both Models will be attractive to the market. However, should Model B be selected, there was reduced appetite for bidding both contracts, respondents largely indicating that they would choose one or other of the 2 contracts.

Model B (2 separate contracts) was the more attractive option to the Consultants and to those Contractors with more limited experience of local authority highway services. The key reason cited was that Model A would require them to form a Joint Venture to supplement their own service offering. Their preference therefore would be to concentrate on their core offering i.e. design or construction services respectively.

Model A (Integrated) was the more attractive model to those Contractors with more extensive experience in the delivery of local authority highway services. Of the 7 established highway services Contractors that responded, 6 preferred Model A to Model B. The reasons cited for this preference were:

- Greater efficiency resulting from:
 - a reduced number of interfaces,
 - reduced Contractor overheads,
 - the ability to design their team around the service rather than around interfaces with another organisation
 - reduced Council contract management time
- Greater effectiveness resulting from an ability to focus the Council's strategic aims and the asset.
- Greater collaboration resulting from their ability to bring established relationships rather than the partner being selected for them.

The 7th Contractor, even though their preference was for Model B, did consider that Option A provided an opportunity to be more efficient and asset-focussed.

The market consultation has confirmed that Model A has a high probability of generating significant market interest and tenders from the established local highway authority provider market.

Although the market consultation indicates that Model B would also be likely to generate market interest, only three Consultants responded to the Questionnaire. This low response rate may indicate that should Model B be selected, there is a risk that there could be a limited number of bidders for the professional services contract.

Question 2 – Alternative Models

There were no alternative models proposed by the respondents and the majority considered that the Council had identified the two most appropriate Models. A number of minor amendments in the scope and / or ways of working under both Models were proposed and these will be considered during tender document preparation.

Conclusion and Recommendation

There are no further Models to be considered by the Council.

Question 3 – 15 Year Service Period

Of the 15 respondents, 12 were supportive of a 15 year period and considered that it provided an optimal duration for fleet investment as well as investment in other assets, people and the service. 2 considered that a period of 10 years would be appropriate and 1 considered that a shorter period would be preferable.

Conclusion and Recommendation

A 15 year Service Period will be attractive to the market and has the potential to produce optimal commercial and service delivery outcomes.

Question 4 – Adjusting the Service Period

Two options were put to the market for feedback. Option 1 was to award an initial Service Period (e.g. 7 years) that was then subject to extension based on performance up to the maximum of 15 years. Option 2 was to award the full Service Period, with break-clauses at pre-defined points if the Council did not want to continue for the full Service Period.

All respondents considered that there should be a mechanism to review or adjust the Service Period rather than award the full 15 years. Of the 15 respondents, 6 considered that Option 1 was preferable, 7 considered Option 2 to be preferable and 2 were neutral. Overall, none of the respondents expressed a strong preference for either Option. None of the respondents made a compelling argument for either Option or suggested there was any resultant commercial benefit for the Council.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The market would view either Option as acceptable. Therefore it is recommended that the Council look to award the full 15 year Contract duration, with a pre-defined mid-term break clause subject to performance and the Council's needs and constraints at that time.

Question 5 – Investment in Assets

Of the 15 respondents, 11 indicated that they would be prepared to invest in assets (including fleet and depots) and for the investments to be recovered during the Service Period. A number indicated that they have specialist investment arms.

Of the 4 organisations that would not be able to provide investment, 2 of them were Consultants.

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is considered that if the Council required the tenderers to provide investment funding, it would not be a barrier to participation and a competitive tender process.

Question 6 – Use of the CPN Procurement Procedure

All 15 respondents considered the use of the CPN Procedure as acceptable. A number of the respondents considered it to be the most appropriate Procedure and endorsed its use.

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council use the CPN Procedure.

Cheshire East Council

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	11 th April 2017
Report of:	Mark Palethorpe, Strategic Director of Adult Social Care & Health
Subject/Title:	Public Space Protection Order - Poynton Sports Club
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Paul Bates, Communities and Health

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report is produced in order to set out the circumstances in which a request has been made from the chair of Poynton Sports Club in relation to the Council considering its ground to become subject to a Public Spaces Protection Order (area detailed in appendix 1) which throughout this report will be referred to as PSPO.
- 1.2. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 commenced on the 20th October 2014. One of the key powers of interest to the Council and our Community is the PSPO. The PSPO's are designed to stop individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a place to which the public have access. This can not only be imposed on Council land but any private land that is open to members of the public, such as Poynton Sports Club.
- 1.3. In the respect of PSPO's guidance from the Home Office sets out that suitable and sufficient evidence must be established in respect of the behaviour to be addressed by the PSPO. Once the evidence base is established, the council must consult with the Police and Police and Crime Commissioner and other relevant bodies.
- 1.4. As outlined in CE procedures for PSPO's (*appendix3*) full consultation was agreed by PH on 29th September 2016. Notification was also sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner and relevant senior Officers.
- 1.5. This report provides details of the recent consultation process which was undertaken between the 27th December 2016 – and the 25th January 2017, confirming those completing the questionnaires agree that the implementation of a PSPO would be favourable.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.
 - a) To note the report content.
 - b) To note draft order and all supporting evidence in relation to this application.
 - c) To review public consultation
 - d) To consider the prohibitions on the draft order (*appendix 2*) and agree the implementation of a PSPO from **1st May 2017**
 - e) To approve amendments to the CEC procedure in determining the level of authority required to approve any future PSPO applications.

2.2. Key issues for consideration:

- That the draft PSPO justifies and meets the thresholds set by CE procedures.
- Public consultation has been held in line with CE Procedures.
- Contents of supplied public consultation report note majority in favour of order (*appendix*)
- The PSPO will only be enforceable on those young people 16 and over and within the area highlighted on the attached map (*Appendix 1*)
- Lead in time to undertake, promotion, signage, and officer training for the enforcement of the order (suggested implementation date reflects this)

3. Other Options Considered

- 3.1. Refer to appendix 4, Intervention Summary already considered.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1. Poynton Sports Club is situated on Private land, but prides itself on being a hub for community sporting events and welcomes members and non-members to its sporting events and activities. They have tried to work with the young adults and explain to them the effect that their behaviour is having on other members/visitors to the club, but this does not appear to have an effect on their behaviour. Membership has been threatened and in some cases removed from members of the club that have displayed this behaviour but the club is also mindful of wanting to engage with the young adults/young people as well. Some members/volunteers now feel too intimidated by the young adults to be confident enough to approach them.
- 4.2. It was reported that there is not one specific group that cause this behaviour and that new vehicles and new young adults appear from week to week/month to month.
- 4.3. That the core issues/incidents fit into the thresholds for initial consideration for a PSPO as outlined in Appendix 3.
- 4.4. That a full list of interventions with outcomes and incidents has been supplied by those requesting the PSPO as outlined in Appendices 4 and 5.

- 4.5. That a PSPO would fill the gaps with reference to enforcement that Cheshire Constabulary currently have with reference to assisting the club in tackling the behaviour that they are reporting. Cheshire Constabulary have stated that they are happy to assist with supporting the enforcement and education with an order should it be successful.
- 4.6. That the authorisation of a PSPO in the area would allow Police to perform checks on vehicle registrations of which have been identified as taking part in behaviour that would be breaching a PSPO in order to identify individuals and warn owners of the vehicles.
- 4.7. That the PSPO would assist the club with tackling this behaviour, but would also leave the access to the club “welcoming” to all those who choose to visit.
- 4.8. As landowners they are happy for a PSPO application to go ahead and are also happy to cover the costs of signage etc. that would be part of the maintenance of such and order
- 4.9. In consultation with the committee of Poynton Sports Club, agreement has been reached for an on-site member of their staff to assist in collecting and passing on information to the police in relation to any potential breaches of the PSPO.
- 4.10. The issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice in order to deal with this behaviour would both show that it is taken seriously, but also be proportionate to the behaviour that has been highlighted. It would set out a clear set of expectations around behaviour that is expected of those who visit the club and are also members of the club.
- 4.11. Reassurance would be offered to those visiting the club that the behaviour will be tackled appropriately and effectively.

5. Background/Chronology

Summary of case for PSPO – original report

- 5.1. The Councils Anti-Social Behaviour Team were called to a professionals meeting that was held on the 17th November 2014 at Poynton Sports club in relation to concerns that they had around the anti-social use of their club. The meeting was attended by the following representatives and agencies:

Cllr Jos Saunders
Clerk of Poynton Town Council
Sgt Pete Brazendale – Poynton NPU
Chair of Poynton Sports Club
Laura Woodrow-Hirst – ASB Team Leader

- 5.2. There was an initial enquiry in relation to the application of a PSPO at this meeting in relation to tackle the issues that had been highlighted. As the powers had only recently come into effect at this stage, other interventions were suggested and a period of monitoring was also to take place. These interventions are highlighted in Appendix 4 along with outcomes and time periods.
- 5.3. A further meeting was held on 20th May 2015 following concerns around incidents starting to occur again. A further request for the Council to consider an application for a PSPO was made in relation to the issues being experienced by the sports club.
- 5.4. The issues consisted of; misuse of the clubs car park area, but young adults acting anti-socially in and around vehicles, individuals/groups refusing to leave when requested, verbal abuse, intimidation, use of legal highs,
- 5.5. Recorded incidents are itemised in Appendix 5 and clearly supports suitable and sufficient evidence for the application of the PSPO. A total of 30 incidents were documented up to and including September 2016.
- 5.6. Due to this, permission was sought as per CE procedure from PH to commence public consultation which was agreed on 26th September 2016 and commenced in December 2016.

Consultation outcomes:

- 5.7. The feedback came from a number of sources including, members of Poynton Sports Club, Residents of Poynton and people working in Poynton. Full details of which have been supplied in Appendix 6 – consultation report.
- 5.8. Comments were received in relation to the boundary area being extended to other areas of Poynton. However no supporting evidence has been received at this time to justify extending the draft order boundaries at this stage.
- 5.9. Young people under the age of 16 were also referred to on a number of the responses. It has been highlighted to representatives of the club throughout this process that the enforcement of the order will be for individuals 16 years of age or older.
- 5.10. The feedback in general was heavily in favour of a PSPO being made to combat the negative issues experienced.

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

- 6.1.** Poynton East - Cllr Jos Saunders & Cllr Howard Murray

7. Implications of Recommendation

7.1. Policy Implications

- 7.1.1.** Supports the Council's Enforcement Policy.

7.2. Legal Implications

- 7.2.1.** It is essential that due legal process is followed and that any Notice issued accords with the requirements of the Act. Appropriate legal advice would be sought prior to the publication of any Statutory Notice.
- 7.2.2.** Compliance must also be met via: Articles 10 and 11 ECHR and S149 Equality Act re public sector equality duty.

7.3. Financial Implications

- 7.3.1.** Within existing budgets.

7.4. Equality Implications

- 7.4.1.** N/A

7.5. Rural Community Implications

- 7.5.1.** N/A

7.6. Human Resources Implications

- 7.6.1.** There would be requirement for officers to receive the relevant training in relation to issuing the Fixed Penalty Notices and also refresh training on PSPO's as this is a new area of work for both the council and the Police.

7.7. Public Health Implications

- 7.7.1.** Supports Public Health Outcomes.

7.8. Other Implications (Please Specify)

- 7.8.1.** N/A

8. Risk Management

- 8.1.** There are no known risks at this juncture.

9. Access to Information/Bibliography

9.1. A chronology of events, interventions table, draft PSPO and a plan of the area concerned are all detailed within the attached appendices.

- Appendix 1 Site Boundary and Map
- Appendix 2 Draft Order
- Appendix 3 PSPO CE Procedures
- Appendix 4 Intervention Summary table
- Appendix 5 Timeline of incidents
- Appendix 6 Consultation report.

10. Contact Information

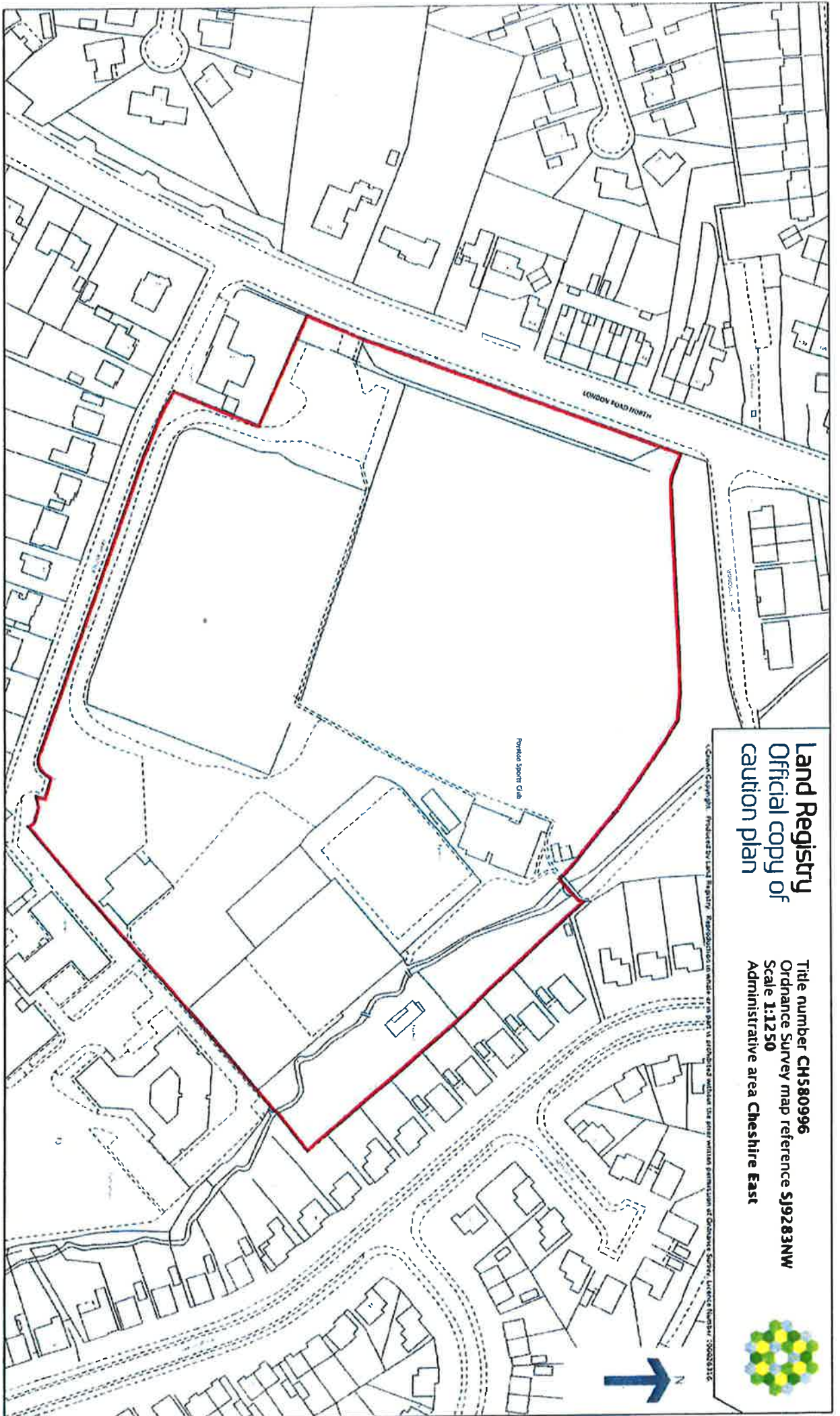
Contact details for this report are as follows:

Name: Kirstie Hercules

Designation: Principal Manager – Partnerships and Communities

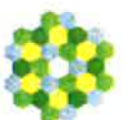
Tel. No.: 01270 686632

Email: Kirstie.hercules@cheshireeast.gov.uk



Land Registry
Official copy of
caution plan

Title number **CH580996**
Ordnance Survey map reference **SJ9283NW**
Scale **1:1250**
Administrative area **Cheshire East**



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CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

THE CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL () PUBLIC SPACES
PROTECTION ORDER 2014

The Cheshire East Borough Council “the Council” makes this Order under section 59 of the 2014 Act, having consulted as required by section 72.

The Order takes effect on and has a duration of 12 months.

It applies to the public place namely known as “Poynton Sports Club” which is shown on the plan attached to the Order.

The Council is satisfied that activities have been carried out in this Restricted Area which have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. Further, it is satisfied that the effect of these activities is or is likely to be of a persistent or continuing nature, is or likely to be such as to make the activities unreasonable and the effect justifies the restrictions imposed.

The activities carried out are as follows:

First, persons have been gathering in vehicles in the Restricted Area with no intention of using the facilities or not leaving after using facilities causing noise with the vehicles, driving and parking without proper care and consideration, encouraging other persons to gather at these vehicles and depositing litter.

Persons have been in possession of intoxicating substances and have both possessed and consumed these substances within the Restricted Area resulting in intoxication, anti-social behaviour and littering.

These activities have given rise to nuisance and complaint to both the Council and the Police from local residents, visitors to the area and businesses.

The Council therefore under section 59(4) prohibits:

1. Person(s) within this area will not possess, ingest ,inhale, inject, smoke or otherwise use intoxicating substances
 - Intoxicating substances is given the following definition (which includes alcohol and what are commonly referred to as “legal highs”): Substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the central nervous system.
 - Exemptions shall apply in cases where the substances are used for a valid and demonstrable medicinal use, given to an animal as a medical remedy, are cigarettes (tobacco), *alcohol purchased from the premises bar and consumed within that premises* or vaporisers or are food stuffs regulated by food health and safety legislation

APPENDIX 2

2. Entry to and attendance at the Restricted Area by persons in a mechanically propelled vehicle whom are **not** using the facilities within the restricted area.

- “using the facilities” will include those visiting the restricted area to attend events, use the facilities or attend to drop off/pick up individuals/items within the restricted area

3. Speeding
4. Driving in convoy
5. Racing
6. Performing Stunts
7. Sounding horns (as to cause public nuisance)
8. Playing music (as to cause public nuisance)
9. Revving engines
10. Wheel spins
11. Using foul or abusive language
12. Using threatening, intimidating behaviour towards another person
12. Causing an obstruction on a public highway or in a publicly accessible place, or private land, whether moving or stationary (such as parking in a circle, across or outside parking bays, causing annoyance or obstruction to other users within the designated area)
13. Creating excessive noise
14. Causing damage or significant risk of damage to property
16. Creating significant public nuisance
17. Engaging in anti-social behaviour covered by any existing legislation
18. Congregating to spectate the above activities
19. Remaining in the area, refusing to leave the area or returning to the area within 24 hours of being requested to do so by an authorised officer.

and requires:

1. Person(s) within this area who breach prohibition 1 shall: surrender intoxicating substances in his/her possession to an authorised person.
- An authorised person could be a Police Constable, Police Community Police Officer or Council Officer, and must be able to present their authority upon request.

Failure without reasonable excuse to comply with the prohibitions or requirements imposed by this Order is a summary offence under section 67 of the 2014 Act. A person guilty of this offence under section 67 is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

A constable or an authorised person may under section 68 of the 2014 Act issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone he/she has reason to believe has committed an offence under section 67 in relation to this Order.

APPEALS:

1 In accordance with section 66 of the Act, any interested person who wishes to challenge the validity of this Order on the grounds that the Council did not have the power to make the Order or that a requirement under the Act has not been complied with may apply to the High Court within six weeks from the date upon which the Order or Variation is made.

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX:

A plan of the restricted area to which this order applies; namely Poynton Sports Club and grounds.

Signed.....

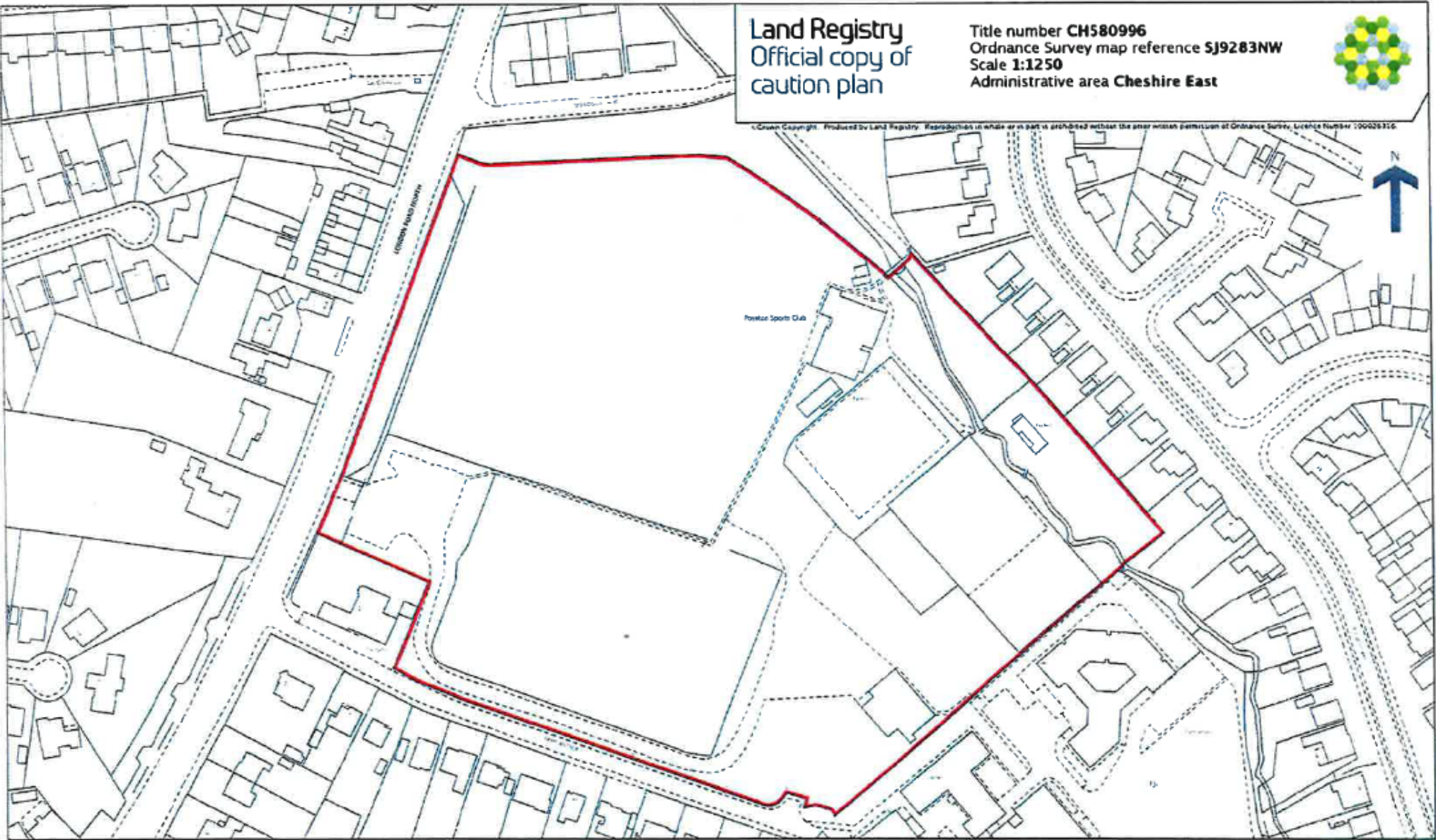
By authority of the Cheshire East Borough Council under section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972

Westfields,
Sandbach,
Cheshire

Dated:.....

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX: COPY OF ATTACHED PLAN OF POYNTON SPORTS CLUB BOUNDARIES TO WHICH THE PSPO WILL APPLY (WITHIN THE AREA MARKED RED)



PROCEDURES FOR USE OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)

This allows the local authority to stop individuals or groups committing ASB in public places.

The local authority will identify the area that is to be covered by the order – known as the ‘restricted area’.

The PSPO can:

- Prohibit specified things being done in the area
- Require specified things to be done in the area

The prohibitions or requirements can be framed so that they:

- Apply to all persons, or only persons in specified categories, or to all persons except those in specified categories
- Apply at all times, or only at specified times, or at all times except those specified
- Apply in all circumstances, or only in specified circumstances, or in all circumstances except those specified

The following conditions must be met before making the order:

- Activities carried out in a public place within the local authority’s area have a detrimental effect on the quality of life for those living in the locality *or*
- Is likely that activities will be carried out in a public place within the area that will have such an effect

The effect, or likely effect of the activities:

- Is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature
- Is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable *and*
- Justifies the restrictions imposed by the order

The need for a PSPO to be identified

This will come from a variety of routes – including, but not exclusively:

- Partnership problem solving (Multi Agency Action Group – MAAG)
- Complaints from members of the public
- Public consultation/residents meetings/residents groups
- Elected members/Parish Councils
- Neighbourhood groups
- Private land owners
- Registered Social Providers

The process to be followed is below. Responsibility for overseeing this process will lie within the Communities and Partnerships Department's Anti-Social Behaviour Team. Depending on the focus of the PSPO certain elements of the process below may well also be taken on by other departments within the local authority such as Environmental Protection or Trading Standards.

Examples of behaviour that a PSPO might be used to tackle

The following list is intended to be indicative and not exhaustive

Legal highs – sale of/taking of	Verge parking
Boy racers	Parking outside schools
Congregating in car parks	Ball games
Cars for sale	Swimming in dangerous areas
Vehicle Nuisance	Ball games
Buskers	Grazing of horses
Dog fouling	Litter
Unruly Dogs/dogs out of control	Fly tipping
Rough sleeping	Cycling in pedestrian areas
Street drinking	Aggressive Charity Collectors (Chuggers)
Urinating or defecation	Begging
Prostitution	Placing yourself to beg
Dogging	Skateboards

Prior to formal consultation for a PSPO:

It is important that the PSPO is used proportionately and that it is not seen to be targeting behaviour of the children/young people where there is a lack of tolerance and understanding by local people. Consideration must also be given to the Equality Act when setting out restrictions or requirements.

When making a PSPO Cheshire East Council will bear in mind the impact on other areas and the level to which displacement is likely to occur.

All requests/considerations for a PSPO will be nominated to the Communities and Partnerships Multi-Agency Action Group (MAAG). Initial thoughts and actions will be recorded at the meeting, and the relevant agencies will be nominated to take the request further once it has been agreed via an initial professionals meeting.

Professionals meeting:

This will be held by the ASB Team along with the relevant Partnership Manager/Local Engagement Officer, attendees may include the following:

- ASB Team representative – **Compulsory**
- CEC Partnership Manager or Local Engagement Officer – **Compulsory**
- Local Elected Member/Parish Council member – **will at least be informed**
- Land owner (If not CEC land) – **Compulsory**
- Police
- Housing/Registered Social Provider
- Other CEC departments
- Representative from the local community

The following will need to be identified either prior to this meeting or during this meeting:

- How many incidents have been reported and who to?
- What has been attempted in order to resolve this issue already?
- What is the exact area that all present would like a PSPO to cover?
- What sort of prohibitions would need to be considered?
- Are there any other people that need to be consulted as part of this process?
- What are the implications should a PSPO not be granted?
- What are the risks if a PSPO is granted (displacement etc.)?
- Who would be responsible for costs around publicity and signage (if not CEC land)?
- How would this be policed does any training need to take place with delegated local officers whom may not have had opportunity to enforce this type of order yet?
- Do the majority agree that a PSPO application should be requested? *(if the answer is no the issue will be referred back to the MAAG)*

Authorisation to begin Consultation

Following the professionals meeting, should it be agreed to pursue a PSPO a summary of the problems and proposed PSPO will be presented to the nominated Portfolio Holder who will make a decision as to whether to progress to the consultation process being undertaken. If authorisation is not given, then the issue will be nominated back to the MAAG.

Consultation

The Consultation that is undertaken will depend on the location and the particular issues to be addressed. The consultation will be proportionate but not excessive. At least 4 weeks will be allowed for the consultation process and as a minimum standard consultation details will be publicised via Cheshire East Council's Website.

Groups to be consulted may include:

Elected members Parish Councils Local residents Members of public using the area/facility via notice placed in area.	Community Groups Town Councils Pub watch SCOOT/shop watch or equivalent Chamber of Commerce
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The general public will be made aware of the plans through any of the following methods:

- Cheshire East Council website – *Compulsory*
- Press release
- Notice in the affected area
- Residents newsletters
- Leaflets
- Social media

Cheshire East Council will ensure that the consultation is in line with its own consultation policy.

Additionally (if not already done so)

- The owner of the land (if not the Council) will be contacted
- Cheshire Police and Police and Crime Commissioner

Decision is taken to make a PSPO

The process for approving PSPO applications will be made by the Strategic Director in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Health. However, decisions to approve PSPO applications will be escalated for full Cabinet approval where recommendations in the report identify approving the order will have wider implications for the Local Authority. This will allow opportunity for elected members outside of the majority group the opportunity to scrutinise the decision.

If this is refused then the matter will be referred back to the MAAG.

Public are advised that the PSPO is coming into effect

Cheshire East Council will ensure that the following principals are followed with reference to publicising a PSPO although some of the processes may vary from case to case:

- The publicity is proportionate and cost effective
- It takes account of the different languages spoken in the area
- Takes into account the need to manage people's expectations once the order is in place

- That at least one week prior to the PSPO coming into effect a multi-agency approach in relation to educating the relevant members of public and agencies on the new order coming into force and the implications of breach of this order
- During the first week of the order being in force, a campaign of education will continue followed by enforcement action
- That breaches will be monitored, as will any potential displacement which will all be recorded by Cheshire East Councils Partnerships and Communities/ASB Team with a view to the appropriate review processes/amendments taking place on the order.

General publicity may include:

- Press release
- Cheshire East Council website
- Other partner agency websites (i.e. Police, Registered Housing Providers)
- Residents' newsletters
- Leaflets
- Social media
- Parish Councils
- Community Groups
- Signage within the area

In the area affected signage may be used taking into account the different language spoken – using pictures where possible.

Enforcing the PSPO

The power to enforce the PSPO has been given to:

- Cheshire Constabulary Police Officers
- Cheshire Constabulary Police Community Support Officers
- Designated Cheshire East Council Officers

Cheshire East Council may authorise an officer not on the above list (e.g.: Registered Social Provider or Commissioned agency/company) to issue FPN's where a senior officer within the agency to which that person belongs makes a written request to the Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council for that person to be designated.

A decision will then be made by Cheshire East Council as to whether that person should be authorised as a person who may issue FPN's in Cheshire East.

In each case any person who is so authorised will be required, prior to designation, to complete relevant training identified by Cheshire East Council.

Cheshire East Council reserves the right to vary or cancel any authorisation at any time and for any reason

Breaching the PSPO

Those who are found to be breaching the PSPO will be given the opportunity to discharge the offence by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).

- The level of FPN will have to be decided (not exceeding £100) suggested amount to remain at the higher rate of £100 with no early payment opportunity
- Agreement will be reached with Cheshire Constabulary about issuing of FPN's on a case by case basis and how this will be done

There will also need to be an awareness that if someone is taken to court and they are on benefits they can agree with the court to pay a weekly sum to clear a fine. This option is not available with a FPN – unless they are taken to court for non-payment.

Transition

There are a number of current orders which will be replaced by the PSPO:

- Designated Public Place Order
- Dog Control Order
- Gating Order

There is the ability to replace existing orders with a PSPO at the commencement.

Alternatively they can continue for 3 years when they will transfer over to a PSPO. There are a number of gating orders and DPPO's within the Cheshire East area which will need to be considered in due course which will expire in their current form in October 2017. A task group will be set up to review this in due course which will decide whether:

- To leave as the current order and allow to move over in 3 years
- To replace immediately with a PSPO
- To discharge any of the existing orders as no longer needed

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Poynton Sports Club – Interventions summary:

DATE (APPROX)	INTERVENTION USED/CONSIDERED/ATTEMPTED	OUTCOME (including any reasons as to why the intervention did not take place or was not successful.
Mid 2012	At the outset of our problems advice was sought from the police and the PSCO's as to how we can protect our perimeter from people using our grounds as a "short cut" to the other side of Poynton. This included increasing our cctv coverage as well as the provision of steel fencing to cover the "short cut areas" and provide a security guard to be on site for around 6 hours per day for a period of approx. 3 weeks in order to deter	Our cctv coverage was increased and steel fencing was erected by a local commercial company along with the placing of a security guard for as long as we could reasonable afford at a total cost of approx. £5,000. These measures did have some initial positive effect but at a large cost which we clearly could not sustain for a longer periods.
Aug 2013	Purchased Mosquito noise maker, at a cost of £1200, at the suggestion of Poynton PCSO.	Initially reasonably effective but as time passed the young people seemed to endure the discomfort. This is a very regular and persistent occurrence.
2012 thro 2013 thro 2014 to date	On advice from police, a team of club volunteers met weekly to repair the hedgerows surrounding our site to restrict access to the main entrance only in order to deter trespass by both young and old alike. Overall cost to date approx. £200	Every time we repaired one gap, youngsters would create another. Difficult for the volunteers to continue in this frustrating manner but we continue, this is a very regular and persistent occurrence.
Spring 2014	We were advised to seek the assistance of the crime prevention officer.	The crime prevention officer carried out a survey of measures we have taken and gave good advice as to what we could do further. He advised an increase in our cctv coverage, which we have carried out, as well as to, to purchase more steel fence panels to prevent further incursion of the unwanted visitors. This we have done which was limited due to financial constraints, some of which have been destroyed.

APPENDIX 4

Spring, summer, autumn , winter 2014, spring 2015	Non-members driving their cars on to our car park and using it a meeting place, causing a nuisance with noise, litter and the smell of cannabis. When we asked them to leave they refused with arrogance and coarse back chat, however, whenever the PSCO or police arrived they moved off with some alacrity and without issue.	They would return the same night or on following nights and continue their anti-social behaviour taking no heed to the requests not to return. This is persistent and regular.
Spring, summer, autumn, winter 2014, spring 2015	Boys and girls aged around 11-16, although non-members, started meeting at the club, bringing take-away meals, soft drinks in glass bottles (usually smashed and left on the grass playing surfaces) and sometimes alcohol with them. We asked them to put litter in the bins and leave the site but refused.	They ignored us and left the litter scattered over the car park and playing areas where they had been congregating, this is a very regular and persistent occurrence. This results in many people have to spend a great deal of time ensuring that the playing surfaces are safe for children and adults alike to play on.
Summer, autumn, winter 2014 and spring 2015	Signs were erected informing people that the car park was for members only and for visitors authorised to be there.	Several warning signs were purchased, at a cost of £90, advising them that they are not permitted to use our site, which is private property, other than for sporting or social purposes but they just ignored them, in fact, after less than 24 hours two of the signs were torn down destroyed.
Summer, autumn, winter 2014	Members were asked to take registration numbers of non-members' cars from which litter was being dropped on the car park, or from where anti-social behaviour and drug-use was observed we did this on advice from the police This information was passed to police.	It became apparent that this information could not be used by the police lawfully.
August 2014	A written warning message was given to these young people in an attempt to get them to understand that they had no right or reason to gather in our private grounds as they were not visiting our club for no valid reason or intention to play sport, spectate or use our facilities.	They showed no interest or accepted their responsibility for their behaviour as they discarded these messages as litter.
May 2014	The club investigated the possibility of purchasing a remote controlled barrier at the front of the grounds, next to the entry gate.	At a total cost of around £10,000 this facility was deemed to be beyond our means and was shelved.

APPENDIX 4

November 2014	At the instigation of Poynton Sports Club a meeting was held in November 2014 with Laura Woodrow-Hirst, CEC Councillor, PSCO and police to discuss possibility of taking action under new legislation namely the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.	Club officials were advised that Poynton Sports Club, as a private club with public access, did qualify to be covered by this new legislation.
December 2014	As a result of this meeting we were advised to seek a council grant towards the cost of hiring a security guard (SIA approved) to man the front gate, provide ore cctv coverage and gather and record information on the activities of our unwanted visitors for a trial period.	Grant application was submitted to Poynton Town Council which sought a small grant in order to assist us with the associated costs of employing an approved security guard for a period of two or three weeks to gather information. No reply received to date.
Spring 2014	We were advised to seek the assistance of the crime prevention officer.	The crime prevention officer carried out a survey of measures we have taken and gave good advice as to what we could do further. He advised an increase in our cctv coverage, which we have carried out, as well as to, to purchase more steel fence panels to prevent further incursion of the unwanted visitors. This we have done which was limited due to financial constraints, some of which have been destroyed.
April 2015	A representative from Poynton Sports Club met Police, who had taken over neighbourhood policing Poynton, to discuss problems and new ASB legislation.	Agreed we should tackle problems in several ways, including seeking a Public Space Protection Order. Laura Woodrow-Hirst informed.
April 2015	Implemented police suggestion that club barrier at front entrance should be locked each night when clubhouse closed.	The first lock was stolen after seven days, a second lock was vandalised and destroyed, third lock purchased, cost £25.
May 2015	Obtaining quotes for extending and improving CCTV coverage of clubhouse and car park.	Quotes received to be considered at next club executive meeting.
May 2015	A new group of unwelcome visitor have decided to set up a small camp, on the edge of a stream after darkness. They leave extensive litter including fast food cartons, pizza boxes, bottles etc. These young people are not members.	One of the activities of the security guard will be to monitor, in the first instance, this issue and report his findings. I believe that this issue has also been reported to the police by a local resident.

APPENDIX 4

Graham Edmunds

26th May 2015

Chairman Poynton Sports Club

Incident summary table:

Name of area: Poynton Sports Club

DATE OF INCIDENT (APPROX)	TIME	INCIDENT TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT
2014			
03/04/2014	21:21	DRUGS	Smell of Cannabis coming from a car
11/04/2014	22:00	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	Damage to property
26/07/2014	20:45	ASSUALTS	Assault of intoxicated males (fight)
18/05/2014		NUISANCE YOUTHS	Nuisance youths drinking
23/05/2014		INTEL	Underage youths drinking on the grounds
25/05/2014	21:05	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	Damage to property
06/06/2014	21:54	ASB	Youths underage drinking on the site
10/06/2014	18:52	ASB	Nuisance youths on site
10/06/2014	20:30	ASB	Nuisance youths in cars on site
10/06/2014	20:38	ASB	Nuisance youths on site
11/06/2014	19:19	ASB	Nuisance youths on site
13/06/2014	19:14	ASB	Nuisance youths on site (smell of cannabis)
13/06/2014	19:16	ASB	Nuisance youths drinking alcohol
13/06/2014	14:20	ASB	Large group of nuisance youths
16/06/2014	17:37	ASB	Smell of cannabis
29/06/2014		ASB	ASB drugs
03/07/2014		ASB	ASB Youths
15/07/2014		ASB	Youths drinking
18/07/2014	19:54	ASB	Youths drinking
25/07/2014		ASB	Youths (drugs)
07/08/2014		ASB	Youths doing wheelies on car park

2015			
08/02/2015	17:01	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	Drug taking
02/04/2015	19:38	ASB	Nuisance youths
01/05/2015	21:42	ASB	ASB drinking (youths)
29/05/2015	11:10	INTEL DRUGS	Drugs
03/06/2015		INTEL ASB	Intel ASB Gas Canisters (legal highs)
18/06/2015	20:17	ASB	ASB fight
04/07/2015	19:49	ASB	ASB youths
12/08/2015		INTEL	ASB Drugs
07/09/2015		CRIMINAL DAMAGE	Youths damaged the front door
08/10/2015		HATE INCIDENT	Hate incident involving youths
31/10/2015		ASB	Youths ASB
06/11/2015		VIOLENCE	Violence
07/11/2015	21:27	ASB	ASB group of youths
24/11/2015		ASB	ASB youths
09/12/2015		ASB	Youths (drugs)
10/12/2015		ASB	ASB large group of youths banging on doors
26/12/2015		ASB	Cars speeding off
2016			
03/02/2016	16:31	ASB	Youths started a fire
12/02/2016		ASB	40 youths
13/02/2016		ASB	Cannabis
13/02/2016		Drugs	Possession of cannabis
13/02/2016		Drugs	Possession of cannabis
16/02/2016		ASB	Youths – smell of cannabis
18/02/2016		ASB	Nuisance youths
		ASB	Youths smashing bottles
11/03/2016		ASB	15 year old unconscious from alcohol

APPENDIX 5

30/03/2016			20 youths (nuisance)
06/05/2016		ASB	Youths tipping rubbish
27/06/2016		ASB	Youths ASB/DRUGS
27/06/2016		ASB	Nuisance youths
04/08/2016		ASB	Youths setting fires

Author:

Date:

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APPENDIX 6 POYNTON PSPO CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Poynton Public Space Protection Order Consultation

1. Poynton Public Space Protection Order Consultation

1. How strongly do you agree or disagree that:-						
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Response Total
The terms of the Public Space Protection Order are clear?	51.0% (50)	40.8% (40)	6.1% (6)	1.0% (1)	1.0% (1)	98
The Public Space Protection Order will restrict the activities detailed ?	34.0% (33)	52.6% (51)	8.2% (8)	3.1% (3)	2.1% (2)	97
The Public Space Protection Order boundary covers the right area?	57.7% (56)	34.0% (33)	4.1% (4)	2.1% (2)	2.1% (2)	97
					answered	98
					skipped	3

Matrix Charts

1.1. The terms of the Public Space Protection Order are clear?							Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree						51.0%	50
2	Agree						40.8%	40
3	Neither agree or disagree						6.1%	6
4	Disagree						1.0%	1
5	Strongly disagree						1.0%	1
Analysis	Mean:	1.6	Std. Deviation:	0.74	Satisfaction Rate:	15.05	answered	98
	Variance:	0.55	Std. Error:	0.07				

1.2. The Public Space Protection Order will restrict the activities detailed ?							Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree						34.0%	33
2	Agree						52.6%	51
3	Neither agree or disagree						8.2%	8
4	Disagree						3.1%	3
5	Strongly disagree						2.1%	2
Analysis	Mean:	1.87	Std. Deviation:	0.84	Satisfaction Rate:	21.65	answered	97
	Variance:	0.71	Std. Error:	0.09				

APPENDIX 6 POYNTON PSPO CONSULTATION SUMMARY

1.3. The Public Space Protection Order boundary covers the right area?						Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree					57.7%	56
2	Agree					34.0%	33
3	Neither agree or disagree					4.1%	4
4	Disagree					2.1%	2
5	Strongly disagree					2.1%	2
Analysis	Mean:	1.57	Std. Deviation:	0.84	Satisfaction Rate:	14.18	answered
	Variance:	0.7	Std. Error:	0.08			
							97

2. Do you have any further comments that you would like to make regarding the Public Space Protection Order?				Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question			100.00%	50
				answered	50
				skipped	51

3. Which of the following applies to you? Please select all that apply						Response Percent	Response Total
1	Resident of Poynton					74.23%	72
2	Poynton Sports Club member					77.32%	75
3	I am a member of a Local Community Group (please state below)					5.15%	5
4	I live in Poynton					60.82%	59
5	I work in Poynton					17.53%	17
6	I am a local CEC/Parish Councillor					1.03%	1
Analysis	Mean:	5.81	Std. Deviation:	5.57	Satisfaction Rate:	69.07	answered
	Variance:	30.98	Std. Error:	0.57			skipped
							4

5. Gender:									
								Response Percent	Response Total
1	Male							56.25%	54
2	Female							43.75%	42
Analysis	Mean:	1.44	Std. Deviation:	0.5	Satisfaction Rate:	43.75		answered	96
	Variance:	0.25	Std. Error:	0.05				skipped	5

APPENDIX 6 POYNTON PSPO CONSULTATION SUMMARY

6. Age Group (please select one option only)							
					Response Percent		Response Total
1	18-24 years				2.11%		2
2	25-34 years				2.11%		2
3	35-44 years				12.63%		12
4	45-54 years				15.79%		15
5	55-65 years				30.53%		29
6	65+ years				36.84%		35
Analysis	Mean:	4.81	Std. Deviation:	1.23	Satisfaction Rate:	76.21	answered 95
	Variance:	1.52	Std. Error:	0.13			skipped 6

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Cheshire East Council

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 11th April 2017

Report of: Peter Bates, Chief Operating Officer

Subject/Title: Indoor and Built Facility Strategy & Playing Pitch Strategy 2030

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Bates, Communities and Health

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with the background, and strategic context to the delivery of the Cheshire East Indoor and Built Facility Strategy (IFS) and the Cheshire East Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) which will both support the Stronger Communities and Sustainable Environment elements of the Cheshire East Local Plan and be used, where appropriate, in the determination of planning applications. All documents are appended to this report:

- Appendix 1 Cheshire East Playing Pitch Assessment Report.
- Appendix 2 Cheshire East Playing Pitch Strategy Report.
- Appendix 3 Cheshire East Indoor & Built Facilities Assessment Report.
- Appendix 4 Cheshire East Indoor & Built Facilities Strategy Report.

Cabinet is invited to approve the strategies for public consultation.

- 1.2. The Council will ensure that every local community has access to high quality playing pitches and indoor sports facilities that meet their current and future needs. The IFS and PPS are key to achieving this.
- 1.3. There are two parts to the strategies, firstly an Assessment Report looking into the supply and demand for playing pitches and indoor facilities in the borough. This includes future demand to 2030, taking account of the planned level of housing development (and population growth) in the Council's Local Plan Strategy.
- 1.4. The second part, comprises a series of Action Plans to address the issues arising from the findings of the Assessment Report.

- 1.5. A great deal of effort has gone into the collection and analysis of the evidence. A collaborative approach has been taken in developing the Strategies. Sport England has provided invaluable support and guidance throughout their development and the respective sports National Governing Bodies along with Cheshire East sports clubs and schools have contributed to the reports.
- 1.6. The strategies have been prepared in line with Sport England best practice guidelines and developed through a joint steering group with the Council, Sport England and representatives of the national sport bodies.

2. Recommendation

2.1. That Cabinet:

- (i) Approves both the Cheshire East Council Playing Pitch and Indoor and Built Facilities Strategies for consultation purposes;
- (ii) Delegates Authority to the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to finalise and publish the strategies, taking account of the representations received.

3. Other Options Considered

- 3.1. Whilst the Council has the option to proceed without completing and approving a PPS or IFS, this would undermine the ability of the Council and other sporting bodies to properly plan for, and invest in, formal indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Having up to date strategies also best ensures that existing facilities receive appropriate protection and appropriate provision is secured from developers towards new and improved facilities to address the impact of new development schemes.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1. Paragraph 73 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires the Council to base local plan policies on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs and opportunities for open space and recreation facilities. The Strategies address this national planning policy requirement.
- 4.2. They will directly support the implementation of Local Plan Strategy Policies SC1 "Leisure & Recreation" SC2 "Outdoor Sports Facilities" and SE6 "Green Infrastructure" ensuring that appropriate protection is given to existing facilities and new and improved facilities can be secured through the planning process.

5. Background/Chronology

- 5.1. In 2014 the Council engaged with Sport England and a range of sports National Governing Bodies regarding the status of current outdoor and indoor sports facilities and what will be required to meet future needs. This has involved collecting information about existing facilities across the borough – in terms of the specific sports facilities they offer, their usage and their condition. Because of the size of the borough and the number and diversity of facilities within it, this has been a time consuming process.
- 5.2. In July 2016 the Council appointed consultants Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) to complete the strategies.
- 5.3. There are two elements to each strategy – an Assessment Report and a series of Action Plans.
- 5.4. The Assessment Reports set out up-to-date supply and demand information. They also consider the demands arising from the planned level of growth proposed in the Council's Local Plan Strategy to 2030. The sports National Governing Bodies have been closely involved in completing this work to ensure that this information is as comprehensive and up to date as possible. Cheshire East sports clubs and schools have also had a full opportunity to input into this work. The involvement of all of these organisations has been very important and is greatly appreciated. This engagement will continue in the implementation, monitoring and review of the Strategies.
- 5.5. The Action Plans respond to the issues arising from the Assessment Reports. This includes promoting quantitative and/or qualitative improvements in provision where local facilities are not adequately meeting local needs.
- 5.6. As well as guiding planning decision-making, the strategies will help to inform investment decisions by the wide range of bodies that seek to provide high quality sports facilities across the borough. This will include providing evidence to support funding bids.
- 5.7. Subject to the Cabinet's decision, the next stage would be to publish the Strategies for six weeks public consultation. This aligns with the length of consultation normally given for planning policy documents. Following consultation, the strategies would be finalised, taking into account the comments received through representations.

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

- 6.1. All Cheshire East Council Wards

7. Implications of Recommendation

7.1. Corporate policy Implications:

7.1.1. The Strategies support all of the Corporate Plan Outcomes, but Outcomes 1 and 5 most directly:

- **Outcome 1:** Our local communities are strong and supportive: Individuals and families are self-reliant and take personal responsibility for their quality of life. Communities are cohesive, with a strong sense of neighbourliness. There is genuine civic pride and mutual respect.
- **Outcome 5:** People live well and for longer: Local people have healthy lifestyles and access to good cultural, leisure and recreational facilities.

7.2. Strategic Context

7.2.1. The PPS ensures a strategic approach to future sports facility provision. It will provide a robust evidence for capital funding and planning purposes.

7.2.2. Operationally, the PPS and IFS will help improve current asset management. The site specific Action Plans will identify the locations where the quantity and quality of provision can be enhanced to meet current and future demand.

7.3. Legal Implications

7.3.1. The Council's powers to hold land (parks and open spaces are set out in a range of legislation including but not limited to Open Spaces Act 1906, Highways Act 1980 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

7.4. Financial Implications

7.4.1. There are no immediate financial implications for the authority. There is however a need to keep the underlying data in the assessment reports up to date. The authority therefore commits to an annual refresh of data at an estimated cost of £3000.

7.4.2. All investment required to deliver any actions identified in these documents will be subject to the standard project feasibility / business case protocols and to sufficient approved capital budget available in the capital programme.

7.4.3. The Strategies will put the Council in a better position to secure appropriate developer contributions through planning applications.

7.5. Equality Implications

- 7.5.1. The development of facilities to a standard that meets modern regulation under the Equalities Act

7.6. Rural Community Implications

- 7.6.1. To meet the requirement to provide recreational facilities in close proximity to all communities.
- 7.6.2. Although most indoor sport facility development is within more urban areas, where appropriate the IFS will be used in conjunction with the Council's PPS to ensure that any proposals for development in rural areas will retain and protect its character and be enhanced through sensitive development.

7.7. Human Resources Implications

- 7.7.1. There are no additional HR implications arising from this report

7.8. Public Health Implications

- 7.8.1. The provision of quality Playing Pitches and Indoor Facilities provision will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the Cheshire East Community.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1.1. Provision of good outdoor and indoor sports facilities should increase community participation rates and enable local residents, teams / clubs to play or be physically active in their own neighbourhood. The income being derived from bookings can support the cost of maintaining these community assets.

9. Risk Management

9.1. Risk Register

Risk	Reason	Action
Partnership working	CEC needs to work with partner organisations to raise necessary resources.	Build partnerships at a local (Clubs & communities) & regional level (NGBs) to secure resources.
Finance	The need to work in partnership with external bodies to match funds raised from developer contributions.	CEC will build specific business cases and partnerships in search of external funding opportunities
Asset Management	The ability of ANSA, ESAR and FM to maintain these facilities in times of austerity.	To find imaginative solutions to the problem of funding adequate maintenance of the facilities to meet expectations.

10. Access to Information/Bibliography

10.1. The following report is referenced in the production of this report:

11. Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:-

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Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Cheshire East Playing Pitch Assessment Report.
- Appendix 2 Cheshire East Playing Pitch Strategy Report.
- Appendix 3 Cheshire East Indoor & Built Facilities Assessment Report.
- Appendix 4 Cheshire East Indoor & Built Facilities Strategy Report.



CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT

JANUARY 2017

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CC	Cricket Club
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CSP	County Sports Partnership
CASC	Community Amateur Sports Club
CCB	Cheshire Cricket Board Ltd
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
ESAR	Everybody Sport and Recreation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
IOG	Institute of Groundmanship
IMS	International Match Standard
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PF	Playing Field
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Cheshire East Council has commissioned a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) to be prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP).

The project began as an in-house collaborative project involving the Council's spatial planning, parks and green spaces and leisure development teams. During its preparation, in line with the Council's move towards establishing alternative delivery vehicles, the parks and green spaces service became part of the company ANSA in 2014, whereas the leisure development team became part of Everybody Sport and Recreation (ESAR). ANSA is a new company established to provide a range of environmental services; Everybody Sport and Recreation is a charitable trust established to deliver leisure services in partnership with the Council.

In July 2014, Everybody Sport and Recreation was commissioned by Cheshire East Council to draw together the work already completed into an Assessment Report in order to set out the strategic direction and local priorities for facilities used for cricket, football, hockey, lacrosse and rugby.

This report presents a refresh and update of the supply and demand assessment in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches within Cheshire East.

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

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report.

Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the PPS is being developed

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

The production of the PPS will also support the following areas as identified as imperative to the project.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Corporate and strategic

- ✦ It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. During times of change for local authorities, a playing pitch strategy will provide direction and set priorities for pitch sports.
- ✦ It provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities, a playing pitch strategy can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants. Current funding examples include the Sport England Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery.
- ✦ It helps deliver government policies for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement, and healthy living.
- ✦ It helps demonstrate the value of leisure services during times of increasing scrutiny of non-statutory services.
- ✦ It helps the Best Value process through:
 - ✦ Consultation with pitch-based sports clubs, providers and organised leagues in Cheshire East
 - ✦ Consultation with regional officers from national governing bodies to gain a strategic perspective of sport delivery and growth
 - ✦ Challenges current systems for sports pitch ownership, management and maintenance
 - ✦ Comparison with other local authorities through various benchmarks
 - ✦ Competition, for example, for pitch and associated facility management/ maintenance contracts.

Planning

- ✦ It provides a basis for establishing new pitch requirements arising from new housing developments or improvements to existing where demand can be satisfied by increasing capacity
- ✦ It is one of the best tools for the protection of pitches threatened by development.
- ✦ It links closely with work being undertaken on open spaces to provide a holistic approach to open space improvement and protection.
- ✦ It provides for an integrated approach towards land use planning and playing pitch provision through the Council's emerging Local Plan Strategy and through decisions on individual planning applications.

Operational

- ✦ It can help improve current asset management, which should result in a more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ✦ It highlights locations where quality of provision can be enhanced.

Sports development

- ✦ It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed.
- ✦ It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use. This includes information about both pitches and sports teams / user groups.
- ✦ It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams / community needs.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Meeting Sport England PPS Requirements

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

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

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

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

Cheshire East Council – Three Year Plan, 2013-16

The Cheshire East Council Three Year Plan outlines its purpose as aiming ‘to serve the people of Cheshire East through’ three areas, which are:

- ✦ Fulfilling our community leadership role well
- ✦ Ensuring quality and value in public services
- ✦ Safeguarding the most vulnerable in society

Subsequently this is split into six outcomes, they are:

- ✦ Our local communities are strong and supportive
- ✦ Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy
- ✦ People have the life skills and education they need to thrive
- ✦ Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place
- ✦ People live well and for longer
- ✦ Cheshire East is a good place to live and work

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Cheshire East Council – Local Plan (Public Consultation Version, 2016)

The Local Plan Strategy is the first part of the Council's Local Plan and sets out the overall planning framework for the Borough between 2010 and 2030 including for the provision of at least 36,000 additional homes. The Plan is at an advanced stage of preparation. Draft Main Modifications to the Plan will be published for public consultation early in 2017. Once adopted, it will form part of the Statutory Development Plan for Cheshire East and will be the starting point for deciding planning applications. The policies that most specifically relate to playing pitches and leisure and recreation facilities are Policies SC1 (Leisure and Recreation), SC2 (Outdoor Sports Facilities) and Policy SE6 (Green Infrastructure). These policies are set out below. Further detailed policies relating to sport and recreation are expected to be added to the Local Plan through its second part, the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD). Work on the SADPD will move forward in 2017. The SADPD will respond, as necessary, to the detailed findings and recommendations of the PPS. Until both the Local Plan Strategy and SADPD are adopted, the 'saved policies' relevant to sport and recreation facilities within the local plans prepared by the three predecessor borough councils will continue to apply.

Policy SC1 – Leisure and Recreation

In order to provide appropriate leisure and recreational facilities for the communities of Cheshire East, the Council will:

- ◀ Seek to protect and enhance existing leisure and recreation facilities, unless they are proven surplus to requirements or unless improved alternative provision, of similar or better quality, is to be made.
- ◀ Support and promote the provision of better leisure, community and recreation facilities, where there is a need for such facilities, the proposed facilities are of a type and scale appropriate to the size of the settlement, are accessible and support the objectives of the Local Plan Strategy. The Council will do this by:
 - ◀ Encouraging facilities that serve the Borough as a whole, and facilities that attract large numbers of people, to be located, where possible, within or adjoining Crewe or Macclesfield town centres.
 - ◀ Requiring facilities serving key service centres to be located in or adjacent to their town centre or highly accessible locations.
 - ◀ Requiring facilities intended to serve the everyday needs of a community or neighbourhood to be in or adjacent to the centres of local service centres or other settlements.
 - ◀ Encouraging the development of shared service centres that combine public services, health and community functions in modern accessible buildings.
- ◀ Supporting proposals for facilities that would not be appropriate to be located in or adjacent to centres, provided they are highly accessible by a choice of transport, do not harm the character, amenity, or biodiversity value of the area, and satisfy a range of other criteria. The proposal is a facility that:
 - ◀ Supports a business use;
 - ◀ Is appropriate in an employment area; or
 - ◀ Supports an outdoor sports facility, education or related community / visitor facility; or
 - ◀ Supports the visitor economy and is based on local cultural or existing visitor attractions.
- ◀ Work with agencies, services and businesses responsible for providing facilities to make sure that the needs and demands of communities are met.

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- ◀ Make sure that appropriate developments contribute, through land assembly and financial contributions, to new or improved facilities where development will increase demand and / or there is a recognised shortage of local leisure, community and recreation facilities.

Policy SC2 – Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities

In order to provide appropriate indoor and outdoor sports facilities for the communities of Cheshire East, the Council will:

- ◀ Protect existing indoor and outdoor sports facilities, unless:
 - ◀ They are proven to be surplus to need (as identified in an adopted and up to date needs assessment); or
 - ◀ Improved alternative provision (a full quantity and quality replacement to accord with paragraph 74 of the NPPF and Sport England policy) will be created in a location well related to the functional requirements of the relocated use and its existing and future users.
 - ◀ The proposal would not result in the loss of an area important for its amenity or contribution to the character of the area in general.
- ◀ Support new indoor and outdoor sports facilities where:
 - ◀ They are readily accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.
 - ◀ The proposed facilities are of a type and scale appropriate to the size of the settlement.
 - ◀ They are listed in an action plan in any emerging or subsequently adopted Playing Pitch Strategy or Indoor Sports Strategy, subject to the criteria in the policy.
- ◀ Make sure that major residential developments contribute, through land assembly and financial contributions, to new or improved sports facilities where development will increase demand and/or there is a recognised shortage.

Policy SE 6 Green Infrastructure:

Cheshire East aims to deliver a good quality, and accessible network of green spaces for people to enjoy, providing for healthy recreation and biodiversity and continuing to provide a range of social, economic and health benefits. This will be done by:

Linking the various assets of Cheshire East's unique landscape – its upland fringes, Cheshire Plain, lowland heath, parkland estates, rivers, canals and watercourses, valleys and cloughs, meres and mosses, trees and woodland and wildlife habitats and its distinctive towns and villages and their urban fringe.

- ◀ This network of Green Infrastructure assets should be safeguarded, retained and enhanced through the development of green networks/wedges and corridors.
- ◀ Areas identified as having a shortage or opportunities for the provision of Green Infrastructure should be a particular focus for enhancement.
- ◀ Any development should contribute to the creation of a good quality, integrated and accessible multi-functional network of green spaces.
- ◀ Safeguarding Green Infrastructure assets to make sure that:
 - ◀ Development does not compromise their integrity or potential value;
 - ◀ Developer contributions are secured wherever appropriate in order to improve their quality, use and multi-functionality; and
 - ◀ Opportunities to add to the Green Infrastructure network are maximised through partnership working.

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- ◀ Working with partners, to support the potential of Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets to contribute to the aims of the wider green infrastructure. The Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets⁷¹ identified in Cheshire East are:
 - ◀ Weaver, Bollin, Dane and Wheelock river corridors including cloughs and floodplains
 - ◀ Macclesfield, Shropshire Union (including the Llangollen and Middlewich branches) and Trent and Mersey canals
 - ◀ Meres and Mosses Nature Improvement Area and Local Nature Improvement Areas
 - ◀ Heritage town parks and open spaces of historic and cultural importance
 - ◀ Public Rights of Way, cycle routes and greenways
 - ◀ Country Parks and estate parklands
 - ◀ Peak Park Fringe
 - ◀ The Cloud, Congleton Edge and Mow Cop upland fringe
 - ◀ Sandstone Ridge
 - ◀ The ecological network of habitats identified in Policy SE3
- ◀ Strengthening the contribution that sport and playing fields, open space and recreation facilities make to Cheshire East's Green Infrastructure network by requiring all development to:
 - ◀ Protect and enhance existing open spaces and sport and recreation facilities;⁷²
 - ◀ Encourage multiple use and improvements to their quality;
 - ◀ Provide adequate open space (as outlined in Table 13.1);
 - ◀ Contribute to the provision of outdoor sports facilities in line with Policy SC2;
 - ◀ Create or add to the networks of multi-functional Green Infrastructure;
 - ◀ Secure new provision to help address identified shortages in existing open space provision, both in quantity, quality and accessibility;
 - ◀ Locate open space facilities in appropriate locations, preferably within developments; and
 - ◀ Promote linkages between new development and surrounding recreational networks, communities and facilities.

Strategic Green Infrastructure assets are those assets that either provide or could provide wider Green Infrastructure benefits.

Active Cheshire

Active Cheshire is a strategic commissioner of sport and physical activity in Cheshire and Warrington. It works with a wide range of health, sport, education, environment, transport and business partners to find new ways of enabling people to get active on a regular basis. It invests in understanding local people and the market, ensuring that its annual investment of £500k is targeted to deliver the greatest sustainable impact of more people, more active, more often.

Active Cheshire aims to inspire greater collaboration and coordination between partners to tackle physical inactivity locally. It aims to encourage a change in behaviour of local citizens, enabling physical activity to become part of their everyday habit.

Further, Sport Cheshire has developed a strategy "Count me in" to get more people, more active more often by 2017. This strategy is developed with the aim to make sport and physical activity enjoyable and accessible for all abilities within Cheshire and Warrington.

The underlying theme is to focus on individual needs, rather than categorising and responding to the vast spectrum of impairments in the same way. By 2017, sub-regional

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partners will target resources to deliver a three-point plan in direct response to the needs of those with impairments.

Target outcomes:

- ✦ 10,000 more people, more active, more often = happier, healthier citizens.
- ✦ Greater range of activities that are easier to access for individuals.
- ✦ More confident, competent coaches and volunteers, adding to the experience.
- ✦ Increase in use of personal budgets to fund sport and physical activity.
- ✦ Increased awareness of the needs of individuals with impairments.

Neighbourhood Planning in Cheshire East

Neighbourhood planning allows communities, led by their Town and Parish Councils, to shape the development and growth of their local areas. This includes through the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans containing local planning policies that become part of the statutory development plan if supported through a local referendum. They can identify how and where new development should take place including what infrastructure should be provided and where this is aligned with the overall strategic needs and priorities of the wider area.

There is considerable neighbourhood planning activity in Cheshire East. At the time this report was prepared there were 40 active neighbourhood planning groups. Five plans in Cheshire East have been 'made' (Audlem, Brereton, Bunbury, Marton and Sandbach) with Holmes Chapel Neighbourhood Plan to be subject to local referendum in March 2017. It is expected that a further 20 Neighbourhood Development Plans will be completed in 2017.

The Council is very keen to support neighbourhood planning and continues to provide advice and guidance to local groups. This includes understanding the relationship between emerging Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan. It is hoped that the PPS and the Council's Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy will provide useful sources of evidence to support policies and proposals within Neighbourhood Plans. Clearly, planning decisions will have to take proper account of the policies and proposals in both the Local and Neighbourhood Plan, the latter probably adding more locally-specific policy. For example, through their Neighbourhood Plans, local communities may want to recognise the need to protect and enhance specific facilities and/or allocate land for new or improved facilities, where such requirements are justified by appropriate evidence.

Everybody Sport and Recreation

Everybody is an independent non-profit distributing organisation (NPDO) with charitable status (Registered Charity No. 1156084), responsible for delivering leisure services in partnership with Cheshire East Council. It is the lead operator for the Cheshire East area. Key services include:

- ✦ 15 leisure facilities including the new Holmes Chapel Community Centre and Crewe Lifestyle Centre,
- ✦ Everybody Fitness membership scheme and Learn to Swim scheme,
- ✦ Everybody Options concessionary discount programme,
- ✦ Leisure development service including key programmes such as: Talented Athlete Support Scheme, Volunteer Programme, Club & Coach Development, Bikeability and more.

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- ✦ Everybody Academy – specialist leisure training provider delivering a range of training and development opportunities including volunteering, apprenticeships and work placements
- ✦ Taste for Life Catering – onsite café's in local Everybody leisure centres in Cheshire East, business and event catering as well as children's party catering
- ✦ Everybody Healthy – a range of health and wellbeing programmes and initiatives to support people in our communities

The Aim is to provide 'Leisure for Life' by:

- ✦ Changing lives through healthy recreation
- ✦ Growing an ethical and sustainable business
- ✦ Providing a great customer experience
- ✦ Developing our people to be the best
- ✦ Building strong communities and effective partnership

Management arrangements

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

Further to this, the Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England and NGBs (see Appendix 3).

Agreed scope

The following types of playing pitches were agreed by the steering group for inclusion in the Assessment and Strategy:

- ✦ Football pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ✦ Cricket pitches
- ✦ Rugby union pitches
- ✦ Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)
- ✦ Lacrosse pitches

Please note that rugby league pitches have not been included as there is no recorded provision within Cheshire East and no existing demand.

The study area

Cheshire East is a unitary Authority with a population of 370,100 and an area of 116,638 hectares.

In addition to Cheshire West and Chester Council on the west, Cheshire East is bounded by the Manchester conurbation to the north and east, Warrington to the north-west and Staffordshire and Shropshire to the south. It contains the major towns of Crewe, Macclesfield, Congleton and the commuter town of Wilmslow (population above 20,000). There are also a number of other significant centres of population (over 10,000) in Sandbach, Poynton, Nantwich, Middlewich, Knutsford and Alsager.

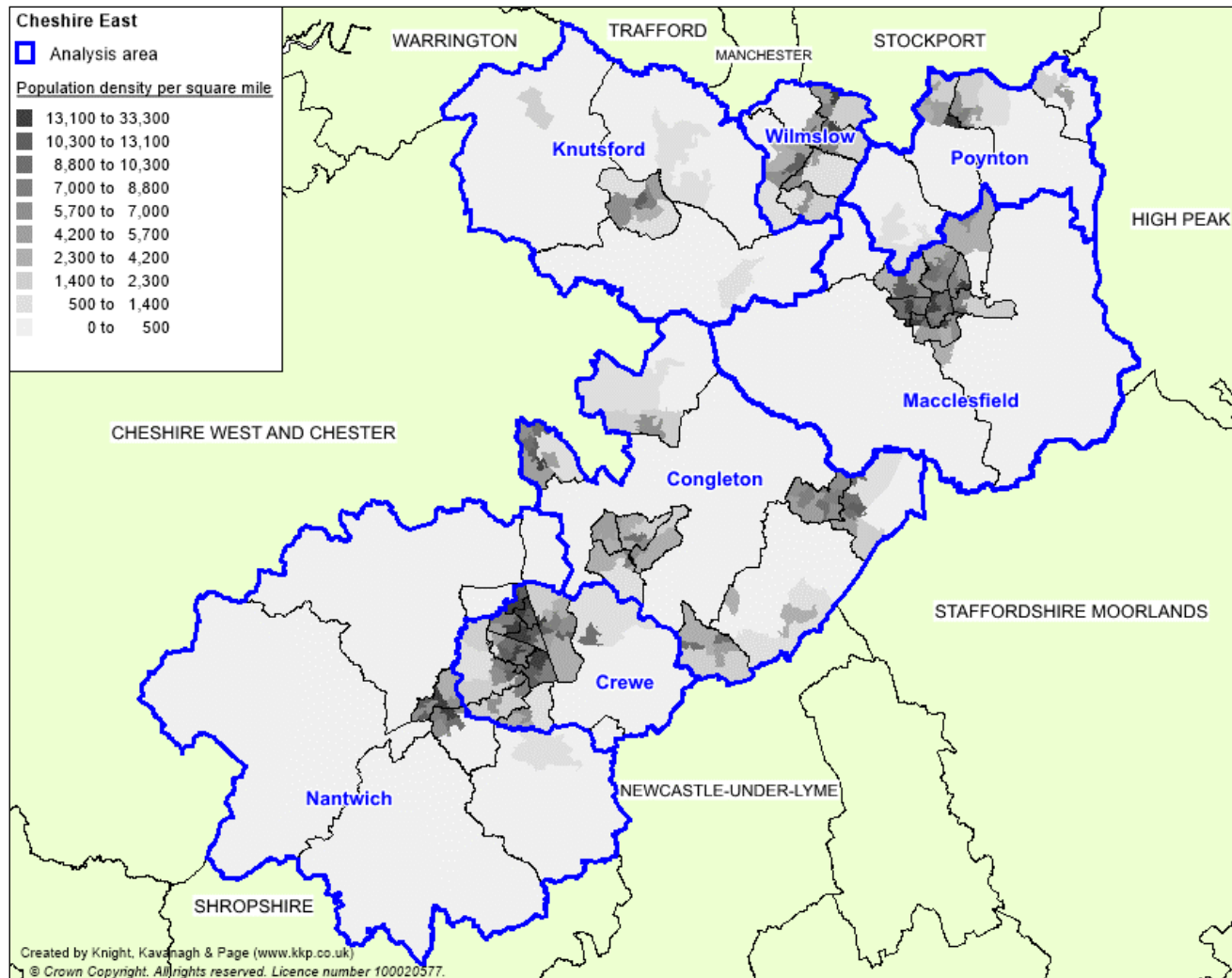
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The strategy covers the borough boundary area of Cheshire East; however, the data gathered has been presented in such a way as to be further analysed by smaller analysis areas. There are also a number of sports teams from outside the specified area that use pitches within Cheshire East and sports teams from inside Cheshire East that use facilities outside of the Borough. This cross boundary movement has been taken into consideration when producing this assessment report.

For the purpose of this analysis, Cheshire East has been broken down into seven analysis areas. They are: Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Knutsford, Nantwich, Poynton and Wilmslow. They are the same as the borough's local area partnerships and are illustrated below.

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Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



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

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

Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.¹

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

Although the statutory definition of a playing field is the whole of a site with at least one pitch of 0.2ha or more, this PPS takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side, for example, 5v5 mini football pitches. This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

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

Quantity

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

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

¹. www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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Accessibility

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

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

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site. NB: This refers to pitches in community use and not lapsed/disused sites.

Quality

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

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

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

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

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

Gather demand information and views

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

- ✦ Organised competitive play
- ✦ Organised training
- ✦ Informal play

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

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

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

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

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

The response rates of such consultation are as follows:

Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs	124	77	62%	Face-to-face, online survey
Football teams	557	485	87%	
Cricket clubs	38	24	62%	Online survey
Rugby union clubs	7	7	100%	Face-to-face, online survey
Rugby league clubs	-	-	-	-
Hockey clubs	8	8	100%	Online survey; telephone
Universities	1	1	100%	Face-to-face

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Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Colleges	3	3	100%	Face-to-face
Secondary schools	21	19	91%	Face-to face
Primary schools	125	91	73%	Online survey; telephone

Future demand

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

Population growth

The resident population in Cheshire East is recorded as 374,179 (based on ONS 2014 mid-year estimates). By 2027 population is projected to increase to 393,202 and by 2030 it is projected to further increase to 398,181 (ONS 2014-based projections 2014-2030). This time period is used to align with the Cheshire Local Plan period.

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

Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases, to the ONS population increases, to 2030, in each analysis area. This figure is then applied to the TGRs and is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

Other information sources used to help identify future demand include:

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

Housing growth

The Cheshire East Local Plan is currently being developed and is at its examination stage. The Council is proposing to allocate a number of Strategic Sites for housing. Stage D of the PPS will include a housing growth scenario that will estimate the additional demand for pitch sports arising from planned housing growth. This scenario will be contained within the overall strategy report and is not included within this report.

There is an overall housing requirement for at least 36,000 new homes and proposals to achieve 31,400 additional jobs within the Local Plan period (2010-2030). The Council is planning positively to support growth in line with national planning policy:

Summary of housing growth	All areas
Expected Level of Development made up of:	36,000
a) Completions 01/04/10 to 31/03/15	5,473

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Summary of housing growth	All areas
b) Commitments 31/03/16	10,822
c) Local Plan Strategy Sites and Strategic Locations	18,555
d) Further non-strategic sites in the future Site Allocations and Development Policies Document	3,335
e) Small sites windfall provision	1,375
Total	39,560

The Local Plan also seeks to ensure that the right mix of new homes is provided to meet the needs of a growing workforce and support both current and future employers. This is set within the demographic context that Cheshire East will have a 65% increase in the population aged 65 and above and a 134% increase in the population aged 85 and above, over the Plan period. (Paragraph 1.27 of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy Proposed Changes Version March 2016).

The Local Plan Strategy plays a central role in achieving jobs growth in the Borough and the infrastructure and housing that are needed to support it. There is a need to provide for a wide range of employment opportunities, including highly skilled jobs, jobs that retain young people and attract new employees to live and work locally, limiting travel congestion. Therefore, much of the new housing provision will need to attract people, particularly younger people, who do or can work in the sort of local, high-skill jobs that will help the Council achieve its aspirations for economic and social wellbeing.

Using housing allocation figures (2012-2030), indicative population growth can be determined. These figures are not population projections, but simply an approximate indication of what future population growth may be at a local level. The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 1.61 per dwelling. This is taken from the fact that the Local Plan Housing Development Study² projects population growth of 58,100 and identifies a need for 36,000 dwellings (implying an average increase of 58,100/36,000, or 1.61 people per dwelling). In reality, population growth per dwelling will vary from site to site, depending on factors such as household formation rates, migration patterns and the type of dwellings being built. There is, however, insufficient data to quantify these variations at such a local geographical level. Therefore, the population figures should be treated with considerable caution:

Analysis Area	Number of new homes	Indicative population growth
Alsager	2,000	3,200
Congleton	4,150	6,700
Crewe	7,700	12,400
Handforth	2,200	3,500
Knutsford	950	1,500
Macclesfield	4,250	6,800
Middlewich	1,950	3,100
Nantwich	2,050	3,300
Poynton	650	1,000
Sandbach	2,750	3,400

² Cheshire East Housing Development Study, ORS, June 2015. Local Plan Examination Library Reference PS E033: <http://cheshireeast-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/cs/library>

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Analysis Area	Number of new homes	Indicative population growth
Wilmslow	900	1,400
Local Service Centres	3,500	5,600
Other Settlements and Rural areas (inc Alderley Park)	2,950	4,700
Cheshire East	36,000	56,600

High speed 2

High Speed Two (HS2) is a new high speed railway proposed by the Government to connect major cities in Britain. It will be built in phases. Phase One of the HS2 network will run from London to the West Midlands, with a connection to the West Coast Main Line near Lichfield, and will start operating in 2026. Phase Two will extend HS2 to the North of England with trains running to Manchester via Crewe, and to Leeds via the East Midlands and South Yorkshire. Connections to the East Coast and West Coast Main Lines would enable HS2 services to travel onwards on the existing rail network. A connection to the Midland Mainline would also provide HS2 services to Sheffield city centre.

In November 2015, the Government published High Speed Two: East and West: The next steps to Crewe and beyond. This outlined the Government's plan to accelerate part of the Phase Two route from the West Midlands to Crewe, and set out the preferred line of route for what is now known as Phase 2a. Phase 2a is due to start running in 2027, one year after the opening of Phase One. This is six years earlier than originally planned.

A second Command Paper, High Speed Two; From Crewe to Manchester, the West Midlands and beyond, published in November 2016 states that Government remains supportive of the vision for a Crewe HS2 Hub station, and plans to make decisions on additional investment at Crewe in 2017. If the government proceeds with this proposal it has decided that it would be located at the site of the existing Crewe station. In 2015 Government also asked that further work is undertaken to look at bringing high speed rail services to Macclesfield, the 2016 work concludes that Macclesfield could be served by one HS2 train per hour via Stoke-on-Trent and the Handsacre Junction. The 2016 Command Paper also confirmed HS2 intend to locate the rolling stock depot north of Crewe, whilst the outcome of the consultation proposing the relocation of the infrastructure maintenance depot from Crewe to Stone is expected in 2017. The announcement also outlines the confirmed route for HS2 from Crewe to Manchester Airport.

Given the benefits that Crewe Hub would bring to the area the Council is supportive of HS2 and believes it reinforces Cheshire East as the best place to live and do business in the North West. The Council believes that investment in HS2 will consolidate Cheshire East as one of the most connected areas in the UK and will support existing businesses, inward investment and job creation in and around Crewe and the wider sub-region.

The Crewe Hub could be served by up to seven high speed trains an hour – with journey times to London reduced by 35 minutes. The final section of the line to Manchester will be completed by 2033.

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Manchester Metropolitan University

Following closure of its Alsager Campus in 2010, Manchester Metropolitan University's Crewe Campus is also to be closed after board members decided it was "no longer academically or financially sustainable", despite a recent £70 million transformation.

The Crewe site is set to shut in 2019 after the University decided the Campus was no longer sustainable; however, the endorsement is not a final decision and work to assess the impact of the plan is continuing.

Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

In line with Sport England's Playing Pitch Guidance Stage C, an in-depth understanding of playing pitch provision has been developed using the supply and demand information and by assessing views from stakeholders in light of local and national information. This stage should:

- ✦ Provide a clear understanding of the provision and management of playing pitches at individual sites.
- ✦ Develop the current and future picture of provision.
- ✦ Identify the key findings and issues

Understand the situation at individual sites

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

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

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

Develop the current picture of provision

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

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

³ A match equivalent session can be either a match or a training session

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Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing

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

Identify the key findings and issues

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

The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch sports in Cheshire East. Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and, the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plan (where they exist). Local league details are provided in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Cheshire County FA is the primary organisation responsible for the development (and some elements of administration) of football in Cheshire East. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

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

Consultation

In addition to face-to-face consultation with key football clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all clubs playing in Cheshire East. Contact details were provided by Cheshire County FA, and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email. The survey was returned by 77 clubs (including face-to-face meetings), which equates to a club response rate of 62% and a team response rate of 87%.

The following key clubs were met with for a face-to-face consultation:

- ✦ Alsager Town FC
- ✦ Club AZ
- ✦ Crewe FC
- ✦ Egerton FC
- ✦ Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC
- ✦ Middlewich Town FC
- ✦ Nantwich Town FC
- ✦ Richmond Rovers FC
- ✦ Vale Juniors FC

In addition, the following leagues servicing Cheshire East were also consulted:

- ✦ Alexandra Soccer League
- ✦ Cheshire Football League
- ✦ Cheshire Veterans League
- ✦ South Cheshire Youth League

The results of such consultation are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies 331 grass football pitches within Cheshire East across 189 sites. Of the pitches, 245 are available, at some level, for community use across 132 sites, as presented in the table below. The large majority of unavailable pitches are located within schools.

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

Analysis area	Available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Congleton	21	15	13	17	11	77
Crewe	18	9	1	2	2	32
Knutsford	10	4	3	6	1	24
Macclesfield	10	5	9	14	4	42
Nantwich	12	3	4	2	5	26
Poynton	7	1	3	4	3	18
Wilmslow	8	-	4	10	4	26
Cheshire East	86	37	37	55	30	245

Congleton (77 pitches) contains substantially more provision when compared to the other analysis areas; Poynton (18 pitches) contains the least.

There are a large number of adult pitches (86) identified when compared to other pitch sizes, which reflects that the majority of teams use adult pitches. It should be noted, however, that nationally many youth 11v11 teams are playing on adult pitches, which may be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than through preference.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, u17s and u18s can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100 x 64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91 x 55 metres for u16s and u15s, 82 x 50 metres for u14s and u13s and 73 x 46 metres for u12s and u11s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches (u10s and u9s) is 55 x 37 metres and for 5v5 pitches (u8s and u7s) it is 37 x 27 metres.

There are a large number of youth 11v11 pitches in Cheshire East when compared to other local authorities, however, there remains 83 youth 11v11 (u13s-u16s) teams regularly using adult pitches. The following sites contain adult pitches that are used by youth 11v11 teams:

- ✦ Alsager Leisure Centre
- ✦ Bollington Cross Playing Field
- ✦ Congleton High School
- ✦ Cranage Playing Fields
- ✦ Deva Close
- ✦ Haslington Playing Fields
- ✦ King George V Playing Field
- ✦ Malbank School & Sixth Form College
- ✦ Mary Dendy Playing Fields
- ✦ Mount Vernon
- ✦ Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre
- ✦ Styal Playing Fields
- ✦ Willaston White Star Football Club
- ✦ Barony Sports Complex
- ✦ Carnival Field
- ✦ Congleton Road
- ✦ Cumberland Arena (Razzer)
- ✦ Eric Swan Sports Ground
- ✦ Jim Evison Playing Fields
- ✦ Lacey Green Pavilion
- ✦ Manchester Metropolitan University
- ✦ Middleswich High School
- ✦ Sandbach Community Football Centre
- ✦ St John's Wood Community School
- ✦ Weston Playing Field

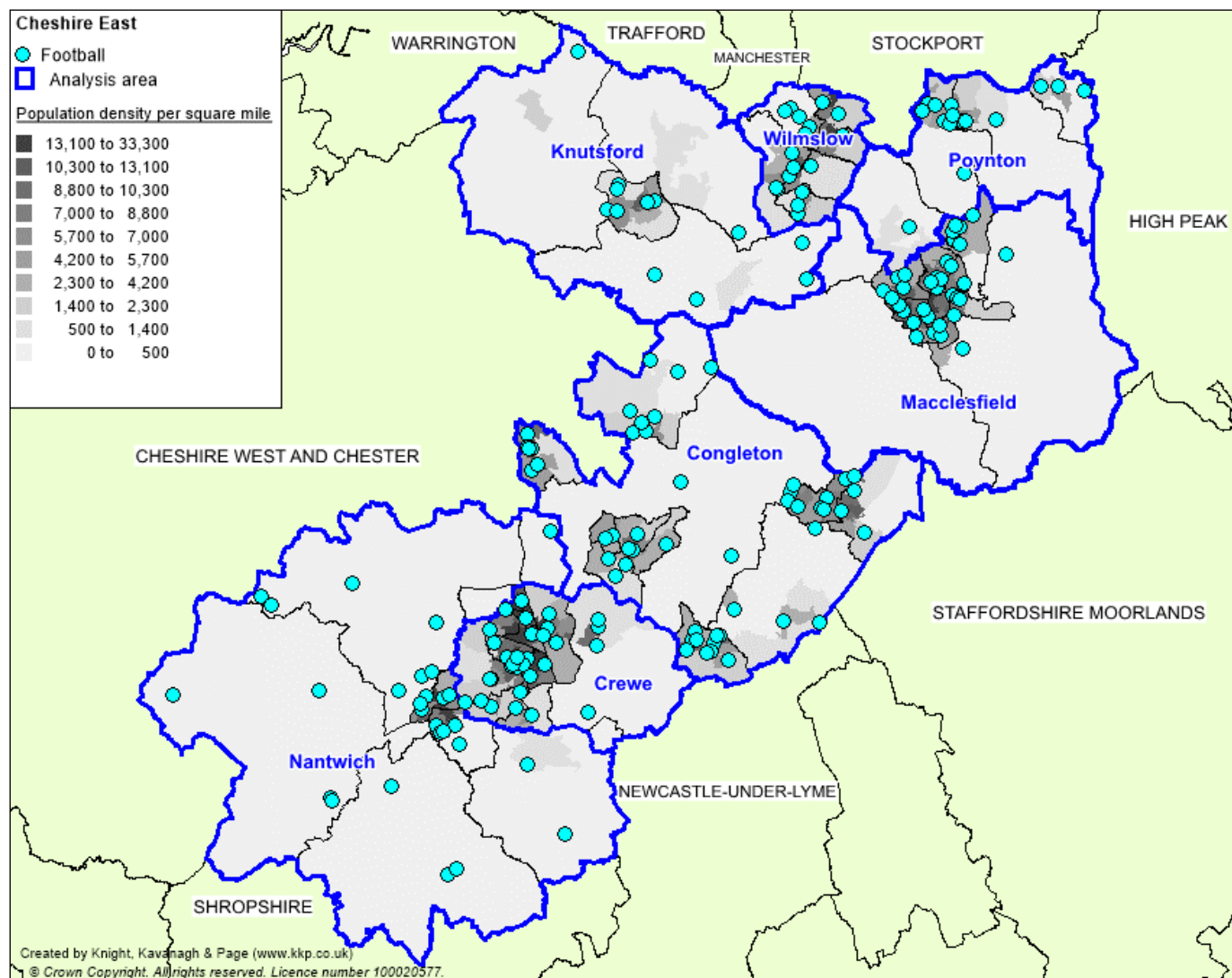
CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Of the above, Bollington Cross Playing Field, Cranage Playing Fields, Cumberland Arena (Razzer), Malbank High School and Sixth Form College, Middlewich High School, St John's Wood Community School and Weston Playing Field are used solely by youth 11v11 teams. These sites can therefore provide a starting point to increase youth 11v11 provision as no adult teams would be adversely affected by a pitch re-configuration, although there may be a need to retain adult pitches should shortfalls be identified.

Figure 2.1 overleaf identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Cheshire East. For a key to the map, see Table 2.9.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Cheshire East



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future provision

The King's School plans to sell both its Westminster Road and Fence Avenue sites for housing as it looks to consolidate to one site (Derby Fields). Both contain two football pitches but there are no plans for these to be re-provided. Despite a net loss of playing fields, Sport England has no objection to the proposed development as alternative sports provision will be provided that is of sufficient benefit to sport to outweigh the loss of playing field.

A planning application has been approved at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will include grass pitch provision as well as a full size, floodlit 3G pitch and changing rooms.

Similarly, Egerton Youth Club has planning permission to develop five adult pitches on land adjacent to its current site that it leases from a local landowner. It is expected that numerous youth and mini pitches will also be provided, most likely through over markings.

Poynton Sports Club is in negotiations with a local landowner to purchase nearby land that will be used to relocate all on-site provision, including the football pitches. This is, however, dependent on securing planning permission and the sale of its existing site.

Middlewich Town FC expresses an interest in acquiring Sutton Lane so that it can develop pitches for its youth teams as well as creating a community hub for other local teams. The site is currently unused although it does still contain one marked pitch.

Lapsed sites

Four sites are classed as lapsed for football purposes. These previously had pitches marked out but that has not been the case for more than five years:

- ✦ Bisto Football Club (one adult pitch – Congleton Analysis Area)
- ✦ Cranage Hall (one 7v7 pitch – Congleton Analysis Area)
- ✦ Crewe Hall (one adult pitch – Crewe Analysis Area)
- ✦ Goddard Street (one adult pitch – Crewe Analysis Area)

All of the above have the potential to be re-provided, if required, as none of them have been built on or replaced by alternative provision. That said, both Cranage Hall and Crewe Hall remain in use for other open space purposes albeit not for playing pitch purposes.

Disused sites

There are nine sites that contained football pitches at some point in the previous five years but no longer do so. These are as follows:

- ✦ Brooke Dean Community College (Wilmslow Analysis Area)
- ✦ Brook House Playing Field (Crewe Analysis Area)
- ✦ Cedar Avenue (Congleton Analysis Area)
- ✦ Hazelbadge Road Playing Field (Poynton Analysis Area)
- ✦ Peover Playing Fields (Knutsford Analysis Area)
- ✦ Portland Drive (Congleton Analysis Area)
- ✦ St John's Road (Congleton Analysis Area)
- ✦ Wheelock Playing Field (Sandbach Analysis Area)
- ✦ Wybunbury Recreation Ground (Nantwich Analysis Area)

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

As with lapsed sites, all of the above have the potential to be re-provided as none of them have been built on or replaced by alternative provision.

In addition, the following sites are known to have previously contained more football pitches than they currently do:

- ◀ Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)
- ◀ Brookfield Park
- ◀ Cranage Playing Fields
- ◀ Haslington Playing Fields
- ◀ Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)
- ◀ Sutton Lane
- ◀ Tytherington High School
- ◀ Wrenbury Playing Fields

Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) now contains just one adult pitch following its closure to students in 2011. When the site was open, it contained as many as six adult pitches.

Alderley Park (Club AZ) previously contained a 7v7 pitch but that is no longer the case. A needs assessment report into the development of the site concluded that the pitch should be re-provided elsewhere to a good quality. An adult pitch is still in use and is not affected by the development plans.

Sutton Lane now contains one adult pitch, yet it provided two last year and up to four in previous years. Likewise, Haslington Playing Fields, Wrenbury Playing Fields and Cranage Playing Fields now contain just one adult pitch, whereas they all contained two in the past.

Tytherington High School contained an adult pitch on an area of land that is no longer in use due to access and drainage issues, whereas Brookfield Park no longer provides football pitches and is solely in use as a park.

Informal pitches

There are a number of sites identified that do not have official football pitches marked out but could have the capacity to provide pitches if required. Many of these contain a solitary goalpost or goalposts of an unofficial size but are not marked out or maintained for football use. They are as follows:

- ◀ Alton Street
- ◀ Green Street
- ◀ Hassall Road
- ◀ Joey the Swan Playing Fields
- ◀ Lanark Walk
- ◀ Mabllins Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Macclesfield College
- ◀ McLaren Street

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Pitch quality

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

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

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

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than Council parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. The maintenance of council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use. In total, 16 pitches are assessed as good quality, 158 as standard quality and 71 as poor quality.

Table 2.2: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
12	45	29	4	53	17	-	60	25

The non-technical pitch quality audit shows that the majority of pitches are poor or standard quality, particularly at local authority sites. All pitches managed by the Council receive a basic level of maintenance, which is undertaken by ANSA and is limited to fortnightly grass cutting, annual seeding and regular aeration. No sand dressing, weed killing or fertilisation takes place.

The majority of pitches within schools also receive basic maintenance, which in most cases is sub-contracted to an external company such as Bancroft Amenities and Countrywide.

Maintenance of pitches at club sites varies. Some clubs, such as Sandbach Community Football Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club, hire dedicated ground staff, whilst others depend on remedial work by volunteers that is often limited by cost and a lack of specialised equipment.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

In general, club consultation indicates varying degrees of change in pitch quality over the previous three years. Of responding clubs, 43 (56%) report no significant difference, compared to 22 (28%) that report worsening pitch quality and 12 (16%) that report improving pitch quality.

Of those that cite pitch quality improvements, five play at Sandbach Community Football Centre and five of the remaining seven also play at private, sports club operated sites. The two that do not are Alsager Bank Corner FC, which plays at Alsager Leisure Centre and Nantwich Young Farmers FC, which plays at Wrenbury Recreation Ground.

The most common factors attributed to pitch improvements are an investment in drainage work and more frequent, specialised maintenance, whilst the opposite is true for pitches that are worsening in quality. Specific comments relating to pitch conditions at individual sites can be seen in the table overleaf. The comments are a combination of club feedback and site assessment information.

Table 2.3: Site-specific comments

Site ID	Site	Comments
11	Back Lane	Dog fouling is a major issue identified by clubs, as is infrequent line marking
12	Barony Sports Complex	One adult pitch suffers from severe drainage issues in one of the corners, making it hazardous.
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Drainage issues are prevalent leading to no matches being played during winter months
39	Cumberland Arena	Maintained to a high standard and reported as the best quality pitch by many clubs in Crewe
48	Goodwill Hall Playing Fields	An overhanging tree affects play on one side of the pitch
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	The adult pitch on site is suffering from a mole infestation
62	Bunbury Playing Fields	Grass is identified as too long due to a lack of frequent maintenance
65	King George V Playing Fields	Recent site renovations have improved quality
71	Legends Health and Leisure Centre	A lack of maintenance results in faded line markings during the season
77	Manchester Road	Major ground renovation has recently taken place but pitch still has drainage issues
83	Middlewich High School	High amounts of dog fouling despite the site being fenced off
93	Newtown Playing Field	Recent drainage work has improved quality
102	Poynton High School	All pitches on site suffer from severe drainage issues
105	Reaseheath College	Reported as the best quality pitch available by many Crewe and Nantwich based clubs
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	A fairly new site that is getting better year by year, especially now that drainage issues have been corrected
114	South Cheshire College	Reported as the best quality pitch in use by teams in the Crewe Regional Sunday League
121	Sutton Lane	High amounts of dog fouling and the goalposts are dangerous due to being rusty and not being level

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Comments
129	The Oaks Academy	All pitches on site suffer from drainage issues
133	Upcast Lane	High amount of dog fouling and litter negatively affects quality
195	Lostock Hall Primary School	Worn line markings make visibility difficult

For a full breakdown of quality ratings at each site, please refer to Table 2.9.

Over marked pitches

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

There are also some football pitches in Cheshire East that are dual use rugby union pitches. This can create availability issues as the rugby union and football seasons run parallel to each other.

Furthermore, numerous pitches are marked onto cricket outfield. This creates availability issues as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played. Generally, cricket is given priorities at such sites, meaning football teams either finish their season early or have to relocate to another site.

Table 2.4: Sites containing over marked pitches

Site ID	Site	Comments
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	A youth 11v11 pitch is over marked by 9v9 pitch
34	Congleton High School	Two adult pitches over marked by 9v9 pitches and two youth 11v11 pitches over marked by mini pitches
44	Egerton Youth Club	Two youth 11v11 pitches both over marked by two 7v7 pitches
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	An youth 11v11 pitch over marked by a 9v9 pitch
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	A 5v5 pitch that over marks a cricket outfield
58	Holmes Leisure Centre	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Two 7v7 pitches that over mark a cricket outfield
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch
83	Middlewich High School	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	An adult pitch that is over marked by a 9v9 pitch
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	An adult pitch and a youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are dual use rugby union pitches
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Comments
114	South Cheshire College	Adult pitch that is also used for American football
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch
129	The Oaks Academy	A 9v9 pitch that is over marked by a 5v5 pitch
141	Wilmslow High School	An adult pitch and a youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are over marked by two 9v9 pitches
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary School	A 9v9 pitch that is over marked by a 7v7 pitch
248	Jasmine Park	A 9v9 pitch that is over marked by two 7v7 pitches and a youth 11v11 pitch that is over marked by two 5v5 pitches

In addition, some clubs have taken to marking out pitches using cones. This is due to a lack of pitch markings at sites in the locality as well as it enabling clubs to save money on pitch hire costs. Willaston White Star FC uses cones to mark out a 9v9 pitch within its adult pitch at Willaston White Star Football Club, whereas Bollington Juniors FC uses cones to mark out 5v5 pitches at Bollington Cross Playing Field.

Ancillary facilities

The non-technical assessment assesses ancillary facilities servicing pitches. This includes the condition of clubhouses, changing accommodation, toilets, showers, car parking and boundary fencing, amongst other things.

The assessment concluded that 103 (42%) community available pitches are not serviced by accessible changing accommodation. The majority of these are found at school sites that do have on-site changing rooms but do not allow for community use of them, although some council sites are also without provision.

Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 17 (12%) are serviced by good quality facilities, 60 (43%) by standard quality facilities and 65 (45%) by poor quality facilities. In addition, of clubs that responded to consultation, ten (13%) rate changing room provision as good, 39 (51%) rate provision as standard and 28 (36%) rate provision as poor.

Table 2.5: Clubs response to changing facility quality

Good	Standard	Poor
13%	51%	36%

The majority of changing facilities assessed as good quality are located as sports club sites, such as Sandbach Community Football Centre, although council provision at King George V Playing Fields is also assessed as good quality following recent refurbishment.

In contrast, the following facilities receive a poor rating:

- ✦ Audlem Playing Fields
- ✦ Bunbury Playing Fields
- ✦ Congleton Road
- ✦ Manchester Road
- ✦ Poynton Sports Club
- ✦ Sutton Lane
- ✦ Bollington Recreation Ground
- ✦ Congleton High School
- ✦ Goodwill Hall Playing Fields
- ✦ Mary Dendy Playing Fields
- ✦ Newtown Playing Fields
- ✦ Upcast Lane

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

◀ Wrenbury Recreation Ground

Of particular concern are the facilities at Sutton Lane as the on-site clubhouse was the victim of numerous break-ins, which led to all demand transferring elsewhere. As such, the site is now unused. The majority of adult football leagues require sides to have access to changing facilities; otherwise, they face expulsion.

Poynton FC reports that the poor condition of the clubhouse at Poynton Sports Club is affecting its growth, especially in relation to female participation. As with adult football, female teams require access to changing facilities and the rooms must be secluded from male changing rooms and with showers and toilets enclosed.

Congleton Rovers FC states that it is working in collaboration with Congleton High School to provide new changing rooms on-site. This is considered especially important following the recent development of a full size 3G pitch and the increased traffic that it has brought to the School.

Styal FC reports ongoing discussions with a hotel company that wants to build a hotel near to its site (Styal Playing Fields) and include a new clubhouse with additional changing facilities.

AFC Prestbury Nomads has raised £95,000 towards creating its own changing facility at Prestbury Playing Fields. Its overall target is £130,000.

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Cheshire East is generally secure, i.e. through a long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years.

An exception to this is found at schools and academies that state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use. In total, 58 educational providers do not allow community use of some or all of their pitches and this includes schools that have a large number of pitches such as the King's School, the Oaks Academy and Wilmslow High School.

The reasons for not allowing community use vary. The most common example is that the schools want to protect pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes due to existing quality issues. Other reasons include staffing issues, health and safety issues and a lack of profitability.

Moreover, some schools that do provide community availability do so without providing security of tenure, meaning they can stop the external use at any point devoid of any warning. To prevent this happening, it is recommended that club users enter community use agreements with the schools that they access.

In general, no other clubs report major issues with security of tenure; however, some did state a desire to acquire land through an asset transfer and on a long-term lease. This applies to the following:

- ◀ Crewe FC
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC
- ◀ Vale Juniors FC

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Football pyramid demand

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

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 7 clubs.

In Cheshire East, Crewe Alexandra FC is a professional club that plays above the football pyramid. A further ten clubs play within the football pyramid, as seen in the table below.

Table 2.6: Cheshire East clubs playing within the football pyramid

Step	Clubs
1	Macclesfield FC
2	-
3	-
4	-
5	Congleton Town FC; Nantwich Town FC
6	Alsager Town FC
7	Congleton Vale FC; Crewe FC; Knutsford FC; Poynton FC; Sandbach United FC; Styal FC

Additionally, both Middlewich Town FC and Egerton FC are just one promotion short of joining the football pyramid, whilst AFC Macclesfield is two promotions short.

All clubs are currently able to meet their league requirements, although improvements may be needed in some instances for clubs to progress. For example, Crewe FC will be required to install turnstiles and a seated area, which is not possible at its current site (Cumberland Arena) due to it being council owned. This is the principal reason for the Club wanting to acquire its own site.

Egerton FC is submitting a planning application for the creation of a full size, floodlit 3G pitch in replacement of an adult grass pitch at Egerton Youth Club. This will then be used to host first team (football pyramid) fixtures.

Sandbach United FC is developing a stand at Sandbach Community Football Centre to service its main pitch that will seat 50 people. This is expected to be completed ahead of next season and will go some way to ensuring that the Club can progress to Step 6 should it achieve promotion.

Alsager Town FC aspires to build a new stand at Wood Park that will contain changing rooms, a bar, a kitchen and a social area. The Club previously had plans to move sites but this fell through due to a change of developer.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, 557 teams from within 124 clubs were identified as playing within Cheshire East. This consists of 123 adult men's teams, eight adult women's teams, 264 youth boys' teams, eight youth girls' teams and 154 mini soccer teams.

Table 2.7: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Cheshire East

Analysis area	No. of teams					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Congleton	35	53	29	12	11	140
Crewe	26	26	23	39	24	138
Knutsford	18	23	9	10	-	60
Macclesfield	11	19	17	21	7	75
Nantwich	20	16	6	-	-	42
Poynton	12	10	9	5	1	37
Wilmslow	9	17	15	13	11	65
Cheshire East	131	164	108	100	54	557

Poynton services the fewest number of teams (37 teams). The majority of teams play in Congleton (140 teams), which coincides with it containing the largest number of pitches although there is a similar level of demand in Crewe (138 teams). The most prevalent playing format is youth 11v11 football (164 teams); the least is 5v5 football (54 teams).

It should be noted that the large number of mini teams playing in Crewe (39 7v7 teams and 24 5v5 teams) can be linked to the Alexandra Soccer League using the Alexandra Soccer Centre as a central venue. This not only results in all Crewe based mini teams using the site, but also mini teams from nearby areas in Nantwich and Congleton as the League is the only mini soccer option servicing that part of Cheshire East. This also provides an explanation as to why there are no mini teams playing within Nantwich.

The South Cheshire Youth League also uses a central venue system, but for 9v9 football rather than mini soccer. The most prominent sites used are Sandbach Community Football Centre, Cumberland Arena and Barony Sports Complex.

Both the Alexandra Soccer League and the South Cheshire Youth League access 3G pitches and the use of 3G pitches for match play is particularly prominent in Cheshire East. In total, 98 teams currently play home matches on 3G pitches, which is a considerably high number when compared to other local authorities. For more information, see Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

Participation trends

When data was collected in 2013, there were significantly fewer teams then (498 teams) compared to now (557 teams). That said, there were more clubs then (129 clubs) than currently (124 clubs). This can be correlated to many one-team, adult only clubs folding whilst large clubs that service numerous mini and youth teams, such as Sandbach United FC and Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC, have prospered and grown substantially.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Clubs that responded to the online survey were asked whether there had been a change in their number of teams over the previous three years. The response rates for those that answered this question can be seen in the table overleaf.

Table 2.8: Change in the number of teams over the previous three years

Team type	Clubs response		
	Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same
Adult	6%	14%	80%
Youth	20%	7%	73%
Mini	24%	5%	71%

The highest increase in teams is seen in mini soccer, with just under a quarter (24%) of clubs reporting an increase over the last three years compared to 5% that report a decrease. Similarly, 20% of clubs report an increase in youth teams compared to 7% that report a decrease.

It would be expected that an increase in mini and youth teams would translate into more adult teams; however, this is generally not the case. In Cheshire East, only 6% of clubs report an increase in senior demand, whilst 14% report a decrease. The way in which adult men want to play football is changing. There is a national trend of players opting to play small-sided versions of the game as people want to be able to fit it into busy lifestyles. Shorter versions of the sport allow players to do this and if this trend continues, there is likely to be demand for more access to 3G pitches.

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of Cheshire East, despite being registered to the Local Authority. This is normally because pitch requirements cannot be met.

AFC Macclesfield has an adult men's team that accesses a pitch at Stockport Sports Village due to no suitable venue existing within Cheshire East. The Club plays at a relatively high level and expresses a need for a good quality pitch to match its ambition of reaching the football pyramid. Talks are ongoing with the Council in regards to use of Mary Dendy Playing Fields.

Both Alsager Town FC and Wistaston Blackcats FC have an u12s youth boys' team displaced. Alsager Town FC plays in Stoke-on-Trent as there is no 9v9 provision at its home site (Wood Park), whereas Wistaston Blackcats FC plays in Newcastle-under-Lyme so that it can access pitches that are perceived to be better quality. Both clubs state that they would return to Cheshire East if they felt it possible.

Six Cheshire East based clubs have youth girls' teams playing in the Cheshire Girls' League, which uses a central venue at Moss Farm (Northwich) for all of its fixtures. These clubs are:

- ✦ Crewe FC
- ✦ Egerton FC
- ✦ Middlewich Town FC
- ✦ Sandbach United FC
- ✦ Tytherington Juniors FC
- ✦ Vale Juniors FC

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Similarly, Poynton, Wilmslow Sports and Alderley United football clubs have mini teams that play in Trafford, as per the central venue requirements of the Timperley and District Junior Football League. None of these clubs express a requirement for the demand to return to Cheshire East, although that could be due to the lack of an alternative.

All remaining exported demand is through choice rather than necessity. For example, Richmond Rovers FC is based on the Cheshire East border to Stockport, where the Club leases and accesses a site for the majority of its mini and youth teams.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league. No clubs report this as being the case in Cheshire East.

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

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

Table 2.9 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

Education sites

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

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

For Cheshire East, current play at primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and independent schools has been enlarged on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

Informal use

Where information is known, informal and unofficial use of pitches has been factored into current play. This is especially the case at high-traffic open access sites such as King George V Playing Fields, Back Lane and Barony Sports Complex, which are heavily used, particularly during the summer for club training purposes. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime and through retaining some spare capacity to protect quality.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Cheshire East, peak time is considered to be Sunday AM for all formats of play as this is when the majority of teams access each pitch type.

In the table below, please note that, on occasion, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than what exists overall. This is because the majority of use occurs outside of the peak period; therefore, the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increases overall capacity.

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Table 2.9: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	1
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0.5
6	Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	Congleton	University	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5
7	Ash Grove Academy	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
10	Audlem Playing Fields	Nantwich	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0.5
11	Back Lane	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	4	2	2	0
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Poor	2.5	3	0.5	0
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0
12	Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Poor	3	3	0	0.5
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
13	Beech Hall School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	1
14	Beechwood Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
15	Black Firs County Primary	Congleton	School	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
16	Bollington Cross (Atax)	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	1
17	Bollington Cross Playing Field	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0
19	Booth Street Stadium (Congleton Town Football Club)	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1	3	2	1
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Yes-unused	Standard	3	6	3	3
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
24	Buglawton Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0.5
26	Calveley School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
27	Carnival Field	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
30	Chorley Hall	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	Knutsford	Private	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0.5
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	School	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	5.5	4	1.5	2
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	5	5	1	1.5
					Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Standard	5.5	4	1.5	0.5
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	7	8	1	1
					Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	7	8	1	1
35	Congleton Road	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	0.5
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1
36	Cranage Playing Fields	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1

⁴ Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in Council, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure.

⁵ Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
37	Cranberry Academy	Congleton	School	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	No	Standard	2	8	6	-
39	Cumberland Arena	Crewe	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2	3	1	0
41	Deva Close	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	4	2	2	0
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Poynton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	1.5
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Poor	2	2	0	2
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	2	2	0	0
					Mini	(5v5)	7	Yes	Poor	8.5	14	5.5	5.5
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
					Youth	(11v11)	3	Yes	Standard	9	6	3	0
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	4.5	2	2.5	0
					Mini	(7v7)	4	Yes	Standard	14	16	2	1
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	No	Poor	1	1	0	-
47	Forge Fields	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
48	Goodwill Hall Playing Fields	Nantwich	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Congleton	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
52	Haslington Playing Fields	Crewe	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0.5
55	Hermitage Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	0
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
					Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
59	Holmes Chapel Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	1
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0
60	Hungerford Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Poor	7.5	3	4.5	0
					Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Poor	3.5	2	1.5	0
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Poor	2	4	2	0
62	Bunbury Playing Field	Nantwich	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	2	8	6	2
64	King George V Playing Field	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	2	1	1	0
65	King George V Playing Fields	Crewe	Council	Secure	Adult		4	Yes	Standard	4	8	4	1
66	Knutsford Academy (upper)	Knutsford	School	Secure	Adult		2	Yes-unused	Poor	2	2	0	2
69	Lacey Green Pavilion	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1
70	Lacey Green Primary Academy	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	4	8	4	0
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	6	4	2	0
71	Legends Health and Leisure Centre	Crewe	Private	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	4.5	4	0.5	1.5
72	Lindow Community Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3	8	5	1
73	Lower Park Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	8	6	2
75	Malbank School And Sixth Form College	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Adult		3	Yes	Standard	6	6	0	0.5
77	Manchester Road	Knutsford	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
79	Marlborough Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
80	Mary Dendy Playing Fields	Knutsford	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Poor	4.5	3	1.5	0
83	Middlewich High School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	4	4	0	1.5
84	Middlewich Town Football Club	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2	3	1	0.5
85	Midway Playing Fields	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0
86	Milton Park	Congleton	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
88	Moss Rose Stadium	Macclesfield	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	No	Good	0.5	3	2.5	-
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0.5
93	Newtown Playing Field	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5
94	Nuffield Fitness And Wellbeing Centre (Radbroke Hall)	Knutsford	Private	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
95	Oakwood Farm	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0.5
96	Offley Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
98	Peover Superior Endowed Primary School	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	1
99	Pikemere School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
102	Poynton High School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	No	Poor	1	1	0	-
					Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Poor	2	2	0	-
					Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Poor	1	1	0	-
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0.5
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	College	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	4	3	1	0.5
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	School	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	4	2	2
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		5	Yes	Good	15	15	0	0
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Good	6	6	0	0
					Youth	(9v9)	3	Yes	Good	4	4	0	0
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	No	Standard	1	2	1	-
					Youth	(11v11)	1	No	Standard	1	2	1	-
111	Shavington Academy	Crewe	School	Secure	Adult		2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	4	2	2
					Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Crewe	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	0
					Youth	(11v11)	3	Yes-unused	Poor	3	3	0	0.5
114	South Cheshire College	Crewe	College	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2.5	3	0.5	0.5
118	St John's Wood Community School	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	1
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
					Youth	(11v11)	1	No	Standard	1	2	1	-
120	Styal Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	0
121	Sutton Lane	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	1
122	Terra Nova School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0.5
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	2	8	6	1.5

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
123	The Berkeley Academy	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	Wilmslow	Club	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Standard	1	2	1	-
					Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
125	The Kings School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Standard	2	4	2	-
127	The Kings School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Standard	2	4	2	-
128	The Macclesfield Academy	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	1.5
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
129	The Oaks Academy	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	1
					Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Poor	1	1	0	-
					Mini	(5v5)	2	No	Poor	2	4	2	-
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	Crewe	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	1
					Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	0
132	Tytherington Pitches	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
133	Upcast Lane	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	1
134	Victoria Park	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0.5
136	Weston Playing Field	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5
138	Whirley Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	1
139	Willaston White Star Football Club	Crewe	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0
140	Wilmslow Grange Primary And Nursery School	Wilmslow	School	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Adult		2	No	Standard	2	4	2	-
					Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Standard	2	4	2	-
					Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Standard	2	4	2	-
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	Crewe	Community	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0
145	Wood Park	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
146	Wood Park (Alsager Town Football Club)	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1	3	2	1
147	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	Nantwich	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0
149	Wistaston Church Lane Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
					Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
150	Crewe Alexandra Football Club	Crewe	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	No	Good	0.5	3	2.5	-
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	School	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Poor	3	2	1	-
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	No	Standard	1	2	1	-
163	Reaseheath Training Complex (Crewe Alex)	Nantwich	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	No	Good	1	6	5	-
					Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Good	2.5	8	5.5	-
					Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Good	1	8	7	-
164	Acton Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
165	Adlington Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
166	Alderley Edge Community Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
167	Alsager Highfields Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
168	Ashdene Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
169	Astbury St Mary's CE Primary	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
170	Audlem St James CE Primary	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
171	Bickerton Holy Trinity Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	1	4	3	2
172	Bollinbrook Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
173	Bollington St John's Primary	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0.5
174	Brereton Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
175	Bridgemere Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
176	Broken Cross Community School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
177	Bunbury Aldersey Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
178	Christ the King Primary	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0.5
179	Cledford Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	1
180	Daven Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
181	Dean Oaks Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
182	Disley Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
183	Elworth Hall Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
184	Elworth Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	No	Standard	2	8	6	-
185	Excalibur Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
186	Goostrey Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
187	Haslington Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
188	Havannah Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
189	Highfields Community Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
190	Hollinhey Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	1	1
191	Hurdsfield Community Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Poor	1	1	0	-
192	Ivy Bank Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Poor	1	1	0	-
193	Leighton Academy	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	No	Standard	2	8	6	-
194	Little Bollington Primary	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
195	Lostock Hall Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	1
196	Mablins Lane Community Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
197	Manor Park Primary School	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	2	4	2	2
198	Marlfields Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3	8	5	1
199	Middlewich Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3	8	5	1
200	Millfields Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
201	Monks Coppenhall Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
202	Mossley CE Primary	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
203	Nether Alderley Primary School	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
204	Pear Tree Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
205	Pebble Brook Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
206	Puss Bank Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	1	4	3	2
207	Rainow Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
208	Rode Heath Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
209	Sandbach Community Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
210	Scholar Green Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
211	Shavington Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
212	Smallwood Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
213	Sound and District Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	1
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	3.5	2	1.5	1
215	St Anne's Catholic Primary	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
216	St Anne's Fulshaw Primary	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
217	St Benedict's Catholic Primary	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
218	St Gabriel's Catholic Primary	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
219	St John's Primary School (Sandbach)	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
220	St Mary's Primary School (Congleton)	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
221	St Mary's Primary School (Crewe)	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
222	St Mary's Primary School (Middlewich)	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0.5
223	St Michael's Community Academy	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
224	St Odwald's Worleston Primary	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
225	St Paul's Catholic Primary	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	0
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
226	Stapeley Broad Lane Primary	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
227	Styal Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
228	The Dingle Primary	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
229	The Quinta Academy	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
230	Upton Priory Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
231	Vernon Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
232	Vine Tree Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
					Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
233	Warmingham Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
234	Weaver Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
235	Weston Village Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
236	Wheelock Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
237	Willaston Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	4	1	-
238	Wistaston Green Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
239	Woodcocks Well CE Primary	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
240	Worth Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	8	6	2
241	Wrenbury Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Standard	1	2	1	-
242	Wybunbury Delves Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
245	Cumberland Arena (Razzer)	Crewe	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5
247	Prestbury Playing Fields	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5
248	Jasmine Park	Macclesfield	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	1
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	0
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3	8	5	0.5
					Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	2.5	8	5.5	1.5
249	Mount Vernon	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0
250	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0.5
251	Dean Valley Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0.5

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and any latent/exported demand) in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Exported demand includes only the teams that express an aspiration to play within Cheshire East; Future demand is based on team generation rates, which are driven by population increases, as well as club development plans. A detailed analysis of spare capacity, overplay, latent and future demand is set out later in this section and explains how the overall supply/demand balance has been derived.

Table 2.10: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁶	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Congleton	2	3.5	-	1.5	-	1	2.5
Crewe	1	2.5	-	1.5	-	0.5	2
Knutsford	0.5	1.5	-	1	-	-	1
Macclesfield	1	2.5	0.5	2	-	1	3
Nantwich	1	1	-		-	-	
Poynton	1.5	3	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Wilmslow	1	5.5	-	4.5	-	-	4.5
Cheshire East	8	19.5	0.5	12	-	2.5	14.5

There is a current shortfall of adult pitches amounting to 12 match equivalent sessions and a future shortfall of 14.5 match equivalent sessions. The only analysis area that does not feature a shortfall is Nantwich, which is played to capacity both presently and when accounting for future demand.

Table 2.11: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁷	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Congleton	2.5	1	-	1.5	-	2	0.5
Crewe	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Knutsford	-	3	-	3	1	0.5	4.5
Macclesfield	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Nantwich	-	-	-		-	-	
Poynton	-	-	-		-	-	
Wilmslow	-	-	-		-	1	1
Cheshire East	2.5	6.5	-	4	1	5.5⁸	10.5

⁶ In match equivalent sessions

⁷ In match equivalent sessions

⁸ Overall future demand figure includes TGRs. Overall total is therefore not the sum of the total column because TGR's are only calculated on a Cheshire East wide basis, not on an analysis area basis.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

There is a current shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches amounting to four match equivalent sessions and a future shortfall of 10.5 match equivalent sessions. Current shortfalls are evident in Crewe, Knutsford and Macclesfield, with future shortfalls also identified in those analysis areas as well as Congleton and Wilmslow. Nantwich and Poynton are both played to capacity currently and accounting for future demand.

In addition, please note that a further 41.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions (83 youth 11v11 teams) are recorded as taking place on adult pitches. As such, there is a clear need for an increase in youth 11v11 provision in order for this play to be transferred on to the correct pitch size without overplay being exacerbated. This in turn will also reduce overplay on adult pitches.

Table 2.12: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Congleton	-	2	0.5	2.5	3	1.5	6
Crewe	-	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5	1
Knutsford	-	2.5	-	2.5	0.5	-	3
Macclesfield	0.5	3	-	2.5	-	-	2.5
Nantwich	-	-	-		0.5	1	1.5
Poynton	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Wilmslow	-	2	-	2	-	0.5	2.5
Cheshire East	0.5	11	1	11.5	4	4.5¹⁰	20

The current picture shows that there is an overall shortfall of 9v9 pitches amounting to 11.5 match equivalent sessions and a future shortfall of 20 match equivalent sessions. There is also a shortfall in each analysis area.

Table 2.13: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹¹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Congleton	4	-	-	4	1	2	1
Crewe	-	-	-		-	-	
Knutsford	-	-	-		-	-	
Macclesfield	2	1.5	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
Nantwich	-	-	-		-	-	
Poynton	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Wilmslow	2	-	-	2	-	2	
Cheshire East	9	1.5	-	7.5	1	4	2.5

⁹ In match equivalent sessions

¹⁰ Overall future demand figure includes TGRs. Overall total is therefore not the sum of the total column because TGR's are only calculated on a Cheshire East wide basis, not on an analysis area basis.

¹¹ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

There is current spare capacity overall on 7v7 pitches amounting to 7.5 match equivalent sessions. When accounting for future demand, spare capacity remains in Congleton, Macclesfield and Poynton as well as overall. All remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.14: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹²	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Congleton	-	-	-		2	3.5	5.5
Crewe	-	-	-		-	1.5	1.5
Knutsford	-	-	-		-	-	
Macclesfield	-	-	-		-	1	1
Nantwich	-	-	-		-	-	
Poynton	-	-	-		-	-	
Wilmslow	-	2	-	2	-	1	3
Cheshire East	0	2	-	2	2	7	11

There is an overall shortfall identified on 5v5 pitches amounting to two match equivalent sessions and this can be attributed solely to Wilmslow, with all other analysis areas played to capacity. When considering future demand, shortfalls worsen in Wilmslow and appear in Congleton, Macclesfield and Crewe. The overall future shortfall equates to 11 match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.15: Summary of supply and demand balance

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹³	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult	8	19.5	0.5	12	-	2.5	14.5
Youth 11v11	2.5	6.5	-	4	1	5.5 ¹⁴	10.5
Youth 9v9	0.5	11	1	10.5	4	4.5 ¹⁵	19
Mini 7v7	9	1.5	-	7.5	1	4	2.5
Mini 5v5	0	2	-	2	2	7	11

There is a current and future shortfall of adult, youth 11v11, 9v9 and 5v5 pitches, with overall minimal spare capacity existing only on 7v7 pitches.

¹² In match equivalent sessions

¹³ In match equivalent sessions

¹⁴ Overall future demand figure includes TGRs. Overall total is therefore not the sum of the total column because TGR's are only calculated on a Cheshire East wide basis, not on an analysis area basis.

¹⁵ Overall future demand figure includes TGRs. Overall total is therefore not the sum of the total column because TGR's are only calculated on a Cheshire East wide basis, not on an analysis area basis.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

In order to reduce shortfalls, there is a clear need for pitch quality improvements, which will increase pitch capacity. There is also a potential need for access to more pitches, which could be gained, for example, through access to sites currently unavailable for community use (with secure tenure provided). This is, however, dependant on the willingness of the owner/provider to allow for community use. Although often difficult to achieve, such options will be further explored in the Strategy document.

It must also be noted that many teams within Cheshire East access 3G pitches for matches, particularly 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 teams that play in either the South Cheshire Youth League or the Alexandra Soccer League due to the use of central venues. As such, if these teams were to transfer to grass pitches, shortfalls would largely increase on 9v9 and 5v5 grass pitches and shortfalls would be created on 7v7 grass pitches.

Alternatively, greater use of 3G pitches would reduce shortfalls on 9v9 and 5v5 pitches as well as increasing spare capacity on 7v7 pitches. Moreover, 3G pitches could be used to accommodate expressed future demand. For this to occur, however, there may be a requirement for an increase in 3G provision. An analysis of the supply and demand for 3G pitches and to what extent they can address deficiencies in football is set out in Part 3 of this report.

Spare capacity

To determine 'actual spare capacity', each site with 'potential capacity identified in Table 2.9 has been reviewed. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criterion has consequently been discounted.

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

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.16: Actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	1	1	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
			Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0.5	1	0.5	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
6	Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	0.5	0.5	Proposed development plans; spare capacity discounted
7	Ash Grove Academy	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
14	Beechwood Primary School	Crewe	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
15	Black Firs County Primary	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
19	Booth Street Stadium (Congleton Town Football Club)	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1	2	1	Football pyramid site; spare capacity discounted to protect quality
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	Youth	(11v11)	3	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	3	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
24	Buglawton Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	Knutsford	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	1	0.5	Private site; spare capacity discounted
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	5	1	1	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
			Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	5	1	1	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
35	Congleton Road	Macclesfield	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	1	3	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
			Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
			Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
36	Cranage Playing Fields	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Poynton	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	1.5	2.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	Mini	(5v5)	7	Yes	Poor	1.5	5.5	5.5	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	Mini	(7v7)	4	Yes	Standard	14	2	1	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
47	Forge Fields	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
48	Goodwill Hall Playing Fields	Nantwich	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Congleton	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	1	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
			Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
60	Hungerford Primary School	Crewe	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
62	Bunbury Playing Field	Nantwich	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	2	6	2	Cricket site; spare capacity discounted
65	King George V Playing Fields	Crewe	Adult		4	Yes	Standard	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
69	Lacey Green Pavilion	Wilmslow	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
72	Lindow Community Primary School	Wilmslow	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	1	5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
73	Lower Park Primary School	Poynton	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	0	6	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
77	Manchester Road	Knutsford	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
79	Marlborough Primary School	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
84	Middlewich Town Football Club	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2	1	0.5	Football pyramid site; spare capacity discounted to protect quality
86	Milton Park	Congleton	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1.5	1.5	0.5	Football pyramid site; spare capacity discounted to protect quality
93	Newtown Playing Field	Poynton	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	0.5	0.5	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
95	Oakwood Farm	Wilmslow	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
99	Pikemere School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
111	Shavington Academy	Crewe	Adult		2	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
114	South Cheshire College	Crewe	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1.5	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted to protect quality
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
121	Sutton Lane	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	1	Changing rooms inaccessible; spare capacity discounted
122	Terra Nova School	Congleton	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
			Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	6	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
128	The Macclesfield Academy	Macclesfield	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
			Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
132	Tytherington Pitches	Macclesfield	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
133	Upcast Lane	Wilmslow	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	3	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
136	Weston Playing Field	Macclesfield	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	0.5	0.5	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
138	Whirley Primary School	Macclesfield	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to school use
145	Wood Park	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
146	Wood Park (Alsager Town Football Club)		Adult		1	Yes	Good	1	2	1	Football pyramid site; spare capacity discounted to protect quality
166	Alderley Edge Community Primary School	Wilmslow	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
167	Alsager Highfields Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
168	Ashdene Primary School	Wilmslow	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
171	Bickerton Holy Trinity Primary School	Nantwich	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	0	3	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
172	Bollinbrook Primary School	Macclesfield	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
173	Bollington St John's Primary	Macclesfield	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	0.5	0.5	0.5	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
174	Brereton Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
175	Bridgemere Primary School	Nantwich	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
176	Broken Cross Community School	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
177	Bunbury Aldersey Primary School	Nantwich	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
180	Daven Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
183	Elworth Hall Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
187	Haslington Primary School	Crewe	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
189	Highfields Community Primary School	Nantwich	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
190	Hollinhey Primary School	Macclesfield	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
195	Lostock Hall Primary School	Poynton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
197	Manor Park Primary School	Knutsford	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	0	2	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
198	Marlfields Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	1	5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
199	Middlewich Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	1	5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
203	Nether Alderley Primary School	Knutsford	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
204	Pear Tree Primary School	Nantwich	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
206	Puss Bank Primary School	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	0	3	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
210	Scholar Green Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
211	Shavington Primary School	Crewe	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
212	Smallwood Primary School	Congleton	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
216	St Anne's Fulshaw Primary	Wilmslow	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
217	St Benedict's Catholic Primary	Wilmslow	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
224	St Odwald's Worleston Primary	Nantwich	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
225	St Paul's Catholic Primary	Poynton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
227	Styal Primary School	Wilmslow	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
229	The Quinta Academy	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
230	Upton Priory Primary School	Macclesfield	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
234	Weaver Primary School	Nantwich	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
240	Worth Primary School	Poynton	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	0	6	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
242	Wybunbury Delves Primary School	Nantwich	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
245	Cumberland Arena (Razzer)	Crewe	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	0.5	0.5	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
247	Prestbury Playing Fields	Macclesfield	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	0.5	0.5	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
248	Jasmine Park	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3	5	0.5	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
			Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	2.5	5.5	1.5	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
250	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
251	Dean Valley Primary School	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

Table 2.17: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Congleton	2	2.5	-	4	-
Crewe	1	-	-	-	-
Knutsford	0.5	-	-	-	-
Macclesfield	1	-	0.5	2	-
Nantwich	1	-	-	-	-
Poynton	1.5	-	-	1	-
Wilmslow	1	-	-	2	-
Cheshire East	8	3.5	1	9	-

The table shows 19.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across 26 sites in Cheshire East with most expressed on 7v7 pitches and in Congleton. There is also moderate levels of spare capacity on adult pitches and at least some level of capacity exists in each analysis area on this pitch type. There is no spare capacity on 5v5 pitches.

Furthermore, there are ten match equivalent sessions of spare capacity discounted (aggregated from all pitch types) due to quality, the majority of which is on adult pitches. An improvement in quality at these sites will therefore create more actual spare capacity.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain, which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches.

In Cheshire East, 43 pitches are overplayed across 24 sites by 40.5 match equivalent sessions. Of these, 17 pitches are assessed as poor quality, accounting for 17 match equivalent sessions. An improvement in quality at these sites will therefore result in a reduction of overplay.

Table 2.18: Overplay on pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
11	Back Lane	Congleton	Adult	2	2
			Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
17	Bollington Cross Playing Field	Macclesfield	Adult	1	1.5
30	Chorley Hall	Wilmslow	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	Adult	2	1.5
			Youth (11v11)	2	1
			Youth (9v9)	2	1.5
41	Deva Close	Poynton	Adult	1	2
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	Youth (11v11)	3	3
			Youth (9v9)	1	2.5

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Adult	3	4.5
			Youth (9v9)	2	1.5
64	King George V Playing Field	Macclesfield	Adult	1	1
70	Lacey Green Primary Academy	Wilmslow	Mini (5v5)	1	2
71	Legends Health and Leisure Centre	Crewe	Adult	2	0.5
80	Mary Dendy Playing Fields	Knutsford	Adult	3	1.5
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton	Adult	1	0.5
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	Adult	1	1
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Crewe	Adult	1	1.5
120	Styal Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Adult	1	1
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	Crewe	Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
139	Willaston White Star Football Club	Crewe	Adult	1	0.5
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	Youth (11v11)	2	1
178	Christ the King Primary	Macclesfield	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary	Macclesfield	Youth (9v9)	1	1.5
			Mini (7v7)	1	1.5
225	St Paul's Catholic Primary	Poynton	Youth (9v9)	1	1
231	Vernon Primary School	Poynton	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
248	Jasmine Park	Macclesfield	Youth (9v9)	1	1
249	Mount Vernon	Poynton	Adult	1	0.5

Several of the overplayed pitches are at educational sites, where the main reason for overplay is a culmination of curriculum PE use, extra-curricular use including school fixtures and any additional overuse by the community. Moreover, 13 of the overplayed pitches are over marked by other pitch types, which intensifies the usage and either causes the overplay or makes it significantly worse.

The majority of overplay occurs on adult pitches (19.5) although some level of overplay is recorded on each pitch type. More overplay occurs in Wilmslow than any other analysis area; the least amount occurs in Nantwich.

Table 2.19: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Congleton	3.5	1	2	-	-
Crewe	2.5	1.5	-	-	-
Knutsford	1.5	3	2.5	-	-
Macclesfield	2.5	1	3	1.5	-
Nantwich	1	-	-	-	-
Poynton	3	-	1.5	-	-
Wilmslow	5.5	-	2	-	2
Cheshire East	19.5	6.5	11	1.5	2

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Latent demand

During the consultation process, five clubs identify that if more pitches were available at their home ground or in the local area they could develop more teams in the future (latent demand). The table below highlights the number of teams (16) that could *potentially* be fielded if more pitches were available.

Table 2.20: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Latent demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ¹⁶
Knutsford FC	Knutsford	3 x Youth	(11v11)	1
			(9v9)	0.5
Alsager Town FC	Congleton	2 x Youth	(9v9)	1
Nantwich Pumas FC	Nantwich	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Middlewich Town FC	Congleton	2 x Youth	(9v9)	1
		2 x Mini	(5v5)	1
Sandbach United FC	Congleton	2 x Youth	(9v9)	1
		4 x Mini	(7v7)	1
			(5v5)	1

All latent demand is expressed in either Congleton, Knutsford or Nantwich and the majority is for 9v9 pitches. Latent demand for 9v9 football tends to be high in most local authorities. It is the most recent format of play and therefore pitches can be sparse, with providers also reporting difficulties in attaining correctly sized goalposts.

In total, latent demand quantified by clubs equates to eight match equivalent sessions, as seen in the table overleaf. No latent demand is expressed in relation to adult pitches.

Table 2.21: Latent demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Congleton	-	-	3	1	2	6
Crewe	-	-	-	-	-	-
Knutsford	-	1	0.5	-	-	1.5
Macclesfield	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nantwich	-	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
Poynton	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilmslow	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cheshire East	-	1	4	1	2	8

In addition, eight clubs indicate that they would field more teams if more or better training facilities were available, seven clubs state that team numbers would increase if ancillary provision improved and four clubs highlight that a lack of coaches prevents growth.

¹⁶ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways. Through participation increases, using population forecasts and additional demand generated from housing growth. The latter will be assessed via a range of scenarios contained within the Strategy document.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2030) based on population growth. It is predicted that there will be a possible increase of six youth boys' teams, four at youth 11v11 level and two at 9v9 level.

Table 2.22: Team generation rates (2030)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (16-45)	63,092	123	1:513	62,782	122	0.0
Senior Women (16-45)	64,016	8	1:8002	62,992	7	0.0
Youth Boys (12-15)	8,334	158	1:53	8,548	162	4.0
Youth Girls (12-15)	8,118	6	1:1353	8,254	6	0.0
Youth Boys (10-11)	4,132	106	1:39	4,222	108	2.0
Youth Girls (10-11)	3,926	2	1:1963	3,995	2	0.0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	8,373	100	1:84	8,413	100	0.0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	8,614	54	1:160	8,552	53	0.0

Participation increases

A number of clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Of the 19 clubs that quantify their *potential* increase, there is a predicted growth of 41 teams, as seen in the table overleaf. Please note that latent demand highlighted previously has been discounted from these calculations as it is presumed to be absorbed in future growth.

Table 2.23: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ¹⁷
AFC Prestbury	Macclesfield	1 x Adult		0.5
Alderley United FC	Wilmslow	2 x Youth	(11v11)	1
Bollington United Junior FC	Macclesfield	2 x Mini	(5v5)	1
Bunbury Youth FC	Nantwich	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Cheshire Phoenix FC	Wilmslow	2 x Mini	(5v5)	1

¹⁷ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ¹⁸
Congleton Rovers FC	Congleton	1 x Adult		0.5
		5 x Youth	(11v11)	1.5
			(9v9)	1
		3 x Mini	(7v7)	0.5
			(5v5)	1
Crewe Cavaliers FC	Crewe	1 x Mini	(5v5)	0.5
Crewe FC	Crewe	1 x Adult		0.5
		2 x Mini	(5v5)	1
Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC	Congleton	1 x Adult		0.5
		2 x Mini	(5v5)	1
Knutsford FC	Knutsford	1 x Youth	(11v11)	0.5
Macc Vets FC	Macclesfield	1 x Adult		0.5
Middlewich Town FC	Congleton	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Nantwich Pumas Junior FC	Nantwich	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Park Royal FC	Congleton	2 x Mini	(7v7)	0.5
			(5v5)	0.5
Sandbach Curshaws FC	Congleton	1 x Youth	(11v11)	0.5
Sandbach United FC	Congleton	4 x Mini	(7v7)	1
			(5v5)	1
Styal FC	Wilmslow	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Wilmslow Town FC	Wilmslow	4 x Mini	(7v7)	2
Wisaston Athletic FC	Crewe	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5

The total future demand expressed amounts to 20.5 match equivalent sessions, the majority of which is identified in Congleton and on 5v5 pitches. There is no quantified future demand in Poynton.

Table 2.24: Future demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Congleton	1	2	1.5	2	3.5	10
Crewe	0.5	-	0.5	-	1.5	2.5
Knutsford	-	0.5	-	-	-	0.5
Macclesfield	1	-	-	-	1	2
Nantwich	-	-	1	-	-	1
Poynton	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilmslow	-	1	0.5	2	1	4.5
Cheshire East	2.5	3.5	3.5	4	7	20.5

¹⁸ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Football – grass pitch summary

- ✦ **There is a current and future shortfall of adult, youth 11v11, 9v9 and 5v5 pitches, with minimal spare capacity existing only on 7v7 pitches.**
- ✦ **In total, 19.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exists across 26 sites in Cheshire East, with most expressed on 7v7 pitches and in Congleton.**
- ✦ **Overplays occurs on 43 pitches across 24 sites equating to 40.5 match equivalent sessions.**
- ✦ The audit identifies 331 grass football pitches within Cheshire East across 189 sites, of which, 245 pitches are available, for community use across 132 sites.
- ✦ The King's School plans to sell both its Westminster Road and Fence Avenue sites for housing as it looks to consolidate to one site. Both contain two football pitches but there are no plans for these to be re-provided.
- ✦ A planning application is in place at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will include grass pitch provision as well as a full size, floodlit 3G pitch.
- ✦ Egerton Youth Club has planning permission to develop five adult pitches on land adjacent to its current site that it leases from a local landowner.
- ✦ Poynton Sports Club is in negotiations with a local landowner to purchase nearby land that will be used to relocate all on-site provision, including the football pitches.
- ✦ There are four lapsed and nine disused sites identified.
- ✦ In total, 16 community available pitches are assessed as good quality, 158 as standard quality and 71 as poor quality.
- ✦ Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 17 are serviced by good quality facilities, 60 by standard quality facilities and 65 by poor quality facilities.
- ✦ Congleton Rovers FC, Styal FC and AFC Prestbury Nomads all report an intention to improve their clubhouse facilities.
- ✦ Crewe FC, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC and Vale Juniors FC express an aspiration to acquire their own sites on a long-term lease.
- ✦ In addition to Crewe Alexandra FC, which is a professional club, a further ten clubs in Cheshire East play on the football pyramid.
- ✦ Through the audit, 557 teams from within 124 clubs were identified as playing within Cheshire East consisting of 123 adult men's teams, eight adult women's teams, 264 youth boys' teams, eight youth girls' teams and 154 mini soccer teams.
- ✦ AFC Macclesfield, Alsager Town FC and Wistaston Blackcats FC express exported demand that would prefer to play within Cheshire East.
- ✦ Five clubs report latent demand amounting to eight match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ Team generation rates (2030) predict a growth of six youth boys' teams, whilst future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 41 teams and 20.5 match equivalent sessions.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

3.1 Introduction

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

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

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

Table 3.1: 3G type and sport suitability

Surface	Sport	Comments
Rubber crumb	Rugby	Long pile surface (60mm) that is compliant to World Rugby regulation 22 and/or RFL Community Standard
Rubber crumb	Football	Performance standard to meet FIFA Quality after FIFA or IMS testing with the preferred surface medium pile (55-60mm)
Rubber crumb	Hockey	Short pile surface (40mm) for lower level hockey only

3.2 Current provision

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100 x 64 metres (106 x 70 metres including run offs); however, for the purposes of this report, all pitches measuring over 100 x 60 metres (inclusive of run offs) are considered to be full size due to the amount of demand they can accommodate.

There are 11 full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East that fully comply with this specification, consisting of four pitches in Congleton, three in Nantwich, two in Crewe and one in both Knutsford and Macclesfield. There are no full size 3G pitches in either Poynton or Wilmslow.

All full size 3G pitches are floodlit and the majority are available to the community, with the only exception being Reaseheath Training Complex as access is reserved solely for use by Crewe Alexandra FC.

For a full breakdown of the pitches, please refer to the table overleaf.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 3.2: Full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	100 x 70
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
39	Cumberland Arena	Crewe	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	Yes	Yes	100 x 70
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes	Yes	100 x 70
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	105 x 62
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Congleton	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	Nantwich	No	Yes	100 x 60

In addition, there are also five smaller sized pitches servicing Cheshire East. Such pitches are generally not suitable for adult match play but can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches provided they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with adequate run-off areas.

The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football (including u17s and u18s) is 100 x 64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91 x 55 metres for u16s and u15s and 82 x 50 metres for u14s and u13s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches is 54 x 37 metres and for 5v5 pitches, it is 37 x 27 metres. All pitch sizes should also include a three-metre safety run-off area.

All smaller sized pitches within Cheshire East are available to the community and they are all floodlit. Two are located in Crewe and one is located in each of Congleton, Nantwich and Poynton.

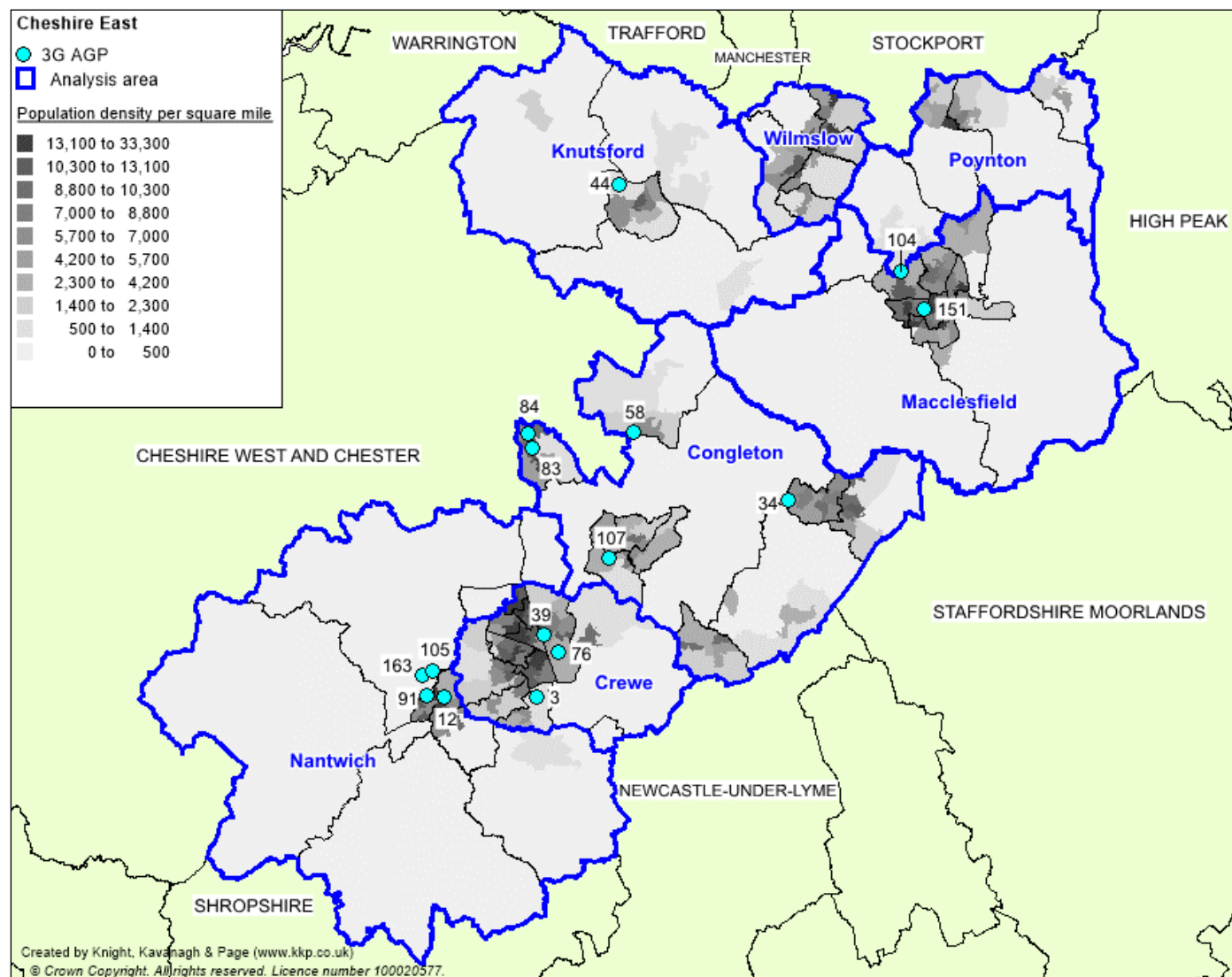
Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis Area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	50 x 44
12	Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	40 x 33
76	Manchester Metropolitan University (Cheshire Sports Centre)	Crewe	Yes	Yes	55 x 40
84	Middlewich Town Football Club	Congleton	Yes	Yes	55 x 30
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Poynton	Yes	Yes	65 x 40

Figure 3.1 overleaf shows the location of all 3G AGPs within Cheshire East, regardless of size.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Cheshire East



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future provision

A planning application is in place at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will include provision of a full size, floodlit 3G pitch.

Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is to undergo a development that will result in one of its grass pitches being replaced by a full size, floodlit, World Rugby compliant 3G pitch (subject to planning permission and funding). This will be in addition to the smaller sized 3G pitch on site, rather than a replacement.

Egerton Youth Club intends on submitting a planning application for the creation of a full size, floodlit 3G pitch in replacement of an adult grass pitch.

Poynton High School previously undertook a feasibility study to explore the addition of a full size 3G pitch on its site, however, this is no longer considered an option after the intended ground was deemed unsuitable.

FA/FIFA approved pitches

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

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

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

Clubs playing in the football pyramid on 3G pitches meeting FIFA One Star or Two Star guidelines will still be expected to certify pitches annually, however, if any pitch replacement takes place the Club will need to meet the new FIFA performance criteria of FIFA Quality/Quality Pro. Pitches below the national league pyramid require FA testing every three years.

The following full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East are currently FIFA or FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive football matches:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ◀ Alexandra Soccer Centre | ◀ All Hallows Catholic College |
| ◀ Congleton High School | ◀ Egerton Youth Club |
| ◀ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre | ◀ Middlewich Leisure Centre |
| ◀ Nantwich Town Football Club | ◀ Sandbach Community Football Centre |

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

In addition, Cumberland Arena is also in current use for competitive matches, despite it not being on the FA register. This should not be happening and therefore it is imperative that the pitch undergoes testing as soon as possible. Otherwise, demand will need to transfer to an alternative site.

Neither Reaseheath College nor Reaseheath Training Complex are on the FA pitch register and neither provider reports an intention to undergo testing in the future. Crewe Alexandra FC reports that Reaseheath Training Complex is not required for matches as that is the purpose of Alexandra Soccer Centre, whereas Reaseheath College would prefer its pitch to be dedicated for rugby use.

None of the smaller sized 3G pitches are FIFA or FA approved.

World Rugby compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability. The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA.

Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with the above specification and must be tested every two years to maintain its World Rugby compliance. In Cheshire East, Reaseheath College is expected to undergo World Rugby compliance in the near future having been recently installed following RFU funding.

In addition, as previously mentioned, plans are in place for the creation of a World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club). The RFU investment strategy into 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites.

Reports suggest that Congleton High School claims that its new 3G pitch is World Rugby compliant; however, that is currently not the case and it is unknown as to whether the pitch was constructed to the correct standards.

Management

Alexandra Soccer Centre and Reaseheath Training Complex are both managed by Crewe Alexandra FC. Similarly, Egerton Youth Club, Sandbach Community Football Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club are also managed by football clubs (Egerton, Sandbach United and Nantwich Town football clubs respectively).

Everybody Sport and Recreation manages Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, Cumberland Arena and Middlewich Leisure Centre; Reaseheath College, Congleton High School and All Hallows Catholic College are managed internally.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Availability

Availability varies for each pitch throughout the week, with some pitches reserved for curricular use until 17:00 or 18:00 from Monday to Friday and others restricted to external hirers at specific times during the weekend as home matches are being played by the managing club.

Please note that the table below relates to the availability of the pitches and not current capacity or usage levels. This is instead discussed further on in this section of the report.

Table 3.4: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	Available to the community from 10:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, from 09:00 until 19:30 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 22:00 on Sundays
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	Reserved for school use until 17:45 or 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:45 until 21:45 Monday to Thursday, from 18:00 until 21:00 on Fridays and from 09:00 until 13:00 Saturday to Sunday
39	Cumberland Arena	Crewe	Available to the community from 17:00 until 21:30 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday to Sunday
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	Available to the community every day from 09:00 until 22:00 although use is limited if Egerton FC has a home match
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Reserved for school use until 17:00 or 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays, from 18:00 until 22:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 09:00 until 17:30 Saturday to Sunday
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre	Congleton	Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 20:00 Saturday to Sunday
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	Available to the community every day from 09:00 until 22:00 although use is limited if Nantwich Town FC has a home match
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	Reserved for college use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday to Sunday
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Congleton	Available to the community from 09:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 20:00 Saturday to Sunday although use is limited if Sandbach United FC has a home match
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 17:00 Saturday to Sunday
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	Nantwich	Used solely by Crewe Alexandra FC and therefore not available for community use

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Quality

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

The following table indicates when each full size 3G pitch was installed or last resurfaced in Cheshire East together with an agreed quality rating following non-technical assessments and user and provider consultation.

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

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	2007	Standard
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	2016	Good
39	Cumberland Arena	Crewe	2002	Standard
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	2010	Standard
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	2015	Good
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre	Congleton	2012	Standard
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	2007	Standard
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	2016	Good
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Congleton	2011	Standard
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	2014	Good
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	Nantwich	2013	Good

Cumberland Arena is well over ten years old (having been installed in 2002) and requires imminent resurfacing to prevent full deterioration. Despite its age, the pitch is currently assessed as standard quality, rather than poor quality, due to how well it has been maintained.

Furthermore, Alexandra Soccer Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club are nearing the end of their lifespan (having been last resurfaced in 2007) and will require refurbishment in the near future. This is especially key at both sites given that they are FA approved, meaning failure to sustain quality will result in the pitches losing certification.

All remaining pitches are well within their lifespan and all are assessed as good or standard quality, with no major issues identified.

Ancillary facilities

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

3.3 Demand

The majority of 3G provision currently servicing Cheshire East is reported as operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months. Most of the pitches that are FA approved are also heavily used during weekends for competitive matches.

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The only major exception to the above is Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, which reports that it has significant spare capacity remaining. It is believed that the rural nature of Holmes Chapel affects the level of demand, with fewer football teams playing in the surrounding areas when compared to other parts of Cheshire East.

Reaseheath College and Congleton High School also report the existence of spare capacity as both are yet to be fully utilised following recent installation. Reaseheath College states that it has available capacity at weekends and sporadically during weekday evenings, whereas Congleton High School has capacity remaining throughout weekday evenings but particularly on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

All capacity at remaining sites is taken up, not only by sports teams for training and match purposes but also by casual users and small-sided commercial football leagues. For example, Soccer Sixes runs leagues at Cumberland Arena four nights a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays) as well as one night a week at Nantwich Town Football Club and Middlewich High School (both on Sundays). The Cheshire FA Football League runs out of Middlewich Leisure Centre once a week (Mondays), whilst Alexandra Soccer Centre runs its own leagues on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

Football

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

Training demand

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

Of clubs responding to consultation, 27% report that they require additional training facilities, of which, 81% specifically mention demand for 3G pitches. This is a relatively low figure when compared to other local authorities, though it still suggests a significant amount of unmet demand. Many clubs currently access sand-based pitches or indoor sports halls, whilst others do access 3G pitches but do so at undesirable times.

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

Full size 3G pitches are divided into thirds or quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers it is estimated that 42 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch for training.

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On this basis, with 557 teams currently playing in Cheshire East, there is a need for 13 full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 13.3 as it is considered that smaller sized pitches can be used to accommodate the excess demand).

Discounting Reaseheath Training Complex, which is unavailable for community use and Reaseheath College, which prioritises rugby union use, there are presently nine pitches provided. This means a current shortfall of four full size 3G pitches, although actual demand may be less depending on the utilisation of smaller sized pitches.

When considering future demand for an additional 41 teams (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there is a demand for 14 full size pitches (rounded down from 14.2), which means a future shortfall of five pitches.

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. For this, the Congleton Analysis Area has been broken down into its individual towns (Alsager, Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach) given its large size and long drive time distances. Please also note that the 3G requirement is rounded to the nearest whole number. That said, this approach may not be sustainable and any developments beyond the number of pitches required for Cheshire East as a whole must have robust business plans to justify further provision.

Table 3.6: Current demand for 3G pitches in Cheshire East (42 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Alsager	10	1	-	1
Congleton	48	2	1	1
Crewe	138	3	2	1
Holmes Chapel	16	1	1	-
Knutsford	60	1	1	-
Macclesfield	75	2	1	1
Middlewich	14	1	1	-
Nantwich	42	1	1	-
Poynton	37	1	-	1
Sandbach	52	2	1	1
Wilmslow	65	2	-	2
Cheshire East	557	17	9	8

As a breakdown, this equates to a shortfall of two full size 3G pitches in Wilmslow and a shortfall of one in Alsager, Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Poynton and Sandbach. Holmes Chapel, Knutsford, Middlewich and Nantwich are serviced by a sufficient number of pitches.

The development of a full size 3G pitch at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) will reduce the overall shortfall in Cheshire East and fully satisfy demand in Alsager.

The proposal for a full size pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) would reduce the overall shortfall in Cheshire East and fully satisfy demand in Macclesfield, however, as the development is primarily for rugby use it is not yet known whether it will also accommodate football use.

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Whilst calculations show that Sandbach may require an increase in provision, it must be noted that the figures are slightly distorted due to Sandbach Community Football Centre being used as a central venue. This results in the Town attracting match demand from teams that would otherwise play in other analysis areas or other towns within the Congleton Analysis Area.

Moving match play to 3G pitches

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

In Cheshire East, eight of the 11 full size 3G pitches have undergone testing and are therefore FA approved. Reaseheath Training Complex and Reaseheath College are not FA tested and neither is Cumberland Arena, despite it being in active use for match play.

A total of 98 teams currently play home matches on 3G pitches, which is a considerably high number when compared to the majority of other local authorities. Most of these are mini or youth teams competing in either the Alexandra Soccer League or the South Cheshire Youth League as both use a central venue system for certain age groups. The Alexandra Soccer League uses Alexandra Soccer Centre for all mini matches, whereas the South Cheshire Youth League uses a variety of venues, including the 3G pitches at Cumberland Arena and Sandbach Community Football Centre, mostly for youth 9v9 matches.

Furthermore, Crewe FC uses Cumberland Arena for matches outside of the South Cheshire Youth League's central venue system, as does Sandbach United FC at Sandbach Community Football Centre. Bollington Juniors FC and Alderley United FC access All Hallows Catholic College, Congleton Rovers FC accesses Congleton High School, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC accesses Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Middlewich Town FC and AFC Middlewich Athletic access Middlewich High School. Both Nantwich Town Football Club and Egerton Youth Club are also used for matches, predominately by the respective owners (Nantwich Town FC and Egerton FC).

Rugby

There are no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Cheshire East; however, Reaseheath College is expected to undergo testing in the near future and the majority of teams from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC are to use the pitch for training and occasional match play. Acton Nomads RUFC also reports an aspiration to access the pitch but reports that no availability exists at preferred times as well as citing high costs as an issue.

Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre is also accessed for rugby purposes by Holmes Chapel RUFC, despite it not being World Rugby Compliant and despite it being without a shock-pad and its pile length (medium) being unsuitable. As such, no form of contact rugby should be played on the surface.

Other than Macclesfield RUFC, which has development plans at Priory Park; no other rugby union club expresses a demand for access to a 3G pitch.

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3.4 Supply and demand analysis

For football, there is limited spare capacity on the present supply of 3G pitches when teams require access for training purposes leading to 27% of clubs reporting a need for increased provision. The FA model suggests that there is a current shortfall of four full size 3G pitches and a future shortfall of five. As such, if more 3G pitches are to be developed, preference should be given to Crewe, Macclesfield, Poynton and Wilmslow as this is where most demand is located.

Priority should not only be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches but also on sustaining the current pitch stock. To that end, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place and it is also recommended that all new and existing pitches undergo FA testing every three years to remain or become FA approved. This is particularly key at Cumberland Arena, which has reached the end of its lifespan and is not on the FA register, despite it being used for competitive matches.

For rugby union, the 3G pitch development at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) will further help satisfy demand. Nevertheless, further provision may be required given the identified overplay of grass pitches at sites such as Knutsford Academy, Sandbach Rugby Club and Congleton Park (see Part 5: Rugby Union). Assisting the utilisation of Reaseheath College for Acton Nomads RUFC is also encouraged.

3G summary

- ▶ **With 557 teams currently playing in Cheshire East, there is a need for 13 full size 3G pitches, meaning a current shortfall of four pitches (discounting Reaseheath Training Complex and Reaseheath College).**
- ▶ **When considering future demand for an additional 41 teams, the shortfall increases to five full size 3G pitches.**
- ▶ **Alternatively, if each team was to remain within their respective analysis area for training, there is a shortfall of eight 3G pitches.**
- ▶ There are 11 full size 3G pitches within Cheshire East, all of which are floodlit and ten of which are available to the community.
- ▶ In addition, there are also five smaller sized 3G pitches.
- ▶ A planning application is in place at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will include provision of a full size, floodlit 3G pitch.
- ▶ Subject to planning and funding, Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is to undergo a development that will result in one of its grass pitches being replaced by a full size, floodlit, World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ▶ Eight of the 11 full size 3G pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches.
- ▶ Reaseheath College is still to undergo necessary performance testing in order to become World Rugby Compliant.
- ▶ Cumberland Arena is well over ten years old (having been installed in 2002) and therefore requires imminent resurfacing.
- ▶ Each FA approved pitch is in use for match play and 98 teams currently play home matches on them, which is a considerably high number when compared to the majority of other local authorities.
- ▶ Cumberland Arena is also in current use for competitive matches, despite it not being on the FA register.
- ▶ For football, priority should not only be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches but also on sustaining the current pitch stock.
- ▶ For rugby union, the 3G pitch development at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) will further help satisfy demand; however, consideration should be given to further provision given overplay of grass pitches.

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PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

The Cheshire Cricket Board Ltd (CCB) is the main governing and representative body for Cricket within Cheshire East. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the Local Authority.

The CCB is currently working with the ECB on delivering its new five-year plan Cricket Unleashed. Its success will be measured by the number of people who support, play and follow the whole game, and is based upon five key areas (More play, great teams, inspired fans, good governance and social responsibility and strong finance and operations).

Senior cricket is typically played in leagues on Saturday afternoons, although within Cheshire East there is also significant demand for Sunday cricket. The junior league structure tends to be club based matches that are played mid-week, meaning there is usually no conflict with access to squares as matches can be played on a variety of days (Monday-Friday). In Cheshire East, however, a lot of junior matches are also played on Sunday mornings.

Consultation

There are 38 cricket clubs playing in Cheshire East. Of these, 24 responded to consultation requests resulting in a response rate of 63%. The table below indicates which clubs were responsive and those that were not.

Table 4.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Alderley Edge CC	Yes
Alderley Park CC	No
Alsager CC	No
Ashley CC	No
Aston CC	Yes
Audlem CC	No
Bollington CC	Yes
Bunbury CC	No
Chelford CC	No
Cholmondeley CC	Yes
Congleton CC	No
Crewe CC	No
Disley CC	Yes
Elworth CC	Yes
Haslington CC	No
Holmes Chapel CC	Yes
Kerridge CC	Yes
Knutsford CC	Yes
Langley CC	Yes
Lindow CC	Yes
Macclesfield CC	Yes

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Name of club	Responded?
Mere CC	No
Middlewich CC	No
Mobberley CC	Yes
Mossley CC	Yes
Nantwich CC	Yes
Over Peover CC	Yes
Pott Shrigley CC	Yes
Poynton CC	No
Prestbury CC	No
Rode Park & Lawton CC	Yes
Rostherne CC	Yes
Sandbach CC	Yes
Styal CC	Yes
Toft CC	Yes
Weston CC	Yes
Wilmslow CC	Yes
Wilmslow Wayfarers CC	No
Wistaston CC	No

Prior to this, consultation also took place between August and September 2013, with 37 out of 38 clubs responding (97%). The only club that did not respond was Holmes Chapel CC (it did respond this time around).

4.2: Supply

In total, there are 48 grass cricket squares in Cheshire East across 42 sites. All of the squares are available for community use.

As seen in the table below, the majority of grass wicket squares available for community use are found in Congleton (11) and Macclesfield (eight), whereas the least are located in Crewe (three). The majority of the grass wicket squares available for community use are in current use by clubs with the exception of those found at the King's School, although a community use agreement is in place with Macclesfield CC.

Table 4.2: Summary of squares available for community use

Analysis area	Squares available for community use
Congleton	11
Crewe	3
Knutsford	8
Macclesfield	9
Nantwich	6
Poynton	6
Wilmslow	5
Cheshire East	48

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Non turf pitches (NTPs)

There are NTPs accompanying 16 grass wicket squares:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ◀ Alsager Cricket Club | ◀ Chelford Cricket Club |
| ◀ Disley Amalgamated Sports Club | ◀ Elworth Cricket Club |
| ◀ Eric Swan Sports Ground | ◀ Holmes Chapel Cricket Club |
| ◀ Lindow Cricket Club | ◀ Langley Cricket Club |
| ◀ Mossley Cricket Club | ◀ Macclesfield Cricket Club (x2) |
| ◀ Poynton Cricket Club | ◀ Nantwich Cricket Club |
| ◀ Weston Cricket Club | ◀ Sandbach School (Boys) |
| ◀ Wilmslow Leisure Centre | |

In addition, there are standalone NTPs located at the following sites:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ◀ All Hallows Catholic College | ◀ Alsager Leisure Centre |
| ◀ Brine Leas School | ◀ Congleton High School |
| ◀ Eaton Bank Academy | ◀ Malbank School and Sixth Form College |
| ◀ Marton Primary School | ◀ Nantwich Cricket Club |
| ◀ Pownall Hall School | ◀ Poynton High School |
| ◀ Ruskin Community High School | ◀ Shavington High School |
| ◀ St Thomas More Catholic High School | ◀ The King's School (Fence Avenue) |
| ◀ Tytherington High School | ◀ The Oaks Academy |
| ◀ Wilmslow High School | |

Of the above, only Alsager Leisure Centre, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Marton Primary School and Nantwich Cricket Club offer community use and, of those, only Nantwich Cricket Club receives any regular demand. All remaining standalone NTPs are considered to be unavailable to the community, although the majority do receive internal usage as they are located within educational sites.

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs not only assist with training (with the aid of mobile nets) but they are also frequently used for junior matches, which in turn can help reduce excessive use of grass wickets. Although only one standalone NTP in Cheshire East is recorded as accommodating junior play, the majority of those accompanying grass wicket squares are in use for this purpose.

Disused wickets

There is a disused square located at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that previously featured eight grass wickets. Prior to the campus closing, the square was sporadically used by the University for matches, although teams are no longer fielded other than in indoor competitions. It was not considered to be available for community use.

Furthermore, Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre was previously serviced by a standalone NTP that was lost in 2015 as part of a 3G pitch development. The same also applies to Sir William Stanier School, which had a standalone NTP taken out of use in 2009 as part of Building

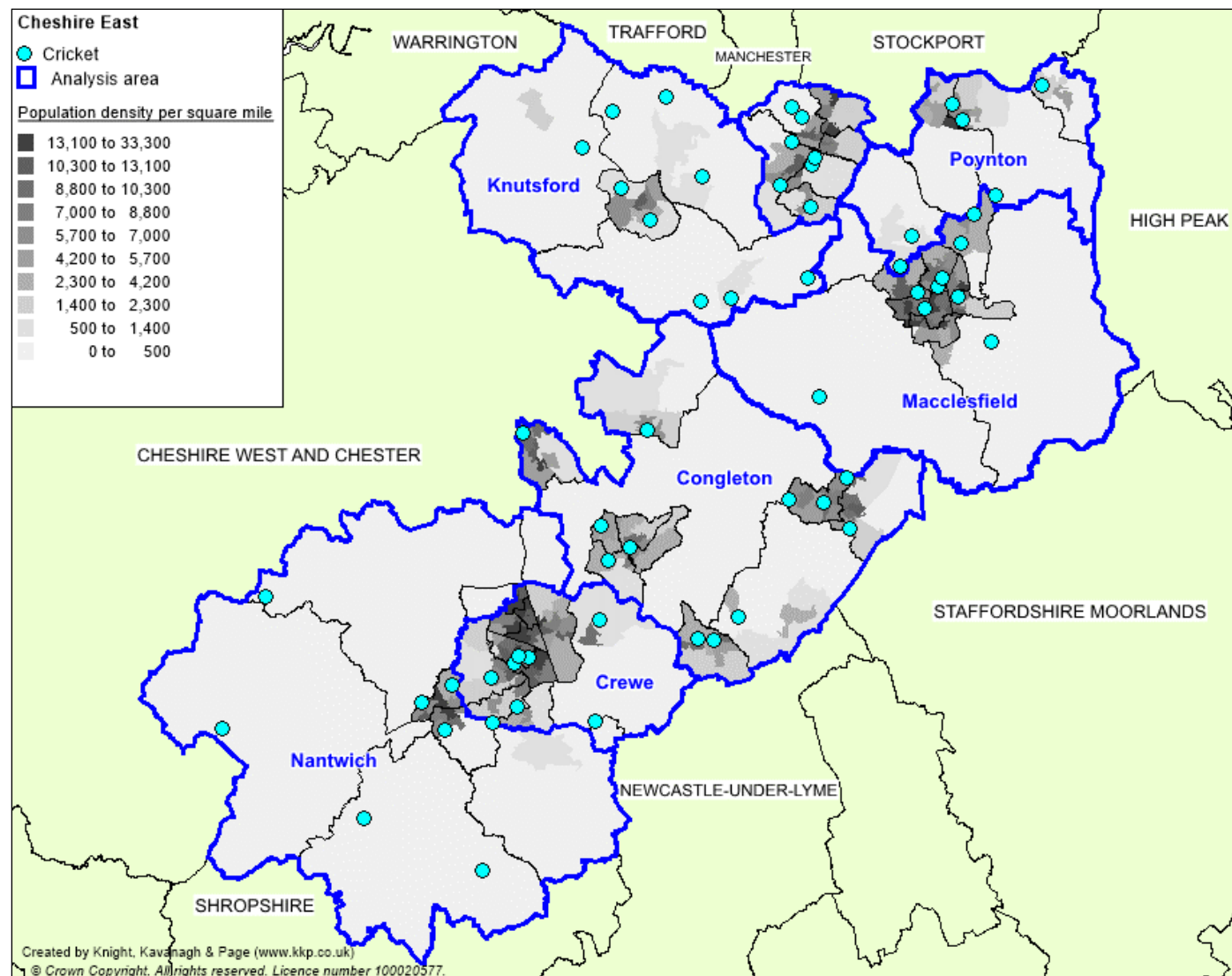
CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Schools for the Future (BSF). Both schools express an interest in having replacement provision installed in order to help with curricular activity.

The map overleaf shows the location of all cricket squares (grass and non-turf) currently servicing Cheshire East.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches in Cheshire East



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Table 4.3: Key to map of cricket pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
					grass	non-turf
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Wilmslow	Yes	1	20	-
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	12	1
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes-unused	1	-	1
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	16	-
9	Aston Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	10	-
18	Bollington Recreation Ground (Bollington Cricket Club)	Macclesfield	Yes	1	12	-
20	Toft Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	14	-
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	No	1	-	1
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	10	-
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	10	-
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	Knutsford	Yes	1	10	-
33	Congleton Sports And Social Club (Congleton Cricket Club)	Congleton	Yes	1	10	-
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	No	1	-	1
38	Crewe Vagrants (Crewe Cricket Club)	Nantwich	Yes	1	22	-
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club (Disley Cricket Club)	Poynton	Yes	1	10	1
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	No	1	-	1
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	2	12	1
					4	-
50	Audlem Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	10	-
51	Haslington Cricket Club	Crewe	Yes	1	13	-
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	9	1
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	12	-
68	Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club)	Knutsford	Yes	1	15	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
					grass	non-turf
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	2	11	1
					8	1
75	Malbank School And Sixth Form College	Nantwich	Yes-unused	1	-	1
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	18	-
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	16	-
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	2	14	1
					-	1
101	Pownall Hall School	Wilmslow	No	1	-	1
102	Poynton High School	Poynton	No	1	-	1
103	Poynton Sports Club (Poynton Cricket Club)	Poynton	Yes	1	12	1
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	No	1	-	1
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	14	-
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	Yes	2	10	-
					6	1
111	Shavington Academy	Crewe	No	1	-	1
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	No	1	-	1
120	Styal Playing Fields (Styal Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	16	-
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	Yes	2	9	-
					6	-
126	The King's School (Derby Fields)	Poynton	Yes	3	9	-
					6	-
					3	-
127	The King's School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	1	-	1
129	The Oaks Academy	Crewe	No	1	-	1
131	The Rectory Field (Wilmslow Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	7	1
135	Weston Cricket Club	Crewe	Yes	1	14	1
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	No	1	-	1

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
					grass	non-turf
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club (Wilmslow Wayfarers Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	8	-
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground (Wistaston Cricket Club)	Crewe	Yes	1	10	1
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	No	1	-	1
152	Chelford Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	10	1
153	Langley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	11	1
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Wilmslow	Yes	1	12	1
155	Marton Primary School	Macclesfield	Yes-unused	1	-	1
156	Mere Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	10	-
157	Mossley Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	10	1
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	12	-
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Poynton	Yes	1	12	-
160	Rode Park and Lawton Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	16	-
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	8	-
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	No	1	-	1
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	11	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future developments

The King's School plans to sell both its Westminster Road and its Fence Avenue site for housing. Both currently contain cricket squares but there are no plans for these to be re-provided. Despite a net loss of playing fields, Sport England has no objection as there will be indoor cricket nets provided and community access to the existing three cricket pitches as part of the new school development at Derby Fields.

A second pitch and two new practice nets have recently been developed at Elworth Cricket Club via Inspired Facilities funding and will be ready for use ahead of the 2017 season. As such, the provision has been included within this report.

A feasibility study into the development of Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca) concluded that, as a minimum, replacement provision of the grass wicket square is required as is the inclusion of an NTP to allow for increased play. In addition, the study recommended the installation of three outdoor practice nets after this was identified as a key need following consultation with local clubs. An agreement has now been reached for Lindow CC to take on the site, which safeguards its cricketing future.

Knutsford Academy has identified adjacent land that it wishes to acquire from Crown Estates. Should this proposal take place, the School intends to supply a grass wicket square that will be available to the community. There is currently no cricket provision on site.

Poynton Sports Club is negotiating with a local landowner to purchase nearby land that will be used to relocate all on-site provision, including the cricket square. This is, however, dependent on securing planning permission and the sale of the existing site.

Nantwich, Toft and Weston cricket clubs are all exploring the development of secondary squares, however, no formal plans are in place.

Security of tenure

The majority of clubs across Cheshire East either own their home grounds or have a long term lease arrangement in place, meaning security of tenure is provided. This is not the case, however, for Audlem, Chelford, Over Peover and Prestbury cricket clubs, which currently rent squares on a rolling annual basis from local landowners, or for Bunbury CC, which has only nine years remaining on its lease, again from a local landowner.

A long term lease arrangement (25 years or more) improves the chances of clubs attracting funding that can be used to sustain and improve square quality, ancillary provision and surrounding infrastructure.

Bollington CC and Wilmslow CC rent their squares (Bollington Recreation Ground and Rectory Field respectively) on a yearly basis from the Council. This is seen as less of an issue because the Council is expected to continue providing cricketing provision at the sites used and neither club expresses any concern with the current arrangement.

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Furthermore, some clubs also use secondary venues through a rental agreement, either due to a lack of capacity at their main ground or to prevent overplay. Alderley Edge CC splits its excess usage across Chelford Cricket Club and Styal Playing Fields, Sandbach CC and Haslington CC use Sandbach School (Boys), Toft CC uses Mere Cricket Club, Prestbury CC uses Kerridge Cricket Club and Ashley CC uses Rostherne Cricket Club. It is therefore recommended that secure agreements are put into place for these clubs at these venues to ensure long term access.

Pitch quality

As part of the PPS guidance, there are three levels to assessing the quality of cricket pitches: good, standard and poor. Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards, which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship.

The non-technical assessment of grass wicket squares in Cheshire East found 37 community available pitches to be good quality, ten to be standard quality and one to be poor quality. As such, there is a much higher proportion of good quality squares in Cheshire East when compared to the majority of other local authorities.

Table 4.4: Summary of pitch quality in Cheshire East

Good	Standard	Poor
37	10	1

The second square at Sandbach School (Boys) is considered poor quality predominately due to drainage issues that lead to the pitch being unplayable after inclement weather. The surface of the outfield also undulates and is uneven, making it dangerous for the fielding team. In contrast, the first square at the School is assessed as good quality as it suffers from none of the above issues and is maintained to a higher level.

The following squares are assessed as standard quality:

- ◀ Audlem Cricket Club
- ◀ Chelford Cricket Club
- ◀ Kerridge Cricket Club
- ◀ King's School (all campuses)
- ◀ Mossley Cricket Club
- ◀ Rostherne Cricket Club

Of the club sites, Audlem, Kerridge, Mossley and Rostherne cricket clubs are used primarily to host Cheshire Cricket Alliance matches, which is the lowest level of senior club cricket within Cheshire. As such, the clubs are generally smaller and therefore have less resource to maintain the squares to comparable levels. Kerridge Cricket Club and Rostherne Cricket Club are also without covers, which makes preparation difficult following rainfall.

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Although all remaining squares are assessed as good quality, several suffer from recurring issues that affect pitch condition. For example, Disley CC reports that over marked football pitches on its square (Disley Algamated Sports Club) makes post season remedial work challenging, whereas Nantwich CC reports that its square suffers from occasional drainage issues. Macclesfield CC also cites drainage problems, particularly alongside the boundary edge of its main square, whilst Bollington CC and Wilmslow CC report that the open access nature of their squares (Bollington Recreation Ground and Rectory Field respectively) can lead to high levels of unofficial use and dog fouling.

Macclesfield CC also reports that the NTP that accompanies its main square needs replacing. The wicket has reached the end of its lifespan and as a result is worn in high traffic areas such as on the crease lines.

The audit of standalone NTPs assessed one as good quality, 12 as standard and three as poor. The good quality square is located at Nantwich Cricket Club, whereas the poor quality ones are located at All Hallows Catholic College, Alsager Leisure Centre and Ruskin Community High School. All three poor quality NTPs have fallen into a state of disrepair and are no longer used by the respective schools, although all three providers report that they would be interested in having them refurbished or replaced for curricular purposes.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Cheshire East have access to changing facilities at their home ground, with the majority of provision considered good or standard quality. Of particular concern, however, is the condition of the clubhouse building at Mere Cricket Club, which is considered too small and poor quality.

The clubhouse at Poynton Cricket Club is also reported to be poor quality due to the age of the facility. The changing rooms are dated and therefore the layout is unsuitable, particularly for junior members. Likewise, Macclesfield CC reports that the provision on its second square (previously Parkside Hospital Cricket Club) requires renovation, despite the changing rooms servicing its main square being good quality.

In terms of other ancillary issues, Lindow Cricket Club is serviced by a car park that is too small to accommodate the number of visitors received during a weekend, whereas a new development nearby to Aston Cricket Club may cause an issue to residents with the ball going over the separating tree line.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training and many clubs in Cheshire East express an aspiration for more nets to be provided or for existing nets to be improved.

Wilmslow CC is currently without nets at Rectory Field, as are Audlem, Chelford and Mere cricket clubs, albeit Mere CC only fields one team so is less likely to require nets at its site. Sandbach CC currently has access to two practice nets but reports an aspiration for more to be provided.

Disley, Holmes Chapel and Nantwich cricket clubs all report a need for their existing practice nets to be improved, whereas Alderley Edge CC is looking to acquire a mobile net and a bowling machine to better aid with its training.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Access to indoor nets during the winter is also reported as a problem by clubs. Some report that they are priced out of using facilities, whilst others cannot get access at desirable times as the majority of sports halls are dominated by other sports. The Cheshire Cricket Board Facilities Strategy 2013-2018 recognises that the provision of indoor facilities across Cheshire is of a mixed standard, with some good quality facilities but the majority being dated and in need of investment. The key indoor facilities currently used are:

- ✦ Brine Leas School
- ✦ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ✦ South Cheshire College
- ✦ Tytherington School
- ✦ Wilmslow High School

Planning permission has been granted at King's School for the creation of a specialist indoor cricket centre, amongst other sports facilities, within its development plans.

4.3: Demand

In total, there are 38 clubs competing in Cheshire East generating 290 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 115 senior men's, two senior women's, 171 junior boys' and two junior girls' teams.

As seen in the table below, the majority of clubs are large clubs offering several senior teams and numerous junior teams across different age levels. Only nine of the clubs do not provide a junior section and only three of these are one team clubs (Kerridge, Rostherne and Mere cricket clubs).

Table 4.5: Summary of teams

Club name	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Alderley Edge CC	Wilmslow	3	-	9	-
Alsager CC	Congleton	3	-	8	-
Ashley CC	Knutsford	4	-	5	-
Aston CC	Nantwich	2	-	6	-
Audlem CC	Nantwich	3	-	-	-
Bollington CC	Macclesfield	4	-	3	-
Bunbury CC	Nantwich	3	-	5	-
Chelford CC	Macclesfield	2	-	1	-
Cholmondeley CC	Nantwich	3	-	-	-
Congleton CC	Congleton	2	-	6	-
Crewe CC	Nantwich	3	-	5	-
Disley CC	Poynton	3	-	5	-
Elworth CC	Congleton	3	-	5	-
Haslington CC	Crewe	4	-	6	-
Holmes Chapel CC	Congleton	2	-	2	-
Kerridge CC	Macclesfield	1	-	-	-
Knutsford CC	Knutsford	3	-	1	-
Langley CC	Macclesfield	4	-	3	-
Lindow CC	Wilmslow	3	1	10	1

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Club name	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Macclesfield CC	Macclesfield	5	-	17	-
Mere CC	Knutsford	1	-	-	-
Middlewich CC	Congleton	2	-	5	-
Mobberley CC	Knutsford	4	-	4	-
Mossley CC	Congleton	2	-	4	-
Nantwich CC	Nantwich	3	-	5	-
Over Peover CC	Knutsford	3	-	-	-
Pott Shrigley CC	Knutsford	2	-	4	-
Poynton CC	Poynton	3	-	11	-
Prestbury CC	Poynton	3	-	6	-
Rode Park & Lawton CC	Congleton	3	-	5	-
Rostherne CC	Knutsford	1	-	-	-
Sandbach CC	Congleton	5	-	10	-
Styal CC	Wilmslow	4	-	-	-
Toft CC	Knutsford	5	-	11	-
Weston CC	Crewe	3	-	3	-
Wilmsow CC	Wilmslow	3	-	2	-
Wilmslow Wayfarers CC	Wilmslow	3	-	-	-
Wistaston CC	Crewe	3	1	4	1
Total		117	2	171	2

Congleton contains the highest number of teams (69), in part due to large clubs such as Sandbach, Alsager and Congleton cricket clubs playing within the Analysis Area. Knutsford (48 teams), Macclesfield (40 teams), Wilmslow (39 teams) and Nantwich (38 teams) and have a similar level of demand, whilst Poynton (31 teams) and Crewe (25 teams) and are serviced by the least number of teams.

Table 4.6: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of teams				Total
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	
Congleton	24	-	45	-	69
Crewe	10	1	13	1	25
Knutsford	23	-	25	-	48
Macclesfield	16	-	24	-	40
Nantwich	17	-	21	-	38
Poynton	9	-	22	-	31
Wilmslow	16	1	21	1	39
Cheshire East	115	2	171	2	290

No unmet, latent or displaced demand is recorded by any of the clubs.

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Participation trends

The ECB unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the game and the plan sets out five important headline elements: More play; great teams; inspired fans; good governance and social responsibility; strong finance and operations.

The National Player Survey (NPS) conducted over the past three years by the ECB reveals that the nature of participation in traditional league cricket is currently suffering a decline, although this is being offset by a rapid increase in non-traditional formats (such as LMS and T20 competitions). These are shorter, quicker formats of the game and are referenced further on in this report.

Contrary to this, participation in Cheshire East has increased overall in the last three years, with only 268 teams competing in 2013 compared to 292 teams presently. The increase, however, is seen mostly at junior level, with clubs such as Lindow, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Toft cricket clubs experiencing substantial growth. Clubs that have increased their number of teams cite reasons such as improved coaching, improved facilities, increased advertising and closer links with local schools as key factors in recruiting new players and retaining existing players.

This growth, however, is partially offset as many clubs have experienced a reduction in their number of teams, particularly at senior level. The following clubs were recorded as fielding more senior teams in 2013 than they do currently:

- ◀ Chelford CC
- ◀ Congleton CC
- ◀ Crewe CC
- ◀ Kerridge CC
- ◀ Middlewich CC
- ◀ Nantwich CC
- ◀ Pott Shrigley CC
- ◀ Mere CC

The most prominent reason for clubs losing senior teams is due to a lack of players, with people now less likely to play both Saturday and Sunday cricket and instead opting to play on just one day. This has led to Sunday cricket suffering a particular decline.

Last Man Stands

Last Man Stands (LMS) was founded in 2005. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on non-turf wickets. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the 'Last Man Stands' on his own. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and is increasing in popularity.

LMS does not currently operate in Cheshire East, however, should suitable locations be available it is something that will be considered in the future as there is currently no dedicated alternative (such as a T20 league). The CCB indicates that a venue in Crewe, such as King George V Playing Fields, which has recently undergone renovation for football use, and/or Macclesfield would be best suited.

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Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturdays, with 79 teams playing on this day compared to 31 that play on Sundays and seven veteran's teams that play midweek.

For junior cricket, peak time demand is considered mid-week, although some matches are scheduled on a Sunday. It should therefore be noted that mid-week cricket has the potential to be spread across numerous days (Monday-Friday) and, as a result, pitches have greater capacity to carry junior demand (providing the pitches are not overplayed).

4.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per pitch per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a pitch to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, the assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.

To help calculate spare capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality grass wicket should be able to take five (senior) matches per season (e.g. a square with 12 grass wickets can accommodate 60 matches). This is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

The ECB also suggests that a non-turf wicket can accommodate 60 matches per season. As no non-turf wickets are recorded as accommodating more than this in Cheshire East, they are all considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity as they are generally accessed during mid-week by junior teams and as a result can be used on a variety of days. For this reason, non-turf wicket capacity has been discounted from the table overleaf so that it does not distort the capacity of grass wickets.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.7: Cricket pitch capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	20	100	86	14
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	12	60	70	10
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes-unused	-	Poor	-	-	-	-
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	16	80	76	4
9	Aston Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good	10	50	50	
18	Bollington Recreation Ground (Bollington Cricket Club)	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Good	12	60	63	3
20	Toft Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	14	70	84	14
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good	10	50	68	18
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good	10	50	30	20
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	10	50	30	20
33	Congleton Sports and Social Club (Congleton Cricket Club)	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	10	50	56	6
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
38	Crewe Vagrants (Crewe Cricket Club)	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good	22	110	86	24
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club (Disley Cricket Club)	Poynton	Yes	1	Good	10	50	50	
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	2	Good	12	80	88	8
					Good	4			
50	Audlem Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	Standard	10	50	36	14
51	Haslington Cricket Club	Crewe	Yes	1	Good	13	65	72	7
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	9	45	48	3
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Standard	12	60	38	22
68	Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club)	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	15	75	58	17
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	2	Good	11	95	118	23
					Good	8			
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Nantwich	Yes-unused	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	18	90	64	26
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	16	80	60	20
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	2	Good	14	70	68	2
					Good	-			
101	Pownall Hall School	Wilmslow	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
102	Poynton High School	Poynton	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
103	Poynton Sports Club (Poynton Cricket Club)	Poynton	Yes	1	Good	12	60	72	12
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	No	1	Poor	-	-	-	-
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	14	70	86	16
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	Yes	2	Good	10	80	40	40
					Poor	6			
111	Shavington Academy	Crewe	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
120	Styal Playing Fields (Styal Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	16	80	64	16
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	Yes-unused	2	Standard	9	75	-	75
					Standard	6			

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
126	The King's School (Derby Fields)	Poynton	Yes-unused	3	Standard	9	90	-	90
					Standard	6			
					Standard	3			
127	The King's School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
129	The Oaks Academy	Crewe	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
131	The Rectory Field (Wilmslow Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	7	35	43	8
135	Weston Cricket Club	Crewe	Yes	1	Good	14	70	56	14
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club (Wilmslow Wayfarers Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	8	40	30	10
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground (Wistaston Cricket Club)	Crewe	Yes	1	Good	10	50	54	4
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	No	1	Poor	-	-	-	-
152	Chelford Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Standard	10	50	36	14
153	Langley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Good	11	55	60	5
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	12	60	72	12
155	Marton Primary School	Macclesfield	Yes-unused	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
156	Mere Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	10	50	44	6
157	Mossley Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Standard	10	50	50	
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	12	60	30	30
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Poynton	Yes	1	Good	12	60	58	2
160	Rode Park and Lawton Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	16	80	74	6
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Standard	8	40	22	18
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Good	11	55	50	5

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

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

As previously mentioned, junior teams can play on NTPs and generally play mid-week on a variety of days; consequently, spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future. Each grass wicket square that is not overplayed is thought to have spare capacity for an increase in mid-week demand, and no NTP is at capacity or overplayed. That said, there is evidence to suggest that an increase in provision of NTPs would further help satisfy junior demand, as well as providing an increase in capacity for senior matches on grass wickets.

The table below looks at available spare capacity at peak time for senior cricket (Saturdays) considered against overplay and future demand highlighted during consultation. Match equivalent sessions for future demand has been calculated using the average number of matches played per season by that team type (12 matches for senior men, eight matches for senior women).

Table 4.8: Capacity of grass wicket squares

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Congleton	-	43	43	24	67
Crewe	-	11	11	-	11
Knutsford	6	14	8	12	20
Macclesfield	22	31	9	-	9
Nantwich	-	18	18	12	30
Poynton	-	12	12	12	24
Wilmslow	-	20	20	12	32
Cheshire East	28	149	121	72	193

For senior cricket, a significant overall shortfall of pitches is identified with more grass wicket squares being overplayed than those with actual spare capacity. There is current overplay amounting to 149 match equivalent sessions, whereas pitches with actual spare capacity only providing 28 match equivalent sessions. The shortfall is also evident in each analysis area; with overplay again amounting to more than actual spare capacity.

Priority, therefore, should be placed on retaining the current number of grass wicket squares and providing a solution to the identified shortfalls through addressing overplay and accommodating expressed future demand. In addition, focus should also be on improving pitch quality, where required, as well as improving changing facilities and increasing access to training provision.

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Spare capacity

The table overleaf ascertains whether any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'spare capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

There are 29 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in Cheshire East totalling 499 match equivalent sessions per season across 24 sites. Where there is a significant amount of potential capacity available, however, this may not represent actual spare capacity, i.e. whether a pitch is available at the peak time. The table overleaf therefore explores where spare capacity is identified on a Saturday (peak period) as this can be deemed actual spare capacity.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.9: Summary of actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Amount of spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Pitches available in the peak period (Saturday)	Comments
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Wilmslow	1	14	-	No actual spare capacity
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	4	-	No actual spare capacity
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Nantwich	1	20	-	No actual spare capacity
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	Knutsford	1	20	-	No actual spare capacity
38	Crewe Vagrants (Crewe Cricket Club)	Nantwich	1	24	-	No actual spare capacity
50	Audlem Cricket Club	Nantwich	1	14	-	No actual spare capacity
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	1	22	0.5	Spare capacity for one additional team on a Saturday
68	Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club)	Knutsford	1	17	-	No actual spare capacity
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Congleton	1	26	-	No actual spare capacity
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	20	-	No actual spare capacity
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich	2	2	-	No actual spare capacity
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	2	40	1	Spare capacity discounted to account for school use
120	Styal Playing Fields (Styal Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	1	16	-	No actual spare capacity
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	3	90	3	Spare capacity discounted to account for school use
126	The King's School (Derby Fields)	Poynton	2	75	2	Spare capacity discounted to account for school use
135	Weston Cricket Club	Crewe	1	14	-	No actual spare capacity
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club (Wilmslow Wayfarers Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	1	10	-	No actual spare capacity
152	Chelford Cricket Club	Macclesfield	1	14	-	No actual spare capacity

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Amount of spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Pitches available in the peak period (Saturday)	Comments
156	Mere Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	6	0.5	Spare capacity for one additional team on a Saturday
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	30	-	No actual spare capacity
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Poynton	1	2	-	No actual spare capacity
160	Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club	Congleton	1	6	-	No actual spare capacity
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	18	-	No actual spare capacity
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	1	5	-	No actual spare capacity

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Although a large amount of spare capacity is identified, it is not as simple as to aggregate this into a general oversupply of cricket squares. Of the 29 pitches identified with spare capacity, only four are available for further use on a Saturday and only two of those (Kerridge Cricket Club and Mere Cricket Club) can be considered as having actual spare capacity (Sandbach School is discounted to take into account internal usage). All remaining squares are used to capacity on a Saturday with at least two teams assigned to them as a home venue on this day.

It is worth noting, however, that more squares have spare capacity on a Sunday, meaning additional senior demand could be accommodated outside of the peak period whilst still playing in a league format. The following sites have overall spare capacity and spare capacity on a Sunday:

- ◆ Alderley Edge Cricket Club
- ◆ Audlem Cricket Club
- ◆ Cholmondeley Cricket Club
- ◆ Kerridge Cricket Club
- ◆ Knutsford Sports Club
- ◆ Mere Cricket Club
- ◆ Over Peover Cricket Club
- ◆ Prestbury Cricket Club
- ◆ Rostherne Cricket Club
- ◆ Weston Cricket Club

Overplay

As guidance, all pitches receiving more than five match equivalent sessions per wicket per season are adjudged overplayed. On this basis, overplay in Cheshire East is high, with 16 squares overplayed across 15 sites by a total of 149 match equivalent sessions, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.10: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Congleton	1	10
18	Bollington Recreation Ground (Bollington Cricket Club)	Macclesfield	1	3
20	Toft Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	14
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Nantwich	1	18
33	Congleton Sports And Social Club (Congleton Cricket Club)	Congleton	1	6
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Congleton	1	8
51	Haslington Cricket Club	Crewe	1	7
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Congleton	1	3
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield	2	23
103	Poynton Sports Club (Poynton Cricket Club)	Poynton	1	12
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Congleton	1	16
131	The Rectory Field (Wilmslow Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	1	8
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground (Wistaston Cricket Club)	Crewe	1	4
153	Langley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	1	5

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Wilmslow	1	12

Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a reduction in play is recommended on overplayed squares to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time. This is particularly key at sites that are heavily overplayed, such as Bunbury, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Toft cricket clubs.

As a large percentage of usage on overplayed squares comes from junior cricket, the best solution would be to install NTPs in situ. The following overplayed sites are currently without an NTP:

- ✦ Bollington Recreation Ground
- ✦ Bunbury Cricket Club
- ✦ Congleton Sports and Social Club
- ✦ Haslington Cricket Club
- ✦ Holmes Chapel Cricket Club
- ✦ Langley Cricket Club
- ✦ Sandbach Cricket Club
- ✦ Toft Cricket Club

By installing an NTP at these sites, junior matches can be transferred from the grass wickets, thus alleviating overplay.

For the remaining overplayed sites (Alsager Cricket Club, Elworth Cricket Club, Eric Swan Sports Ground, Macclesfield Cricket Club, Lindow Cricket Club, Poynton Sports Club and Rectory Field), greater use of their NTPs is required. If overplay still exists, demand could be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity, or to sites with a standalone NTP such as currently unavailable school sites. This is, however, unlikely given the landscape of cricket within Cheshire East. As the majority of clubs own or lease their own grounds, there is a reluctance for secondary venues to be accessed, not only due to cost and travel implications but also because it results in certain teams becoming detached from what is a home base.

The identified overplay is spread across each analysis area, with the majority found in Congleton (43 match equivalent sessions) and the least found in Crewe (11 match equivalent sessions).

Table 4.11: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
Congleton	43
Crewe	11
Knutsford	14
Macclesfield	31
Nantwich	18
Poynton	12
Wilmslow	20
Cheshire East	149

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

In addition, there are three sites adjudged to being played at capacity: Aston Cricket Club, Disley Amalgamated Sports Club and Mossley Cricket Club. Should any of these sites receive further demand, it is essential that an appropriate maintenance regime is in place to sustain the resultant overplay.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, using population forecasts and housing growth. The Strategy Report will contain a range of Housing Growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development.

Participation increases

In total, ten clubs report plans to increase their number of teams in the future. Where expressed, this amounts to an increase of six senior men's, two senior women's and eight junior teams, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.12: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams		
		Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Disley CC	Poynton	1	-	1
Elworth CC	Congleton	1	-	1
Holmes Chapel CC	Congleton	-	-	1
Langley CC	Macclesfield	-	-	1
Lindow CC	Wilmslow	1	-	1
Macclesfield CC	Macclesfield	-	-	1
Mobberley CC	Knutsford	-	1	1
Nantwich CC	Nantwich	1	1	-
Rode Park & Lawton CC	Congleton	1	-	1
Styal CC	Wilmslow	1	-	-
Total		6	2	8

None of the above clubs can currently accommodate all of their expressed future demand for senior teams on the squares that they use either due to overplay or a lack of actual spare capacity. That being said, all future demand for junior cricket can be accommodated; Rode Park & Lawton CC and Mobberley CC have spare capacity during midweek, whereas the junior demand expressed by Disley, Elworth, Langley, Lindow, Macclesfield and Nantwich cricket clubs can be catered for provided it is via their NTPs rather than their grass wickets.

Furthermore, the expressed senior demand from Mobberley, Styal, Nantwich and Rode Park & Lawton cricket clubs can be accommodated provided it is outside of the peak period (i.e. on a Sunday). This is because the squares that these clubs access have overall spare capacity, despite not offering actual spare capacity (on a Saturday).

In contrast, Disley, Elworth and Lindow cricket clubs cannot realise senior growth plans on the pitch stock currently available to them without exacerbating overplay. As such, either the clubs will need to access secondary venues that have spare capacity or new provision will be required.

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Population forecasts

In addition, team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2030) based on population growth. Using this, an increase of 11 junior boys' teams is expected.

Table 4.13: Team generation rates based on population growth (2030)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate ¹⁹	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men (18-55)	87,030	117	1:744	80,896	105.9	0
Senior Women (18-55)	89,058	2	1:44529	79,848	1.8	0
Junior Boys (7-17)	25,725	171	1:150	27,146	182.4	11
Junior Girls (7-17)	24,668	2	1:12334	25,466	2.1	0

Due to participation trends nationally within the sport, it is considered unlikely that both population growth and future demand expressed by clubs will be realised, exclusive of each other. Instead, it is considered more likely that population growth will be incorporated into planned club growth, and vice versa.

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

¹⁹ Please note TGR figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Cricket summary

- ▶ **For senior cricket, a significant overall shortfall of pitches is identified, with more grass wicket squares being overplayed than those with actual spare capacity.**
- ▶ **No non-turf wicket pitches are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season, therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity, which equates to spare capacity existing for junior cricket both currently and in the future.**
- ▶ In total, there are 48 grass cricket squares in Cheshire East located across 42 sites, all of which are available for community use.
- ▶ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at 15 sites (16 squares) and there are standalone NTPs pitches at 17 sites.
- ▶ There is a disused grass wicket square at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus), whilst standalone NTPs were previously in place at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Sir William Stanier School.
- ▶ Tenure is considered unsecure for Audlem, Chelford, Over Peover and Prestbury cricket clubs, which rent their squares on an annual basis, and for Bunbury CC, which has only nine years remaining on its lease.
- ▶ The audit of grass wicket squares found 37 community available pitches to be good quality, ten to be standard quality and one to be poor quality.
- ▶ Of particular concern is the condition of clubhouse buildings servicing Poynton Cricket Club and Mere Cricket Club, as well as the facility servicing the second square at Macclesfield Cricket Club.
- ▶ Four clubs (Wilmslow, Audlem, Chelford and Mere cricket clubs) are currently without access to cricket nets and three clubs (Disley, Holmes Chapel and Nantwich cricket clubs) express a demand for more nets to be provided.
- ▶ In total, there are 38 clubs generating 290 teams, which equates to 115 senior men's, two senior women's, 171 junior boys' and two junior girls' teams.
- ▶ There is currently no Last Man Stands (LMS) operating in Cheshire East, however, it is a target area for the future, particularly in Crewe and/or Macclesfield.
- ▶ Peak time demand for senior cricket is Saturday, whereas for junior cricket it is midweek.
- ▶ There are 29 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets, totalling 499 match equivalent sessions per season; however, only two of these (Kerridge Cricket Club and Mere Cricket Club) have actual spare capacity on a Saturday.
- ▶ Overplay in Cheshire East is high, with 16 squares overplayed across 15 sites by 149 match equivalent sessions.
- ▶ Ten clubs report plans to increase their number of teams in the future, amounting to an increase of six senior men's, two senior women's and eight junior teams.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for rugby union. It is split into six areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. A full-time development officer is responsible for Cheshire East (as part of the Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire and North Midlands area) and works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, including working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are eight rugby union clubs in Cheshire East, all of which responded to consultation requests resulting in a 100% response rate. Crewe & Nantwich, Congleton, Macclesfield and Sandbach rugby clubs were met with face-to-face; Acton Nomads, Holmes Chapel, Knutsford and Wilmslow rugby clubs responded via an online survey.

In addition, teams are also fielded within Cheshire East by Manchester Metropolitan University. Information relating to this demand was discovered as part of a wider meeting with the University.

5.2: Supply

Within Cheshire East, there are 24 sites containing 45 senior, nine junior and ten mini rugby union pitches. Of these, 28 senior, five junior and all mini pitches are available for community use. Those not available for community use are all located at educational sites.

Although there are dedicated junior and mini pitches identified, it must be noted that most junior and mini rugby traditionally takes place on over marked senior pitches. This is the case across Cheshire East, even at sites with dedicated junior/mini markings.

As seen in the table below, the large majority of community available pitches are located in Congleton (18). There are no community available pitches within Macclesfield, whereas only one is located within Crewe, two within Knutsford, five within Wilmslow, eight within Poynton and ten within Nantwich.

Table 5.1: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. of mini pitches
Congleton	11	3	3
Crewe	1	-	-
Knutsford	1	1	-
Macclesfield	-	-	-
Nantwich	7	-	3
Poynton	4	-	4
Wilmslow	4	1	-
Cheshire East	28	5	10

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Hankinson's Field has been temporarily taken out of use as the site is required as an access point for the development of Congleton Leisure Centre. It currently contains one senior pitch (that has been included in the table above) as well as an unmarked training area and other areas that are used for mini rugby. Congleton RUFC is now unable to access the site and instead has to consolidate its use on to Congleton Park and Back Lane, although it is expected that provision will be re-provided once the development of the Leisure Centre is complete. If this does not happen, alternative provision will be required.

Disused provision

There are two disused senior rugby union pitches located at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus). The site closed down to students in 2010 but some facilities, such as a sand-based AGP and a football pitch, are still in use by the community. Planning permission has been secured to develop housing on the site, as well as new sports pitches, although no rugby union provision is included. Instead, the University has previously made improvements to the rugby pitches at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, which the University's rugby teams relocated to. In addition, a contribution has been secured via a S106 agreement to buy maintenance equipment to ensure the pitches can be maintained to the required standard to support the amount of play. It is envisaged that the maintenance equipment will be in place for the start of the next season once the Club receives the financial contribution from the development.

In addition, the following sites each previously contained one senior rugby union pitch but no longer do:

- ◀ Alsager Leisure Centre
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Egerton Youth Club

In each case, the pitch that was used for rugby union is now marked out and used for football. Knutsford RUFC previously used Egerton Youth Club before the Club transferred its demand to Knutsford Academy.

Future developments

The King's School plans to provide five additional rugby union pitches at Derby Fields as part of its consolidation to the site; however, both the existing junior pitches at Fence Avenue and Westminster Road (that are not to RFU standards) will be lost. This results in a net gain of three pitches, the pitch dimensions of which are subject to a condition that both the RFU and Sport England will be consulted on (indicative plans suggest five rugby pitches). In addition, a new clubhouse is to be provided and a link between the School and Macclesfield RUFC is being encouraged via a Sports Development Plan and Community Use Agreement, which would include sharing of pitches and facilities on both the new site and the adjacent existing site, as well as maintenance teams and equipment. Please note, however, that this development involves the overall net loss of playing field, which has been mitigated by the provision of new indoor/outdoor sports facilities that will benefit the rugby clubs and other pitch sports.

Subject to planning permission and successful sale of land, Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is to undergo a development that will result in one of its senior pitches being replaced by a full size, floodlit, World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. In addition, the clubhouse servicing the site will be rebuilt.

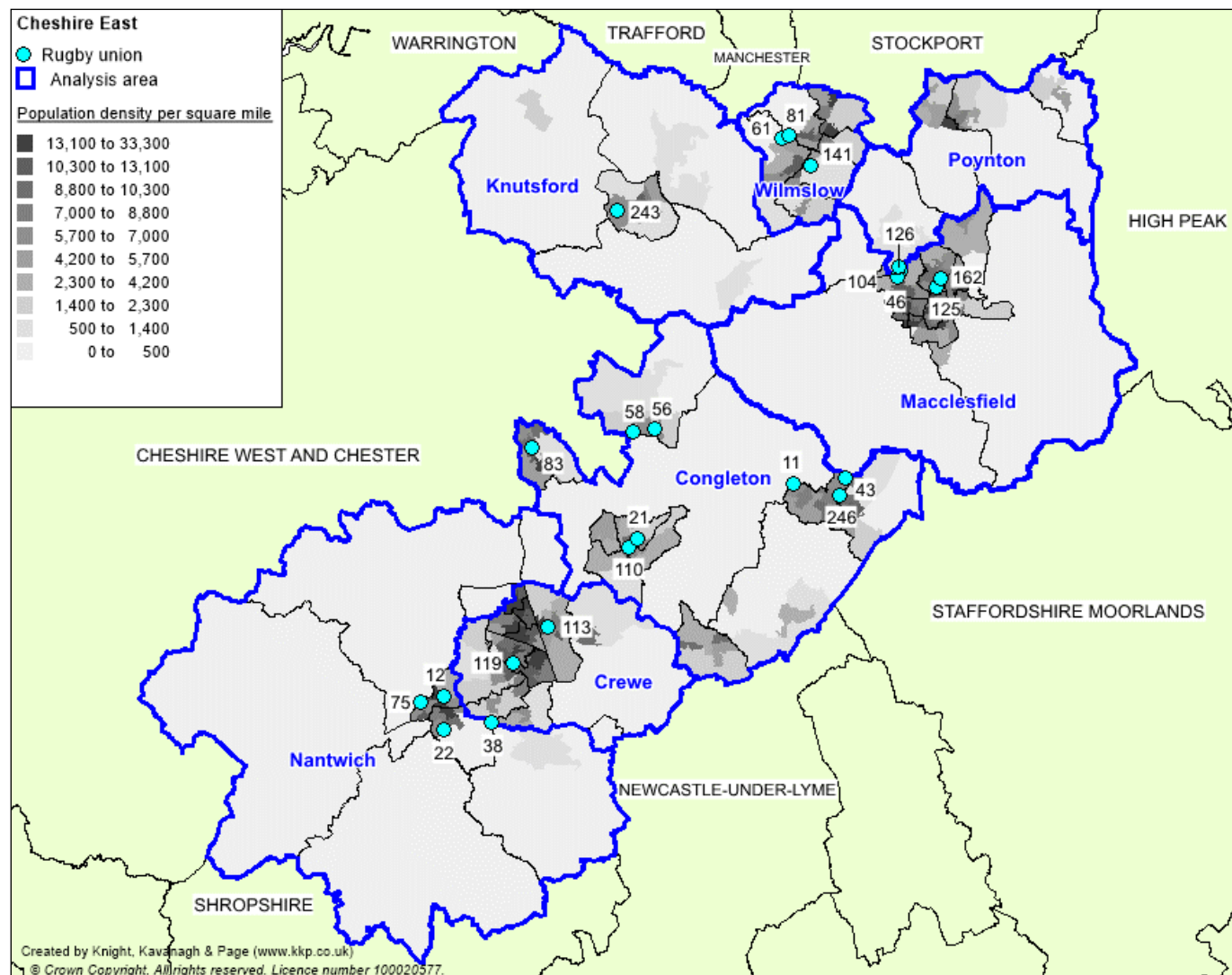
CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Knutsford Academy, working alongside Knutsford RUFC, has identified adjacent land that it wishes to acquire from Crown Estates. Should this proposal take place, the School intends to supply one additional senior and one additional junior rugby union pitch in addition to the one senior and one junior pitch that is currently provided.

Figure 5.1 overleaf shows the location of all rugby union pitches currently servicing Cheshire East, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 5.6.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Cheshire East



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Security of tenure

Tenure is considered secure for Macclesfield RUFC, which owns Priory Park. It is also secure for Sandbach RUFC, which owns part of its site and leases the remainder from a local landowner in an agreement that has over 90 years remaining.

Security of tenure is also provided to Wilmslow RUFC, as it owns Memorial Ground. In addition, the Club accesses Jim Evison Playing Fields as a secondary venue via a yearly rental agreement from the Council.

Crewe & Nantwich RUFC owns its pitches and then operates out of Crewe Vagrant Sports Club via an annual subscription. The Club also rents the pitches to teams fielded by Manchester Metropolitan University on a weekly basis throughout the academic calendar.

Holmes Chapel RUFC has only ten years remaining on its licence of Holmes Chapel Community Centre from Holmes Chapel Parish Council. It is recommended that this be increased to a 25 year lease to provide greater security of tenure and to help the Club attract funding for club and site developments.

Acton Nomads RUFC rents Barony Sports Complex from the Council, as does Congleton RUFC in relation to Hankinson's Field, Congleton Park and Back Lane. Congleton RUFC also owns its clubhouse, which is a former pub within the centre of Congleton.

Knutsford RUFC rents Knutsford Academy on an annual basis from the School. To ensure prolonged use, it is recommended that the parties enter into a secure community use agreement. In order to attract funding, the club will need to obtain a lease agreement. It is recommended that this is at least 25 years in length.

Pitch quality

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

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

Table 5.2: Definition of maintenance categories

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

Table 5.3: Definition of drainage categories

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.4: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

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

Of the community available pitches in Cheshire East, 22 are assessed as good quality, 12 are assessed as standard quality and nine are assessed as poor quality.

Table 5.5: Quality of pitches available for community use

Senior pitches			Junior pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
14	6	8	2	2	1	6	4	-

The table overleaf shows the quality ratings for each of the pitches in Cheshire East based on a combination of non-technical site assessments and user consultation.

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Table 5.6: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
11	Back Lane	Congleton	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
					Junior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
12	Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Congleton	Yes	10	Senior	No	M2 / D2	Good
					Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D2	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Junior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Junior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	Yes-unused	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
28	Congleton Park	Congleton	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	Yes	6	Senior	Yes	M2 / D2	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D2	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	No	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	No	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
53	Hankinson's Field	Congleton	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Congleton	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes-unused	2	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
					Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
					Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
75	Malbank School And Sixth Form College	Nantwich	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	3	Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
83	Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre)	Congleton	No	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Poynton	Yes	8	Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	No	4	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
113	Sir William Stanier School	Crewe	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	No	1	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor
125	The Kings School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	No	1	Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
126	The Kings School (Derby Fields)	Poynton	No	6	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
127	The Kings School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	1	Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	No	3	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	No	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Poor quality pitches are found at the following community available sites:

- ◀ Back Lane
- ◀ Barony Sports Complex
- ◀ Congleton Park
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ◀ Jim Evison Playing Fields
- ◀ Sir William Stanier School

Both the senior and the junior pitch at Back Lane are assessed as poor quality due to drainage issues (D0), as are the senior pitches at Barony Sports Complex, Jim Evison Playing Fields, Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Congleton Park. The senior pitch at Sir William Stanier School is rated as poor quality due receiving very limited maintenance (M0).

Of the poor quality pitches, both Back Lane and Congleton Park are used by Congleton RUFC, Barony Sports Complex is in use by Acton Nomads RUFC and Jim Evison Playing Fields is in use by Wilmslow RUFC. Neither Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre nor Sir William Stanier School are in use by clubs, despite being available, although both sites do receive use internally.

Furthermore, both St Thomas More Catholic High School and Eaton Bank Academy contain a poor quality senior pitch, albeit neither are available for community use.

Despite being assessed as good quality and despite having a pipe drainage system in place (D2), Macclesfield RUFC reports that its floodlit senior pitch suffers from drainage issues due to the clubhouse building shielding the pitch from sunlight. It is hoped that the Club's development plans will solve this issue as a new building is going to replace the existing facility at a perpendicular angle.

Other good quality pitches are found at Sandbach Rugby Club, Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) and Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club). All of these sites are maintained by clubs and therefore the maintenance regime is more specialised and more frequent than at those sites maintained by the Council or by schools.

Moreover, two senior pitches at both Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Sandbach Rugby Club (all D2) have some form of drainage installed.

Ancillary facilities

Holmes Chapel RUFC is the only club within Cheshire East to report no issues with ancillary provision. The Club rates the quality of its changing provision at Holmes Chapel Community Centre as adequate quality as recent refurbishments have taken place.

As previously mentioned, clubhouse facilities servicing Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) and the King's School (Derby Fields) are to be redeveloped as part of wider site improvements. Derby Fields has received planning permission but Priory Park has not at the time of writing.

Congleton RUFC reports a need for the changing rooms servicing Back Lane to be improved. The current facilities are considered too small and are deemed unsuitable for rugby use having been built to accommodate football users.

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Crewe & Nantwich RUFC aspires to refurbish its existing changing provision at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and to extend its clubhouse so that it provides two additional changing rooms, dedicated refereeing provision, a physio room and increased storage space. Furthermore, the Club is also trying to acquire funding to improve the site's car parking, both in terms of quality and size.

Knutsford RUFC reports a need for its own clubhouse in closer proximity to the pitches it uses at Knutsford Academy. Currently, the Club accesses the changing rooms at the School, which are considered to be poor quality, before using Knutsford Sports Club for post-match refreshments, travelling 1.2 miles to do so.

Acton Nomads RUFC has recently lost access to its clubhouse, a pub called the Red Lion. Due to the social aspects of rugby, clubs tend to require access to a social area that is serviced by a bar, which in turn can also generate income to help with sustainability. It is therefore vital that the Club is provided with an alternative as soon as possible.

Wilmslow RUFC reports that the changing rooms servicing Jim Evison Playing Fields are poor quality and are in desperate need of modernisation. The facilities at the Club's main venue, Memorial Ground, are considered adequate quality.

5.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in Cheshire East tend to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

Competitive play

Nine rugby union clubs play within Cheshire East. These Clubs vary in size; Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Wilmslow rugby clubs have a large number of teams at both senior and junior level, whereas Acton Nomads RUFC and Holmes Chapel RUFC consist of just one and two senior teams respectively.

As seen in the table below, there are 101 teams across the clubs, which as a breakdown equates to 30 senior, seven colts', 25 junior and 39 mini teams.

Table 5.7: Summary of demand

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams			
		Senior (19+)	Colts (18-19)	Junior (13-17)	Mini (6-12)
Acton Nomads RUFC	Nantwich	1	-	-	-
Congleton RUFC	Congleton	4	1	4	5
Crewe & Nantwich RUFC	Nantwich	5	2	6	6
Holmes Chapel RUFC	Congleton	3	-	-	-
Knutsford RUFC	Knutsford	2	-	4	7
Macclesfield RUFC	Poynton	4	1	4	7
Sandbach RUFC	Congleton	5	2	3	7
Wilmslow RUFC	Wilmslow	4	1	4	7
Manchester Metropolitan University RUFC	Nantwich	2	-	-	-
Total		30	7	25	39

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As seen, teams are fielded in Cheshire East by Manchester Metropolitan University. This demand previously used the University's Alsager Campus; however, following closure of that site to students, Crewe Vagrants Sports Club was accessed instead via an agreement with Crewe & Nantwich RUFC. The level of access has varied over recent years, but it is now limited to two men's teams (as well as a rugby league team), with other teams playing at locations in Manchester. In total, the University comprises of three senior men's and one senior women's team.

Also included in the figures above are one senior women's team, as fielded by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC as well four junior girls' teams that are recorded at Crewe & Nantwich RUFC (three) and Congleton RUFC (one). Although none of the other clubs field dedicated female teams, Sandbach RUFC has plans to develop a women's section and others do have girls playing within mixed mini teams.

The majority of teams are fielded within Congleton (34), which is reflective of the Analysis Area containing the most number of pitches as well as large clubs such as Congleton RUFC and Sandbach RUFC. No teams are fielded within Macclesfield, which is without community available provision, or Crewe (as Crewe & Nantwich RUFC plays in Nantwich).

Table 5.8: Summary of demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior (19+)	Colts' (18-19)	Junior (13-17)	Mini (6-12)
Congleton	12	3	7	12
Crewe	-	-	-	-
Knutsford	2	-	4	7
Macclesfield	-	-	-	-
Nantwich	8	2	6	6
Poynton	4	1	4	7
Wilmslow	4	1	4	7
Cheshire East	30	7	25	39

No latent or unmet demand is expressed by any of the clubs.

Training demand

Nationally, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed.

A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of floodlighting and there are five floodlit pitches within Cheshire East. Two are located at both Sandbach Rugby Club and Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) and one is located at both Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club).

In addition, Macclesfield Rugby Club also has access to a smaller sized, floodlit 3G pitch at Priory Park that is accessed for non-contact training. The floodlit grass pitch is used to accommodate all remaining training demand.

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One of the two floodlit pitches at Memorial Ground is used by Wilmslow RUFC for the majority of its training demand, with other floodlit pitch mostly reserved for matches. Likewise, Sandbach RUFC accesses one of its two floodlit pitches for its training, with the other being preferred for matches.

The floodlit pitch at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is used to accommodate all training demand from Manchester Metropolitan University and Crewe & Nantwich RUFC from August until October. From October onwards, following its development, the majority of training demand expressed by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC moved to the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College; however, because the pitch is yet to be World Rugby certified, some teams and especially the senior teams remained at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club.

Should the pitch become compliant in the future, as expected, all training demand expressed by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC is to transfer to Reaseheath College, although some demand will return during the spring and summer as floodlit provision is not required. Training demand expressed by Manchester Metropolitan University will remain at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club throughout the year.

The remaining clubs do not generally use match pitches for training. Instead, Knutsford RUFC accesses a floodlit area at Booths Hall and Acton Nomads RUFC does not train at all, although the Club is currently looking for a suitable venue. Congleton RUFC uses lighting attached to Congleton Leisure Centre to train on an unmarked piece of land at Hankinson's Field, although, as aforementioned, this is currently out of use due to development of the Leisure Centre.

Holmes Chapel RUFC uses a 3G pitch for training purposes, located at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, although this pitch is not World Rugby compliant and therefore no form of contact rugby should be played on the surface. Reports also suggest that Congleton High School claims that its new 3G pitch is World Rugby compliant, however, at the time of writing this report this is not the case. The RFU is monitoring the situation and any updates will be made accordingly.

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union.

A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality. The RFU investment strategy into AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites.

Additional usage

Senior pitches at the following sites are also dual use football pitches and, as such, their capacity to accommodate rugby is limited:

- ✦ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ✦ Malbank School and Sixth Form College
- ✦ Middlewich High School
- ✦ Sandbach School (Boys)

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- ◀ Sir William Stanier School
- ◀ St Thomas More Catholic High School

Although none of the above are in current use by rugby clubs, the pitches at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, Malbank School and Sixth Form College and Sir William Stanier School are available. Further to this, the pitch at Middlewich High School is available to the community for football purposes (and used by Middlewich Town FC) but not for rugby.

Education

Rugby union is traditionally a popular sport within independent schools as is the case in Cheshire East where it is particularly prominent at the King's School.

The RFU is also active in developing rugby union in local state schools through the All Schools programme launched in September 2012. The aim is to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union, with such schools linking to a local team of RFU Rugby Development Officers (RDOs). The RDO's deliver coaching sessions and support the schools to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme.

In Cheshire East, the majority of state schools have extensive rugby union activity that is highlighted by them having access to on-site pitches. As such, the following schools heavily involve rugby union within their sporting curriculum:

- ◀ All Hallows Catholic College
- ◀ Brine Lease School
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Fallibroome Academy
- ◀ Holmes Chapel High School
- ◀ Malbank School and Sixth Form College
- ◀ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ◀ St Thomas More Catholic High School
- ◀ Tytherington High School

Many of these schools also work closely with the RDO's to develop the sport and, as part of that, RFU community coaches enter the schools to deliver regular sessions. This particularly applies to St Thomas Catholic High School, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach School (Boys) and Congleton High School. Sir William Stanier School and Eaton Bank also previously had involvement with the RFU but this is no longer the case due to staff and priority changes within the schools.

In addition, Reaseheath College has an extensive rugby programme that will be further helped with the installation of a 3G pitch that is expected to become World Rugby compliant.

As previously mentioned, Manchester Metropolitan University fields three men's and one women's team as well as a men's rugby league team that all previously played within Cheshire East; however, some of this demand is now moving to Manchester following the closure of the Alsager Campus and the uncertainty over the Crewe Campus. Currently, two men's (and one rugby league team) play at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club; the remaining teams play at Manchester locations.

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The peak period

In order to establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be determined. Peak time for senior rugby union matches in Cheshire East is Saturday afternoons, although colt's, junior and mini teams also access senior pitches on Sundays.

Peak time for colt's rugby is Sunday afternoons, whereas it is Sunday mornings for junior and mini rugby. For women's and girls' rugby, peak time is considered to be Sunday afternoons.

5.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site-by-site analysis:

- ✦ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ✦ Use of school pitches by schools reduces potential capacity.
- ✦ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where dedicated mini and junior pitches are provided).
- ✦ From u13s upwards, teams play 15v15 and use a full pitch.
- ✦ Mini teams (u6-u12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch
- ✦ For senior and junior teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.
- ✦ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch.
- ✦ Senior rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ✦ Colt's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ✦ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ✦ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ✦ Women's and girls' rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ✦ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

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

Table 5.9: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

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

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Table 5.10: Rugby union provision and level of community use within Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
11	Back Lane	Congleton	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	2.5	1.5	1	A senior pitch that is used by Congleton RUFC and overplayed by one match equivalent session
				Junior	No	Poor	1.5	1.5		A junior pitch that is used by Congleton RUFC and played to capacity
12	Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	0.5	1.5	1	A senior pitch that is used by Acton Nomads RUFC with spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Congleton	Yes	Senior	No	Good	1	3.25	2.25	A senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC and generally reserved for first team fixtures with spare capacity of 2.25 match equivalent sessions
				Senior	Yes	Good	5	3	2	A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC to accommodate training demand. Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions
				Senior	Yes	Good	3	3		A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC mostly for matches and occasional training demand. Played to capacity.
				Senior	No	Good	2.25	3.25	1	A senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Senior	No	Good	2	3	1	A senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Junior	No	Good	2	3	1	A junior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Junior	No	Good	2	3	1	A junior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Mini	No	Good	1	3	2	A mini pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Mini	No	Good	1	3	2	A mini pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Mini	No	Good	1	3	2	A mini pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	Yes-unused	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	1	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match session; however, one match session of spare capacity remains
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	1	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match session; however, one match session of spare capacity remains
23	Congleton Park	Congleton	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	2	1.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is used by Congleton RUFC and overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	Yes	Senior	Yes	Good	5.5	2.75	2.75	A floodlit senior pitch that is used to accommodate training demand from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and Manchester Metropolitan University. Overplayed by 2.75 match equivalent sessions
				Senior	No	Good	2.5	3.25	1.25	A senior pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and generally reserved for first team fixtures. Spare capacity of 1.25 match equivalent sessions remains
				Senior	No	Good	4.5	3	1.5	A senior pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and also by Manchester Metropolitan University teams. Overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions
				Mini	No	Good	2	3	1	A mini pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Mini	No	Good	2	3	1	A mini pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Mini	No	Good	2	3	1	A mini pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	No	Senior	No	Poor	-	0.5	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
53	Hankinson's Field	Congleton	No	Senior	No	Standard	2	2		A senior pitch that has temporarily been taken out of use due to nearby developments. When in use, it is accessed by Congleton RUFC and played to capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	-	-		Unmarked areas that are used for mini rugby and are considered to be played to capacity
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Congleton	Yes	Senior	No	Standard	1	2	1	A senior pitch that is used by Holmes Chapel RUFC with one match equivalent sessions of spare capacity
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes-unused	Senior	No	Poor	-	-		A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
				Senior	No	Poor	-	0.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match session; however, 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity remain
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	1	1.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity
				Senior	No	Poor	1	1.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity
75	Malbank School And Sixth Form College	Nantwich	Yes-unused	Senior	No	Standard	-	-		A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	Senior	Yes	Good	3.5	3	0.5	A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC to mostly accommodate its match demand but also some training demand. Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions
				Senior	Yes	Good	3.5	3	0.5	A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC to accommodate its training demand. Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions
				Junior	No	Standard	2	2		A junior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC and used to capacity

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
83	Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre)	Congleton	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use. School and community football usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Poynton	Yes	Senior	Yes	Good	5.5	3	2.5	A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC to accommodate its training demand. Overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions
				Senior	No	Good	2	3	1	A senior pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Senior	No	Good	2	3	1	A senior pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Senior	No	Good	2	3	1	A senior pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match session of spare capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match session of spare capacity
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use. School usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
				Senior	No	Standard	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use. School usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
113	Sir William Stanier School	Crewe	Yes-unused	Senior	No	Poor	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use. School and community football usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	No	Senior	No	Poor	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use. School usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
125	The Kings School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
126	The Kings School (Derby Fields)	Poynton	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Junior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A junior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Junior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A junior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
127	The Kings School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	0.5	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	No	Senior	No	Poor	-	0.5	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	Yes	Senior	No	Standard	3.5	1	2.5	A senior pitch that is used by Knutsford RUFC and overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Junior	No	Standard	3	1	2	A senior pitch that is used by Knutsford RUFC and overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. School usage reduces capacity by one match session

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5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay in each of the analysis areas as well as in Cheshire East as a whole for senior rugby union based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on club development plans, where quantified, and includes future demand for mini, junior and colt's teams as it is presumed that these will access senior pitches.

Table 5.11: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁰	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand ²¹	Future total
Congleton	0.5	2.5	2	-	2
Crewe	-	-		-	
Knutsford	-	4.5	4.5	-	4.5
Macclesfield	-	-		-	
Nantwich	0.5	4.25	3.75	1	4.75
Poynton	-	2.25	2.25	1	3.25
Wilmslow	1	1		1.5	1.5
Cheshire East	2	14.5	12.5	3.5	16

Overall, there is a shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions identified on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand, with no analysis areas deemed to have spare capacity. The overall shortfall worsens when considering future demand, with a shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions recognised and again no analysis areas considered to have spare capacity.

To reduce shortfalls there is a clear need to alleviate overplay, which for the most part can be achieved through improving pitch quality and increasing dedicated, floodlit training provision. This is, however, less of an issue at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club providing the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College undergoes World Rugby certification and at Priory Park due to plans for the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. If both occur, all training demand from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and Macclesfield RUFC will transfer to the respective 3G pitches, thus alleviating overuse of grass pitches currently used by the clubs for training.

The identified overplay at Knutsford Academy cannot be fully alleviated through pitch quality improvements though it can be reduced. As such, the Club requires access to more pitches and the School's plans to acquire adjacent land to increase its pitch supply could therefore provide the ideal solution. There are no other rugby union pitches in Knutsford.

Spare capacity

'Actual spare capacity' has been ascertained following review of identified 'potential capacity' in Table 5.11. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

²⁰ In match equivalent sessions

²¹ As identified from club consultation

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Despite 14 senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play, only four are available for further use during the peak period for senior rugby (Saturday PM). As seen in the table below, this equates to two match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity, as opposed to 14 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity.

Table 5.12: Summary of actual spare capacity on senior pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Potential capacity	Actual capacity	Comments
12	Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	1	0.5	Currently used by just one senior team meaning actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Congleton	2.25	-	Used to capacity at peak time
			1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
			1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	1	1	No spare capacity considered due to school use
			1	1	No spare capacity considered due to school use
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	1.25	-	Used to capacity at peak time
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Congleton	1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	0.5	0.5	Currently used by just one senior team meaning actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	0.5	0.5	Currently used by just one senior team meaning actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains
			0.5	0.5	Currently used by just one senior team meaning actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Poynton	1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
			1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
			1	-	Used to capacity at peak time

The programming of junior and mini rugby union matches can be unclear in regards to ascertaining actual spare capacity, especially at peak time as the number of matches played varies from week to week. Teams do not play regular matches as part of a league format; rather, clubs enter cup competitions or organise for their younger age groups to play those from another club either at home or away and on a friendly basis.

When matches are not being played, teams will generally hold training sessions instead, meaning that mini and junior teams may require access to their home pitches for consecutive weeks whilst no away fixtures are organised. Consequently, it is presumed that no pitches used by mini or youth teams have significant actual spare capacity for an increase in demand, but it is acknowledged that some does exist when the pitches are not in use.

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Overplay

There are ten pitches across seven sites that are overplayed by a combined 14.75 match equivalent sessions.

Table 5.13: Overplay summary

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
11	Back Lane	Congleton	1
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Congleton	2
23	Congleton Park	Congleton	0.5
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	2.75
			1.5
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	Wilmslow	0.5
			0.5
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Poynton	2.5
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	2.5
			2
Total			14.75

Most overplay is recorded at Knutsford Academy, where pitches are overplayed due to the site offering a limited number of pitches to Knutsford RUFC when compared to clubs of a similar size. This is further exacerbated by school usage reducing capacity.

Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is overplayed first and foremost due to its floodlit pitch accommodating large amounts of training demand. This should reduce if the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College achieves World Rugby certification.

In contrast, the pitches at Congleton Park and Back Lane are overplayed because of their limited capacity due to being poor quality and this overplay will worsen with the temporary loss of Hankinson's Field. The remaining overplayed pitches (Sandbach Rugby Club, Memorial Ground and Priory Park) are used to accommodate training demand, which explains their excessive use as demand is more frequent and concentrated.

No dedicated mini or junior pitches are adjudged overplayed but that is not to say that they all have capacity for an increase in demand. As aforementioned, due to the nature of mini and junior rugby, it is unlikely that those pitches already accommodating such demand have actual spare capacity for a significant increase in demand.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, using population forecasts and housing growth. The Strategy Report will contain a range of Housing Growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing development.

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Population increases

In addition to planned club growth, team generation rates are used overleaf as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2030).

Table 5.14: Team generation rates (2030)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate ²²	Future population within age group (2030)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (19-45)	56,287	31	1:1816	54,316	29.9	0
Senior Women (19-45)	57,547	1	1:57547	53,537	0.9	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	13,135	26	1:505	13,859	27.4	1
Junior Girls (13-18)	12,707	2	1:6354	12,965	2.0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	24,551	39	1:630	26,265	41.7	2

As seen, an increase of one junior boys and two mini teams is predicted. Please note, however, that this does not take into account contextual events, such as the 2015 Rugby World Cup, or RFU initiatives that preceded and have followed the staging of the competition.

Participation increases

The following six clubs within Cheshire East express future demand:

- ✦ Acton Nomads RUFC
- ✦ Congleton RUFC
- ✦ Crewe & Nantwich RUFC
- ✦ Sandbach RUFC
- ✦ Macclesfield RUFC
- ✦ Wilmslow RUFC

Macclesfield RUFC reports an intention to expand by one additional colt's team in addition to the creation of a junior girls' section. The Club states that the condition of its clubhouse has prevented female participation in the past, which will no longer be a problem when it is redeveloped.

Crewe & Nantwich RUFC plans to increase by one senior men's team and one junior girls' team. The Club did previously field an additional men's team but this folded due to a lack of interest.

Wilmslow RUFC states that it expects to increase its number of teams by one senior men's (veterans'), one colts' and one junior boys' team.

Both Acton Nomads RUFC and Congleton RUFC also report future demand though neither quantify their potential increase due to current issues. This relates to Acton Nomads RUFC

²² Please note TGR figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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being without a clubhouse and to Congleton RUFC not being able to access Hankinson's Field.

Sandbach RUFC reports an intention to grow a female section within its club but does not state how many additional teams it expects to field. The Club also reports a lack of capacity may hinder potential growth.

Where quantified, total future demand reported by clubs equates to seven teams and 3.5 match equivalent sessions (one match session in both Nantwich and Poynton and 1.5 match equivalent sessions in Wilmslow). Neither Holmes Chapel RUFC nor Knutsford RUFC report any future demand.

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Rugby union summary

- ✦ Overall, there is a shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions identified on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand, which worsens when considering future demand, with a shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions recognised.
- ✦ Shortfalls are greatest in relation to Knutsford RUFC, where there is a considered need for access to more pitches or for new pitches to be provided.
- ✦ Remaining shortfalls can be addressed through pitch quality improvements and/or through access to increased dedicated floodlit training provision, particularly in relation to Congleton RUFC, Sandbach RUFC and Wilmslow RUFC.
- ✦ Reaseheath College becoming World Rugby compliant (still to undergo testing) will alleviate shortfalls at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, whereas the provision of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Priory Park (subject to planning and funding) will alleviate shortfalls relating to Macclesfield RUFC.
- ✦ There are 23 sites containing 43 senior, nine junior and ten mini rugby union pitches, of which, 28 senior, five junior and all mini pitches are available for community use.
- ✦ Hankinson's Field, which contains one senior pitch, an unmarked training area and areas for mini rugby, has been temporarily taken out of use as the site is required as an access point for the development of Congleton Leisure Centre.
- ✦ There are two disused senior rugby union pitches located at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus).
- ✦ Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is to undergo a development (subject to planning and funding) that will result in one of its senior pitches being replaced by a full size, floodlit, World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ✦ Knutsford Academy, working alongside Knutsford RUFC, has identified adjacent land that it wishes to acquire so that it can increase its supply of rugby union pitches.
- ✦ The King's School plans to provide five additional rugby union pitches at Derby Fields as part of its consolidation of the site; however, both the pitch at Fence Avenue and the pitch at Westminster Road will be lost.
- ✦ Holmes Chapel RUFC has only ten years remaining on its licence of Holmes Chapel Community Centre and tenure is also considered to be unsecure for Knutsford RUFC at Knutsford Academy as no community use agreement is in place.
- ✦ Of the community available pitches, 22 are assessed as good quality, 12 are assessed as standard quality and nine are assessed as poor quality.
- ✦ Acton Nomads RUFC are currently without a clubhouse, whereas Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield, Knutsford and Wilmslow rugby clubs all report development plans or issues with their changing facilities.
- ✦ Eight rugby union clubs play within Cheshire East consisting of 99 teams, which as a breakdown equates to 28 senior, seven colts', 25 junior and 39 mini teams.
- ✦ Sandbach, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield and Wilmslow rugby clubs all train on match pitches using floodlighting.
- ✦ Acton Nomads RUFC is currently without a training venue despite attempts to find a suitable location.
- ✦ Five clubs report future demand, which, where quantified, amounts to two senior men's, two colts, one junior boys' and two junior girls' teams.
- ✦ There are ten pitches across seven sites that are overplayed by a combined 14.75 match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ Despite 14 senior pitches across nine sites displaying potential spare capacity, only four are available for further use during the peak period for senior rugby (Saturday PM).

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PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

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

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

Table 6.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

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

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

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

Club consultation

There are currently seven hockey clubs fielding teams within Cheshire East and all seven responded to consultation requests resulting in a 100% response rate. Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Wilmslow hockey clubs responded via an online survey, whereas Triton HC engaged in a telephone consultation.

6.2: Supply

There are currently 16 full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East. The majority of the pitches are floodlit, although Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre and South Cheshire College are not.

As seen in the table below, all of the full size AGPs are available for community use, however, Shavington Leisure Centre, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, South Cheshire College and Macclesfield Academy are not in current use by hockey clubs and the latter two are without hockey goals.

Table 6.2: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Flood-lit?	Comm use?	Hockey use?	Size (metres)
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
6	Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	Congleton	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 63
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Knutsford	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Nantwich	No	Yes	No	110 x 60
109	Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	Congleton	No	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	No	100 x 60
114	South Cheshire College	Crewe	No	Yes	No	100 x 60
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	Wilmslow	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
128	The Macclesfield Academy	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	No	100 x 65
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	Yes	Yes	Yes	105 x 60
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Wilmslow	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60

The majority of full size AGPs are located in Congleton and Macclesfield (both contain four), whereas there are no full size pitches in Poynton and only one is located in Knutsford. Two pitches service both Crewe and Nantwich, whilst three service Wilmslow.

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Table 6.3: Full size hockey suitable AGPs by location

Analysis area	Full size hockey suitable AGPs
Congleton	4
Crewe	2
Knutsford	1
Macclesfield	4
Nantwich	2
Poynton	-
Wilmslow	3
Cheshire East	16

In addition, there are also 15 smaller sized AGPs suitable for hockey use, as seen in the table below. Although too small to host competitive matches, they can be accessed to accommodate some training demand, especially the larger ones such as Ruskin Community high School and Terra Nova School. Of the pitches, ten are available to the community and nine of those are floodlit (only the Oaks Academy is not).

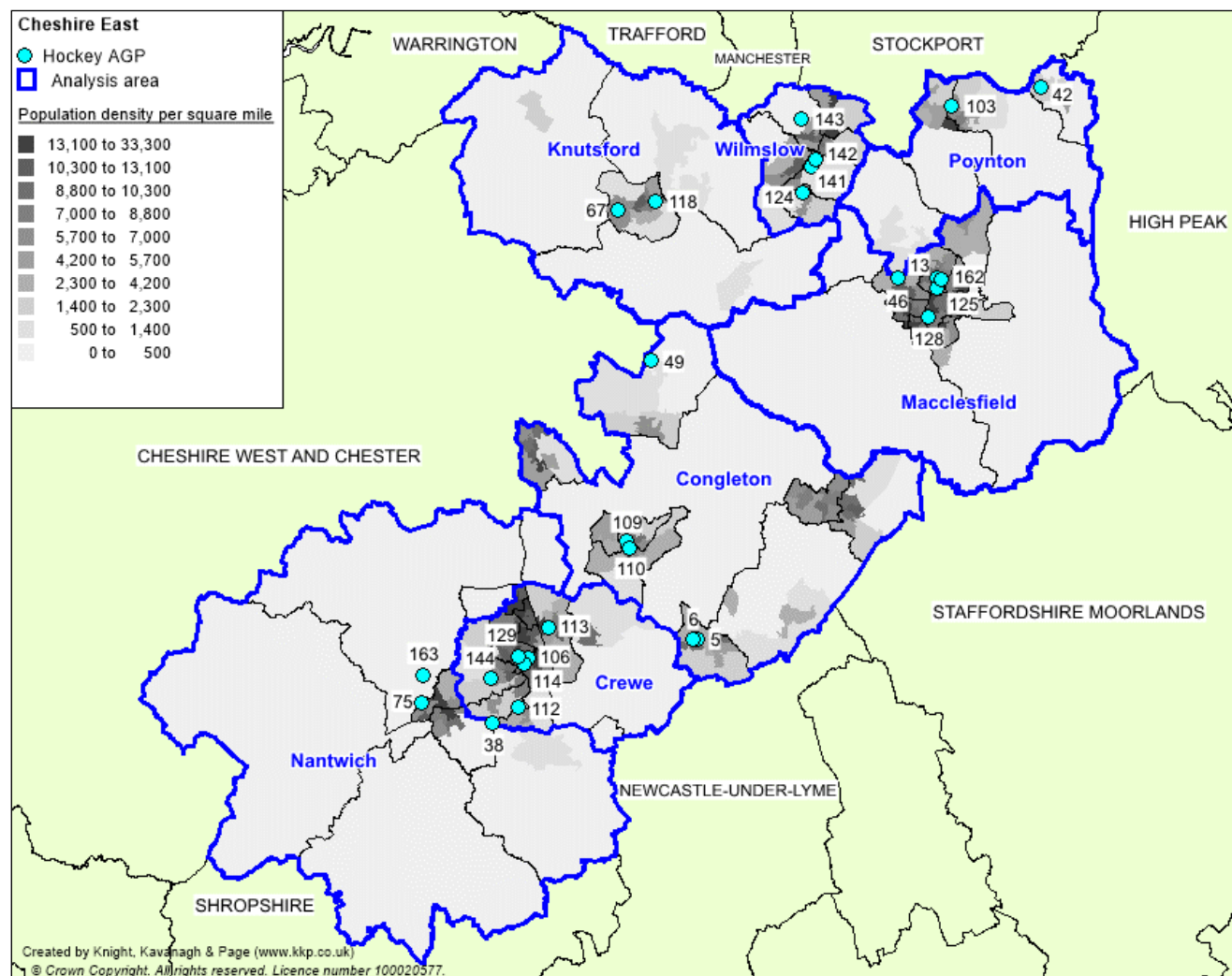
Table 6.4: Summary of smaller sized hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Comm use?	Flood-lit?	Size (metres)
13	Beech Hall School	Macclesfield	No	Yes	30 x 20
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Poynton	Yes	Yes	45 x 35
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Congleton	Yes	Yes	45 x 35
90	Nantwich Primary Academy	Nantwich	No	No	70 x 40
94	Nuffield Fitness and Wellbeing Centre	Knutsford	No	Yes	30 x 20
97	Parkroyal Community School	Macclesfield	No	No	40 x 30
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton	Yes	Yes	60 x 30
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	Yes	Yes	78 x 40
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	55 x 35
118	St John's Wood Community School	Knutsford	No	No	25 x 20
122	Terra Nova School	Congleton	Yes	Yes	80 x 45
127	The King's School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	No	80 x 45
129	The Oaks Academy	Crewe	Yes	No	85 x 30
142	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	25 x 20

Please refer to Figure 6.1 overleaf for the location of all hockey suitable AGPs, regardless of size.

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Figure 6.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East



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Future developments

A planning approval has been granted at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will involve replacing the existing sand-based AGP with a new sand-based AGP as well as a clubhouse that will include changing rooms and catering facilities. It is expected that the new provision will enable Triton HC to make the site its home base, using it for the majority of its matches whilst accessing Alsager Leisure Centre as an overspill venue.

The King's School has planning approval to move from its existing three sites at Cumberland Ave, Fence Ave and Westminster Road onto one site at Derby Fields. The approved plans will provide two full size, floodlit, sand-based AGPs as part of its consolidation to Derby Fields. This is to replace the existing pitches at Westminster Road. It is hoped by the School that a double pitch site will encourage a club to make it a home base, rather than just using it as a secondary venue. Conversations are ongoing with Alderley Edge HC and Macclesfield HC regarding this.

Management

The following full size AGPs are located at educational sites and are managed in house:

- ✦ Fallibroome Academy
- ✦ Malbank School & Sixth Form College
- ✦ Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)
- ✦ Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)
- ✦ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ✦ South Cheshire College
- ✦ The King's School (Westminster Road)
- ✦ The Macclesfield Academy
- ✦ Tytherington High School
- ✦ Wilmslow High School

Alsager Leisure Centre, Knutsford Leisure Centre and Shavington Leisure Centre are also located at educational sites; however, Everybody Sport and Recreation manages them under a dual use agreement. Similarly, The Edge Hockey Centre is owned by Ryleys School but is leased to and managed by Alderley Edge HC in an agreement that has 26 years remaining.

As for the remaining pitches, the respective clubs manage both Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club internally. Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is owned, whereas Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is leased from the Council (25 years remaining).

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this calculation, all full size AGPs in Cheshire East are readily available to the community, with all pitches available for at least 25 and a half hours during the peak period and seven pitches available throughout (34 hours).

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The King's School (Westminster Road) is open for the least amount of time (25.5 hours), partly due to limited opening hours during the weekend. It must also be noted that, despite extensive opening hours, Sandbach School and Sixth Form College (Girls), South Cheshire College (both 31.5 hours) and Malbank School and Sixth Form College (29 hours) are not floodlit and this therefore impacts on the amount of use that can be accommodated.

Despite theoretically being available to the community for the full 34 hours during the peak period, Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) is currently limited to existing club users and therefore will not be hired out for any additional use over what is presently received. The University is selling the site and a replacement sand-based AGP is expected to be provided under new management with different community use aspects.

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Table 6.5: Availability of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments	Hockey club users
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	29	Reserved for private use during the week until 18:00 Monday to Thursday and until 17:00 on Fridays. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Thursday, from 17:00 until 22:00 on Fridays, from 09:00 until 22:00 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 16:00 on Sundays. No floodlighting is allowed on a Sunday.	Triton HC
6	Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	34	Theoretically available to the community from 09:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 20:00 Saturday and Sunday, however, bookings are only taken from select users and must be block bookings.	Triton HC
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	34	Available to the community from 08:30 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Crewe Vagrants HC
46	Fallibroome Academy	29	Reserved for private use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Alderley Edge HC
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	30	Reserved for private use until 17:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, from 12:00 until 18:00 on Saturdays and from 10:00 until 18:00 on Sundays.	Knutsford HC
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	29	Reserved for private use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:30 Monday to Friday and from 08:30 until 22:30 Saturday to Sunday, however, a lack of floodlighting makes these times obsolete during winter months.	-

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Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments	Hockey club users
109	Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	31.5	Reserved for private use until 17:30 during the week. Available to the community from 17:30 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 17:30 Saturday to Sunday, however, a lack of floodlighting makes these times obsolete during winter months.	Sandbach HC
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	29	Reserved for private use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Sandbach HC
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	34	Hired by Shavington High School until 17:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, from 09:00 until 19:00 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 20:00 on Sundays.	-
114	South Cheshire College	31.5	Reserved for private use until 16:30 during the week. Available to the community from 16:30 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, from 09:00 until 17:30 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 16:30 on Sundays, however, a lack of floodlighting makes these times obsolete during winter months.	-
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	34	Available to the community from 09:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Alderley Edge HC
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	25.5	Reserved for private use until 17:30 during the week. Available to the community from 17:30 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 12:00 until 21:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Alderley Edge HC; Macclesfield HC; Wilmslow HC
128	The Macclesfield Academy	31.5	Reserved for private use until 17:30 during the week. Available to the community from 17:30 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 21:00 Saturday to Sunday.	-

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Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments	Hockey club users
141	Wilmslow High School	34	Reserved for private use until 17:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Alderley Edge HC
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	34	Available to the community from 09:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Wilmslow HC
162	Tytherington High School	34	Reserved for private use until 17:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Macclesfield HC

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Both Alsager Leisure Centre and Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) are accessed by Triton HC, which splits its usage across the two sites. That being said, the majority of usage is expected to transfer to Manchester Metropolitan University should development plans go ahead.

The Edge Hockey Centre, the King's School (Westminster Road), Fallibroome Academy and Wilmslow High School are all accessed by Alderley Edge HC. The Club uses the Edge Hockey Centre as its main venue and the others as secondary venues.

The King's School (Westminster Road) is also accessed by Wilmslow HC and Macclesfield HC as a secondary venue. Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is the main pitch used by Wilmslow HC, whereas Tytherington High School is the main pitch used by Macclesfield HC.

Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls) and Sandbach School (Boys) are both accessed by Sandbach HC. The former is generally used for matches, whereas the latter is used for training.

Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Knutsford Leisure Centre are accessed by Crewe Vagrants HC and Knutsford HC respectively, with the former provided with priority access.

To reiterate, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Shavington Leisure Centre, South Cheshire College and Macclesfield Academy are not accessed by hockey clubs; however, that is not to say that they are unused. Usage of sand-based AGPs is also common for football and all full size pitches within Cheshire East have recorded football activity taking place on them. The majority of this use is for training purposes, although sites such as Shavington Leisure Centre also run small-sided leagues that take further potential capacity away from hockey users.

Both Malbank School and Sixth Form College and South Cheshire College are without floodlighting, which impacts on availability and makes them less desirable for hockey club access, especially for midweek training purposes. The latter is also without hockey goals, as is Macclesfield Academy, which therefore make hockey use impossible. Shavington Leisure Centre is considered poor quality and thus unsuitable for hockey use.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that many providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed.

The following table indicates when each full size pitch was installed or last resurfaced within Cheshire East, together with an agreed quality rating following non-technical assessments and user consultation.

Table 6.6: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	1995	Poor
6	Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	Congleton	1990	Poor
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	2013	Good

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	2005	Standard
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Knutsford	2003	Poor
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Nantwich	2001	Poor
109	Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	Congleton	2004	Standard
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	2003	Standard
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	Crewe	2004	Poor
114	South Cheshire College	Crewe	2011	Good
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	Wilmslow	2011	Good
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	2012	Good
128	The Macclesfield Academy	Macclesfield	1990	Poor
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	2007	Standard
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Wilmslow	2007	Standard
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	2007	Standard

As evidenced above, there is a clear need for a number of AGPs to be resurfaced. The following facilities have exceeded their recommended lifespan:

- ✦ Alsager Leisure Centre
- ✦ Knutsford Leisure Centre
- ✦ Malbank School and Sixth Form College
- ✦ Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)
- ✦ Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre
- ✦ Sandbach School
- ✦ Shavington Leisure Centre
- ✦ The Macclesfield Academy

Of these, Alsager Leisure Centre, Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus), Knutsford Leisure Centre, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Shavington Leisure Centre and the Macclesfield Academy are rated as poor quality, with issues such as wear and tear, worn line markings and poor drainage prevalent.

As previously mentioned, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Shavington Leisure Centre and the Macclesfield Academy are without hockey use, whereas quality issues at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) will be corrected once the planned redevelopment of the pitch goes ahead.

Fallibroome Academy, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre and Sandbach School are assessed as standard quality, despite their age, as there are less signs of wear and tear. Nevertheless, refurbishment in the near future is still recommended to prevent further deterioration and to ensure long-term accessibility.

All remaining pitches are within their lifespan, with Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, South Cheshire College (albeit there is no hockey use), the Edge Hockey Centre and the King's School (Westminster Road) assessed as good quality. If not already in place, a sinking fund should be set up at these sites to ensure funds are available for ongoing repairs as well as eventual resurfacing.

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Ancillary provision

All full size AGPs within Cheshire East are serviced by changing provision that ranges from basic changing facilities and toilets at the majority of sites to more extensive clubhouse facilities that include a bar and kitchen at sites such as Crewe Vagrants Sports Club. A large clubhouse also services Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club; however, the building is currently being renovated due to its dated interior.

A common issue raised by users of other sites is that their social space is located separate to their pitches. For example, Alderley Edge HC currently accesses Alderley Edge Cricket Club as a home base, whereas Triton HC uses Alsager Cricket Club and Macclesfield HC uses Macclesfield Cricket Club. This is because there is no suitable space offered to the clubs at the sites that they use for matches.

Alderley Edge HC rates the changing provision servicing the Edge Hockey Centre as poor quality, as does Sandbach HC in relation to the facilities at Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls). Club users rate all remaining changing facilities as standard.

Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is currently attempting to acquire funding to improve its car park, both in terms of quality and size.

6.3: Demand

There are currently seven clubs fielding teams in Cheshire East, all of which are large clubs with several senior and junior teams for both males and females. Combined, the clubs contribute a membership of 402 senior men, 280 senior women and 1,092 juniors and consist of 28 senior men's teams, 24 senior women's teams and 25 junior teams.

Please note that these figures, and the table below, only take into consideration teams playing within Cheshire East and therefore do not account for teams fielded by the same clubs in other local authorities (exported demand).

Table 6.7: Summary of teams playing in Cheshire East

Name of club	No. of teams				No. of members		
	Men's	Women's	Junior		Men's	Women's	Junior
Alderley Edge HC	7	7	6		109	57	470
Crewe Vagrants HC	4	4	5		66	61	105
Knutsford HC	3	1	1		50	13	53
Macclesfield HC	4	4	4		53	41	99
Sandbach HC	2	1	3		20	33	144
Triton HC	4	3	4		45	28	136
Wilmslow HC	4	4	2		59	47	85
Total	28	24	25		402	280	1092

Alderley Edge HC is the largest club, both in terms of its number of teams (20) and its number of members (636). The smallest club is Knutsford HC (five teams and 116 members). The majority of teams are fielded in Wilmslow (25), whereas the least amount of teams play in Poynton (none) as it is not serviced by a pitch. There are five teams playing in Knutsford, 13 in Nantwich, 17 in Congleton and 18 in Macclesfield. No teams play in Crewe (as Crewe Vagrants HC plays in Nantwich).

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Table 6.8: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of teams		
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
Congleton	6	4	7
Crewe	-	-	-
Knutsford	3	1	1
Macclesfield	6	6	6
Nantwich	4	4	5
Poynton	-	-	-
Wilmslow	9	9	6
Cheshire East	28	24	25

Participation trends

Of the current clubs, Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Sandbach and Triton hockey clubs have all increased their number of members over the previous three years, whereas only Knutsford HC has experienced a reduction after its second senior women's team folded.

Junior participation has also experienced an overall increase within the clubs during this time span. Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Knutsford, Sandbach and Wilmslow hockey clubs have grown their junior sections, whilst only Macclesfield HC consists of less junior members now than it did in 2013.

Nationally, since 2012, hockey has seen a 65% increase of juniors taking up hockey within the club environment. This increase is expected to continue across all age groups in the future, especially given the success of Great Britain's women's team in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Exported demand

Wilmslow HC occasionally accesses Cheadle Hulme School, in Stockport. This is due to a lack of capacity at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and due to the Club competing with Alderley Edge HC and Macclesfield HC for access to its preferred secondary venues, the King's School (Westminster Road) or Wilmslow High School.

Although not displaced from Cheshire East, it must also be noted that Wilmslow HC fields teams in Macclesfield, at the King's School, despite the club being based in Wilmslow and the same applies to Alderley Edge HC. This is seen as less than ideal by the clubs due to the travel involved.

Manchester Metropolitan University previously fielded its teams at its Alsager Campus until the site closed down to its students. Demand then transferred to Crewe Vagrants Sports Club but matches are now played at venues in and around Manchester. The University, given the uncertainty surrounding the future of its Crewe Campus, prefers this.

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Latent demand

Clubs were asked if they had more AGPs would they have more teams. Wilmslow HC reports that it could have an additional eight teams (four senior and four junior), Alderley Edge HC four teams (two senior and two junior), Macclesfield HC two teams (both senior) and Crewe Vagrants HC an additional one team (senior). This suggests that access to pitches is a major issue affecting the growth of the clubs.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's strategic plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, working with regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, EH has an aim to double participation over the next ten years.

EH applies a growth rate to current affiliated membership numbers to determine anticipated increases in future demand. The predicted growth rate for Cheshire East based clubs is 15% and the table below uses this to determine potential growth.

Table 6.9: Predicted future club based membership based on growth rate

Club name	Current senior members	Future senior members (15% growth rate)	Current junior members	Future junior members (15% growth rate)	Total future members
Alderley Edge HC	166	191	470	540	731
Crewe Vagrants HC	127	146	105	121	267
Knutsford HC	63	72	53	61	133
Macclesfield HC	94	108	99	114	222
Sandbach HC	53	61	144	166	227
Triton HC	73	84	136	156	240
Wilmslow HC	106	122	85	98	210
Total	682	794	1092	1256	2030

In addition, five of the Cheshire East based clubs express future demand. Both Alderley Edge HC and Sandbach HC aspire to increase by one senior men's and one senior women's team as well as one junior team, whereas Knutsford HC reports that it expects to grow an additional two junior teams. This growth amounts to 33 members at Alderley Edge HC, 32 members at Sandbach HC and 20 members at Knutsford HC.

Triton HC and Crewe Vagrants HC also report future demand, however, neither club quantifies their potential growth. Crewe Vagrants HC states that it cannot forecast its increase as there is no further capacity on its pitch, meaning any new teams will have to play elsewhere. Triton HC does not quantify its increase because of the uncertainty surrounding Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus).

Usage

The table below shows all available sites with full size hockey suitable AGP provision and a summary of use at each site against the peak period (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Table 6.9: Summary of usage

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Hockey Club users	Other usage	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	29	Triton HC	Football training	Eight hours of available capacity exist during the week, the majority of which is on Mondays and Fridays. The pitch is accessed on a Saturday by Triton HC for junior training, whilst all midweek demand is football related.	Used by Triton HC for six hours on a Saturday and four hours on a Sunday. No further weekend demand is recorded.
6	Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	34	Triton HC	-	No available capacity is considered to exist as bookings are only taken from select users. Currently, the site is used by Triton HC for two hours on a Wednesday for training purposes. No other midweek demand is known to exist.	Used by Triton HC for two hours on a Saturday. No further weekend demand is recorded.
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	34	Crewe Vagrants HC	Football training; Small sided football leagues	Used by Crewe Vagrants HC for four hours on a Tuesday and three hours on a Wednesday. Remaining midweek capacity is taken up by football, although the hockey club has priority access if it needs to increase its usage.	Used by Crewe Vagrants HC to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and two hours on a Sunday. All remaining capacity on a Sunday is used to host small-sided football leagues.
46	Fallibroome Academy	29	Alderley Edge HC	Football training	Currently unused for training purposes by hockey clubs. Some spare capacity exists within the peak period on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, with remaining usage coming from football clubs.	Used by Alderley Edge HC for six hours on a Saturday. No further use or Sunday use is recorded within the peak period, although Sunday usage is recorded afterwards in the form of a small-sided football league.
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	30	Knutsford HC	Football training	Used by Knutsford HC for two hours on a Wednesday. Spare capacity is considered to exist across each week day for an increase in demand, with only some football use otherwise recorded.	Used by Knutsford HC for four hours on a Saturday and for two hours on a Sunday. No further weekend use is recorded.
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	29	-	Football training	No hockey use recorded. Limited football demand exists although availability is restricted as there is no floodlighting.	Unused for hockey purposes and completely unused most weekends.
109	Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	31.5	Sandbach HC	-	Currently unused by hockey clubs for training purposes due to a lack of floodlighting. No other regular demand is recorded during mid-week.	Used by Sandbach HC for four hours on a Saturday and for two hours on a Sunday. No other regular weekend demand is recorded.
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	29	Sandbach HC	Football training	Accessed by Sandbach HC for two hours on Thursdays for training purposes. The majority of remaining capacity is taken up by football, although one hour remains on Mondays and three hours remain on Fridays.	Unused for hockey purposes and completely unused most weekends.
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	34	-	Football training; Small sided football leagues	No hockey use recorded. Only minimal availability exists as the pitch is used to capacity via football during mid-week.	Unused for hockey purposes. Used to host small-sided football leagues on a Sunday from 2pm. No regular demand is recorded on a Saturday.
114	South Cheshire College	31.5	-	Football training; American football training	No hockey use recorded. Limited football demand exists although availability is restricted as there is no floodlighting.	Unused for hockey purposes and completely unused most weekends.
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	34	Alderley Edge HC	-	Alderley Edge HC uses the site to capacity during midweek for training purposes.	Used by Alderley Edge HC to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and six hours on a Sunday. No further weekend use is recorded.

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Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Hockey Club users	Other usage	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	25.5	Alderley Edge HC; Macclesfield HC; Wilmslow HC	Football training	No regular access is recorded by hockey clubs for training purposes although it is heavily used by the School for this reason. Spare capacity exists on Mondays and Fridays as well as two slots on Tuesdays. All recorded community use during midweek is football related.	Used by all three clubs to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and for four hours on a Sunday. No further weekend use is recorded.
128	The Macclesfield Academy	31.5	-	Football training; Small sided football leagues	Around 14 hours of available capacity exist during the week, although this unsuitable for hockey clubs due to no hockey goals being provided. All current use is football related.	Unused for hockey purposes and only sporadically used for football purposes.
141	Wilmslow High School	34	Alderley Edge HC	Football training; Tennis coaching; Fitness classes;	Used for training by Alderley Edge HC although irregular. Remaining capacity used by football clubs although sporadic use comes from tennis and fitness clubs. The only midweek capacity remaining exists on Fridays.	Used by Alderley Edge HC for four hours on a Saturday. No other, regular demand is recorded.
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	34	Wilmslow HC	Football training; Lacrosse training;	Used by Wilmslow HC for two hours on both Tuesdays and Wednesday for training purposes. Remaining capacity is taken up by football users as well as lacrosse demand. Minimal capacity remains on Fridays.	Used by Wilmslow HC to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and for four hours on a Sunday. No other regular demand is recorded.
162	Tytherington High School	34	Macclesfield HC	Football training	Used by Macclesfield HC on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for training purposes. Remaining capacity is taken up by football users, although some minimal capacity remains on Mondays and Fridays.	Used by Macclesfield HC to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and for four hours on a Sunday. No other regular demand is recorded.

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6.4: Supply and demand analysis

Despite spare capacity being shown overall for matchplay purposes, it is not realistic to aggregate this into a general oversupply of hockey pitches. The landscape of the sport in Cheshire East shows that some pitches are leased by clubs, and the travel time between pitches can be greater than in other local authorities, meaning it is not necessarily viable or feasible for a club to transfer demand to sites with potential spare capacity.

The picture is also different when considering training demand as many pitches are used to capacity during midweek, whilst those that have capacity are generally only available on Mondays and Fridays, which are undesirable times given their close proximity to weekend matches. This means that clubs such as Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and Macclesfield hockey clubs have limited availability for an increase in training demand.

The priority, therefore, should be to protect or mitigate the loss of any of the 12 pitches currently in use by hockey clubs. To that end, it is imperative that Alsager Leisure Centre and Knutsford Leisure Centre are refurbished and continue to provide a hockey suitable surface as they have both reached the end of their lifespan, have been assessed as poor quality and are in use by hockey clubs. Likewise, both Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (girls) and Sandbach School (boys) will require imminent resurfacing as they are beyond ten years old albeit currently assessed as standard quality.

Precedence should also be placed on accommodating expressed exported, latent and future demand as well as increased demand stemming from growth rates, which, in at least one aspect, relates to each club based in Cheshire East. Knutsford, Triton and Sandbach hockey clubs report that all of their demand can be accommodated on their current pitches, however, Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs will have to utilise spare capacity at alternative venues or new provision will be required.

Shavington Leisure Centre is considered to have spare capacity for an increase in usage on a Saturday and offers a viable option for Crewe Vagrants HC, should the Club be willing to access a secondary venue, although the pitch will have to be resurfaced as it is currently unsuitable for hockey use due to its poor quality. The Macclesfield Academy provides an option to the remaining clubs, although hockey goals will need to be provided and again quality will need to improve. The location is also not ideal for the Wilmslow based clubs (Alderley Edge HC and Wilmslow HC).

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

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

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

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

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

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

Hockey summary

- ◀ **Due to the landscape of hockey within Cheshire East, the priority should be to protect or mitigate the loss of any of the 12 pitches currently in use by hockey clubs.**
- ◀ **Precedence should also be placed on accommodating expressed displaced, latent and future demand, which, in at least one aspect, relates to each club.**
- ◀ There are currently 16 full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East. The majority of the pitches are floodlit, although Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls) and South Cheshire College are not.
- ◀ All of the full size AGPs are available for community use, however, four are currently unused for hockey purposes and two are without hockey goals.
- ◀ In addition, there are also 15 smaller sized AGPs suitable for hockey use, which, although too small to host competitive matches, can be used to accommodate some training demand.
- ◀ A planning application is in place at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will involve replacing the existing sand-based AGP with a new sand-based AGP as well as a clubhouse that will include changing rooms and catering facilities.
- ◀ The King's School plans to provide two full size, floodlit AGPs as part of its consolidation to Derby Fields, rather than the one full size and one smaller sized pitch that currently service the School.
- ◀ All full size AGPs are readily available to the community during the peak period, as identified by Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM).
- ◀ Eight of the full size AGPs have reached the end of their lifespan and therefore require resurfacing.
- ◀ There are currently seven clubs fielding teams in Cheshire East. Combined, the clubs contribute a membership of 402 senior men, 280 senior women and 1,092 juniors and consist of 28 senior men's teams, 24 senior women's teams and 25 junior teams.
- ◀ Wilmslow HC expresses exported demand as it occasionally accesses Cheadle Hulme High School, in Stockport, due a lack of pitch capacity within Cheshire East.
- ◀ Wilmslow, Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Crewe Vagrants hockey clubs express latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitches were available to them.
- ◀ Five of the Cheshire East based clubs express future demand, which, where quantified, equates to four senior teams and four junior teams.
- ◀ EH applies a growth rate to current affiliated membership numbers and for Cheshire East this is 15%, which results in a predicted combined growth of 256 members to 2,030 members in the future.

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PART 7: LACROSSE

7.1: Introduction

Lacrosse is a contact sport played using a small rubber ball and long-handled stick to catch and hold the lacrosse ball. It is governed nationally by English Lacrosse, which has the role of controlling, promoting and developing the sport nationally. Competitive matches are played on grass pitches or artificial grass pitches (110x60 metres). For community clubs, fixtures run from September through until April.

Participation in lacrosse in Cheshire East is currently limited to two clubs located to the north of the Borough, however, English Lacrosse are keen to expand further, specifically into Macclesfield and the surrounding areas.

Club consultation

Both Poynton Lacrosse Club and Wilmslow Lacrosse Club were consulted via an online survey.

7.2: Supply

There are seven senior lacrosse pitches in Cheshire East located across three sites, all of which are available for community use. There are four pitches at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, two pitches at Poynton Sports Club and one pitch at Mount Vernon.

There are no dedicated pitches for junior teams, which instead play on senior pitches that are shortened through temporary line markings or with cones.

Table 7.1: Summary of lacrosse pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of senior pitches
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton	2
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Wilmslow	4
249	Mount Vernon	Poynton	1

Management

Both Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and Poynton Sports Club are managed internally by the respective clubs. Poynton Sports Club is owned, whereas Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is leased from the Council in an agreement that has 25 years remaining. Mount Vernon is owned and managed by the Council.

Wilmslow Lacrosse Club is a club that forms part of Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and only accesses the pitches at this site. Likewise, Poynton Lacrosse Club is a club that forms part of Poynton Sports Club; however, the Club also accesses the pitch at Mount Vernon through a yearly rental agreement.

Pitch quality

Sport England guidance does not include lacrosse and therefore quality has instead been determined via consultation with the clubs as well as through site visits on a scale of good, standard or poor.

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Both Poynton Lacrosse Club and Wilmslow Lacrosse Club rate the pitches at their main grounds (Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club respectively) as standard quality. All pitches at these sites are considered flat, with adequate drainage, although it is acknowledged that maintenance could be improved.

In contrast, Mount Vernon is considered to poor quality by Poynton Lacrosse Club. The site suffers from drainage issues, poor grass coverage and an undulating surface that makes it dangerous for players.

Ancillary facilities

Both Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Club are serviced by extensive clubhouse facilities that include numerous changing rooms, a bar, a kitchen and a large social area.

The facilities at Poynton Sports Club are considered good quality, compared to the facilities at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club that are considered to be poor quality, albeit renovation is currently taking place to modernise the building.

There are no changing facilities servicing Mount Vernon, which is identified as an issue by Phoenix Lacrosse Club, particularly as it is currently trying to grow its female section and has increasing demand for access to the site.

7.3: Demand

Poynton Lacrosse Club currently fields three senior men's teams, an u19s development team, three junior boys' teams (u16s, u14s and u12s) and one junior girls' team (u13s).

Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields two senior men's teams, one senior women's team, an u19s development team and three junior boys' teams (u16s, u14s and u12s).

Table 7.2: Summary of teams

Club name	Analysis area	No. of teams			
		Senior men's (19-45)	Senior women's (19-45)	Junior boys' (10-18)	Junior girls' (10-18)
Poynton Lacrosse Club	Poynton	4	-	3	1
Wilmslow Lacrosse Club	Wilmslow	3	1	3	-

At a senior level, both clubs currently compete in the North of England Men's Lacrosse Association (NEMLA) and various cup competitions and both have been successful in recent years not only regionally but also nationally. In addition, both clubs have also produced players that play or have played internationally.

Training

Both clubs use AGPs at their home ground to accommodate the majority of training demand, particularly during winter months as this saves the grass pitches from added wear. Poynton Sports Club contains a smaller sized sand-based AGP that measures 60x30 metres, whereas Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club contains a full sized sand-based AGP (100x60 metres). Both facilities are floodlit and neither has capacity issues.

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Latent demand

Poynton Lacrosse Club illustrated that it could field up to an additional four junior teams if it had more available pitches. This suggests that it uses its current pitches to capacity at peak time, meaning a lack of pitches is hindering potential growth.

No latent demand was expressed by Wilmslow Lacrosse Club.

Exported demand

Due to the format of the competition for u19s teams, both Poynton Lacrosse Club and Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields its development team outside of Cheshire East at a central venue in Trafford. Although technically displaced demand, this is preferred by the clubs due to the level of competition accessed and the lack of an alternative.

Future demand

Poynton Lacrosse Club expresses high levels of future demand, particular in terms of female participation as this is a key part of its development plan. In total, the Club plans to grow by one senior men's, one senior women's and two junior girls' teams over the next three years.

Wilmslow Lacrosse Club also expresses future demand equating to two junior teams, both of which may be junior girls' teams. The Club currently has a number of females participating in training sessions and playing as part of junior boys' teams, albeit there is not currently enough demand for a girls' only team to be created.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

As Mount Vernon is assessed as poor quality, improvements are required to sustain future use of the pitch for Poynton Lacrosse Club.

Consideration must also be given to providing Poynton Lacrosse Club with access to more pitches given the high levels of latent and future demand it expresses. An alternative to creating new grass pitches for the Club could be to encourage access to a full size 3G pitch, which is becoming increasingly common for lacrosse clubs nationally.

As Wilmslow Lacrosse Club does not express any latent demand and as it has access to more pitches, it is considered that the Club has enough to provision to accommodate both current and future demand.

To conclude, a shortfall of pitches is identified in relation to Poynton Lacrosse Club, whereas supply servicing Wilmslow Lacrosse Club is deemed to be sufficient.

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Lacrosse summary

- ◀ **Consideration must be given to providing Poynton Lacrosse Club with access to more pitches given the high levels of latent and future demand it expresses.**
- ◀ **As Wilmslow Lacrosse Club does not express any latent demand and as it has access to more pitches, it is considered that the Club has enough to provision to accommodate both current and future demand.**
- ◀ There are seven senior lacrosse pitches located across three sites (Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, Poynton Sports Club and Mount Vernon), all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ Both Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and Poynton Sports Club are managed internally by the respective clubs, whereas Mount Vernon is owned and managed by the Council.
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club are rated as standard quality; Mount Vernon is considered to poor quality.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club fields three senior men's teams, an u19s development team, three junior boys' teams and one junior girls' team; Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields two senior men's teams, one senior women's team, an u19s development team and three junior boys' teams.
- ◀ Both clubs use AGPs at their home ground to accommodate the majority of training demand, particularly during winter months as this saves the grass pitches from added wear.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club illustrates that it could field up to four additional junior teams if it had more available pitches.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club expresses future demand for one senior men's, one senior women's and two junior girls' teams, whereas Wilmslow Lacrosse Club expresses future demand equating to two junior teams.
- ◀ As Mount Vernon is assessed as poor quality, improvements are required to sustain future use of the pitch for Poynton Lacrosse Club.

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APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

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

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

- ◆ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.

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- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

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

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

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

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

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Sustain and Increase Participation.
- ◀ Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
- ◀ Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite.
- ◀ Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees
- ◀ Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
- ◀ Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.
- ◀ Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms.
- ◀ Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.
- ◀ Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matched to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - *Clubs and leagues*
 - *Kids*
 - *Communities*
 - *Casual*
- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - *Pathway*
 - *Support*
 - *Elite Teams*
 - *England Teams*
- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - *Fan focus*

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- *New audiences*
- *Global stage*
- *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - *Integrity*
 - *Community programmes*
 - *Our environments*
 - *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game's revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - *People*
 - *Revenue and reach*
 - *Insight*
 - *Operations*

The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 1.5 million players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

"The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England's senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few"

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP), that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities.

'The right pitches in the right places'²³

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment

²³

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

England Hockey Strategy

EH's new Club Strategy will assist hockey clubs to retain more players and recruit new members to ultimately grow their club membership. EH will be focusing on participation growth through this strategy for the next two years. The EH Strategy is based on seven core themes. These are:

- 1 Having great leadership
- 2 Having Appropriate and Sustainable Facilities
- 3 Inspired and Effective People
- 4 Different Ways to Play
- 5 Staying Friendly, Social and Welcoming
- 6 Being Local with Strong Community Connections
- 7 Stretching and developing those who want it

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- ◀ Sustainable clubs
- ◀ Environmental Sustainability
- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk provides further information on:

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- ◀ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 - 2017

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 2: CONSULTEE LIST

Consultee	Designation	Organisation
Anthony Stewart	Club Secretary	Richmond Rovers FC
Phillip Bell	Chairman	Sandbach RUFC
Graham Evans	Chairman	Vale Juniors FC
Terry Greer	Chairman	Alsager Town FC
Jonathan Marsh	Business Director	Macclesfield RUFC
Steven Morris	Chairman	Middlewich Town FC
Jon Cockburn	Chairman	Crewe & Nantwich RUFC
Steve Parker	Chairman	Crewe FC
Tom O'Donnell	Chairman	Egerton FC
Gaynor Clifton	Club Development Manager	Congleton RUFC
Patrick Garland	President	
Ken Williams	Trustee	
Alison Williams	Trustee	
Dan Allman	Club Development Manager	Sandbach United FC
Tim Sheldon	Chairman	Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC
Alistair Wheeler	Pitch Bookings Officer	Wilmslow Town FC
Andrea Huby	Business Manager	South Cheshire College
Natalie Lawrence	Curriculum Leader	St Thomas More High School
Paul Davies	Maintenance Officer	Shavington Academy
Paul McManus	Community Manager	Wilmslow High School
Janet Robinson	Director of Personnel	Knutsford Academy
Tony Halsall	Head Teacher	Holmes Chapel School
Janet Leigh	Director of Business	All Hallows Catholic College
Simon Malkin	Bursar	Alderley Edge School for Girls
Robert McNeill	Business Manager	Fallibroome Academy
Sarah Ruff	Sports Development Manager	Reaseheath College
Frank Feltz	Site Manager	The Oaks Academy
Elizabeth Whitehurst	Headteacher	Eaton Bank Academy
Nicki Cooper	Business Manager	Poynton High School
Neil Hurren	Strategic Lead for Sport	Manchester Metropolitan University
Dawn Litter	Manger	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club
Lee Pugh	Sports Manager	Alsager School
David Hunt	Manager	Knutsford Sports Club
Isla Connolly	Community Lettings Manager	Tytherington School
Dawn Yearsley	Personnel Manager	Ruskin High School
Alistair Denham	Head of PE	Middlewich High School
Steve Hough	Site Manager	Macclesfield College
Mike Smith	Site Manager	Malbank School and Sixth Form
Fiona Davidson	Business Manager	Sandbach School
Jonathan Spencer Pickup	Bursar	The King's School
Anthony Murray	Senior Team Leader	ANSA
Chris Greenleigh	Investment & Performance Lead	Everybody Sport and Recreation

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 3: THE STEERING GROUP

Member	Designation	Organisation
Ralph Kemp	Corporate Manager (Waste and Environmental Services)	Cheshire East Council
Robert Rogers	Project Manager	
George Broughton	Parks Development Manager	
Rhian Davies	Project Support Officer	
Fiona Pudge	Planning Manager	Sport England
Paul Kelsall	County Development Manager	Cheshire FA
Alice Watson	Regional Facilities and Investment Manager	FA
Fiona Prescott	Regional Club and Facilities Manager	ECB
Mike Woollard	Club and League Development Manager	Cheshire County Cricket Board
Tom Bartram	Area Facilities Manager	RFU
Julie Longden	Relationship Manager	England Hockey

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CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

MARCH 2017

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
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CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CC	Cricket Club
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CSP	County Sports Partnership
CASC	Community Amateur Sports Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
IOG	Institute of Groundsmanship
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PF	Playing Field
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under
ESAR	Everybody Sport and Recreation
ONS	Office for National Statistics
IMS	International Match Standard
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Cheshire East, which has been developed in accordance with Sport England methodology. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, the Strategy has been researched by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) under the direction of a steering group led by the Council and including a range of sports organisations.

A Steering Group has led and will continue to lead the PPS to ensure the delivery and implementation of its recommendations and actions. It is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England, Greater Sport, pitch sport National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), namely the Football Association (FA), Cheshire County Football Association (CFA), England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Cheshire County Cricket Board (CCCB), the Rugby Football Union (RFU), England Hockey (EH) and English Lacrosse.

The Strategy is capable of:

- ✦ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting outdoor sports facilities, as appropriate, directing open space contributions secured through development and informing and shaping local planning policy.
- ✦ Informing the protection and provision of playing pitches.
- ✦ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing playing pitch areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches).
- ✦ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches.
- ✦ Supporting external funding bids and maximising support for playing pitches.
- ✦ Providing the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of playing pitches.

Agreed scope

The PPS covers the following playing pitches including accompanying ancillary facilities:

- ✦ Football pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ✦ Cricket squares
- ✦ Rugby union pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ✦ Hockey pitches (Sand/water based AGPs)
- ✦ Lacrosse pitches.

Study area

Cheshire East is a unitary authority with a population of 370,100 and an area of 116,638 hectares.

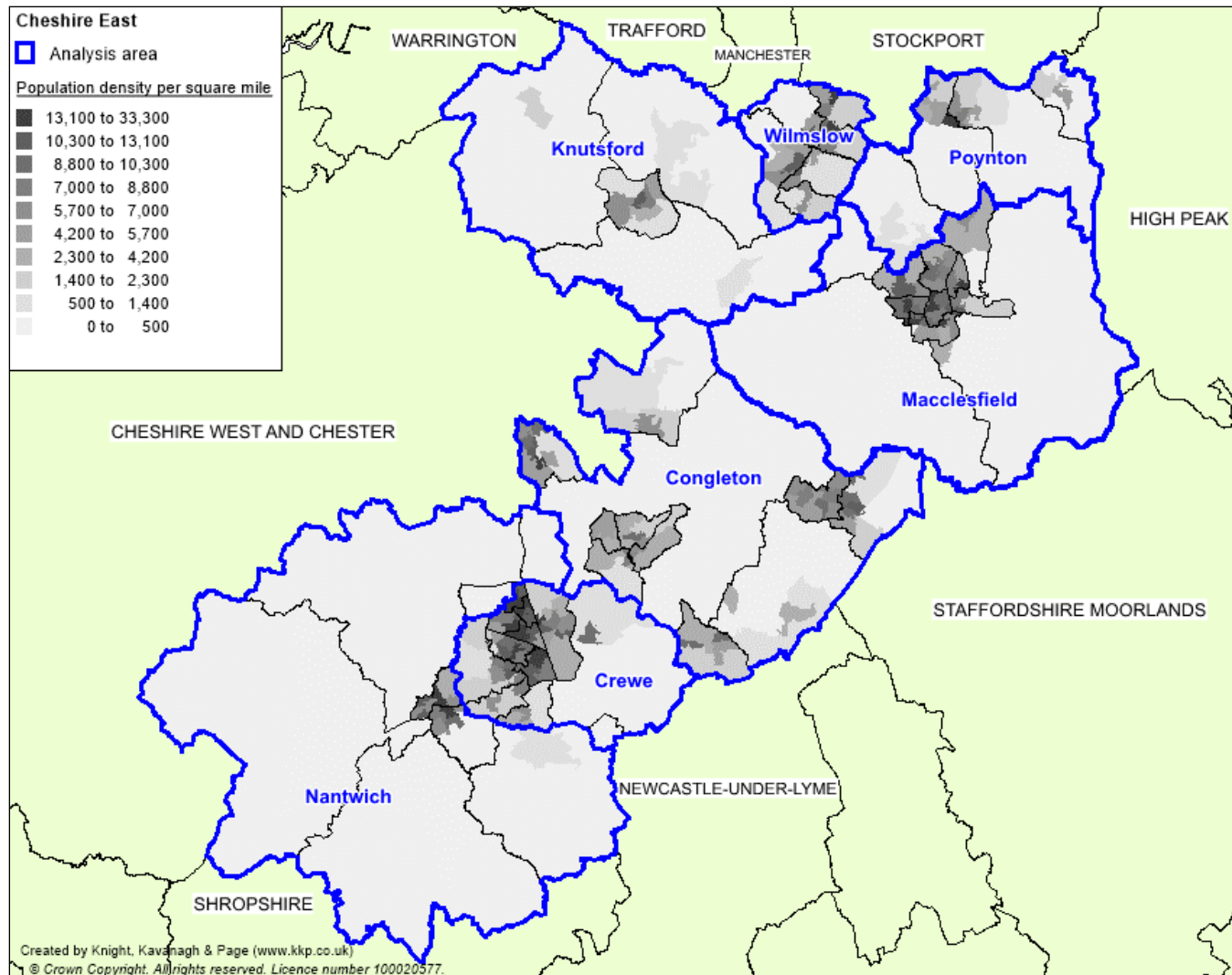
In addition to Cheshire West and Chester on the west, it is bounded by the Manchester conurbation to the north and east, Warrington to the north-west and Staffordshire and Shropshire to the south. It contains the major towns (population above 20,000) of Crewe, Macclesfield, Congleton and the commuter town of Wilmslow, as well as other significant centres of population (over 10,000) in Sandbach, Poynton, Nantwich, Middleswich, Knutsford and Alsager.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

This strategy covers the whole Borough boundary area of Cheshire East; however, the data gathered has been presented in such a way as to be further analysed by smaller analysis areas. For this purpose, seven analysis areas have been agreed upon based on local area partnerships: Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Knutsford, Nantwich, Poynton and Wilmslow.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

1.1: Structure

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage within Cheshire East to provide:

- ✦ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitch facilities.
- ✦ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ✦ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ✦ A range of sport by sport and local authority wide scenarios to help inform policy recommendations and prioritisation of actions.
- ✦ A series of strategic recommendation which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, if applicable, the rationalisation of playing pitches.
- ✦ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends numerous priority projects for Cheshire East that should be implemented over the course of its lifespan. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement, with potential partners and possible sources of external funding identified in light of limited council resources.

The recommendations made in this strategy must be translated into local plan policy so that there is a mechanism to support delivery and secure provision and investment into provision where the opportunity arises.

There is a need to sustain and build key partnerships between the Council, NGBs, Sport England, education providers, leisure contractors, maintenance contractors, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead can be limited (except in terms of Section 106 agreements and developer contributions). This document will provide clarity with regard to the way forward and will allow organisations to focus on the key issues and objectives that they can directly influence and achieve.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This should be led by the Council and supported by the Steering Group. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off, Sport England and NGBs will consider it to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document and kept up to date, its lifespan can be extended to five years.

The PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that was built up during its development. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed. To assist this, all information, databases and other tools used to inform the Strategy will be handed over to the Council and full training will be offered to assist in utilisation. Part 7 of this strategy report contains a suggested process for carrying out the update and monitoring. The Steering Group will need to agree the process prior to adoption of this strategy.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

1.2: Context

The rationale for undertaking this study is to identify current levels of provision within Cheshire East across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand. The primary purpose of the PPS is therefore to provide a strategic framework that ensures the provision of playing pitches meets the local needs of existing and future residents.

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised playing pitch assessments and strategies which identify current and future requirements for playing fields. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- ✦ Protect playing pitches against development pressures on land in, and around, urban areas.
- ✦ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ✦ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ✦ Address budget pressures and public sector cuts.

This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust, and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹.

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

The Cheshire East Local Plan needs to be based upon a robust evidence base. Paragraphs 73 of the NPPF requires "planning policies to be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of needs. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required." Paragraph 74 of the NPPF require assessments to be used to inform the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields."

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

¹<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/forward-planning/>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively. The Council is currently preparing a Built Facility Strategy. This assesses current and future need for built sports facilities. A Playing Pitch Strategy will complement the objectives and action plan associated with the Built Facility Strategy and other corporate strategies:

Corporate and strategic:

- ✦ It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. The PPS will act as a tool for Manchester Council and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for pitch sports in the future.
- ✦ It provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities a playing pitch strategy can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants. Current funding examples include the Sport England Funding Programmes, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery.

Planning:

- ✦ The Playing Pitch Strategy will provide important evidence to support the Cheshire East Local Plan.
- ✦ It will support strategic policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being in the emerging Cheshire East Local Plan.
- ✦ Evidence for Community Infrastructure Levy and Developer Contributions

Operational:

- ✦ It can help improve management of assets management, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ✦ The Action Plan will identify sites where quality of provision can be enhanced.
- ✦ An assessment of all pitches (in use and lapsed) will be undertaken to understand how pitches are used and whether the current maintenance and management regimes are appropriate or require change.

Sports development:

- ✦ It helps identify which sites have community use and whether that use is secure or not.
- ✦ It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed to address any identified deficits in pitch provision.
- ✦ It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use. This includes information about both pitches and sports teams / user groups.
- ✦ It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams / community needs.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

1.3: Headline findings

The following table highlights the quantitative headline findings identified in the preceding Assessment Report.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2030) ²
Football (grass pitches)	Congleton	Shortfall of 1.5 adult and 2 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 2.5 adult, six youth 9v9 and 5.5 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.
	Crewe	Shortfall of 1.5 adult, 1.5 youth 11v11 and 0.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 2 adult, 1.5 youth 11v11, 1 youth 9v9 and 1.5 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.
	Knutsford	Shortfall of 1 adult, 3 youth 11v11 and 2.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 1 adult, 4.5 youth 11v11 and 3 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.
	Macclesfield	Shortfall of 2 adult, 1 youth 11v11 and 2.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 3 adult, 1 youth 11v11, 2.5 youth 9v9 and 1 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.
	Nantwich	Current demand is being met.	Shortfall of 1.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.
	Poynton	Shortfall of 1.5 adult and 1.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 1.5 adult and 1.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.
	Wilmslow	Shortfall of 4.5 adult, 2 youth 9v9 and 2 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 4.5 adult, 1 youth 11v11, 2.5 youth 9v9 and 3 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.
	Cheshire East³	Shortfall of 12 adult, 4 youth 11v11, 11.5 youth 9v9 and 2 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 14.5 adult, 10.5 youth 11v11, 20 youth 9v9 and 11 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.
Football (3G pitches) ⁴	Congleton	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch in Alsager, Congleton and Sandbach.	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch in Alsager, Congleton and Sandbach; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Crewe	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch.	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing

² Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

³ Figures for Cheshire East as a whole do not equate to a culmination of shortfalls in each analysis area as it also accounts for actual spare capacity of pitch types (which reduces or negates shortfalls) and also includes TGR figures (which are for Cheshire East as a whole).

⁴ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2030) ²
	Knutsford	Current demand is being met.	Current demand is being met; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Macclesfield	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch.	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Nantwich	Current demand is being met.	Current demand is being met; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Poynton	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch.	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Wilmslow	Shortfall of 2 3G pitches.	Shortfall of 2 3G pitches; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Cheshire East⁵	Shortfall of 4 full size 3G pitches.	Shortfall of 5 full size 3g pitches; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
Cricket	Congleton	Shortfall of 43 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 67 match equivalent sessions.
	Crewe	Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions.
	Knutsford	Shortfall of 8 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 20 match equivalent sessions.
	Macclesfield	Shortfall of 9 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of nine match equivalent sessions.
	Nantwich	Shortfall of 18 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 30 match equivalent sessions.
	Poynton	Shortfall of 12 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 24 match equivalent sessions.
	Wilmslow	Shortfall of 20 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 32 match equivalent sessions.
	Cheshire East	Shortfall of 121 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 193 match equivalent sessions.
Rugby union	Congleton	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions.
	Crewe	Current demand is being met.	Current demand is being met.
	Knutsford	Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions.
	Macclesfield	Current demand is being met.	Current demand is being met.
	Nantwich	Shortfall of 3.75 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 4.75 match equivalent sessions.

⁵ Please note that these figures differ from the figures in each analysis area as it is for the Borough as a whole, whereas analysis area figures account for each team staying within their respective analysis area.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2030) ²
	Poynton	Shortfall of 2.25 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 3.25 match equivalent sessions.
	Wilmslow	Current demand is being met.	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
	Cheshire East	Shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions.
Hockey (Sand AGPs)	Congleton	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
	Crewe	No existing demand.	No future demand discovered.
	Knutsford	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
	Macclesfield	Current demand is being met.	Latent demand identified by Macclesfield HC.
	Nantwich	Current demand is being met.	Latent demand identified by Crewe Vagrants HC.
	Poynton	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
	Wilmslow	Exported demand identified by Wilmslow HC.	Latent demand identified by Alderley Edge HC.
	Cheshire East	Exported demand identified by Wilmslow HC.	Latent demand identified by Macclesfield, Crewe Vagrants and Alderley Edge hockey clubs.
Lacrosse	Congleton	No existing demand.	No future demand discovered.
	Crewe	No existing demand.	No future demand discovered.
	Knutsford	No existing demand.	No future demand discovered.
	Macclesfield	No existing demand.	No future demand discovered.
	Nantwich	No existing demand.	No future demand discovered.
	Poynton	Current demand is being met.	Latent demand expressed by Poynton Lacrosse Club.
	Wilmslow	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
	Cheshire East	Current demand is being met.	Latent demand expressed by Poynton Lacrosse Club.

Conclusions

The existing position for all pitch sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of shortfalls for some pitches and for some areas where demand is currently being met. As such, there is a need to protect all existing playing pitch provision until demand is met; or there is a requirement to replace any lost provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The only exception to the above is in the case of sports provision being replaced by a different form of sports provision (e.g. a sand-based AGP being replaced by a 3G AGP) on the assumption that no clubs are left without alternative provision and providing that this is agreed upon by Sport England and the appropriate NGBs.

In the main, there are no pitch surpluses and the majority of shortfalls expressed can be reduced by employing a range of measures including improving pitch quality to increase capacity; however, in isolated cases, some clubs definitely require additional provision, such as Knutsford RUFC in line with the potential development at Knutsford Academy.

In some instances, there may also be a requirement for access to existing unused pitches, such as those located at currently unavailable school sites, pitch re-configuration, the restoration of disused or lapsed pitches (if feasible) or the creation of new provision, particularly in key housing growth areas. This is especially the case when considering how unrealistic it may be to improve all current pitches to good quality given financial constraints that providers are working under.

As there is no surplus provision, qualitative improvements to mitigate the loss of a playing field will not meet the requirements of planning policy i.e. paragraph 74 of the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy. In cases where an alternative development leads to the loss of playing field or part of a playing field, a quantitative replacement will be required in addition to qualitative improvements.

In relation to football, there is a shortfall of 3G pitches that can only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play and thus reducing overplay, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.

For cricket, new provision in the form of non-turf wickets that can be incorporated onto existing sites will help reduce grass wicket shortfalls without the requirement for entirely new squares. The increase in non-turf wickets should be used to transfer junior cricket from grass wickets.

Definitions

Pitch capacity

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

As a guide, the FA, the RFU and the ECB have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting current quality. This does not apply to EH as there is no limit to how often a sand-based AGP can be used, with capacity instead limited by availability and current usage levels.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches

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

Match equivalent sessions

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

Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for sport. For cricket pitches, it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season.

Shortfalls

Shortfalls are expressed in match equivalent sessions rather than converted to pitches as it is possible that shortfalls could be accommodated in various ways (e.g. through pitch improvements) and not just by providing more pitches.

For a full glossary of terms, please refer to Appendix Three.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 2: VISION

2.1 Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Cheshire East Playing Pitch Strategy. It seeks to support the Council and its partners in the creation of:

'An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports pitches that provides and promotes local opportunities for participation by all residents at all levels of play from grassroots to elite'

To achieve this strategic vision, the strategy has the following aims - to;

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 1.2 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all stakeholders.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

AIM 2

To **enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

AIM 3

To **provide** new playing pitches where there is current or future demand to do so

Figure 1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England 2015

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for each playing pitch sport; resulting in sport specific recommendations.

Football – grass pitches

- ✦ There is a current and future shortfall of adult, youth 11v11, 9v9 and 5v5 pitches, with minimal spare capacity existing only on 7v7 pitches.
- ✦ In total, 19.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exists across 26 sites in Cheshire East, with most expressed on 7v7 pitches and in Congleton.
- ✦ Overplay occurs on 43 pitches across 24 sites equating to 40.5 match equivalent sessions.

Summary

- ✦ There are 331 grass football pitches within Cheshire East across 189 sites, of which, 245 are available for community use across 132 sites.
- ✦ 83 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) play on adult pitches.
- ✦ The King's School plans to sell both its Westminster Road and Fence Avenue sites for housing as it looks to consolidate to one site, with no plans in place to replace the football pitches (as replacement indoor provision is deemed sufficient).
- ✦ A planning application is in place at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will include grass pitch provision.
- ✦ Egerton Youth Club has planning permission to develop five adult pitches on land adjacent to its current site that it leases from a local landowner.
- ✦ Poynton Sports Club is in negotiations with a local landowner to purchase nearby land that will be used to relocate all on-site provision, including the football pitches.
- ✦ There are four lapsed and nine disused sites.
- ✦ In total, 16 community available pitches are assessed as good quality, 158 as standard quality and 71 as poor quality.
- ✦ Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 17 are serviced by good quality facilities, 60 by standard quality facilities and 65 by poor quality facilities.
- ✦ Congleton Rovers FC, Styal FC and AFC Prestbury Nomads all report an intention to improve clubhouse facilities.
- ✦ Crewe, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes and Vale Juniors football clubs express an aspiration to acquire their own sites on a long-term lease.
- ✦ In addition to Crewe Alexandra FC, which is a professional club, a further ten clubs in Cheshire East play on the football pyramid.
- ✦ 557 teams from within 124 clubs play within Cheshire East; these comprise 123 adult men's teams, eight adult women's teams, 264 youth boys' teams, eight youth girls' teams and 154 mini soccer teams.
- ✦ AFC Macclesfield, Alsager Town FC and Wistaston Blackcats FC express exported demand that would prefer to play within Cheshire East.
- ✦ Five clubs report latent demand amounting to 16 teams and eight match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ Team generation rates (2030) predict a growth of six youth boys' teams, whilst future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 41 teams and 20.5 match equivalent sessions.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

Improving pitch quality on overplayed pitches (i.e. through increased maintenance or drainage improvements) to either standard or good quality will increase capacity and therefore help to accommodate expressed overplay. The majority of overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality increased to good; the only exceptions are the adult pitches at Bollington Cross Playing Field, Deva Close and Reaseheath College and a 9v9 pitch at Egerton Youth Club. Some play at these sites should, therefore, be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity.

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ⁶	Good quality capacity rating ⁷
11	Back Lane	Adult	2	Poor	2	
		Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
17	Bollington Cross Playing Field	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
30	Chorley Hall	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
34	Congleton High School	Adult	2	Standard	1.5	0.5
		Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	1	1
		Youth (9v9)	2	Standard	1.5	2.5
41	Deva Close	Adult	1	Standard	2	1
44	Egerton Youth Club	Youth (11v11)	3	Standard	3	3
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	2.5	0.5
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Adult	3	Poor	4.5	1.5
		Youth (9v9)	2	Poor	1.5	1.5
64	King George V Playing Field	Adult	1	Poor	1	1
70	Lacey Green Primary Academy	Mini (5v5)	1	Standard	2	
71	Legends Health and Leisure Centre	Adult	2	Standard	0.5	1.5
80	Mary Dendy Playing Fields	Adult	3	Poor	1.5	4.5
103	Poynton Sports Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
105	Reaseheath College	Adult	1	Good	1	1
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Adult	1	Poor	1.5	0.5
120	Styal Playing Fields	Adult	1	Standard	1	
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
139	Willaston White Star Football Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5

⁶ Match equivalent sessions

⁷ Match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ⁶	Good quality capacity rating ⁷
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Youth (11v11)	2	Poor	1	5
178	Christ the King Primary	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
		Mini (7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2.5
225	St Paul's Catholic Primary	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1
231	Vernon Primary School	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
248	Jasmine Park	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1
249	Mount Vernon	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5

In addition, there are currently ten match equivalent sessions of spare capacity discounted (aggregated from all pitch types) due to poor quality. Improving pitch quality at these sites will provide and increase overall actual spare capacity, which can be used to accommodate demand from currently overplayed sites as well as latent and future demand.

Given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches. Not only can this alleviate over play of grass pitches but it can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use.

Providing security of tenure

Currently 44 match equivalent sessions are played on unsecured pitches throughout Cheshire East. If these pitches were to fall out of use, shortfalls would be exacerbated.

The majority of unsecured use is located at educational sites. Whilst not always possible, creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term. Where there is external investment on school sites, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement as is the case at the King's School.

Should unsecured provision be permanently lost, replacement provision of an equal or greater quantity and quality at a suitable location is required.

Securing access to currently unavailable sites

By opening up sites currently unavailable for community use, an additional six match equivalent sessions of spare capacity on adult pitches would be created, as well as ten match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and 13 match equivalent sessions on 9v9 pitches. For mini football, 37 match equivalent sessions would be available on 7v7 pitches and 12 match equivalent sessions would be available on 5v5 pitches.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Reconfiguring pitches

If youth 11v11 demand was to be transferred away from adult pitches, spare capacity would be created on adult pitches in each analysis area.

Table 4.2: Capacity if youth 11v11 demand was removed from adult pitches

Analysis area	Current adult capacity (match equivalents)	Future adult capacity (match equivalents)	Youth 11v11 demand on adult pitches (match equivalents)	Current adult capacity if removed (match equivalents)	Future adult capacity if removed (match equivalents)
Congleton	1.5	2.5	12	10.5	9.5
Crewe	1.5	2	7	5.5	5
Knutsford	1	1	3	2	2
Macclesfield	2	3	4.5	2.5	1.5
Nantwich			4	4	4
Poynton	1.5	1.5	4	2.5	2.5
Wilmslow	4.5	4.5	7	2.5	2.5
Cheshire East	12	14.5	41.5	29.5	27

Although some of this spare capacity should be retained as strategic reserve i.e. to help protect/improve quality, there are likely to be opportunities to reconfigure adult pitches to better cater for youth 11v11 demand and to reduce youth pitch shortfalls.

Future developments

The loss of grass football pitches at the King's School (Westminster Road and Fence Avenue) will not affect the overall picture of provision as the current facilities are unavailable for community use. It may, however, affect curricular and extra-curricular activity.

The creation of grass football pitches at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) will reduce shortfalls in Congleton and will offer a replacement to the increased number of pitches that were in active use when the Campus was open. The site will also offer a viable alternative to the exported demand expressed by Alsager Town FC as well as the latent demand reported by the Club.

The creation of an increased number of grass football pitches at Egerton Youth Club will alleviate overplay on the site's current pitch stock, which, as aforementioned, cannot be fully achieved through quality improvements.

Enabling potential developments at Poynton Sports Club and Sutton Lane will reduce shortfalls in Poynton and Middlewich respectively. The potential development at Sutton Lane will also allow Middlewich Town FC to field its expressed latent and future demand, whilst the potential development at Poynton Sports Club will alleviate overplay on the site's current stock of pitches.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Conclusions

If pitch quality, overplay and security of tenure is addressed and if access to existing pitches is maximised, there would be no current requirement for new grass pitch provision over and above developments already proposed, providing that no pitches are permanently lost (with the exception of the King's School). That being said, there remains a need at certain sites for pitches to be reconfigured, particularly in relation to a lack of youth 11v11 pitches. Furthermore, proposed housing growth may result in enough future demand existing for an increase in provision, the need for which should be assessed on an individual basis.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ✦ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore pitch reconfiguration to accommodate more youth 11v11 pitches where possible.
- ✦ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ✦ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity or to sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ✦ Work to accommodate displaced, latent and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ✦ Provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites through community use agreements.
- ✦ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ✦ Improve ancillary provision at key sites that are currently serviced by poor provision (e.g. Poynton Sports Club and Sutton Lane).
- ✦ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ✦ In the longer term, explore opportunities for access to an increased number of 3G pitches to cater for grass pitch shortfalls.

3G pitches

- ✦ With 557 football teams currently playing in Cheshire East, there is a need for 13 full size 3G pitches. This means that there is a current shortfall of four pitches (discounting Reaseheath Training Complex and Reaseheath College).
- ✦ When considering future demand for an additional 41 teams, the shortfall increases to five full size 3G pitches.
- ✦ Alternatively, if each team was to remain within its respective analysis area for training, there is a shortfall of eight full size 3G pitches.

Summary

- ✦ There are 11 full size 3G pitches within Cheshire East, all of which are floodlit and ten of which are available to the community (Reaseheath Training Complex is not).
- ✦ In addition, there are also five small sized 3G pitches.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ A planning application is in place at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will include provision of a full size, floodlit 3G pitch.
- ◀ Subject to planning and funding, Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is to undergo a development that will result in one of its grass pitches being replaced by a full size, floodlit 3G pitch; this will predominantly be used for rugby union.
- ◀ Eight of the 11 full size 3G pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Reaseheath College is still to undergo necessary performance testing in order to become World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ Since production of the Assessment Report, the 3G pitch at Congleton High School has undergone testing and is awaiting World Rugby approval. If approval is granted, the pitch can be used for full contact rugby union activity.
- ◀ Cumberland Arena is significantly over ten years old (having been installed in 2002) and will be resurfaced in the summer.
- ◀ Each FA approved pitch is in use for match play; 98 teams currently play home matches on them. This is a considerably high number when compared to the majority of other local authorities.
- ◀ Cumberland Arena is also in current use for competitive matches, despite it not being on the FA register and despite its age making it unlikely to pass certification.
- ◀ Priority should not only be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches but also on sustaining the current pitch stock.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 42 teams) there is a need for 13 full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East. Discounting Reaseheath Training Complex, which is unavailable for community use and Reaseheath College, which prioritises rugby union use (although some football training activity is taking place), there are currently nine full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of four pitches. When considering future demand (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there is a demand for 14 full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of five pitches⁸.

Alternatively, if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area in which they play their matches in, a shortfall of eight full size 3G pitches is identified. This equates to shortfall of two pitches in Wilmslow and one pitch in Alsager, Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Poynton and Sandbach⁹.

Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

Moving match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA and it is relatively popular within Cheshire East already with 35 mini 5v5, 33 mini 7v7 teams, 18 youth 9v9, nine youth 11v11 and three adult teams already playing on 3G surfaces.

The FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches (including parish and town council pitches) be transferred.

⁸ All figures are rounded down.

⁹ All figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.3: Number of teams currently using council pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	49
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	50
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	22
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	11
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	4
Total			136

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of full size, floodlit 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.4: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y) = x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
Adult	49	24.5	32	784	12.25
11v11	50	25	32	800	12.50
9v9	22	11	10	110	1.72
7v7	11	5.5	8	44	0.69
5v5	4	2	4	8	0.13

Transferring all matches currently played on council pitches would equate to the need for 27 (rounded down from 27.29) full size 3G pitches as the requirements for each pitch type needs to be added together (as peak time is the same). In practice, creating this number of 3G pitches is considered to be unrealistic and it may therefore be more appropriate to consider the requirement for specific formats of play such as mini football or youth 9v9 football.

The table below therefore tests a scenario to enable all 5v5 and 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

Table 4.5: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Based on the above programming and separate start times for 5v5 and 7v7 matches, the overall need is for eight full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 54 teams playing 5v5 football requiring seven pitches (rounded up from 6.8) and 100 teams playing 7v7 football requiring eight pitches (rounded down from 8.3). As such, it is considered that all mini football could be accommodated on the current supply of 3G pitches.

The table below tests a similar scenario for 9v9 football. This demand could also be accommodated on the current 3G stock as it equates to the need for nine (exactly) full size 3G pitches based on 108 teams playing this format within Cheshire East. It is also worth noting that if all 9v9 football was moved to a Saturday and all mini football was retained on a Sunday (or vice versa), it is feasible that all current demand for mini and 9v9 football could be accommodated on nine full size 3G pitches.

Table 4.6: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – Noon	2 x 9v9	2/4
Noon – 2pm	2 x 9v9	2/4
2pm – 4pm	2 x 9v9	2/4

Increases in 3G provision

The proposed full size 3G pitch at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) will reduce the overall shortfall in Cheshire East and will fully satisfy training demand in Alsager. It will also further satisfy match play demand so long as it is FA tested.

The proposed full size 3G pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) would reduce the overall shortfall in Cheshire East and full satisfy training demand in Macclesfield, however, as the development is primarily for rugby union use it is not yet known whether it will also accommodate football use.

Football hub model

The FA, DCMS, Premier League, Football Foundation and Sport England are all working together (currently through the Parklife programme) to significantly improve the provision and quality of football facilities, on a sustainable basis, to drive increased participation levels, quality of experience and more broadly delivering wider social benefits. The main focus of delivery will be around increasing the number of 3G pitches available for competitive play.

To have been eligible for the Parklife project, local authorities must have had a population of at least 200,000 people. Cheshire East adhered to this, however, it did not meet other core aims, although that is not to say that it cannot implement some of the principles of the initiative when developing its 3G pitch stock i.e. the creation of a hub site/model.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

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

The 3G pitch at Congleton High School has undergone testing and is awaiting World Rugby approval. Should approval be granted, it can be used for full contact rugby union activity and usage from community clubs should therefore be explored, particularly in relation to Congleton RUFC.

Should Reaseheath College undergo World Rugby certification as planned, a good proportion of training demand from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC will transfer away from the floodlit grass pitch at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club. In turn, this will reduce overplay at the site although some may still exist without pitch quality improvements given high levels of match usage by the Club as well as by Manchester Metropolitan University.

Should the proposed development at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) go ahead, all training demand will transfer from the floodlit grass pitch and in turn this will alleviate all overplay at the site.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ✦ Ensure 3G pitch developments at Manchester Metropolitan University and Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) are provided to a good quality and seek FA and/or World Rugby certification.
- ✦ Ensure that Cumberland Arena undergoes quality improvements and administer FA testing as soon as possible, otherwise current competitive demand needs to be transferred elsewhere.
- ✦ Maximise rugby union usage of Congleton High School should it achieve approval from World Rugby.
- ✦ Encourage all providers to put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ✦ Ensure that all pitches currently on the FA register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.
- ✦ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- ✦ Identify feasible sites to increase provision of full size 3G pitches to meet training and competitive demand, particularly in areas with identified shortfalls.
- ✦ Ensure that new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Cricket pitches

- ✦ For senior cricket, a significant overall shortfall of pitches is identified, with more grass wicket squares being overplayed than those with actual spare capacity.
- ✦ No non-turf wickets are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season, therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity. This equates to actual spare capacity existing for junior cricket both currently and in the future.

Summary

- ✦ In total, there are 48 grass cricket squares in Cheshire East located across 42 sites, all of which are available for community use.
- ✦ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at 15 sites (16 squares) and there are stand-alone NTPs pitches at 17 sites (mostly schools).
- ✦ There is a disused grass wicket square at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus), whilst standalone NTPs were previously in place at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Sir William Stanier School.
- ✦ Tenure is considered unsecure for Audlem, Chelford, Over Peover and Prestbury cricket clubs, which rent their squares on an annual basis and for Bunbury CC, which has only nine years remaining on its lease.
- ✦ The audit of grass wicket squares found 37 community available pitches to be good quality, ten to be standard quality and one to be poor quality.
- ✦ Of particular concern is the condition of clubhouse buildings servicing Poynton Cricket Club and Mere Cricket Club, as well as the facility servicing the second square at Macclesfield Cricket Club.
- ✦ Four clubs (Wilmslow, Audlem, Chelford and Mere cricket clubs) are currently without access to cricket nets and three (Disley, Holmes Chapel and Nantwich cricket clubs) express a demand for more nets to be provided.
- ✦ In total, there are 38 clubs generating 290 teams, which equates to 115 senior men's, two senior women's, 171 junior boys' and two junior girls' teams.
- ✦ There is currently no Last Man Stands (LMS) operating in Cheshire East, however, it is a target area for the future, particularly in Crewe and/or Macclesfield.
- ✦ Peak time demand for senior cricket is Saturday, whereas for junior cricket it is midweek.
- ✦ There are 29 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets totalling 499 match equivalent sessions per season; however, only two of these (Kerridge Cricket Club and Mere Cricket Club) have actual spare capacity on a Saturday.
- ✦ Overplay in Cheshire East is high, with 16 squares overplayed across 15 sites by 149 match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ Ten clubs report plans to increase their number of teams in the future, amounting to an increase of six senior men's, two senior women's and eight junior teams.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay (e.g. Bollington Recreation Ground, Holmes Chapel Cricket Club and Eric Swan Sports Ground), a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

For the majority of overplayed sites, the best solution would be to install a non-turf pitch (NTP) *in situ* as this would allow for the transfer of junior demand away from grass wickets. The following overplayed sites are currently without an NTP:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ◀ Bollington Recreation Ground | ◀ Bunbury Cricket Club |
| ◀ Congleton Sports and Social Club | ◀ Haslington Cricket Club |
| ◀ Holmes Chapel Cricket Club | ◀ Langley Cricket Club |
| ◀ Sandbach Cricket Club | ◀ Toft Cricket Club |

As a caveat, this should not lead to undue pressure being placed on clubs and volunteers using the above sites to install self-funded NTPs. Although attempts should be made to reduce identified overplay, in reality, clubs do not necessarily accept that there is an issue and have managed in the past to accommodate such demand. Please also note that some clubs have a limited space in which to fit their playing surfaces whilst still complying with ECB specifications for boundary sizes at all age groups.

For the remaining overplayed sites (Alsager Cricket Club, Elworth Cricket Club, Eric Swan Sports Ground, Macclesfield Cricket Club, Lindow Cricket Club, Poynton Sports Club and Rectory Field), greater use of already installed NTPs is required. If overplay persists, demand should be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity, or to sites with a standalone NTP such as currently unavailable school sites. This is also a viable option for clubs using sites that are overplayed without an accompanying NTP (and also solves the issue of the above caveat).

Accommodating future demand

All clubs expressing future demand for an increase in junior teams can do so on their current facility stock. Rode Park & Lawton CC and Mobberley CC have spare capacity during midweek, whereas Disley, Elworth, Langley, Lindow, Macclesfield and Nantwich cricket clubs can be catered for via their NTPs rather than their grass wickets (which are at capacity or overplayed).

Furthermore, expressed senior demand from Mobberley, Styal, Nantwich and Rode Park & Lawton cricket club can be accommodated provided that it is outside of the peak period (i.e. on a Sunday). This is because their squares have overall spare capacity albeit not offering such capacity (on a Saturday). If the teams are fielded on a Saturday, secondary venues will need to be accessed or new provision will be required.

In contrast, Disley, Elworth and Lindow cricket clubs cannot realise senior growth plans on the pitch stock currently available to them without exacerbating overplay. As such, they will either have to access secondary venues that have spare capacity or new provision will be required.

Note that the proposed forecast for an increase in demand (derived from population increases and club consultation) does not reflect the societal trend away from traditionally organised cricket. Whilst the ECB aspires to reverse this trend, there is no evidence to suggest that this will be successful.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ✦ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on pitches to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and poor and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ✦ Pursue improved security of tenure for Bunbury, Audlem, Chelford, Over Peover and Prestbury cricket clubs.
- ✦ Improve the changing facilities servicing Mere, Macclesfield and Poynton cricket clubs.
- ✦ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities.
- ✦ Address overplay via the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity or through an increase in NTPs accompanying grass wickets.
- ✦ Ensure Disley, Elworth and Lindow cricket clubs can realise future growth plans through access to alternative sites.
- ✦ Explore potential sites that are suitable to host an LMS franchise in Crewe and/or Macclesfield.

Rugby union - grass pitches

- ✦ Overall, there is a shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions identified on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand. This worsens when considering future demand, with a shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions recognised.
- ✦ Shortfalls are greatest in relation to Knutsford RUFC, where there is a considered need for access to more pitches or for new pitches to be provided.
- ✦ Remaining shortfalls can be addressed via pitch quality improvements and/or through access to increased dedicated floodlit training provision, particularly in relation to Congleton RUFC, Holmes Chapel RUFC, Sandbach RUFC and Wilmslow RUFC.
- ✦ Reaseheath College becoming World Rugby compliant (still to undergo testing) will alleviate shortfalls at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, whereas the provision of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Priory Park (subject to planning and funding) will alleviate shortfalls relating to Macclesfield RUFC.

Summary

- ✦ There are 23 sites containing 43 senior, nine junior and ten mini rugby union pitches, of which, 28 senior, five junior and all mini pitches are available for community use.
- ✦ Hankinson's Field, which contains one senior pitch, an unmarked training area and areas for mini rugby, has been temporarily taken out of use as the site is required as an access point for the development of Congleton Leisure Centre.
- ✦ There are two disused senior rugby union pitches located at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will not be re-provided when the site is redeveloped (Instead, S106 monies have been agreed to provide Crewe & Natnwich RUFC with maintenance equipment).
- ✦ Knutsford Academy, working alongside Knutsford RUFC, has identified adjacent land that it wishes to acquire so that it can increase its supply of rugby union pitches.
- ✦ The King's School plans to provide five additional rugby union pitches at Derby Fields as part of its consolidation to the site; however, both the pitch at Fence Avenue and the pitch at Westminster Road will be lost.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Holmes Chapel RUFC has only ten years remaining on its licence to use Holmes Chapel Community Centre and tenure is also considered to be unsecure for Knutsford RUFC at Knutsford Academy as no community use agreement is in place.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, 22 are assessed as good quality, 12 are assessed as standard quality and nine are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Acton Nomads RUFC is currently without a clubhouse, whereas Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield, Knutsford and Wilmslow rugby clubs all report development plans or issues with their changing facilities.
- ◀ Eight rugby union clubs play within Cheshire East consisting of 99 teams, which as a breakdown equates to 28 senior, seven colts', 25 junior and 39 mini teams.
- ◀ Sandbach, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield and Wilmslow rugby clubs all train on match pitches using floodlighting, whereas Acton Nomads RUFC is currently without a training venue despite attempts to find a suitable location.
- ◀ Reaseheath College is still to undergo necessary performance testing in order to become World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ Since production of the Assessment Report, the 3G pitch at Congleton High School has undergone testing and is awaiting World Rugby approval. If approval is granted, the pitch can be used for full contact rugby union activity.
- ◀ Five clubs report future demand, which, where quantified, amounts to two senior men's, two colts, one junior boys' and two junior girls' teams.
- ◀ Ten pitches across seven sites are overplayed by a combined 14.75 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Despite 14 senior pitches across nine sites displaying potential spare capacity, only four are available for further use during the peak period for senior rugby (Saturday PM).

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

Installing drainage systems at sites would improve pitch quality and therefore increase the carrying capacity of pitches. Improving drainage at all sites used by clubs to good quality (D3 – pipe and slit drained) would result in a further 19 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity on senior pitches, five on junior pitches and seven on mini pitches. This would fully alleviate overplay at Back Lane, Congleton Park and Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) as well as reducing overplay at all other overplayed sites (e.g. Knutsford Academy and Sandbach Rugby Club).

Improving maintenance at all sites used by clubs to good (M2) would result in a further 8.5 match equivalent sessions of capacity on senior pitches, two on junior pitches and 3.5 on mini pitches. This would fully alleviate overplay at Back Lane and Congleton Park as well as reducing overplay at the majority of other overplayed sites.

A combination of improving drainage and maintenance as indicated above at all sites used by clubs would result in a further 21 match equivalent sessions of capacity on senior pitches, 6.5 on junior pitches and 7.5 on mini pitches. This would fully alleviate overplay at Back Lane, Congleton Park, Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) and Knutsford Academy (lower) as well as reducing overplay at all other overplayed sites.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Increasing access to floodlit training provision (grass pitches)

Overplay at Sandbach Rugby Club cannot be fully alleviated through pitch quality improvements and there are no plans for the Club to be provided with a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. As such, an increase in the number of floodlit pitches available to the Club is required (in addition to clubhouse improvements). This will allow it to spread out its training demand across a greater number of pitches and can be achieved either via provision of dedicated, permanent floodlighting or the use of portable floodlights.

Similarly, although overplay at Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) can be alleviated through pitch quality improvements (M2/D3) additional floodlit pitches may be required. This will reduce the pressure on the Club to improve quality and enable it to realise its future growth plans without exacerbating overplay. As floodlighting has been maximised at Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club), potential floodlighting at Jim Evison Playing Field should be explored.

The RFU considers it important for all of its clubs to have access to floodlit areas/pitches to provide for both match play and training. As Knutsford, Holmes Chapel and Acton Nomads rugby clubs are currently without such provision, options should be explored to provide such facilities in the future. This can either be achieved through dedicated floodlighting on existing pitches, portable floodlighting that can be stored on site or via a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

Increasing pitch stock

Overplay at Knutsford Academy (lower) can be fully alleviated through a combination of improving maintenance (M2) and installing a drainage system (D3), however, this is presumed to be unlikely given that the pitches are located at a school. Moreover, Knutsford RUFC currently trains off-site, meaning all overplay is a result of match play and therefore cannot be alleviated through providing increased floodlit provision. Instead, consideration should be given to increasing the pitch stock available to the Club and plans for the School to acquire adjacent land to enable this should therefore be supported.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ✦ Explore community use aspects at currently unused educational sites to fully determine availability and, as minimum, protect the pitches for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.
- ✦ Support aspirations for ancillary facility improvements relating to Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield, Knutsford and Wilmslow rugby clubs.
- ✦ Provide Acton Nomads RUFC with a suitable clubhouse in close proximity to its pitch at Barony Sports Complex.
- ✦ Support Acton Nomads RUFC in its search for a suitable training venue.
- ✦ Alternatively, explore possibilities of transferring match play demand from Acton Nomads RUFC to a currently unused school site that can provide changing facilities and also a potential training venue (via the use of portable floodlighting).
- ✦ Ensure development at King's School provides an adequate number of rugby union pitches to offset the loss of pitches at the School's other sites and ensure pitches are provided to a good quality.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure pitches at Hankinson's Field are re-provided to an adequate quality following the development of Congleton Leisure Centre or provide suitable mitigation.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for Holmes Chapel RUFC and Knutsford RUFC through providing long term lease agreements (minimum 25 years).
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems, particularly at sites containing overplayed pitches that are not a result of training demand (e.g. Back Lane and Congleton Park).
- ◀ Increase the floodlit provision available to Congleton, Sandbach and Wilmslow rugby clubs to alleviate overplay as a result of concentrated training demand.
- ◀ Maximise rugby union usage of Congleton High School should it achieve approval from World Rugby.
- ◀ Support Knutsford Academy and Knutsford RUFC in their aspirations to acquire additional land that will result in an increased number of rugby union pitches and an alleviation of overplay and supplement this with the aforementioned security of tenure.

Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

- ◀ Due to the landscape of hockey within Cheshire East, the priority should be to protect or mitigate the loss of any of the 12 pitches currently in use by hockey clubs. These are as follows:
 - ◀ Alsager Leisure Centre
 - ◀ Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)
 - ◀ Crewe Vagrants Sports Club
 - ◀ Fallibroome Academy
 - ◀ Knutsford Leisure Centre
 - ◀ Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (girls)
 - ◀ Sandbach School (boys)
 - ◀ The Edge Hockey Centre
 - ◀ The King's School (Westminster Road)
 - ◀ Wilmslow High School
 - ◀ Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club
 - ◀ Tytherington High School
- ◀ Priority should be placed on accommodating expressed displaced, latent and future demand, which, in at least one aspect, relates to each club.

Summary

- ◀ There are currently 16 full size hockey suitable (all sand-based) AGPs in Cheshire East. The majority are floodlit, although Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (girls) and South Cheshire College are not.
- ◀ All the full sized AGPs are available for community use, however, four are currently unused for hockey purposes and two are without hockey goals.
- ◀ In addition, there are also 15 smaller sized AGPs suitable for hockey use, which, although too small to host competitive matches, can be used to accommodate some training demand.
- ◀ Planning approval has been granted at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will involve replacing the existing sand-based AGP with a new sand-based AGP as well as a clubhouse with changing rooms and catering facilities.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ✦ The King's School is planning to provide two full size, floodlit AGPs as part of its consolidation to Derby Fields, rather than the one full size and one smaller sized pitch that currently service the School.
- ✦ All full size AGPs are readily available to the community during the peak period, as identified by Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM).
- ✦ Eight of the full size AGPs have reached the end of their lifespan and therefore require resurfacing.
- ✦ There are currently seven clubs fielding teams in Cheshire East. Combined, they contribute a membership of 402 senior men, 280 senior women and 1,092 juniors and consist of 28 senior men's teams, 24 senior women's teams and 25 junior teams.
- ✦ Wilmslow HC expresses exported demand as it occasionally accesses Cheadle Hulme High School, in Stockport, due a lack of pitch capacity within Cheshire East.
- ✦ Wilmslow, Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Crewe Vagrants hockey clubs express latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitches were available to them.
- ✦ Five of the Cheshire East based clubs express future demand, which, where quantified, equates to four senior teams and four junior teams.
- ✦ EH applies a growth rate to current affiliated membership numbers and for Cheshire East this is 15%, which results in an overall predicted combined growth of 256 members to 2,030 members in the future.

Scenarios

Accommodating future, latent and exported demand

Knutsford, Triton and Sandbach hockey clubs report that all their demand can be accommodated on current pitches; however, Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs will have to utilise spare capacity at alternative venues or new provision will be required.

Shavington Leisure Centre is considered to have spare capacity for an increase in usage on a Saturday and offers a viable option for Crewe Vagrants HC, should the Club be willing to access a secondary venue. That said, the pitch will have to be resurfaced as it is currently unsuitable for hockey use due to its poor quality.

The Macclesfield Academy provides an option to the remaining clubs, although hockey goals will need to be provided and again quality will need to improve. The location is also not ideal for the Wilmslow based clubs (Alderley Edge HC and Wilmslow HC).

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand-based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants will have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted. It is unlikely that any pitch that is currently in use for hockey purposes in Cheshire East will gain approval for a 3G conversion.

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

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

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

Recommendations

- ◆ As a minimum, protect the 12 pitches currently in use by hockey clubs.
- ◆ Accommodate expressed latent, future and displaced demand on the current pitch stock and, if required, improve quality at Shavington Leisure Centre and Macclesfield Academy to achieve this.
- ◆ Ensure that developments at King's School and Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) are provided to a good quality and maximise usage.
- ◆ Resurface the AGPs at Alsager Leisure Centre and Knutsford Leisure Centre and ensure that both continue to provide a hockey suitable surface.
- ◆ Encourage the AGPs at Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (girls) and Sandbach School (boys) to be resurfaced in the near future and that they continue to provide a hockey suitable surface.
- ◆ Encourage providers to have sinking funds in place at all sites to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◆ Pursue long-term security of tenure for all clubs, particularly those using education sites, through community use agreements.
- ◆ Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey and revisit hockey demand when and if a conversion is proposed to ensure that the pitch in question is not required.

Lacrosse pitches

- ◆ Consideration must be given to providing Poynton Lacrosse Club with access to more pitches given the high levels of latent and future demand expressed.
- ◆ As Wilmslow Lacrosse Club does not express any latent demand and has access to more pitches, it is considered that it has sufficient provision to accommodate current and future demand.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Summary

- ✦ There are seven senior lacrosse pitches located across three sites (Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, Poynton Sports Club and Mount Vernon), all of which are available for community use.
- ✦ Both Wilmslow Phoenix and Poynton sports clubs are managed internally by the respective clubs, whereas Mount Vernon is owned and managed by the Council.
- ✦ The pitches at Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club are rated as standard quality; Mount Vernon's pitch is considered to poor quality.
- ✦ Poynton Lacrosse Club fields three senior men's teams, an u19s development team, three junior boys' teams and one junior girls' team, whereas Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields two senior men's teams, one senior women's team, an u19s development team and three junior boys' teams.
- ✦ Both clubs use AGPs at their home ground to accommodate the majority of training demand, particularly during winter months as this reduces wear on grass pitches.
- ✦ Poynton Lacrosse Club suggests that it could field up to four additional junior teams if it had more available pitches.
- ✦ Poynton Lacrosse Club expresses future demand for one senior men's, one senior women's and two junior girls' teams, whereas Wilmslow Lacrosse Club expresses future demand equating to two junior teams.
- ✦ As Mount Vernon is assessed as poor quality, improvements are required to sustain future use of the pitch for Poynton Lacrosse Club.

Scenarios

Transferring demand to 3G pitches

Lacrosse clubs accessing 3G pitches is becoming increasingly common nationally and could offer a viable option for Poynton Lacrosse Club given its expressed latent and future demand. That said, there are currently no full size 3G pitches within the Poynton Analysis Area, although it is noted that at least one is required in the future and any development could therefore be utilised by the Club. Currently, All Hallows Catholic College provides the nearest pitch; it is located approximately eight miles away from the Club's current home base.

Recommendations

- ✦ Consider options to help Poynton Lacrosse Club field its expressed latent and future demand, particularly through the use of a 3G pitch.
- ✦ Improve pitch quality at Mount Vernon and sustain pitch quality at Poynton Sports Club.
- ✦ Ensure the supply of pitches available to Wilmslow Lacrosse Club remains sufficient both in terms of quantity and quality.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that playing pitches are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection or replacement and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is a requirement for playing field land to meet the identified shortfalls. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should reflect this situation.

NPPF paragraph 74 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

Lapsed and disused – playing field sites that formerly accommodated outdoor sports facilities but are no longer used for formal or informal sports use within the last five years (lapsed) or longer (disused).

Should playing pitches be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. council budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

This means that land containing playing pitches should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (subject to being informed by an annual review of the PPS), or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

The following sites in Cheshire East are considered to be lapsed:

- ✦ Bisto Football Club
- ✦ Cranage Hall
- ✦ Crewe Hall
- ✦ Goddard Street

And the following sites are disused:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ✦ Brooke Dean Community College | ✦ Brook House Playing Field |
| ✦ Cedar Avenue | ✦ Hazelbadge Road Playing Field |
| ✦ Peover Playing Fields | ✦ Portland Drive |
| ✦ St John's Road | ✦ Wybunbury Recreation Ground |
| ✦ Wheelock Playing Field | |

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls.

Each currently disused/lapsed site is included within the action plan together with a recommendation in relation to the need to bring the site back into use or mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified with the Assessment.

New housing development - where proposed housing development is located within access of a high quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvements to existing pitches in that area in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. The PPS should be used to help determine what impact the new development will have on the demand for, and capacity of, existing sites, and whether improvement to increase capacity or new provision is required.

Housing Growth scenarios have been provided in Part 7 to estimate the additional demand generated by housing by sport and pitch type.

Development Management - the PPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field and will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport England's playing field policy exception E1 only allows for development of lapsed or disused playing fields if a PPS shows a clear excess in the quantity of playing pitch provision at present and in the future across all playing pitch sports types and sizes.

Policy Exception E1:

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

Where the PPS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with Sport England policy exception E4.

Policy Exception E4:

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

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

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of some existing playing field sites that have been assessed as low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision, and as such are not preferable for investment or improvement. Where appropriate, loss of these sites to development and re-provision of playing field land as part of a broader sustainable community sport offer could be considered. For example, extending existing playing field that is in a more sustainable and accessible location to create community sport hub sites. (Strategic Sites). This could help to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e). It is imperative, however, that there is no net loss of pitches and that any replacement provision is made available before existing provision is lost.

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

A number of school, commercial and private sites are being used in Cheshire East for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should, thus, seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of use, such as Eaton Bank Academy, Knutsford Academy and Malbank School and Sixth Form College.

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council, NGBs or Active Cheshire (the CSP) to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)¹⁰. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding.

Each club interested in leasing a site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below. Clubs in Cheshire East that expressed an interest in acquiring a lease that do not currently do so include Crewe, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes and Vale Juniors football clubs.

Table 5.1: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

Club	Site
Clubs should have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard accreditation award.	Sites should be those identified as 'Club Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a Borough wide significance) but that offer development potential.
Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.	For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.
Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.	As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club).
Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any	Sites should be leased with the intention that

¹⁰ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Club	Site
match funding required for initial capital investment identified. Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.	investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.

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

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

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

Community asset transfer

The Council should adopt a policy that supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. This presents sports clubs and NGBs with opportunities to take ownership of facilities and it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building. The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit provides a step-by-step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process:

http://archive.sportengland.org/support_advice/asset_transfer.aspx

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

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

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs. It is, however, common for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites. The following schools in Cheshire East currently prevent community use of some or all of their pitch stock:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ✦ Adlington primary School | ✦ All Hallows Catholic College |
| ✦ Astbury St Mary's CE Primary School | ✦ Audlem St James CE Primary School |
| ✦ Calverley School | ✦ Cranberry Academy |

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- | | |
|--|--|
| ◀ Dean Oaks Primary School | ◀ Disley Primary School |
| ◀ Elworth Primary School | ◀ Excalibur Primary School |
| ◀ Fallibroome Academy | ◀ Goostrey Primary School |
| ◀ Havannah Primary School | ◀ Hurdsfield Primary School |
| ◀ Ivy Bank Primary School | ◀ Leighton Academy |
| ◀ Little Bollington Primary School | ◀ Mablins Lane Primary School |
| ◀ Millfields Primary School | ◀ Mossley CE Primary School |
| ◀ Offley Primary School | ◀ Pebble Brook Primary School |
| ◀ Poynton High School | ◀ Rainow Primary School |
| ◀ Rode Heath Primary School | ◀ Sandbach Community Primary School |
| ◀ Sandbach School (girls) | ◀ St Anne's Catholic Primary School |
| ◀ Sound and District Primary School | ◀ St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School |
| ◀ St Mary's Primary School (Congelton) | ◀ St Mary's Primary School (Crewe) |
| ◀ St Michael's Community Academy | ◀ Stapeley Broad Lane Primary School |
| ◀ Terra Nova School | ◀ The Berkley Academy |
| ◀ The Dingle Primary School | ◀ The King's School |
| ◀ The Oaks Academy | ◀ Tytherington High School |
| ◀ Vine Tree Primary School | ◀ Warmingham Primary School |
| ◀ Weston Village Primary School | ◀ Wheelock Primary School |
| ◀ Willaston Primary School | ◀ Wilmslow Grange Primary School |
| ◀ Wilmslow High School | ◀ Wistaston Church Lane School |
| ◀ Wisaston Green Primary School | ◀ Woodcocks Well CE Primary School |
| ◀ Wrenbury Primary School | |

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

Although there is a growing number of academies over which Cheshire East has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, the relevant NGB has a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver the strategy and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision, particularly for football pitches.

As detailed earlier, NGBs and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement. An example of this is evident at the King's School and the potential community use agreement that will be attached to its development plans.

Sport England has also produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use. These can be found at:

Community Use: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/accessing-schools/>
 Use Our Schools Toolkit: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

OBJECTIVE 2

To enhance playing pitches through improving quality and management of sites

Recommendations:

- d. Improve quality
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- g. Secure developer contributions or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, installing drainage systems and improving maintenance.

Given that the majority of councils face reducing budgets it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g. the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest).

With such pressures on budgets, however, any direct investment into pitch quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should therefore be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted in Objective 1 or through other means such as reducing unofficial use, addressing overplay and/or creating equipment banks for the pooling of maintenance resources.

Addressing quality issues

Quality in Cheshire East is variable but generally pitches are assessed as poor or standard quality with the exception of cricket squares, which are mostly assessed as good quality.

Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality pitches is also essential.

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on pitch quality. The worse the weather, the poorer the pitches tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place. This also means that pitch quality can vary, year on year, dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to playing pitches achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor' quality. For example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to pitches with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces, that are free from vandalism and litter. For rugby, a good pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. For rugby, drainage is natural but adequate. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets.

Poor quality refers to pitches with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. For rugby, pitches will have inadequate natural drainage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate (too small) changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old, dated interiors. If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.

Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same applies to women's and girls' demand.

To prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to Cheshire East, to provide a steer on this. It is the responsibility of the whole steering group to agree and to attend regular subsequent update meetings.

For improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces: www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitches stock; it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing pitch quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a weekly match limit to each. Each NGB recommends a number of matches that a good quality pitch should take, as seen in the table below.

Table 5.1: Carrying capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football (grass)	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union ¹¹	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	Four matches per day	N/A	N/A

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

A cost effective way to reduce unofficial use (and therefore overplay), particularly for football, could be to remove goalposts in between match days, principally at open access, high traffic sites that are managed by clubs. This will, however, require adequate, secured storage to be provided.

¹¹ The RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and the maintenance programme afforded to a site.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

For cricket, an increase in NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares. Bunbury, Haslington, Holmes Chapel, Langley, Sandbach and Toft cricket clubs are currently without an NTP and are overplayed, as are Bollington Recreation Ground and Congleton Sports and Social Club.

For rugby union, additional floodlighting will reduce the majority of overplay at club sites as it will allow clubs to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative. Both Sandbach Rugby Club and Wilmslow Rugby Club would particularly benefit from this.

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

Increasing maintenance

Standard or poor grass pitch quality may not just be a result of unofficial use, overplay or poor drainage. In some instances ensuring appropriate maintenance for the level/standard of play can help to improve quality and therefore increase pitch capacity. Each NGB can provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes.

The FA and ECB are part of the Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) which has been developed in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise council maintained sites.

At local authority sites in Cheshire East, maintenance of grass pitches (carried out by ANSA) is deemed to be basic. As such, if budget restrictions allow, additional work on council pitches should be carried out. This could include sand dressing, weed-killing and/or fertilising pitches (none of which currently takes place) and an improvement in post-season remedial work is also recommended. The Council should work with users and the relevant NGBs to achieve this and to fully determine the most appropriate pitch improvements on a site-by-site basis.

One method for improving maintenance could be via asset transfer, as highlighted in Objective 1. A common example for cricket is that a club maintains the square and the Council the outfield (rather than the Council maintaining the whole site). Other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

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

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

In order to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision.

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

Please refer to Appendix Two for further funding information which includes details of the current opportunities, likely funding requirements and indicative project costs.

Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions or CIL

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

As previously stated, where such development is located within access of a high quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvement to existing pitches in the locality in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. The PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity or if new provision is required.

The Council should use Sport England's new Playing Pitch Demand Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. Please contact Sport England for access to the calculator: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/contact-us/>

This uses team generation rates (TGRs) from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. This is then converted into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs.

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and subsequent maintenance. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches. A number of planning policy objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Most new developments which create net additional floor space of 100 square metres or more, or create a new dwelling, are potentially liable for CIL.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

As a reminder, the Council is proposing to allocate a number of strategic sites for housing. There is an overall housing requirement for at least 36,000 new homes and proposals to achieve 31,400 additional jobs within the Local Plan period (2010-2030). The Council is planning positively to support growth in line with national planning policy.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 5.2: Proposed housing growth

Analysis area	Number of new homes	Indicative population growth ¹²
Alsager	2,000	3,200
Congleton	4,150	6,700
Crewe	7,700	12,400
Handforth	2,200	3,500
Knutsford	950	1,500
Macclesfield	4,250	6,800
Middlewich	1,950	3,100
Nantwich	2,050	3,300
Poynton	650	1,000
Sandbach	2,750	3,400
Wilmslow	900	1,400
Local service centres	3,500	5,600
Other settlements and rural areas (inc Alderley Park)	2,950	4,700
Cheshire East	36,000	56,600

The impact on future demand for pitch sports is contained in Part 7 of the report.

¹² Based on 1.61 per dwelling

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new provision where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

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

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

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to the Council's own playing pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that presently used minimally or currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches and non-turf wickets where there is a discrete need, or where there is significant housing growth.

Notwithstanding the above, there remains an isolated need to reconfigure pitches at certain sites, in particular in relation to the lack of dedicated youth 11v11 football pitches.

Recommendation (i) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations (Part 3) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of grass pitch provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports the current and future demand for provision identified in Cheshire can be overcome through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:

- ✦ Improving pitch quality in order to improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches.
- ✦ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ✦ The re-designation of pitches.
- ✦ Securing long term community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ✦ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming that an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of playing pitches.

Sports development work also approximates unmet demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e. it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur. The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities; however, it is important to note that these may be subject to change and are not necessarily area specific.

Table 5.3: Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults.	Additional need for 3G pitches. Sustain current pitch stock but give consideration to pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football. Qualitative improvements.
	Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase based on TGRs and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G AGP's.	Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure FA testing.
3G pitches	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase as currently there is a shortfall of full size pitches. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes.	Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for community use agreements to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds. Requirement for 3G pitches to be FA/FIFA tested to host competitive matches. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface.
Cricket	Demand is likely to remain static for grass wickets for both junior and adult participation.	Sustain current pitch stock. Isolated pockets of demand for access to additional facilities where pitches are operating at capacity. A need to install non-turf wickets and encourage greater use for junior cricket.
	An increase in casual play, especially from South Asian communities.	Develop cricket within communities that more commonly play informal formats of the game.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
	The development of LMS in the area.	Installation of a new non-turf wicket pitch at a central location with adequate transport links.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Rugby union	The RFU work towards achieving the stated outcomes of its National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017), the RFU National Women and Girls Strategy and the RFU National Male XV-a-side Strategy. Locally the RFU want to ensure access to pitches that satisfies the existing demand and predicted growth. Further, the RFU is aiming to protect and improve pitch quality plus that of ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights as current and future demand requires.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock, support facility development where appropriate and increase the number of floodlit pitches where necessary.
	The RFU investment strategy into AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. To achieve this, the RFU is keen to work locally with partners such as the Council and the FA to look at sites of mutual interest.	Consider requirement for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch given shortfalls identified on grass pitches and level of training demand on grass pitches.
Hockey	Current playing level is likely to increase with a 15% growth rate predicted by England Hockey.	Ensure continued use of at least 14 sand-based AGPs to accommodate current and future demand and ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey and revisit hockey demand when and if a conversion is proposed to ensure the subjected pitch is not required.
	High profile events (Hockey World Cup 2018)	These high profile events aim to raise the profile of the game within England and there will be community events in the build-up within clubs and a promotional programme through clubs and local schools. This will inevitably raise the profile of the game with the aim to increase participation.
	Play Hockey	The launch of the Play Hockey website ensures that those wishing to play the game are able to find their local facility and club.
Lacrosse	More people participating in lacrosse more often and achieving excellence in lacrosse at all levels and therefore creating a higher profile for lacrosse.	Ensure current facilities are protected and encourage use of 3G pitches, where appropriate.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. Recommendation e below explains the hierarchy of priorities on the list. It is imperative that action plans for priority projects should be developed through the implementation of the strategy.

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

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

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Strategic hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.
Type of sport	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.
Management	Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Criteria	Strategic hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	No changing room access on site or appropriate access to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).

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

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of strategic sites (also known as hub sites) are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development of community sports hubs at:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/sports_hubs.aspx

It may be appropriate to consider rationalization of some existing playing field sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Strategic Sites) in order to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e). Identification of these potential sites should be carried out in partnership with the Steering Group and, in particular, the NGB for that particular sport.

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

From a football perspective, these sites already seek to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for youth football (especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for mini and youth football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for mini and youth football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both youth and mini-football matches could be played on these sites. Initial investment could be required in the short term and identified in the Action Plan.

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both Strategic sites and Key Centre sites to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. Primarily they are sites with one pitch or a low number of pitches that service just one sport. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

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It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the pitches or ancillary facilities and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the facilities.

It is also possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. NGBs would expect the facility to be transferred in an adequate condition that the club can maintain. In the longer term, the Club should be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the facilities.

Management and development

The following issues should be considered when undertaking sports related site development or enhancement:

- ✦ Financial viability.
- ✦ Security of tenure.
- ✦ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ✦ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- ✦ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ✦ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ✦ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ✦ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ✦ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.
- ✦ Football investment programme/3G pitches development with The FA.

Action plan columns

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions. Given the extent of potential actions it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all of the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to provide support. The Council is considered to a partner within each action so is therefore not referenced.

Site hierarchy tier

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The majority of Key centres are a **medium** priority and have analysis area importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

Low priority sites tend to be single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

Costs

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

(L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above. These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at: www.sportengland.org/media/198443/facility-costs-4q13.pdf

Timescales

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CONGLETON ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ¹³	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	2	3.5	-	1.5	-	1	2.5
Youth pitches 11v11	2.5	1	-	1.5	-	2	0.5
Youth pitches 9v9	-	2	0.5	1.5	3	1.5	6
Mini pitches 7v7	4	-	-	4	1	2	1
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		2	3.5	5.5

- There is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and a future shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
- There is spare capacity on youth 11v11 pitches amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions currently, however, a future shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions is evident.
- There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions.
- There is spare capacity on mini 7v7 pitches totalling four match equivalent sessions currently and one match equivalent session when accounting for future demand.
- Mini 5v5 pitches are currently played to capacity; however, a shortfall is evident when including future demand equating to 5.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Overplay is evident on adult and youth 9v9 pitches at Back Lane and on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches at Congleton High School.
- There are 24 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Changing facilities servicing Congleton Road and Congleton High School are considered to be poor quality.
- There are 16 providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- There is current training demand for one full size 3G pitch in Alsager, two in Congleton, one in Holmes Chapel, one in Middlewich and two in Sandbach. This means a shortfall of one pitch in Alsager, Congleton and Sandbach, with demand being met in Middlewich and Holmes Chapel.
- A proposal is in place for the creation of a full size 3G pitch (as well as additional grass pitches) at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will address the shortfall in Alsager.

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.

¹³ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Congleton High School and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.
- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Identify potential sites to increase 3G pitch stock in Congleton and Sandbach.
- ◀ Ensure 3G development at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) is provided to a good quality and is made fully available/accessible to local clubs.
- ◀ Ensure all current 3G pitches have sinking funds in place for long-term sustainability and ensure all remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Further maximise usage of 3G pitches, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are 11 grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and two standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ Of the grass wicket squares, nine are rated as good quality, one (Mossley Cricket Club) as standard quality and one (Sandbach School) as poor quality.
- ◀ Sandbach CC expresses an aspiration for additional practice nets to be installed at its site, whereas Holmes Chapel CC reports a need for its existing nets to be improved.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists on four grass wicket squares, however, none are available for an increase in play at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ Alsager, Congleton, Elworth, Holmes Chapel and Sandbach cricket clubs are overplayed by ten, six, eight, three and 16 match equivalent sessions respectively.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to 42 match equivalent sessions currently and 67 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at Sandbach School and Mossley Cricket Club and deliver improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Support Sandbach CC and Holmes Chapel CC in aspirations for training facility improvements.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Congleton, Holmes Chapel and Sandbach cricket clubs through installing an NTP in situ for the transfer of junior demand.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at the remaining sites through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure Elworth, Holmes Chapel and Rode Park & Lawton cricket clubs can fulfil their future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are 11 senior, three junior and three mini rugby union pitches available for community use.
- ◀ Back Lane, Congleton Park and Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre contain pitches assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Hankinson's Field (containing one senior pitch, an unmarked training area and other areas used for mini rugby) has been temporarily taken out of use as the site is required as an access point for the development of Congleton Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Holmes Chapel RUFC has only ten years remaining on its licence of Holmes Chapel Community Centre from Holmes Chapel Parish Council.
- ◀ Congleton RUFC reports a need for the changing facilities servicing Back Lane to be improved.
- ◀ Since production of the Assessment Report, the 3G pitch has undergone testing and is awaiting World Rugby approval. If approval is granted, the pitch can be used for full contact rugby union activity.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Back Lane, Sandbach Rugby Club and Congleton Park are overplayed by one, two and 0.5 match equivalent sessions respectively.
- ◀ There is an overall shortfall of two match equivalent sessions both currently and in the future.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance, particularly at poor quality and overplayed sites.
- ◀ Consider installation of additional floodlighting at Sandbach Rugby Club to spread out training demand and alleviate overplay of current training pitch.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unavailable pitches for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Ensure Hankinson's Field is re-provided following development of Congleton Leisure Centre or mitigate loss.
- ◀ Improve security of tenure for Holmes Chapel RUFC through providing a lease agreement (minimum 25 years).
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Back Lane to make them more rugby appropriate.
- ◀ Seek to maximise usage of the 3G pitch at Congleton High School should it achieve World Rugby approval.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are four full size hockey suitable AGPs and all four are in current use by hockey clubs.
- ◀ Alsager Leisure Centre and Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) are assessed as poor quality, whereas Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College (girls) and Sandbach School (boys) are assessed as standard quality albeit over ten years old.
- ◀ Planning approval has been granted at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will involve replacing the existing sand-based AGP with a new sand-based AGP.
- ◀ The two hockey clubs in the Analysis Area (Triton HC and Sandbach HC) report that both their current and future demand can be accommodated on the current stock of pitches.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure all pitches are protected for hockey use.
- ◀ Ensure development at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) goes ahead and is provided to a good quality.
- ◀ Resurface Alsager Leisure Centre, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College (girls) and Sandbach School (boys) in the near future.
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place at all sites for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Pursue security of tenure for all clubs through community use agreements.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁴	Cost ¹⁵
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 12 grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or transfer demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Football	ESAR	One adult, two youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch all assessed as standard quality. One of the youth 11v11 pitches is over marked by the 9v9 pitch. Spare capacity exists across each pitch type, however, no actual spare capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality, pitch over markings and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA ESAR School	Key centre	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through community use agreements.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as poor quality. Available for community use but unused. Also unused by Alsager High School due its quality.	Replace NTP for curricular and extra-curricular use and consider as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Alsager Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.	ECB ESAR School		S	L
				Sand AGP (Hockey)	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Triton HC. Assessed as poor quality and not re-surfaced since 1995. No floodlighting is allowed on Sundays.			Refurbish AGP to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH ESAR School
		Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.				L		L	
		Ensure security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.				S		L	
		6		Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	Football	University		One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. A planning application has been approved that will include increased grass provision, a full size 3G pitch and a pavilion. The site previously contained as many as six adult pitches when the Campus was open to students. Minimal spare capacity on existing pitch is discounted due to development plans.	Ensure approved development provides good quality pitches and maximise usage.
Ensure quality is sustained through appropriate maintenance.	L		L						
Pursue security of tenure for users through community use agreements.	S		L						
Rugby union	Disused pitches that will not be replaced. Instead, funding will be directed towards providing maintenance equipment at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club.		Ensure maintenance equipment is provided at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club.		RFU Developers		S	L	
Sand AGP (Hockey)	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Triton HC. Assessed as poor quality. Will be re-provided as part of the development of the site together with a new pavilion.		Ensure AGP is re-provided to a good quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.				EH Developers	S	M
			Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.		L			L	
			Ensure security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.		S			L	

¹⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁶	Cost ¹⁷
11	Back Lane	Football	Council	Two adult, two youth 11v11, one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch that are all assessed as poor quality. Adult pitches are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions; 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Remaining pitch types are played to capacity at peak time.	Implement quality improvements to alleviate overplay.	FA	Key centre	S	M
					If overplay cannot be alleviated, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	L
					Explore options to limit damage caused by unofficial use.			S	L
		Rugby union		One senior pitch and one junior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0). Used by Congleton RUFC. Senior pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions; junior pitch is played to capacity. Serviced by changing facilities that are deemed unsuitable for rugby union purposes.	Improve pitch quality through improved maintenance and/or drainage to alleviate overplay.	RFU		S	L
					Improve changing facilities for rugby union purposes.			S	M
					Explore potential re-orientation of pitches to accommodate increased rugby provision without being detrimental to football activity.			S	L
15	Black Firs Primary School	Football	School	A 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and attract demand should it be necessary in the future.			S	L
19	Booth Street Stadium (Congleton Football Club)	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is suitable for Step 5 of the football pyramid.	Retain spare capacity to protect quality.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
					Ensure club has facilities that enable it to progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Rugby union	Club	Five senior pitches, two junior pitches and three mini pitches. Two senior pitches are floodlit; two others have a drainage system installed (D2). All others are without floodlighting and have natural, adequate drainage (D1). All pitches are maintained to a good level (M2). One floodlit pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions whereas the other is played to capacity. Remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Reduce overplay through installing a drainage system on more of its pitches to increase pitch capacity.	RFU Club	Key centre	S	M
					To fully alleviate overplay, provide the Club with additional floodlighting either permanent or portable. This will allow training demand to spread across a greater number of pitches.			S	M
23	Congleton Park	Rugby union	Council	A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0). Used by Congleton RUFC and overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality through improved maintenance and/or drainage to alleviate overplay.	RFU	Local site	S	L
24	Buglawton Primary School	Football	School	A 7v7 pitch that is assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains.	Sustain quality and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L

¹⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁶	Cost ¹⁷
33	Congleton Sports and Social Club (Congleton Cricket Club)	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Overplayed by six match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP in situ or via the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
34	Congleton High School	Football	School	Two adult, two youth 11v11, two 9v9, two 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches all assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used. Both adult pitches are over marked by the 9v9 pitches and both youth 11v11 pitches are over marked by the mini pitches. Adult, youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 1.5, one and 1.5 match equivalent sessions respectively. Mini pitches are played to capacity at peak time. The changing provision servicing the pitches is considered to be poor quality.	Alleviate overplay through improving pitch quality to good.	FA School Club	Key centre	S	M
					Alternatively, transfer of some demand to sites with actual spare capacity whilst sustaining current quality.			S	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
					Support the School and Congleton Rovers FC in aspirations for changing room improvements.			M	M
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and used for matches as well as training. Since production of the Assessment Report, it has undergone testing and is awaiting World Rugby approval. If approval is granted, the pitch can be used for full contact rugby union activity.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA School		L	L
					Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			L	L
					Seek to maximise rugby union usage of the pitch should it achieve World Rugby approval, particularly in relation to Congleton RUFC.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Congleton Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.			S	L
		36		Cranage Playing Fields	Football	Council		A standard quality adult pitch with one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity. Used solely by youth 11v11 teams.	Consider pitch reconfiguration to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.
Utilise spare capacity through future demand and/or the transfer of demand from overplayed pitches.	S		L						
37	Cranberry Academy	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁸	Cost ¹⁹
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Football	School	Two youth 11v11, one 9v9 and seven 5v5 pitches all assessed as poor quality. Actual spare capacity on the 5v5 pitches is discounted due to quality issues. All remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality to sustain current usage and to provide actual spare capacity.	FA School	Key centre	S	M
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.				S
		3G		The School has aspirations to provide a full size, floodlit 3G pitch.	Explore feasibility of developing the pitch given local shortfalls.	FA School		S	H
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Congleton Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.			S	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0) that is unavailable for community use.	Protect and improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		L	L
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	Two good quality squares. One with 12 grass wickets and an NTP and one with four grass wickets. Combined, the grass wickets are overplayed by six match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or seek to transfer demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
					Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations through playing outside of the peak period or through transfer of play.			L	L
47	Forge Fields	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality and current usage through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity to cater for future demand and/or the transfer of demand from overplayed pitches.			S	L
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 pitch over marked by a 9v9 pitch and assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity discounted due to over markings.	Sustain quality, pitch over markings and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 45 x 35 metres.	Review community use potential and explore surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA		L	L

¹⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁰	Cost ²¹
53	Hankinson's Field	Rugby union	Council	A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Used by Congleton RUFC and played to capacity. Unmarked areas surrounding the pitch are used for training and mini rugby. Site has been taken temporarily out of use for the development of Congleton Leisure Centre.	Ensure pitch and unmarked areas are re-provided following the development of Congleton Leisure Centre or mitigate loss.	RFU	Local site	S	L
					Explore quality improvements to increase capacity and to allow for increased use.			S	L
55	Hermitage Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is available to the community and used. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Puruse security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Rugby union	Parish Council	A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Used by Holmes Chapel RUFC in a licence agreement that has ten years remaining. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists.	Explore quality improvements to increase capacity and to allow for increased use.	RFU Parish	Local site	L	L
					Provide the Club with increased security of tenure via a lease agreement of at least 25 years.			S	L
					Explore options to provide floodlit provision.			M	M
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Football	Club	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that over marks the cricket outfield. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
		Cricket		A good quality square with nine grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are overplayed by three match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or transfer demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
					Improve quality of practice nets			S	L
					Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations through playing outside of the peak period or through transfer of play.			L	L

²⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²²	Cost ²³
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Football	ESAR	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch assessed as standard quality. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA ESAR	Key centre	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2015 and assessed as good quality. Substantial spare capacity remains.	Explore options to maximise usage.	FA ESAR		L	L
					Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play.			L	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP was replaced by the 3G pitch.	Consider replacing NTP elsewhere if it is required to cater for school needs.	ECB ESAR		S	L
		Rugby union		Two senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0). Available to the community, however, unused.	Protect and improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU ESAR		S	L
					Explore opportunities for the site to accommodate Holmes Chapel RUFC should Holmes Chapel Community Centre ever reach capacity.			L	L
					If a lease agreement is put into place for use by Holmes Chapel RUFC, explore installation of floodlighting that could be dually used for extra-curricular activity.			L	M
59	Holmes Chapel Primary School	Football	School	One youth 11v11 and one 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used. Youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity; 7v7 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 18 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 26 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L

²² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre	Football	ESAR	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Played to capacity, solely by youth 11v11 teams. One pitch is a dual use rugby union pitch. Unofficial use recorded despite the site being fenced off.	Sustain quality, pitch over markings and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA ESAR School	Key centre	L	L
					Consider pitch re-configuration to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
					Provide a resolution to unofficial use.			S	L
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2012 and assessed as standard quality.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA ESAR School		L	L
					Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			L	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Unavailable for community use due to dual use football pitch.	Protect and sustain quality for continued curricular and extra-curricular use and ensure maintenance is appropriate to sustain over markings.	RFU ESAR School		L	L
84	Middlewich Town Football Club	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is suitable for Step 7 football.	Retain minimal actual spare capacity to protect quality.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
					Ensure club has facilities that enable it to progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
					Consider the Club's ambitions to acquire Sutton Lane.			S	L
		3G		A floodlit, smaller size 3G pitch measuring 55 x 30 metres. Available for community use and well used, particularly by the hosting club.	Retain for continued community use.	FA Club		L	L

²⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁶	Cost ²⁷
86	Milton Park	Football	Council	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of a youth 11v11 team from an adult pitch.			S	L
96	Offley Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
99	Pikemere School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine community needs/demand.	FA School	Local site	L	L
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Football	Club	Five adult, two youth 11v11 and three 9v9 pitches all assessed as good quality. One of the adult pitches is over marked by one of the 9v9 pitches. One of the adult pitches is suitable for Step 7 football. All pitches are played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and ensure no additional play takes place above current demand.	FA Club	Hub site	L	L
					Ensure site has facilities that enable Sandbach United FC to progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
					Support the Club in site development aspirations.			S	M
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and well used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2012 and assessed as standard quality.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA Club		L	L
					Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			L	L
					Consider the Club's aspirations for a second 3G pitch to be installed given shortfalls within Sandbach and given that the pitch is operating at capacity.			M	H
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 14 grass wickets. Overplayed by 16 match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP in situ or via the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
					Consider aspirations for additional practice nets to be installed.			S	L
109	Sandbach High and Sixth Form College (Girls)	Sand AGP (Hockey)	School	A full size, sand-based AGP that is without floodlighting. Used by Sandbach HC for match play. Assessed as standard quality albeit the surface is over ten years old (2004).	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School	Local site	M	M
					Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Ensure security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L

²⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁶	Cost ²⁷				
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Football	School	One adult and one youth 11v11 assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused. Both pitches are dual use rugby union pitches.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use options given local shortfalls.	FA School	Key centre	S	L				
		Cricket		One good quality square with ten grass wickets and one poor quality square with six grass wickets. Available to the community and used. Overall spare capacity amounting to 40 match equivalent sessions exists and actual spare capacity equating to one square exists although this is discounted to take into account school use. Pavilion is considered to be unsuitable for cricket.	Sustain good quality square and improve poor quality square through drainage improvements.	ECB School		L	L				
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of increased demand from Sandbach Cricket Club and/or Elworth Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.			S	L				
					Explore potential improvements to the pavilion to make it cricket appropriate.			M	L				
					Sand AGP (Hockey)			A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Sandbach HC, mostly for training purposes. Assessed as standard quality albeit the surface is over ten years old (2003).	Refurbish to improve quality and retain as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School	M	M	
		Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.		L		L							
		Ensure security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.		S		L							
		Rugby union		Four senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Unavailable for community use due to heavy school usage. Two of the pitches are dual use football pitches.	Protect and sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School		L	L				
		121		Sutton Lane	Football	Council		One adult pitch assessed as poor quality. Now unused following the onsite clubhouse being condemned. Previously contained multiple pitches.	Improve pitch quality and maximise usage through future demand and the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.	FA	Local site	S	M
									Improve changing rooms to bring them back into use.			S	M
Consider Middlewich Town FC's aspiration to acquire the site to enable funding to be secured for above improvements.	S		L										

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁸	Cost ²⁹
122	Terra Nova School	Football	School	One youth 11v11, one 9v9 and two 7v7 pitches that are available for community use and used. Youth 11v11 pitch has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity; 7v7 pitches have 1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. The 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through future demand.			L	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 80 x 45 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School		L	L
145	Wood Park	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through future demand or through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.			L	L
146	Wood Park (Alsager Town Football Club)	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is suitable for Step 6 football.	Retain spare capacity to protect pitch quality.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
					Ensure pitch enables the Club to progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
					Support the Club in its aspirations to build a new stand.			S	H
					Explore options to return exported demand.			S	L
157	Mossley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with ten grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are at capacity.	Review quality issues and provide improvements where possible.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Ensure any increased demand takes place away from the grass wickets to avoid overplay or ensure maintenance is appropriate to sustain resultant overplay.			L	L
160	Rode Park and Lawton Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 16 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to six match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations through playing outside of the peak period or through transfer of play.			L	L
167	Alsager Highfields Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
169	Astbury St Mary's CE Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L

²⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁸	Cost ²⁹
174	Brereton Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
179	Cledford Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L
180	Daven Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
183	Elworth Hall Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
184	Elworth Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
185	Excalibur Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
186	Goostrey Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
188	Havannah Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
198	Marlfields Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches that are available for community use and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session remains.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
199	Middlewich Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches that are available for community use and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session remains.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
202	Mossley CE Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
208	Rode Heath Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
209	Sandbach Community Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
210	Scholar Green Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁰	Cost ³¹
212	Smallwood Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular needs.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Explore options of transferring demand to the site from overplayed sites or transferring exported demand.			S	L
218	St Gabriel's Catholic Primary	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L
219	St John's Primary School (Sandbach)	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
220	St Mary's Primary School (Congleton)	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
222	St Mary's Primary School (Middlewich)	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is available to the community and used. Played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
229	The Quinta Academy	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
236	Wheelock Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
239	Woodcocks Well CE Primary	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L

³⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CREWE ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary of current and future demand football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ³²	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	1	2.5	-	1.5	-	0.5	2
Youth pitches 11v11	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Youth pitches 9v9	-	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5	1
Mini pitches 7v7	-	-	-		-	-	
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		-	1.5	1.5

- There is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and a future shortfall of two match equivalent sessions.
- There is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- There is a current shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of one match equivalent session.
- Mini 7v7 pitches are considered to be at capacity both currently and when accounting for future demand.
- Mini 5v5 pitches are currently played to capacity; however, a shortfall is evident when including future demand equating to 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Overplay is evident on adult pitches at Legends Health and Leisure Centre, Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre and Willaston White Star Football Club as well on a youth 11v11 pitch at the Peacock Sports Ground.
- There are 14 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Changing facilities servicing Audlem Playing Fields are considered to be poor quality.
- There are 15 providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- There is current training demand for three full size 3G pitches, of which, there are currently two (Alexandra Soccer Centre and Cumberland Arena).
- The 3G pitch at Cumberland Arena is regularly used for match play despite not being on the FA register.

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- Improve changing facilities at Audlem Playing Fields and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.

³² In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ✦ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ✦ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ✦ Identify potential sites to increase 3G pitch stock.
- ✦ Ensure quality of the 3G pitch at Cumberland Area is improved (via resurfacing, as planned in the summer) so that it can pass FA testing or ensure match play demand is transferred away from the site.
- ✦ Ensure that the 3G pitch at Alexandra Soccer Centre has a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and ensure that it remains on the FA register to host competitive matches.
- ✦ Maximise usage of 3G pitches, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ✦ There are three grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and four standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ✦ All of the grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ✦ Weston CC is exploring the development of a secondary square, however, no formal plan is in place.
- ✦ Spare capacity exists at Weston Cricket Club, however, this is not available for an increase in play at peak time (Saturday).
- ✦ Haslington Cricket Club is overplayed by seven match equivalent sessions and Wistaston Cricket Club is overplayed by four match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to 11 match equivalent sessions both currently and in the future.
- ✦ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ✦ Sustain quality of grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ✦ Support Weston CC in its aspiration to develop a secondary square given its lack of peak time capacity on its existing square.
- ✦ Alleviate overplay at Haslington Cricket Club through installing an NTP in situ for the transfer of junior demand.
- ✦ Alleviate overplay at Wistaston Cricket Club through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.
- ✦ Explore creation of an LMS venue at a strategically suitable location.

Rugby union

Summary

- ✦ There is one senior pitch available to the community use (Sir William Stanier School) and one pitch unavailable for community use (St Thomas More Catholic High School).
- ✦ Both pitches are assessed as poor quality.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ No demand exists from the community as no clubs play in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and improve quality where possible.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs although neither are in current use for hockey purposes.
- ◀ Shavington Leisure Centre is assessed as poor quality and is deemed unsuitable for hockey, whereas South Cheshire College is assessed as good quality but is without floodlighting due to nearby housing.

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore resurfacing Shavington Leisure Centre to provide a possible secondary venue for Crewe Vagrants HC given lack of capacity at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club (see Nantwich Analysis Area).
- ◀ Retain South Cheshire College for curricular use.
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place at both sites for long-term sustainability.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³³	Cost ³⁴
2	Alexandra Soccer Centre	3G	Club	A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community and a smaller sized (50 x 44 metres) 3G pitch that is also floodlit and available to the community. The full size pitch is FA approved and well used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2007 and assessed as standard quality.	Provide imminent resurfacing given that the pitches are nearing the end of their lifespans.	FA Club	Key centre	M	M
					Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Administer FA testing of full size pitch every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			L	L
14	Beechwood Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L
39	Cumberland Arena	Football	Council	A good quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. Suitable for Step 7 football.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Key centre	L	L
					Ensure Crewe FC can progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. Well used for matches despite not being FA approved. Installed in 2002 and assessed as standard quality. The surface will be refurbished in the summer.	Ensure resurfacing does ahead to sustain usage and improve quality.	FA		S	M
					If resurfacing does not take place, ensure all match play demand transfers away from the pitch.			S	L
					If resurfacing does take place, administer immediate FA testing so that the pitch becomes suitable to host matches and explore options to maximise match play usage.			S	L
					Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					51			Haslington Cricket Club	Cricket
Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP in situ or via the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.	S	L							
52	Haslington Playing Fields	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. The site previously contained a second pitch but that is no longer the case.	Improve quality to increase capacity and to provide some actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
60	Hungerford Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L

³³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁵	Cost ³⁶
65	King George V Playing Field	Football	Council	Four standard quality adult pitches with one match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Recent pitch renovations have improved quality as well as a changing facility refurbishment.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Hub site	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.			S	L
					Ensure quality of changing rooms is maintained.			L	L
		Cricket		No current cricket provision; however, the site is identified as an ideal location for an LMS venue.	Consider installation of a standalone NTP that can be used to host an LMS franchise.	ECB		M	L
71	Legends Health and Leisure Centre	Football	Private	Two standard quality adult pitches that are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity (e.g. King George V Playing Fields).	FA	Local site	S	L
76	Manchester Metropolitan University (Cheshire Sports Centre)	3G	University	A floodlit, smaller sized 3G pitch measuring 55 x 40 metres that is available for community use. The Campus is subjected to closure plans.	Review impact of the loss of the pitch should the Campus close.	FA University	Local site	M	L
106	Ruskin Community High School	Football	School	One adult and two youth 11v11 pitches assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch is used to capacity by the community whereas the youth 11v11 pitches are unused despite being available.	Sustain quality of adult pitch through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
					Utilise spare capacity of the youth 11v11 pitches via transferring youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches at other sites.			S	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as poor quality. Unavailable for community use.	Replace NTP for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		S	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 78 x 40 metres. Well used for football training purposes.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School		L	L
111	Shavington Academy	Football	School	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and utilise capacity given local shortfalls.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of demand from overplayed sites.			S	I

³⁵ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁷	Cost ³⁸				
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	Hockey	ESAR	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is unsuitable for hockey due to its poor quality. Last resurfaced in 2004. Well used for football but unlikely to be suitable for 3G given close proximity of the Alexandra Soccer Centre.	Resurface pitch to improve quality and explore potential of it providing a secondary venue for Crewe Vagrants HC.	EH ESAR	Local site	S	M				
					Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L				
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Football	ESAR	One adult pitch and three youth 11v11 pitches assessed as poor quality. Available to the community and used. Adult pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions; youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity. Adult pitch is a dual use rugby union pitch.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity (e.g. King George V Playing Fields).	FA School	Key centre	S	M				
					Secure tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L				
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that was replaced when the School was re-built.	Consider replacing NTP if it is required for school needs.	ECB School		S	L				
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with poor maintenance (M0) and natural, adequate maintenance (D1). Available to the community but unused. Dual use football pitch.	Protect and implement maintenance improvements for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		S	L				
					Secure tenure for users through a community use agreement.			L	L				
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 55 x 35 metres. Well used for football training purposes.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA ESAR		L	L				
		114		South Cheshire College	Football	College		A good quality adult pitch that is available to the community and used.	Retain minimal spare capacity to protect quality.	FA College	Local site	L	L
					Sand AGP			A full size, sand-based AGP that is without floodlighting due to nearby housing. Unused for hockey. Built in 2011 and assessed as good quality. Considered unsuitable for 3G due to lack of floodlighting.	Protect for curricular and extra-curricular use and encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.	EH College		L	L

³⁷ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁹	Cost ⁴⁰
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Football	School	One and one youth 11v11 pitch assessed as standard quality. Adult pitch is a dual use rugby union pitch. Adult pitch is available to the community but unused; youth 11v11 pitch is unavailable to the community.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
					Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and utilise capacity given local shortfalls.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.			S	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate maintenance (D0). Available to the community but unused. Dual use football pitch.	Protect and implement quality improvements for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		S	L
123	The Berkeley Academy	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L
129	The Oaks Academy	Football	School	One youth 11v11, two 9v9 and two 5v5 pitches assessed as poor quality. Youth 11v11 pitch is available to the community but unused; remaining pitches are unavailable to the community. One of the 9v9 pitches is over marked by a 5v5 pitch.	Improve quality through improved drainage for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and then re-examine community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	M
								Cricket	A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.
		Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.		S	L				
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized sand-based AGP measuring 85 x 30 metres that is not floodlit.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School		L	L
		130		The Peacock Sports Ground	Football	Council		One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both assessed as poor quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity whereas the youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.
135	Weston Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 14 grass wickets and an NTP. Overall spare capacity amounting to 14 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Support the Club in its aspiration to develop a second square given its lack of peak time capacity.			M	M

³⁹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁹	Cost ⁴⁰
139	Willaston White Star Football Club	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. A 9v9 pitch is marked out within its perimeter via the use of cones.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA Club	Local site	S	L
					Alternatively, provide a permanent resolution to prevent a 9v9 pitch being marked out unofficially, which in turn will alleviate overplay of the adult pitch.			S	L
142	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	Sand AGP	ESAR	A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 25 x 20 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA ESAR	Local site	L	L
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	Football	Community	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Ensure no additional demand is accommodated to avoid overplay unless quality improvements are made to increase capacity.			L	L
		Cricket		A good quality square with ten grass wickets and an NTP. Overplayed by four match equivalent sessions. Used by Wisaston CC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or transfer demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
149	Wistaston Church Lane Primary School	Football	School	One 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
150	Crewe Alexandra Football Club	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch used for professional football.	No action required.	Club	Local site	-	-
187	Haslington Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
193	Leighton Academy	Football	School	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
196	Mablins Lane Community Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
201	Monks Coppenhall Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
205	Pebble Brook Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
211	Shavington Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
221	St Mary's Primary School (Crewe)	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁹	Cost ⁴⁰
223	St Michael's Community Academy	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
228	The Dingle Primary	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
232	Vine Tree Primary School	Football	School	One 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
235	Weston Village Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
237	Willaston Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
238	Wistaston Green Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
245	Cumberland Arena (Razzer)	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues. Used solely by a youth 11v11 team.	Improve quality to increase capacity and to provide actual spare capacity, then maximise usage through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.	FA	Local site	S	L
					Consider pitch reconfiguration to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			S	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

KNUTSFORD ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ⁴¹	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	0.5	1.5	-	1	-	-	1
Youth pitches 11v11	-	3	-	3	1	0.5	4.5
Youth pitches 9v9	-	2.5	-	2.5	0.5	-	3
Mini pitches 7v7	-	-	-		-	-	
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		-	-	

- There is a current shortfall of one match equivalent session on adult pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- There is a current shortfall of three match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches a future shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions.
- There is a current shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of three match equivalent sessions.
- Both mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types are considered to be at capacity both currently and when accounting for future demand.
- Overplay is evident on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches at Egerton Youth Club.
- There are six youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Egerton Youth Club has planning permission to develop five additional grass pitches on land adjacent to its current site.
- Changing facilities servicing Manchester Road and Mary Dendy Playing Fields are considered to be poor quality.
- There is one provider (Little Bollington Primary School) that does not allow for community use of its pitches.
- Training demand for one full size 3G pitch is being met (Egerton Youth Club).

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- Support Egerton Youth Club in its aspirations to provide additional pitches to fully alleviate overplay.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- Improve changing facilities at Manchester Road and Mary Dendy Playing Fields and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.
- Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.

⁴¹ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Ensure that the 3G pitch at Egerton Youth Club has a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and ensure that it remains on the FA register to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Maximise usage, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are eight grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and no standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ Rostherne Cricket Club is assessed as standard quality; all other grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Knutsford Academy intends to supply a grass wicket square that will be available for community use should it acquire adjacent land as planned.
- ◀ Toft CC is exploring the development of a secondary square.
- ◀ Over Peover CC is without security of tenure as it currently rents its square on a rolling annual basis from a local landowner.
- ◀ The clubhouse at Mere Cricket Club is considered too small and poor quality.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists on four squares, however, only the Mere Cricket Club has actual spare capacity for an increase in demand at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ Toft Cricket Club is overplayed by 14 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to eight match equivalent sessions currently and 20 match equivalent sessions in the future.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at Rostherne Cricket Club and provide improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Support Knutsford Academy in its aspiration to create a grass wicket square and maximise community usage if provision is provided.
- ◀ Support Toft CC in its aspiration to develop a secondary square given expressed overplay and its lack of peak time capacity on its existing square.
- ◀ Provide Over Peover CC with greater security of tenure.
- ◀ Support clubhouse improvements at Mere Cricket Club.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Toft Cricket Club through installing an NTP in situ for the transfer of junior demand.
- ◀ Ensure Mobberley CC can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Rugby union

Summary

- ✦ There is one senior and one junior pitch available for community use, both of which are located at Knutsford Academy (lower).
- ✦ Both pitches are assessed as standard quality.
- ✦ The School has an aspiration to acquire adjacent land to increase its stock of pitches.
- ✦ Knutsford RUFC uses the pitches, however, no security of tenure is provided as no community use agreement is in place.
- ✦ The Club reports an aspiration for its own clubhouse to be provided in closer proximity to the pitches.
- ✦ The senior pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions whereas the junior pitch is overplay by two match equivalents.

Recommendations

- ✦ Provide Knutsford RUFC with security of tenure through a long-term lease agreement (minimum 25 years).
- ✦ If the above happens, support the School in its aspiration to purchase additional land for development than can be used to provide additional pitches to fully alleviate shortfalls and overplay and a clubhouse for use by Knutsford RUFC.
- ✦ Improve quality of existing pitches at Knutsford Academy to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance.

Hockey

Summary

- ✦ There is one full size hockey suitable AGP (Knutsford Leisure Centre).
- ✦ The pitch is poor quality and is beyond its recommended lifespan on account of not being resurfaced since 2003.
- ✦ Knutsford HC reports that all of its current and future demand can be accommodated on the pitch.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect Knutsford Leisure Centre as a hockey suitable surface.
- ✦ Resurface the pitch imminently to sustain usage.
- ✦ Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- ✦ Ensure security of tenure for Knutsford HC through a community use agreement.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ✦ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ✦ No action required.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴²	Cost ⁴³
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 16 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to four match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP in situ or via the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.	ECB Club	Local site	L S	L L
20	Toft Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 14 grass wickets. Overplayed by 14 match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Support club in its aspirations to develop a second square to alleviate overplay and consider installation of an NTP in situ.	ECB Club	Local site	L S	L M
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	Football	Private	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. In addition, a mini 7v7 pitch is marked out with cones. Planning approval has been granted for replacement pitches.	Ensure approved development provides good quality pitches and seek to sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Explore feasibility of supplying 3G provision.	FA		M M	M M
		Cricket		A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 20 match equivalent sessions exists, however, none is available at peak time. Lindow CC is acquiring the square.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Support Lindow CC and ensure security of tenure is provided. Encourage implementation of feasibility study findings.	ECB Club	Local site	L L M	L L L
44	Egerton Youth Club	Football	Club	One adult, three youth 11v11, one 9v9 and four 7v7 pitches assessed as standard quality. Two of the youth 11v11 pitches are both over marked by two 7v7 pitches. Adult pitch is played to capacity, youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by three match equivalent sessions and the 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions. Actual spare capacity is discounted on the 7v7 pitches due to aforementioned over markings. Adult pitch is suitable for Step 7 football.	Support the Club in its plans to develop additional pitches to alleviate overplay of current stock. If the above does not happen, alleviate overplay through improving pitch quality or through the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity. Ensure club can progress through the football pyramid.	FA Club	Key centre	S S	H M
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and well used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2010 and assessed as standard quality.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability. Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.	FA Club		L L	L L
66	Knutsford Academy (upper)	Football	School	Two poor quality pitches that are available to the community but unused. Played to capacity through school use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity and ensure no external demand takes place beforehand to avoid overplay.	FA School	Local site	S	L

⁴² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴²	Cost ⁴³
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Sand AGP (Hockey)	ESAR	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Knutsford HC. Last resurfaced in 2003 and assessed as poor quality.	Refurbish AGP to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH ESAR	Local site	S	M
					Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
68	Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club)	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 15 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 17 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
77	Manchester Road	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. The changing facilities on site are considered to be poor quality.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.			S	L
					Improve changing facilities.			S	M
80	Mary Dendy Playing Fields	Football	Council	Three poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Key centre	S	M
					Improve changing facilities.			S	M
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 16 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 20 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations through playing outside of the peak period or through transfer of play.			L	L
94	Nuffield Fitness and Wellbeing Centre	Football	Commercial	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Ensure no additional demand takes place without quality improvements to avoid overplay.			L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 30 x 20 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA		L	L
98	Peover Superior Endowed Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
118	St John's Wood Community School	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch. Available to the community and used to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Ensure no additional demand takes place without quality improvements to avoid overplay.			L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users via community use agreements.			S	L

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴⁴	Cost ⁴⁵
156	Mere Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to six match equivalent sessions exists and actual spare capacity equating to 0.5 squares exists at peak time. The clubhouse is considered to be poor quality.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Explore possibilities of spare capacity being used to alleviate overplay at other sites.			S	L
					Support club in efforts to improve clubhouse.			S	M
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	A good quality square with 12 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 30 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. No security of tenure is provided.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Provide the Club with greater security of tenure.			S	L
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with eight grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 18 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Review quality issues and provide improvements where possible.	ECB Club	Local site	S	L
194	Little Bollington Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
197	Manor Park Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality 7v7 pitches that are available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
203	Nether Alderley Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L

⁴⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴⁶	Cost ⁴⁷
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Football	School	A youth 11v11 and a 9v9 pitch both assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
					Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and maximise usage through future demand and/or the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.			S	L
		Cricket		The School intends to supply a grass wicket square that will be available for community use should it acquire adjacent land, as planned.	Support the School in its aspirations to supply a square given local shortfalls and maximise usage, possibly via Mere CC.	ECB School		M	M
		Rugby union		A senior pitch and a junior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Used by Knutsford RUFC. Senior pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions; junior pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.	Reduce overplay through quality improvements via improved maintenance and/or the installation of a drainage system.	RFU School		S	M
					Provide security of tenure to Knutsford RUFC via a lease agreement (minimum 25 years).			S	H
					If the above occurs, support the School in its aspirations to purchase additional land so that it can develop additional pitches.			L	L
					Support the Club in its aspiration to develop a clubhouse as part of the School's purchase of additional land.			S	M

⁴⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

MACCLESFIELD ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ⁴⁸	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	1	2.5	0.5	2	-	1	3
Youth pitches 11v11	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Youth pitches 9v9	0.5	3	-	2.5	-	-	2.5
Mini pitches 7v7	2	1.5	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		-	1	1

- There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and a future shortfall of three match equivalent sessions.
- There is a current shortfall of one match equivalent session on youth 11v11 pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- There is a current shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- Minimal spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists both currently and in the future on mini 7v7 pitches.
- Mini 5v5 pitches are currently played to capacity; however, a shortfall is evident when including future demand equating to one match equivalent session.
- Overplay is evident on adult pitches at King George V Playing Field and Bollington Cross Playing Field, on youth 11v11 pitches at All Hallows Catholic College, on youth 9v9 pitches at Christ the King Primary School, Jasmine Park and St Alban's Catholic Primary School and also on a 7v7 pitch at the latter.
- There are nine youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Changing facilities servicing Bollington Recreation Ground are considered to be poor quality.
- There are nine providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- There is current training demand for two full size 3G pitches, of which, there is currently one (All Hallows Catholic College).

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- Transfer play from Bollington Recreation Ground to fully alleviate overplay.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- Improve changing facilities at Bollington Recreation Ground and Congleton Road and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.

⁴⁸ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ✦ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ✦ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ✦ Identify potential sites to increase 3G pitch stock.
- ✦ Ensure the 3G pitch at All Hallows Catholic College has a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and ensure it remains on the FA register to host competitive matches.
- ✦ Further maximise usage, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ✦ There are nine grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and five standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ✦ Chelford Cricket Club and Kerridge Cricket Club as well as squares at the King's School (Fence Avenue and Westminster Road) are assessed as standard quality; all other grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ✦ The King's School plans to sell both its Westminster Road site and its Fence Avenue site and this will result in the loss of cricket provision.
- ✦ Chelford CC is without security of tenure as it currently rents its square on a rolling annual basis from a local landowner.
- ✦ Macclesfield CC reports that the clubhouse provision servicing its second square requires renovation.
- ✦ Chelford CC is without practice nets.
- ✦ Spare capacity exists at Kerridge, Chelford and Pott Shrigley cricket clubs, however, only the former has actual spare capacity for an increase in demand at peak time (Saturday).
- ✦ Bollington, Macclesfield and Langley cricket clubs are overplayed by three, 23 and five match equivalent sessions respectively.
- ✦ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to nine match equivalent sessions both currently and in the future.
- ✦ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ✦ Review quality issues at Chelford Cricket Club and Kerridge Cricket Club and provide improvements where possible.
- ✦ Ensure demand received at the King's School remains provided for when provision is lost.
- ✦ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ✦ Provide Chelford CC with greater security of tenure and explore options to provide the Club with training provision.
- ✦ Support clubhouse improvements at Macclesfield Cricket Club.
- ✦ Alleviate overplay at Bollington Cricket Club and Langley Cricket Club through installing an NTP in situ for the transfer of junior demand.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ✦ Alleviate overplay at Macclesfield Cricket Club through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.
- ✦ Explore creation of an LMS venue at a strategically suitable location.

Rugby union

Summary

- ✦ There are no rugby union pitches available for community use and three senior and two junior pitches unavailable for community use.
- ✦ No community demand exists for access to the pitches as no clubs are based in the Analysis Area (Macclesfield Rugby Club is based in the Poynton Analysis Area).
- ✦ All pitches unavailable for the community are located within schools and are assessed as standard or poor quality.
- ✦ Existing junior pitches at the King's School (Fence Avenue and Westminster Road) will be lost as part of plans to provide five additional rugby union pitches at Derby Fields (see Poynton Analysis Area)

Recommendations

- ✦ Ensure rugby demand expressed by the King's School remains provided for following development plans.
- ✦ Retain remaining pitches for curricular and extra-curricular use and provide quality improvements, where possible.

Hockey

Summary

- ✦ There are four full size hockey suitable AGPs.
- ✦ Fallibroome Academy is in use by Alderley Edge HC, Tytherington High School is in use by Macclesfield HC, and the King's School (Westminster Road) is in use by Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs.
- ✦ The Macclesfield Academy is not in use for hockey purposes and it does not provide hockey goals.
- ✦ The King's School (Westminster Road) is assessed as good quality, Fallibroome Academy and Tytherington High School are assessed as standard quality and the Macclesfield Academy is assessed as poor quality.
- ✦ The King's School has planning approval to provide two full size, floodlit, sand-based AGPs (in replacement of its current pitch) as part of its consolidation to Derby Fields (Poynton Analysis Area).
- ✦ Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs report that they cannot accommodate all of their future demand on pitches currently used.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect Fallibroome Academy and Tytherington High School for continued hockey use.
- ✦ Explore options to resurface the Macclesfield Academy to solve quality issues and explore possibilities of the pitch providing a secondary venue to accommodate demand from Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs that cannot be accommodated on pitches currently used.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Alternatively, consider viability of converting the pitch to 3G providing it is agreed upon by England Hockey and is not detrimental to any hockey clubs.
- ◀ Ensure clubs continue to be provided for at the King's School (Derby Fields) after the loss of the Westminster Road (see Poynton Analysis Area).
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for clubs through a community use agreement.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴⁹	Cost ⁵⁰
7	Ash Grove Academy	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
13	Beech Hall School	Football	School	A poor quality adult pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then explore community demand to utilise resultant actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	S	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 30 x 20 metres. Unavailable to the community.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School		L	L
16	Bollington Cross (Atax)	Football	Council	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Ensure no additional demand takes place without quality improvements to avoid overplay.			L	L
17	Bollington Cross Playing Field	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Used solely by youth 11v11 teams.	Transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity to alleviate overplay.	FA	Local site	S	L
					Consider pitch re-configuration to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand.			S	L
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by a poor quality changing facility.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and provide a resolution to drainage issues.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Explore options to improve changing facility.			M	M
		Cricket		A good quality square with 12 grass wickets. Overplayed by three match equivalent sessions. Used by Bollington CC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	L
					Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP in situ or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	L
35	Congleton Road	Football	Council	Two adult, one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity exists on each pitch type. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Key Centre	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			S	L
					Improve changing facilities.			S	M

⁴⁹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵¹	Cost ⁵²
46	Fallibroome Academy	Football	School	Two poor quality adult pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then explore community use aspects to utilise resultant spare capacity.	FA School	Key centre	S	L
		Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Alderley Edge HC. Assessed as standard quality albeit over ten years old (2005).	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School		M	M
					Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Ensure security of tenure through a community use agreement.			S	L
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Football	Club	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to over marking cricket outfield.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
		Cricket		A standard quality square with 12 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 22 match equivalent sessions exists and actual spare capacity equating to 0.5 squares exists at peak time.	Review quality issues and provide improvements where possible.	ECB Club		S	L
					Explore utilisation of actual spare capacity to alleviate overplay at other sites.			S	L
64	King George V Playing Field	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	Two good quality squares, one with 11 grass wickets and an NTP and one with eight grass wickets and an NTP. The grass wickets are overplayed by a combined 23 match equivalent sessions. The clubhouse servicing the second square requires renovation.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTPs or through the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
					Support clubhouse improvements on second square.			S	L
79	Marlborough Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
88	Moss Rose Stadium	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is used for professional football.	No action required.	Club	Local site	-	-
97	Parkroyal Community School	Sand AGP	School	A smaller sized, sand-based AGP measuring 40 x 30 metres. Neither floodlit nor available to the community.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School	Local site	L	L

⁵¹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵² (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵³	Cost ⁵⁴
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Football	School	Two standard quality 9v9 pitches that are unavailable for community use. Pitches will be lost as part of the School's development plans to relocate to Derby Fields and dispose of the site for housing.	Ensure the School's footballing needs remain provided for once provision is lost.	FA School	Local site	L	L
		Cricket		Two standard quality squares, one with nine grass wickets and one with six grass wickets. The outdoor provision will be lost as part of the School's development plans but will be replaced by an indoor cricket facility.	Ensure the School's cricketing needs remain provided for once provision is lost.	ECB School		L	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate maintenance (D1). Unavailable for community use. The pitch will be lost as part of the School's wider development plans, with additional pitches supplied at Derby Fields.	Ensure the School's needs continue to be met after the loss of the pitches and the development of Derby fields.	RFU School		L	L
					Explore partnership with Macclesfield RUFC.			S	L
		Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by three hockey clubs. The pitch will be lost as part of the School's wider development plans, with two full size, floodlit, sand-based AGPs being provided at Derby Fields instead.	Ensure clubs remain provided for at Derby Fields once the development goes ahead.	EH School		S	L
127	The King's School (Fence Avenue)	Football	School	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches that are unavailable for community use. Pitches will be lost as part of the School's development plans to relocate to Derby Fields and dispose of the site for housing.	Ensure the School's footballing needs remain provided for once provision is lost.	FA School	Local site	L	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. The provision will be lost as part of the School's development plans.	Ensure the School's cricketing needs remain provided for once provision is lost.	ECB School		L	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate maintenance (D1). Unavailable for community use. The pitch will be lost as part of the School's wider development plans, with additional pitches supplied at Derby Fields.	Ensure the School's needs continue to be met after the loss of the pitches and the development of Derby fields.	RFU School		L	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, sand-based AGP measuring 80 x 45 metres. Neither available to the community nor floodlit. The pitch will be lost as part of the School's redevelopment plans.	Ensure development goes ahead at Derby Fields to offset the loss.	EH School		S	L

⁵³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵⁵	Cost ⁵⁶
128	The Macclesfield Academy	Football	School	One adult, two youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch that are available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity existing on the adult and youth 11v11 pitches whereas the 9v9 pitch is played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.			L	L
					Ensure security of tenure for users via community use agreements.			S	L
		Sand AGP		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is not used for hockey. No hockey goals provided. Last resurfaced in 1990 and assessed as poor quality.	Potentially resurface pitch to improve quality and explore potential of it providing a secondary venue for Macclesfield, Wilmslow and Alderley Edge hockey clubs.	EH FA School		S	M
					If the above occurs, provide hockey goals.			S	L
					If the above does not occur, consider suitability for a 3G surface provided that it is agreed upon by England Hockey and is not detrimental to any hockey clubs.			S	H
					Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
132	Tytherington Pitches	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists on the youth 11v11 pitch; the 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity on the youth 11v11 pitch through the transfer of play from overplayed sites to through future demand.			L	L
134	Victoria Park	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Improve quality to retain current usage levels.	FA	Local site	S	L
136	Weston Playing Field	Football	Council	An adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
					Consider pitch re-configuration to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			S	L
138	Whirley Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is available to the community and used.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure to users through a community use agreement.			S	L

⁵⁵ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵⁷	Cost ⁵⁸
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Football	School	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that are available to the community and used. Overplayed by one match equivalent session.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or through the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity (or to the onsite 3G).	FA School	Key centre	S	L
					Pursue security of tenure to users through a community use agreement.			S	L
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and well used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2014 and assessed as good quality.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA School		L	L
					Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			L	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as poor quality. Unavailable for community use.	Replace NTP for curricular and extra-curricular purposes.	ECB School		S	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.			S	L
152	Chelford Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	A standard quality square with ten grass wickets and an NTP. Overall spare capacity amounting to 14 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. No security of tenure is provided. No practice nets.	Review quality issues and provide improvements where possible.	ECB Club	Local site	S	L
					Provide the Club with greater security of tenure.			S	L
					Explore options to better cater for the Club's training needs.			S	L
153	Langley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 11 grass wickets and an NTP. Overplayed by five match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTPs or through the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
155	Marton Primary School	Cricket	School	A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School	Local site	L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.			L	L

⁵⁷ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵⁹	Cost ⁶⁰
162	Tytherington High School	Football	School	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is available to the community and used. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
					Provide security of tenure to users through a community use agreement.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular purposes	ECB School		L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.			S	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate maintenance (D0). Unavailable for community use.	Protect and provide quality improvements for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		S	L
					Sand AGP (Hockey)			A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Macclesfield HC. Assessed as standard quality. Resurfaced in 2007 and therefore coming to the end of its lifespan.	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.
		Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.		L		L			
		Ensure security of tenure through a community use agreement.		S		L			
172	Bollinbrook Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and utilise capacity given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
173	Bollington St John's Primary School	Football	School	A 5v5 pitch that is available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity and to retain current usage.	FA School	Local site	S	L
					Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			S	L
176	Broken Cross Community School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
178	Christ the King Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community and used. Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to a site with actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	S	L
					Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			S	L
190	Hollinhey Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and utilise capacity given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
191	Hurdsfield Community Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use then explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
192	Ivy Bank Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use then explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L

⁵⁹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵⁹	Cost ⁶⁰
206	Puss Bank Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality 7v7 pitches that are available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
207	Rainow Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch and a poor quality 7v7 pitch that are available to the community and used. Both pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	S	L
					Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			S	L
230	Upton Priory Primary School	Football	School	One 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 11 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to five match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
247	Prestbury Playing Fields	Football	School	An adult pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
248	Jasmine Park	Football	Club	One youth 11v11, one 9v9, two 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches assessed as standard quality. The 9v9 pitch is over marked by the mini pitches resulting in overplay amounting to one match equivalent session. The youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay on the 9v9 pitch or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA Club	Local site	S	L
					Alternatively, explore alternative options to prevent pitch over markings causing overplay.			S	L
250	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A 7v7 that is available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent session exists.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
251	Dean Valley Primary School	Football	School	A 7v7 that is available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent session exists.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

NANTWICH ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ⁶¹	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	1	1	-		-	-	
Youth pitches 11v11	-	-	-		-	-	
Youth pitches 9v9	-	-	-		0.5	1	1.5
Mini pitches 7v7	-	-	-		-	-	
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		-	-	

- Adult, youth 11v11, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types are played to capacity both currently and when taking into account future demand.
- Youth 9v9 pitches are currently played to capacity; however, a shortfall is evident when including future demand equating to 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Many teams, particularly at mini and youth level, export demand to the Crewe and Congleton analysis areas to access a central venue league system.
- Overplay is evident on an adult pitch at Reaseheath College.
- There are eight youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Changing facilities servicing Goodwill Hall Playing Fields and Wrenbury Recreation Ground are considered to be poor quality.
- There are ten providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- Training demand for one full size 3G pitch is currently being met (discounting Reaseheath Training Complex and Reaseheath College).

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to alleviate mini 7v7 pitch shortfalls and increase future capacity on all pitch types.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to build further future capacity.
- Transfer some demand away from Reaseheath College to alleviate overplay.
- Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- Improve changing facilities at Goodwill Hall Playing Fields and Wrenbury Recreation Ground and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.
- Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- Implement community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- Ensure 3G pitch at Nantwich Town Football Club has a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and ensure it remains on the FA register to host competitive matches.

⁶¹ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- Further maximise usage, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.
- Explore availability for football usage on the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College once usage received from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC is known.

Cricket

Summary

- There are six grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and three standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- Audlem Cricket Club is assessed as standard quality; all other grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- Nantwich CC is exploring the development of a secondary grass wicket square.
- Audlem CC is without security of tenure as it currently rents its square on a rolling annual basis from a local landowner, whereas Bunbury Cricket Club has only nine years remaining on its lease arrangement.
- Audlem CC is without practice nets, whereas Nantwich CC reports a need for its existing nets to be improved.
- Spare capacity exists at Crewe, Audlem and Nantwich cricket clubs, however, no capacity exists for an increase in demand at peak time (Saturday).
- Bunbury Cricket Club is overplayed by 18 match equivalent sessions.
- For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to 18 match equivalent sessions currently and 30 match equivalent sessions in the future.
- For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- Review quality issues at Audlem Cricket Club and secure improvements where possible.
- Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- Support Nantwich CC in its aspiration to develop a secondary square given its lack of peak time capacity on its existing square.
- Provide both Audlem CC and Bunbury CC with greater security of tenure.
- Provide Audlem CC with training provision and support Nantwich CC in its need for its existing provision to be improved.
- Alleviate overplay at Bunbury Cricket Club through installing an NTP in situ for the transfer of junior demand.
- Ensure Nantwich CC can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

Rugby union

Summary

- There are seven senior and three mini rugby union pitches available for community use.
- Barony Sports Complex provides a senior pitch that is assessed as poor quality.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ✦ Acton Nomads RUFC has recently lost access to its clubhouse and the Club is also without a training venue.
- ✦ Crewe & Nantwich RUFC aspires to refurbish its existing changing rooms at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and extend its clubhouse.
- ✦ Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists at Barony Sports Complex.
- ✦ Crewe Vagrants Sports Club contains two senior pitches that are overplayed by a combined 4.25 match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ There is an overall shortfall of 3.75 match equivalent sessions currently and 4.75 match equivalents when accounting for future demand.
- ✦ Reaseheath College contains a full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is expected to undergo World Rugby certification in the near future but is yet to pass testing.

Recommendations

- ✦ Improve quality to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance, particularly at poor quality and overplayed sites.
- ✦ Transfer training demand from the grass pitches at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club to the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College if it becomes World Rugby certified to alleviate overplay at the site.
- ✦ If accreditation is not achieved, explore alternative options to alleviate overplay at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, such as through access to an increased number of pitches (potentially via school sites).
- ✦ Irrespective to the above, explore providing additional floodlighting at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club.
- ✦ Retain and improve currently unavailable pitches for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ✦ Support Acton Nomads RUFC in its need for a clubhouse and a training venue.
- ✦ Support Crewe & Nantwich RUFC in its aspiration to provide additional changing facilities.

Hockey

Summary

- ✦ There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs.
- ✦ Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is used by Crewe Vagrants HC, whereas Malbank School and Sixth Form College is not used for hockey, in part due to a lack of floodlighting.
- ✦ Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is assessed as good quality; Malbank School and Sixth Form College is assessed as standard quality.
- ✦ Crewe Vagrants HC reports that it cannot accommodate all of its future demand at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect Crewe Vagrants Sports Club for continued hockey use.
- ✦ Due to a lack of nearby housing, explore floodlighting potential at Malbank School and Sixth Form College and then explore options to maximise community use.
- ✦ If the above is possible, also provide resurfacing of Malbank School and Sixth Form College and seek to maximise community usage.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure Crewe Vagrants HC can grow as planned, possibly via access to a secondary pitch (see Crewe Analysis Area).

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶²	Cost ⁶³
9	Aston Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Played to capacity. The Club is potentially looking to move following the development of nearby housing.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Explore relocation options.			S	L
					Ensure any increased demand takes place away from the grass wickets to avoid overplay or ensure maintenance can sustain resultant overplay.			L	L
10	Audlem Playing Fields	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity and ensure no additional usage beforehand to avoid overplay.	FA	Local site	S	L
					Improve changing facilities.			M	L
12	Barony Sports Complex	Football	Council	Three adult pitches assessed as poor quality and two 9v9 pitches assessed as standard quality. Both pitch types are played to capacity. Adult pitches are well used by youth 11v11 teams.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity, predominately through drainage improvements.	FA	Hub site	S	M
					Consider pitch re-configuration to better accommodate youth 11v11 users whilst retaining some adult provision.			S	L
				3G	A smaller sized 3G pitch that is floodlit, measuring 40 x 33 metres.	Retain pitch for continued community use.		FA	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate maintenance (D0). Used by Acton Nomads RUFC, which is without a clubhouse and a training venue. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists.	Improve quality to better cater for demand and to avoid overplay.	RFU		L	L
					Support Acton Nomads RUFC in its need for a clubhouse.			S	L
					Support Acton Nomads RUFC in its need for a training venue, possibly through supplying portable floodlighting or via the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College (if World Rugby certified).			S	L
					Alternatively, explore options of Acton Nomads RUFC accessing an unused school site (such as Malbank School and Sixth Form College or Brine Lees School) that can provide a match play and a training venue (via portable floodlighting) and offer changing facilities.			S	M

⁶² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶⁴	Cost ⁶⁵
22	Brine Leas School	Football	School	Three youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and utilise capacity given local shortfalls.	FA School	Key centre	S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Bunbury Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.			S	L
		Rugby union		Two senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Available for community use but unused.	Protect and sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School		L	L
					Ensure community use remains available should it be required by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and/or Acton Nomads RUFC in the future given its capacity issues.			L	L
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Overplayed by 18 match equivalent sessions. Only nine years remain on the Club's lease agreement.	Sustain quality through maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP in situ or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	L
					Extend lease agreement.			L	L
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to 20 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L

⁶⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶⁶	Cost ⁶⁷
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 22 wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to 24 match equivalent sessions exists, however, not at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Key centre	L	L
		Rugby union		Three senior pitches and three mini pitches. One senior pitch is floodlit and two have a drainage system installed (D2). All other pitches have natural, adequate drainage (D1) and all pitches receive good maintenance (M2). Used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC. Floodlit senior pitch is overplayed by 2.75 match equivalent sessions and one other senior pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. All remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve quality through the installation of a drainage system on a greater number of pitches to increase capacity and reduce overplay.	RFU Club		S	M
					Transfer training demand to Reaseheath College if the pitch undergoes World Rugby certification to reduce overplay.			S	L
					Seek to provide additional floodlighting on site. This would not only assist club training demand but also training demand from Manchester Metropolitan University teams.			S	M
					Support Crewe & Nantwich RUFC in its aspiration to provide additional changing facilities.			S	M
					Explore options to provide the Club with an increased number of pitches should overplay still exist, possibly via Malbank School and Sixth Form College or Brine Lees School.			L	L
					Sand AGP (Hockey)			A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Crewe Vagrants HC. Assessed as good quality having been re-surfaced in 2013. Considered to be operating at capacity for match play purposes on a Saturday.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface and encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
		Ensure Crewe Vagrants HC can grow as planned, possibly via access to a secondary venue.		M		L			
		48		Goodwill Hall Playing Fields	Football	Council		A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.
Explore options to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.	L		L						
Improve changing facilities.	S		M						
Provide a resolution to the tree that overhangs the pitch.	S		L						
50	Audlem Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	A standard quality square with ten grass wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to 14 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. No security of tenure is provided. No practice nets.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Pursue greater security of tenure.			S	L
					Explore options to improve training provision available to the Club.			S	L

⁶⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶⁸	Cost ⁶⁹
62	Bunbury Playing Field	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance. Explore options to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand. Improve changing facilities.		Local site	L L S	L L M
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Football	School	Three standard quality adult pitches. Available to the community and used to capacity. Also a dual use rugby pitch.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Ensure no additional demand is received without quality improvements. Pursue security of tenure for users via community use agreements.	FA School	Key centre	L L S	L L L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use. Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Bunbury Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.	ECB School		L S	L L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Available for community use but unused. Dual use football pitch.	Protect and sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity. Ensure community use remains available should it be required by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and/or Acton Nomads RUFC in the future given its capacity issues.	RFU School		L L	L L
		Sand AGP		A full size, sand-based AGP that is without floodlighting. Unused for hockey purposes. Assessed as poor quality having last been resurfaced in 2001. Considered unsuitable for 3G conversion given close proximity of Nantwich Town Football Club.	Retain pitch for curricular and extra-curricular activity and provide refurbishment to improve quality. Explore floodlighting potential as there is no nearby housing and then explore community usage potential. Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.	EH School		S S L	M M L
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 14 grass wickets and a standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Support the Club in its aspirations to develop a second square given lack of peak time capacity and future senior demand. Improve practice nets.	ECB Club	Local site	L M S	L M L
90	Nantwich Primary Academy	Sand AGP	School	A smaller sized, sand-based AGP measuring 70 x 40 metres. Neither floodlit nor available to the community.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School	Local site	L	L

⁶⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷⁰	Cost ⁷¹						
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is suitable for Step 5 football.	Retain spare capacity to protect quality.	FA Club	Key centre	L	L						
					Ensure the Club can progress through the football pyramid.			L	L						
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and well used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2007 and assessed as standard quality.	Provide imminent resurfacing to sustain FA approval, usage and to improve quality.	FA Club		M	M						
					Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L						
					Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			L	L						
105	Reaseheath College	Football	College	A good quality adult pitch that is available to the community and used. Overplayed by one match equivalent session.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA College	Key centre	L	L						
					Alleviate overplay through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	L						
					Pursue security of tenure for clubs via a community use agreement.			S	L						
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. Expected to undergo World Rugby certification but it is yet to pass testing. Will be used to accommodate training demand from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC if it achieves accreditation. Not FA approved. Installed in 2016 and assessed as good quality.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	RFU FA College		L	L						
					If World Rugby certification is gained, ensure quality remains sufficient to sustain yearly approval.			S	L						
					If World Rugby certification is gained, maximise usage received from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and explore potential for the pitch to accommodate training demand from Acton Nomads RUFC.			S	L						
					Explore football usage opportunities once rugby union use is known.			S	L						
					147	Wrenbury Recreation Ground		Football	Leisure Trust	A poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Improve pitch quality to retain usage and to increase capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
											Improve changing facilities.			S	M
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	Football	Club	Multiple football pitches that are reserved for use by Crewe Alexandra FC.	No action required.	Club	Local site	-	-						
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is not available to the community as all use is reserved for Crewe Alexandra FC. Not FA approved. Installed in 2013 and assessed as good quality.	Retain and protect for continued use by Crewe Alexandra FC.	Club		L	L						
164	Acton Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L						

⁷⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁷¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷⁰	Cost ⁷¹
170	Audlem St James CE Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
171	Bickerton Holy Trinity Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality 5v5 pitches that are available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
175	Bridgemere Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
177	Bunbury Aldersey Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
189	Highfields Community Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
200	Millfields Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
204	Pear Tree Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
213	Sound and District Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
215	St Anne's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
224	St Odwald's Worleston Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
226	Stapeley Broad Lane Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
233	Warmingham Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
234	Weaver Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
241	Wrenbury Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
242	Wybunbury Delves Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

POYNTON ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ⁷²	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	1.5	3	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Youth pitches 11v11	-	-	-		-	-	
Youth pitches 9v9	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Mini pitches 7v7	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		-	-	

- There is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on both adult and youth 9v9 pitch types and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- Both youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitch types are played to capacity currently and when taking into account future demand.
- Spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session exists on mini 7v7 pitches both currently and when accounting for future demand.
- Overplay is evident on an adult pitch at Deva Close, Mount Vernon and Poynton Sports Club as well as on youth 9v9 pitches at St Paul's Catholic Primary School and Vernon Primary School.
- There are eight youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Poynton Sports Club is in negotiations to re-locate all of its on-site provision (including football pitches), subject to securing planning permission.
- Changing facilities servicing Poynton Sports Club and Newtown Playing Fields are considered to be poor quality.
- There are three providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- There is current training demand for one full size 3G pitch despite none currently being provided.

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- Transfer play from Deva Close to fully alleviate overplay.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- Support Poynton Sports Club in its aspirations to relocate and ensure any re-location provides the Club with improved changing facilities.
- Improve changing facilities at Newtown Playing Fields and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.

⁷² In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ◀ Implement community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Identify potential sites to provide a full size 3G pitch such as Poynton High School.
- ◀ If a 3G pitch is provided, ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability and administer FA testing so that it can host competitive matches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are six grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and one standalone non-turf wicket square (Poynton High School).
- ◀ The King's School (Derby Fields) is assessed as standard quality; all other grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Prestbury CC is without security of tenure as it currently rents its square on a rolling annual basis from a local landowner
- ◀ The clubhouse at Poynton Cricket Club is reported to be poor quality due to its age.
- ◀ Disley CC reports a need for its existing practice nets to be improved.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists at the King's School, however, this is not considered actual spare capacity due to internal usage.
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club is overplayed by 18 match equivalent sessions; Disley Cricket Club is played to capacity.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to 12 match equivalent sessions currently and 24 match equivalent sessions in the future.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at the King's School (Derby Fields) and provide improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Provide both Prestbury CC with greater security of tenure.
- ◀ Support Poynton CC in relation to clubhouse improvements, potentially as part of Poynton Sports Club's relocation.
- ◀ Support Disley CC in its need for its existing training provision to be improved.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Poynton Cricket Club through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.
- ◀ Ensure Disley CC can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are four senior and four mini rugby union pitches available for community use, all of which are located at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ All senior pitches are assessed as good quality whereas all mini pitches are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ The King's School plans to provide an additional five rugby union pitches at Derby Road Playing Fields (pitch dimensions subject to RFU and Sport England agreement).
- ◀ Subject to planning permission and funding, Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is to undergo a development that will result in one of its senior pitches being replaced by a full size, floodlit 3G pitch that will be World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ The above developments will also result in clubhouse facilities being improved.
- ◀ No pitches provide actual spare capacity, whereas one senior pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is an overall shortfall of 2.25 match equivalent sessions currently and 3.25 match equivalents when accounting for future demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) to reduce shortfalls and overplay through installing a drainage system.
- ◀ To fully alleviate shortfalls and overplay, support the Club in its aspirations for a 3G pitch to allow for the transfer of training demand.
- ◀ Support Macclesfield RUFC in its aspirations for site developments that includes a new clubhouse and additional floodlighting (as well as the above mentioned 3G pitch).
- ◀ Ensure development at King's School is provided to a good quality and explore potential partnership with Macclesfield RUFC.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unavailable pitches for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are currently no full size hockey suitable AGPs within the Analysis Area and no clubs express a demand for one to be provided.
- ◀ The King's School has planning approval to provide two full size, floodlit, sand-based AGPs at its Derby Fields site in replacement of the existing pitch at its Westminster Road site (Macclesfield Analysis Area).

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure development at the King's School (Derby Fields) goes ahead and provides good quality pitches.
- ◀ Ensure that the demand currently received at Westminster Road can transfer.
- ◀ Explore potential of the AGPs catering for demand expressed by Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs that cannot be met on pitches currently used.
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Pursue security of tenure for club users through community use agreements.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There are two pitches located at Poynton Sports Club and one pitch located at Mount Vernon.
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club is rated as standard quality; Mount Vernon is rated as poor quality.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club accesses both sites but requires access to additional provision given the high levels of latent and future demand it expresses.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect pitches for continued lacrosse use.
- ◀ Improve quality and Mount Vernon and, as a minimum, sustain quality at Poynton Sports Club.
- ◀ Consider options to provide Poynton Lacrosse Club with access to additional provision, possibly via a 3G pitch.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷³	Cost ⁷⁴
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch with 1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity remaining.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Key centre	L	L
					Transfer play from overplayed to sites to utilise actual spare capacity.			S	L
		Cricket		A good quality square with ten grass wickets and an NTP. Played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	L
					Improve practice nets.			S	L
					Ensure any increased demand takes place away from the grass wickets to avoid overplay or ensure maintenance can sustain resultant overplay.			L	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 45 x 35 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore club needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA Club		L	L
73	Lower Park Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches that are available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
85	Midway Playing Fields	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Improve quality to retain usage and increase capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
93	Newtown Playing Field	Football	Council	An adult pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
					Improve changing facilities.			S	M
102	Poynton High School	Football	Club	One adult, two youth 11v11 and on 9v9 pitch assessed as poor quality. Unavailable to the community.	Improve quality through drainage improvements for curricular and extra-curricular use, then explore community use aspects to utilise resultant spare capacity given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
					Explore 3G suitability.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Poynton Sports Club to alleviate overplay.			S	L

⁷³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁷⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷⁵	Cost ⁷⁶
103	Poynton Sports Club	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Suitable for Step 7 football. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Support the Club in its aspirations to relocate.	FA Club	Key centre	S	H
					If the above does not happen, alleviate overplay through improving pitch quality or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	L
					Ensure the Club can progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
					Improve changing facilities, potentially as part of the relocation.			S	M
		Cricket		A good quality square with 12 grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions. Used by Poynton CC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or through the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 60 x 30 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore club requirements to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA Club		L	L
		Lacrosse		Two lacrosse pitches assessed as standard quality. Currently played to capacity.	Protect pitches for continued lacrosse use and, as a minimum, sustain current quality.	English Lacrosse Club		L	L
					Explore options to provide the Club with increased provision, potentially via an existing 3G pitch or via a new 3G pitch in the local area.			M	L
		104		Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	3G	Club		A proposal is in place for a full size, floodlit 3G pitch to be provided (subject to planning permission and funding) that will be World Rugby compliant (in replacement of a grass senior pitch). This will be in addition to the smaller size (65 x 40 metres) floodlit 3G pitch currently in situ.	Support the Club in its aspirations given identified shortfalls and overplay of the current grass pitch that is used for training.
Retain smaller size pitch for continued community use and seek quality improvements so that it can become World Rugby certified again.	L		M						
Rugby union	Four senior pitches and four mini pitches. One senior pitch is floodlit. All senior pitches receive good maintenance (M2); mini pitches receive standard maintenance (M1). All pitches have natural, adequate maintenance (D1). Floodlit pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas all remaining pitches are played to capacity.		Reduce overplay through improving pitch quality via the installation of a drainage system.		RFU Club		S	M	
			To fully alleviate overplay, support the Club in its aspirations to develop a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.				S	H	
			Support Macclesfield RUFC in its aspirations for site developments that includes a new clubhouse and additional floodlighting (as well as the above mentioned 3G pitch.				S	M	

⁷⁵ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁷⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷⁷	Cost ⁷⁸
126	The King's School (Derby Fields)	Cricket	School	Three standard quality squares with nine, six and three grass wickets respectively. Available to the community and used by Macclesfield CC. Spare capacity discounted to take into account school use. The School plans to provide an indoor cricket facility as part of its relocation plans and to offset the loss of outdoor provision at Fence Avenue and Westminster Road.	Review quality and provide improvements where possible.	ECB School	Hub site	L	L
					Ensure security of tenure for Macclesfield CC through a continued community use agreement.			L	L
		Rugby union		The school plans to provide five rugby union pitches (sizes to be agreed upon by the RFU) to offset the loss of pitches at Fence Avenue and Westminster Road.	Ensure pitches are developed to a good quality and ensure the School's rugby needs are met.	RFU Club School		S	H
					Explore partnership with Macclesfield RUFC given close proximity.			S	L
		Sand AGP (Hockey)		Plans are in place for the School to provide two full size, floodlit, sand-based AGPs in place of existing provision at Westminster Road as part of its relocation plans.	Ensure development provides two good quality pitches that can adequately provide for Macclesfield, Wilmslow and Alderley Edge hockey clubs.	EH School		S	H
					Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Pursue security of tenure through community use agreements.			S	L
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	A good quality square with 12 grass wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. No security of tenure is provided to the Club. Poor quality clubhouse.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Provide the Club with greater security of tenure or explore options for it to transfer demand.			S	L
					Improve clubhouse.			M	M
165	Adlington Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
182	Disley Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
195	Lostock Hall Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session remains.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L
225	St Paul's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	One 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch that are assessed as standard quality. The 9v9 pitch is used by the community and overplayed by one match equivalent sessions, whereas the 7v7 pitch is available to the community but unused.	Alleviate overplay through improved pitch quality or through the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	S	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L

⁷⁷ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁷⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷⁷	Cost ⁷⁸
231	Vernon Primary School	Football	School	One youth 11v11, one 9v9 and one 5v5 pitch that are all assessed as standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch and the 9v9 are used by the community, with the former played to capacity and the latter overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. The 7v7 pitch is available to the community but unused.	Alleviate overplay through improved pitch quality or through the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	S	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L
240	Worth Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality 5v5 pitches that are available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
249	Mount Vernon	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
		Lacrosse		A lacrosse pitch accessed by Poynton Lacrosse Club and assessed as poor quality. Operating at capacity.	Protect as a lacrosse pitch and provide quality improvements to better cater for demand.	English Lacrosse		L	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

WILMSLOW ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ⁷⁹	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	1	5.5	-	4.5	-	-	4.5
Youth pitches 11v11	-	-	-		-	-	
Youth pitches 9v9	-	2	-	2	-	0.5	2.5
Mini pitches 7v7	2	-	-	2	-	-	
Mini pitches 5v5	-	2	-	2	-	1	3

- There is a current shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- Youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity both currently and when taking into account future demand.
- There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions exists on mini 7v7 pitches currently; however, when accounting for future demand, the pitch type is at capacity.
- There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches and a future shortfall of three match equivalent sessions.
- Overplay is evident on adult pitches and youth 9v9 pitches at Jim Evison Playing Fields as well as on a youth 9v9 pitch at Chorley Hall and on a mini 5v5 pitch at Lacey Green Academy.
- There are 14 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Changing facilities servicing Upcast Lane are considered to be poor quality.
- There are four providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their football pitches.
- There is current training demand for two full size 3G pitches despite none currently being provided.

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- Improve changing facilities at Upcast Lane and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.

⁷⁹ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ✦ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ✦ Pursue community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ✦ Identify potential sites to provide full size 3G pitches.
- ✦ If 3G pitches are provided, ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability and administer FA testing so that competitive matches can be hosted.

Cricket

Summary

- ✦ There are five grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and two standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ✦ All grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ✦ Lindow Cricket Club is serviced by a car park that is too small to accommodate the number of visitors received.
- ✦ Wilmslow CC is currently without practice nets.
- ✦ Spare capacity exists at Alderley Edge, Styal and Wilmslow Wayfarers cricket clubs, however, none have spare capacity for an increase in play at peak time (Saturday).
- ✦ Wilmslow Cricket Club is overplayed by eight match equivalent sessions; Lindow Cricket Club is overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to 20 match equivalent sessions currently and 32 match equivalent sessions in the future.
- ✦ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ✦ Sustain quality of grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ✦ Support Lindow CC to find a resolution to car parking issues.
- ✦ Support Wilmslow CC in its need for training provision to be provided.
- ✦ Alleviate overplay at Wilmslow Cricket Club and Lindow Cricket Club through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.
- ✦ Ensure Lindow CC and Styal CC can fulfil future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

Rugby union

Summary

- ✦ There are four senior and one junior rugby union pitch available for community use across two sites (Jim Evison Playing Fields and Memorial Ground).
- ✦ Jim Evison Playing Fields contain pitches assessed as poor quality and Wilmslow RUFC reports that the changing facilities servicing the site require modernisation.
- ✦ Both pitches at the site have actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions each.
- ✦ Both senior pitches at Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions each.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- Overall, pitches are currently at capacity, however, future demand results in a shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.

Recommendations

- Improve quality to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance at Jim Evison Playing Fields and Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club).
- Consider installation of additional floodlighting at Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) to spread out training demand and alleviate overplay of current pitches.
- Retain and improve currently unavailable pitches at Wilmslow High School for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- Improve changing facilities at Jim Evison Playing Fields.

Hockey

Summary

- There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs.
- The Edge Hockey Centre and Wilmslow High School are in use by Alderley Edge HC; Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is in use by Wilmslow HC.
- The Edge Hockey Centre is assessed as good quality; Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and Wilmslow High School are assessed as standard quality.
- Neither Alderley Edge HC nor Wilmslow HC can accommodate all of their future demand on pitches currently used.

Recommendations

- Protect all AGPs for continued hockey use.
- Resurface Wilmslow High School and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club in the near future to improve quality and to sustain usage.
- Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- Ensure security of tenure for Wilmslow HC at Wilmslow High School through a community use agreement.
- Ensure both Alderley Edge HC and Wilmslow HC can grow as planned, possibly via access to additional secondary pitches (see Macclesfield and Poynton analysis areas).

Lacrosse

Summary

- There are four pitches located at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club.
- The pitches are used by Wilmslow Lacrosse Club and are rated as standard quality.
- It is considered the Club has enough provision to accommodate both current and future demand.

Recommendations

- Protect pitches at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club for continued lacrosse use and, as a minimum, sustain quality.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸⁰	Cost ⁸¹
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 20 grass wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to 14 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. Poor quality clubhouse.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Support club to improve clubhouse.	ECB Club	Local site	L M	L M
27	Carnival Field	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance. Ensure no additional demand takes place without quality improvements to avoid overplay.	FA	Local site	L L	L L
30	Chorley Hall	Football	Council	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Alleviate overplay through pitch quality improvements or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Football	Council	Three adult, two 9v9 and two 7v7 pitches all assessed as poor quality. Adult pitches are overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions, 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions and the 7v7 pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay and transfer some demand to sites with actual spare capacity to fully alleviate it.	FA	Key centre	S	M
		Rugby union		Two senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0). Used by Wilmslow RUFC. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match sessions exists on both pitches.	Improve quality through improved drainage to better cater for community demand and to increase capacity. Improve changing facilities to make them more appropriate for rugby use should Wilmslow RUFC prefer access. Explore floodlighting suitability so that Wilmslow RUFC can alleviate overplay at its site.	RFU		S S S	L M L
69	Lacey Green Pavilion	Football	Council	Two adult pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity and utilise this through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA	Local site	S	L
70	Lacey Green Primary Academy	Football	School	Two 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch that are available to the community and used. The 7v7 pitches are played to capacity at peak time whereas the 5v5 pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.	Alleviate overplay of the 5v5 pitch through pitch quality improvements or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity. Pursue security of tenure for users through community use agreements.	FA School	Local site	S S	L L
72	Lindow Community Primary School	Football	School	A 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent sessions remains.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Pursue security of tenure for users through community use agreements.	FA School	Local site	L S	L L

⁸⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸²	Cost ⁸³
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	Rugby union	Club	Two senior pitches and one junior pitch. Both senior pitches are floodlit and receive good maintenance (M2); junior pitch receives standard maintenance (M1). All pitches have natural, adequate drainage (D1). Senior pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions each; junior pitch is at capacity.	Reduce overplay through improving quality via a drainage system being installed.	RFU Club	Local site	S	M
					To fully alleviate overplay, explore options to increase the number of floodlit pitches available to the Club so that training demand can be spread out (possibly via Jim Evison Playing Fields).			S	M
					Improve changing facilities.			M	M
95	Oakwood Farm	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			L	L
101	Pownhall School	Cricket	School	A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School	Local site	L	L
120	Styal Playing Fields	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent session.	Alleviate overplay through pitch quality improvements or through the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
		Cricket		A good quality square with 16 grass wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to 16 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. Poor quality clubhouse. Used by Styal CC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	L
					Improve clubhouse.			M	M
					Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand plans either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.			L	L
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	Football	Club/School	One 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch that are unavailable for community use. Assessed as standard quality.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls, particularly in relation to the 9v9 pitch.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
		Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Alderley Edge HC. Assessed as good quality having been re-surfaced in 2011. Considered to be operating at capacity for match play purposes on a Saturday.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface and encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.	EH Club		L	L
					Ensure Alderley Edge HC can grow as planned, possibly via access additional venues than those currently used.			S	L

⁸² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸⁴	Cost ⁸⁵
131	The Rectory Field (Wilmslow Cricket Club)	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with seven grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are overplayed by eight match equivalent sessions. No practice nets.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or through the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
					Explore options to improve training provision available to the Club.			S	L
133	Upcast Lane	Football	Club	One 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. The 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time; the 7v7 pitch has one match equivalent of actual spare capacity. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Improve changing facilities.			S	M
140	Wilmslow Grange Primary and Nursery School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
141	Wilmslow High School	Football	School	Two adult, two youth 11v11 and two 9v9 pitches assessed as standard quality. One 9v9 pitch over marks one of the adult pitches and the other over marks one of the youth 11v11 pitches. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
					Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
								Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from the Rectory Fields (Wilmslow Cricket Club) to alleviate overplay.	S
		Rugby union		Three senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1). One senior pitch with natural, inadequate drainage (D0) and two with natural, adequate drainage (D1). Unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular and extra-curricular use and improve drainage on the pitch with inadequate drainage to better cater for this.	RFU School		S	L
								Once improvements are made, explore community use aspects and a potential partnership with Wilmslow RUFC.	M
		Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is assessed as standard quality. Last resurfaced in 2007 and therefore nearing the end of its lifespan. Used by Alderley Edge HC.	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School		M	M
					Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Ensure security of tenure through a community use agreement.			S	L

⁸⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸⁶	Cost ⁸⁷
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with eight grass wickets. Used by Wilmslow Wayfarers CC. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to ten match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. Clubhouse is currently being renovated.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Key centre	L	L
					Ensure clubhouse is improved to a good quality.			S	M
		Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is assessed as standard quality. Last resurfaced in 2007 and therefore nearing the end of its lifespan. Used by Wilmslow HC.	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH Club		M	M
					Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			I	L
					Ensure security of tenure through a community use agreement.			S	L
		Lacrosse		Four lacrosse pitches assessed as standard quality. Accessed by Wilmslow Lacrosse Club.	Retain and protect pitches for continued lacrosse use and, as a minimum, sustain current quality.	English Lacrosse Club		L	L
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 12 grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by limited car parking. The Club is acquiring Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca) to be used as a secondary venue.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Explore options to improve car parking.			S	L
					Ensure the Club is provided with security of tenure at Alderley Park.			L	L
					Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand plans either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play (ideally to Alderley Park).			L	L
166	Alderley Edge Community Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
168	Ashdene Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
181	Dean Oaks Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
216	St Anne's Fulshaw Primary School	Football	School	One 7v7 pitch and one 5v5 pitch that are assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects relating to the 5v5 pitch given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
217	St Benedict's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L

⁸⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸⁶	Cost ⁸⁷
227	Styal Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

DISUSED/LAPSED PROVISION

Summary

- There are four lapsed sites and nine disused sites that previously contained football pitches.

Recommendations

- Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve; or,
- Explore feasibility to bring back into use; or,
- Use as open space to meet local needs; or,
- Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).

Site	Analysis area	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
Bisto Football Club	Congleton	Football	Club	A lapsed site that fell out of use in 2010. Formerly provided an adult pitch.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Brooke Dean Community College	Wilmslow	Football	School	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch that fell out of use when the School closed (2014).	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Brooke House Playing Field	Crewe	Football	Council	A disused site that fell out of use in 2012. Formerly provided an adult pitch. A MUGA on site remains in use.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Cedar Avenue	Congleton	Football	Council	A disused site that fell out of use in 2015. Formerly provided a youth pitch.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Goddard Street	Crewe	Football	Council	A lapsed site that fell out of use in 2005. Formerly provided an adult pitch that is being considered for a housing development.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Hazelbadge Road Playing Field	Poynton	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch. Fell out of use in 2013.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Peover Playing Fields	Knutsford	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided a youth pitch. Fell out of use in 2013.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	Analysis area	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
Portland Drive	Congleton	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch. Fell out of use in 2016.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
St John's Road	Congleton	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult and a youth pitch. Fell out of use in 2016.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Wybunbury Recreation Ground	Nantwich	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch. Fell out of use in 2016.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Wheelock Playing Field	Congleton	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch. One goalpost remains in place. Fell out of use in 2016.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2033 (in with the Local Plan). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Playing Pitch Demand Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved by taking the current TGRs and population in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

The scenarios below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. The estimate for hockey is calculated using Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator because this includes Artificial Grass Pitches. The unit of demand for hockey is given in number of pitches because the Sports Facility Calculator converts the population into visits per week per person (VPWPP) which in turn generates that demand into additional pitch space required. The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 1.61 per dwelling. This is taken from the fact that the Local Plan Housing Development Study⁸⁸ projects population growth of 58,100 and identifies a need for 36,000 dwellings (implying an average increase of 58,100/36,000, or 1.61 people per dwelling).

Please note that the scenarios can be updated as required over the Local Plan period and throughout the lifespan of the PPS to reflect population projections, TGR's and change in the average household size.

Scenario 1: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth requirement over the Local Plan period (2030)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth by 2030 is 58,100 (36,000 dwellings). This equates to 53.4 match equivalent sessions across the grass pitch sports and 1.56 pitches for hockey.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (2030)

Pitch Sport	Estimated demand by sport (2030)
Adult football	10.28 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	21.52 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	12.05 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	5.47 match equivalent sessions per week
Hockey	1.56 pitches (1,157 vpwpp)
Cricket	404.89 match equivalent sessions per season

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £6,027,175⁸⁹ and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £1,158,873.⁹⁰

⁸⁸ Cheshire East Housing Development Study, ORS, June 2015. Local Plan Examination Library Reference PS E033: <http://cheshireeast-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/cs/library>

⁸⁹ Capital cost is based on 2016 second quarter calculations.

⁹⁰ Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Scenario 2: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth over the next five years

Appendix E of the Local Plan Strategy sets out a Housing Trajectory. The Trajectory illustrates the level of new housing development delivery each year of the Plan period. It identifies that over the next five years, housing delivery will need to be in excess of the Plan's annualised housing requirement (1800 homes) to address the shortfall in housing delivery since 2010 (the start of the Plan period). The Council is aiming to address this shortfall over eight years (from 2016). The rate of housing over the next five years is therefore:

Annual requirement	Additional annual requirement	Total annual requirement	Total requirement (five years)
1,800 dwelling	666 dwellings	2,466 dwellings	12,330 dwellings

It should be noted that the delivery of these homes will predominately be from sites that already have planning permission. Infrastructure provision on site or developer contributions towards infrastructure provision off site, where appropriate, will therefore already have been secured for the vast majority of this housing. However, there is an opportunity to obtain contributions from windfall sites.

The estimated additional population derived from the five year housing growth is 19,851 (12,330 dwellings). This equates to 19.70 match equivalent sessions across the sports and 0.5 pitches for hockey.

Table 7.2: Likely demand for pitch sports from housing growth in the next five years

Pitch Sport	Estimated demand by sport (2030)
Adult football	3.51 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	7.27 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	4.12 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	1.87 match equivalent sessions per week
Hockey	0.53 pitches (395 vpwpp)
Cricket	138.34 match equivalent sessions per season

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £2,064,556⁹¹ and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £399,741.⁹²

Conclusions

The tables above show that over the next five years, and up to 2030, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. This position is indicative and does not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing playing fields the additional demand is likely to migrate to.

⁹¹ Capital cost is based on 2016 second quarter calculations.

⁹² Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Experience shows that only housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand in their own right; however, the cumulative impact of housing across the local authority clearly shows that there will be significant demand generated during the Local Plan period and in the next five years.

The Council could consider using CIL to obtain contributions to priority sites, or pooling S106 contributions from major housing schemes to invest in priority sites. In either case, the preceding Action Plan and future consultation with NGBs should inform the playing fields that most require investment.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Delivery

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Cheshire East. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Cheshire East can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach.

Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the steering group should not end with the completion of the PPS document

To help ensure the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. In order for this to be achieved the steering group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

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

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. This should form an on-going role of the steering group.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

Ideally the PPS could be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that would have been built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

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

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

Once the PPS is complete the role of the steering group should evolve so that it:

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

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

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These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings. The NGBs will also be able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area. Discussion with the league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings which it may be useful to attend to pick up any specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

The steering group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.


It is important that the Council maintains the data contained with the accompanying Playing Pitch Database. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental working, including for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results are used to inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Checklist

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

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The recommendations within this Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis. They reflect key areas to be addressed over its lifetime. However, implementation must be considered in the context of financial implications and the need for some proposals to also meet planning considerations.

National context

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

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

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

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

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

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)

The main aims of the National Game Strategy are summarised below:

- ◀ Sustain and Increase Participation
- ◀ Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
- ◀ Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite
- ◀ Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees
- ◀ Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
- ◀ Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.
- ◀ Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms
- ◀ Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.
- ◀ Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matched to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - *Clubs and leagues*
 - *Kids*
 - *Communities*
 - *Casual*

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- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - *Pathway*
 - *Support*
 - *Elite Teams*
 - *England Teams*
- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - *Fan focus*
 - *New audiences*
 - *Global stage*
 - *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - *Integrity*
 - *Community programmes*
 - *Our environments*
 - *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game's revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - *People*
 - *Revenue and reach*
 - *Insight*
 - *Operations*

The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 1.5 million players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the previous period remain valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

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It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

"The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England's senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few"

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP) that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximise playing opportunities

'The right pitches in the right places'⁹³

⁹³

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In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

England Hockey Strategy

EH's new Club Strategy will assist hockey clubs to retain more players and recruit new members to ultimately grow their club membership. EH will be focusing on participation growth through this strategy for the next two years. The EH Strategy is based on seven core themes. These are:

- 1 Having great leadership
- 2 Having Appropriate and Sustainable Facilities
- 3 Inspired and Effective People
- 4 Different Ways to Play
- 5 Staying Friendly, Social and Welcoming
- 6 Being Local with Strong Community Connections
- 7 Stretching and developing those who want it

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- ◀ Sustainable clubs
- ◀ Environmental Sustainability
- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk provides further information on:

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy

Places

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- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- ◀ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 - 2017

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

In order to deliver much of the Action Plan it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought. Although seeking developer contributions in applicable situations and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding should be investigated. Below is a list of current funding sources that are relevant for community improvement projects involving sports facilities.

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment
Sport England The current funding streams will change throughout 2016/17 so refer to the website for the latest information: https://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Grant Match Scheme www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org	The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts and floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
EH Capital Investment Programme (CIP)	The CIP fund is for the provision of new pitches and re-surfacing of old AGPs. It forms part of EH's 4 year Whole Sport's Plan.
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus: Young people and hockey. Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

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Protecting Playing Fields

Sport England's Strategy: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021) will simplify the funding reducing the number of investment programmes from 30 to 7:

- ◀ Tackling Inactivity
- ◀ Children and Young People
- ◀ Volunteering
- ◀ Taking sport and activity into the mass market
- ◀ Supporting sports core markets
- ◀ Local delivery
- ◀ Creating welcoming sports facilities

The current funding streams listed below will remain operational during 2016/17 but will be phased out and replaced by one or more of the seven listed above.

It launched Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme and is investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects.

The programme is being delivered via five funding rounds (with up to £2 million being awarded to projects in each round). Its focus is on protecting and improving playing fields and developing community sport. It will fund capital projects that create, develop and improve playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long term protection of the site for sport. Projects are likely to involve the construction of new pitches or improvement of existing ones that need levelling or drainage works.

Sport England's 'Inspired Facilities' funding programme will be delivered via funding rounds and where clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and local authorities can apply for grants of between £25k and £150k where there is a proven local need for a facility to be modernised, extended or modified to open up new sporting opportunities.

The programmes three priorities are:

- ◀ Organisations that haven't previously received a Sport England Lottery grant of over £10k.
- ◀ Projects that are the only public sports facility in the local community.
- ◀ Projects that offer local opportunities to people who do not currently play sport.

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also providing opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces.

Strategic Facilities Fund

Facilities are fundamental in providing more people with the opportunity to play sport. The supply of the right facilities in the right areas is key to getting more people to play sport. Sport England recognises the considerable financial pressures that local authorities are currently under and the need to strategically review and rationalise leisure stock so that cost effective and financially sustainable provision is available in the long-term. Sport England has a key role to play in the sector, from influencing the local strategic planning and review of sports facility provision to investing in major capital projects of strategic importance.

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The Strategic Facilities Fund will direct capital investment into a number of key local authority projects that are identified through a strategic needs assessment and that have maximum impact on growing and sustaining community sport participation. These projects will be promoted as best practice in the delivery of quality and affordable facilities, whilst demonstrating long-term operational efficiencies. The fund will support projects that bring together multiple partners, including input from the public and private sectors and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). The fund is also designed to encourage applicants and their partners to invest further capital and revenue funding to ensure sustainability. Sport England has allocated a budget of circa £30m of Lottery funding to award through this fund (2013-17).

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

- ✦ A robust needs and evidence base which illustrates the need for the project and the proposed facility mix
- ✦ Strong partnerships which will last beyond the initial development of the project and underpin the long-term sustainability of the facility
- ✦ Multi-sport provision and activity that demonstrates delivery against NGB local priorities
- ✦ A robust project plan from inception to completion with achievable milestones and timescales.

Lottery applications will be invited on a solicited-only basis and grants of between £500,000 and £2,000,000 will be considered.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

- ✦ Are large-scale capital developments identified as part of a local authority sports facility strategic needs assessment/rationalisation programme and that will drive a significant increase in community sports participation
- ✦ Demonstrate consultation/support from two or more NGBs and delivery against their local priorities
- ✦ Are multi-sport facilities providing opportunities to drive high participant numbers
- ✦ Are a mix of facility provision (indoor and/or outdoor) to encourage regular & sustained use by a large number of people
- ✦ Offer an enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build facilities
- ✦ Have a long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ✦ Show quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ✦ Have effective and efficient operating models, combined with a commitment to development programmes which will increase participation and provide talent pathways.

Projects will need to demonstrate how the grant will deliver against Sport England's strategic priorities. The funding available is for the development of the capital infrastructure, which can contribute to the costs of new build, modernisation or refurbishment and purchasing of major fixed equipment as part of the facility development.

Funder's requirements

Below is a list of funding requirements that can typically be expected to be provided as part of a funding bid, some of which will fall directly out of the Playing Pitch Strategy:

- ✦ Identify need (i.e., why the Project is needed) and how the Project will address it.
- ✦ Articulate what difference the Project will make.

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- ◀ Identify benefits, value for money and/or added value.
- ◀ Provide baseline information (i.e., the current situation).
- ◀ Articulate how the Project is consistent with local, regional and national policy.
- ◀ Financial need and project cost.
- ◀ Funding profile (i.e., who's providing what? Unit and overall costs).
- ◀ Technical information and requirements (e.g., planning permission).
- ◀ Targets, outputs and/or outcomes (i.e., the situation after the Project/what the Project will achieve)
- ◀ Evidence of support from partners and stakeholders.
- ◀ Background/essential documentation (e.g., community use agreement).
- ◀ Assessment of risk.

Indicative costs

The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the Action Plan can be found on the Sport England website:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

There are two sets of costs that are highlighted here; facility capital costs and lifecycle costs.

Facility capital costs

- ◀ Facility capital costs are calculated using estimates of what it typically costs to build modern sports facilities, including fees and external work, naturally taking into account varying conditions, inflation and regional adjustments.
- ◀ Costs are updated regularly in conjunction with information provided by the BCIS (Building Cost Information Service) and other Quantity Surveyors.
- ◀ The document is often referred to as the Planning Kitbag costs as the figures are often used by planners and developers when reviewing potential planning contributions to site developments.

Lifecycle costs

- ◀ Life cycle costs are how much its costs to keep a facility open and fit-for-purpose during its lifetime.
- ◀ It includes costs for major replacement and planned preventative maintenance (PPM) – day to day repairs. The costs are expressed as a percentage of the capital cost.
- ◀ You should not underestimate the importance of regular maintenance and the expense in maintaining a facility throughout its life.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

APPENDIX THREE: GLOSSARY

Exported demand generally relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area (i.e. from residents of the study area) which takes place outside of the area. This may be due to issues with the provision of pitches and ancillary facilities in the study area, just reflective of how the sports are played (e.g. at a central venue for the wider area) or due to the most convenient site for the respective users just falling outside of the local authority/study area.

Unmet demand is demand that is known to exist but unable to be accommodated on current supply of pitches. This could be in the form of a team with access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. This could also be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement. League secretaries may be aware of some unmet demand as they may have declined applications from teams wishing to enter their competitions due to a lack of pitch provision which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. This could include feedback from a sports club who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision.

Future demand is an informed estimate made of the likely future demand for pitches in the study area. This is generally based on the most appropriate current and future population projections for the relevant age and gender groupings for each sport. Key trends, local objectives and targets and consultation also inform this figure.

Casual use or other use could take place on natural grass pitches or AGPs and include:

- ◀ Regular play from non-sports club sources (e.g. companies, schools, fitness classes)
- ◀ Infrequent informal/friendly matches
- ◀ Informal training sessions
- ◀ More casual forms of a particular sport organised by sports clubs or other parties
- ◀ Significant public use and informal play, particularly where pitches are located in parks/recreation grounds.

Carrying capacity is the amount of play a site can regularly accommodate (in the relevant comparable unit) for community use without adversely affecting its quality and use. This is typically outlined by the NGB.

Overplay is when a pitch is used over the amount that the carrying capacity will allow, (i.e. more than the site can accommodate). Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected.

Spare capacity is the amount of additional play that a pitch could potentially accommodate in addition to current activity. There may be reasons why this potential to accommodate additional play should not automatically be regarded as actual spare capacity, for example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below its carrying capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of friendly matches and training activity. This needs to be investigated before the capacity is deemed **actual spare capacity**.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Match equivalent sessions is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football, rugby union and rugby league, pitches should relate to a typical week within the season and one match = one match equivalent session if it occurs every week or 0.5 match equivalent sessions if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures). For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season and one match = one match equivalent session.

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**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL
INDOOR AND BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT
DRAFT REPORT**

**JANUARY 2017
(27.01.2017)**

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT - DRAFT

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL INDOOR AND BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

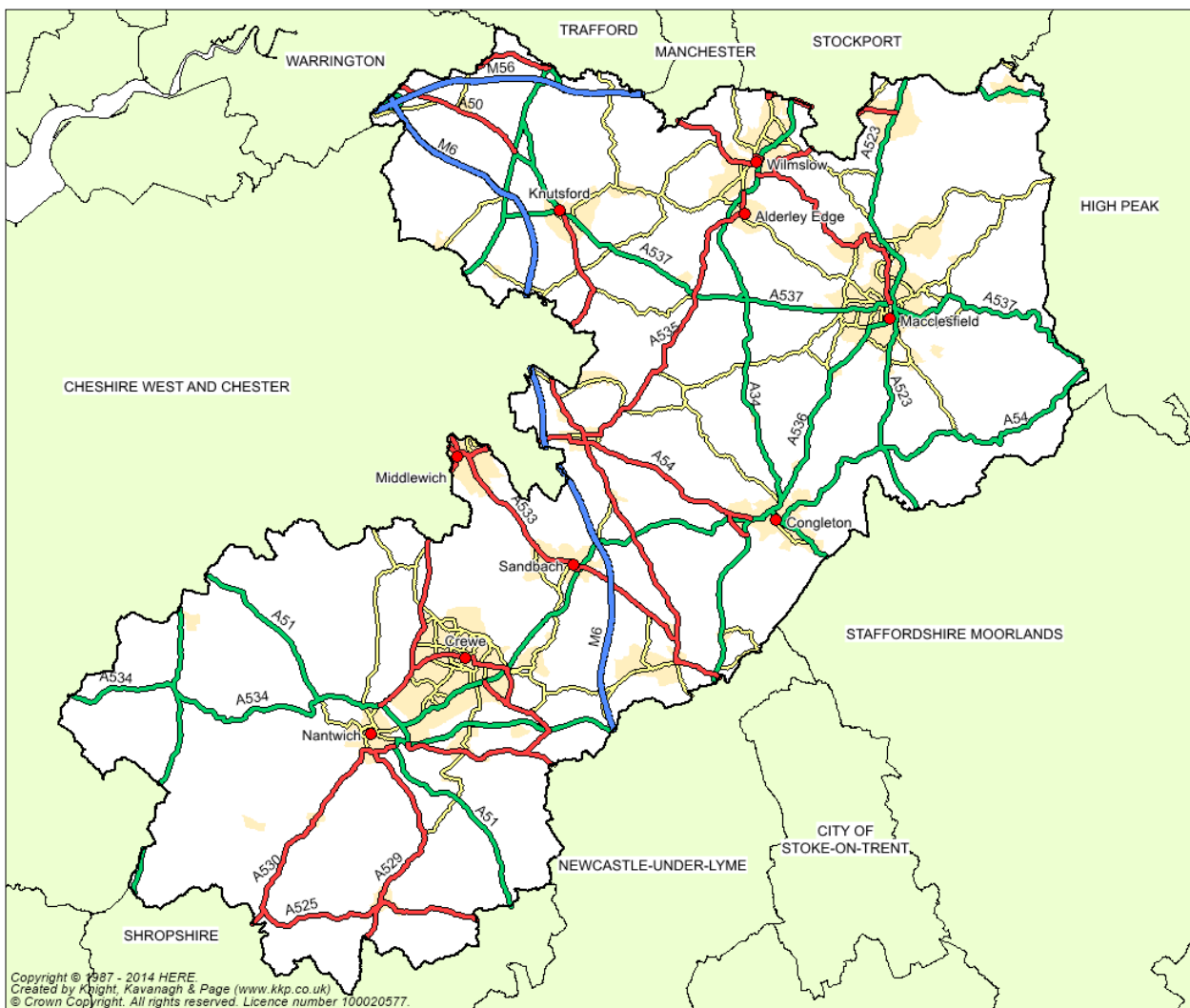
1.1 Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was appointed by Cheshire East Council to undertake an assessment of formal indoor sports facility needs in the Borough to assist it to strategically plan for the future. This report provides a detailed assessment of current provision of indoor and built sports facilities, identifying needs and gaps in provision.

1.2 Background

Cheshire East lies within North West England. It borders Warrington, Cheshire West and Chester to the west, Greater Manchester to the north, Derbyshire to the east as well as Staffordshire and Shropshire to the south. It is home to the Cheshire Plain and the southern hills of the Pennines. Cheshire East covers an area of 116,638 hectares.

Figure .1.1: Cheshire East with main roads and main towns



CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

INDOOR AND BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Cheshire East contains the major towns of Crewe, Macclesfield, Congleton and the commuter town of Wilmslow (population above 20,000). There are also a number of other significant areas of population (over 10,000) in Sandbach, Poynton, Nantwich, Middlewich, Knutsford and Alsager. Approximately, 40% of the population lives in rural areas with the remainder in the two major towns of Crewe and Macclesfield and smaller towns of Wilmslow, Congleton, Sandbach, Poynton, Nantwich, Middlewich, Knutsford and Alsager

The Council was established in April 2009 as part of the structural changes to local government in England, by virtue of an order under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. It is an amalgamation of the former boroughs of Macclesfield, Congleton and Crewe and Nantwich, and includes the functions of the former Cheshire County Council. The residual part of the disaggregated former County Council, together with the other three former Cheshire borough councils (Chester City, Ellesmere Port & Neston and Vale Royal) were, similarly, amalgamated to create the new unitary council of Cheshire West and Chester.

Cheshire East is the third largest unitary authority in the North West next to Manchester and Liverpool and is divided into 52 wards. According to the 2011 Census, Cheshire East has a population of 370,127 people. Of which, ethnic white groups (British, Irish, Other) account for 96.7% of the population (357,940 people), with 3.3% of the population (12,187 people) being in ethnic groups other than white (Asian, Black, Other).

1.3 Scope of the project

The report provides detail as to what exists in the Borough, its condition, location, availability and overall quality. It considers the demand for facilities based on population distribution, planned growth (in relation to that identified in the draft Cheshire East Local Plan) and taking into consideration health and economic deprivation. The facilities / sports covered include: sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness, indoor bowls. In delivering this report KKP has:

- ◀ Individually audited identified, sports halls (conventional i.e. 3+ court halls as per Sport England definitions) swimming pools (minimum length 20m), health and fitness facilities (including, within reason, dance studios) and squash courts (public, private and voluntary sector owned/managed).
- ◀ Analysed the supply and demand of facilities to identify gaps in provision and opportunities for improved provision.
- ◀ Sought to ensure that delivery of leisure facilities is undertaken with full reference to the corporate strategies of the Council and other relevant strategic influences.
- ◀ Identified areas of good practice, gaps in provision and opportunities for improved service in order to drive up participation levels.

This factual report provides a quantitative and qualitative audit based assessment of the facilities identified above. It provides a robust, up-to-date assessment of need for sports halls, health and fitness and specialist facilities and examines opportunities for new, enhanced and rationalised provision. Specific deficiencies and surpluses are identified to inform the provision required. The specific objectives of this audit and assessment are to:

- ◀ Identify local needs and quantify levels of demand
- ◀ Audit existing facility provision.

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The specific tasks addressed within the study include:

- ✦ A review of relevant Council strategies, plans, reports, corporate objectives.
- ✦ A review of the local, regional and national strategic context.
- ✦ Analysis of the demographics of the local population.
- ✦ Consideration of potential participation rates and modelling of likely demand.
- ✦ Audit of indoor facilities provided by public, private, voluntary and education sectors.
- ✦ Supply and demand analysis.
- ✦ Analysis of the balance between supply of and demand for sports facilities and identification of potential under and over-provision.
- ✦ Identification of key issues to address in the future provision of indoor sports facilities.

1.4 Report structure

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) in a new report entitled '*Strategic Planning: Effective Co-operation for Planning Across Boundaries (2015)*' puts the case for strategic planning based on six general principles:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ✦ Have focus | ✦ Be collaborative |
| ✦ Be genuinely strategic | ✦ Have strong leadership and |
| ✦ Be spatial | ✦ Be accountable to local electorates. |

In the preparation of this report, KKP has paid due regard to these strategic principles and it is, as a consequence, structured as follows:

- ✦ Section 2 - a review of background policy documentation at national, regional and local levels and a profile of the population and socio-demographic characteristics of the Borough.
- ✦ Section 3 - description of methodology employed to review indoor provision.
- ✦ Section 4 - review of sports hall provision.
- ✦ Section 5 - review of swimming pool provision.
- ✦ Section 6 - review of health and fitness provision.
- ✦ Section 7:- reviews of membership data
- ✦ Section 8- review of indoor bowls
- ✦ Section 9- review of other sports.
- ✦ Section 10 - identification of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, followed by strategic recommendations.

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL INDOOR AND BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

2.1 National context

Sport England aims to ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on up to date assessment of need for all levels of sport and all sectors of the community. This draft assessment report has been produced for Cheshire East Council applying the principles and tools identified in the Sport England Guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities' (ANOG).

Figure 2.1: ANOG model



As illustrated, Sport England regards an assessment of need as core to the planning for sporting provision. This report reviews indoor and built sporting facility needs in Cheshire East and provides a basis for future strategic planning.

Sporting Future: A new strategy for an active nation

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

- ◆ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◆ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◆ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◆ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◆ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◆ Maximising the impact of Major Events.
- ◆ A more productive sport sector.
- ◆ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◆ A more responsible sport sector.

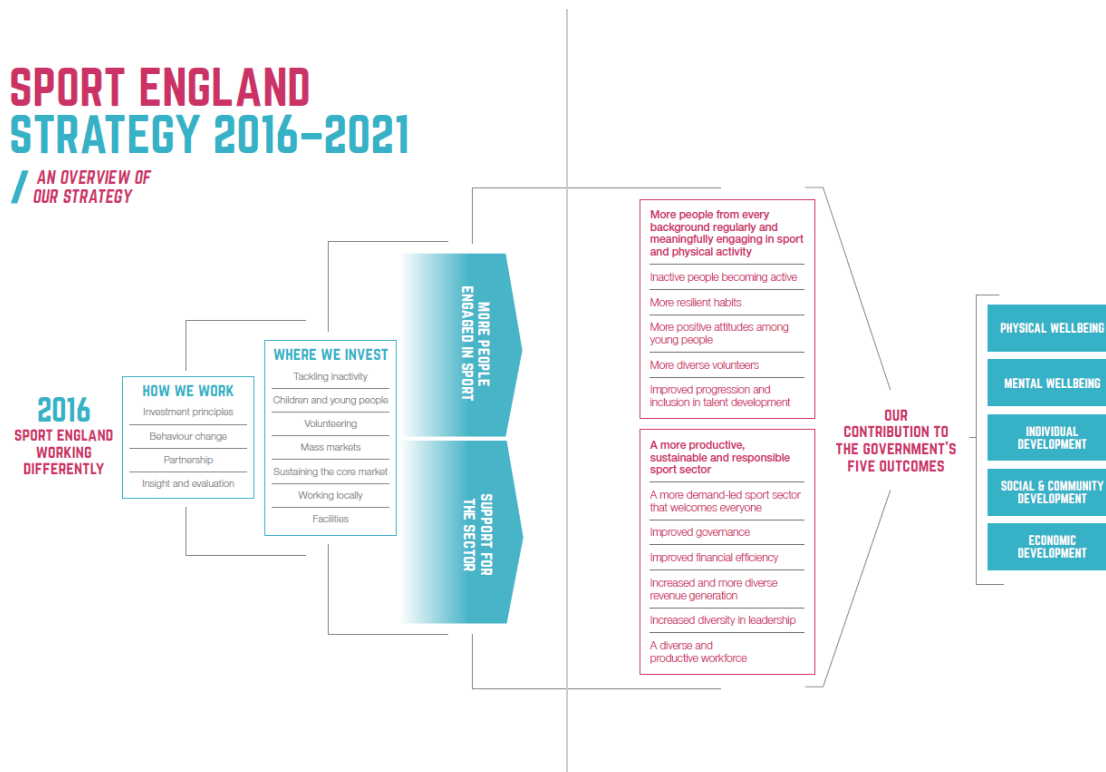
(See Appendix 2 for summary outputs and key indicators)

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL INDOOR AND BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In response to the Government's strategy, Sport England has since produced its new strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'.

Sport England: Towards an Active Nation

Figure 2.2 Sport England Strategy 2016-2021



Sport England has identified that it will invest in:

- ❖ Tackling inactivity
- ❖ Children and young people
- ❖ Volunteering – a dual benefit
- ❖ Taking sport and activity into the mass market
- ❖ Supporting sport's core market
- ❖ Local delivery
- ❖ Facilities

These seven investment programmes will be underpinned by a new Workforce Strategy and a new Coaching Plan.

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National Planning Policy Framework 2012

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities. It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies the need to focus on three themes of economic, social and environmental sustainable development.

A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that local plans should meet objectively assessed needs. It is clear about the sport's role delivering sustainable communities through promoting health and well-being. Sport England, working within the provisions of the NPPF, wishes to see local planning policy protect, enhance and provide for sports facilities based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need, as well as helping to realise the wider benefits that participation in sport can bring.

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

Public Health England: Everybody Active, Everyday

In October 2014 Public Health England (PHE) produced its plan to tackle low activity levels across the country. Along with making the case for physical activity, this identifies four areas where measures need to be taken at a national and local level:

- ◀ Active society: creating a social movement, shifting social norms so that physical activity becomes a routine part of daily life.
- ◀ Moving professionals: activating networks of expertise. Making every contact with the health sector count to push the 'active' message and to deliver the message through other sectors including education, sports and leisure, transport and planning.
- ◀ Active environments: creating the right spaces. Making available and accessible appropriate environments that encourage people to be active every day.
- ◀ Moving at scale: scaling up interventions that make us active. Maximising existing assets that enable communities to be active.

Investment in school sport

The Government 2013 Primary PE and Sport Premium fund of £150 million per annum provided two years of investment in school sport. Supported by the Government's Education, Health and DCMS departments, funds went directly into the hands of primary school head teachers for them to spend on sport. Its four objectives were to:

- ◀ Improve the quality of existing PE teaching through continuing professional learning in PE for generalists, so that all primary pupils improve their health, skills and physical literacy and have a broader exposure to a range of sports.

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- ◀ Increase participation levels in competitive sports and healthy activity of pupils and maintain these into adolescence
- ◀ Increase the quality of initial teacher training in PE and sport, and to promote PE specialisation in primary level workforce.
- ◀ Ensure that schools understand and value the benefits of high quality PE and sport, including its use as a tool for whole school improvement.

In 2015-16 schools with 16 or fewer eligible pupils receive £500 per pupil while those with 17 or more receive £8,000 plus a payment of £5 per head. Research into Primary Sport Premium Fund spending has highlighted the need for clearer guidance to schools on how best to use this resource and the importance of good specialist PE knowledge for teachers of the subject. While this may cease in its present form it appears likely that the allocation of funds generated via the proposed 'Sugar Tax' will continue to fund school sport at some level moving forward.

Priority School Building Programme (PSBP)

This is a centrally managed programme set up to address the needs of the schools most in need of urgent repair. Through it, 261 schools will be re-built between 2014 and 2017.

Summary of national context

Engaging all residents in physical activity is a high priority as is getting the inactive, active. It is acknowledged that regular sport and recreational activity plays a key role in facilitating improved health and wellbeing. Ensuring an adequate supply of suitable facilities to meet local need is a requirement of the planning system, in line with national policy recommendations.

2.2 Local context and strategies

Cheshire East Council – Three Year Plan, 2013-16

The Cheshire East Council Three Year Plan outlines its purpose as aiming 'to serve the people of Cheshire East through' three areas, which are:

- ◀ Fulfilling its community leadership role well.
- ◀ Ensuring quality and value in public services.
- ◀ Safeguarding the most vulnerable in society.

Subsequently this is split into the following six outcomes;

- ◀ Local communities are strong and supportive.
- ◀ Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy.
- ◀ People have the life skills and education they need to thrive.
- ◀ Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place.
- ◀ People live well and for longer.
- ◀ Cheshire East is a good place to live and work.

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL INDOOR AND BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Cheshire East Council – Local Plan Strategy (Proposed Changes Consultation Draft, March 2016)

The Local Plan Strategy is the first part of the Council's Local Plan and sets out the overall planning framework for the Borough between 2010 and 2030 including for the provision of at least 36,000 additional homes. The Plan is at an advanced stage of preparation. Draft Main Modifications to the Plan will be published for public consultation early in 2017. Once adopted, it will form part of the Statutory Development Plan for Cheshire East and will be the starting point for deciding planning applications. The policies that most specifically relate to playing pitches and leisure and recreation facilities are Policies SC1 (Leisure and Recreation), SC2 (Outdoor Sports Facilities) and Policy SE6 (Green Infrastructure). These policies are set out below. Further detailed policies related to sport and recreation are expected to be added to the Local Plan through its second part – the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD). Work on the SADPD will move forward in 2017. The SADPD will respond, as necessary, to the detailed findings and recommendations of the Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy. Until both the Local Plan Strategy and SADPD are adopted, the 'saved policies' relevant to sport and recreation facilities within the local plans prepared by the three predecessor borough councils will also continue to apply.

Policy SC1 – Leisure and Recreation

In order to provide appropriate leisure and recreational facilities for the communities of Cheshire East, the Council will:

- ◀ 1. Seek to protect and enhance existing leisure and recreation facilities, unless they are proven to be surplus to requirements or unless improved alternative provision, of similar or better quality, is to be made.
- ◀ 2. Support and promote the provision of better leisure, community and recreation facilities, where there is a need for such facilities, the proposed facilities are of a type and scale appropriate to the size of the settlement, are accessible and support the objectives of the Local Plan Strategy. The Council will do this by:
 - ◀ i) Encouraging facilities that serve the Borough as a whole, and facilities that attract large numbers of people, to be located, where possible, within or adjoining Crewe or Macclesfield town centres.
 - ◀ ii) Requiring facilities serving key service centres to be located in or adjacent to their town centre or highly accessible locations.
 - ◀ iii) Requiring facilities intended to serve the everyday needs of a community or neighbourhood to be in or adjacent to the centres of local service centres or other settlements.
 - ◀ iv) Encouraging the development of shared service centres that combine public services, health and community functions in modern accessible buildings.
- ◀ 3. Supporting proposals for facilities that would not be appropriate to be located in or adjacent to centres, provided they are highly accessible by a choice of transport, do not harm the character, amenity, or biodiversity value of the area, and satisfy a range of other criteria.
 - The proposal is a facility that:
 - ◀ a. supports a business use;
 - ◀ b. is appropriate in an employment area; or
 - ◀ c. supports an outdoor sports facility, education or related community / visitor facility; or

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- ◀ d. supports the visitor economy and is based on local cultural or existing visitor attractions.
- ◀ 4. Work with agencies, services and businesses responsible for providing facilities to make sure that the needs and demands of communities are met.
- ◀ 5. Make sure that appropriate developments contribute, through land assembly and financial contributions, to new or improved facilities where development will increase demand and / or there is a recognised shortage of local leisure, community and recreation facilities.

Policy SC2 – Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities

In order to provide appropriate indoor and outdoor sports facilities for the communities of Cheshire East, the Council will

- ◀ 1. Protect existing indoor and outdoor sports facilities, unless:
 - ◀ i. They are proven to be surplus to need (as identified in an adopted and up to date needs assessment); or
 - ◀ ii. Improved alternative provision (a full quantity and quality replacement to accord with paragraph 74 of the NPPF and Sport England policy) will be created in a location well related to the functional requirements of the relocated use and its existing and future users.
- In all cases:
- ◀ iii. The proposal would not result in the loss of an area important for its amenity or contribution to the character of the area in general; and
 - ◀ 2. Support new indoor and outdoor sports facilities where:
 - ◀ i. They are readily accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.
 - ◀ ii. The proposed facilities are of a type and scale appropriate to the size of the settlement.
 - ◀ iii. Where they are listed in an action plan in any emerging or subsequently adopted Playing Pitch Strategy or Indoor Sports Strategy, subject to the criteria in the policy.
 - ◀ 3. Make sure that major residential developments contribute, through land assembly and financial contributions, to new or improved sports facilities where development will increase demand and/or there is a recognised shortage.

Policy SE 6 Green Infrastructure:

Cheshire East aims to deliver a good quality, and accessible network of green spaces for people to enjoy, providing for healthy recreation and biodiversity and continuing to provide a range of social, economic and health benefits. This will be done by:

- ◀ 1. Linking the various assets of Cheshire East's unique landscape – its upland fringes, Cheshire Plain, lowland heath, parkland estates, rivers, canals and watercourses, valleys and cloughs, meres and mosses, trees and woodland and wildlife habitats and its distinctive towns and villages and their urban fringe.
 - ◀ i. This network of Green Infrastructure assets should be safeguarded, retained and enhanced through the development of green networks/wedges and corridors.
 - ◀ ii. Areas identified as having a shortage or opportunities for the provision of Green Infrastructure should be a particular focus for enhancement.

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- iii. Any development should contribute to the creation of a good quality, integrated and accessible multi-functional network of green spaces.
- 2. Safeguarding Green Infrastructure assets to make sure that:
 - Development does not compromise their integrity or potential value;
 - ii. Developer contributions are secured wherever appropriate in order to improve their quality, use and multi-functionality; and
 - iii. Opportunities to add to the Green Infrastructure network are maximised through partnership working.
- 3. Working with partners, to support the potential of Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets to contribute to the aims of the wider green infrastructure. The Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets⁷¹ identified in Cheshire East are:
 - Weaver, Bollin, Dane and Wheelock river corridors including cloughs and floodplains
 - ii. Macclesfield, Shropshire Union (including the Llangollen and Middlewich branches) and Trent and Mersey canals
 - iii. Meres and Mosses Nature Improvement Area and Local Nature Improvement Areas
 - iv. Heritage town parks and open spaces of historic and cultural importance
 - v. Public Rights of Way, cycle routes and greenways
 - vi. Country Parks and estate parklands
 - vii. Peak Park Fringe
 - viii. The Cloud, Congleton Edge and Mow Cop upland fringe
 - ix. Sandstone Ridge
 - x. The ecological network of habitats identified in Policy SE3
- 4. Strengthening the contribution that sport and playing fields, open space and recreation facilities make to Cheshire East's Green Infrastructure network by requiring all development to:
 - i. Protect and enhance existing open spaces and sport and recreation facilities;⁷²
 - ii. Encourage multiple use and improvements to their quality;
 - iii. Provide adequate open space (as outlined in Table 13.1);
 - iv. Contribute to the provision of outdoor sports facilities in line with Policy SC2;
 - v. Create or add to the networks of multi-functional Green Infrastructure;
 - vi. Secure new provision to help address identified shortages in existing open space provision, both in quantity, quality and accessibility;
 - vii. Locate open space facilities in appropriate locations, preferably within developments; and
 - viii. Promote linkages between new development and surrounding recreational networks, communities and facilities.

⁷¹Strategic Green Infrastructure assets are those assets that either provide or could provide wider Green Infrastructure benefits.

Neighbourhood Planning in Cheshire East

Neighbourhood planning allows communities, led by their Town and Parish Councils, to shape the development and growth of their local areas. This includes through the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans containing local planning policies that become part of the statutory development plan if supported through a local referendum. They can identify how and where new development should take place including what infrastructure should be provide, where this is aligned with the overall strategic needs and priorities of the wider area.

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There is considerable neighbourhood planning activity in the Borough. At the time this report was prepared there were 40 active neighbourhood planning groups. Five plans in Cheshire East had been 'made' (Audlem, Brereton, Bunbury, Marton and Sandbach) with Holmes Chapel Neighbourhood Plan to be subject to local referendum in March 2017. It is expected that a further 20 Neighbourhood Development Plans will be completed in 2017.

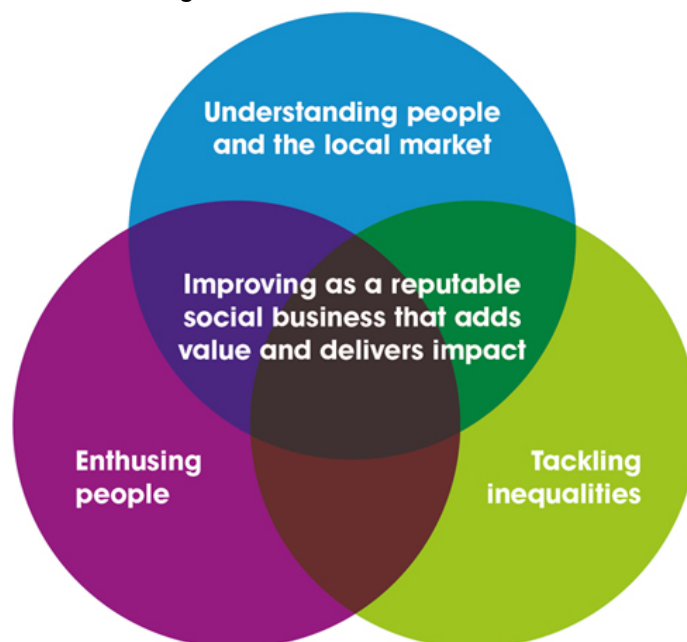
The Borough Council is very keen to support neighbourhood planning and continues to provide advice and guidance to local groups. This includes understanding the relationship between emerging Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan. It is hoped that this Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy and the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy will provide useful sources of evidence to support policies and proposals within Neighbourhood Plans. Clearly, planning decisions will have to take proper account of the policies and proposals in both the Local and Neighbourhood Plan, the latter probably adding more locally-specific policy. For example, through their Neighbourhood Plans, local communities may want to recognise the need to protect and enhance specific facilities and/or allocate land for new or improved facilities, where such requirements are justified by appropriate evidence.

Active Cheshire

Active Cheshire is a strategic commissioner of sport and physical activity in Cheshire and Warrington. It works with a wide range of health, sport, education, environment, transport and business partners to find new ways of enabling people to get active on a regular basis. It invests in understanding local people and the market, ensuring that its annual investment of £500k is targeted to deliver the greatest sustainable impact of more people, more active, more often.

Active Cheshire aims to inspire greater collaboration and coordination between partners to tackle physical inactivity locally. It aims to encourage a change in behaviour of local citizens, enabling physical activity to become part of their everyday habit.

Figure 2.3: Active Cheshire strategic aims



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Strategy:



Sport Cheshire has developed a strategy “Count me in” to get more people, more active more often by 2017. This strategy is developed with the aim to make sport and physical activity enjoyable and accessible for all abilities within Cheshire and Warrington.

The underlying theme is to focus on individual needs, rather than categorising and responding to the vast spectrum of impairments in the same way. By 2017 sub-regional partners will target resources to deliver a three point plan in direct response to the needs of those with impairments.

Target outcomes:

- ◆ 10,000 more people, more active, more often = happier, healthier citizens.
- ◆ Greater range of activities which are easier to access for individuals.
- ◆ More confident, competent coaches and volunteers, adding to the experience.
- ◆ Increase in use of personal budgets to fund sport and physical activity.
- ◆ Increased awareness of the needs of individuals with impairments.

Everybody Sport & Recreation



Everybody is an independent non-profit distributing organisation (NPDO) with charitable status (Registered Charity No. 1156084), responsible for delivering leisure services in partnership with Cheshire East Council. It is the lead operator for the Cheshire East area. Key services include:

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- ✦ 15 leisure facilities including the new Holmes Chapel Community Centre and Crewe Lifestyle Centre,
- ✦ Everybody Fitness membership scheme and Learn to Swim scheme,
- ✦ Everybody Options concessionary discount programme,
- ✦ Leisure development service including key programmes such as: Talented Athlete Support Scheme, Volunteer Programme, Club & Coach Development, Bikeability and more,
- ✦ Everybody Academy – specialist leisure training provider delivering a range of training and development opportunities including volunteering, apprenticeships and work placements
- ✦ Taste for Life Catering – onsite café's in local Everybody leisure centres in Cheshire East, business and event catering as well as children's party catering
- ✦ Everybody Healthy – a range of health and wellbeing programmes and initiatives to support people in our communities

The Aim is to provide 'Leisure for Life' by:

- ✦ Change lives through healthy recreation
- ✦ Grow an ethical and sustainable business
- ✦ Provide a great customer experience
- ✦ Develop our people to be the best
- ✦ Build strong communities and effective partnerships

Summary of local context

The core message running through the local strategies is the requirement to ensure that leisure facilities are enhanced and protected, where necessary supported to promote the provision of facilities that meet the needs of its residents. There is an aspiration to increase the levels of sport and physical activity (and, therefore, positive contribution to the health and wellbeing agenda) which will only be achieved by targeting increasingly scarce resources. It is essential that indoor sports facilities are accessible and available to the community and that the 'offer' is developed based on the needs of specific local communities.

2.3 Demographic profile

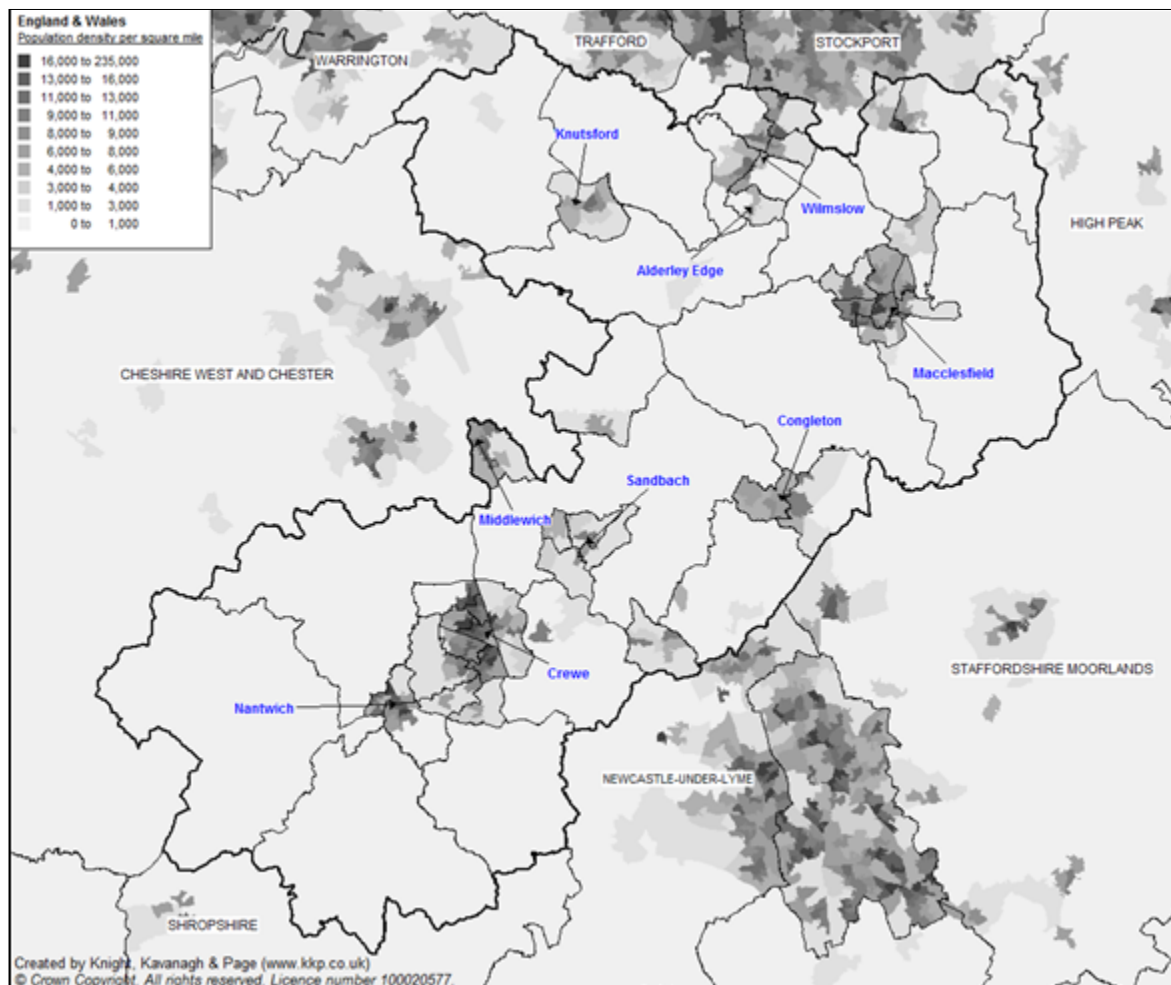
Population and distribution

Cheshire East is bordered by Warrington, Trafford, Manchester, Stockport, High Peak, Staffordshire Moorlands, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Shropshire and Cheshire West and Chester local authorities. It has a population of 375,392¹.

¹ Source: ONS 2015 Mid Year Estimate

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Figure 2.4: Population density (2014 MYE): Cheshire East and surrounding districts



Manchester, Stockport and Trafford in the north are the adjoining districts with higher population densities than those found to the west, east and south of the Borough. The local authorities of High Peak, Staffordshire Moorlands, Shropshire, Cheshire West & Chester, and Warrington have comparatively fewer people living adjacent to the border with Cheshire East. The slight exception to this in the east is Newcastle-under-Lyme,

Age structure and ethnicity

There is some difference in the age structure of Cheshire East's population from that of the North West region with the main differences being slightly higher proportions of people aged 65-74 (Cheshire East = 11.9%, North West = 10.0%) ;lower proportions of people aged 20-34 (Cheshire East = 15.1%, North West = 19.9%). Further the ethnic composition varies with 96.7% White, 1.6% Asian and 1.0% Mixed compared to 85.4%, 7.8% and 2.3% nationally.

Deprivation and ill health

- ◆ **Deprivation** –14.0% of the population falls within the most deprived 30% nationally. Conversely, however, 55.4% are within the three least deprived groups (nationally this is 30%).

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- Health deprivation - appear to be similarly spread throughout Cheshire East's communities, when compared to national averages. The IoD² points towards slightly higher health deprivation with 19.0% falling in the most deprived (three worst) cohorts based on health measures when a national equivalent would be 30%. Similarly to the overall measure of deprivation, 45.1% of the population is in the best three cohorts for health. The higher incidence of health deprivation is most easily seen by comparing the lighter areas in figures 2.5 and 2.6.

Figure 2.5: Index of multiple deprivation

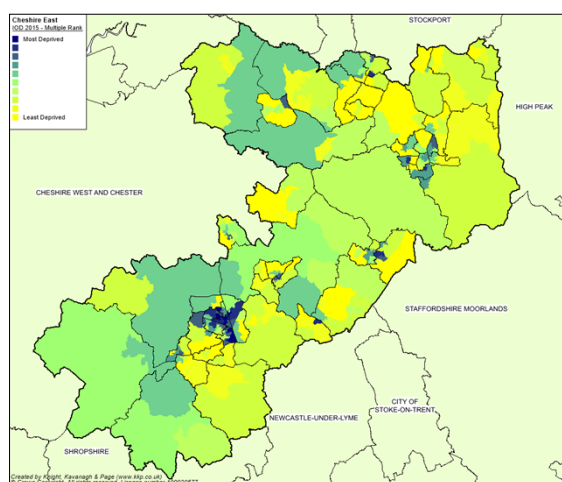
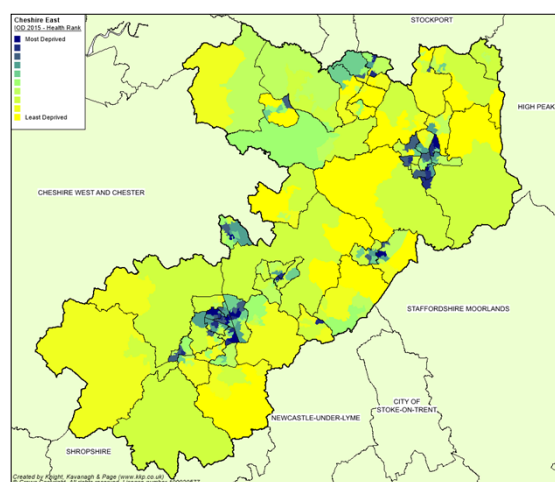
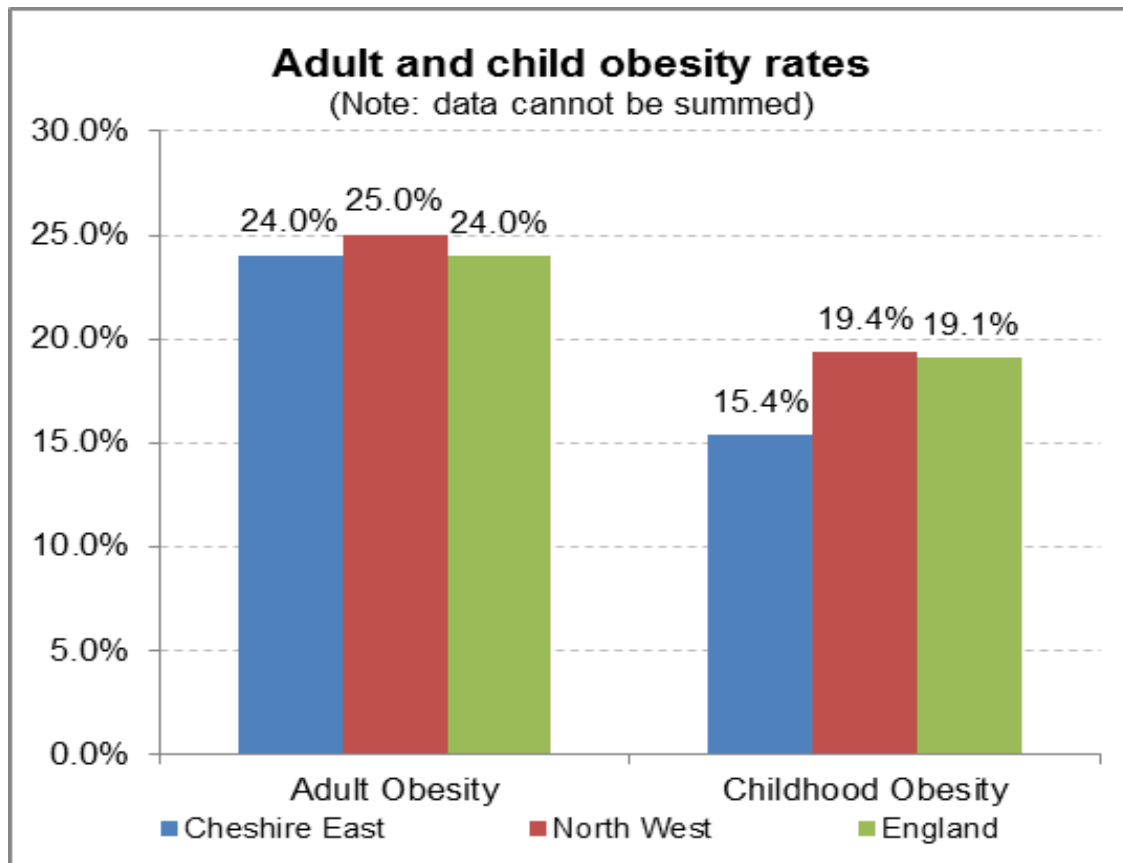


Figure 2.6: IMD Health domain

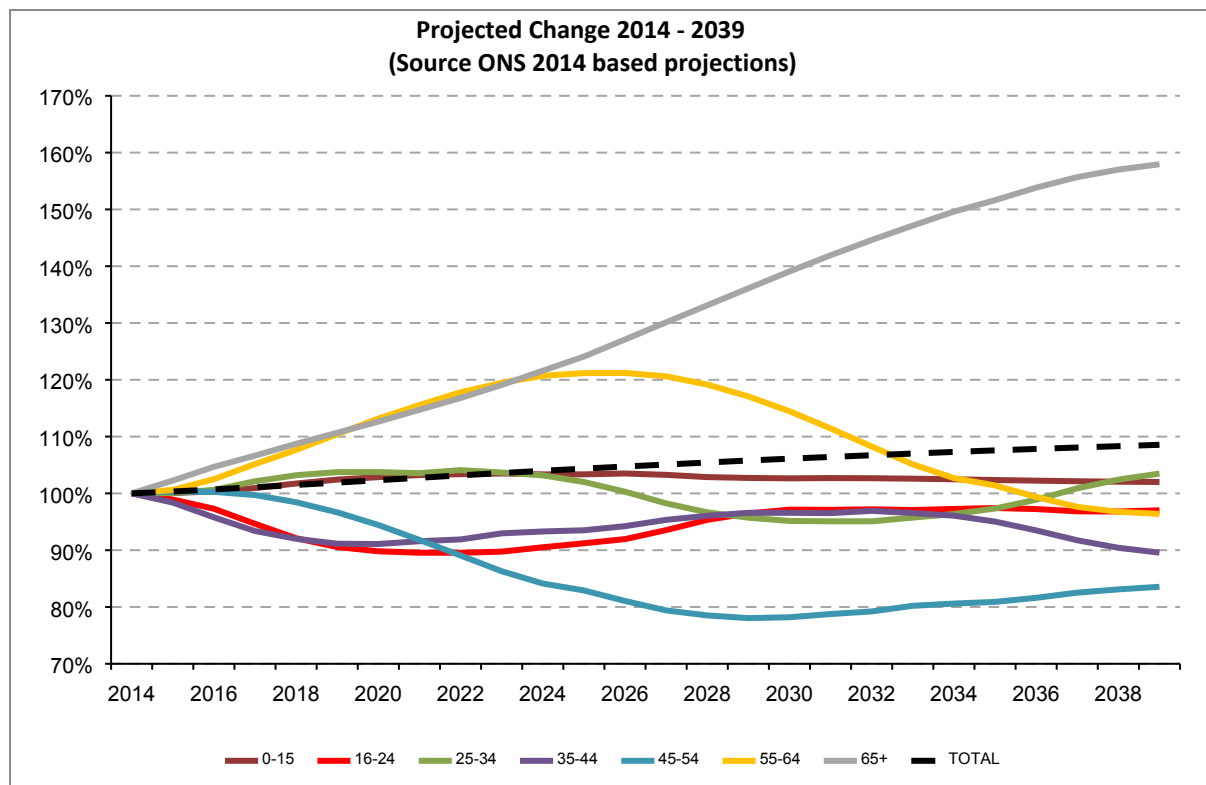


- Adult obesity (24.0%) is the same as the national (24.0%) and slightly below the regional (25.0%) average.
- Child obesity rates (15.4%) are below both the national (19.1%) and regional (19.4%) rates (see Figure 2.7)
- Child rates increase significantly between reception and Year 6, by which time more than a quarter of children (28.3%) are either overweight or obese.
- Avoidable ill health cost to the NHS in Cheshire East (due to physical inactivity) is estimated to be £6.7m; this is 1.6% and 16.6% below the respective national and regional averages (per 100,000).

² Index of Deprivation 2015 (Department for Communities & Local Government)

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The projected population changes show that until 2024 the 0-15 years and 25-34 years age groups are in line with the average growth in the Borough, but both taper off at different rates from this point forward. There is constant growth in the over 65 year old age group resulting in a 58% increase by 2038. Initially the 55-64 years age group reflects similar growth (20%) until 2024, but then tapers off significantly to below the current rate by 2038. All other age groups are in decline through until 2038.

Current and future demographics of Cheshire East

Housing Allocations in Cheshire East

The Cheshire East Local Plan is currently being developed and is at its examination stage. The Council is proposing to allocate a number of Strategic Sites for housing.

There is an overall housing requirement for at least 36,000 new homes and proposals to achieve 31,400 additional jobs within the Local Plan period (2010-2030). The Council is planning positively to support growth in line with national planning policy. The Borough's population is projected to grow by around 58,100 people. The Local Plan also seeks to ensure that the right mix of new homes is provided to meet the needs of a growing workforce and support both current and future employers. This is set within the demographic context that Cheshire East will have a 65% increase in the population aged 65+ and a 134% increase in the population aged 85+, over the Plan period. (Paragraph 1.27 of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy Proposed Changes Version March 2016).

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Table 2.1 - Summary of housing growth across Cheshire East

Summary of housing provision at 31/3/16	All Areas
Housing requirement (min.)	36,000
Completions 01/04/10 to 31/3/16	5,473
Commitments at 31/3/16	10,822
Local Plan Strategy Sites and Strategic Locations	18,555
Further non-strategic sites in the future Site Allocations and Development Policies Document	3,335
Small sites windfall provision	1,375
Total	39,560*

The Local Plan Strategy plays a central role in achieving jobs growth in the Borough and the infrastructure and housing that are needed to support it. There is a need to provide for a wide range of employment opportunities, including highly skilled jobs, jobs that retain young people and attract new employees to live and work locally, limiting travel congestion. Therefore, much of the new housing provision will need to attract people, particularly younger people, who do or can work in the sort of local, high-skill jobs that will help the Council achieve its aspirations for economic and social wellbeing.

Population indications affecting sport and physical activity participation

This section provides an indication of the population for Cheshire East and the individual analysis areas for all sports comparing 2012 to 2030 to closely follow the Cheshire East Local Plan period. The housing allocation figures in Appendix 4 have been used to develop indicative population growth. This is displayed by analysis area in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2 - Indicative Population Growth in Cheshire East

Analysis Area	Number of new homes	Indicative population growth
Alsager	2,000	3,200
Congleton	4,150	6,700
Crewe	7,700	12,400
Handforth	2,200	3,500
Knutsford	950	1,500
Macclesfield	4,250	6,800
Middlewich	1,950	3,100
Nantwich	2,050	3,300
Poynton	650	1,000
Sandbach	2,750	3,400
Wilmslow	900	1,400
Local Service Centres	3,500	5,600
Other Settlements and Rural areas (inc Alderley Park)	2,950	4,700
Cheshire East	36,000	56,600

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These figures are not population projections, but simply an approximate indication of what future population growth may be at a local level. These indicative figures are based on the crude assumption that population growth will average 1.61 per dwelling. This is taken from the fact that the Local Plan Housing Development Study³ projects population growth of 58,100 and identifies a need for 36,000 dwellings (implying an average increase of 58,100/36,000, or 1.61 people per dwelling). In reality, population growth per dwelling will vary from site to site, depending on factors such as household formation rates, migration patterns and the type of dwellings being built. There is, however, insufficient data to quantify these variations at such a local geographical level. Therefore, the population figures in the Table 2.2 above should be treated with considerable caution. For example, it is evident that the total population figure in the table does not perfectly align with the figure of population growth in the Housing Development Study. (Figures are rounded to nearest 100 but the underlying calculations are based on unrounded estimates).

The Local Plan Strategy has a Local Infrastructure Plan which supports the strategy and it sets out what leisure infrastructure is required and how it will be provided per town. See *Appendix 1*.

High Speed 2

High Speed Two (HS2) is a new high speed railway proposed by the Government to connect major cities in Britain. It will be built in phases. Phase One of the HS2 network will run from London to the West Midlands, with a connection to the West Coast Main Line near Lichfield, and will start operating in 2026. Phase Two will extend HS2 to the North of England with trains running to Manchester via Crewe, and to Leeds via the East Midlands and South Yorkshire. Connections to the East Coast and West Coast Main Lines would enable HS2 services to travel onwards on the existing rail network. A connection to the Midland Mainline would also provide HS2 services to Sheffield city centre.

In November 2015, the Government published High Speed Two: East and West: The next steps to Crewe and beyond. This outlined the Government's plan to accelerate part of the Phase Two route from the West Midlands to Crewe, and set out the preferred line of route for what is now known as Phase 2a. Phase 2a is due to start running in 2027, one year after the opening of Phase One. This is six years earlier than originally planned.

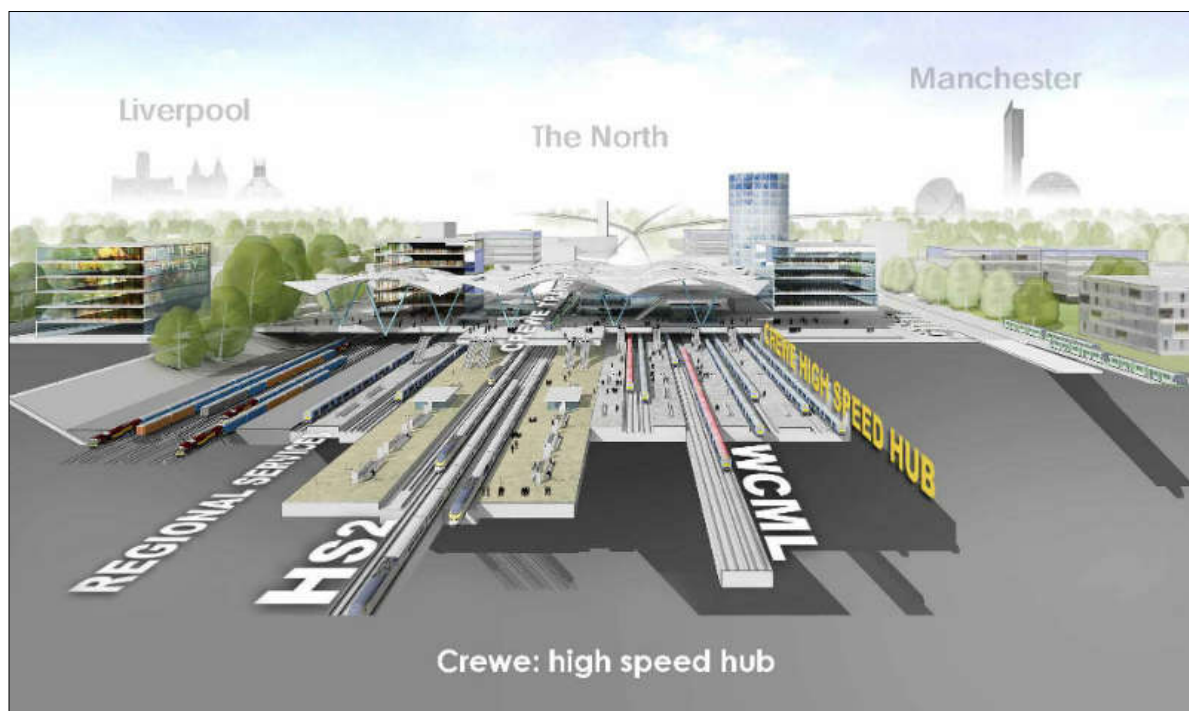
A second Command Paper, High Speed Two; From Crewe to Manchester, the West Midlands and beyond, published in November 2016 states that Government remains supportive of the vision for a Crewe HS2 Hub station, and plans to make decisions on additional investment at Crewe in 2017. If the government proceeds with this proposal it has decided that it would be located at the site of the existing Crewe station. In 2015 Government also asked that further work is undertaken to look at bringing high speed rail services to Macclesfield, the 2016 work concludes that Macclesfield could be served by one HS2 train per hour via Stoke-on-Trent and the Handsacre Junction. The 2016 Command Paper also confirmed HS2 intend to locate the rolling stock depot north of Crewe, whilst the outcome of the consultation proposing the relocation of the infrastructure maintenance depot from Crewe to Stone is expected in 2017. The announcement also outlines the confirmed route for HS2 from Crewe to Manchester Airport.

³ Cheshire East Housing Development Study, ORS, June 2015. Local Plan Examination Library Reference PS E033: <http://cheshireeast-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/cs/library>

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Given the benefits that Crewe Hub would bring to the area the Council is supportive of HS2 and believes it reinforces Cheshire East as the best place to live and do business in the North West. The Council believes that investment in HS2 will consolidate Cheshire East as one of the most connected areas in the UK and will support existing businesses, inward investment and job creation in and around Crewe and the wider sub-region.

The Crewe Hub could be served by up to seven high speed trains an hour – with journey times to London reduced by 35 minutes. The final section of the line to Manchester will be completed by 2033.



General socio-economic characteristics

Mosaic (2015) segmentation data indicates that over half (52.0%) of Cheshire East's population fall into only four Experian 'groups', compared to 23.0% nationally (for the same groups):

- ◆ The 'Prestige Positions' group (19.8%) is over twice the national rate (8.9%) – it is described as; *affluent married couples whose successful careers have afforded them financial security and a spacious home in prestigious and established residential area.*
- ◆ Domestic Success (*high-earning families who live affluent lifestyles in upmarket homes situated in sought after residential neighbourhoods*) at 12.4% which is again over twice the national rate (6.1%).
- ◆ Country Living (*well-off homeowners who live in the countryside often beyond easy commuting reach of major towns and cities*) at 10.0% this is significantly higher than the national rate (4.5%).

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- Senior Security (*elderly singles and couples who are still living independently in comfortable homes that they own*) at 9.9% which is nearly three the national rate (3.4%).

Table 2.3: Mosaic – main population segments in Cheshire East

Mosaic group description	Cheshire East		National %
	#	%	
1 – Prestige Positions	74,224	19.8%	8.9%
2 – Domestic Success	46,408	12.4%	6.1%
3 – Country Living	37,409	10.0%	4.5%
4 – Senior Security	36,979	9.9%	3.4%

Economic activity and earnings (Source = NOMIS):

Table 2.4 indicates that unemployment is below both the national rate and the regional average with earnings above the regional and slightly above the national averages.

Table 2.4: Unemployment and income

	Cheshire East	North West	England
Unemployment	3.2%	5.3%	5.1%
Income (median)	£27,903	£25,584	£27,539

Economic impact and value: sport plays a significant role in the economy both nationally and locally; whether it is via participation, purchasing of sportswear and sports equipment, gambling, volunteering or attending events. SE's economic impact model shows an overall impact of £112.3m (£88.0m participation, £24.4m non-participation related). Further detail can be found in Appendix 5.

Active People Survey

Active People Survey (APS) is the largest survey of sport and active recreation in Europe and is in its ninth year (APS9 October 2014 – 2015). It collects data on the type, duration, frequency and intensity of adult participation by type of sport, recreation and cultural activity. The survey also covers volunteering, club membership, tuition as an instructor or coach, participation in competitive sport and overall satisfaction with local sports provision.

Table 2.6 shows key indicators from APS 9 for Cheshire East and compares these to the corresponding rates for the North West, England and statistical 'nearest neighbours' (based on socio-economic indicators such as unemployment rates, tax base per head of population, council tax bands and mortality ratios). Key findings include:

- Participation – over a third (37.0%) of adults participated in at least 1 x 30 minutes moderate intensity sport per week. This was slightly above the national (35.8%) and regional averages (35.3%) and also above all but two, of its 'nearest neighbours' which ranged from 34.9% to 43.2%.

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- Sports club membership – around a quarter (24.8%) are members of a sports club, based on the four weeks prior to the APS. This is above both the national average (21.8%) and the regional rate (21.2%); it is also above all but one of its 'nearest neighbours'.
- Sports tuition - over one in six (17.7%) received sports tuition during the 12 months prior to the APS. This was above the regional and national averages. It is also above all but one of its 'nearest neighbours'.
- Competitive sport – one in nine (11.1%) have taken part during the 12 months prior to APS9. This was slightly below the regional (12.0%) and national (13.3%) averages. It is also below all of its 'nearest neighbours'.

Table 2.5: Active People Survey for all adults – Cheshire East and nearest neighbours

KPI	National %	North West %	Cheshire East %	Nearest neighbours			
				Cheshire West & Chester %	Shropshire %	Wiltshire %	Bath & North East Somerset %
1x30 Indicator - Participation in 30 minutes moderate intensity sport per week.							
2014/15	35.8%	35.3%	37.0%	43.2%	34.9%	36.8%	41.8%
KPI 2 - At least 1 hour per week volunteering to support sport.*							
2014/15	12.7%	13.0%	*	*	*	*	*
KPI 3 - Club membership in the last 4 weeks.							
2014/15	21.8%	21.2%	24.8%	19.8%	22.7%	19.5%	28.4%
KPI 4 - Received tuition / coaching in last 12 months.							
2014/15	15.6%	13.5%	17.7%	13.6%	16.4%	15.8%	24.9%
KPI 5 - Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months.							
2014/15	13.3%	12.0%	11.1%	14.6%	14.3%	17.6%	18.0%

* Data unavailable, the question was not asked, or the sample size was insufficient.

Nearest neighbours data shown in table 4 is based on CIPFA Nearest Neighbours 2014/15.

At the time of report creation APS10 only the headline data for KPI 1 was available, however not the full data set. The headline update showed that:

Cheshire East residents have in June 2016 been named as the most physically active in the North West region, according to the annual Active People Survey results. Cheshire East came top of the table which demonstrates that improvements are being made in getting people more active.

For people aged 16+ there has been a more than 5.5% rise since 2005 in those taking part in physical activities. This figure now stands at 42.7 per cent.

Sporting segmentation (Data source: Market segmentation, Sport England)

Sport England has classified the adult population via a series of 19 market segments which provide an insight into the sporting behaviours of individuals throughout the country. The profiles cover a wide range of characteristics, from gender and age to the sports that people

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take part in, other interests, the newspapers that they read etc. (A description of each of the segments can be found in Appendix 2).

The segmentation profile for Cheshire East indicates 'Settling Down Males' to be the largest segment of the adult population at 11.8% (33,794) compared to a national average 8.83%. Knowing which segments are most dominant in the local population is important as it can help direct provision and programming.

The following data indicates that Tim, Philip and Elaine are the three dominant groups, representing 30.1% (86,167) of the adult population, compared to 13.5% nationally.

Table 2.6: Sport England market segmentation – Three main groups in Cheshire East

Segment, description and its top three sports nationally				
	Settling Down Males	Tim	33,794	Cheshire East
	Sporty male professionals (aged 26-45), buying a house and settling down with partner.		11.81%	North West
	Cycling (21%)	Keep fit/gym (20%)	Swimming (15%)	England
			8.83%	
	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Philip	29,792	Cheshire East
	Mid-life professional (aged 46-55), sporty males with older children and more time for themselves.		10.41%	North West
	Cycling (16%)	Keep fit/gym (15%)	Swimming (12%)	England
			8.65%	
	Empty Nest Career Ladies	Elaine	22,581	Cheshire East
	Mid-life professionals who have more time for themselves since their children left home (aged 46-55).		7.89%	North West
	Keep fit/gym (21%)	Swimming (18%)	Cycling (7%)	England
			6.07%	

Whilst the needs of smaller segments should not be ignored, it is important for Cheshire East to understand which sports are enjoyed by the largest proportion(s) of the population. Segmentation also enables partners to make tailored interventions, communicate effectively with target market(s) and better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles.

The most popular sports

The APS and SE segmentation also makes it possible to identify the top five sports within Cheshire East. As with many other areas, gym session and swimming are among the most popular activities and are known to cut across age groups and gender; around one in eight adults in the borough do a gym session at least once a month (on average). The next most popular activity is swimming; which 12.1% of adults do on a relatively regular basis.

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Table 2.7: Most popular sports in Cheshire East (Source: SE Area Profiles)

Sport	Cheshire East		North West		England	
	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate
Gym Session	38.8	12.8%	701.0	12.2%	4,850.4	11.2%
Swimming	36.6	12.1%	523.0	9.1%	4,132.7	9.5%
Cycling	33.2	10.9%	462.8	8.1%	3,771.8	8.7%
Athletics	22.7	7.5%	367.7	6.4%	3,309.8	7.6%
Fitness Class	19.9	6.6%	251.8	4.4%	2,104.7	4.8%

Summary of local demographics

Engaging all residents in physical activity is a high priority as is getting the inactive, active. It is acknowledged that regular sport and recreational activity plays a key role in facilitating improved health and wellbeing. Ensuring an adequate supply of suitable facilities to meet local need is a requirement of the planning system, in line with national policy recommendations. There is significant development in the area through the number of housing developments, and HS2. There are affluent areas across the borough that is rural and small pockets of areas of deprivation.

Generally the population of CE has a high propensity to participate in sport and physical activity hence the increasing high levels of participation across the Borough.

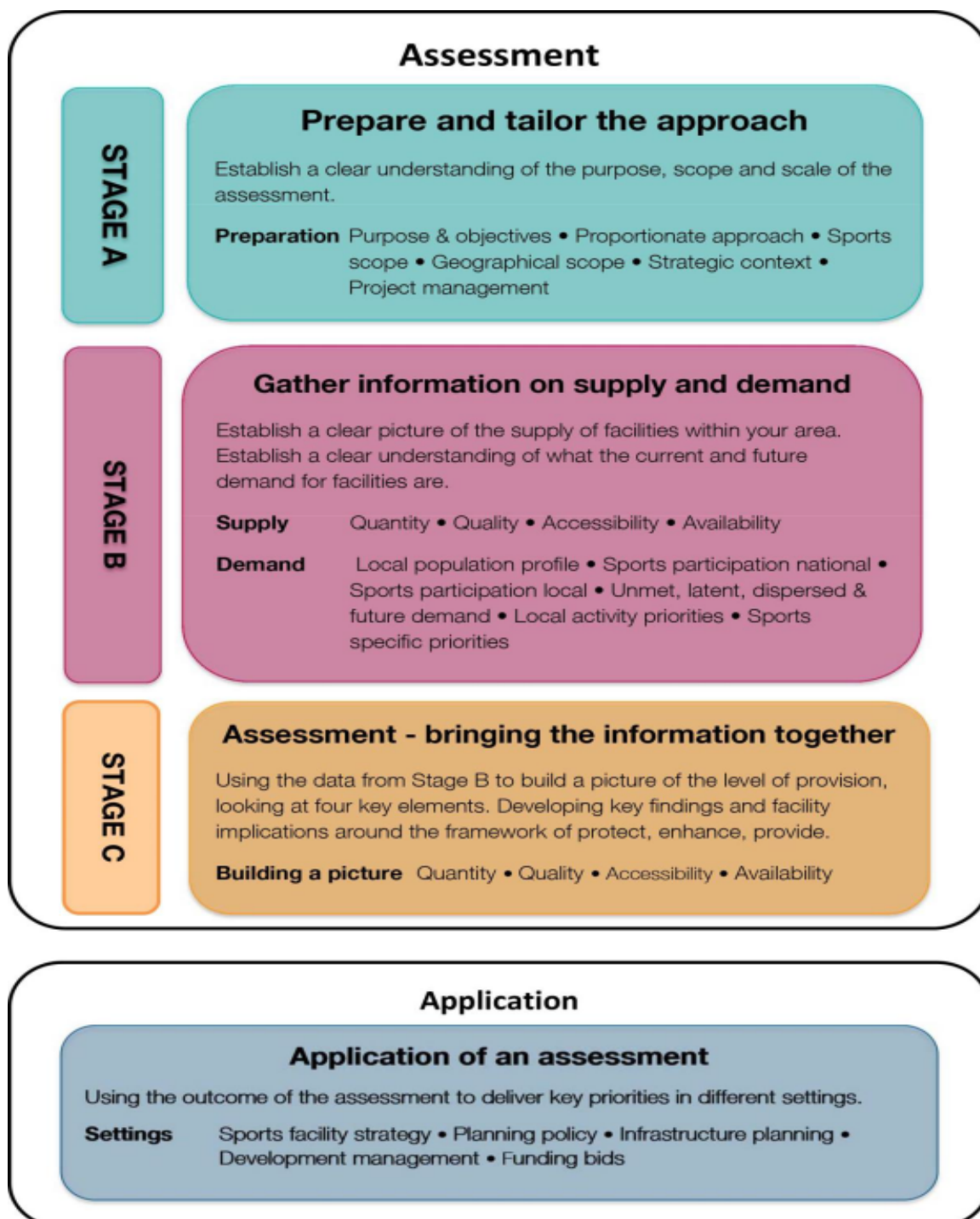
CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL INDOOR AND BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 3: INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT APPROACH

3.1 Methodology

The assessment of provision is based on the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities

Figure 3.1: Recommended approach



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This provides a recommended approach to undertaking a robust assessment of need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. It has primarily been produced to help (local authorities) meet the requirements of the Government's NPPF, which states that:

'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.' (NPPF, Paragraph 73)

The assessment of provision is presented by analysis of the quality, quantity, accessibility and availability for the identified facility types (e.g. sports halls and swimming pools). Each facility is considered on a 'like for like' basis within its own facility type, so as to enable it to be assessed for adequacy.

Demand background, data and consultation is variable, depending upon the level of consultation garnered. In some instances, national data is available whilst in others, it has been possible to drill down and get some very detailed local information. This is evident within the demand section.

The report considers the distribution of and interrelationship between facility types in the Borough and provides a clear indication of areas of high demand. It will identify where there is potential to provide improved and/or additional facilities to meet this demand and to, where appropriate, protect or rationalise the current stock.

3.2 Site visits

Initially Sport England's Active Places Power is used to provide baseline data to identify facilities in the study area. Wherever possible, actual facility assessments are undertaken in the presence of facility staff. Where possible this is of considerable value, it not only enables access to be gained to all areas of a venue, but also allows more detailed *in-situ* discussion of issues such as customer perspectives, quality, maintenance etc. This is essential to ensure that the audit (which is, in essence, a 'snapshot' visit) gathers accurate insight into the general user experience.

Site visits to key indoor facilities, those operated by other partners and the voluntary sector are undertaken. Through the audit and via informal interviews with facility managers, a 'relevance' and 'condition' register is built which describes (e.g.):

- ◀ Facility and scale.
- ◀ Usage/local market.
- ◀ Ownership, management and access arrangements (plus, where available, facility owner aspirations).
- ◀ Management, programming, catchments, user groups, gaps.
- ◀ Location (urban/rural), access and accessibility.
- ◀ Condition, maintenance, existing improvement plans, facility 'investment status' (lifespan in the short, medium and long term).
- ◀ Existing/ planned adjacent facilities.

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An assessment form captures quantity and quality data on a site by site basis and which also feeds directly into the main database allowing information to be stored and analysed. Quality assessments undertaken are rated in the following categories. These ratings are applied throughout the report, regardless of facility type.

Table 3.1: Quality ratings of indoor sports facilities using ANOG

	Quality rating
Good	Facility is assessed as being new or recently invested, up to date, well maintained, clean and well-presented and generally no older than ten years. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are new or relatively new with little if any wear and tear. The facility is well lit with a modern feel. Ancillary facilities are welcoming, new or well maintained, fit for purpose, modern and attractive to use.
Above average	Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. May be older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but may show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but potentially showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Below average	Facility is older and showing signs of age and poor quality. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are showing signs of wear and tear. The facility is usable but quality could be improved. The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations. Ancillary facilities are deteriorating, reasonable quality, but usable.
Poor	The facility is old and outdated. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are aged, worn and/or damaged. The facility is barely usable and at times may have to be taken out of commission. The facility is unattractive to customers and does not meet basic expectations. Ancillary facilities are low quality and unattractive to use.

Ratings are based on a non-technical visual assessment carried out by a KKP assessor.

Assessments take into account the age of the facility and condition of surfaces, tiles and walls. Line markings and safety equipment are rated, any problem areas such as mould, damage, leaks etc. are noted. Condition of fixtures, fittings and equipment are recorded. Adequate safety margins are important. Changing rooms are assessed. Maintenance and wear of the facility is taken into account. Disability Discrimination Act compliance is also noted, although not studied in detail for the purposes of this report. When all this data has been collated, an overall quality rating is awarded to each facility at a site.

Site visits are conducted at all sites with main sports facilities, such as three courts or larger sports hall.

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SECTION 4: SPORTS HALLS

Indoor multi-purpose sports halls are one of the prime sports facilities for community sport. They provide venues suitable to allow a range of sport and recreational activities to be played. The standard methodology for measuring sports halls is the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area.

Sports halls are generally considered to be of greatest value if they are of at least 3+ badminton court size with sufficient height to allow games such as badminton to be played. It should be noted, however, that a 4-court sports hall provides greater flexibility as it can accommodate major indoor team sports such as football (5-a-side and training), basketball and netball. It also has sufficient length to accommodate indoor cricket nets and indoor athletics as such offering greater sports development flexibility than its 3-court counterpart.

Larger halls, for example those with six or eight courts, can accommodate higher level training and/or competition as well as meeting day to day need. They may also provide an option for more than one pitch/court increasing flexibility for both training and competition and hosting of indoor central venue leagues for sports such as netball. This assessment considers all 3+ court facilities in Cheshire East in line with Sport England's ANOG. Halls that function as specialist venues, such as dance studios are excluded.

4.1 Supply

Quantity

Active Places identified 73 halls encompassing a total of 180 badminton courts (when considering all sports halls in Cheshire East (i.e. they have at least one badminton court). One and two court halls are often appropriate for mat sports, exercise to music and similar provision they are inevitably limited in terms of the range and scale of recreational and sporting activity that they can accommodate.

Figure 4.1 indicates that all the main centres of population have access to a range of sports halls, with limited access in the more rural areas of the Borough.

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Figure 4.1: All main and activity halls in Cheshire East.

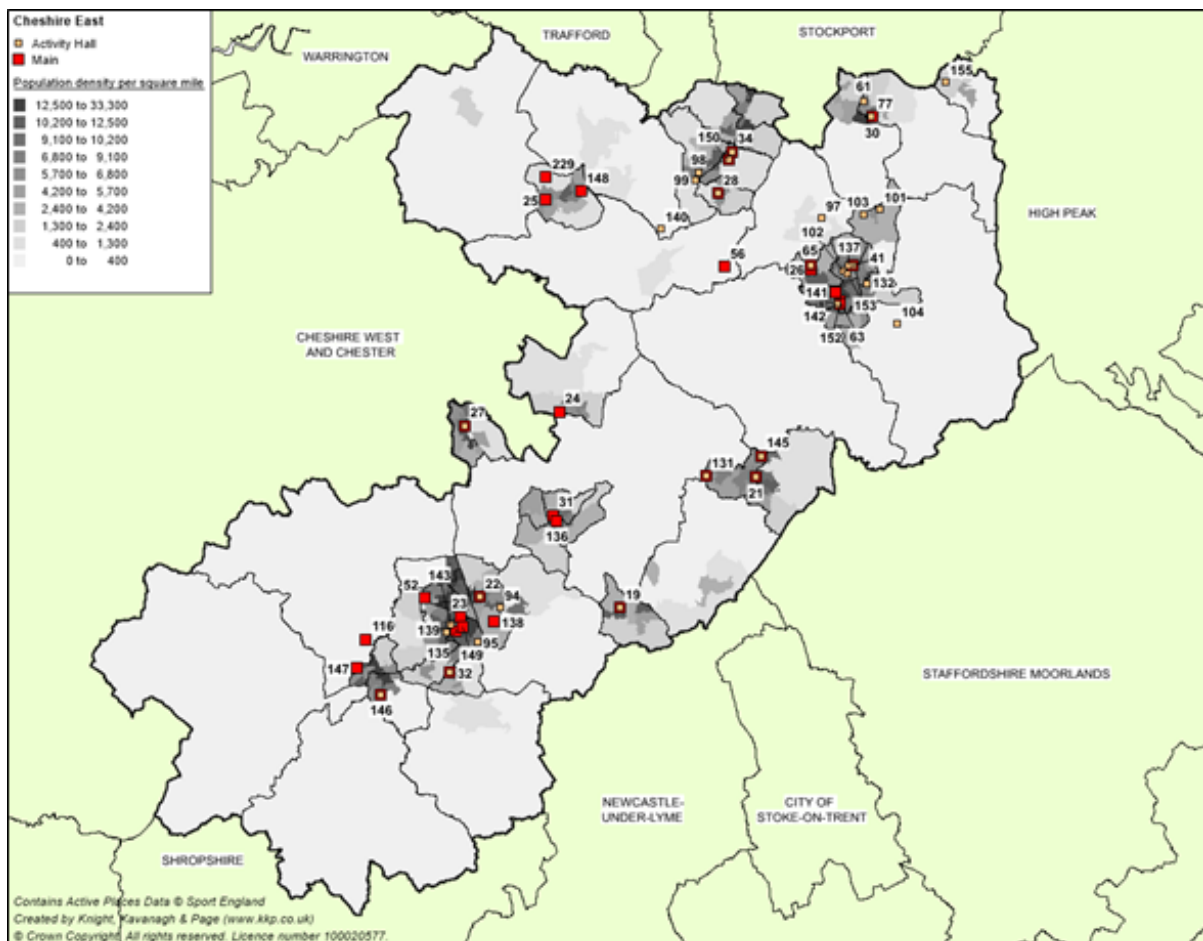


Table 4.1: All sports halls and activity halls in Cheshire East

Map Ref	Site Name	Cts.	Map Ref	Site Name	Cts.
19	Alsager Leisure Centre	1	98	Lindow Lawn Tennis Club	0
19	Alsager Leisure Centre	1	99	Lindow Community Primary School	0
19	Alsager Leisure Centre	6	101	St Gregory's Church Hall	0
21	Peter Mason Leisure Centre	1	102	Pack Horse Bowling Club	0
21	Peter Mason Leisure Centre	6	103	Scout Hut	0
22	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	0	104	Langley Methodist Church	0
22	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	6	116	Reaseheath College	3
23	Crewe Lifestyle Centre	4	131	Congleton High School	1
24	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	6	131	Congleton High School	4
25	Knutsford Leisure Centre	6	132	The Kings School (Fence Avenue Site)	1

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Map Ref	Site Name	Cts.	Map Ref	Site Name	Cts.
26	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	8	132	The Kings School (Fence Avenue Site)	2
27	Middlewich Leisure Centre	0	135	South Cheshire College	6
27	Middlewich Leisure Centre	6	136	Sandbach School	4
28	Alderley Edge School For Girls	0	137	Beech Hall School	2
28	Alderley Edge School For Girls	1	138	MMU (Cheshire Sports Centre)	4
28	Alderley Edge School For Girls	3	138	MMU (Cheshire Sports Centre)	4
30	Poynton Leisure Centre	6	139	St Thomas More Catholic High School	1
31	Sandbach Leisure Centre	6	140	David Lewis School	1
32	Shavington Leisure Centre	0	141	All Hallows Catholic College	3
32	Shavington Leisure Centre	0	142	Park Lane School	0
32	Shavington Leisure Centre	0	143	King's Grove School	1
32	Shavington Leisure Centre	6	143	King's Grove School	1
34	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	0	145	Eaton Bank Academy	0
34	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	4	145	Eaton Bank Academy	4
41	Tytherington School	1	146	Brine Leas School	0
41	Tytherington School	4	146	Brine Leas School	6
52	Legend's Health & Leisure Centre	4	147	Malbank School And Sixth Form College	6
56	Club AZ	6	148	St John's Wood Community School	4
61	Poynton Sports Club	0	149	Ruskin Sports College	3
63	The Macclesfield Academy	4	150	Wilmslow High School	1
65	Fallibroome Academy	0	150	Wilmslow High School	4
65	Fallibroome Academy	3	150	Wilmslow High School	4
77	Poynton High School	1	152	Macclesfield College	3
94	Crewe & District Post Office Sports Club	1	153	The Kings School (Cumberland Street Site)	1
94	Crewe & District Post Office Sports Club	1	155	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	1
95	Foyer@189 (Crewe YMCA)	0	229	Egerton Youth Club	3
97	Prestbury Tennis Club	0			

The halls with "0" courts are activity halls where sport and recreational activities take place, however there are no court markings.

Of the 73 halls identified, as illustrated below, 34 have three courts or more, providing main sports hall space equivalent to 159 courts. Figure 4.2 and Table 4.2 identify the quality of facilities assessed.

At the time of audit St John's Wood Community School did not offer community use, however since the audit, a Community Usage Agreement has been signed (October 2016). In January 2017 the school was contacted and they did not have yet have any community

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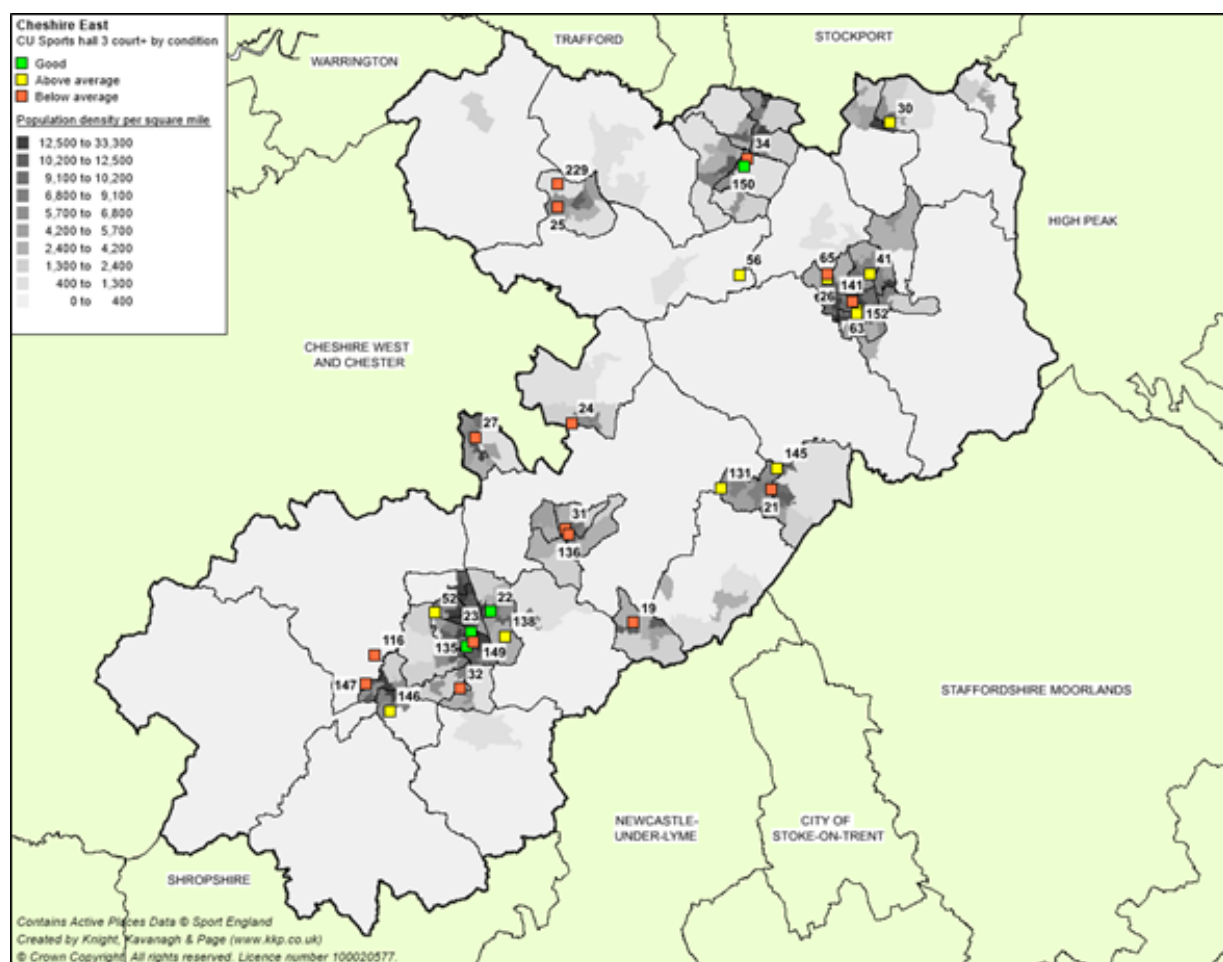
groups using the facilities but the school is ready to accept bookings. It was stated that marketing to promote the community use had yet to take place.

Alderley Edge School for Girls has no community use at the site (the only one out of 29 educational sites not doing so). Consultation with the school stated that they would consider it but no formal agreement is in place at the moment.

As Figure 4.2 illustrates, 3+ court sports halls appear to be well located serving the more populated areas of the Borough.

The towns of Alsager, Sandbach, Middlewich, and Knutsford only have access to below average quality sports halls.

Figure 4.2 illustrates community accessible 3+ court sports halls with by condition



4.2 Quality of facilities

All available sites were subjected to a non-technical assessment to ascertain quality of facilities in accordance with Sport England's ANOG and Table 3.1 in the methodology section. The results are as follows:

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Table 4.2: Community accessible 3+ court sports halls with by condition

Map Ref	Site Name	Courts	CU	Condition	Changing Condition
19	Alsager Leisure Centre	6	Yes	Below average	Poor
21	Peter Mason Leisure Centre	6	Yes	Below average	Poor
22	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	6	Yes	Good	Good
23	Crewe Lifestyle Centre	4	Yes	Good	Good
24	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	6	Yes	Below average	Poor
25	Knutsford Leisure Centre	6	Yes	Below average	Below average
26	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	8	Yes	Above average	Below average
27	Middlewich Leisure Centre	6	Yes	Below average	Above average
30	Poynton Leisure Centre	6	Yes	Above average	Poor
31	Sandbach Leisure Centre	6	Yes	Below average	Poor
32	Shavington Leisure Centre	6	Yes	Below average	Below average
34	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	4	Yes	Below average	Below average
41	Tytherington School	4	Yes	Above average	Below average
52	Legend's Health & Leisure Centre	4	Yes	Above average	Above average
56	Club AZ	6	Yes	Above average	Above average
63	The Macclesfield Academy	4	Yes	Above average	Above average
65	Fallibroome Academy	3	Yes	Below average	Below average
116	Reaseheath College	3	Yes	Below average	Below average
131	Congleton High School	4	Yes	Above average	Above average
135	South Cheshire College	6	Yes	Good	Good
136	Sandbach School	4	Yes	Below average	Below average
138	MMU (Cheshire Sports Centre)	4	Yes	Above average	Above average
138	MMU (Cheshire Sports Centre)	4	Yes	Above average	Above average
141	All Hallows Catholic College	3	Yes	Below average	Above average
145	Eaton Bank Academy	4	Yes	Above average	Above average
146	Brine Leas School	6	Yes	Below average	Below average
147	Malbank School And Sixth Form College	6	Yes	Below average	Above average
149	Ruskin Sports College	3	Yes	Below average	Below average
150	Wilmslow High School	4	Yes	Below average	Poor
150	Wilmslow High School	4	Yes	Good	Good
152	Macclesfield College	3	Yes	Above average	Good
229	Egerton Youth Club	3	Yes	Below average	Below average
Total		152			

The overall impression is that there is a reasonable spread of above average and good quality community accessible sports halls. However, the Knutsford and Sandbach areas are

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served by poor and below average facilities. Four out of a total stock of 32 community accessible sports halls, are reported as being in good condition, 13 as above average and 16 (50%) below average. Changing facilities fare slightly worse with five changing facilities considered to be good, 11 above average, nine below average and six identified as poor.

Six court halls are well distributed in the areas of higher population density with all main towns and smaller towns having this level of provision. Macclesfield has an eight court sports hall.

4.3 Availability

All sports halls identified in Table 4.3 are recorded as offering either pay and play or sports club/community association use.

Table 4.3: Community use in hours by facility

Community Use	Site	Cts.	Main Sports Played
None	Alderley Edge School For Girls	4	No community use
	St John's Wood Community School	4	No community use
< 20 hours	Fallibroome Academy	3	Non-competitive activity hall type activities (Hall inappropriately sized for traditional activities)
20 hours +	All Hallows Catholic College	3	Badminton, fencing, archery football
	Alsager Leisure Centre	8	Netball, badminton, fitness and exercise classes
	Brine Leas School	6	Netball, badminton indoor cricket, martial arts
	Club AZ	6	Badminton, football
	Congleton High School	5	Basketball, badminton, football, karate, trampolining
	Peter Mason Leisure Centre	7	Badminton, fitness, martial arts, short mat bowls
	Crewe Lifestyle Centre	4	Table tennis, short & long mat bowls, netball, 5 & 7 a side football.
	Eaton Bank Academy	4	Football, trampolining, indoor cricket, basketball
	Egerton Youth Club	3	Gymnastics, futsal, disability football, badminton, karate
	Holme Chapel Leisure Centre	6	Badminton, table tennis, walking netball, Trampoline, football, and gymnastics
	Knutsford Leisure Centre	6	Badminton, netball, volleyball, football
	Legends Health & Leisure Centre	4	Badminton, table tennis
	Macclesfield College	3	Badminton, basketball, table tennis
	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	8	Badminton, table tennis, trampolining, gymnastics,
	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	6	Trampoline, football, badminton, korfbal

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Community Use	Site	Cts.	Main Sports Played
	Middlewich Leisure Centre	6	Netball, gymnastics, trampolining, football, indoor cricket
	MMU (Cheshire Sports Centre)	8	Basketball, badminton, netball,
	Poynton Leisure Centre	6	Badminton, judo, rugby (young children) netball, basketball
	Reaseheath College	3	Badminton, basketball, table tennis
	Ruskin Sports College	3	Netball, Archery, bubble football
	Sandbach Leisure Centre	6	Badminton, table tennis, football
	Sandbach School	4	Indoor cricket, rugby tots
	Shavington Leisure Centre	6	Badminton, 5 a side, netball, fitness & exercise classes.
	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	6	Badminton, short tennis, trampolining, 5-a-side football, basketball and volleyball
	South Cheshire College	6	Climbing, badminton, basketball, netball, indoor cricket
	The Kings School (Fence Avenue Site)	3	Trampolining, cheerleading dance
	The Macclesfield Academy	4	Badminton, fitness, basketball archery
	Tytherington School	5	Netball, badminton, indoor cricket, karate, wheelchair basketball
	Wilmslow High School	9	Badminton, netball, basketball, indoor cricket
	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	4	Badminton, netball, table tennis, 5 a side, walking football, gymnastics, dance, Tae-kwon do

Table 4.3 indicates a wide range of sport and physical activity taking place. No one sport appears to dominate programmes of activity although there does appear to be strong badminton and indoor football presence and a range of different sports halls offering netball, table tennis and/or basketball.

4.4 Accessibility

With indoor facilities appropriate walk and drive-time accessibility standards are applied to determine deficiencies in provision. The normal acceptable standard is a 20 minute walk time (1 mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20 minute drive time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision

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Fig 4.4: 3+ court halls with 1 mile radial catchment, community use only, by condition

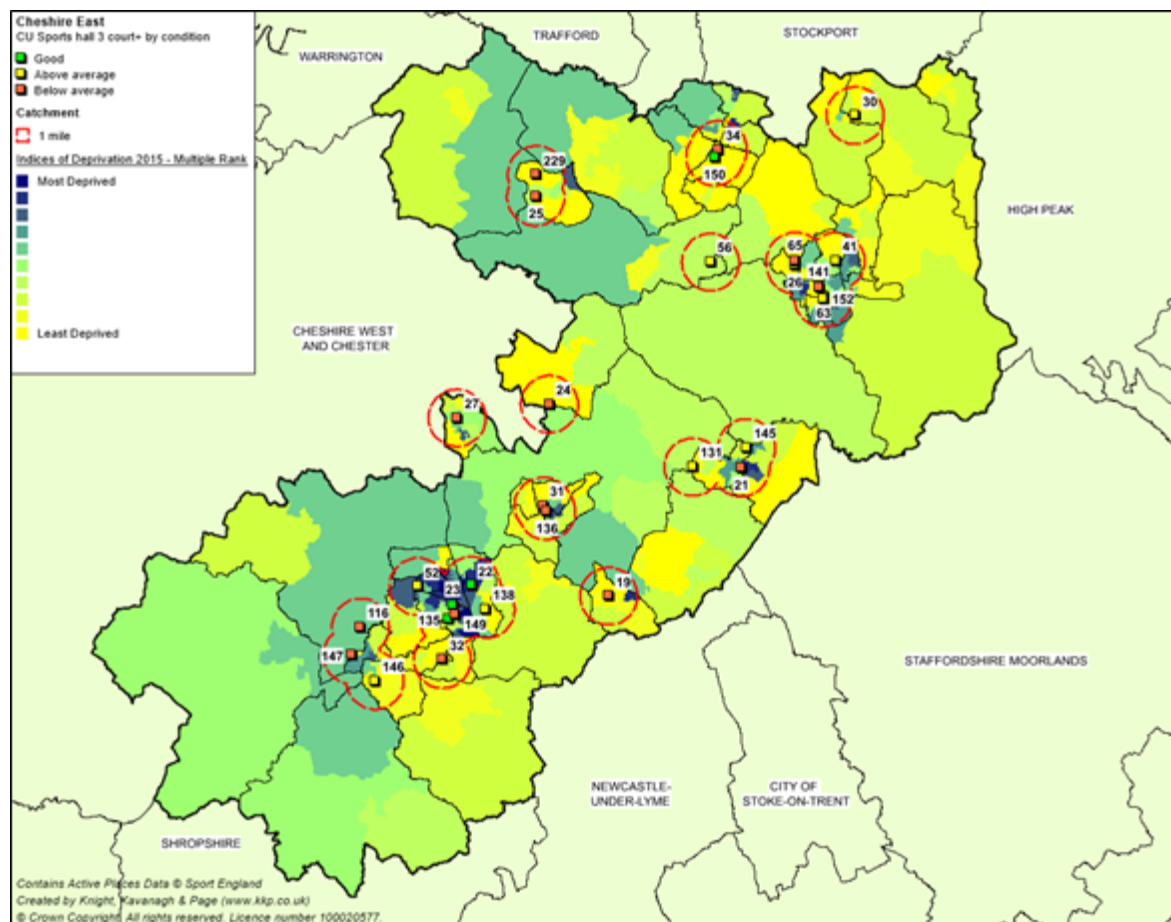


Table 4.4: IMD 2015 populations: Cheshire East 3+ court CU sports halls, 20 minute walk

IMD 2015 10% bands	Cheshire East		Sports Hall (3 Court+) with community use. Catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	No. inside catchment	Population inside %	No. outside catchment	Population outside %
0 - 10	10,269	2.8%	9,881	2.7%	388	0.1%
10.1 - 20	21,115	5.7%	19,572	5.3%	1,543	0.4%
20.1 - 30	20,756	5.6%	17,527	4.7%	3,229	0.9%
30.1 - 40	29,565	7.9%	27,950	7.5%	1,615	0.4%
40.1 - 50	26,846	7.2%	14,552	3.9%	12,294	3.3%
50.1 - 60	28,933	7.8%	15,727	4.2%	13,206	3.6%
60.1 - 70	28,220	7.6%	14,284	3.8%	13,936	3.7%
70.1 - 80	57,029	15.3%	22,833	6.1%	34,196	9.2%
80.1 - 90	52,942	14.2%	28,496	7.7%	24,446	6.6%
90.1 - 100	96,241	25.9%	60,574	16.3%	35,667	9.6%
Total	371,916	100.0%	231,396	62.2%	140,520	37.8%

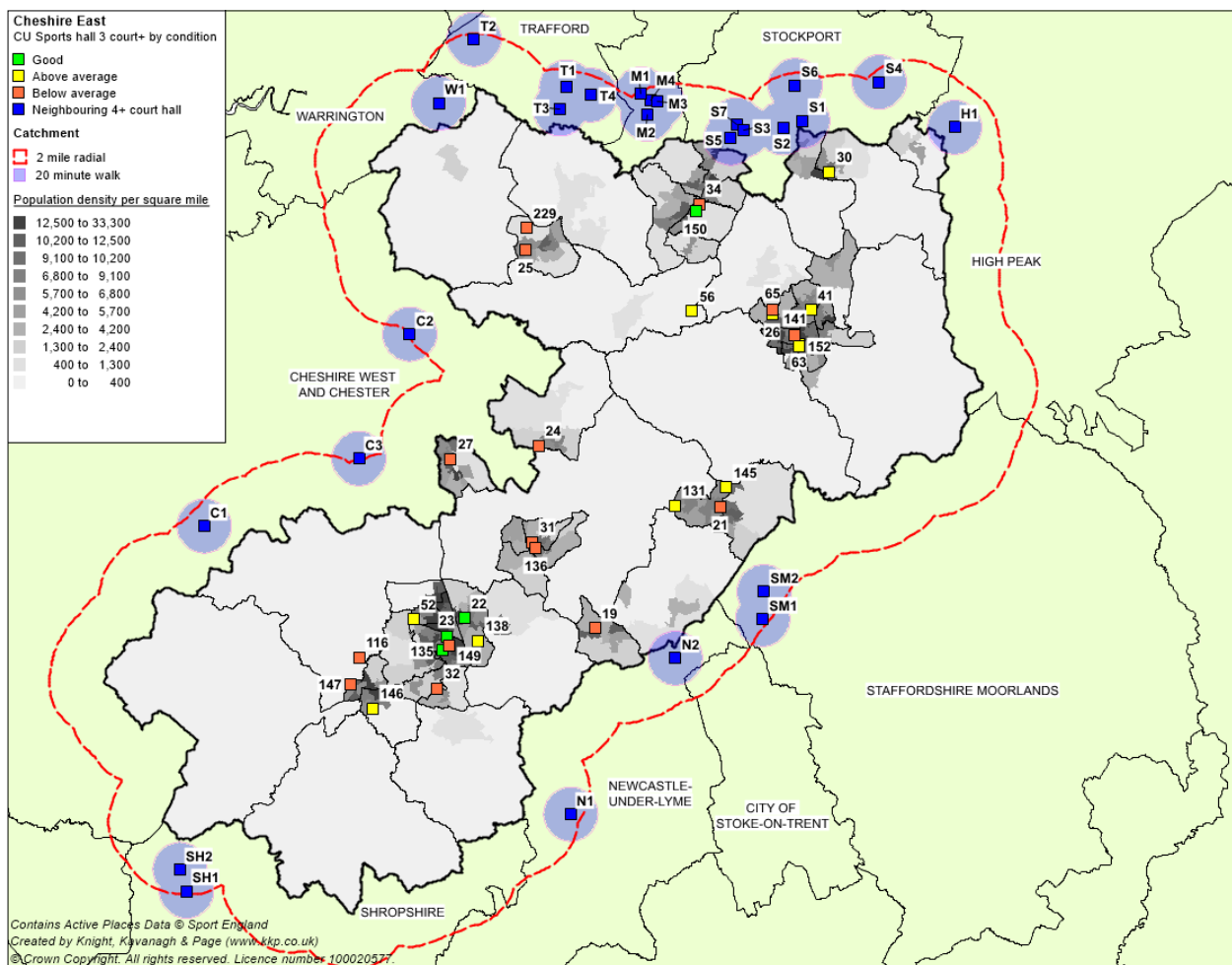
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Nearly two thirds (62.2%) of Cheshire East residents live within the 20-minute walk time of a 3+ court hall, by inference 37.8% live outside this catchment. It is noted that all of Cheshire East residents live within 20 minute drive time of a 3+court sports hall which are accessible to the community.

Neighbouring authorities

Accessibility is also influenced by facilities within easy reach of the Borough. Figure 4.5 and Table 4.5 indicate the different sports halls (3+courts) which are found within two miles distance of the local authority boundary. The two mile boundary is an arbitrary distance but serves to show accessibility if residents have access to a car. Wilmslow and Poynton are the only two towns who have the opportunity to benefit from potential cross border provision. Wilmslow in particular has access to a significant number of facilities in both Stockport and Manchester.

Fig 4.5 shows 3 Court+ sports halls within Cheshire East and 4 court+ within 2 miles of local authority boundary (with 20 minute walk catchment)



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Table 4.5: 3+ court sports halls within Cheshire East and 4+ court halls within 2 miles of local authority boundary (with 20 minute walk catchment)

Map ID	Active Places Site Name	Courts	Access Type	Local Authority
C1	Tarporley High School & Sixth Form College	6	Sports Club / Community Association	Cheshire West and Chester
C2	Rudheath Leisure Centre	6	Pay and Play	Cheshire West and Chester
C3	Winsford Leisure Centre	4	Pay and Play	Cheshire West and Chester
H1	New Mills Leisure Centre	4	Pay and Play	High Peak
M1	St Pauls Catholic High School	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Manchester
M2	Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre	4	Pay and Play	Manchester
M3	Wythenshawe Forum	4	Pay and Play	Manchester
M4	Manchester Enterprise Academy	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Manchester
N1	Madeley High School	5	Sports Club / Community Association	Newcastle-under-Lyme
N2	Kidsgrove Sports Centre	5	Pay and Play	Newcastle-under-Lyme
S1	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	6	Pay and Play	Stockport
S2	Life Leisure Bramhall	6	Pay and Play	Stockport
S3	Life Leisure Cheadle Hulme	6	Pay and Play	Stockport
S4	Marple Sixth Form College	6	Pay and Play	Stockport
S5	St James Catholic High School	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Stockport
S6	Stockport Grammar School	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Stockport
S7	Cheadle Hulme School	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Stockport
SH1	Whitchurch Sports & Leisure Centre	4	Pay and Play	Shropshire
SH2	Whitchurch Civic Centre	4	Pay and Play	Shropshire
SM1	Biddulph High School	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Staffordshire Moorlands
SM2	Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre	6	Pay and Play	Staffordshire Moorlands

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Map ID	Active Places Site Name	Courts	Access Type	Local Authority
T1	Altrincham Leisure Centre	4	Pay and Play	Trafford
T1	Altrincham Leisure Centre	4	Pay and Play	Trafford
T2	Partington Sports Village	6	Pay and Play	Trafford
T3	The Grammar	4	Pay and Play	Trafford
T4	Altrincham College Of Arts School	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Trafford
W1	Lymm Leisure Centre	4	Pay and Play	Warrington

**community use association*

Figure 4.5 and Table 4.5 indicate that Cheshire East has 26 sports halls with 4 courts and above located within 2 miles of the Cheshire East local authority boundary; 17 of these are located to the North of the Borough with four found to the East of the Borough, two in the West and two in the South.

4.5 Facilities Planning Model

Sport England's FPM report (2015) provides an overview of the current and future level of provision of sports halls in Cheshire East based on the National Run 2014 report. It states:

FPM Supply

- ✦ There are 37 halls on 30 sites included in this Cheshire East analysis. (for sites included see Appendix 6)
- ✦ The combined supply of hall space in Cheshire East amounts to 160 courts (129 once scaled by availability).
- ✦ This equates to 4.25 courts per 10,000 population in Cheshire East. This is greater than the national average and comparable with the regional average for the north-west.
- ✦ Only two commercial facilities are included at Legends Health and Leisure and Club AZ. A number of sites are based on education sites.
- ✦ Many of the larger public halls sites date from the 1970's/1980's, albeit with some recent refurbishment works. More recently constructed halls are based on education sites – e.g South Cheshire College (2010), Wilmslow High School (2010), Macclesfield High School (2007).

FPM Demand

- ✦ The model considers that about 15% of the resident Cheshire East population do not have access to a car, thus affecting their ability to travel to hall provision. This is significantly less than the regional and national average and indicates that overall, demand within Cheshire East is more mobile when compared to the country and region as a whole.

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Supply and demand balance

- ◀ When looking at a very simplistic picture of the overall supply and demand across Cheshire East the resident population is estimated to generate a demand for a minimum of about 100 courts.
- ◀ This compares to a current available supply of about 129 courts, giving an approximate supply/demand balance of 29 courts.

Satisfied demand

- ◀ Approximately 95% of total demand is satisfied within Cheshire East. This is above the national and regional average.
- ◀ The majority of satisfied demand consists of visits that are made by car travel, linking to the greater level of car ownership in Cheshire East.
- ◀ Proportionately, fewer visits are made on foot or by public transport when compared to the country or region as a whole.
- ◀ The model considers that about 86% of all satisfied demand is expressed at facilities in Cheshire East, with 14% exported to facilities in other local authorities.

Unmet demand

- ◀ The FPM identifies that approximately 5% of all demand in Cheshire East is not met by the available network of provision, which is less than the national and regional average.
- ◀ In Cheshire East, the vast majority of unmet demand is attributed to issues of catchment and ability to travel. Almost of all of this unmet demand consists of 'walkers' who do not have access to a car.
- ◀ There is a small amount that is attributed to a lack of capacity. Again, most of this is walking to demand, where their available facility is full at peak times.

Used capacity

- ◀ Across the whole stock, about 55% of capacity is thought to be being utilised.
- ◀ This 'global' figure masks differences between how individual facilities are being used.
- ◀ A number of facilities are theoretically full or operating close to capacity. These include Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre, Tytherington High School, Middlewich Leisure Centre, Macclesfield College and The Macclesfield Academy. As a guide 80% use is considered as the facility being busy.
- ◀ Both Macclesfield College and Macclesfield Academy for example have low opening hours and therefore relatively smaller capacities.
- ◀ The fuller facilities are generally, the more attractive, modern sites or which provide for a specific catchment area.
- ◀ It is likely that the unmet demand attributed to a lack of capacity relates to walkers not being able to access the sites identified as operating at 100% of theoretical peak time capacity.

Equity share of facilities

Relative share helps to show which areas have a better or worse share of facility provision.

- ◀ Across Cheshire East, residents have a better share of hall provision when compared to the regional and national position.

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- ✦ The conurbations of Crewe and Macclesfield have a poorer share when compared to the rest of the authority but it is still comparable with the national average

Analysis of KKP's audit and that used to underpin the FPM findings identifies a number of differences between the two. The sites included in the FPM analysis but not the KKP audit is as follows:

- ✦ Alsager Sports Centre (MMU) x4 courts site is now closed
- ✦ Victoria Community Centre x3 courts –site is now closed
- ✦ Alderley Edge School for Girls – Site is not community accessible.

The sites included in the KKP audit but not the FPM analysis is as follows:

- ✦ Crewe Lifestyle Centre – x 4 courts.
- ✦ Manchester Met University (Cheshire Sports Centre) 2x 4 court halls.
- ✦ All Hallows College x3 courts – it was found not to be private use.
- ✦ Wilmslow High School x4 courts – we found both halls to be community accessible not just one.

4.6 Demand

NGB Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with a number of key NGBs and facility operators, plus other relevant partners, to inform this report. A summary of this is set out below.

Badminton England (BE)

The National Facilities Strategy (2012-2016) vision is 'that everyone in England should have access to a badminton court that enables them to play at the right level - for them'. APS suggests that Badminton participation (once a week participation: 1x30 minutes for ages 16+) has fallen by nearly 10% to under half a million nationally in the last two years.

BE works within a framework to drive increased participation. Its products/programmes portfolio includes:

- ✦ **Play Badminton:** Working with partner leisure operators to increase casual badminton participation, increase court usage and increase income. Supported by BE staff and national marketing and encompasses several ways to play using an audit process to identify appropriate sites and operators to work with across the regions.
- ✦ **No Strings Badminton:** Social pay and play weekly sessions relaxed, social game-play ideal for casual players of all abilities (ages 16+), led by a friendly, welcoming session co-ordinator.
- ✦ **Essentials:** Beginners caching courses. Learn all the badminton basics at a relaxed pace with beginners coaching sessions over 6-8 weeks, led by BE qualified coaches.
- ✦ **Battle Badminton:** Casual Competition Leader boards; find new players (ages 18+) to play socially in matches where you pick the venue, set the rules and record your results online to earn points and raise the ranks in local and national leader-boards.
- ✦ **SmashUp!** Badminton for young people. Court time for 12-16 year olds where they can get involved with fun, big hitting badminton challenges with music and mates.

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BE reports thirteen affiliated clubs in the area; one of which is a social non-competitive club (Central Methodist BC) and one is the East Cheshire Performance centre.

Cheshire East is a priority area for BE, as Cheshire is one of the most pro-active County Badminton Associations which not only hosts the Performance centre but also several developing and accredited clubs.

Consultation with BE highlights that the Performance centre would like to have one central venue facility of appropriate quality (ideally the best facility of appropriate size) for the talented performing athletes. The performance centre is currently operating out of several venues, namely Wilmslow High, Knutsford Leisure Centre and Cheadle Hulme Recreation Centre.

Consultation with the badminton clubs identifies the following:

- ✦ The cost of hiring courts has increased in recent years, putting an increasing financial strain on clubs.
- ✦ Many education sites need to use sports halls particularly at exam times which can interrupt regular bookings and league matches.
- ✦ Many education sites are not open sufficiently late for matches to finish as a matter of course (i.e. a match may need to continue beyond the booking time). The rates of hire to allow this to happen are considered excessive.
- ✦ Demand for badminton in Nantwich is really high but there are not enough clubs or facilities.
- ✦ Knutsford LC needs a new dividing net as there is, reportedly, ongoing conflict between badminton and volleyball clubs in particular.

Sport England's Market Segmentation model indicates the following:

Badminton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ 2.4% (6,792) of people currently play badminton and a further 2.0% (5,664) indicate that they would like to, giving an overall total of 4.4% (12,457). ✦ 4.5% of Ben's play badminton, which is the largest proportion of any group playing badminton, closely followed by the Tim segment at 4.0%. ✦ The groups with the largest of the local population playing badminton are the Tim's (20.1%) and Philip's (13.9%). ✦ The groups with the most people who would like to play are Tim (15.2%) and Philip (12.5%). The main group to target, for additional players due to size and interest is, therefore Tim.

England Netball (EN)

England Netball is working to deliver a wide range of netball products to achieve its 10:1:1 vision. Cheshire East is considered to be a strong netball playing county with 33 clubs and 1,191 members playing netball.

EN report that there is no provision for Back to netball in Nantwich, Crewe, Knutsford, Alderley Edge, Sandbach, and Macclesfield although there is currently demand for it. It further reports that netball clubs have increased their programme offer by introducing sessions such as Back to Netball, walking netball, mixed netball and are also introducing new age groups, particular in the juniors (e.g. expanding to U9s, U10s and U11s instead of

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just having u11s). These have resulted in an increase in the number of teams, and players with annual numbers rising. The challenge is to ensure that there is sufficient access to facilities to accommodate the demand to ensure growth of the sport continues

Clubs that would like to expand are Ladyhawks (Crewe), Sandbach and Macclesfield netball clubs. This is currently inhibited due to lack of access to sports halls at peak times.

EN would like to source a two netball court venue, if possible three courts, to allow it to relocate the Junior Netball League from Widnes to Cheshire. There are two potential sites that could accommodate them; they are Macclesfield Leisure Centre and MMU.

The County has identified a range of venues which are instrumental to achieving growth targets and delivering a first class experience to existing members. This is because they are a base for a central venue competition and/or a venue for participation and performance programmes. These sites include:

- ✦ Shavington Leisure Centre – the County has rated the sports hall and ancillary facilities as average. This is because it has limited run off, too many lines on the court and the outdoor four courts are in poor condition.
- ✦ MMU Alsager campus – the facility is closed due to the relocation of the University campus.
- ✦ MMU Crewe campus – the facility will remain open until 2019 after which time the campus will be relocated to Manchester City Centre. The decision on the longer term provision of the sports hall has still to be determined.

A priority for the County in Cheshire is to investigate increased access into high quality venues. Club consultation reports the following:

- ✦ Lack of courts in the area.
- ✦ Lack of appropriately sized courts
- ✦ Having to travel and play out of the area i.e. not enough facilities available in Cheshire East.
- ✦ Numerous clubs are reported to be at capacity and have demand for expansion and have initiatives to increase participation through programmes such as walking netball and back2netball but there are no facilities available to accommodate them.

Netball

- ✦ 0.4% (1,270) of people currently play netball and a further 0.4% (1,094) indicate that they would like to, giving an overall total of 0.8% (2,365).
 - ✦ 2.2% of Leanne's play netball, which is the largest proportion of any group playing netball, closely followed by the Chloe segment at 1.9%.
 - ✦ The groups with the largest of the local population playing netball are the Chloe's (27.0%) and Alison's (18.0%).
 - ✦ The groups with the most people who would like to play are Chloe (29.5%) and Alison (15.0%).
- The main group to target, for additional players due to size and interest is, therefore Chloe.

British Gymnastics (BG)

BG main priorities (for the period 2013-2017) are to:

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- ◀ Increase the number of dedicated facilities and improve existing facilities.
- ◀ Increase access to spaces in non-dedicated venues.

There is no specific geographic focus to the BG Whole Sport Plan or Facility Strategy. It is based on need, suitability and partners' ability to support a project to successful completion. There is substantial demand for more gymnastics opportunities and clubs generally with waiting lists a norm. The Sports and Recreation Alliance 2013 Sports Club Survey showed most gymnastics clubs have a waiting list of up to 100 potential participants (almost without exception young people). Many anecdotally report such lists to be substantially longer. Further, membership of BG rose by 12% each year in 2012 and 2013 and by 14% in 2014-2015.

BG has increased its range of products and programmes and assistance to support local delivery. This appears to be proving successful in the growth of membership and retention of members across the country

There has been a notable increase in the number of teenagers and adults (11 - 25 year olds) taking part in the sport on a regular basis due to the increased level of opportunity and suitable activities available.

A key part of BG's strategy to increase participation is to support clubs to operate out of their own dedicated facility, offering more time and space for classes and reduce issues with the storage and manoeuvrability of equipment. There is a definite trend for gymnastics clubs to move into dedicated owned/managed premises (more than 40 completed this in England in 2015). BG expects this trend to continue and an increased proportion of clubs to move their activities to dedicated spaces/facilities.

There are a number of clubs in the area who have identified that they would like their own facility.

- ◀ Gymfinity is looking for a unit conversion but is currently struggling to identify a suitable site and is at capacity at its current site. It is operating six days per week.
- ◀ Sandbach Gymnastic Club also operates six days per week over 50 hours and is looking at the possibility of moving to a larger site.
- ◀ Cheshire Gymnastics Club operates out of six sites (Holmes Chapel, Knutsford, Middlewich, Sandbach, Nantwich and Crewe) in Cheshire East and one site (Hartford, Northwich) in Cheshire West for over 50 hours per week. It is embarking on the Moss Farm project and although Moss Farm project sits outside Cheshire East it is a priority area for BG and the Club have been offered BG Facility Funding.

BG is welcoming the support of local partners to identify potential sites to convert. This may be leisure centres or school sports centres that are suitable for asset transfer or commercial stock suitable for conversion.

Capacity to accommodate everyone who wishes to take part in gymnastics in Cheshire East is reportedly limited by the extent to which clubs can gain access to facilities. All the clubs report waiting lists and point to the restricted access to gymnastic activity due to the lack of available facility time within both dedicated and non-dedicated facilities.

There are six main clubs in Cheshire East with members in excess of 100:

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- ◀ Cheshire GC - 723 members
- ◀ Sandbach GC - 202 members
- ◀ Macclesfield Trampoline Club- 240 members
- ◀ Crewe & Nantwich GC - 752 members
- ◀ Gymfinity - 106 members
- ◀ Wilmslow Trampoline Club - 444 members

Cheshire Gymnastics club, Crewe and Nantwich GC, and Sandbach GC all have a dedicated facility as their training venue. Sandbach GC has sourced grant funding to purchase a facility to convert into a permanent gymnastics facility. The new facility is double the size of the current facility and the club will be changing its legal status (i.e. to a charity) in line with this step change in the club. It is also seeking additional funding to assist it to equip the new facility with a larger range of equipment.

Macclesfield trampoline club is currently based at Macclesfield LC and Kings School in Macclesfield. Neither facility is deemed fit for purpose, with Kings School, Macclesfield having insufficient height. Further, there is limited access at the leisure centre. This Club has particularly long waiting lists.

Sport England's Market Segmentation indicates the following for gymnastics and trampolining:

Gymnastics and Trampolining

- ◀ 0.2% (611) of people currently participates in gymnastics and trampolining and a further 0.1% (417) indicates that they would like to, giving an overall total of 0.4% (1,029).
- ◀ 0.6% of Chloe's participate in gymnastics and trampolining, which is the largest proportion of any group doing gymnastics and trampolining, closely followed by the Leanne segment at 0.4%.
- ◀ The groups with the largest of the local population doing gymnastics and trampolining are the Chloe's (18.8%) and Helena's (11.1%).
- ◀ The groups with the most people who would like to participate are Chloe (26.4%) and Jackie (9.8%).

The main group to target, for additional players due to size and interest is, therefore Chloe.

Basketball

The main priorities for Basketball England (BE) are identified as:

- ◀ Create and maintain a culture of frequent, consistent and continued participation.
- ◀ Provide a clearly defined talent development pathway from the grassroots through to world class performance.

It understands the sport's dependence upon the availability of affordable indoor facilities and equipment. For it to maintain and grow participation, formal and informal, it needs ongoing development of a comprehensive network of indoor venues. It is, therefore, working alongside partners to create affordable, accessible and suitable indoor facilities to meet the demand for court-time to play and to practice, thereby increasing participation and improving performance. Accessing indoor basketball courts remains one of the biggest challenges in BE's efforts to develop the sport at all levels.

Affiliated clubs are important in delivering regular participation opportunity and play a part in both participation and talent programmes. Accordingly, increased club access to indoor basketball facilities (with multiple courts) will be required to deliver its planned outcomes for

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participation via programmes including, satellite clubs, Premier league 4 Sport and Talent Development.

Access to secondary school indoor basketball facilities is of prime importance as England Basketball seeks to take advantage of Sport England's commitment to open up school facilities for local community use. Basketball England is looking to improve the transition from school to club through the creation of basketball satellite clubs in secondary schools together with an increase in the number, size and quality of Sport England - Basketball England Club mark accredited clubs. The recent State of the Nation Report on sports halls from Sport England showed that 76% are located on educational sites. As well as improving access to existing indoor sports facilities England Basketball is continuing to develop capital projects, building facilities with multiple basketball courts for use by clubs to boost participation and drive talent outcomes.

Basketball

- ▶ 0.6% (1,709) of people currently plays basketball and a further 0.4% (1,085) indicates that they would like to, giving an overall total of 1.0% (2,795).
- ▶ 3.4% of Ben's play basketball, which is the largest proportion of any group playing basketball, closely followed by the Jamie segment at 2.7%.
- ▶ The groups with the largest of the local population playing basketball are the Ben's (33.7%) and Tim's (15.6%).
- ▶ The groups with the most people who would like to play are Ben (28.0%) and Philip (19.4%).
- ▶ The main group to target, for additional players due to size and interest is, therefore Ben.

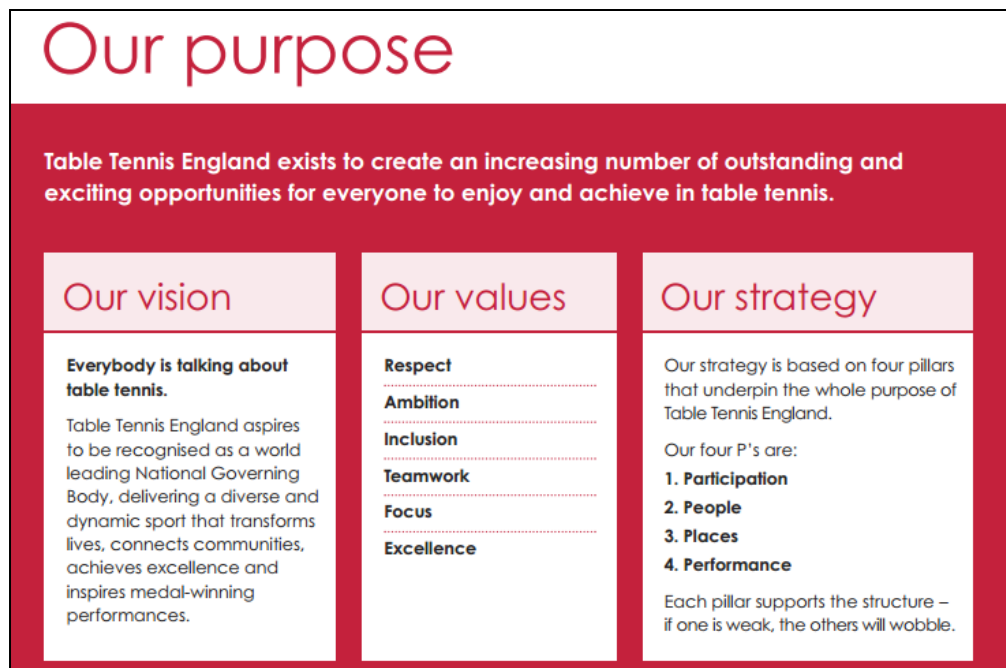
Club consultation indicates eight clubs playing across five sites in Cheshire East. Manchester Met (Crewe Campus) hosts three basketball clubs but is expected to close in 2019. This will have a huge detrimental effect on the clubs as (even if space were found) many existing sports halls are not the right size to host matches. Some clubs already have a number of teams competing out of the area mainly in the Manchester/ Stockport area.

The main challenge for the basketball clubs in the area are the lack of suitable sized sports halls and the lack of nets at Crewe Lifestyle Centre which currently has no wall mounted / suspended nets. Consultation with clubs highlights that there is additional demand for facilities and growth within basketball is being hindered by the lack of suitably sized facilities and access to facilities in peak times.

Table Tennis England

Table Tennis England (TTE) has the Mission 2025 strategy to develop table tennis during the next 10 years. The strategy will ensure that facility investment (£750k from Sport England) enables "A network of vibrant table tennis venues, meeting the needs of social and committed participants that cater for current participants and enable an increase to 200,000 regular participants".

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Key to delivering this strategy is schools and young people. TTE recognises that getting schools and young people to embrace table tennis is paramount to long-term growth. TTE aims to offer table tennis for young people in 500 additional community venues and get it played in 1,000 more schools than in 2015. It has a plan to re-launch a new school-club link programme to provide a vital and sustainable partnership.

A key target for TTE is that by 2025 there should be a club and/or league within 30 minutes' drive of 80% of the population.

Cheshire East currently has leagues with clubs in Crewe, Macclesfield and Wilmslow and a number of clubs that play socially (not competitively). These clubs are primarily based in activity halls and TTE reports that participation in social table tennis is on the increase. Consultation did not highlight any additional demand for facilities.

Table Tennis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5% (1,399) of people currently play table tennis and a further 0.2% (589) indicate that they would like to, giving an overall total of 0.7% (1,989). 0.7% of Ben's play table tennis, which is the largest proportion of any group playing table tennis, closely followed by the Philip segment at 0.7%. The groups with the largest of the local population playing table tennis are the Tim's (16.7%) and Philip's (15.0%). The groups with the most people who would like to play are Tim (17.1%) and Roger & Joy (13.6%). The main group to target, for additional players due to size and interest is, therefore Tim.

England Athletics

As the NGB for the sport, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations athletics, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety,

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facilities and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials and permitting and licensing. Locally Cheshire East is governed through England Athletics via a team consisting of an area manager and coach/club support officers. Clubs compete in leagues and travel to various venues across the region and country to perform.

Athletics

- ▶ 7.0% (19,962) of people currently take part in athletics and a further 2.9% (8,216) indicate that they would like to, giving an overall total of 9.8% (28,179).
- ▶ 15.1% of Ben's take part in athletics, which is the largest proportion of any group taking part, closely followed by the Chloe segment at 13.6%.
- ▶ The groups with the largest of the local population taking part in athletics are the Tim's (22.5%) and Ben's (12.9%).
- ▶ The groups with the most people who would like to take part are Tim (17.5%) and Chloe (12.4%).
- ▶ The main group to target, for additional participants due to size and interest is, therefore Tim.

Consultation with clubs suggests that there is demand and aspirations for an indoor athletics facility to accommodate the technical elements of athletics and for strength and conditioning. An indoor track would also allow them to increase the capacity for juniors, especially in the winter months.

There are currently no plans in place to deliver this development. However, the club has formed the Macclesfield Development Group and has registered the organisation as a charity, which is the focus for fundraising activity for the development. The group is reported to have had some initial conversations with Council officers and has had some basic plans drawn up, but is now at the stage where a feasibility study is required to determine the way forward. The group is keen to partner other sports and accommodate other sports/ groups where possible within the facility.

Macclesfield Leisure Centre sports halls is currently used for regular training sessions, however the club is only able to use ½ hall due to the lack of availability and the demand for other activities (e.g. badminton) at peak times.

Other indoor provision is available at Sports City in Manchester, however it is fully booked and too far away for parents to access at peak times. The same can be said for the facility located in Stoke-On-Trent, as it is approximately 1hr drive away.

There is also a reported lack of female changing and showering facilities at Crewe Vagrants sports club and at the Cumberland Arena.

The Football Association

Futsal involves two teams of five players. It is played on a hard court surface delimited by lines where walls or boards are not used. Futsal is also played with a smaller ball with less bounce than a regular football. According to the FA National Futsal Leagues Venue Specifications one indoor futsal court with some capacity for run-offs can be accommodated in a 4 court sports hall.

There are no halls marked out specifically for futsal in Cheshire East. There is currently one site (Egerton Youth Club) that has Futsal activity. The site is a three court hall and can only host one match at a time. Egerton Football Club is playing Futsal on Sundays with

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consultation indicating an increased demand for it, however, there is no capacity at the facility to expand times or expand numbers of games. A larger venue is required.

The FA Futsal facilities guide states that the recommended pitch size for recreational Futsal is 25m x 15m and the FA recommends that there should be a 2m run-off around the perimeter of the pitch. Therefore, a 4 court sports hall is sufficient to accommodate this.

The Cheshire FA has a clear aspiration to increase participation in futsal and has organised a number of competitions across the area. However the key challenge is to differentiate between futsal and 5-a-side football and the different markets that they serve. To some degree the provision of outdoor 3G pitch developments should seek to accommodate 5-a-side, allowing for the development of other sports, including futsal.

Indoor Cricket

Indoor cricket is a variant of and shares many basic concepts with cricket. The game is most often played between two teams each consisting of six or eight players. It can be played in any suitably sized multi-purpose sports hall as a means of giving amateur and professional cricketers a means of playing their sport during the winter months. Many clubs also use indoor cricket nets (within sports halls) for winter batting and bowling training from January until mid-April.

The Cheshire Cricket Board Facilities Strategy 2013 – 2018 recognises that the provision of indoor facilities across Cheshire is of a mixed standard, with some good facilities but the majority is tired and in need of investment. The main issue however is accessibility as demand from other sports for the use of indoor facilities is very high coupled with the very seasonal demand for cricket nets.

The Board has articulated that its aspiration in the long term to develop an indoor facility that would be a dedicated Cheshire Cricket facility.

Across the area the primary indoor sports halls used by cricket clubs for winter training across Cheshire East include:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| ◀ Brine Leas School | ◀ Wilmslow High School | ◀ South Cheshire College |
| ◀ Tytherington School | ◀ Sandbach School | ◀ Eaton Bank Academy |
| ◀ Middlewich High School | | |

All of these facilities, with the exception of Sandbach School, are regularly used in the closed season (October-April) for the Cheshire Cricket Board Player Pathway, which also contributes to the competition for sports hall space that clubs face.

Consultation highlights that there are plans in place to build a specialist indoor cricket centre at Kings School in Macclesfield alongside other sports facilities. Furthermore, there are plans to replace the sports facilities (including a sports hall) at Alderley Park, which will potentially include cricket nets within its facility mix.

Summary of demand

Data suggests that participation rates in Cheshire East are above the national and regional average in general. Sport England segmentation data indicates there will not be any further

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latent demand of people who would like to participate in sports hall sports. The predicted increase in population, once broken down by age group, is unlikely to have a major impact on sports hall sports.

However, there is specific demand within the sports of badminton, gymnastics, and basketball with all of them indicating that they are at capacity and require additional space. It is also clear that the conflicting demands on some sports hall space are compounded to some degree by the use of facilities for football (i.e. 5-a-side). However, there are a number of opportunities within new facility developments to address some of the ongoing issues faced by some clubs.

Sport England's FPM suggests an unmet demand for sports halls in Cheshire East is calculated by the model to equate to 5% of all demand, less than the national and regional average. Further, the unmet demand is attributed to issues of catchment and ability to travel. Almost all of this unmet demand consists of 'walkers' who do not have access to a car.

4.7 Supply and demand analysis

FPM Summary and Conclusions

- ✦ There are 37 halls on 30 different sites within Cheshire East included in the analysis.
- ✦ There are approximately 4.25 courts per 10,000 population in Cheshire East, a level above the national average and comparable with the average regional figure.
- ✦ A crude, non-spatial assessment of supply and demand indicates that supply exceeds demand by about 29 courts. This, however, does not take account of a number of factors, especially the location of hall sites.
- ✦ The model estimates that 95% of demand for halls is met by the available network. This represents a good level of demand being satisfied. Of the 5% not thought to be met, most are 'walking' demand that live at a distance from a hall where they are unlikely to travel. A very small proportion of walkers can travel but also find that their facility is full at peak time periods.
- ✦ Across the whole stock, about 55% of capacity is thought to be being utilised. However, this 'global' figure masks differences between how individual facilities are being used. A number of facilities are operating above a 'busy' level of 80%.

4.8 Sport England's Facilities Calculator (SFC)

The Sports Facilities Calculator was created to assist local planning authorities to quantify additional demand for the key community sports facilities, is generated by populations of new growth, development and regeneration areas. Whilst it can be used to estimate the facility needs for whole area populations, such as for the whole of the Cheshire East area, there are dangers in how these figures are subsequently used. It should not be used for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension. It is important to note that the SFC does not take account of:

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

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Table 4.9: Sports Facilities Calculator for sports halls with the estimated future demand for 2024 and 2037.

	Population 2012	Population estimate 2024	Population estimate 2037
ONS projections	372,146	390,463	405,301
Population increase	-	18,317	14,838
Facilities to meet additional demand	-	1.25 halls (5 courts)	1 hall (4 courts)

The SFC predicts that, if population increases in line with ONS projections, there will be increased demand for 5 additional courts worth of sports hall space (1.25 Sports halls) by 2024 with a further additional demand for 4 courts worth of space (1 Sports hall) by 2037.

As previously noted, the SFC does not take into account certain factors and this headline conclusion should be treated with caution. The SFC is just one tool to build a picture.

Future developments

The age of the sports hall stock varies significantly in Cheshire East and there are a number of planned developments and aspirations for development across the borough. They are:

Peter Mason Leisure Centre- The current Leisure Centre is outdated (built in 1976) with a poor layout making it difficult to convert and adapt the existing facilities. It requires significant investment to modernise and upgrade or replace it. The existing site is well located and there is room for redevelopment and/or expansion.

There is a strategic aspiration to develop new facilities in the form of an enhanced leisure offer. The Council is in the process of seeking a development partner for the redevelopment of Peter Mason Centre and is looking to the private sector to provide some guidance and creative options for the redevelopment of the centre.

Reaseheath College - is forecast to build a new four court sports hall in January 2017 to complement the current offer. The current sports hall is used to capacity by the college and it requires additional provision.

Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca) – Given the relocation of the main Astra Zeneca employment base to Cambridge the site has been taken over by Manchester Science Partnership (MSP) in a bid to retain a bio-sciences skill base in the north west of England. In order to invest in the site MSP has planning permission for housing on part of the site. However, the main location of the new housing will be on the site of the existing sports facilities. Therefore, within the planning application for the development there are plans to relocate the sports facilities and provide enhanced facilities. A key component of the facility mix will be the development of a new sports hall.

In addition to the above, three educational sites have aspirations to build new indoor sports facilities, which are at different stages of development. All are working towards obtaining the necessary planning permission and secure appropriate funding. They are:

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Kings School, Macclesfield which has planning permission to build a 6-court sports hall providing specialist use for cricket and trampolining. The School is also planning other sports facilities including a swimming pool (mentioned later in swimming section).

Eaton Bank Academy would like to improve its sports facilities and sporting offer. It has aspirations for a four court sports hall, AGP (to resolve the issues of poor drainage at the current pitches and increase community use at the site) and a cycle track. It also would like to improve access to and from the site, which will improve site safety and safeguarding. A feasibility study has been completed and the school is very keen to improve community use at the site and complement the new Peter Mason Leisure Centre offer. It has, however, not been able to gain the necessary support to raise the funds required.

Fallibroome Academy has aspirations to build 4-court sports hall. However, its plans were rejected in 2014 and it is not sure how it can move forward to improve the indoor sports offer. It suggests that it is struggling with a sports hall that is not fit for purpose in terms of its size and design. However, the school has historically used the sports hall at Macclesfield LC to deliver a significant proportion of its PE curriculum.

There are reports that Manchester Met (Crewe Campus) is under consultation regarding closure of the site due to it no longer being academically or financially sustainable. Consultation is currently underway to understand the impact of this on local clubs. Whilst the Board's endorsement is not a final decision and work to assess the impact is underway a final decision will be made in the spring of 2017. The Manchester Met (Crewe Campus) currently has an 8 court sports hall. Consideration may need to be given to the future provision of sports halls in the area.

The Alsager campus closed in 2010 and is empty with plans to build 400 houses on the site.

4.9 Summary of key facts and issues – Sports Halls

Sports Halls Summary:

Quantity

- ◀ 73 halls encompassing a total of 180 badminton courts (when considering all sports halls in Cheshire East
- ◀ 33 of which have three courts or more, providing main sports hall space equivalent to 155 courts
- ◀ There are a number of changes to the supply of sports halls across the Borough and key differences exist between the KKP audit and the information used in the FPM analysis.
- ◀ There are a number of planned sports hall developments at a range of sites.
- ◀ There are aspirations for development of more sports halls in addition to those planned.
- ◀ It is likely that Manchester Met (Crewe) campus will close in 2019 and a decision will need to be made regarding the future provision of the sports facilities on the site.
- ◀ There are 26 halls with 4 courts plus located within 2 miles of Cheshire East boundary
- ◀ The FPM states that there is a supply/demand balance of 29 courts.
- ◀ The conurbations of Crewe and Macclesfield have a poorer share of halls when compared to the rest of the authority but it is still comparable with the national average
- ◀ The predicted increase in population, once broken down by age group, is unlikely to have a major impact on sports hall sports.
- ◀ SFC calculates that there will be an increase in demand for an additional 1.25 sports hall by 2024 and a further hall by 2037.

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Quality

- ◀ There is a reasonable spread of above average and good quality community accessible sports halls.
- ◀ Knutsford and Sandbach areas are serviced by poor and below average facilities.
- ◀ Four out of a total stock of 32 community accessible sports halls, are reported as being in good condition, 13 as above average and 16 (50%) below average.
- ◀ Changing facilities fare slightly worse with five changing facilities considered to be good, 11 above average, nine below average and six identified as poor.

Accessibility

- ◀ Nearly two thirds (62%) of population live within 20 minute walk time of a 3+ court hall.
- ◀ 95% total demand is satisfied (above national and regional averages).
- ◀ 86% of demand expressed at Cheshire East facilities and 14% exported out to neighbouring authorities.
- ◀ About 5% demand is unmet - attributed to issues of catchment and ability to travel.

Availability

- ◀ Of all the halls offering community use, almost all 3 courts+ halls have in excess of 20+ hour's community use.
- ◀ A number of facilities' are theoretically full or operating close to capacity. These include Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre, Tytherington High School, Middlewich Leisure Centre, Macclesfield College and The Macclesfield Academy
- ◀ Badminton performance centre would like to use the best facility of appropriate size for talented athletes.
- ◀ The strategic programming of sports halls needs to be considered to enable a balanced spread of sports (e.g. no football to be played indoors, which would allow more time for netball, cricket, and development of futsal).
- ◀ There are insufficient facilities available for gymnastics.
- ◀ There are insufficient facilities available for basketball, and the potential loss of MMU Crewe will have a negative impact on the sport locally.
- ◀ There is demand for indoor space to accommodate athletics; ideally clubs would like access to an indoor track area.
- ◀ Cricket clubs often find it difficult to access indoor nets at appropriate times given the high levels of demand for sports halls.
- ◀ Netball, badminton, basketball, indoor cricket, football are the main sports played in the halls.

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SECTION 5: SWIMMING POOLS

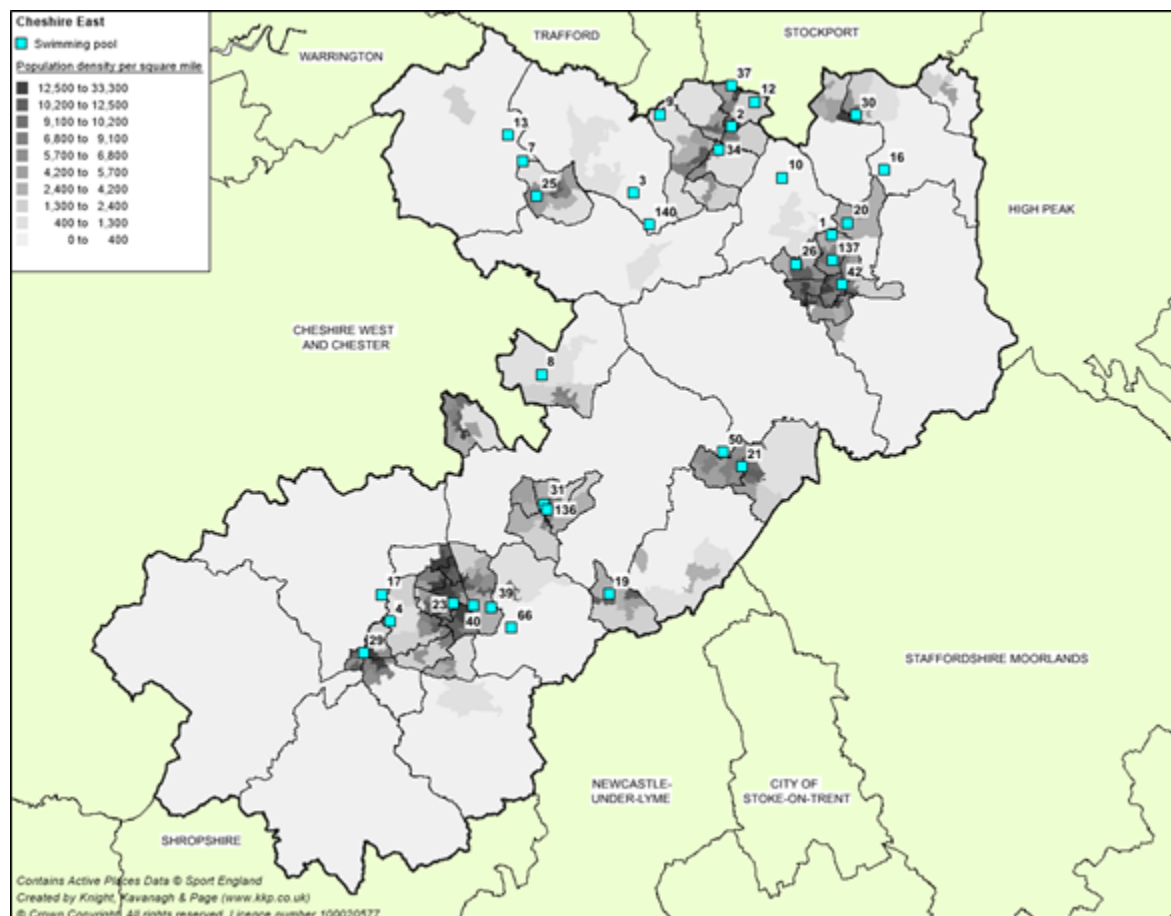
A swimming pool is defined as an “enclosed area of water, specifically maintained for all forms of water based sport and recreation”. It includes indoor and outdoor pools, freeform leisure pools and specific diving tanks used for general swimming, teaching, training and diving. Many small pools are used solely for recreational swimming and will not necessarily need to strictly follow the NGB recommendations. It is, however, generally recommended that standard dimensions are used to allow appropriate levels of competition and training and to help meet safety standards. Relatively few pools need to be designed to full competition standards or include spectator facilities.

Training for competition, low-level synchronised swimming, and water polo can all take place in a 25 m pool. With modest spectator seating, pools can also accommodate competitive events in these activities. Diving from boards, advanced synchronised swimming and more advanced sub-aqua training require deeper water. These can all be accommodated in one pool tank, which ideally should be in addition to the main pool.

The NGB responsible for administering diving, swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo in England is the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA).

5.1 Supply

Fig 5.1: All identified swimming pools in Cheshire East



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Table 5.2: All swimming pools in Cheshire East

Map ID	Site	Type	Length (m)
1	The Tytherington Golf & Country Club	Main/General	17
2	Energie Fitness Club (Wilmslow)	Main/General	20
3	Cheshire Health Club & Spa	Main/General	17.5
4	Alvaston Hall Country Club	Main/General	20
7	Cottons Spa	Learner/Teaching/Training	13
8	Club At Cranage Hall	Main/General	18
9	Spindles Health & Leisure	Learner/Teaching/Training	13
10	Mottram Hall, Cheshire	Main/General	17
12	Total Fitness (Wilmslow)	Main/General	25
12	Total Fitness (Wilmslow)	Learner/Teaching/Training	14.5
13	The Mere	Main/General	20
16	Shrighley Hall Hotel Golf And Country Club	Learner/Teaching/Training	14
17	Rookery Hall Health Club & Spa	Main/General	18
19	Alsager Leisure Centre	Main/General	25
20	Bollington Health & Leisure Centre	Main/General	20
21	Peter Mason Leisure Centre	Main/General	25
21	Peter Mason Leisure Centre	Learner/Teaching/Training	12.5
23	Crewe Lifestyle Centre	Main/General	25
23	Crewe Lifestyle Centre	Learner/Teaching/Training	17
25	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Main/General	25
26	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	Main/General	25
26	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	Main/General	17.5
29	Nantwich Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre	Main/General	25
29	Nantwich Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre	Lido	30.5
29	Nantwich Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre	Learner/Teaching/Training	12.5
30	Poynton Leisure Centre	Main/General	20
31	Sandbach Leisure Centre	Main/General	25
34	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	Main/General	25
34	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	Learner/Teaching/Training	12.5
37	Hallmark Health Club (Manchester Airport)	Main/General	20
39	Bannatynes Health Club (Crewe)	Main/General	20
40	Total Fitness (Crewe)	Main/General	25
40	Total Fitness (Crewe)	Learner/Teaching/Training	12.5
40	Total Fitness (Crewe)	Unspecified	0
42	DW Sports Fitness (Macclesfield)	Main/General	18
50	Gymetc. (Congleton)	Main/General	18
66	Crewe Hall	Main/General	18
136	Sandbach School	Main/General	22
137	Beech Hall School	Lido	18
140	David Lewis School	Learner/Teaching/Training	11

The map shows that the swimming pool supply is located mainly in the more populated and built up areas of the Borough.

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Quality

This assessment (in accordance with Sport England's ANOG methodology) is concerned with larger pools available for community use. As such, pools below 160m² are perceived to offer limited value in relation to community use and delivery of outcomes related to health and deprivation are therefore excluded from the assessment.

All other pools which do not fit ANOG's criteria due to size (e.g. 20m length and x4 lanes) or if they are private use only, are removed from the assessment. Quality ratings are determined as described in table 3.1 page 28.

Figure 5.2 Cheshire East community accessible swimming pools by condition

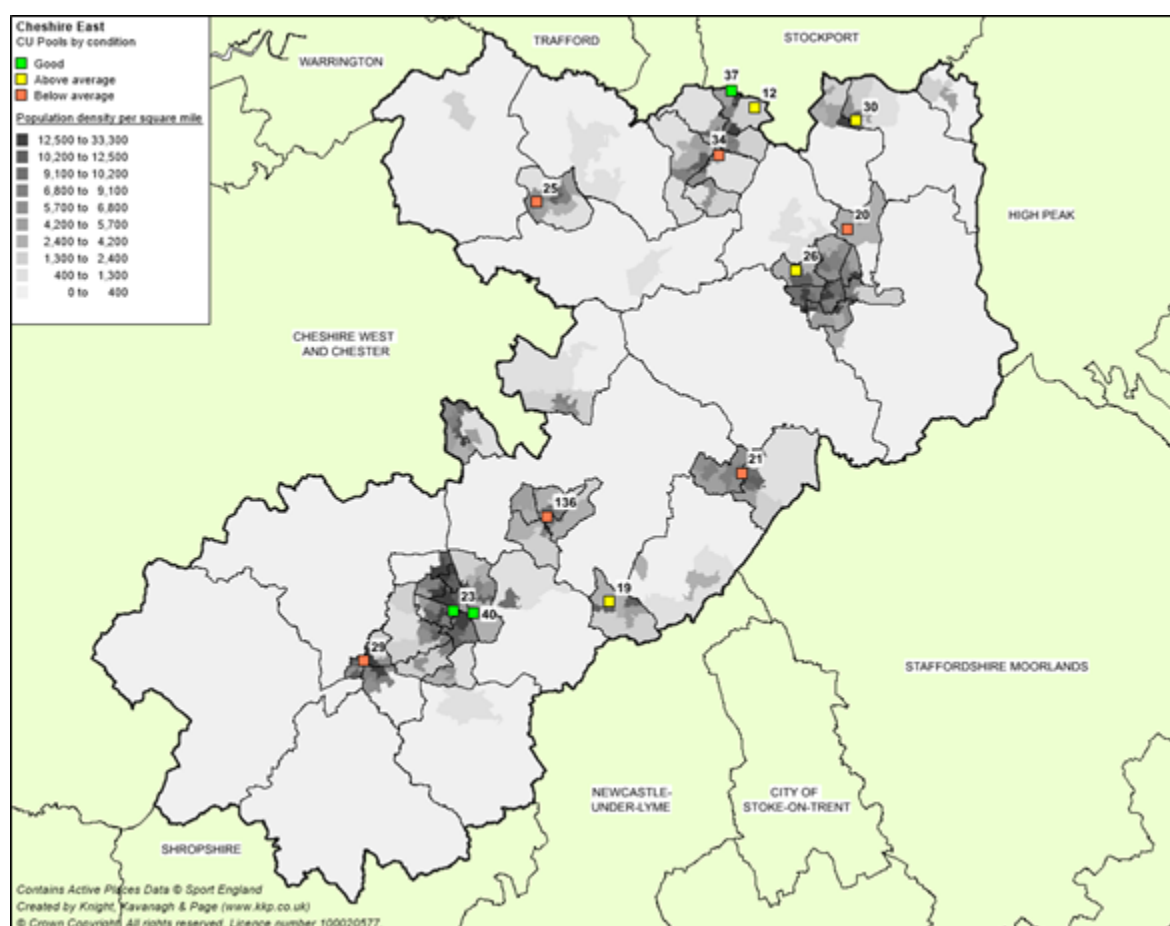


Table 5.3: Cheshire East community accessible swimming pools by condition

Map ID	Site Name	Lanes	Length	Condition	
				Pool	Changing
12	Total Fitness (Wilmslow)	8	25	Above average	Above average
19	Alsager Leisure Centre	4	25	Above average	Poor
20	Bollington Health And Leisure Centre	4	20	Below average	Below average

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Map ID	Site Name	Lanes	Length	Condition	
				Pool	Changing
21	Peter Mason Leisure Centre	6	25	Below average	Poor
23	Crewe Lifestyle Centre	8	25	Good	Good
25	Knutsford Leisure Centre	4	25	Below average	Below average
26	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	8	25	Above average	Below average
29	Nantwich Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre (Indoor)	6	25	Below average	Above average
30	Poynton Leisure Centre	4	20	Above average	Below average
34	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	5	25	Below average	Poor
37	Hallmark Health Club (Manchester Airport)	4	20	Good	Good
40	Total Fitness (Crewe)	6	25	Good	Good
136	Sandbach School	4	22	Below average	Below Average

Six of the swimming pools are considered to be below average, three are good and four are above average. The area does not have any poor quality pools. Changing rooms fare worse, with three rated as poor (i.e. Alsager, Peter Mason and Wilmslow leisure centres), five below average, two above average and only three assessed as good quality.

It is noted that Nantwich Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre at the time of assessment (August 2016) has planned investment that will improve the quality rating of the pool see future developments section for further details. (Page 65).

Residents of Crewe have access to two good quality pools (23 and 40), whereas residents in Sandbach have access to below average facilities (136). Other towns (Macclesfield, Knutsford, Wilmslow and Congleton) also have access to poor and/or below average quality swimming pools.

There is currently a spread of below average pools across the central part of the Cheshire East with lesser quality pools in Congleton, Nantwich, Knutsford and Sandbach.

It is also noted that Sandbach Leisure centre has a 25m x 3 lane pool which whilst does not meet the ANOG criteria of 20m and x4 lanes is a key pool for the area and has lots of community access and competitive swim clubs based there.

Accessibility

As with indoor facilities appropriate walk and drive-time accessibility standards are applied to determine deficiencies in provision. The normal acceptable standard is a 20 minute walk time (1 mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20 minute drive time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision

Figure 5.3 Cheshire East community accessible swimming pools with 1 mile radial catchment

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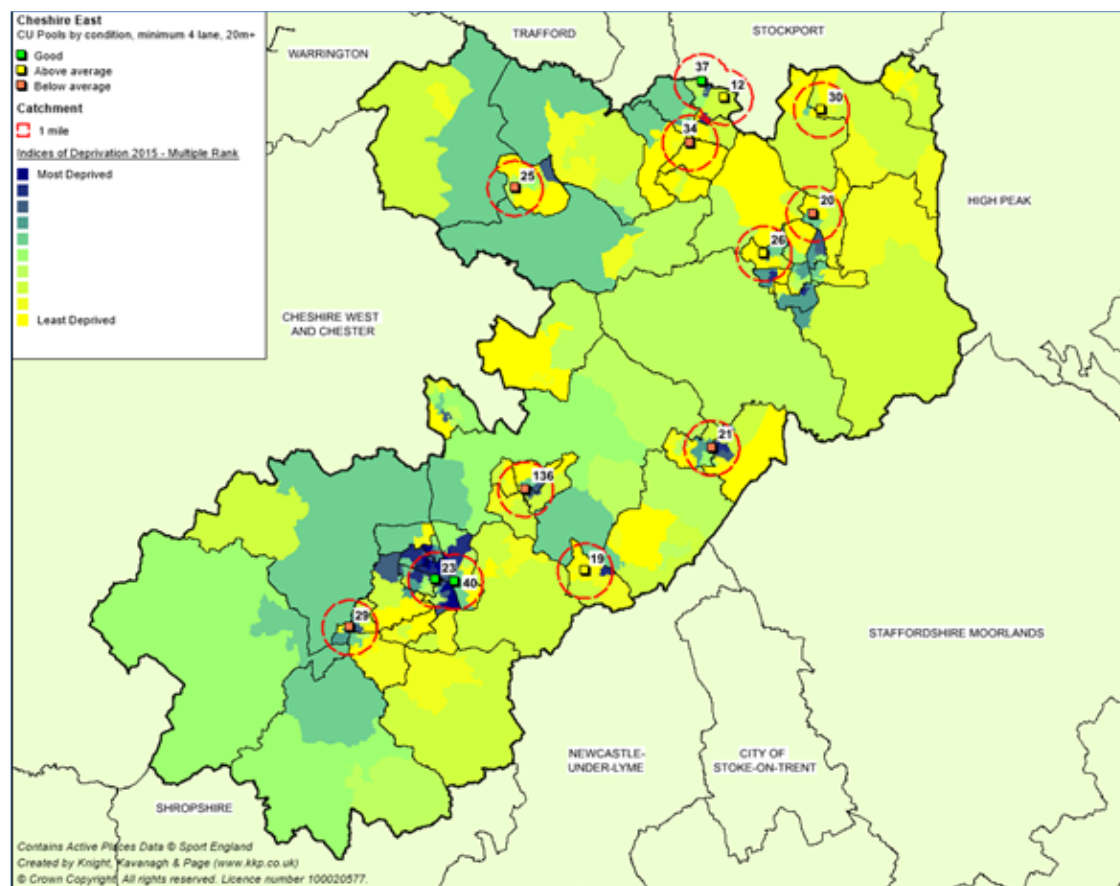


Table 5.4: Cheshire East pools with 20 minute walk and IMD 2015 populations

IMD 2015 10% bands	Cheshire East		Swimming pool with community use - min 4 lane x 20 metre - catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside %	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	10,269	2.8%	8,286	2.2%	1,983	0.5%
10.1 - 20	21,115	5.7%	14,053	3.8%	7,062	1.9%
20.1 - 30	20,756	5.6%	14,124	3.8%	6,632	1.8%
30.1 - 40	29,565	7.9%	17,792	4.8%	11,773	3.2%
40.1 - 50	26,846	7.2%	9,102	2.4%	17,744	4.8%
50.1 - 60	28,933	7.8%	7,859	2.1%	21,074	5.7%
60.1 - 70	28,220	7.6%	10,546	2.8%	17,674	4.8%
70.1 - 80	57,029	15.3%	17,035	4.6%	39,994	10.8%
80.1 - 90	52,942	14.2%	15,946	4.3%	36,996	9.9%
90.1 - 100	96,241	25.9%	40,734	11.0%	55,507	14.9%
Total	371,916	100.0%	155,477	41.8%	216,439	58.2%

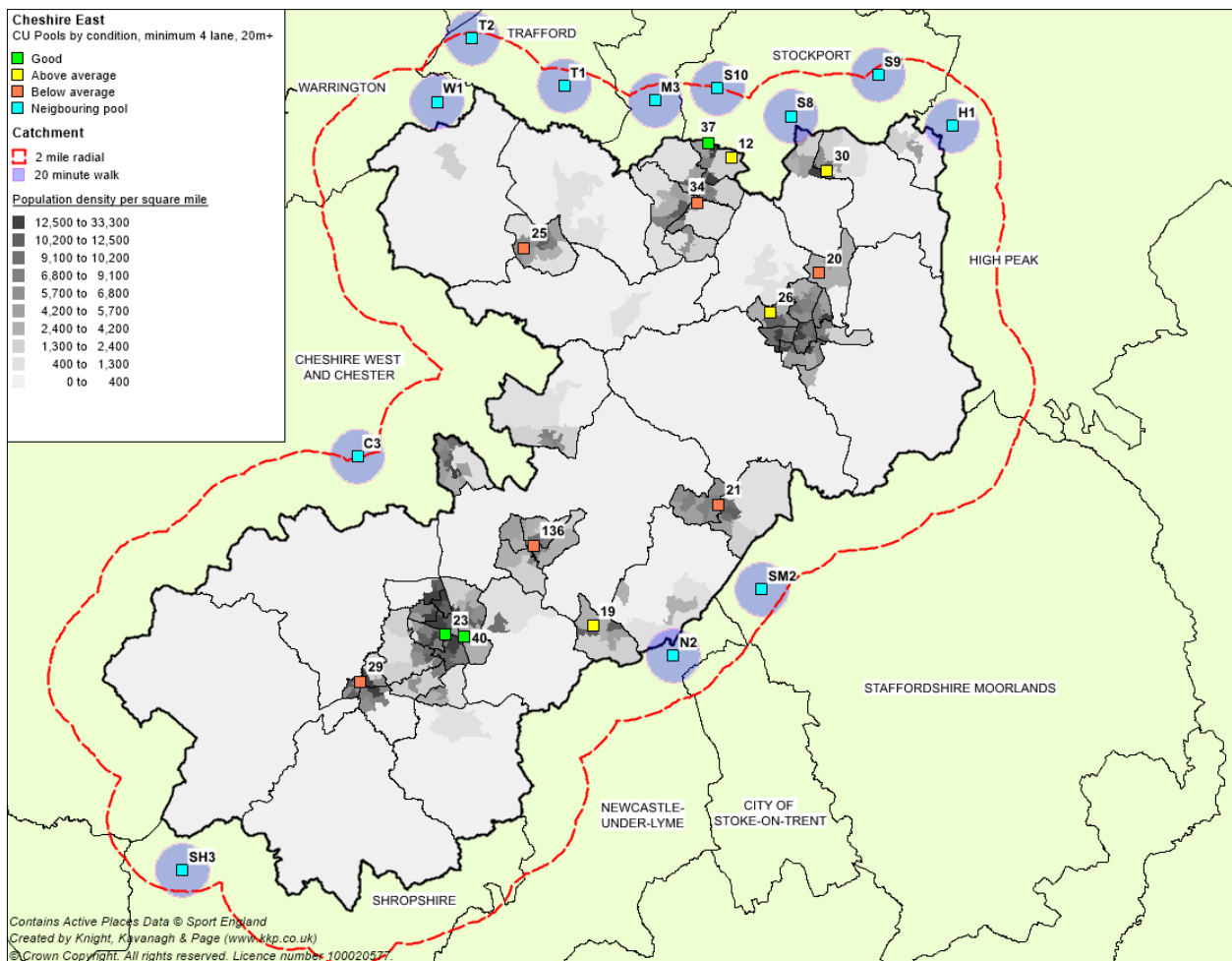
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Figure 5.3 indicates that just over two fifths (41.8%) of residents live within one mile of a community accessible swimming pool. This, therefore, suggests that nearly three fifths of the population do not. Further, Table 5.3 identifies that 8.5% (31,384) of residents live in the most deprived areas of the country (the national figure is 20%). Of these 70% are residing within one mile of a community accessible swimming pool. All residents of Cheshire East reside within 20 minutes' drive time of a swimming pool.

Neighbouring facilities

Accessibility is also influenced by facilities outside of the Borough which are within easy reach of residents. Figure 5.4 and Table 5.4 indicate the different swimming pools (20m, 4+ lanes) which are found within two miles distance of the local authority boundary. The two mile boundary is an arbitrary distance but serves to show accessibility if residents have access to a car.

Figure 5.4: Community accessible pools with neighbouring 'Pay & Play' Local Authority pools



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Table 5.5: Neighbouring pay and play pools within 2 miles of Cheshire East boundary

Map ID	Site Name	Lanes	Length (m)	Access Type	Local Authority
C3	Winsford Lifestyle Centre	4	25	Pay and Play	Cheshire West & Chester
H1	New Mills Leisure Centre	4	25	Pay and Play	High Peak
M3	Wythenshawe Forum	5	25	Pay and Play	Manchester
N2	Kidsgrove Sports Centre	6	25	Pay and Play	Newcastle-under-Lyme
S8	Life Leisure Hazel Grove	6	25	Pay and Play	Stockport
S9	Life Leisure Marple	4	22.86	Pay and Play	Stockport
S10	Life Leisure Cheadle	6	33.3	Pay and Play	Stockport
SH3	Whitchurch Swimming Centre	5	25	Pay and Play	Shropshire
SM2	Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre	6	25	Pay and Play	Staffordshire Moorlands
T1	Altrincham Leisure Centre	4	25	Pay and Play	Trafford
T2	Partington Sports Village	4	20	Pay and Play	Trafford
W1	Lymm Leisure Centre	5	22	Pay and Play	Warrington

Figure 5.4 clearly indicates that there are seven swimming pools North of Cheshire East within two miles of the Local Authority boundary, potentially servicing residents in Wilmslow and Poynton, assuming that they have access to transport. Similarly, the towns of Congleton and Alsager to the East of the Borough are within two miles of Kidsgrove Sports Centre and Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre. The more rural area to the South of Cheshire East has access to Whitchurch Swimming Centre and there appears to be no additional water space for communities residing in the West of the authority.

5.2 Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

Sport England's FPM report (2015) provides an overview of the current and future level of provision of swimming pools in Cheshire East based on the National Run 2014 report. It considers pools that are a minimum 160m² which is equivalent to a 20m x 8m pool. The FPM states:

- ✦ There are 29 pools at 22 different sites included the analysis.
- ✦ In terms of water space per 1,000 population, Cheshire East has a level higher than the regional and national average with 15.86m² whereas the North West has 12.91m² and England 12.65m².
- ✦ 11 of the sites are commercial facilities.
- ✦ It is evident that there has been a relatively recent growth in the commercial sector. In contrast, public provision appears to have been largely built in the 1970's or early 1980's.

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- According to the facility database used to underpin this modelling, a number of these facilities have been refurbished.

Analysis of KKP's audit and that used to underpin the FPM findings identifies a number of differences between the two.

- Crewe Lifestyle and fitness pool has replaced Crewe Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre

There also appears to be some inconsistency with what is included and excluded from the FPM analysis. The FPM includes the following pools which are below the 160m² area of pool water space:

- Alvaston hall 20m x 7m (130m²)
- Bollington Health & Leisure 20mx 7m (140m²)
- The Mere 29m x 7m (130m²).

Furthermore the FPM also excludes the following small pools, even though they make up part of a wider offering alongside a main pool:

- Wilmslow Leisure Centre,
- Total Fitness (both Wilmslow & Crewe),
- Macclesfield Leisure Centre,
- Nantwich Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre,
- Crewe Lifestyle Fitness Centre
- Peter Mason Leisure Centre

5.3 Demand

Consultation with the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) confirms that the headline objectives of 'More people learning to swim, more people swimming regularly, more medals on the world stage,' which are contained within the ASA Strategic Plan – 2013-17 remain. The NGB is currently developing its facilities strategy.

It considers all usable swimming pools to be important for the sport and this is no different in Cheshire East. Local authority pools are of particular importance to the ASA given their ability to support its key objectives of increasing participation and also the talent base (club usage). It should be noted that there is no capital funding available from the ASA, however, by working closely with Sport England the NGB aims to target funding on projects that will have the greatest impact on increasing participation and benefit the sport and its clubs.

The ASA has a partnership approach to working with operators or pools; in Cheshire East it is working closely with Everybody Sport and Recreation, (which is the main facility operator throughout Cheshire East). Priorities will be driven by Everybody Sport and Recreation and Cheshire East with the ASA supporting development or action plans around behaviour change of swimming and these priorities. Club development is supported via the Cheshire East club network.

There are 11 ASA affiliated clubs across the Borough which are all Swim21 accredited, with the exception of Bollington Phoenix. The main issues identified in Cheshire East are:

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- ✦ The ASA reports that Cheshire East has the largest latent demand in the area; as a priority it is working with the operators who want to provide quality facilities and quality swimming opportunities that cater for their communities.
- ✦ The age of the pool stock across Cheshire East varies. The need for urgent upgrades and new builds is likely to affect accessibility whilst this progresses, however all parties are trying to avoid this if at all possible. This is likely to affect the swimming clubs once the work for Peter Mason Leisure Centre commences.

The Area Swimming Manager for Cheshire & Merseyside reports that there are too many clubs in the area, with poor club co-ordination and duplication. The amalgamation of clubs should be considered and would be of benefit to the area. This will help pool resources and make efficiencies of workforce. It would also assist some clubs which are reporting issues with the lack of coaches and the programming of pool access. However, the ASA is not sure how receptive the clubs will be to this approach.

Synchronised swimming is an area for development for the ASA, and there is currently no reported provision for synchronised swimming in the area. With pooling of resources and a review of programming this could be accommodated within the current provision.

Club consultation

Feedback from clubs indicates that that they are no longer able to provide swimming lessons as this function has reverted back to the operator (Everybody Sport and Recreation). During consultation this was reported to affect the finances of the clubs. However also reported at consultation was that ESAR have in return offered each club that this has affected by this an agreed bespoke deal. This consists of varying offers ranging from preferential pricing rates, discounted rates at galas and workforce development. Clubs have also indicated that they still would like more pool time, as it is insufficient for their current numbers.

Table 5.6: Swimming Clubs & Locations

Club	Based at:
Congleton Amateur Swimming Club	Peter Mason Leisure Centre
Macclesfield Amateur Swimming Club	Macclesfield Leisure Centre
Knutsford Vikings	Knutsford Leisure Centre
Wilmslow Scorpions	Wilmslow Leisure Centre
Macclesfield Satellites	Macclesfield Leisure Centre, Manchester Aquatics CentreC
Nantwich Seals	Nantwich Pool & Fitness
Alsager Bridgestones	Alsager Leisure Centre
Dane Valley	Peter Mason Leisure Centre, Sandbach Boys School
Sandbach Sharks	Sandbach Leisure Centre, Sandbach Boys School
Bollington Phoenix	Bollington Health & Leisure
Crewe Flyers	Crewe Lifestyle & Fitness Centre

Table 5.7: Sport England's market segmentation identifies:

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Swimming

- ✦ 14.7% (41,944) of people currently swim and a further 13.7% (39,191) indicate that they would like to, which gives an overall total of 28.4% (81,136).
- ✦ 25.3% of Alison's swim, which is the largest proportion of any group swimming, closely followed by the Chloe segment at 24.1%.
- ✦ The groups with the largest of the local population swimming are the Tim's (12.4%) and Chloe's (10.3%).
- ✦ The groups with the most people who would like swim are Elaine (10.7%) and Tim (9.4%).
- ✦ The main group to target, for additional players due to size and interest is, therefore Elaine.

FPM demand

The FPM states that:

- ✦ Cheshire East's resident population generates a demand for about 23,600 visits per week in the peak period. This is equivalent to about 3,900 m² of water space.
- ✦ About 15% of the resident population is thought to be without access to a private car, significantly less than the regional and national average. This means the population is relatively more mobile and will have greater opportunity to access pool provision.

Supply & Demand Balance

The FPM further suggests that when looking at a very simplistic picture of the overall supply and demand across Cheshire East, the resident population is estimated to generate a demand for a minimum of 3,890 m² of water space. This compares to a current available supply of 4,850 m² of water space, giving a supply/demand balance of 960m² of water space.

Satisfied Demand-

- ✦ About 94% of the demand generated by Cheshire East residents is thought to be satisfied. This is above the national and regional averages.
- ✦ The majority (84%) of satisfied demand travels by car, far higher than regional and national averages, possibly reflecting the relatively high levels of car ownership.
- ✦ As a result, smaller proportions are thought to walk or use public transport to access swimming pool provision.
- ✦ Demand will not necessarily be met by pools within Cheshire East; some may be exported to neighbouring local authorities.
- ✦ About 84% of demand is retained, with 16% being exported elsewhere.

Unmet Demand

- ✦ About 6% of the resident population of East Cheshire are thought not to be satisfied by the network of available swimming pool provision.
- ✦ All of the unmet demand observed by the model is attributed to people not being able to access a facility because of the distance they live from a pool (outside catchment).
- ✦ Of this group of unmet demand, most (80%) are considered not to have access to a car, although some do.
- ✦ The FPM identifies pockets of unmet demand in the rural village areas and also in the conurbations, especially Crewe and Macclesfield.

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- ✦ The model does not observe any unmet demand arising due to a lack of capacity within the pool stock.

Used Capacity

Across the whole stock of swimming provision in Cheshire East, only 50% is thought to be utilised at peak time. However, this 'global' figure across the authority masks some significant differences with regard to how the model perceives different levels of usage at different sites.

As a guide, a pool operating at 70% of capacity is considered to be the facility being busy. A number of 'public' pools are thought to be operating close to, or at, capacity. The following sites appear busy:

- ✦ Sandbach Leisure Centre – 96%,
- ✦ Crewe Swimming Pool and Fitness 100%, (Now replaced by Crewe Lifestyle Centre)
- ✦ Bollington Health and Leisure Centre 97%,
- ✦ Knutsford Leisure Centre 82%.

It is important to note however that at some sites e.g. Knutsford and Bollington, available hours during the peak is low, thus reducing the overall capacity of the site. In contrast, the model projects that a number of the 'commercial' sites operate at low peak time levels- e.g. Total Fitness – 30%, Cheshire Health Club and Spa – 25%.

ESAR confirmed during consultation that the ESAR sites are at or very near capacity. Bollington Leisure Centre is not an ESAR site. This is especially the case for Macclesfield Leisure Centre and Nantwich Pool and Fitness.

5.4 Supply and demand analysis

FPM Summary and conclusions

- ✦ The analysis includes 29 pools on 22 different sites.
- ✦ There is a sizable element of relatively modern commercial facilities. In contrast, public provision is older, albeit with refurbishment works.
- ✦ The provision of water space in Cheshire East amounts to just less than 16 m² per 1000 population. This is significantly above the regional and national average.
- ✦ The model estimates that about 15% of the resident population are thought not to own a car. This is a low percentage level relative to the national and regional average and suggests that demand is more mobile and has a greater ability to travel to express their demand.
- ✦ A crude, non-spatial assessment of supply and demand suggests that there is a good supply of water space, which in purely quantitative terms, exceeds demand. However, this takes no accounts of many important factors such as spatial spread of provision and facilities in neighbouring local authority areas.
- ✦ The model estimates that nearly 94% of all demand generated by Cheshire East residents is met by the available network of demand. The majority is undertaken through car travel and thought to be expressed at facilities within Cheshire East. A smaller proportion (14%) is thought to be exported to facilities outside of the authority.
- ✦ Of the 6% of demand that is not considered to be met, the model attributes this wholly to swimmers who live at such distance from a pool which makes it unlikely that will travel.

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The larger proportion of this 6% are thought not to have access to a private car and find that walking to a facility or utilising public transport is likely to be unrealistic due to distance.

FPM supply and demand analysis

- ✦ Cheshire East has an extensive supply of swimming pools which appear to be well located. Based on the catchment area they can absorb over eight out of ten visits to a pool by a Cheshire East resident (based on them travelling to the nearest pool).
- ✦ Supply exceeds demand by 960m², (an average 25m x 4 lane pool equates to 212m²)
- ✦ There is an unmet demand but the public pools are close to full at peak times.
- ✦ The average age of public pools (excluding Crewe Lifestyle Centre) is 39 years old. However nine have had major refurbishments and modernisations.

5.5 Sport England's Facilities Calculator (SFC)

The Sports Facilities Calculator was created to assist local planning authorities to quantify how much additional demand for the key community sports facilities is generated by populations of new growth, development and regeneration areas. While it can be used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations it should not be used for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension. The SFC does not take account of:

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

	Population 2012	Population estimate 2024	Population estimate 2037
ONS projections	372,146	390,463	405,301
Population increase	-	18,317	14,838
Facilities to meet additional demand	-	3.3 lanes or 0.9 pools	2.89 lanes or 0.72 pools

The SFC predicts that if population increases in line with ONS projections there will be increased demand for 3.3 additional lanes worth of swimming pool space by 2024 and a further 2.89 lanes of additional water space by 2037.

These calculations assume that the current swimming stock remains accessible for community use and the quality remains the same. It appears that the projected increase in population will add substantially to the demand for pool space in Cheshire East.

Future developments:

Cheshire East Council is currently investing approximately £200,000 at Nantwich Swimming Pool. As of mid-November 2016 the swimming pool was closed to undertake essential pool refurbishment which consists of replacing all the wooden and decaying ceilings; replacement of the lights; full redecoration; replacement of broken tiles; refurbishment of the changing facilities and servicing of the main pool pumps. The works are anticipated to be completed

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by the end of 2016. As a result of the refurbishment the building will become more efficient with new heat recovery ducting installed in the ceiling to retain heat and reduce running costs and is most likely to improve the quality rating at this site.

Kings School in Macclesfield also has plans to develop a new 6 lane 25m pool and associated changing facilities. The new facilities will result in the loss of playing fields, however, Sport England has withdrawn its objection to the development on the basis that the indoor facility development outweighs the loss of playing fields. Sport England has also identified a number of planning conditions which should be applied to the planning permission; one of which relates to community use. This seeks to ensure that the new facility complements existing facilities within Macclesfield.

There are swimming pool developments planned in Congleton as part of the new facility and the improved leisure offer plans, and the issues with Knutsford and Sandbach are acknowledged in the Local Infrastructure Plan (Appendix 1). However, the sites at Knutsford and Sandbach have restrictions and there are no development plans currently in place.

5.6 Summary of key facts and issues – Swimming Pools

Quantity

- ◀ Cheshire East has a relatively good supply of swimming pools with a community accessible pool being provided across all the main population centres in the area.
- ◀ The audit has found there to be 40 pools. 38 are community accessible pools, two that are private use.
- ◀ Of the 38 accessible pools seven have been excluded because of their small size (below 160m²) or they are lidos.
- ◀ Confusion exists between the FPM findings and those of the KKP audit due to the changes which have taken place between the FPM report production and the latest audit of facilities. This will need further clarification with Sport England and potential further FPM analysis in the future.
- ◀ The FPM identifies that Cheshire East has the largest lateen demand in the area.
- ◀ In terms of water space per 1,000 of the population, Cheshire East has a level higher than the regional and national average with 15.86m².
- ◀ About 84% of demand is retained, with 16% being exported elsewhere.

Quality

- ◀ The overall quality of pools is a concern, especially in the longer term.
- ◀ The age of the pool stock across Cheshire East averages 39 years.
- ◀ There will be a need to consider the refurbishment or replacement of key public sector swimming pools throughout the life of this strategy.

Accessibility

- ◀ Nearly three fifths (58.4%) of the resident population in Cheshire East live outside the 20 minute walk catchment areas. All residents live within 20 minute drive time of a swimming pool.
- ◀ The resident population of Cheshire East is estimated to generate a supply/demand balance of 960 m² of water space.
- ◀ About 94% of the demand generated by Cheshire East residents is thought to be satisfied. This is above the national and regional average.
- ◀ All of the unmet demand is attributed to people not being able to access a facility because of the distance they live from a pool (outside catchment). Of this group of unmet demand, most (80%) are considered not to have access to a car.
- ◀ There are pockets of unmet demand in the rural village areas and also in the conurbations, especially Crewe and Macclesfield.

Availability

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- ◀ There are currently no facilities in the area offering synchronised swimming.
- ◀ Consultation with the ASA has identified that there may be too many swimming clubs in the area for it to be sustainable and provide a clear swimmer pathway and that consideration should be given to the amalgamation of clubs and the pooling of scarce resources.
- ◀ ESAR delivering swimming lessons is reported to be having a positive impact on raising standards in the area; however many clubs are still reporting the loss of swimming lesson delivery to be an issue.
- ◀ Consultation with ESAR identifies that the number of sites at or near capacity is a concern, especially in relation to new programmes or increased population.

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SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES

Health and fitness facilities are normally defined and assessed using a base scale of a minimum of 20 stations. A station is a piece of static fitness equipment and larger health and fitness centres with more stations can generally make a more attractive offer to both members and casual users. They provide a valuable way to assist people of all ages, ethnicities and abilities to introduce physical exercise into their daily lives with the obvious concomitant benefits to health, fitness and wellbeing.

The current state of the UK fitness industry is complex with a variety of providers including the private sector (ranging from low cost operators to the high end market), trusts, schools and local authority operators. Within the UK private fitness market has continued to grow steadily over the last 12 months with an estimated increase of 6% in the number of members. Further, all parts of the country have seen an increase in the number of clubs, members and total market value but only four regions have seen an increase in average membership fees over the last 12 months.

According to State of the UK Fitness Industry Report (2015) there are 319 low cost clubs within the private sector in England. This represents a 24% (62 clubs) increase over the last 12 months. Their membership has passed the one million mark for the first time (41% increases) and the total market value has increased by 43% to under just £300million. The low cost sector continues to be the fastest growing segment of the private health and fitness market.

There are now 25 private low cost chains across the UK with Pure Gym the market leaders for the third year in a row. Due to commercial sensitivities private and commercial health and fitness suites are not usually assessed. It is generally acknowledged that, in order to generate custom and remain solvent, they provide good or above average quality facilities.

6.1: Supply

Quantity

Research undertaken for the assessment report identifies 62 health and fitness suites in Cheshire East, of which 50 have 20 stations or more. These are identified in Figure 6.1. There are a total of 2,976 stations within the identified fitness suites with more than 20 stations with 2,920 stations available for community use. 56 fitness stations are regarded as private use only.

A map of all health and fitness suites regardless of number of stations can be found in Appendix 7.

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Fig 6.1 All health and fitness suites in Cheshire East on population density (20+ stations)

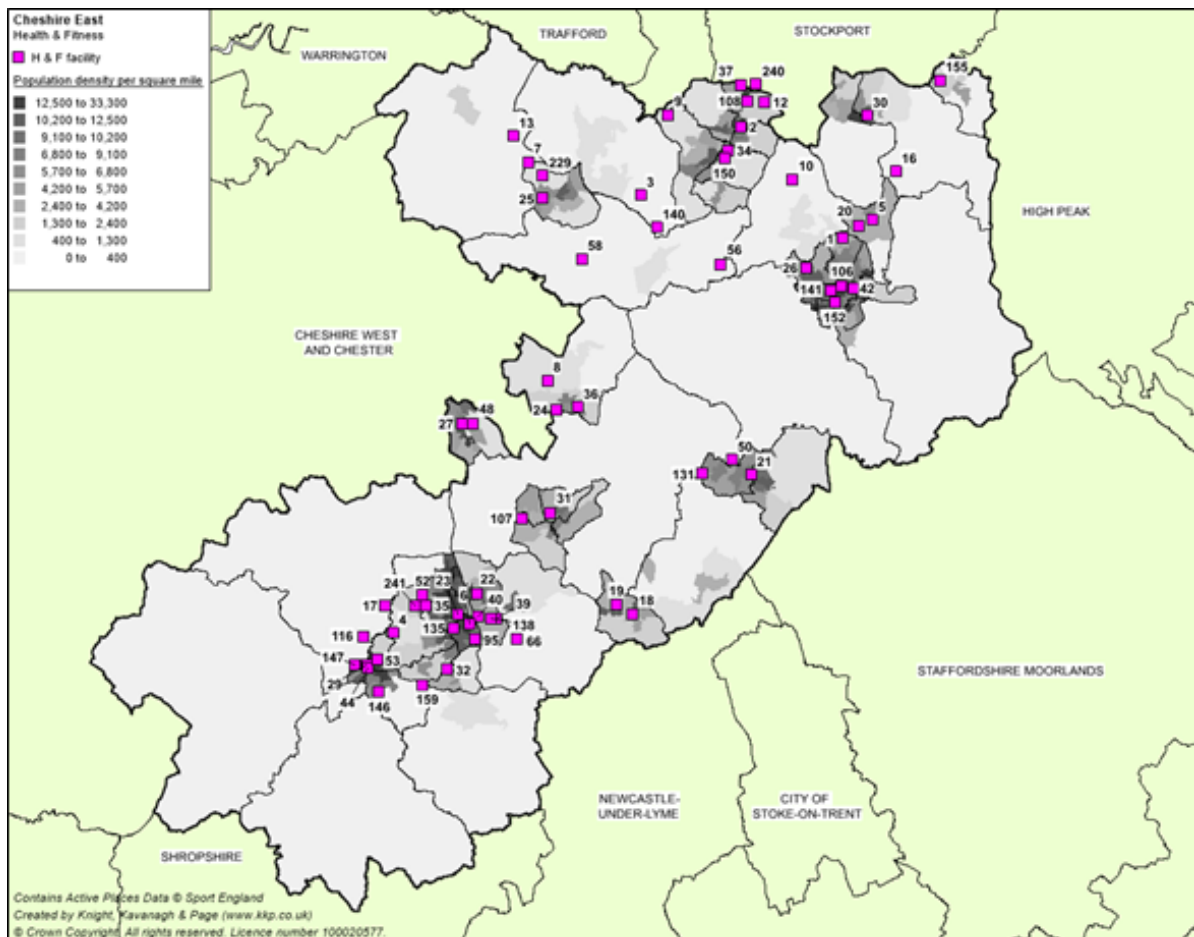


Table 6.1: All health and fitness suites in Cheshire East

Map Ref	Site Name	Stns	Map Ref	Site Name	Stns
1	The Tytherington Golf & Country Club	70	32	Shavington Leisure Centre	46
2	Energie Fitness Club (Wilmslow)	73	34	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	45
3	Cheshire Health Club & Spa	70	35	Simply Gym Crewe	150
4	Alvaston Hall Country Club	30	36	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	48
5	Fitness4All	80	37	Hallmark Health Club (Manchester)	65
6	Camm Street Centre	100	39	Bannatynes Health Club (Crewe)	90
7	Cottons Spa	36	40	Total Fitness (Crewe)	200
8	Club At Cranage Hall	36	42	DW Sports Fitness (Macclesfield)	100
9	Spindles Health & Leisure-Manchester	30	44	C2 Fitness	55
10	Mottram Hall, Cheshire	30	48	Unique Fitness Gym	43

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Map Ref	Site Name	Stns	Map Ref	Site Name	Stns
12	Total Fitness (Wilmslow)	300	50	Gymetc. (Congleton)	105
13	The Mere	36	52	Legends Health & Leisure Centre	35
16	The Club & Spa Shrigley Hall Hotel	50	53	Barony Sports Complex	25
17	Rookery Hall Health Club & Spa	26	56	Club AZ	31
18	Intone Fitness Centre	37	58	Nuffield Fitness & Wellbeing Centre (Radbrooke Hall)	31
19	Alsager Leisure Centre	32	66	Crewe Hall	50
20	Bollington Health & Leisure Centre	53	106	Louis Gym	45
21	Peter Mason Leisure Centre	45	107	Body Power Fitness	29
23	Crewe Lifestyle Centre	120	108	Lifestyle Fitness -Wilmslow	145
24	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	26	116	Reaseheath College	25
25	Knutsford Leisure Centre	40	138	Manchester Metropolitan University	50
26	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	60	152	Macclesfield College	40
29	Nantwich Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre	30	155	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	20
30	Poynton Leisure Centre	30	159	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club Ltd	20
31	Sandbach Leisure Centre	22			

Table 6.2: Health and fitness suites without community access

Map Ref	Site Name	Stns	CU	Condition
58	Nuffield Fitness & Wellbeing Centre (Radbrooke Hall)	31	No	Not assessed
116	Reaseheath College	25	No	Good
Total		56		

It is acknowledged that facilities identified in Table 6.2 cater for certain segments of the population but they are not deemed to be community accessible due them being private use only.

Quality

Site assessments

Quality ratings are determined as described in table 3.1 page 27.

Quality assessments were carried out on 49 sites in the Borough that have 20+ stations. The one site not assessed is Nuffield Health & Fitness Centre (Radbrooke Hall) as it is private use, for Barclay's employees only. The assessments were conducted by KKP staff accompanied by facility managers and/or teaching staff. Visits provide an overall quality scoring and look for investment undertaken. Assessments highlighted that out of the 49 health and fitness suites assessed, 16 are considered good, 21 above average, and 9 below average with 4 sites obtaining a quality rating of poor.

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Figure 6.2: Map of community accessible facilities by quality

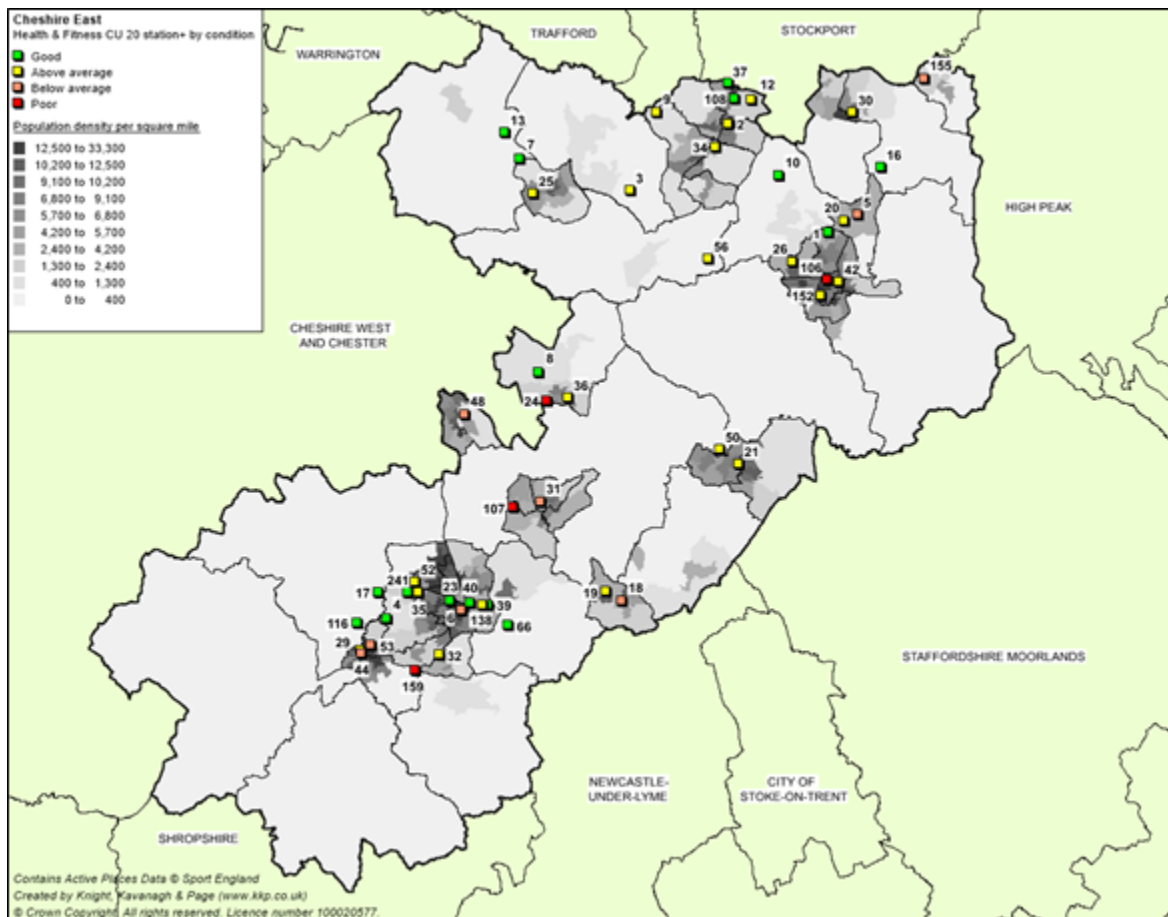


Table 6.3: Community accessible health & fitness suites with 20+ stations

KK P Ref	Site Name	Stations	CU	Condition
1	The Tytherington Golf & Country Club	70	Yes	Good
2	Energie Fitness Club (Wilmslow)	73	Yes	Above average
3	Cheshire Health Club & Spa	70	Yes	Above average
4	Alvaston Hall Country Club	30	Yes	Good
5	Fitness4All	80	Yes	Below average
6	Camm Street Centre	100	Yes	Below average
7	Cottons Spa	36	Yes	Good
8	Club At Cranage Hall	36	Yes	Good
9	Spindles Health & Leisure (Airport Inn Manchester)	30	Yes	Above average
10	Mottram Hall, Cheshire	30	Yes	Good
12	Total Fitness (Wilmslow)	300	Yes	Above average

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KK P Ref	Site Name	Stations	CU	Condition
13	The Mere	36	Yes	Good
16	The Club And Spa At The Shrigley Hall Hotel Golf And Country Club	50	Yes	Good
17	Rookery Hall Health Club & Spa	26	Yes	Good
18	Intone Fitness Centre	37	Yes	Below average
19	Alsager Leisure Centre	32	Yes	Above average
20	Bollington Health And Leisure Centre	53	Yes	Above average
21	Peter Mason Leisure Centre	45	Yes	Above average
23	Crewe Lifestyle Centre	120	Yes	Good
24	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	26	Yes	Poor
25	Knutsford Leisure Centre	40	Yes	Above average
26	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	60	Yes	Above average
27	Middlewich Leisure Centre	16	Yes	Below average
29	Nantwich Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre	30	Yes	Above average
30	Poynton Leisure Centre	30	Yes	Above average
31	Sandbach Leisure Centre	22	Yes	Below average
32	Shavington Leisure Centre	46	Yes	Above average
34	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	45	Yes	Above average
35	Simply Gym Crewe	150	Yes	Above average
36	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	48	Yes	Above average
37	Hallmark Health Club (Manchester)	65	Yes	Good
39	Bannatynes Health Club (Crewe)	90	Yes	Good
40	Total Fitness (Crewe)	200	Yes	Good
42	DW Sports Fitness (Macclesfield)	100	Yes	Above average
44	C2 Fitness	55	Yes	Below average
48	Unique Fitness Gym	43	Yes	Below average
50	Gymetc. (Congleton)	105	Yes	Above average
52	Legends Health & Leisure Centre	35	Yes	Above average
53	Barony Sports Complex	25	Yes	Below average
56	Club AZ	31	Yes	Above average
66	Crewe Hall	50	Yes	Good
106	Louis Gym	45	Yes	Poor
107	Body Power Fitness	29	Yes	Poor
108	Lifestyle Fitness (Handforth Wilmslow)	145	Yes	Good
116	Reaseheath College	25	Yes	Good
138	Manchester Metropolitan University (Cheshire Sports Centre)	50	Yes	Above average
152	Macclesfield College	40	Yes	Above average

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KK P Ref	Site Name	Stations	CU	Condition
155	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	20	Yes	Below average
159	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club Ltd	20	Yes	Poor
241	Area51 Gym & Fitness	52	Yes	Good

The map shows that the towns of Sandbach and Middlewich only have community accessible fitness gyms that are below average quality or poor and Alsager has one above average and one below average.

There is less accessible health and fitness provision in Macclesfield and Congleton than the other towns of Crewe and Nantwich.

Accessibility and availability

As per the sports halls and swimming pools, the indoor facilities appropriate walk and drive-time accessibility standards are applied to determine deficiencies in provision. The normal acceptable standard is a 20 minute walk time (1 mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20 minute drive time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision

Figure 6.3 and Table 6.3 identifies the main fitness gyms that offer community use and have in excess of 20 stations.

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Fig 6.3: Community use H&F suites (20+ stations) by condition, 1 mile radial (20 minute walk), Cheshire East IMD 2015

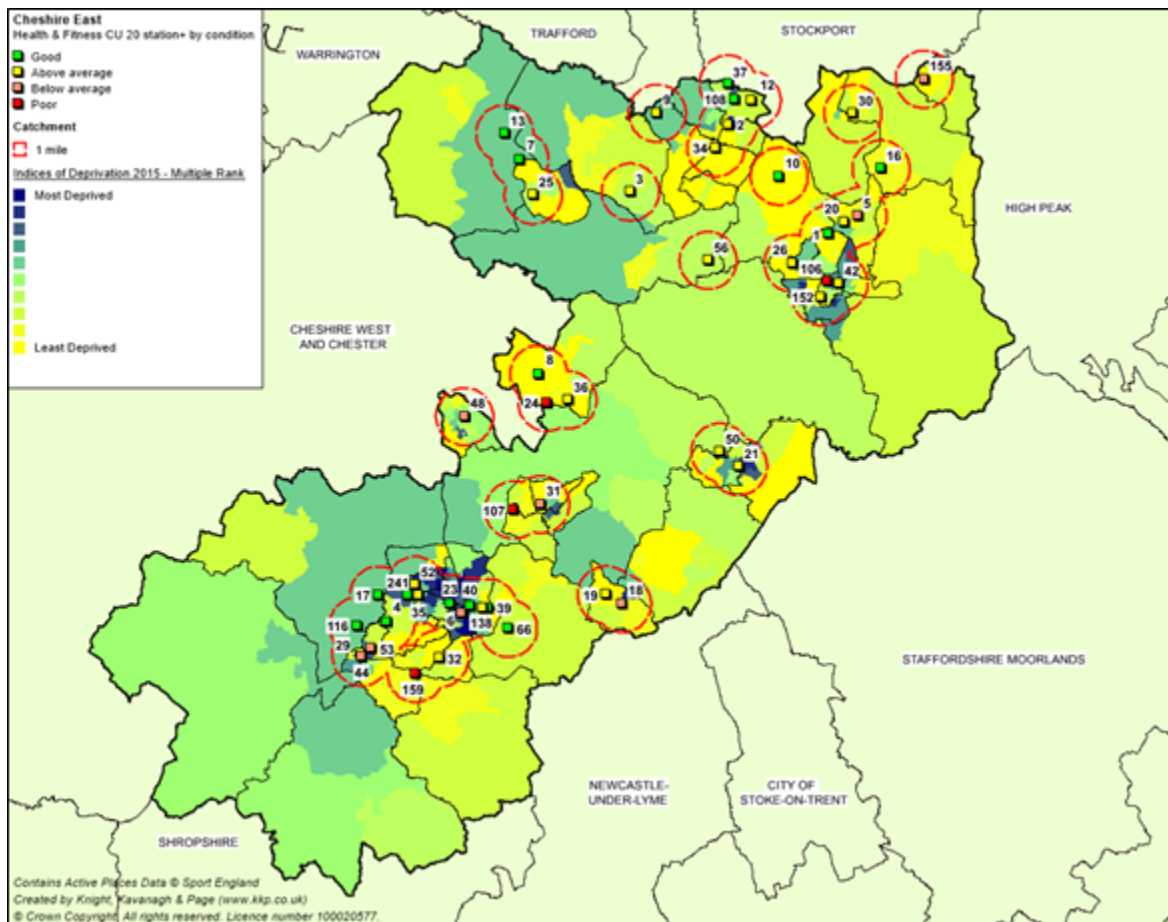


Table 6.3: Community use H&F suites by condition with 1 mile radial catchment

IMD 2015 10% bands	Cheshire East		Health & Fitness (20+ stations) with community use catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside %	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	10,269	2.8%	8,809	2.4%	1,460	0.4%
10.1 - 20	21,115	5.7%	19,268	5.2%	1,847	0.5%
20.1 - 30	20,756	5.6%	18,666	5.0%	2,090	0.6%
30.1 - 40	29,565	7.9%	26,941	7.2%	2,624	0.7%
40.1 - 50	26,846	7.2%	17,407	4.7%	9,439	2.5%
50.1 - 60	28,933	7.8%	17,587	4.7%	11,346	3.1%
60.1 - 70	28,220	7.6%	15,755	4.2%	12,465	3.4%
70.1 - 80	57,029	15.3%	29,756	8.0%	27,273	7.3%
80.1 - 90	52,942	14.2%	35,150	9.5%	17,792	4.8%

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90.1 - 100	96,241	25.9%	67,091	18.0%	29,150	7.8%
Total	371,916	100.0%	256,430	68.9%	115,486	31.1%

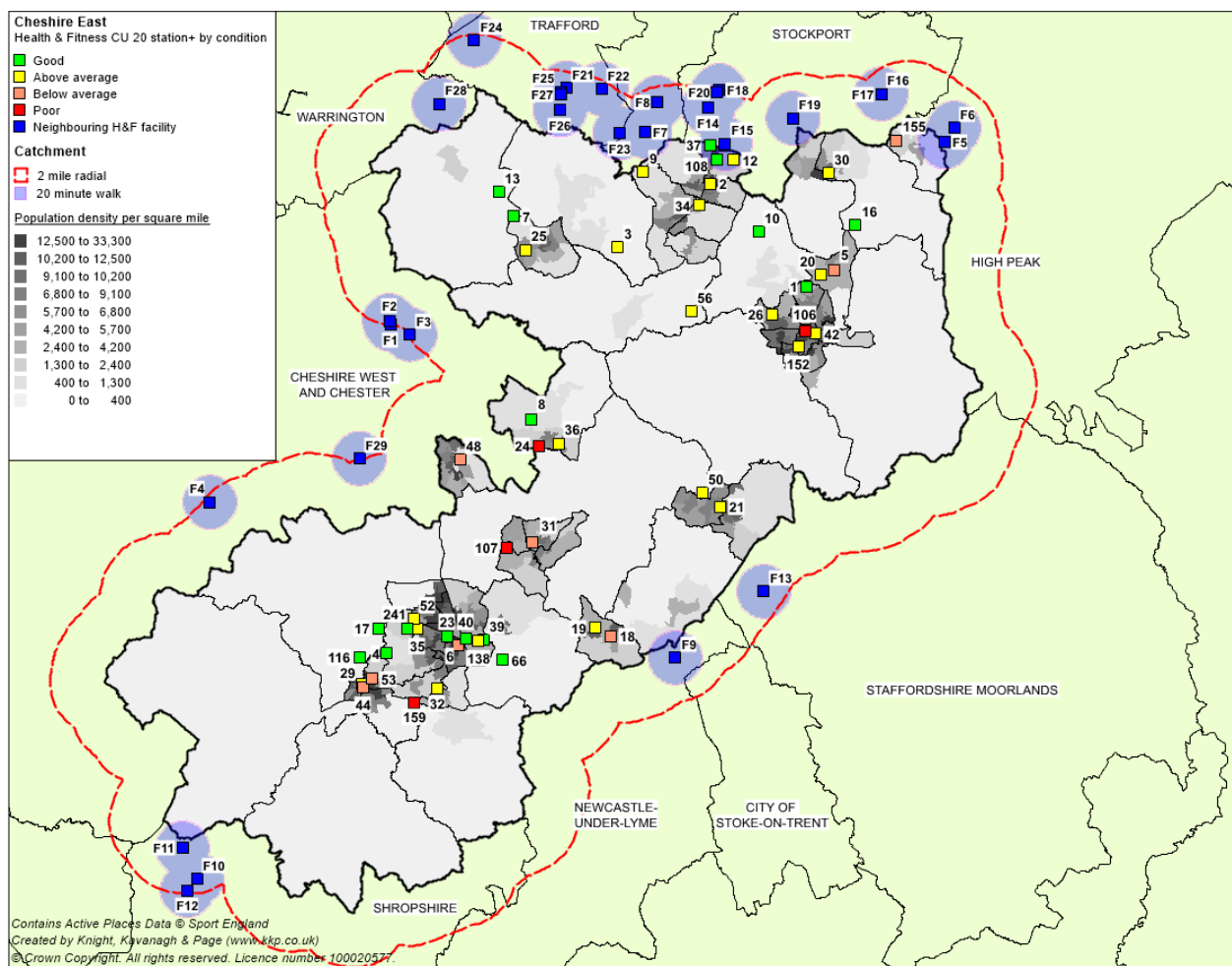
Over two thirds of the resident population (68.9%) live within one mile of an accessible health and fitness suite. Of those assessed 14 are local authority owned, and one (Manchester Met Crewe Campus) with 50 stations is unlikely to remain if the decision is made to close in 2019.

There are 28 fitness gyms with 20 stations and above within 2 miles of the local authority boundary, primarily in the north of the borough.

Neighbouring facilities

Accessibility is also influenced by facilities within easy reach of the Borough. Figure 6.4 and Table 6.4 indicate the different fitness suites with 20+ stations which are found within two miles distance of the local authority boundary. The two mile boundary is an arbitrary distance but serves to show accessibility if residents have access to a car.

Fig 6.4: Community Use H&F facilities within 2 miles of local authority boundary



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Table 6.4: Community Use H&F 20+ stations within Cheshire East and 20+ station H&F within 2 miles of local authority boundary (with 20 minute walk catchment)

Map ID	Active Places Site Name	Stations	Access Type	Local Authority
F1	Daves Gym	130	Pay and Play	Cheshire West & Chester
F2	Pure Gym (Northwich)	67	Pay and Play	Cheshire West & Chester
F3	Rudheath Leisure Centre	23	Pay and Play	Cheshire West & Chester
F4	Vital Health & Wellbeing (Portal Hotel - Golf And Spa)	25	Registered Membership	Cheshire & Chester West
F5	New Bodies Gym (New Mills)	80	Pay and Play	High Peak
F6	New Mills Leisure Centre	30	Pay and Play	High Peak
F7	Pace Health Club (Manchester)	42	Pay and Play	Manchester
F8	Wythenshawe Forum	81	Pay and Play	Manchester
F9	Kidsgrove Sports Centre	28	Pay and Play	Newcastle-Under-Lyme
F10	Bodytech Health Club (Whitchurch)	36	Pay and Play	Shropshire
F11	Vital Health & Wellbeing (Hill Valley Hotel)	24	Pay and Play	Shropshire
F12	Whitchurch Sports & Leisure Centre	25	Pay and Play	Shropshire
F13	Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre	70	Pay and Play	Staffordshire Moorlands
F14	David Lloyd Club (Cheadle)	150	Registered Membership	Stockport
F15	Fit4less (Cheadle)	115	Registered Membership	Stockport
F16	Holben's Health Club	20	Registered Membership	Stockport
F17	Holben's Health Club	60	Pay and Play	Stockport
F18	Life Leisure Cheadle	50	Pay and Play	Stockport
F19	Life Leisure Hazel Grove	80	Pay and Play	Stockport
F20	Village The Hotel Club (Cheadle)	104	Registered Membership	Stockport
F21	Altrincham Leisure Centre	55	Pay and Play	Trafford
F22	Hale Country Club And Spa	200	Registered Membership	Trafford
F23	Marriott Leisure Club (Manchester Airport)	66	Registered Membership	Trafford
F24	Partington Sports Village	40	Pay and Play	Trafford
F25	Pure Gym (Altrincham)	220	Pay and Play	Trafford
F26	The Grammar	24	Pay and Play	Trafford
F27	Total Fitness (Altrincham)	200	Pay and Play	Trafford
F28	Lymm Leisure Centre	28	Pay and Play	Warrington

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Map ID	Active Places Site Name	Stations	Access Type	Local Authority
F29	Winsford Lifestyle Centre	42	Pay and Play	Cheshire West & Chester

The residents of Poynton and North Wilmslow in the north of the borough and those living in Congleton and Alsager (south east) are most likely to be commuting to the fitness gyms located in neighbouring authorities of Stockport, Cheshire West & Chester, Newcastle Under Lyne and Staffordshire Moorlands.

The residents of Middleswich only have one community accessible facility which is rated as below average quality and there is however an accessible facility in a neighbouring authority (Winsford Lifestyle Centre) located within the 10 minute drive time.

6.2: Demand

Keep fit and gym
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18.2% (52,187) of people currently take part in keep fit and gym and a further 7.1% (20,220) indicate that they would like to, giving an overall total of 25.3% (72,421). 28.1% of Chloe's take part in keep fit and gym, which is the largest proportion of any group taking part, closely followed by the Alison segment at 27.3%. The groups with the largest of the local population taking part in keep fit and gym are the Tim's (13.0%) and Chloe's (9.7%). The groups with the most people who would like to take part are Tim (10.8%) and Helena (10.4%). The main group to target, for additional participants due to size and interest is, therefore Tim.

Future developments

Kings School in Macclesfield has plans to build an 85sq^m fitness gym and 85sq^m dance studio within its planned school sports facility. However, this relates to a relatively small school based fitness suite accommodating circa 17 stations, therefore it is unlikely to have any significant impact on local demand.

Peter Mason Leisure Centre plans – council is currently looking to appoint a development partner to provide enhanced leisure provision on the site which will include a new replacement pool, and dry side refurb (sports hall and fitness offer) as a minimum.

Future demand

It is clear that the provision of high quality health and fitness facilities underpin the financial operation of leisure centres. Therefore, there has been a clear drive from the operators of public sector leisure facilities to ensure that space is created within centres to offer a good quality health and fitness product.

The quality of the health and fitness offer at Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust facilities is variable and there is a need to consider how this could be improved in order to increase participation and membership levels as well as reduce the financial burden on the Council.

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Therefore, there is a need for the Council and Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust to consider how they plan to increase the size, scale and quality of the health and fitness offer as a means of improving financial sustainability and increasing participation in the area. This is as much a business decision as it is based on demand; given that demand in this case is often a product of the supply of a high quality fitness offer.

6.3 Studios

Dance studios have become a very important element of the wider health, fitness and conditioning market. They vary in size, shape, quality of changing, access to sprung wooden floors etc. There appears to have been an increase in the numbers of people accessing fitness classes as identified in the fitness and conditioning element of Sport England's APS. The type of activity offered also varies massively between more passive classes such as Pilates and yoga to the more active dance, step and Zumba.

Figures 6.5 and Table 6.6 overleaf identify 59 studios at 35 sites, most in areas of high population density. 19 are rated good quality, 24 above average, ten below and none are poor. Reasons for the not assessed studios range from lack of access on the day to two sites (Ladyzone and FBI Gymnasium have permanently closed)

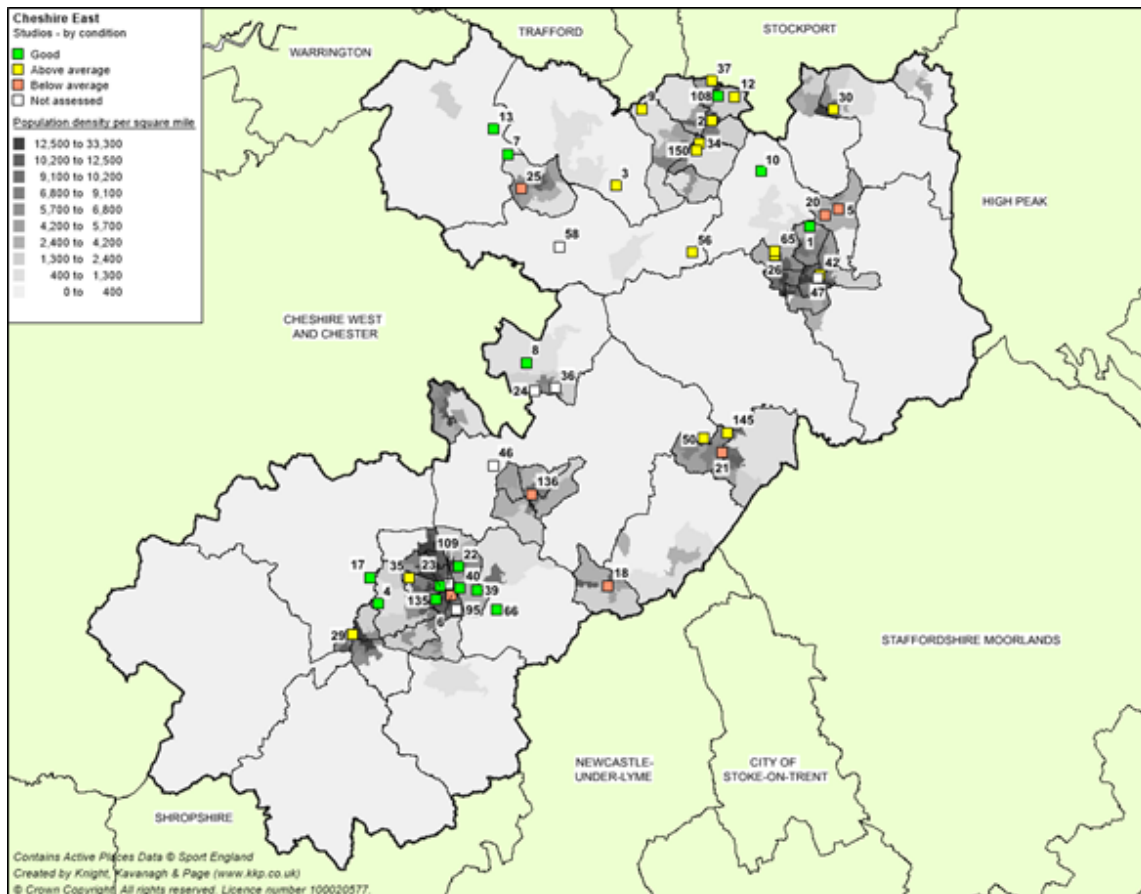
The majority of studio space, especially at Cheshire East facilities, is utilised to deliver fitness classes such as Pilates, Zumba and spinning. This is an important part of the membership offer. Consultation indicates that all studios are well used for fitness and exercise classes; a very important part of the wider membership offer for larger leisure centres, in particular.

Table 6.6: Quality rating of dance studios

Quality rating of assessed health and fitness studios				
Good	Above average	Below average	Poor	Not assessed
19	24	10	0	8

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Map 6.5: Studios in Cheshire East



The full list of studios can be found in *Appendix 3*.

6.4 Summary of key facts and issues – Health and Fitness

Quantity

- ◆ The report identifies 62 health and fitness suites, of which 50 have 20 stations or more.
- ◆ There are 59 studios at 35 sites, most in areas of high population density.

Quality

- ◆ 49 health and fitness suites were quality assessed: 16 are rated good, 21 above average, 9 below average with 4 sites obtaining a quality rating of poor.
- ◆ 19 studios are rated good quality, 24 above average, 10 below, and none are poor

Accessibility

- ◆ 68.9% of the population live within one mile of an accessible health and fitness suite.
- ◆ There are 28 fitness gyms with 20 stations+ within 2 miles of the local authority boundary, primarily in the north of the borough.
- ◆ Macclesfield residents have access to only one below average facility and no others within the 20min walk/ 2 mile boundary.
- ◆ There is less accessible health and fitness provision in Macclesfield and Congleton than the other towns of Crewe and Nantwich.

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Availability

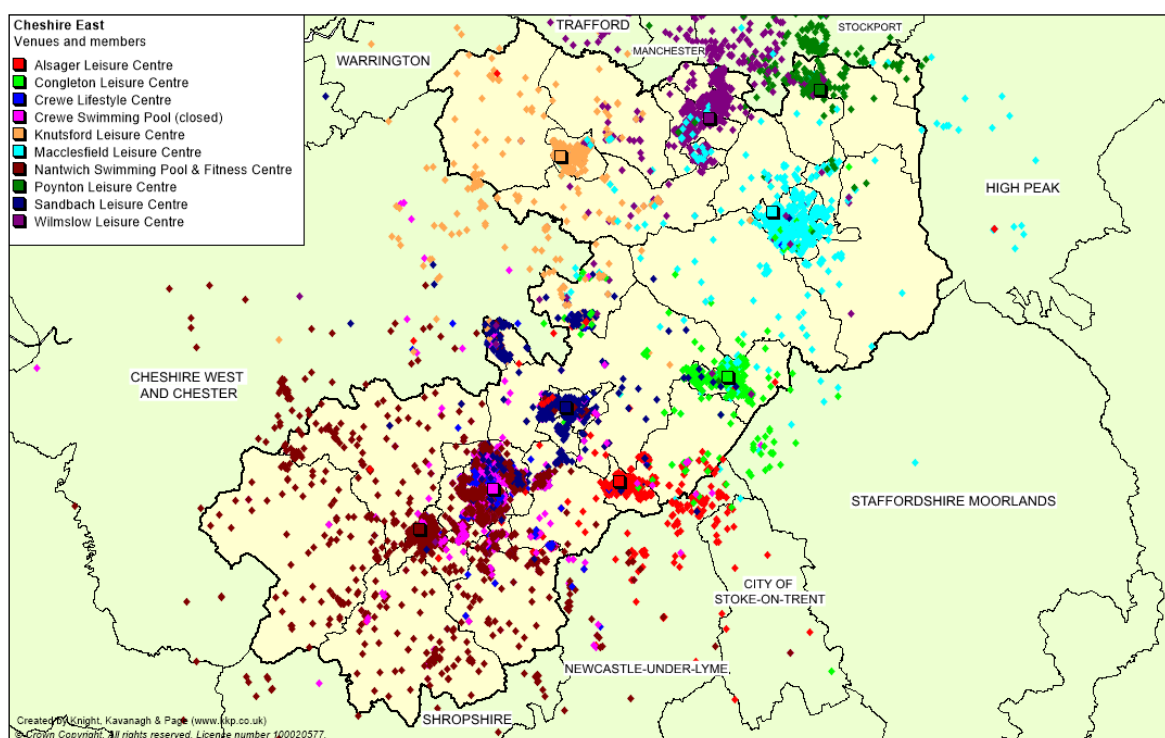
- ◀ 18.2% (52,187) of people currently take part in keep fit and gym and a further 7.1% (20,220) indicate that they would like to.

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SECTION 7: MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS

In order to determine the reach and significance of specific facilities, the raw data on users at the local authority owned leisure centres has been provided by Everybody Sport & Recreation in August 2016. This included the home location of all active users over a three month period. It includes all users that have activated their membership card over the analysis period. These members are able to access a range of facilities including swimming and health and fitness facilities. The following map shows where the live members reside in relation to the leisure centre they are a member of.

Map 7.1: Cascade live members by venue



It is clear that in general each facility serves its local population. However, there is some cross over of usage between the Macclesfield and Wilmslow areas and similarly the Crewe and Nantwich areas.

It is also important to reflect that Nantwich Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre attracts members from a significant distance, compared to other centres. The data provided covered the summer period when the outdoor pool is available. Therefore, the outdoor pool is similar to a specialist sports facility which people are prepared to travel further to access.

Table 7.1 identifies the levels at which individual facilities attract non-residents to them. It is clear that facilities closer to the border attract users from outside of the area. Clear examples of this include Poynton, Alsager and Wilmslow which attract 19.9%, 16.1% and 13.3% of users from outside of the local authority boundary. The Council and Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust will need to keep a watching brief on facility development proposals in the Stockport and Newcastle-Under-Lyme areas as these may impact on the number of users attracted from outside of the area.

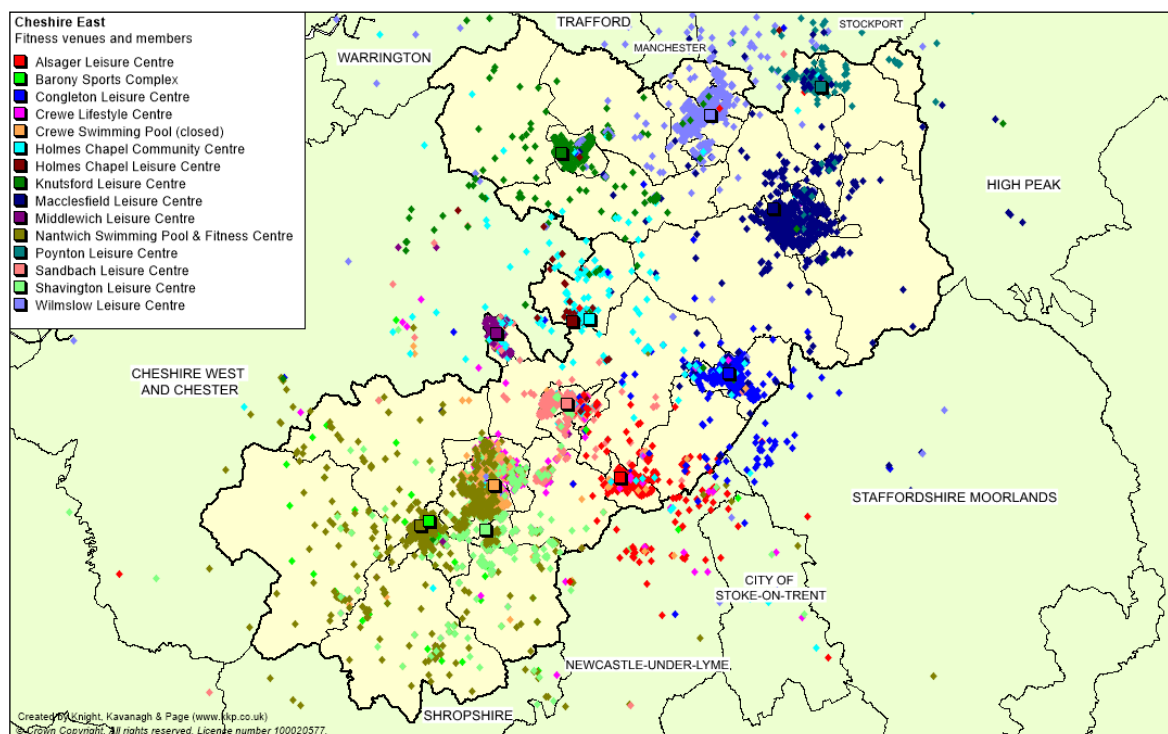
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Table 7.1: Cascade live members by venue and location

District	Alsager Leisure Centre	Peter Mason Leisure	Crewe Lifestyle Centre	Crewe Swimming Pool	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Macclesfield Leisure	Nantwich Swimming Pool	Poynton Leisure Centre	Sandbach Leisure Centre	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	Total
Cheshire East	79.1%	93.2%	97.5%	85.2%	86.5%	96.0%	85.7%	74.9%	97.5%	81.9%	87.3%
Neighbouring districts	16.1%	4.7%	0.4%	1.1%	9.7%	2.3%	2.7%	19.9%	0.5%	13.3%	5.1%
Other districts	2.8%	0.6%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%
Not mapped	2.0%	1.5%	2.1%	13.6%	3.8%	1.5%	11.5%	5.0%	1.8%	4.7%	7.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Looking at fitness members per facility it is clear that there is some crossover of members and there is a clear draw from outside of the area.

Map 7.2: Fitness members by venue



It is clear that some facilities are not performing as well as others with regard to health and fitness membership. Clear examples of this includes leisure centres in Poynton, Sandbach, Wilmslow and Knutsford where, given the population make up it would be expected that more members would be achieved.

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Table 7.2 - Fitness members by venue and location

District	Number of members		Cheshire East	Neighbouring districts	Other districts	Not mapped	Total
Alsager Leisure Centre	687		87.9%	9.3%	1.2%	1.7%	100%
Barony Sports Complex	352		95.9%	1.1%	0.3%	2.7%	100%
Peter Mason Leisure Centre	611		89.7%	7.0%	0.7%	2.5%	100%
Crewe Lifestyle Centre	1,787		97.7%	1.0%	0.4%	0.9%	100%
Crewe Swimming Pool	841		96.9%	0.8%	0.1%	2.2%	100%
Holmes Chapel Community Centre	905		91.5%	5.7%	1.6%	1.2%	100%
Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	57		87.7%	9.2%	0.0%	3.1%	100%
Knutsford Leisure Centre	707		88.2%	4.7%	0.7%	6.4%	100%
Macclesfield Leisure Centre	1,506		96.4%	1.2%	0.2%	2.2%	100%
Middlewich Leisure Centre	127		97.7%	1.5%	0.8%	0.0%	100%
Nantwich Swimming Pool	1,604		95.1%	2.0%	1.0%	2.0%	100%
Poynton Leisure Centre	346		91.1%	7.1%	0.5%	1.3%	100%
Sandbach Leisure Centre	556		93.9%	1.4%	0.5%	4.2%	100%
Shavington Leisure Centre	1,236		95.4%	1.3%	0.6%	2.7%	100%
Wilmslow Leisure Centre	765		80.9%	12.4%	3.5%	3.3%	100%
Total	12,087		93.1%	3.7%	0.9%	2.3%	100%

However, it is clear that the analysis reflects that many of the Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust fitness suites are relatively small in scale and are not attractive enough to attract larger numbers of members. Many fitness suites are between 20 to 40 stations which is small in comparison to some of the main competitors which are offering 80 to 200 fitness stations within their health and fitness facilities.

Many leisure management organisations and Trusts have increased the size of their fitness facilities in a drive to increase income and reduce subsidy. This has obviously been the case with Crewe Lifestyles Centre and the current thinking for Peter Mason LC; therefore, the Council and Trust will need to consider this as a focus for delivering efficiencies for the coming years.

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SECTION 8: INDOOR BOWLS

8.1 Introduction

The three forms of bowls that can be played indoors that require a different venue are flat green, crown green and carpet mat (short and long mat)

Indoor flat green bowls requires a standard bowling green; a flat area 34-40 metres long divided into playing areas called rinks. The number of these varies, depending on the width of the green.

Crown green bowls requires a standard crown green, artificial grass (carpeted) area of approximately 38m by 38m which is crowned i.e. higher in the centre than round the perimeter. Indoor crown greens are relatively rare – substantially less common than those provided for flat green bowls.

Carpet mat bowls is played on a rectangular carpet (45 x 6 feet) that is rolled out. It can be accommodated in any indoor space large enough to fit the mats which come in different lengths. Carpet mat bowls tends to be played at a recreational level whereas indoor flat and crown green bowls tend to be more competitive and organised around inter-club competitions and leagues.

An indoor bowling centre typically comprises a single flat green with a number of rinks and ancillary accommodation such as changing rooms, lounge/bar, viewing area, kitchen, office/meeting rooms and stores plus designated car parking. The size of ancillary accommodation varies according to the number of rinks available.

A successful indoor bowls centre requires a combination of the right location, design, and financial and general management. Sport England⁴ guidelines on catchment for indoor bowls centres are set out to be interpreted in the light of local circumstances:

- ◀ Assume the majority of users will live locally and not travel more than 20 minutes.
- ◀ Assume 90% of users will travel by car, with the remainder by foot.
- ◀ As a guide, demand is calculated as one rink per 14,000-17,000 of total population.
- ◀ A six-rink green, therefore, is required for a population of 85,000-100,000. This will be dependent upon the population profile of the area.
- ◀ The number of rinks required can be related to the estimated number of members, assume 80-100 members per rink.

The English Bowls Association (EIBA) is the NGB for bowls. Its stated objectives are:

- ◀ A growth in participation across the adult population in local communities. Targeted work to increase female participation.
- ◀ A growth in participation in the 14-25 age range, plus working with primary schools (Year 3 & 4 – age 7 to 9).
- ◀ The provision of an excellent sporting experience for new and existing participants.
- ◀ A growth in indoor bowls participation by people who have disabilities.

⁴ Sport England Design Guidance Note Indoor Bowls 2005

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8.2 Supply

There are no purpose-built indoor bowls facilities within Cheshire East, or within close proximity to the area. Many of the Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust facilities as well as other community halls provide long and short mat bowling facilities depending on the size of the hall and mats available.

Consultation has not identified any proposals for an indoor bowls centre in Cheshire East at the present time. However, given the continual reduction in local authority funding, the development of an indoor bowls facility will in all likelihood need to be a commercial decision or one based on specific regeneration initiatives.

8.3 Demand

In theoretical terms (i.e. based on the population of the area) there may be a need for as many as 29 indoor bowls rinks, rising to 32 by 2037. However, this assumes that this level of demand is out there waiting to use indoor bowls facilities.

Consultation has not identified any aspiration from any specific clubs or organisations to develop an indoor bowls facility. The key challenge for indoor bowls facilities is that they have an income profile over six months (i.e. winter months) with the majority of users preferring to play outdoors in the summer months. Therefore, the business case for a successful indoor bowls facility relies heavily on the alternative use of the facility over the summer months. This is on the basis that six months of bowls income is insufficient to sustain a facility for the full year.

8.4 Summary of key facts and issues – Indoor Bowls

There is currently an under supply of indoor bowls in the area and with the population increases it is estimated that by 2037 there will be demand for 32 rinks. However, any development is unlikely to be provided through public sector funding and will need to be economically sustainable from the outset. There is currently no identified appetite or funding from the bowls community to develop a new indoor bowls facility within the area.

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SECTION 9: OTHER SPORTS

Cheshire East has a good spread of squash courts across the main population centres in the area. The area has nine facilities with three or more courts, enabling a comprehensive squash programme and competition base to be delivered. This level of provision is good compared to other local authorities throughout the country and one which should potentially be capitalised on with the NGB.

Fig 9.1 Cheshire East Squash by condition on PD – neighbouring squash within 2 miles LA boundary, each with 1 mile radial (20 minute walk time)

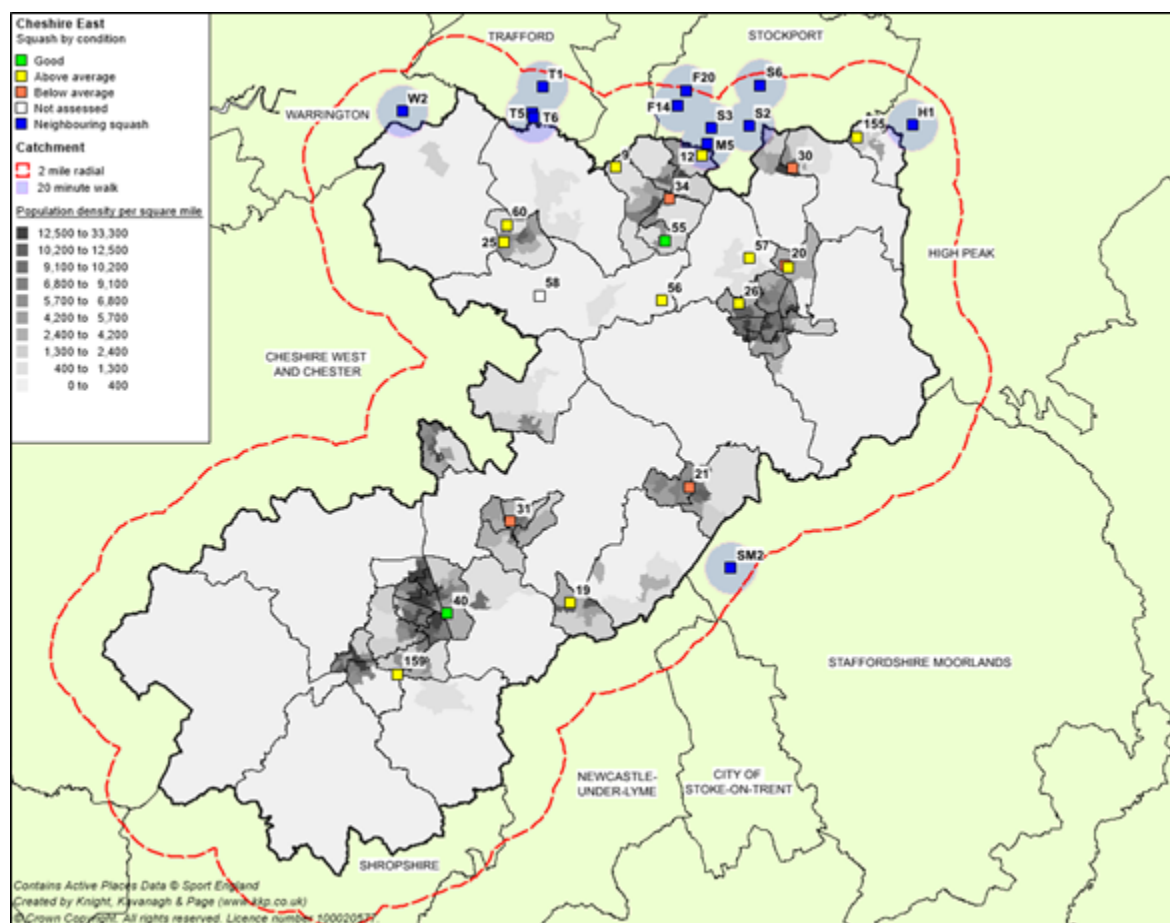


Table 9.1: Cheshire East Squash facilities

Map ID	Site Name	Access Policy	Courts	Glass Backed	Condition
9	Spindles Health & Leisure	Pay and Play	1	0	Above average
12	Total Fitness (Wilmslow)	Registered Member	3	0	Above average
19	Alsager Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	3	0	Above average
20	Bollington Health & Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	1	0	Below average
20	Bollington Health & Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	0	1	Above average

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Map ID	Site Name	Access Policy	Courts	Glass Backed	Condition
21	Peter Mason Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	3	0	Below average
25	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	1	0	Above average
26	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	4	0	Above average
30	Poynton Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	1	0	Below average
31	Sandbach Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	2	0	Below average
34	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	3	0	Below average
40	Total Fitness (Crewe)	Registered Member	0	2	Good
55	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Sports Club/Comm. Assoc.	2	0	Good
55	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Sports Club/Comm. Assoc.	0	2	Good
56	Club AZ	Registered Member	2	0	Above average
56	Club AZ	Registered Member	1	0	Above average
57	Prestbury Squash Rackets Club	Pay and Play	4	0	Above average
58	Nuffield Fitness & Wellbeing Centre	Private Use	1	0	Not assessed
60	Knutsford Sports Club	Registered Member	2	0	Above average
155	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Sports Club/Comm. Assoc.	1	0	Above average
159	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club Ltd	Registered Member	2	0	Above average
159	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club Ltd	Registered Member	1	0	Above average

9.1 England Squash and Racketball (ESR)

Consultation with ESR identifies that participation in squash will be increased and enhanced by 11,000 across three platforms, education, leisure providers (commercial & public) and clubs. This work will be done through four key principles – Prioritisation, Technology, Insight, and Business to business. Recently APS showed a 15,200 increase in squash participation with the NGB on track to continue to sustain participation throughout the remainder of the current strategy period.

Squash 57 is the new innovative name for Racketball, as it fits within the squash family. The name change from October 2016 is intended to change the perception of the game and bring it in line with squash, which will enable the sport to continue to grow. The 57 element is built around the diameter of the ball which should be played with, this previously has not been standardised.

Cheshire East was until recently a priority area for ESR, which will be reviewed again when the new 2017-2021 strategy is released. ESR will be prioritising areas across the country and given that Cheshire East has quite a large stock of public squash courts (in comparison to other areas) it will determine if Cheshire East fits the criteria within the facilities and

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development elements of its strategy. Facilities with 3 courts or more are best placed to deliver a good sustainable squash programme.

Key public sites in the CE area are Wilmslow Leisure Centre, Macclesfield Leisure Centre and Alsager Leisure centre. Key clubs for the area are:

- ◀ Crewe Squash Club
- ◀ Prestbury Squash Club
- ◀ Macclesfield Squash Club
- ◀ Knutsford Squash Club

ESR has highlighted the need for a better squash programme across all sites and for clubs and leisure operators to work in collaboration to develop the programme and playing opportunities, and for coaches to be available especially at off peak times.

ESR is concerned that the loss of courts in the area could affect the growth of the sport and programme delivery. The NGB has support in place for public facilities and clubs to grow and sustain participation to prevent courts sitting empty.

The Leisure operator (ESAR) and the Council have identified the need to improve the quality of the health and fitness offer at Sandbach LC and have developed plans to develop this in the two squash courts currently available on site. This will reduce the level of squash provision in the area.

Squash and Racketball (Squash 57)

- ◀ 1.3% (3,675) of people currently plays squash and racketball and a further 0.8% (2,250) indicate that they would like to, giving an overall total of 2.1% (5,926).
- ◀ 3.9% of Ben's play squash and racketball, which is the largest proportion of any group playing squash and racketball, closely followed by the Tim segment at 3.4%.
- ◀ The groups with the largest of the local population playing squash and racketball are the Tim's (31.1%) and Philip's (18.9%).
- ◀ The groups with the most people who would like to play are Tim (26.4%) and Philip (19.6%).
- ◀ The main group to target, for additional players due to size and interest is, therefore Tim.

9.2 Summary – Squash

Quantity

- ◀ Cheshire East has a relatively good supply of squash courts with nine sites providing three or more courts.
- ◀ Macclesfield, Wilmslow, Alsager, Total Fitness and Prestbury are key sites for England Squash & Racketball as they can offer a good squash programme as they have 3 or more courts. Other sites with 3 or more courts include: Crewe Vagrants, Club AZ, Peter Mason LC and Alderley Edge Cricket Club.

Quality

- ◀ The majority of squash facilities in the area are rated good or above average; although four facilities operated by the Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust are below average.

Accessibility

- ◀ There is a mixture of access policies for the sites.
- ◀ There are 10 sites with squash courts within 2 mile of the Cheshire East boundary.

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Availability

- ◆ There will be a loss of 2 squash courts at Sandbach LC as a result of a health and fitness development.

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9.3 Fives

Eton Fives is a hand-ball game, played in a three-sided court. It is only played as "doubles". Players wear padded leather gloves, since the ball (which is slightly large than a golf-ball and made of rubber and cork) is quite hard. It is in the same sporting "family" as other hand ball games

Fives is a sport that is in essence one of the oldest, simplest & most natural games in the world. It is played in a court smaller than a squash court and the game consists of hitting a ball up against a wall. Leather gloves are usually worn, but the game can be played bare handed with a tennis ball or other soft balls.

The code of Eton Fives is slower in some respects with a three walled court that has added features of ledges on the walls, a step across the middle, and a buttress on the left hand side of the court. It is a game of hazards, where in the irregular court, the ball bounces around like a pinball against its features, but you learn how it behaves so rallies can last for 30 to 40 shots.

In Cheshire East there is one Fives court located at Beech Hall School in Macclesfield. The school has developed the court to add to the sporting offer to the senior age students at the school and intend to compete in national competitions.

The court is reported to be of above average quality and accessible only by the students and staff at Beech Hall School.

9.4 Indoor tennis

There are no indoor tennis centres within Cheshire East at present. The main provision of indoor tennis centres lies to the North and North West of the Borough and consist of a range of David Lloyd clubs, LTA indoor tennis centres and tennis club facilities. Consultation has not identified any aspiration from any specific clubs or organisations to develop an indoor tennis facility.

The key challenge for indoor tennis facilities is that they have an income profile over six months (i.e. winter months) with the majority of users preferring to play outdoors in the summer months. Therefore, the business case for a successful indoor tennis facility relies heavily on maximising income over the winter months in order to sustain the facility. In fact many club based indoor tennis facilities require ancillary facilities to provide a sustainable income source over the full year and many have provided health and fitness or café/bar facilities to provide this financial underpinning.

There is currently an under supply of indoor tennis facilities in the area, which is likely to increase as the population grows. However, any development is unlikely to be provided through public sector funding and will need to be economically sustainable from the outset. There is currently no identified appetite or funding from the tennis community to develop a new indoor tennis facility within the area.

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SECTION 10: SETTLEMENT ANALYSIS SUMMARY

The following has been calculated using the indicative population figures in Table 2.2 and the sports facilities calculator, both are indicators and are not prescriptive or definitive and are likely to change.

Alsager:

There is one six court hall (below average), one four lane 25m pool (above average) three squash courts and two fitness gyms with a combined total of 69 stations in facilities in the area.

There is planned investment in Alsager Leisure Centre for a gym extension and two new studio spaces to improve the health and fitness offer in the area.

It is anticipated that there will be 2,000 new homes in the area which will increase the population by 3,201 people creating additional demand for 1 badminton court (halls), 0.5 of a swimming pool lane.

Key challenge: to improve the quality of the sports hall provision in the area.

Congleton:

There is one six court hall (Peter Mason Leisure Centre) and two four court sports halls (Congleton High and Eaton Bank Academy). There is a six lane 25m pool and 3 squash courts (PMLC) and a total of 150 community use fitness stations.

At the time of audit there is a planned redevelopment of the Peter Mason Leisure Centre which will enhance the leisure offer at the site. In part this redevelopment will be 'commercially led' in order to ensure longer term financial sustainability.

Potential risks are that the redevelopment of the Peter Mason Leisure Centre may not replace all the activity areas currently available.

Congleton is anticipated to have 4,150 new homes which will increase the population by 6,700 people creating additional demand of 2 badminton courts (halls), 1.5 lanes of a swimming pool.

Key Challenge: There is a need to retain and enhance the facility mix at Peter Mason Leisure Centre as a priority and to ensure this is financially sustainable in the longer term.

Crewe:

There are four x six court halls, four x four court halls and three x three court halls in the town. There are four good pools, each targeting a different market. There are 2 squash courts and a total of 915 fitness stations.

Given the recent opening of Crewe Lifestyles Centre, there are no indoor sports facilities developments planned at the time of audit in the area.

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The potential loss of the two x four court sports halls and 50 station fitness gym at Manchester Metropolitan University (Crewe) campus would negatively impact on the availability of provision for the local community.

Crewe is planned to have 7,700 new homes which will increase the population by 12,401 creating additional demand for 3.5 badminton courts, and 2.5 lanes of a swimming pool.

Key challenge: to retain the sports halls at the Manchester Metropolitan University (Crewe) campus or to negotiate suitable replacement facilities within an appropriate location within the town.

Handforth:

There are is one fitness gym (good quality) with 145 community accessible stations.

It is anticipated that there will be 2,200 new houses which will increase the population by 3,501 creating a small increase in demand for indoor sports facilities, which is not sufficient to warrant any new sports halls or pools. Handforth is adjacent to Wilmslow and key settlements within the adjoining authority and can potentially be served by core sports facilities within these areas. However, this does not negate the potential need for smaller scale community facilities.

Key challenge: To ensure that the increased demand for sports facilities as a result of the development of new housing in Handforth can be accommodated within strategic development in Wilmslow and/or the adjacent authority. To consider how community facilities within Handforth can accommodate physical activity programmes for localised demand.

Knutsford:

There is one six court hall, one four court hall and one three court hall. The six and four court halls are rated below average. There is one four lane 25m pool (below average), two squash courts and 71 community accessible fitness stations.

It is anticipated that there will be 950 new houses and a population increase of 1,501 people creating additional demand for 0.5 badminton courts, and 0.5 lanes of a swimming pool.

Key challenges: To improve the quality of sports halls and increase the quality and provision of both water space and fitness provision available within the town.

Macclesfield:

There is one eight court hall, one six court hall, two four court halls, and one three court hall. Only the 3 court hall is rated below average, the others are above average.

In terms of swimming pools, there is one 8 lane 25m pool, one 20m 4 lane pool; both of which are community pools and two smaller pools within fitness clubs (DW fitness and The Club & Spa at the Shrigley Hall Hotel & Golf Country Club). There are 23 squash courts and a total of 435 community accessible fitness stations.

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In general the quality of facilities in the area is good with no major causes for concern at this stage.

There is planned development in the area at the Kings School Macclesfield, which will consist of a new six court sports hall and six lane 25m pool. In addition to this there are plans to redevelop the Club AZ facilities at Alderley Park (although this is slightly outside of the area). Both of these facilities will have community access as well as their core education and employment use respectively.

It is anticipated that there will be 4,250 new houses in the area which will increase the local population by circa 6,800 people. The majority of development will be in the south of the town, whereas the majority of the community accessible facilities are located to the north or just outside of the town. New housing growth and increased population will generate additional demand for 2 badminton courts, and 1.5 lanes (swimming pools).

Key challenge: to provide access to community facilities for existing and new residents in the south of the town.

Middlewich:

There is one six court hall (below average quality) and two below average rated fitness gyms with a combined total of 59 stations. Although Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust manages Middlewich LC as if there is a community use agreement in place; however no formal agreement exists.

It is anticipated that there will be 1950 new homes which will increase the population by 3,101 people creating a demand for an additional 1 badminton courts, and 0.5 lanes of a swimming pool.

Middlewich is within the catchment area of the Winsford Lifestyle Centre (in Cheshire West) and Sandbach Leisure Centre, both of which are within 10 minute's drive. However, there is still a need to ensure that the quality of Middlewich LC is improved in order to sustain community demand.

Key challenge = future investment should be to improve the quality of the Middlewich Leisure Centre.

Nantwich:

There are two six court halls, and one three court hall all are rated below average. There is one public accessible six lane 25m pool and one small commercial pool at Rookery Hall. An outdoor brine pool is also available on a seasonable basis in the area. There are three squash courts and a combined total of 161 fitness stations available for use. It is also worth noting that the Council owned health and fitness provision is spread over two sites.

There is a planned development of indoor sports facilities at Reasheath College where a four court sports hall is planned.

It is anticipated that there will be 2,050 new homes which will increase the population by 3,301, creating demand for an additional 1 badminton court sports hall and 0.5 lanes of a swimming pool.

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Key challenge: Given that the provision of sports halls is limited to educational sites, it is imperative that community use agreements are secured for these sites and that their quality is improved. In order to maximise the impact of and income from health and fitness it would make sense to concentrate provision on a single site, ideally at Nantwich Pool & Fitness Centre.

Poynton:

There is one six court sports hall, a 4 lane 20m pool, one squash court and 50 station fitness suite, all available at Poynton Leisure Centre.

It is anticipated there will be 650 new homes which will increase the population by 1,001 people creating demand for an additional 0.5 badminton courts (halls), and 0.5 lanes of a swimming pool. There is currently an under supply of water space in this area as well as the need to improve the quality of the health and fitness offer.

Key challenge: To increase the size of the swimming pool and available water space and to Ensure the maximum community use during the day, alongside improving the quality of the health and fitness offer.

Sandbach:

There is one six court sports hall a four court hall (both of which are below average quality). There is also one 5 lane 25m pool and a 4 lane 22m pool (both of which are below average quality). There are two squash courts and a total of 51 fitness stations available.

There are plans to convert the squash provision at Sandbach LC to accommodate increased demand for health and fitness in the area. This will result in the loss of both courts.

It is anticipated that there will be 2,750 new homes which will increase the population by 3,401 creating additional demand for a one badminton court sports hall and 1 lane of a swimming pool.

Key challenge: need to improve the quality of the sports halls and swimming pools in the area, especially at Sandbach LC, where the investment in health and fitness will highlight this more acutely.

Wilmslow:

There are three four court sports halls located at Wilmslow LC and Wilmslow High School. Swimming pool provision is relatively high with one 5 lane 25m pool at Wilmslow LC, a 6 lane 25m pool at Total Fitness and three smaller pools locates at fitness facilities. There are seven squash courts and a total of 513 fitness stations.

In general the quality of provision appears to be good, other than at Wilmslow LC which is currently below average quality.

It is anticipated that there will be 900 new homes which will increase the population by 1,401 creating demand for an additional 0.5 badminton court, and 0.5 swimming pool lanes. Therefore, the currently supply would appear to be adequate for the local demand. However,

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this also needs to be reviewed within the context of future housing growth in Handforth which is in close proximity to the Wilmslow catchment.

Key challenge: To take account of housing and population growth in both Wilmslow and Handforth and to improve the quality of the facilities currently available at Wilmslow LC.

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SECTION 11 SWOT ANALYSIS

The following SWOT analysis identifies key issues for discussion;

11.1 Strengths

- ◀ Cheshire East recognises the importance of its leisure facility stock to health and well-being and is committed to its retention via the presumption (in Planning Policy) against any net loss of active sport and leisure facilities in the Borough.
- ◀ There is a good spread of high quality community accessible sports halls.
- ◀ There has been, and there is investment into integrated services buildings “lifestyle” centres in the Borough.
- ◀ The area is served by a relatively high number of 6 court sports halls.
- ◀ Almost all school sports hall sites offer some level of community access.
- ◀ Most sports venues are located in areas of higher population density; for example 82% of residents live within a 20-minute walk time of a 3+ court hall.
- ◀ Almost all 3 courts plus halls offer in excess of 20 hours community use.
- ◀ Swimming is popular in Cheshire East; with all of the areas accessible swimming pools being well used by both the public and a range of aquatic clubs.
- ◀ The health and fitness offer in Cheshire East is strong with the majority of the stock either good or above average.
- ◀ Cheshire East has seen a 5% increase in activity since 2005 and is now the most active authority in the North West. The area is characterised by having key areas of affluence with a high propensity to participate in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ The area has a higher than average % of population with sports memberships and sports participation; with gym and swimming being the most popular activities
- ◀ 94% of the swimming demand is thought to be satisfied.
- ◀ 37 of the 50 health and fitness gyms assessed are rated as good or above average.

11.2: Weaknesses

- ◀ Average age of swimming pools is 39 years old.
- ◀ The absence of any publicly accessible (non-commercial) indoor tennis, and indoor bowls.
- ◀ Some school sports halls are not suitably sized for the main traditional sports (i.e. netball and basketball)
- ◀ The school use of Macclesfield LC (i.e. Fallibroome and Kings School Macclesfield) has a more profound negative impact on community use during the daytime than other areas.
- ◀ Just under half of the sports hall stock is rated below average, with changing facilities slightly worse than this.
- ◀ The future of Manchester Met (Crewe Campus) is uncertain at this stage and requires clarification. The loss of this site will have a negative impact on the provision within the area.
- ◀ Basketball, gymnastics and netball have capacity to increase participation but are hindered by the lack of available facilities at appropriate times.
- ◀ Strategic programming of sports is required to ensure that there is sufficient access for a range of sports e.g. focusing specific sports within specific facilities.
- ◀ There are five facilities theoretically full or operating at capacity.
- ◀ Crewe and Macclesfield are identified as areas with a “poorer share” of sports halls
- ◀ Knutsford and Sandbach are identified as areas with poor quality swimming pools; but there are no plans currently in place to address this.
- ◀ The size and scale of the public sector health and fitness offer limits its ability to attract high

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numbers of members.

- It would appear that liaison between the Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust and NGBs is minimal and that this role is performed by the Council.

11.3 Opportunities

- There is a large market of people wanting to participate in Health and fitness activities (22,000) which the Council and its operator could take advantage of.
- There are a number of sites with aspirations to develop facilities to meet the needs of the community.
- The potential exists to focus sports within specific facilities to enable them to grow and expand, thus increasing participation e.g. (netball, basketball and gymnastics).
- The redevelopment of Peter Mason LC presents an opportunity for the Council and the Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust to punctuate the programming of the centre and develop a clear sports development based programme in partnership with NGBs.
- The development of indoor facilities at the Kings School Macclesfield (which will be available for community use) and Alderley Park presents an opportunity for the Council and its partners to develop a co-ordinated programme; which delivers improved access arrangements for all residents.
- There is significant housing growth planned for CE which will increase demand as well as provide potential sources of funding to invest in facilities.
- The potential re-location of the Manchester Met (Crewe Campus) presents an opportunity to retain relatively new sports facilities for community use.
- Squash is a sport where Cheshire East has an exemplar stock of facilities and is a potential area to develop a close working relationship with the NGB.

11.4: Threats

- The Council and Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust will need to operate within a climate of increasing financial constraints.
- Cheshire East will need to deal with increasing age related health challenges of its resident population.
- The potential relocation of Manchester Met (Crewe campus) could result in the loss of a community accessible sports facility within the area.
- If the Council and Trust do not develop a strategy to deal with poor quality facilities their quality will continually decline and usage suffer.
- If the Council and Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust does not improve the quality of the health and fitness offer across the Borough this may attract an increasing budget gym offer; which will in turn undermine the financial sustainability of the Trust.
- The development of new sports facilities in the Stockport area could have a negative impact on the trading position of those facilities located adjacent to the border.
- The absence of strategic programming of facilities could impact negatively on participation growth within certain sports.
- Not protecting access to school sports halls with binding community use agreements could lead to a potential loss of access for the community.
- Not enough facilities available in the daytime to accommodate for the aging population.

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11.5: Strategic recommendations

The following strategic drivers should be considered within the next stage of the process in order to develop the medium to long term indoor and built facilities strategy for Cheshire East:

- ◀ Continue to maintain key facilities to their current quality by ensuring sufficient funds are available to do so.
- ◀ Identify funding to replace or substantially upgrade existing facilities which are beyond their anticipated life expectancy.
- ◀ Protect community access to key facilities (through community use agreements) where there is no agreement in place and there is the potential risk that facilities could fall out of community use.
- ◀ Ensure that the community use of any new facilities developed are protected by community use agreements.
- ◀ Maximise the investment into existing and new sports facilities through the effective use of the Council's planning system.
- ◀ Ensure that the indoor and built provision required for the future also links to the findings within the Playing Pitch Strategy.
- ◀ The strategic programming of sports facilities to ensure that there is sufficient access for a range of key sports to enable them to grow and increase participation.
- ◀ Where appropriate work with key clubs to identify opportunities to develop specialist facilities for their individual sports.
- ◀ Improve the quality of the health and fitness offer across key facilities in order to improve the financial sustainability of the Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust.
- ◀

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APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Local Infrastructure plan:

Recreation and sporting facilities

6.51 The provision of public indoor sports facilities is a discretionary service provided by the Council, but one that is highly valued by local communities. Indoor sports facilities provide a vital opportunity for residents to engage in physical activity and they therefore play a key role in maintaining and improving the health of the public generally.

6.52 Private/commercial provision exists throughout most of the Borough; however this does not cater for a variety of sports for the whole community, unlike Council provision.

6.53 There are many formal joint use agreements with the Schools. These can cause issues when looking to expand facilities due to the strict boundaries involved.

6.54 Having taken account of the development proposed in the Local Plan Strategy the capacity issues are as follows:

In Alsager:

The Council will look to retain the existing leisure facilities and swimming pool but enhance and improve them in the future by negotiating capital contributions from any future planning applications.

This additional funding would be used to enhance and add additional capacity particularly in respect of the swimming pool and the health and fitness offer.

In Congleton:

The Leisure Centre is now outdated with a poor layout making it difficult to convert and adapt the existing facilities.

It requires significant investment for modernisation and upgrading. The existing site is well located and there is room for redevelopment and/or expansion.

There is a strategic aspiration to develop an integrated Lifestyles Centre combining leisure facilities and programmes with related programmes offered by adult services, children and families and potentially library and associated services, retaining the pool in situ and building around it.

In Crewe:

The size, age and layout of the existing swimming pool complex at Crewe is now inadequate to meet modern day needs and local demand. Currently plans are advanced to provide a new replacement pool as part of the single integrated Lifestyle Centre.

The facility is intended to integrate and rationalise other existing leisure, adult day care and children and families' services and facilities currently operated elsewhere in older buildings less fit for modern day needs and requirements.

Further expansion of the new facility could also be possible to meet any short to medium term demand arising from any new housing developments in Crewe subject to the provision of additional developer contributions.

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In Holmes Chapel:

Emerging plans for further housing development and population growth could be met by existing indoor and outdoor dry sports facilities available but further pressures could emerge on the already stretched nearest swimming pool provision in Sandbach and Congleton.

In Knutsford:

The Leisure Centre is now in need of further investment and refurbishment and the lack of sufficient capacity to meet growing educational and community demands, and in particular the small swimming pool, needs to be addressed.

The current layout of the indoor facilities, and in particular the swimming pool, is constrained, which will make the development of further capacity at the site more difficult than similar facilities elsewhere.

The current all weather pitch is of the sand filled variety and will need re-laying and refurbishing, preferably as a 3G surface, in the next 2 to 3 years.

In Macclesfield:

Some further modest investment in the existing Leisure Centre and athletics stadium would re-shape and enhance the offer and capacity available there to meet growing needs for this side of the town as part of the 'leisure corridor' involving the Leisure Centre, Fallibroome High School and the Rugby Club.

Further consideration needs to be given to the possibilities for developing extra dry and wet leisure provision for the South and East of the town. In Middlewich:

In Middlewich:

There are currently no formal agreements in place to make sure that the existing facilities remain available for local people at Middlewich Leisure Centre in the future.

The lack of any swimming pool in the town places additional pressure on the nearest alternative swimming (and small) pool at Sandbach and on the pool provided by Cheshire West and Chester Council at Winsford.

KKP Comment: whilst there is no community use agreement in place at Middlewich High School, all parties work to a previous agreement that has been in place for many years.

In Nantwich:

Whilst the recent investment has significantly improved the quality of the facilities available and the capacity of the venue for health and fitness programmes, future demand pressures from developments in and around the town would continue to affect the limited indoor swimming capacity, particularly when the outdoor pool is not available.

A scheme has been proposed in the past involving the provision of a retractable roof system designed to bring the outdoor pool into all year round use, and therefore increase available water space and swimmer capacity, whilst retaining the unique nature and attraction of outdoor swimming during the summer months and when the weather is favourable. However, to date, the necessary funding for such a scheme has not been available.

In Poynton:

The small 20m, four-lane swimming pool is a third of the size of the nearest alternative pool provision at Wilmslow Leisure Centre and community use is also severely restricted Monday

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to Friday during term time due to programming demands of the High School and local primary schools.

Given the growing population in the Poynton area an increase in the size of the available swimming pool would help meet growing community demand whilst retaining capacity to meet educational requirements.

The dry facilities would benefit from improved outdoor sports facility provision such as a floodlit 3G pitch shared with the High School.

In Sandbach:

Access to the main leisure facilities, and in particular to the small swimming pool, for community programmes is very restricted, particularly during the day due to the demands for educational use.

Plans for further housing and population growth in and around the town would mean that there is a case for further investment and the development of extra capacity in terms of the swimming pool, particularly if no additional pool provision is likely in nearby Middlewich and Holmes Chapel.

Site constraints would, however, make further investments and expansion difficult to achieve on this site.

KKP Comment: It is understood there is currently a proposal for a capital investment to create a new fitness gym on the site.

In Shavington:

The artificial floodlit pitch will need refurbishment and upgrading to 3G in the next 2 to 3 years.

In Wilmslow:

Although key areas of the Leisure Centre need further refurbishment and modernisation in the main, the capacity of the current facilities provided by the Centre are adequate to meet local demand other than at very peak times.

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Social Infrastructure Delivery Schedule











6.55 The Infrastructure Delivery Schedule in Table 5 identifies the particular schemes that aim to address the capacity issues identified for social infrastructure.

Project	Location	Status	Timescale of delivery	Estimated cost of provision	Funding sources	Committed funds (including CIL/S106 split)	Funding gap	Responsibility	Notes
Recreation and sporting facilities									
Extra pool lane and additional health and fitness accommodation and improvements to main entrance and reception area	Alsager	To be confirmed	Unknown	£1.5m	Developer contributions	None	£1.5m	Cheshire East Council in partnership with the proposed Leisure Trust	
Lifestyle Centre	Congleton	To be confirmed	Unknown	£10m	Developer contributions of £2m to £3m	None	£10m	Cheshire East Council in partnership with the proposed Leisure Trust	
Lifestyle Centre	Crewe	Programmed	Completion Jan 2015	£15m	Council's Capital Programme.	£15m	Fully funded	Cheshire East Council in partnership with the proposed Leisure Trust	
Expansion of the Lifestyle Centre to include a sports hall and extra pool lanes	Crewe	To be confirmed	Unknown	£3m	Developer Contributions	None	£3m	Cheshire East Council in partnership with the proposed Leisure Trust	
Additional dry and wet leisure provision to serve the south and east of Macclesfield	Macclesfield	To be confirmed	Unknown	£10m	Unknown	None	£10m	Cheshire East Council in partnership with the proposed Leisure Trust	
Modest investment in Leisure Centre and athletics stadium	Macclesfield	To be confirmed	Unknown	£100,000	Unknown	None	£100,000	Cheshire East Council in partnership with the proposed Leisure Trust	
Total recreation and sporting facilities funding gap of costed schemes							£27,100,000		











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APPENDIX 2: SPORT ENGLAND MARKET SEGMENTATION SEGMENTS









	Segment name and description	Segment characteristics	Main age band	Socio eco group	1x30 3x30	% Eng- popn	Media and Communications	Key brands	Top sports (played at least once a month) and sporting behaviour
	Ben Competitive Male Urbanites Also known as Josh, Luke, Adam, Matesuz, Kamil	Male, recent graduates, with a 'work-hard, play-hard' attitude. <i>Graduate professional, single.</i>	18-25	ABC1	69% 39%	4.9%	Ben is a heavy internet user, using it for sports news, personal emails, social networking and buying films, games and tickets. He is highly responsive to internet advertising.		Ben is a very active type and takes part in sport on a regular basis. He is the sportiest of the 19 segments. Ben's top sports are football (33%), keep fit/ gym (24%), cycling (18%), athletics including running (15%) and swimming (13%).
	Jamie Sports Team Lads Also known as Ryan, Nathan, Ashley, Adeel, Pawel	Young blokes enjoying football, pints and pool. <i>Vocational student, single.</i>	18-25	C2DE	59% 31%	5.4%	Jamie is a prolific mobile phone user and as uses this as a primary source of information. He likes to text rather than talk, and uses 3G for sports results and SMS text information services.		Jamie is a very active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. Jamie's top sports are football (28%), keep fit and gym (22%), athletics including running (12%), cycling (12%) and swimming (10%).
	Chloe Fitness Class Friends Also known as Nisha, Sophie, Lauren, Charlotte, Lucy	Young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim. <i>Graduate professional, single.</i>	18-25	ABC1	56% 23%	4.7%	Chloe is a heavy internet and mobile phone user. She uses her mobile to keep in contact with friends and family, preferring this to her landline. Chloe has a new 3G phone which provides internet access but is still likely to use text as her first source of information.		Chloe is an active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. Chloe's top sports are keep fit/ gym (28%), swimming (24%), athletics including running (14%), cycling (11%) and equestrian (5%).
	Leanne Supportive Singles Also known as Hayley, Kerry, Danielle, Nisha, Saima	Young busy mums and their supportive college mates. <i>Student or PT vocational, Likely to have children.</i>	18-25	C2DE	42% 17%	4.3%	Leanne is a light internet user and a heavy mobile phone user, using this instead of a landline to contact friends. She uses SMS text services and also entertainment features on her mobile. Leanne's mobile is likely to be pay-as-you-go and she responds to text adverts.		Leanne is the least active segment of her age group. Leanne's top sports are keep fit/ gym (23%), swimming (18%), athletics including running (9%), cycling (6%) and football (4%).
	Helena Career Focused Female Also known as Claire, Tamsin,	Single professional women, enjoying life in the fast lane. <i>Full time professional, single.</i>	26-45	ABC1	53% 19%	4.6%	Helena always has her mobile and PDA on hand so that she is contactable for work and social calls. She is a heavy internet user, but mainly from home, and uses this as her primary source of information.		Helena is a fairly active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. Helena's top sports are keep fit/ gym (26%), swimming (22%), cycling (11%), athletics including running (9%), and equestrian (3%).

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	Segment name and description	Segment characteristics	Main age band	Socio eco group	1x30 3x30	% Eng- popn	Media and Communications	Key brands	Top sports (played at least once a month) and sporting behaviour
	Fiona, Sara, Joanne								
	Tim Settling Down Males Also known as Simon, Jonathan, Jeremy, Adrian, Marcus	Sporty male professionals, buying a house and settling down with partner. <i>Professional, may have children, married or single.</i>	26-45	ABC1	62% 27%	8.8%	Tim's main source of information is the internet -he uses this for information on property, sports and managing his finances. He is a heavy mobile phone user and likes to access information 24/7. Tim will often buy things online and is relatively likely to use SMS text alerts and 3G services.		Tim is an active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. Tim's top sports are cycling (21%), keep fit/ gym (20%), swimming (15%), football (13%) and golf (7%).
	Alison Stay at Home Mums Also known as Justine, Karen, Suzanne, Tamsin, Siobhan	Mums with a comfortable, but busy, lifestyle. <i>Stay-at-home mum, children, married.</i>	36-45	ABC1	55% 20%	4.4%	Alison is a medium TV viewer and may have a digital package, but is unlikely to respond to TV advertising. She is a medium internet user and is unlikely to respond to internet advertising, but will use it as a source of information to aid her decision-making. She has a pay-as-you-go mobile for emergencies, but prefers to use her landline.		Alison is a fairly active segment with above average levels of participation in sport. Alison's top sports are: keep fit/ gym (27%), swimming (25%), cycling (12%), athletics including running (11%), and equestrian (3%).
	Jackie Middle England Mums Also known as Andrea, Cheryl, Deborah, Jane, Louise	Mums juggling work, family and finance. <i>Vocational job, may have children, married or single.</i>	36-45	C1C2 D	47% 16%	4.9%	Jackie is a medium TV viewer, enjoying soaps, chat shows and dramas, and has Freeview digital channels. She is a light and cautious internet user, but has been encouraged by her children's prolific usage and is becoming more confident herself.		Jackie has above average participation levels in sport, but is less active than other segments in her age group. Jackie's top sports are keep fit/ gym (22%), swimming (20%), cycling (9%), athletics including running (6%), and badminton (2%).
	Kev Pub League Team Mates Also known as Lee, Craig, Steven, Tariq, Dariusz.	Blokes who enjoy pub league games and watching live sport. <i>Vocational job, may have children, married or single.</i>	36-45	DE	43% 17%	5.9%	Kev is a heavy TV viewer, likely to have a digital or cable package for extra sports coverage. He is a heavy radio listener and is likely to favour local commercial stations. Kev uses his mobile phone for social reasons but will not respond to text advert.		Kev has above average levels of participation in sport. Kev's top sports are keep fit/ gym (14%), football (12%), cycling (11%), swimming (10%) and athletics including running (6%).
	Paula Stretched Single Mums Also known as	Single mums with financial pressures, childcare issues and little time for pleasure.	26-45	DE	36% 13%	3.7%	Paula is a heavy TV viewer, enjoying quiz and chat shows, reality TV and soaps. She is likely to have a digital or cable package. Paula does not have internet access at home, and is a heavy mobile		Paula is not a very active type and her participation is lower than that of the general adult population. Paula's top sports are keep fit/ gym (18%), swimming (17%), cycling (5%),

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	Segment name and description	Segment characteristics	Main age band	Socio eco group	1x30 3x30	% Eng- popn	Media and Communications	Key brands	Top sports (played at least once a month) and sporting behaviour
	Donna, Gemma, Shelley, Tina, Tammy	<i>Job seeker or part time low skilled worker, children, single.</i>					phone user, although this is likely to be pay-as-you-go.		athletics including running (4%) and football (3%).
	Philip Comfortable Mid Life Male Also known as Graham, Colin, Keith, Stuart, Clive	Mid-life professional, sporty males with older children and more time for themselves. <i>Full time job and owner occupied, children, married.</i>	46-55	ABC1	51% 20%	8.7%	Philip is a medium TV viewer, likely to have digital and use interactive services for sports and business news. He is a heavy radio listener. Philip is comfortable purchasing over the phone and internet, but is unlikely to respond to SMS text alerts.		Philip's sporting activity levels are above the national average. Philip's top sports are cycling (16%), keep fit/ gym (15%), swimming (12%), football (9%), and golf (8%).
	Elaine Empty Nest Career Ladies Also known as Carole, Sandra, Penelope, Julie, Jacqueline	Mid-life professionals who have more time for themselves since their children left home. <i>Full time job and owner occupied, married.</i>	46-55	ABC1	43% 12%	6.1%	Elaine is a light TV viewer, loyal to mainstream terrestrial channels. Elaine is a medium radio listener, likely to prefer BBC Radio 2 or 4 and Classic FM. A moderate internet user, she browses news and lifestyle sites. Elaine reads broadsheets, such as the Daily Telegraph, and women's lifestyle magazines. She would not respond to sms text alerts, nor to cold-calling.		Elaine's sporting activity levels are similar to the national average. Elaine's top sports are keep fit/ gym (21%), swimming (18%), cycling (7%), athletics including running (3%) and tennis (2%).
	Roger & Joy Early Retirement Couples Also known as Melvyn, Barry, Geoffrey, Linda, Susan, Patricia	Free-time couples nearing the end of their careers. <i>Full-time job or retired, married.</i>	56-65	ABC1	38% 10%	6.8%	Roger and Joy are medium TV viewers and heavy radio listeners. They regularly read the Times of Daily Telegraph, and a local paper. They have increased their use of the internet and may now have access to it at home.		Roger and Joy are slightly less active than the general population. Roger and Joy's top sports are keep fit/ gym (13%), swimming (13%), cycling (8%), golf (6%), and angling (2%).
	Brenda Older Working Women Also known as Shirley, June, Maureen, Janet, Diane	Middle aged ladies, working to make ends meet. <i>Part-time job, married.</i>	46-65	C2DE	29% 8%	4.9%	Brenda is a heavy TV viewer and is likely to respond to TV advertising. She is a medium radio listener, preferring local commercial stations. Brenda rarely has access to the internet, and is an infrequent mobile user. She enjoys reading the Mirror or the Sun.		Brenda is generally less active than the average adult. Brenda's top sports are keep fit/ gym (15%), swimming (13%), cycling (4%), athletics including running (2%) and badminton (1%).

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	Segment name and description	Segment characteristics	Main age band	Socio eco group	1x30 3x30	% Eng- popn	Media and Communications	Key brands	Top sports (played at least once a month) and sporting behaviour
	Terry Local 'Old Boys' Also known as Derek, Brian, Malcolm, Raymond, Michael	Generally inactive older men, low income, little provision for retirement. <i>Job Seeker, married or single.</i>	56-65	DE	26% 9%	3.7%	Terry is a high TV viewer, both at home and in the pub, particularly enjoying live sports coverage. He reads the tabloids on a daily basis. Terry does not use the internet, and does not feel he is missing out. He is unlikely to have a mobile phone.		Terry is generally less active than the average adult. Terry's top sports are keep fit/ gym (8%), swimming (6%), cycling (6%), angling (4%), and golf (4%).
	Norma Late Life Ladies Also known as Pauline, Angela, Irene, Denise, Jean	Older ladies, recently retired with a basic income to enjoy their lifestyles. <i>Job seeker or retired, single.</i>	56-65	DE	23% 6%	2.1%	Norma is a high TV viewer, enjoying quiz shows, chat shows, soaps and religious programmes. Most new technology has passed her by, having no internet access or mobile phone, but she uses her landline to call her family.		Norma is generally less active than the average adult. Norma's top sports are keep fit/ gym (12%), swimming (10%), cycling (2%), bowls (1%) and martial arts/ combat (1%).
	Ralph & Phyllis Comfortable Retired Couples Also known as Lionel, Arthur, Reginald, Beryl, Peggy, Marjorie	Retired couples, enjoying active and comfortable lifestyles. <i>Retired, married or single.</i>	66+	ABC1	28% 9%	4.2%	Ralph and Phyllis are medium to light TV viewers, preferring to be out and about instead. They are unlikely to have access to the internet, although it is something they are considering. They read the newspaper daily: either the Daily Telegraph or Times.		Ralph and Phyllis are less active than the average adult, but sportier than other segments of the same age group. Ralph and Phyllis' top sports are keep fit/ gym (10%), swimming (9%), golf (7%), bowls (4%), and cycling (4%).
	Frank Twilight Years Gent Also known as Roy, Harold, Stanley, Alfred, Percy	Retired men with some pension provision and limited exercise opportunities. <i>Retired, married or single</i>	66+	C1C2 D	21% 9%	4.0%	Frank is a heavy TV viewer and enjoys watching live sport and notices TV advertising, which he is influenced by. He does not use the internet and is nervous of computers. Frank reads a newspaper most days, either the Daily Mail or Express. He does not have a mobile phone.		Frank is generally much less active than the average adult. Frank's top sports are golf (7%), keep fit/ gym (6%), bowls (6%), swimming (6%) and cycling (4%).
	Elsie & Arnold Retirement Home Singles Also known as Doris, Ethel, Gladys, Stanley, Walter, Harold	Retired singles or widowers, predominantly female, living in sheltered accommodation. <i>Retired, widowed.</i>	66+	DE	17% 5%	8.0%	Elsie and Arnold are heavy TV viewers, enjoying quiz shows, religious programmes and old films. They generally do not have access to the internet or use a mobile phone, and only use their landline to call family		Elsie and Arnold are much less active than the average adult. Their top sports are keep fit/ gym (10%), swimming (7%), bowls (3%), golf (1%) and cycling (1%).

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APPENDIX 3: LIST OF ALL STUDIOS

Map Ref	Site Name	Condition
1	The Tytherington Golf & Country Club	Good
1	The Tytherington Golf & Country Club	Good
2	Energie Fitness Club	Above average
2	Energie Fitness Club	Above average
3	Cheshire Health Club & Spa	Above average
3	Cheshire Health Club & Spa	Above average
4	Alvaston Hall Country Club	Good
5	Fitness4all	Below average
6	Camm Street Centre	Below average
6	Camm Street Centre	Below average
7	Cottons Spa	Good
8	Club At Cranage Hall	Good
9	Spindles Health & Leisure	Above average
10	Mottram Hall, Cheshire	Good
12	Total Fitness	Above average
12	Total Fitness	Above average
12	Total Fitness	Above average
13	The Mere	Good
17	Rookery Hall Health Club & Spa	Good
18	Intone Fitness Centre	Below average
20	Bollington Health And Leisure Centre	Below average
21	Peter Mason Leisure Centre	Below average
22	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Good
23	Crewe Lifestyle Centre	Good
23	Crewe Lifestyle Centre	Good
24	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Not assessed
25	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Below average
25	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Below average
26	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	Above average
26	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	Above average
29	Nantwich Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre	Above average
30	Poynton Leisure Centre	Above average
30	Poynton Leisure Centre	Above average
34	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	Above average
34	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	Above average
35	Simply Gym Crewe	Above average
36	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Not assessed
37	Hallmark Health Club	Above average
39	Bannatynes Health Club	Good
39	Bannatynes Health Club	Good
40	Total Fitness	Good

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Map Ref	Site Name	Condition
40	Total Fitness	Good
40	Total Fitness	Good
42	DW Sports Fitness	Above average
42	DW Sports Fitness	Above average
46	F B I Gymnasium	CLOSED
47	Ladyzone	CLOSED
50	Gymetc.	Above average
50	Gymetc.	Below average
56	Club AZ	Above average
58	Nuffield Fitness And Wellbeing Centre	Not assessed
65	Fallibroome Academy	Above average
66	Crewe Hall	Good
95	Foyer@189 (Crewe YMCA)	Not assessed
108	Lifestyle Fitness	Good
109	Chongi Academy	Not assessed
109	Chongi Academy	Not assessed
135	South Cheshire College	Good
136	Sandbach School	Below average
145	Eaton Bank Academy	Above average
150	Wilmslow High School	Above average

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APPENDIX 4: LIST OF HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

Table 4 - Housing Allocations in Cheshire East

Analysis Area	Sub Area / Settlement	Area Summary	Strategic Housing Sites and Strategic Locations	Number of Homes
Congleton	Alsager	2000 new homes	Former MMU Campus	400
			Twyfords and Cardway	550
			White Moss Quarry	350
	Congleton	4150 new homes	Congleton Business Park Extension	625
			Giantswood Lane to Manchester Road	500
			Giantswood Lane South	150
			Manchester Road to Macclesfield Road	450
			Back Lane / Radnor Park Strategic Location	750
			Tall Ash Farm	225
			Lamberts Lane	225
			Middlewich	1950 new homes
	Brooks Lane Strategic Location	200		
	Land off Warmingham Lane (Phase 2)	235		
	Sandbach	2750 new homes		
Congleton Total			5635	
Crewe		7700 new homes	Central Crewe	400
			Basford East	850
			Basford West	370
			Leighton West	850
			Leighton	500
			Crewe Green	150
			Sydney Road (incl. extended site)	525
			South Cheshire Growth Village	650
			The Shavington / Wybunbury Triangle	400
			East Shavington	275
			Broughton Road	175
Crewe Total				5145
Knutsford		950 new homes (1200 including Alderley Park)	Land north of Northwich Road	175
			Land west of Manchester Road	75
			Land east of Manchester Road	250
			Parkgate Extension	200
			Land south of Longridge	225
			Alderley Park Opportunity Site	275
Knutsford Total				1200

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Analysis Area	Sub Area / Settlement	Area Summary	Strategic Housing Sites and Strategic Locations	Number of Homes
Macclesfield		4250 new homes	Central Macclesfield	500
			South Macclesfield Development Area	1050
			Land off Congleton Road Playing Fields	300
			Land east of Fence Avenue	250
			Gaw End Lane	300
			Land south of Chelford Road	200
			Land between Chelford Road and Whirley Road	150
Macclesfield Total				2750
Nantwich		2050 new homes	Kingsley Fields	1100
Nantwich Total				1100
Poynton		650 new homes	Land adjacent to Hazelbadge Road	150
			Land at Sprink Farm	150
			Land south of Chester Road	150
Poynton Total				450
Wilmslow	Handforth (incl. NCGV)	2200 new homes	Land between Clay Lane and Sagars Road	250
			North Cheshire Growth Village	1650
	Wilmslow	900 new homes	Royal London	175
			Little Stanneylands	200
			Heathfield Farm	150
Wilmslow Total				2425

These 'Area Summary' figures comprise completions, commitments (proposed new homes with planning permission but not yet completed), Strategic Sites/Locations and future non-strategic allocations, the latter to be identified through the Council's Site Allocations and Development Policies Plan (SADPD). The SADPD will follow the preparation of the Local Plan Strategy. The 'Number of Homes' 'Total' figures relate to the indicative capacity of allocated Strategic Sites.

APPENDIX 5: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND EARNINGS

Table 6: Economic value of sport (Nov 2015) – Comparative overview

Measure	England		Cheshire East	
Participation impacts				
Sports & fitness memberships	£4,646.4m	22.8%	£39.0m	34.7%
Education and training	£4,630.3m	22.7%	£31.1m	27.7%
Sports equipment	£1,267.2m	6.2%	£7.8m	6.9%
Sports participation	£1,267.2m	6.2%	£9.5m	8.5%
Sportswear	£84.5m	0.4%	£0.5m	0.4%
Sub-total	£11,895.6m	58.3%	£88.0m	78.3%

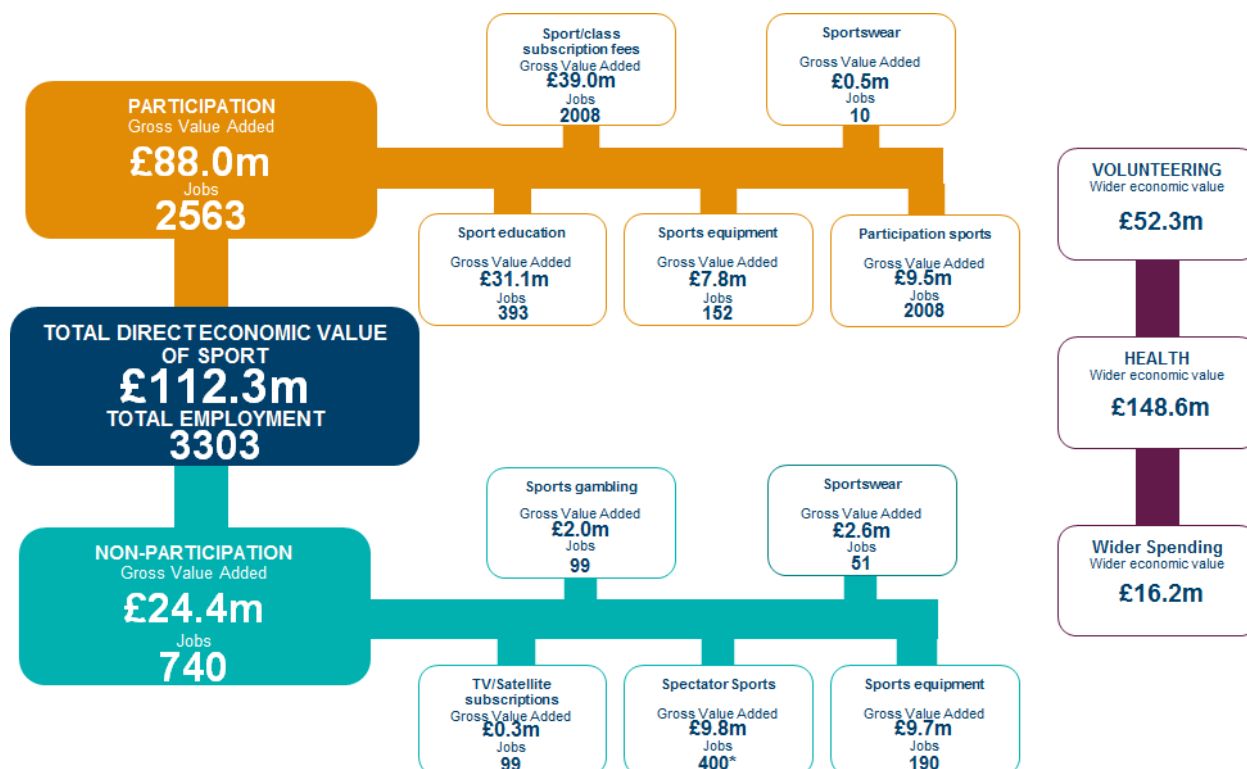
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Non participation impacts				
TV and satellite broadcasting*	£4,646.4m	22.8%	£0.3m	0.3%
Sports equipment	£1,584.0m	7.7%	£9.7m	8.6%
Spectator sports	£1,161.6m	5.7%	£9.8m	8.7%
Sportswear	£422.4m	2.1%	£2.6m	2.3%
Sports related gaming/betting	£690.0m	3.4%	£2.0m	1.3%
Sub-total	£8,504.4m	41.7%	£24.4m	21.7%
Overall total	£20,399.9m	100.0%	£112.3m	100.0%

Note: Totals in local authority based figures may differ slightly due to rounding

* This relates GVA to employment connected to broadcasting as opposed to subscriptions by area.

Figure 7: Economic impact of sport – Cheshire East (Source: Sport England 2015)



APPENDIX 6: SPORTS HALLS INCLUDED WITHIN FPM ARE:

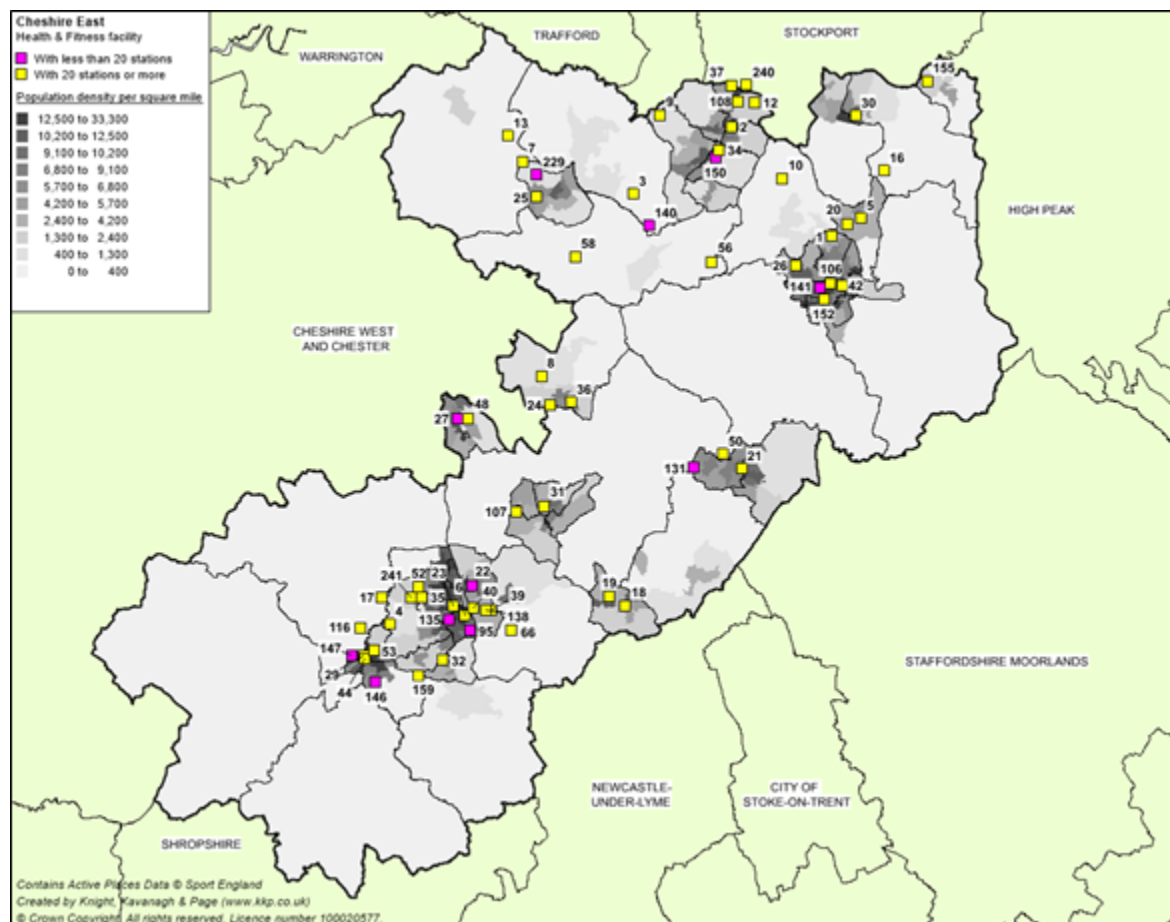
Alsager Leisure Centre	Victoria Community Centre (CLOSED)
Eaton Bank School	Alderley Edge School For Girls
Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Club AZ
Middlewich Leisure Centre	Egerton Youth Club
Sandbach Leisure Centre	Fallibroome Academy
Sandbach School	Knutsford Leisure Centre
Brine Leas School	Macclesfield College
Legends Health & Leisure Centre	Macclesfield Leisure Centre
Malbank School And Sixth Form College	Poynton Leisure Centre
Reaseheath College	The Macclesfield Academy

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Ruskin Sports College	Tytherington High School
Shavington Leisure Centre	Wilmslow High School
Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Wilmslow Leisure Centre
South Cheshire College	Peter Mason Leisure Centre

APPENDIX 7: ALL HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES

Fig 6.2 Health and fitness suites differentiated between less than 20, or more than 20 stations in Cheshire East on population density

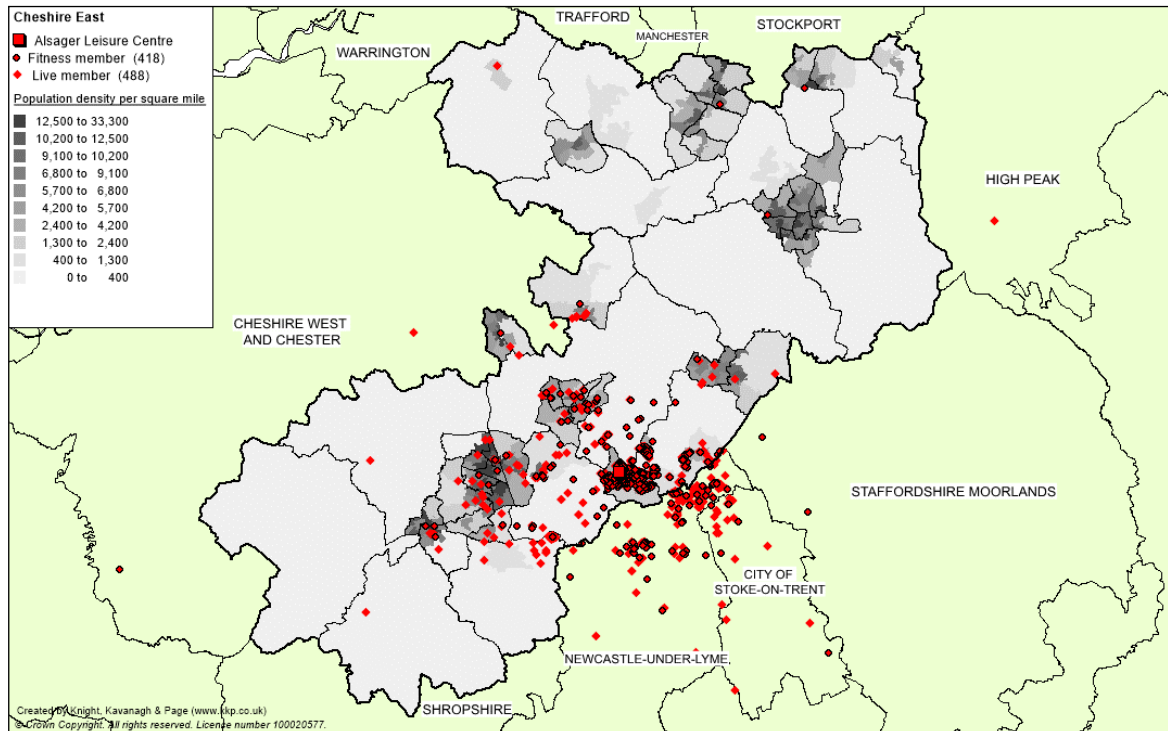


APPENDIX 8: MAPS OF MEMBERS PER LEISURE CENTRE

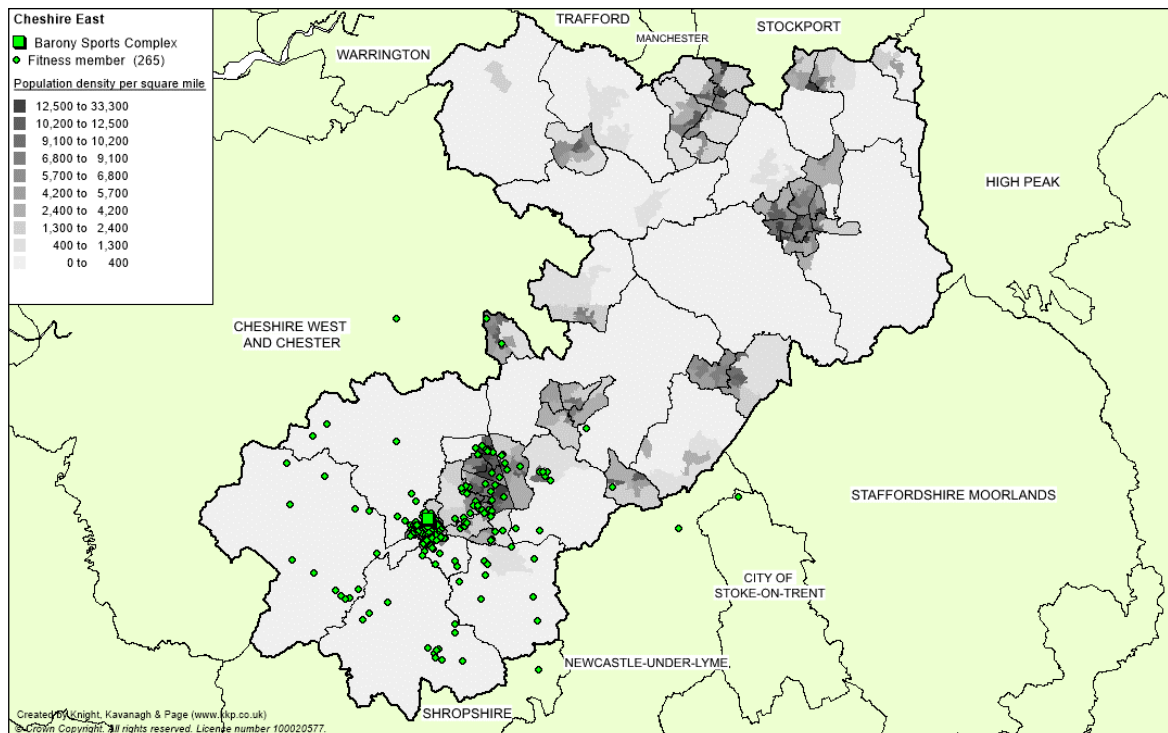
Data provided by Everybody Sport & Recreation August 2016

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Map 7.3: Alsager Leisure Centre – Live and fitness members



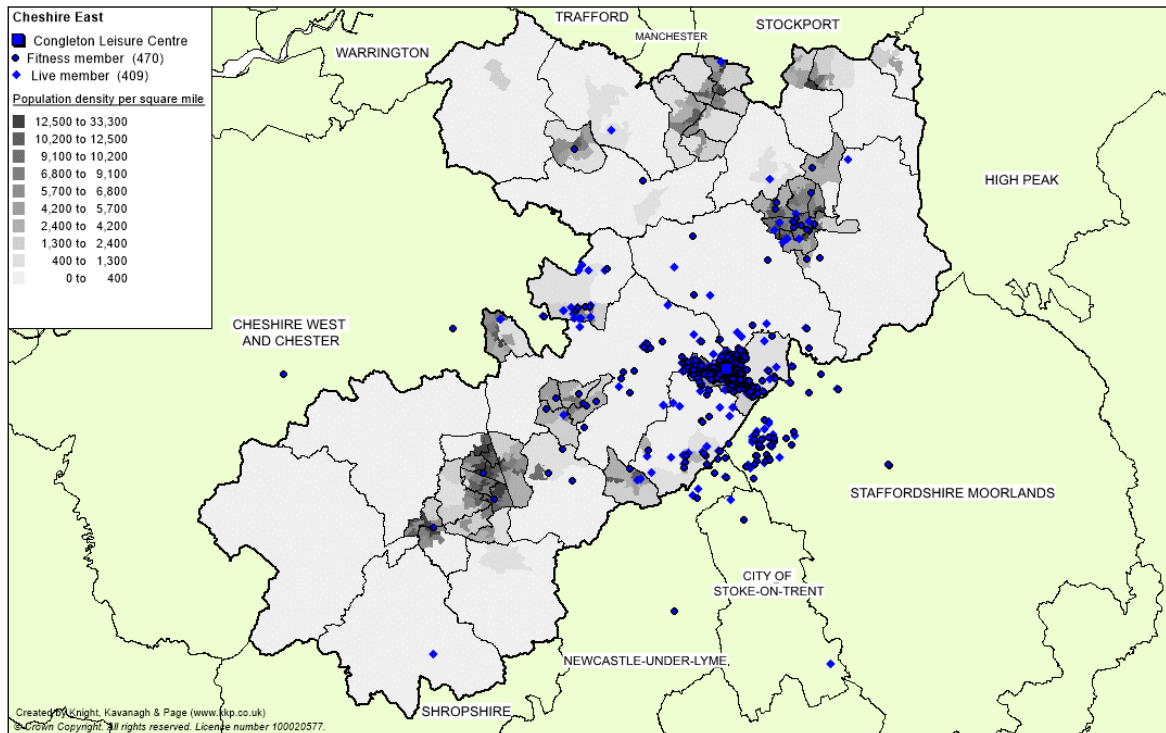
Map 7.4: Barony Sports Complex – fitness members



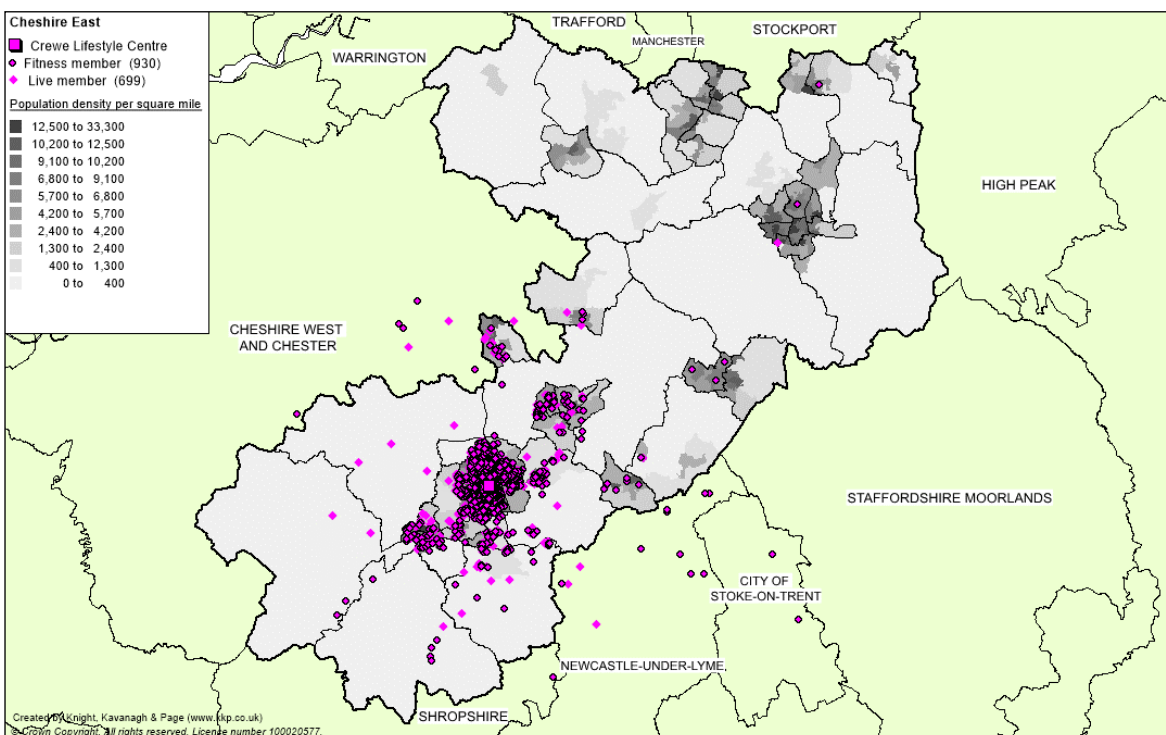
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Map 7.5: Peter Mason Leisure Centre – Live and fitness members

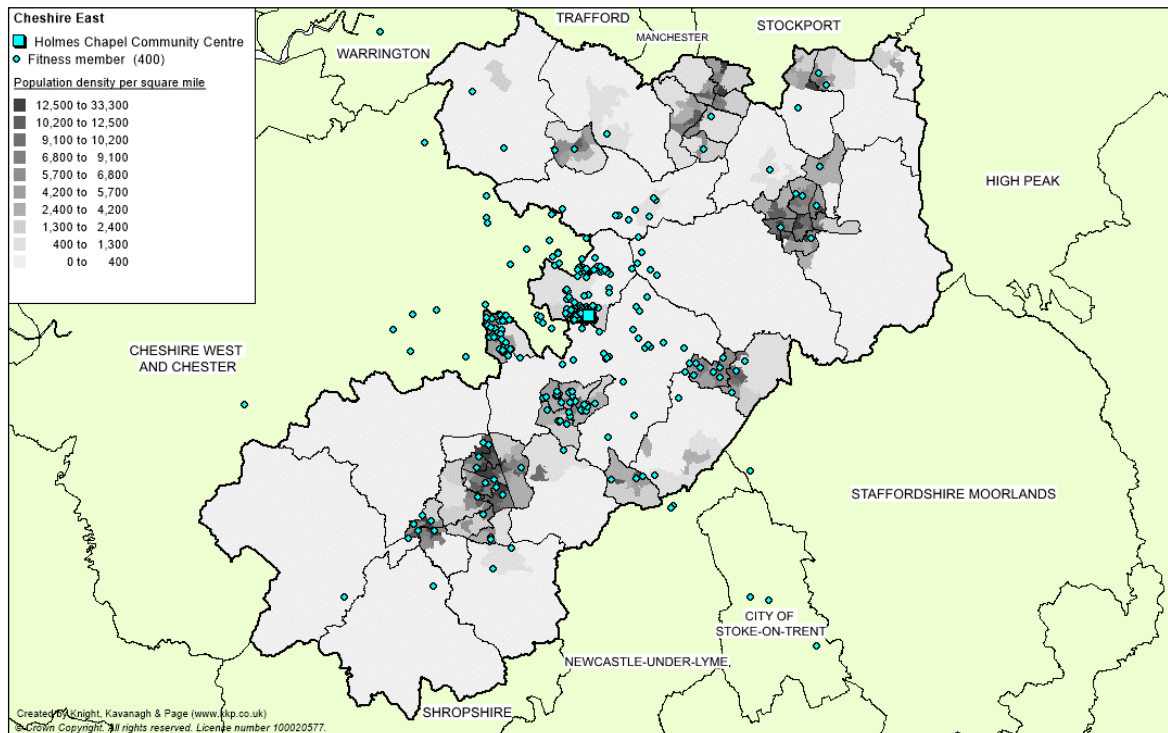


Map 7.6: Crewe Lifestyle Centre – Live and fitness members

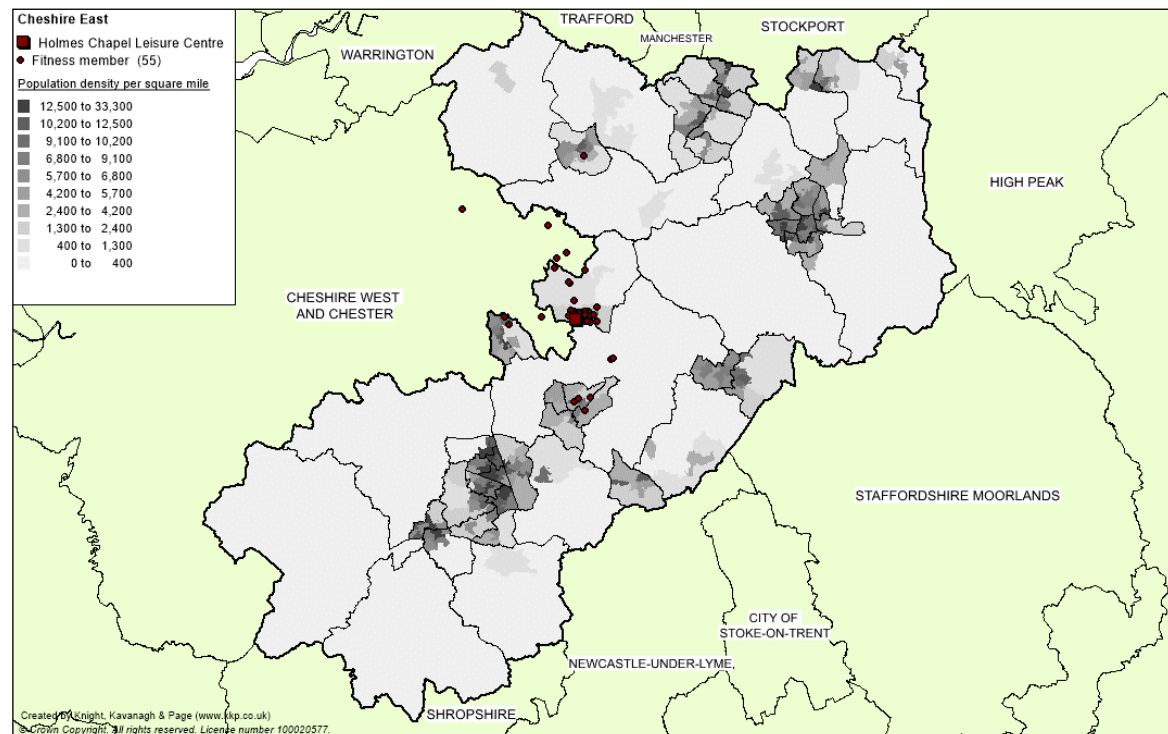


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Map 7.7: Holmes Chapel Community Centre – fitness members

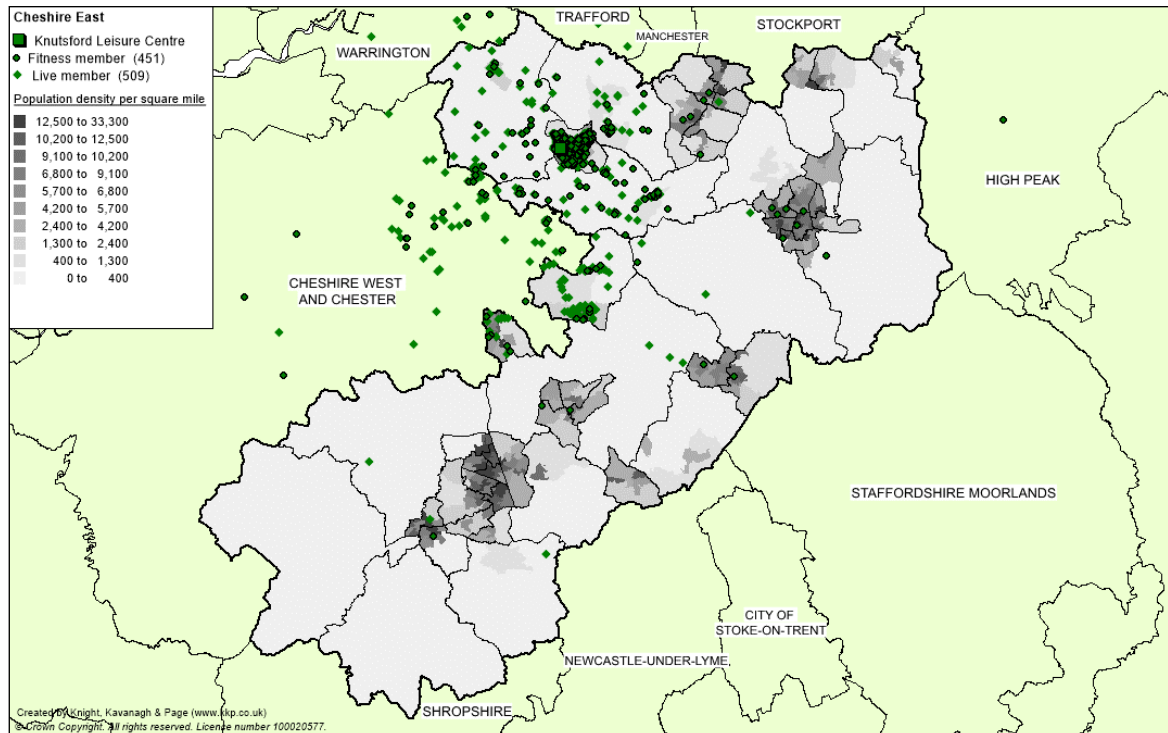


Map 7.8: Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre – fitness members

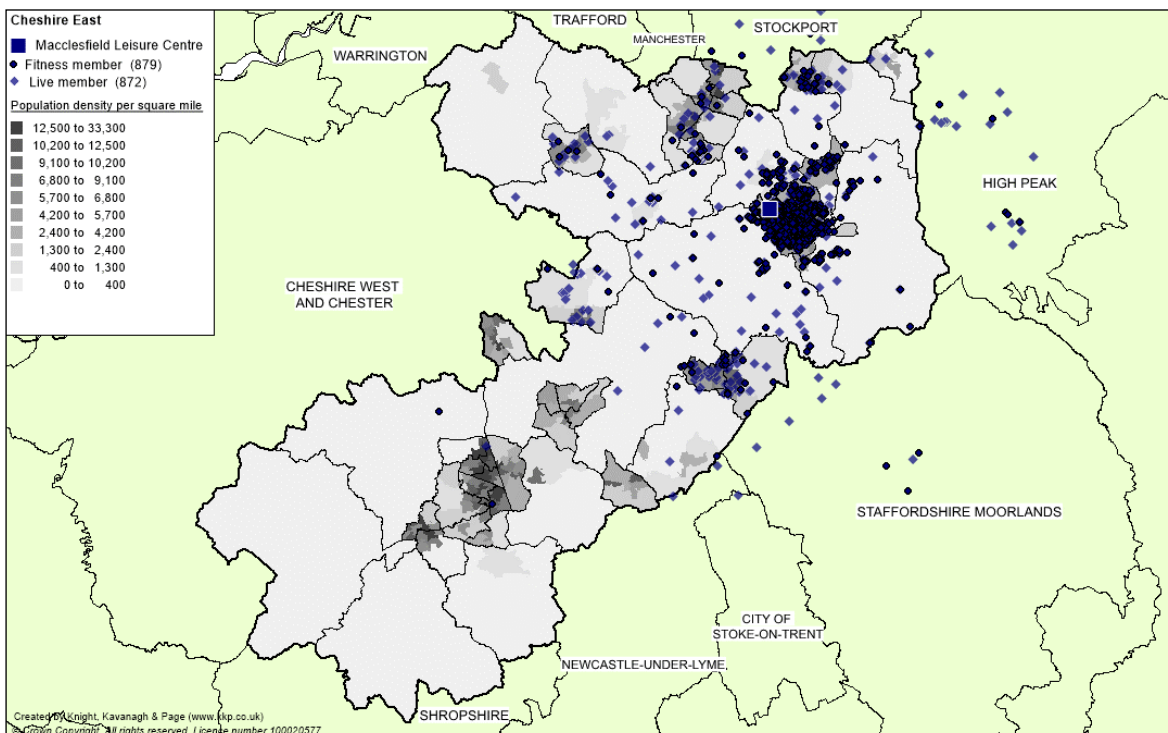


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Map 7.9: Knutsford Leisure Centre – Live and fitness members

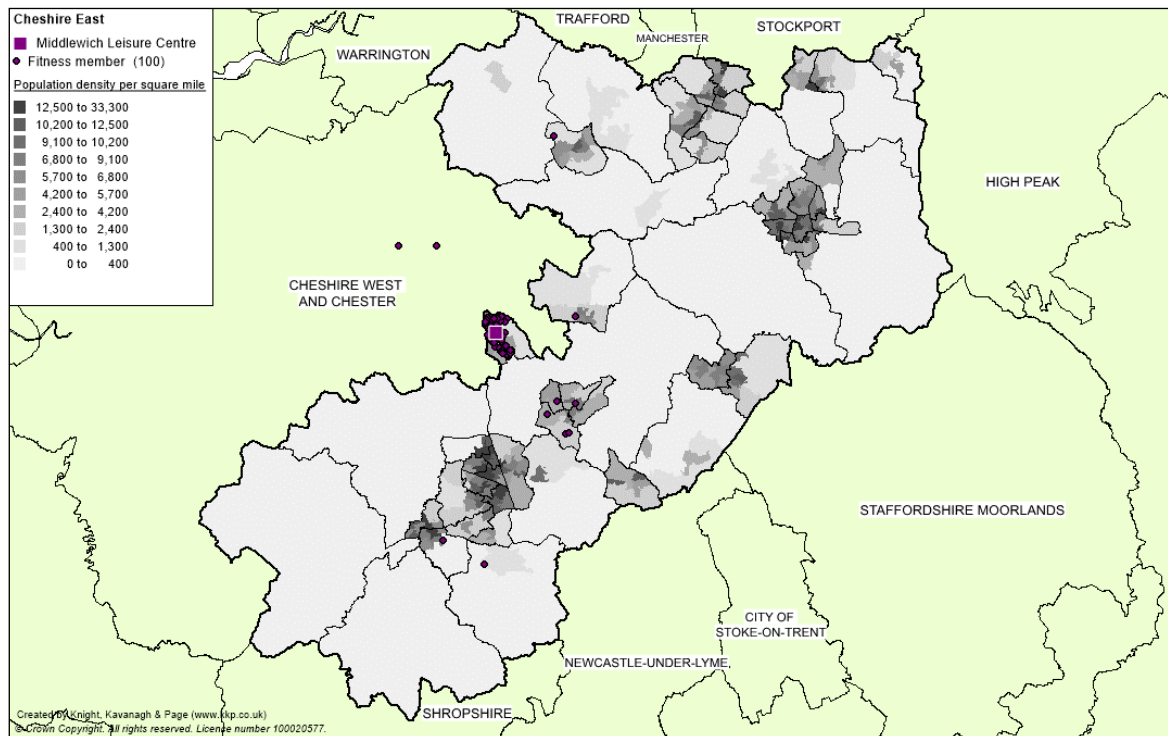


Map 7.10: Macclesfield Leisure Centre – Live and fitness members

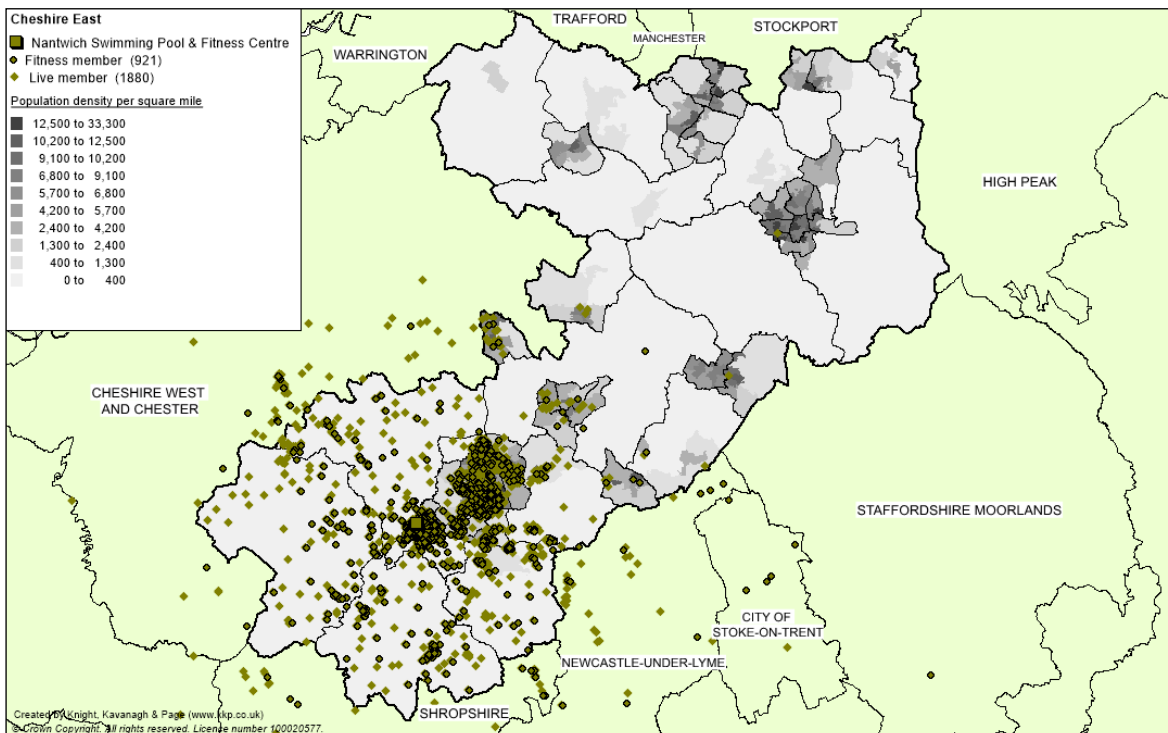


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Map 7.11: Middleswich Leisure Centre – fitness members

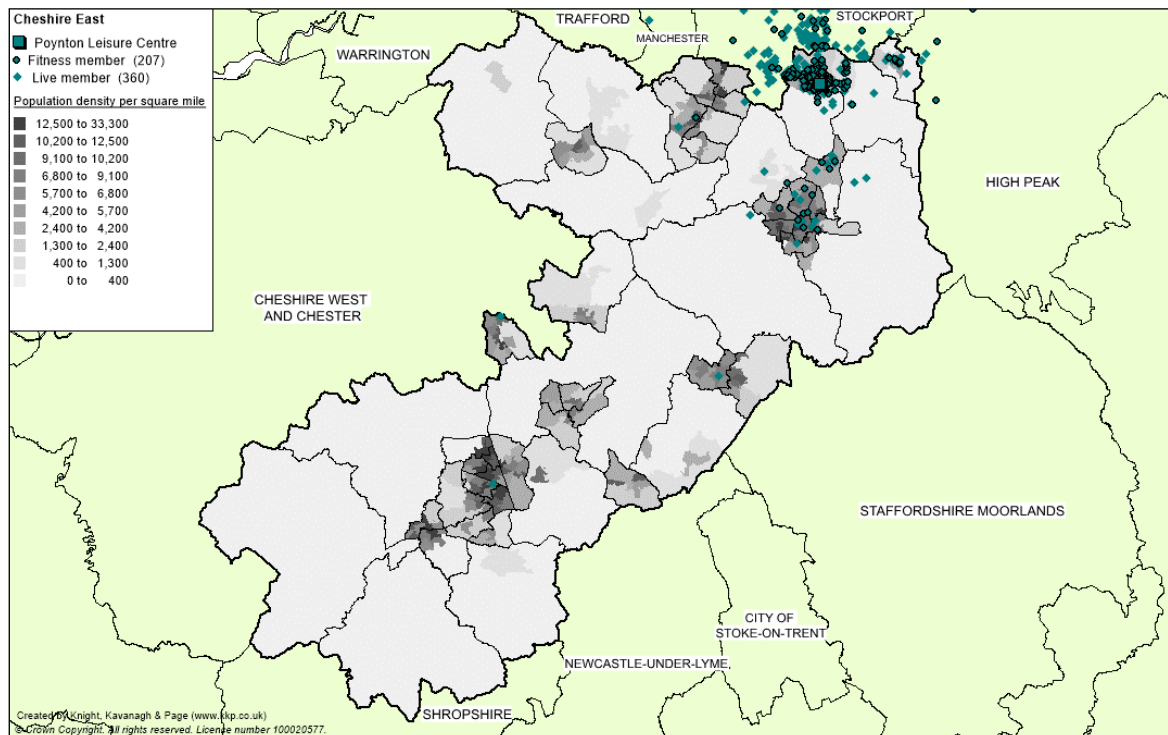


Map 7.12: Nantwich Pool & Fitness Centre – Live and fitness members

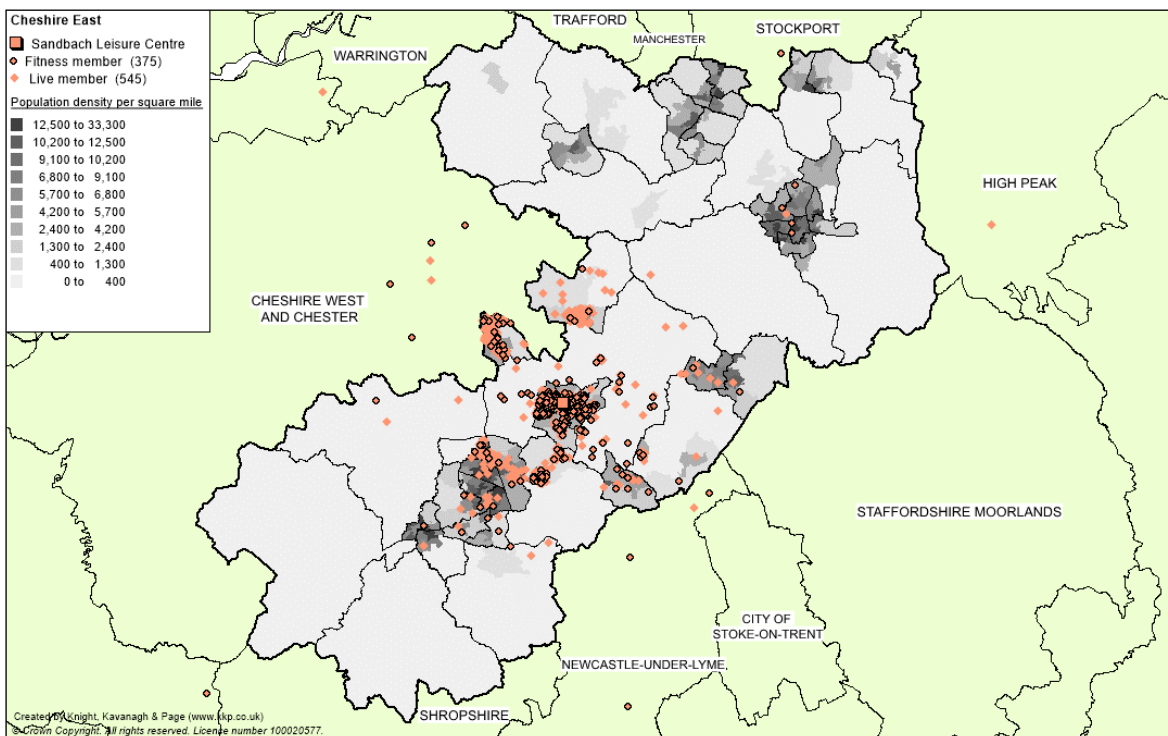


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Map 7.13: Poynton Leisure Centre – Live and fitness members

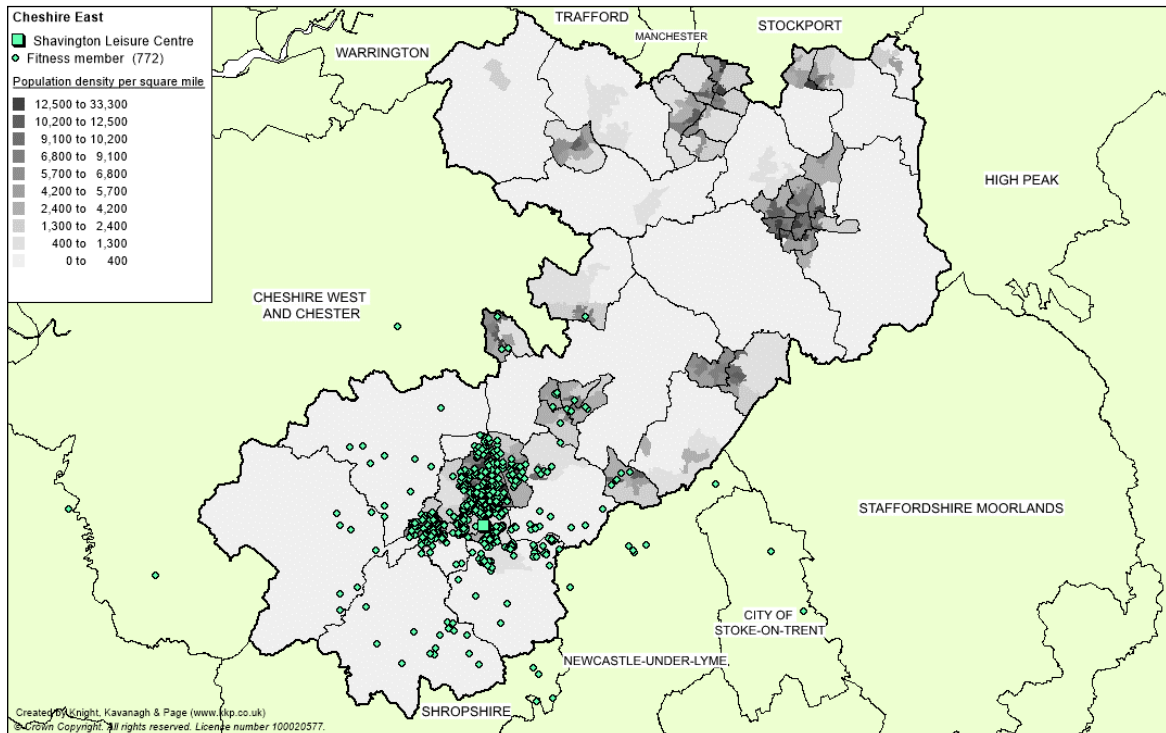


Map 7.14: Sandbach Leisure Centre – Live and fitness members

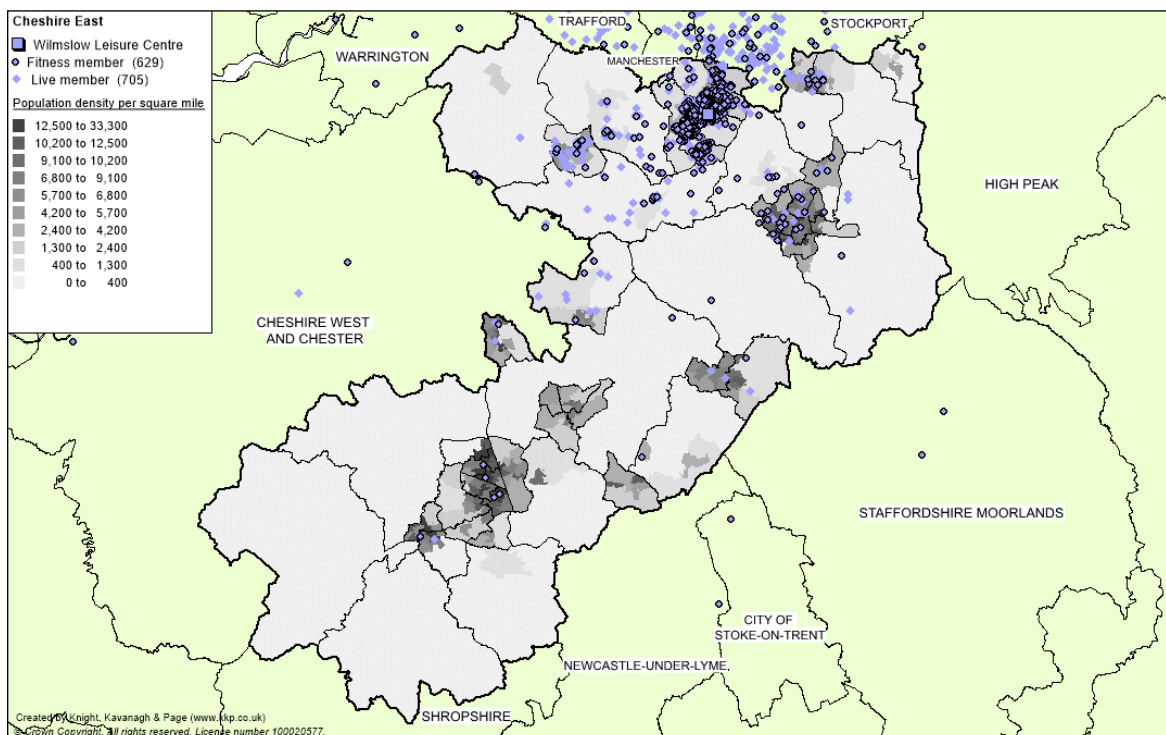


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Map 7.15: Shavington Leisure Centre – fitness members



Map 7.16: Wilmslow Leisure Centre – Live and fitness members



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CHESHIRE EAST INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY

FEBRUARY 2017

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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Client comments		
Final approval		

CHESHIRE EAST INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY

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CHESHIRE EAST INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES –STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

This is the Cheshire East Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy for the period 2017 – 2030. The strategy recommendations are drawn from the Indoor Built Facilities Assessment Report, researched and prepared initially between August – December 2016 by specialist sport and leisure consultancy, Knight Kavanagh and Page Ltd (KKP). The Assessment Report and Strategy have been prepared in accordance with Sport England's ANOG (Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities) guidance and in consultation with Cheshire East Council, Sport England, national governing bodies of sport, local sports clubs and key stakeholders. The Strategy also considers and where possible incorporates the key findings from the Playing Pitch Strategy, researched and prepared between August and December 2016 also by KKP.

Cheshire East has an aspiration, and need, to consider its facilities planning particularly in the context of an aging stock of leisure facilities; future growth needs; changing economic and demographic profile of the area.

The focus of this Strategy is to provide clear direction to all partners so that together they can plan and develop a more modern, efficient and sustainable range of Community based Sport and Leisure facilities that Cheshire East requires. This will ensure residents have the opportunity to be physically active and healthier and where appropriate develop their sporting ambitions within their local community.

The consultant team is grateful to the project management and leadership of Cheshire East Council and the contribution from all other stakeholders to the development of this Strategy.

National strategic context summary

Sporting Future: A new strategy for an active nation

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

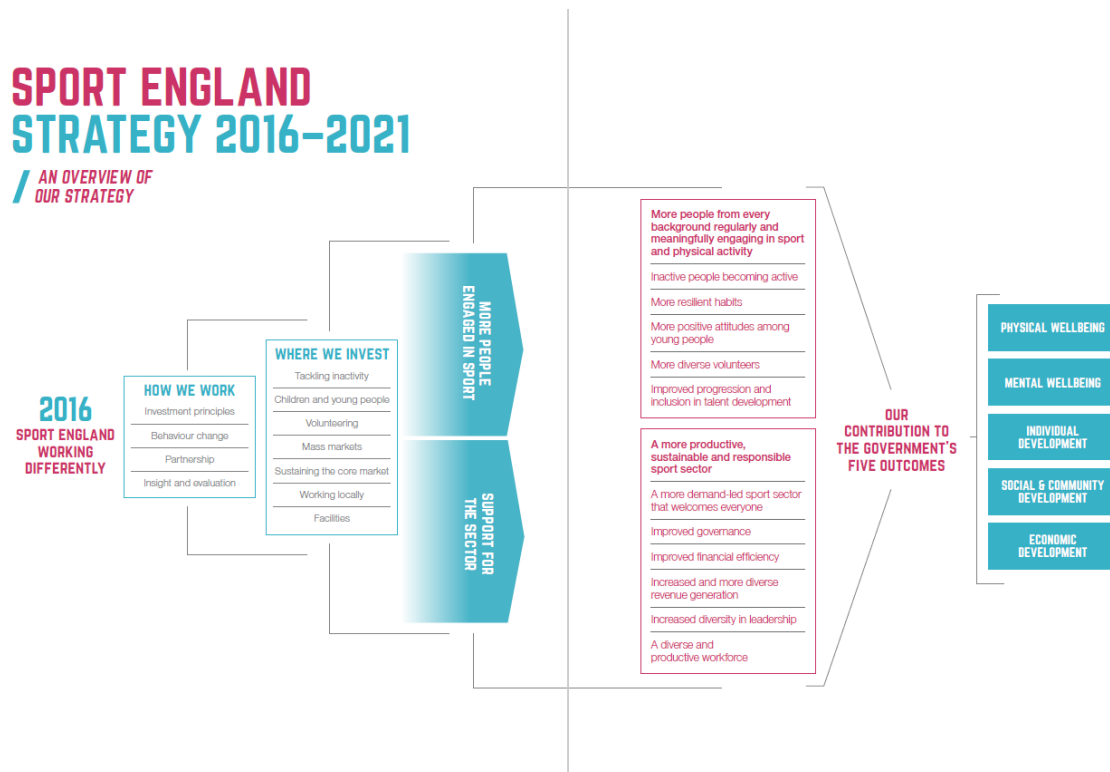
- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising the impact of Major Events.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

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Sport England: Towards an Active Nation

Sport England's response to the Government's strategy was to develop Towards an Active Nation:

Figure 1 Sport England Strategy 2016-2021



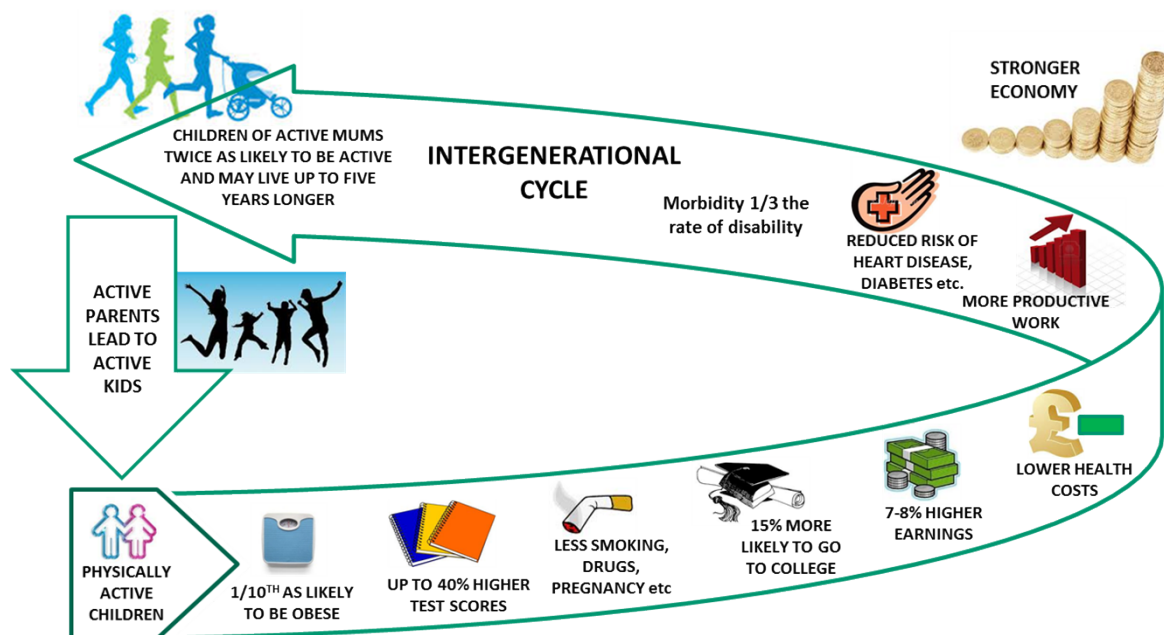
Sport England has identified that it will invest in:

- ⬇ Tackling inactivity
- ⬇ Children and young people
- ⬇ Volunteering – a dual benefit
- ⬇ Taking sport and activity into the mass market
- ⬇ Supporting sport's core market
- ⬇ Local delivery
- ⬇ Facilities

It is clear that increasing participation in sport and physical activity and the health and wellbeing benefits that this delivers is the key driver for Cheshire East Council and its partners. This is particularly important in the context of getting the inactive to become active and ensuring that interventions are targeted at underrepresented groups. The wider benefits derived from having a more active population are highlighted in the following intergenerational cycle which clearly demonstrates the impact beyond the sports field.

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Figure 2: Intergenerational cycle



Based on 'Designed to move' © Nike Inc.

It is clear that having high quality and appropriate 'places to play sport and be physically active' are an integral part of the mix that delivers health and wellbeing benefits as well as wider economic gains to Cheshire East and as such should be viewed and valued within this context. It is also clear that this links into Sport England's new strategy 'Towards an Active Nation' which sets out the following vision:

'We want everyone in England regardless of age, background or level of ability to feel able to engage in sport and physical activity. Some will be young, fit and talented, but most will not. We need a sport sector that welcomes everyone – meets their needs, treats them as individuals and values them as customers'.

Sport England has identified that its highest priority for investment will be tackling inactivity. In addition to this it will continue to invest in facilities, but that there will be a focus on multi-sport and community hubs which bring together other services such as libraries and doctor's surgeries.

Therefore, high quality and appropriate 'places to play sport and be physically active' are important in delivering increased participation in sport and physical activity which is part of the foundation of improving health and wellbeing among Cheshire East's residents. However, it is not enough just to have the right facilities in the right places, they also need to be programmed and priced appropriately to ensure that activities are appropriate for specific target groups and that cost is not a barrier to access.

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Local strategic context summary:

Cheshire East Council – Three Year Plan, 2013-16

The Cheshire East Council Three Year Plan outlines its purpose as aiming ‘to serve the people of Cheshire East through’ three areas, which are:

- ◀ Fulfilling its community leadership role well.
- ◀ Ensuring quality and value in public services.
- ◀ Safeguarding the most vulnerable in society.

Subsequently this is split into the following six outcomes;

- ◀ Local communities are strong and supportive.
- ◀ Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy.
- ◀ People have the life skills and education they need to thrive.
- ◀ Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place.
- ◀ People live well and for longer.
- ◀ Cheshire East is a good place to live and work.

Cheshire East Council – Local Plan Strategy (Proposed Changes Consultation Draft, March 2016)

The Local Plan Strategy is the first part of the Council’s Local Plan and sets out the overall planning framework for the Borough between 2010 and 2030 including for the provision of at least 36,000 additional homes. The Plan is at an advanced stage of preparation. Draft Main Modifications to the Plan will be published for public consultation early in 2017. Once adopted, it will form part of the Statutory Development Plan for Cheshire East and will be the starting point for deciding planning applications. The policies that most specifically relate to playing pitches and leisure and recreation facilities are Policies SC1 (Leisure and Recreation), SC2 (Outdoor Sports Facilities) and Policy SE6 (Green Infrastructure). These policies are set out below. Further detailed policies related to sport and recreation are expected be added to the Local Plan through its second part – the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD). Work on the SADPD will move forward in 2017. The SADPD will respond, as necessary, to the detailed findings and recommendations of the Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy. Until both the Local Plan Strategy and SADPD are adopted, the ‘saved policies’ relevant to sport and recreation facilities within the local plans prepared by the three predecessor borough councils will also continue to apply.

Policy SC1 – Leisure and Recreation

In order to provide appropriate leisure and recreational facilities for the communities of Cheshire East, the Council will:

1. Seek to protect and enhance existing leisure and recreation facilities, unless they are proven to be surplus to requirements or unless improved alternative provision, of similar or better quality, is to be made.
2. Support and promote the provision of better leisure, community and recreation facilities, where there is a need for such facilities, the proposed facilities are of a type and

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scale appropriate to the size of the settlement, are accessible and support the objectives of the Local Plan Strategy. The Council will do this by:

- i) Encouraging facilities that serve the Borough as a whole, and facilities that attract large numbers of people, to be located, where possible, within or adjoining Crewe or Macclesfield town centres.
 - ii) Requiring facilities serving key service centres to be located in or adjacent to their town centre or highly accessible locations.
 - iii) Requiring facilities intended to serve the everyday needs of a community or neighbourhood to be in or adjacent to the centres of local service centres or other settlements.
 - iv) Encouraging the development of shared service centres that combine public services, health and community functions in modern accessible buildings.
3. Supporting proposals for facilities that would not be appropriate to be located in or adjacent to centres, provided they are highly accessible by a choice of transport, do not harm the character, amenity, or biodiversity value of the area, and satisfy a range of other criteria. The proposal is a facility that:
- a. supports a business use;
 - b. is appropriate in an employment area; or
 - c. supports an outdoor sports facility, education or related community / visitor facility; or
 - d. supports the visitor economy and is based on local cultural or existing visitor attractions.
4. Work with agencies, services and businesses responsible for providing facilities to make sure that the needs and demands of communities are met.
5. Make sure that appropriate developments contribute, through land assembly and financial contributions, to new or improved facilities where development will increase demand and / or there is a recognised shortage of local leisure, community and recreation facilities.

Policy SC2 – Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities

In order to provide appropriate indoor and outdoor sports facilities for the communities of Cheshire East, the Council will

- 1. Protect existing indoor and outdoor sports facilities, unless:
 - i) They are proven to be surplus to need (as identified in an adopted and up to date needs assessment); or
 - ii) Improved alternative provision (a full quantity and quality replacement to accord with paragraph 74 of the NPPF and Sport England policy) will be created in a location well related to the functional requirements of the relocated use and its existing and future users.
- In all cases:
- iii) The proposal would not result in the loss of an area important for its amenity or contribution to the character of the area in general; and
- 2. Support new indoor and outdoor sports facilities where:
 - i) They are readily accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.
 - ii) The proposed facilities are of a type and scale appropriate to the size of the settlement.
 - iii) Where they are listed in an action plan in any emerging or subsequently adopted Playing Pitch Strategy or Indoor Sports Strategy, subject to the criteria in the policy.

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3. Make sure that major residential developments contribute, through land assembly and financial contributions, to new or improved sports facilities where development will increase demand and/or there is a recognised shortage.

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Policy SE 6 Green Infrastructure:

Cheshire East aims to deliver a good quality, and accessible network of green spaces for people to enjoy, providing for healthy recreation and biodiversity and continuing to provide a range of social, economic and health benefits. This will be done by:

1. Linking the various assets of Cheshire East's unique landscape – its upland fringes, Cheshire Plain, lowland heath, parkland estates, rivers, canals and watercourses, valleys and cloughs, meres and mosses, trees and woodland and wildlife habitats and its distinctive towns and villages and their urban fringe.
 - i) This network of Green Infrastructure assets should be safeguarded, retained and enhanced through the development of green networks/wedges and corridors.
 - ii) Areas identified as having a shortage or opportunities for the provision of Green Infrastructure should be a particular focus for enhancement.
 - iii) Any development should contribute to the creation of a good quality, integrated and accessible multi-functional network of green spaces.
2. Safeguarding Green Infrastructure assets to make sure that:
 - i) Development does not compromise their integrity or potential value;
 - ii) Developer contributions are secured wherever appropriate in order to improve their quality, use and multi-functionality; and
 - iii) Opportunities to add to the Green Infrastructure network are maximised through partnership working.
3. Working with partners, to support the potential of Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets to contribute to the aims of the wider green infrastructure. The Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets⁷¹ identified in Cheshire East are:
 - i) Weaver, Bollin, Dane and Wheelock river corridors including cloughs and floodplains
 - ii) Macclesfield, Shropshire Union (including the Llangollen and Middlewich branches) and Trent and Mersey canals
 - iii) Meres and Mosses Nature Improvement Area and Local Nature Improvement Areas
 - iv) Heritage town parks and open spaces of historic and cultural importance
 - v) Public Rights of Way, cycle routes and greenways
 - vi) Country Parks and estate parklands
 - vii) Peak Park Fringe
 - viii) The Cloud, Congleton Edge and Mow Cop upland fringe
 - ix) Sandstone Ridge
 - x) The ecological network of habitats identified in Policy SE3
4. Strengthening the contribution that sport and playing fields, open space and recreation facilities make to Cheshire East's Green Infrastructure network by requiring all development to:
 - i) Protect and enhance existing open spaces and sport and recreation facilities;⁷²
 - ii) Encourage multiple use and improvements to their quality;
 - iii) Provide adequate open space (as outlined in Table 13.1);
 - iv) Contribute to the provision of outdoor sports facilities in line with Policy SC2;
 - v) Create or add to the networks of multi-functional Green Infrastructure;
 - vi) Secure new provision to help address identified shortages in existing open space provision, both in quantity, quality and accessibility;
 - vii) Locate open space facilities in appropriate locations, preferably within developments; and

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viii) Promote linkages between new development and surrounding recreational networks, communities and facilities.

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Neighbourhood Planning in Cheshire East

Neighbourhood planning allows communities, led by their Town and Parish Councils, to shape the development and growth of their local areas. This includes through the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans containing local planning policies that become part of the statutory development plan if supported through a local referendum. They can identify how and where new development should take place including what infrastructure should be provide, where this is aligned with the overall strategic needs and priorities of the wider area.

There is considerable neighbourhood planning activity in the Borough. At the time this report was prepared there were 40 active neighbourhood planning groups. Five plans in Cheshire East had been 'made' (Audlem, Brereton, Bunbury, Marton and Sandbach) with Holmes Chapel Neighbourhood Plan to be subject to local referendum in March 2017. It is expected that a further 20 Neighbourhood Development Plans will be completed in 2017.

The Borough Council is very keen to support neighbourhood planning and continues to provide advice and guidance to local groups. This includes understanding the relationship between emerging Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan. It is hoped that this Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy and the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy will provide useful sources of evidence to support policies and proposals within Neighbourhood Plans. Clearly, planning decisions will have to take proper account of the policies and proposals in both the Local and Neighbourhood Plan, the latter probably adding more locally-specific policy. For example, through their Neighbourhood Plans, local communities may want to recognise the need to protect and enhance specific facilities and/or allocate land for new or improved facilities, where such requirements are justified by appropriate evidence.

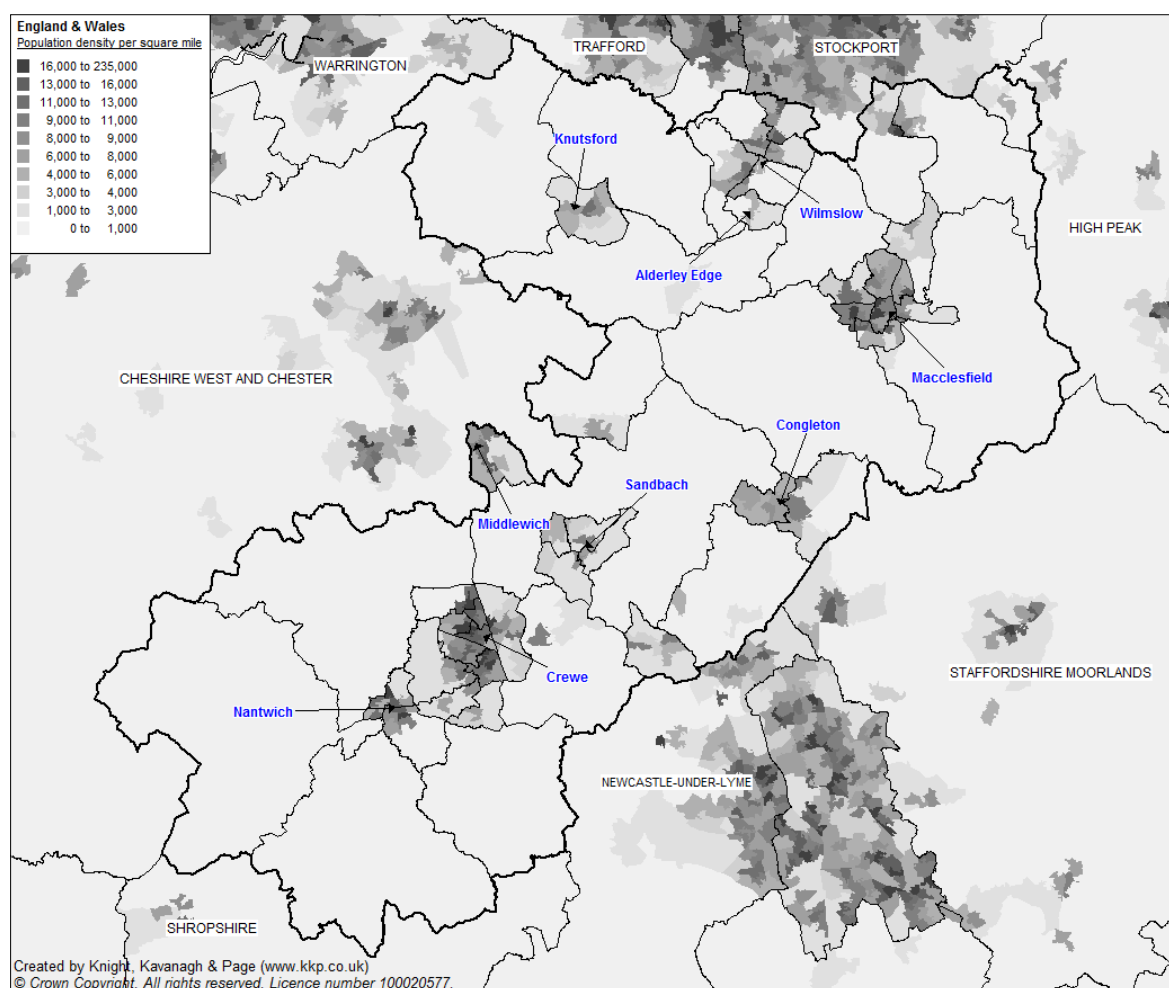
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ABOUT CHESHIRE EAST

Cheshire East lies within North West England and covers an area of 116,638 hectares. It borders Warrington, Cheshire West and Chester to the west, Greater Manchester to the north, Derbyshire to the east as well as Staffordshire and Shropshire to the south.

Approximately, 40% of the population lives in rural areas with the remainder in the two major towns of Crewe and Macclesfield and smaller towns of Wilmslow, Congleton, Sandbach, Poynton, Nantwich, Middlewich, Knutsford and Alsager.

Figure 3: Population density (2014 MYE): Cheshire East and surrounding districts



Cheshire East is the third largest unitary authority in the North West next to Manchester and Liverpool and is divided into 52 wards. According to the 2011 Census, Cheshire East has a population of 375,392¹ people; of which, ethnic white groups (British, Irish, Other) account for 96.7% of the population (357,940 people), with 3.3% of the population (12,187 people) being in ethnic groups other than white (Asian, Black, Other).

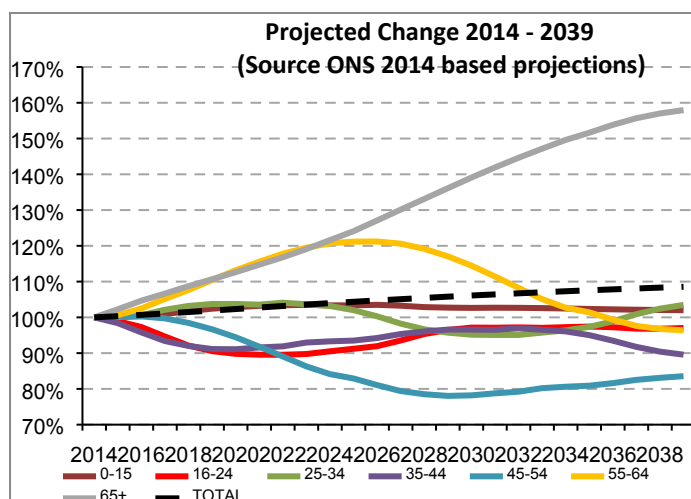
¹ Source: ONS 2015 Mid Year Estimate

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Age structure and ethnicity

Cheshire East's population differs from that of the North West region with the main differences being slightly higher proportions of people aged 65-74 (Cheshire East = 11.9%, North West = 10.0%); lower proportions of people aged 20-34 (Cheshire East = 15.1%, North West = 19.9%). Further the ethnic composition varies with 96.7% White, 1.6% Asian and 1.0% Mixed compared to 85.4%, 7.8% and 2.3% nationally.

Figure 4 Projected population change 2014-2039



The projected population changes show that until 2024 the 0-15 years and 25-34 years age groups are in line with the average growth in the Borough, but both taper off at different rates from this point forward. There is constant growth in the over 65 year old age group resulting in a 58% increase by 2038. Initially the 55-64 years age group reflects similar growth (20%) until 2024, but then tapers off significantly to below the current rate by 2038. All other age groups are in decline through until 2038.

Deprivation and ill health

14% of Cheshire East's population falls within the most deprived 30% nationally. Conversely, however, 55.4% are within the three least deprived groups (nationally this is 30%).

Health deprivation appears to be similarly spread throughout Cheshire East's communities, when compared to national averages. The IoD² points towards slightly higher health deprivation with 19.0% falling in the most deprived (three worst) cohorts based on health measures when a national equivalent would be 30%. Similarly, to the overall measure of deprivation, 45.1% of the population is in the best three cohorts for health.

Obesity

Whilst the data shows that the obesity levels for Cheshire East are in line with and below that of National and regional levels, there is much to be done to reduce the obesity levels which is costly to the NHS and detrimental to health and wellbeing. A key concern for the area is childhood obesity rates which identify that by year six, over a quarter (28.3%) of children are overweight or obese.

² Index of Deprivation 2015 (Department for Communities & Local Government)

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Activity levels

Participation trends from Active People Survey 9 show that over a third (37.0%) of adults participated in at least 1 x 30 minutes' moderate intensity sport per week. Around a quarter (24.8%) are members of a sports club, based on the four weeks prior to the APS. Both of these are above the national average and the regional average rates. In terms of competitive sport, one in nine (11.1%) have taken part during the 12 months prior to APS9. This was slightly below the regional (12.0%) and national (13.3%) averages.

APS10 headline data for KPI 1 showed that Cheshire East residents have in June 2016 been named as the most physically active in the North-West region, according to the annual Active People Survey results. Cheshire East came top of the table which demonstrates that improvements are being made in getting people more active. For people aged 16+ there has been a more than 5.5% rise since 2005 in those taking part in physical activities. This figure now stands at 42.7%.

Currently the most popular sports in Cheshire East are gym sessions, swimming, cycling, athletics and fitness classes. Cheshire East performs above the national and regional averages for the percentages of residents participating in these sports.

Housing Allocations in Cheshire East

The Cheshire East Local Plan is currently being developed and is at its examination stage. The Council is proposing to allocate a number of Strategic Sites for housing. There is an overall housing requirement for at least 36,000 new homes and proposals to achieve 31,400 additional jobs within the Local Plan period (2010-2030).

The Borough's population is projected to grow by around 58,100 people. This is set within the demographic context that Cheshire East will have a 65% increase in the population aged 65+ and a 134% increase in the population aged 85+, over the Plan period.

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RESEARCH FINDINGS

General Findings:

Cheshire East recognises the importance of its leisure facility stock to health and well-being and is committed to its retention via the presumption (in Planning Policy) against any net loss of active sport and leisure facilities in the Borough. There is also recognition that the Council and Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust will be operating within a climate of increasing financial constraints and there is a need to develop a strategy to deal with poor quality facilities which by their nature are expensive to operate and costly to maintain.

There is significant housing growth planned for Cheshire East which will increase demand for facilities in key areas as well as provide potential sources of funding (e.g. planning gain) to invest in facilities. The Council and its partners will also need to deal with increasing age related health challenges of the resident population.

There has been investment into “lifestyle” centres (integrated services buildings) in the Borough and there are more planned developments in the area which will further enhance the provision quality of facilities.

The future of Manchester Met (Crewe Campus) is uncertain at this stage and requires clarification. The loss of this facility will have a negative impact on the provision within the area, as it currently provides access to community clubs.

There is an aspiration within some sports in the area to develop specialist facilities (e.g. indoor athletics straight); however, this is likely to be dependent on the strategic need of respective governing bodies of sport and the ability of clubs to raise appropriate funds.

Sports Halls:

There is a reasonable spread of above average and good quality community accessible sports halls in Cheshire East. Netball, badminton, basketball, indoor cricket, football are the main sports played in sports halls. Some school sports halls are not suitably sized for the main traditional sports (i.e. netball and basketball).

Nearly two thirds (62%) of population live within 20 minute walk time of a 3+ court hall. Just under half of the sports hall stock is rated below average, with changing facilities slightly worse than this. A number of facilities are theoretically full or operating close to capacity.

The strategic programming of sports halls needs to be considered to enable a balanced spread of sports and the use of the best facilities for talented athletes. This is specifically relevant for sports such as netball, basketball and badminton which are often marginalised at the expense of indoor football. There is also a need to address key shortfalls in provision for gymnastics.

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Swimming Pools:

Swimming is a popular activity in Cheshire East; with all of the accessible swimming pools being well used by both the public and a range of aquatic clubs. The area has a relatively good supply of swimming pools with a community accessible pool available in all the main population centres.

The overall quality of pools in the area is a concern, especially in the longer term. The age of the pool stock across Cheshire East averages 39 years. Knutsford and Sandbach are identified as areas with poor quality swimming pools; but there are no plans currently in place to address this.

There are pockets of unmet demand in the rural village areas and also in some of the conurbations, especially Crewe and Macclesfield. In terms of swimming clubs, the potential exists to encourage clubs to amalgamate in order to pool scarce resources (e.g. coaches and volunteers) and to maximise the use of pool water space.

Health and fitness

The health and fitness offer in Cheshire East is relatively good with the majority of the stock rated either good or above average. However, there is concern about the size and scale of the Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust health and fitness offer; which can be directly related to the longer term viability of the organisation within a challenging financial climate and the organisation's ability to reinvest surpluses in physical activity and health related programmes.

Middlewich residents have access to only one below average facility and no others within the 20min walk/ 2 mile boundary. There is concern about the levels of health and fitness provision in Macclesfield and Congleton and in other towns such as Crewe and Nantwich.

Indoor Bowls

There is currently an under supply of indoor bowls in the area and with the population increases it is estimated that by 2037 there will be demand for 32 rinks. This is not considered to be a funding priority for the local authority and there does not appear to be an identified appetite or funding from the bowls community to develop a new indoor bowls facility within the area.

Squash

Cheshire East has a relatively good supply of squash courts with nine sites providing three or more courts. This is significantly more than many other parts of the country where squash courts have been lost to fitness conversions or not replaced within the development of a new facility. The majority of squash facilities in the area are of good or above average quality. There will be a loss of 2 squash courts at Sandbach LC as a result of a health and fitness development.

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Key findings within the main settlement areas

Alsager:

- ✦ There is one six court hall (below average), one four lane 25m pool (above average) three squash courts and two fitness gyms with a combined total of 69 stations in the area.
- ✦ There is planned investment of a gym extension and two new studio spaces to improve the health and fitness offer in Alsager Leisure Centre.
- ✦ It is anticipated that there will be 2,000 new homes in the area which will increase the population by 3,201 people creating additional demand for 1 badminton court and 0.5 of a swimming pool lane.
- ✦ *Key challenge: to improve the quality of the sports hall provision in the area.*

Congleton:

- ✦ There is one six court hall and two four court sports halls as well as a six lane 25m pool and 3 squash courts and a total of 150 community use fitness stations.
- ✦ At the time of audit there is a planned redevelopment of the Peter Mason Leisure Centre which will enhance the leisure offer at the site.
- ✦ Potential risks are that the redevelopment of the Peter Mason Leisure Centre may not replace all the activity areas currently available.
- ✦ Congleton is anticipated to have 4,150 new homes which will increase the population by 6,700 people creating additional demand of 2 badminton courts and 1.5 lanes of a swimming pool.
- ✦ *Key Challenge: to retain and enhance the facility mix at Peter Mason Leisure Centre as a priority and to ensure this is financially sustainable in the longer term.*

Crewe:

- ✦ There are four x six court halls, four x four court halls and three x three court halls in the town. There are four good pools, each targeting a different market. There are 2 squash courts and a total of 915 fitness stations.
- ✦ There are no indoor sports facilities developments planned at the time of audit in the area.
- ✦ The potential loss of the two x four court sports halls and 50 station fitness gym at Manchester Metropolitan University (Crewe) campus would negatively impact on the availability of provision for the local community.
- ✦ Crewe is planned to have 7,700 new homes which will increase the population by 12,401 creating additional demand for 3.5 badminton courts, and 2.5 lanes of a swimming pool.
- ✦ *Key challenge: to retain the sports halls at the Manchester Metropolitan University (Crewe) campus or to negotiate suitable replacement facilities within an appropriate location within the town.*

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Handforth:

- ✦ There is one fitness gym (good quality) with 145 community accessible stations.
- ✦ It is anticipated that there will be 2,200 new houses which will increase the population by 3,501 creating a small increase in demand for indoor sports facilities, which is not sufficient to warrant any new sports halls or pools. Handforth is adjacent to Wilmslow and key settlements within the adjoining authority and can potentially be served by core sports facilities within these areas. However, this does not negate the potential need for smaller scale community facilities.
- ✦ *Key challenge: To ensure that the increased demand for sports facilities as a result of the development of new housing in Handforth can be accommodated within strategic development in Wilmslow and/or the adjacent authority. To consider how community facilities within Handforth can accommodate physical activity programmes for localised demand.*

Knutsford:

- ✦ There is one six court hall, one four court hall and one three court hall. The six and four court halls are rated below average. There is one four lane 25m pool (below average), two squash courts and 71 community accessible fitness stations.
- ✦ It is anticipated that there will be 950 new houses and a population increase of 1,501 people creating additional demand for 0.5 badminton courts, and 0.5 lanes of a swimming pool.
- ✦ *Key challenges: To improve the quality of sports halls and increase the quality and provision of both water space and fitness provision available within the town.*

Macclesfield:

- ✦ There is one eight court hall, one six court hall, two four court halls, and one three court hall. Only the 3 court hall is rated below average, the others are above average.
- ✦ In terms of swimming pools, there is one 8 lane 25m pool, one 20m 4 lane pool; both of which are community pools and two smaller pools within fitness clubs. There are 23 squash courts and a total of 435 community accessible fitness stations.
- ✦ In general, the quality of facilities in the area is good with no major causes for concern at this stage.
- ✦ There is planned development in the area at the Kings School Macclesfield, which will consist of a new six court sports hall and six lane 25m pool. In addition to this there are plans to redevelop the Club AZ facilities at Alderley Park (although this is slightly outside of the area). Both of these facilities will have community access as well as their core education and employment use respectively.
- ✦ It is anticipated that there will be 4,250 new houses in the area which will increase the local population by circa 6,800 people. The majority of development will be in the south of the town, whereas the majority of the community accessible facilities are located to the north or just outside of the town. New housing growth and increased population will generate additional demand for 2 badminton courts, and 1.5 lanes (swimming pools).
- ✦ *Key challenge: to provide access to community facilities for existing and new residents in the south of the town.*

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Middlewich:

- ◀ There is one six court hall (below average quality) and two below average rated fitness gyms with a combined total of 59 stations. Although Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust manages Middlewich LC as if there is a community use agreement in place; however no formal agreement exists.
- ◀ It is anticipated that there will be 1950 new homes which will increase the population by 3,101 people creating a demand for an additional 1 badminton courts, and 0.5 lanes of a swimming pool.
- ◀ Middlewich is within the catchment area of the Winsford Lifestyle Centre (in Cheshire West) and Sandbach Leisure Centre, both of which are within 10 minute's drive. However, there is still a need to ensure that the quality of Middlewich LC is improved in order to sustain community demand.
- ◀ *Key challenge: future investment should be to improve the quality of the Middlewich Leisure Centre.*

Nantwich:

- ◀ There are two six court halls, and one three court hall all of which are rated below average. There is one public accessible six lane 25m pool and one small commercial pool. An outdoor brine pool is also available on a seasonable basis. There are three squash courts and a combined total of 161 fitness stations available for use. The Council owned health and fitness provision is spread over two sites.
- ◀ There is a planned development of indoor sports facilities at Reaseheath College where a four court sports hall is planned.
- ◀ It is anticipated that there will be 2,050 new homes which will increase the population by 3,301, creating demand for an additional 1 badminton court sports hall and 0.5 lanes of a swimming pool.
- ◀ *Key challenge: Given that the provision of sports halls is limited to educational sites, it is imperative that community use agreements are secured for these sites and that their quality is improved. In order to maximise the impact of and income from health and fitness it would make sense to concentrate provision on a single site, ideally at Nantwich Pool & Fitness Centre.*

Poynton:

- ◀ There is one six court sports hall, a 4 lane 20m pool, one squash court and 50 station fitness suite, all available at Poynton Leisure Centre.
- ◀ It is anticipated there will be 650 new homes which will increase the population by 1,001 people creating demand for an additional 0.5 badminton courts (halls), and 0.5 lanes of a swimming pool. There is currently an under supply of water space in this area as well as the need to improve the quality of the health and fitness offer.
- ◀ *Key challenge: to increase the size of the swimming pool and available water space and to ensure the maximum community use during the day, alongside improving the quality of the health and fitness offer.*

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Sandbach:

- ◀ There is one six court sports hall a four court hall (both of which are below average quality). There is one 5 lane 25m pool and a 4 lane 22m pool (both of which are below average quality). There are two squash courts and a total of 51 fitness stations available.
- ◀ There are plans to convert the squash provision at Sandbach LC to accommodate increased demand for health and fitness in the area. This will result in the loss of both courts.
- ◀ It is anticipated that there will be 2,750 new homes which will increase the population by 3,401 creating additional demand for a one badminton court sports hall and 1 lane of a swimming pool.
- ◀ *Key challenge: to improve the quality of the sports halls and swimming pools in the area, especially at Sandbach LC, where the investment in health and fitness will highlight this more acutely.*

Wilmslow:

- ◀ There are three four court sports halls. Swimming pool provision is relatively high with one 5 lane 25m pool, a 6 lane 25m pool and three smaller pools located at fitness facilities. There are seven squash courts and a total of 513 fitness stations.
- ◀ In general, the quality of provision appears to be good, other than at Wilmslow LC which is currently below average quality.
- ◀ It is anticipated that there will be 900 new homes which will increase the population by 1,401 creating demand for an additional 0.5 badminton court, and 0.5 swimming pool lanes. Therefore, the currently supply would appear to be adequate for the local demand. However, this also needs to be reviewed within the context of future housing growth in Handforth which is in close proximity to the Wilmslow catchment.
- ◀ *Key challenge: To take account of housing and population growth in both Wilmslow and Handforth and to improve the quality of the facilities currently available at Wilmslow LC.*

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Emerging opportunities

There is planned to be at least 36,000 new homes by 2030 and the Borough's population is projected to grow by around 58,100 people. Not all of the population growth will be as a result of additional housing, there will also be natural growth as a result of people living longer (hence the increase in percentage of over 65s). However, there will be significant housing growth across all of the key settlement areas, which means that there will be an opportunity to deliver planning gain to invest in new facilities or to contribute to upgrading existing.

Table 1: - Indicative housing and associated population growth in Cheshire East

Analysis Area	Number of new homes	Indicative population growth
Alsager	2,000	3,200
Congleton	4,150	6,700
Crewe	7,700	12,400
Handforth	2,200	3,500
Knutsford	950	1,500
Macclesfield	4,250	6,800
Middlewich	1,950	3,100
Nantwich	2,050	3,300
Poynton	650	1,000
Sandbach	2,750	3,400
Wilmslow	900	1,400
Local Service Centres	3,500	5,600
Other Settlements and Rural areas (inc Alderley Park)	2,950	4,700
Cheshire East	36,000	56,600

In addition to the housing growth there will also be the proposed High Speed Two (HS2) which will connect major cities in Britain. The Government remains supportive of the vision for a Crewe HS2 Hub station (potentially located at the existing Crewe station), and plans to make decisions on additional investment in 2017. The 2016 Command Paper also outlines the confirmed route for HS2 from Crewe to Manchester Airport.

Given the benefits that Crewe Hub would bring to the area the Council is supportive of HS2 and believes it reinforces Cheshire East as the best place to live and do business in the North West. The Council believes that investment in HS2 will consolidate Cheshire East as one of the most connected areas in the UK and will support existing businesses, inward investment and job creation in and around Crewe and the wider sub-region.

Therefore, the opportunity for new investment and a higher profile for Cheshire East is also an opportunity for the sports facility infrastructure to be recognised as a key contributor to the quality of life of residents and part of the decision making for people to relocate to Cheshire East.

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MODERN LEISURE CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

In order to provide Cheshire East with a reference point of what other local authorities are developing in relation to their sports facilities networks, it is accurate to state that the majority are developing fewer, better quality facilities and are giving greater importance to the location and travel connections to facilities. Furthermore, many are looking to enhance their offer by developing a more 'commercial' range of facilities alongside a wider health and wellbeing service providers.

Recent developments of new community leisure facilities throughout the UK have followed three key themes within their design and offering, namely:

- ◀ Core facilities which meet local need and demand for sport and physical activity and enable the operator to deliver a cost effective service with minimal subsidy.
- ◀ Additional activity areas which provide a financial return by addressing a gap in the market or enhancing the core offer.
- ◀ Co-located with other service providers which enhances working relationships across 'civic' partners and improves service delivery to the community.

The following table identifies the types of facilities and activity areas included within each and the wider benefits that this delivers for the community.

Table 2: Modern leisure facility considerations

Core facilities	Additional activity areas	Co-located services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 lane 25 metre pool Teaching pool) Sports hall (size depends on demand and programming) 80 - 150 station fitness suite 1x large group fitness studio 1 x small group fitness studio Catering hub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floodlit 3G pitch 5-a-side pitches. Soft play Spa facilities Youth play facility (e.g. clip n' climb, interactive activity zones. High ropes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of a school campus Library Health centre / GP surgery Pharmacy Police office Council contact point Meeting rooms
Benefits	Benefits	Benefits
<p>Enables operators to provide services at minimal subsidy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximising income from health and fitness. Maximising income from learn to swim. Offering a range of community based activities. <p>Enables operators to contribute to the wider physical activity and wellbeing agenda by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offering health based programmes within fitness suites & swimming pools Being a meeting point and social venue for outdoor 	<p>Enables operators to maximise income to underpin the cost of the operation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking a more commercial approach to programming activity areas. Capturing data on users (e.g. parents) and using this as a way of cross selling core services (e.g. learn to swim). Providing a return on investment. 	<p>Creation of a leisure and community hub which enables operators to link with other services to contribute to wider physical activity and wellbeing agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offering a wider range of services under one roof. Reaching residents who would not otherwise enter a sports facility. Offering programmes and interventions for specific client groups with health and other partners. Cross marketing and sharing of information to

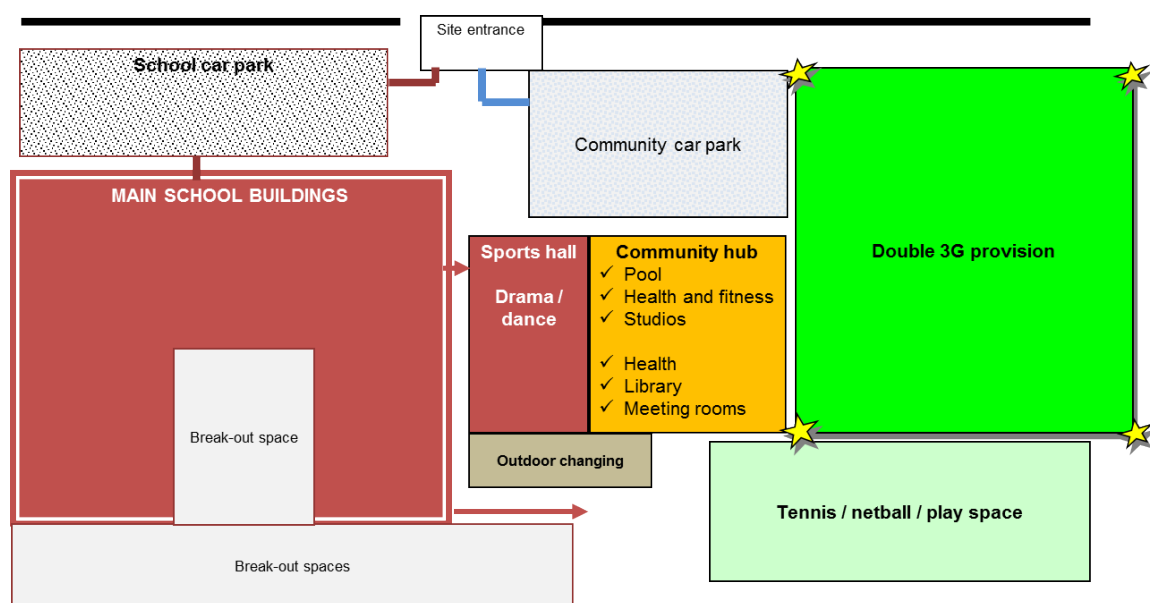
CHESHIRE EAST INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES –STRATEGY

physical activities.		address local needs.
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Where facilities are developed as part of a wider school campus, consideration needs to be given to the layout, access arrangements and overall management of the site for the benefit of the school and community. The layout model below identifies the potential considerations within a co-located community hub on a school site. The main ethos behind this model is that alongside the core requirements for a school, the community hub can be expanded or contracted to meet the needs of the local community and partners.

Therefore, not all hubs will be the same, but the access arrangements for the school and community will be set out and agreed prior to development. As such, serious consideration needs to be given to the potential to develop such a model in Cheshire East and maximise investment in community infrastructure as a result of housing growth and redevelopment of schools.

Figure 5: Co-located hub site model



The key features of the above model are as follows:

- ✦ School access is designed in such a way that it addresses safeguarding issues and facilitates community use of facilities when they are not required by the school, thus maximising community use and minimising the revenue burden.
- ✦ The activity areas are designed and operated as community facilities, with the new secondary school and local primary schools priority booking access as required.
- ✦ The building will operate as a stand-alone community health and wellbeing centre, with the school elements incorporated within this to facilitate community access at evenings and weekends.
- ✦ The Library, meeting rooms and health facility will be operated by their specific service areas; but it would be expected that joint working would be implemented to offer combined services and interventions as appropriate (e.g. targeted health promotion activities, etc.).

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- ◀ In general, these types of facilities are located on or adjacent to arterial routes with good public transport access, significant visibility and presence within the area and seek to maximise the to and from work/education market.

Funding to implement the strategy

The Strategy has not addressed in detail how proposals and recommendations will be funded. It is anticipated that there will be no single funding source; rather a mix of sources and solutions will be required to deliver the vision and ambitions of the strategy. These solutions will include:

- ◀ Further development and implementation of the Cheshire East developer contributions process associated with the development of urban extensions.
- ◀ Use of capital receipts from land disposal, where applicable.
- ◀ Asset rationalisation and use of revenue saving and/or future liabilities to pay back borrowing aligned to capital investment in other sites.
- ◀ Prudential borrowing where an 'invest to save' justification can be made, particularly for longer-term proposals which may be considered in light of the Council's future borrowing strategy.
- ◀ External funding sources aligned to specific facilities and/or sports (e.g. Sport England funding, other charitable grant awards and funding streams).
- ◀ 3rd party borrowing where a suitable, robust business case exists (although this will be more expensive than prudential borrowing).

In general, the majority of new leisure centre developments have been undertaken on the basis of rationalising one or two existing facilities and developing a new larger, better quality facility which is more economical to operate. Furthermore, the new facility mix enables the operator to deliver revenue efficiencies (i.e. operate the facility at zero subsidy or better) which are often used to fund part or all of the capital repayment. A similar approach is undertaken for the refurbishment of existing facilities where increased income offsets the annualised cost of the refurbishment.

It is likely that a combination of the above approaches will be developed for the wide range of projects identified in Cheshire East. This will require a robust approach to business planning to ensure that all investment is financially sound.

CHESHIRE EAST INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES –STRATEGY

VISION AND OBJECTIVES

This is Cheshire East Council's vision for sport and leisure provision in the area that builds on the conclusions identified in the Indoor Sport and Leisure Facilities Assessment Report. This Strategy sets the vision and objectives for Cheshire East's physical infrastructure for the period 2017 to 2030. It considers all of the area's community sport and leisure assets required to ensure the Council and its partners serve the people of Cheshire East through:

- ✦ *Fulfilling its community leadership role well.*
- ✦ *Ensuring quality and value in public services.*
- ✦ *Safeguarding the most vulnerable in society.*

Cheshire East's vision is:

To create a network of high quality, accessible and sustainable sport and leisure facilities, which offer inclusive services for all; enabling the inactive to become active and more residents to fulfil their potential by participating in sport and physical activity, thus improving their long-term health and well-being.

The strategic recommendations have been identified to deliver the above vision over the period 2017 – 2030. They provide strategic direction for Cheshire East Council, its partners and stakeholders which provide facilities and opportunities for residents to pursue sport and recreation as a means to engage in physical activity. The strategic objectives are as follows:

- ✦ Maximise the potential sports facility development opportunities created through Cheshire East's housing and population growth.
- ✦ Where appropriate engage with other services to create multi-agency hubs through the co-location of services.
- ✦ Work with colleagues in Education to ensure that any new schools or improvements to sports facilities in existing schools are accompanied by a community use agreement.
- ✦ Work with selected schools to increase their availability for community use.
- ✦ Enhance the quality of the existing sports facility infrastructure and improve its longer term financial sustainability by ensuring sufficient capital funds are available for improvement and upkeep.
- ✦ To protect key sports facilities which are deemed at risk or closure, either as a result of age or potential development.
- ✦ The retention of the Sports facilities and the community access where there are changes in Education (University)
- ✦ Strategically programme sports and leisure provision to ensure that there is sufficient access for a range of sports to enable growth and increase participation.
- ✦

The above is now considered in more detail to identify the specific rationale and focus for delivering individual objectives.

CHESHIRE EAST INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES –STRATEGY

Maximise the potential sports facility development opportunities created through Cheshire East's housing and population growth.

It is clear that there are real sports facility development opportunities which should be maximised as a result of housing growth within Cheshire East. As such there is a need for the Council to ensure that it develops robust planning policies that set out an approach to securing sport and recreational facilities for the longer term, where appropriate via new housing developments in the area. Guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to develop new provision and/or the enhancement of existing indoor and built facilities.

Section 106 contributions or CIL (the Community Infrastructure Levy) should be used to improve the quality and scope of existing indoor and built facilities to enable increased capacity and use to be accommodated, enhancing the operator's ability to increase participation at relevant centres. Consideration should also be given to applying such funds to improve the quality of school sports facilities, where they enhance and extend the community use of schools.

Cheshire East Council needs to protect the existing supply of sports facilities where they are needed to meet current or future needs. Local plan policies should protect facilities to safeguard their long term use for the community; this should encompass strategically significant facilities as well as access to school sports facilities.

Where appropriate engage with other services to create multi-agency hubs through the co-location of services.

Through the development of its Lifestyles Centre in Crewe, Cheshire East Council has already demonstrated its ability to deliver multi-agency hubs through the co-location of services. This approach should be considered within other opportunities that may arise within the area. This will be important, especially within new housing areas, where there will not be a need for large scale leisure facility provision, but it will be important that what is developed (e.g. a community facility which is able to accommodate physical activity programmes), is sustainable and 'fits' within the rest of the community offer in the area.

This will be specifically relevant in areas such as Handforth and South Macclesfield where there will be significant housing growth within areas not directly served by an existing leisure facility.

Within south Macclesfield it will be important to ensure that any new community provision is co-located with other relevant services (e.g. new primary school, local shops, etc.) in order that the facility benefits from passing trade and is easily accessible within the new community and outside of the area. There is also an opportunity to develop a complementary facility to Macclesfield LC, including health and fitness suite and group fitness studio alongside any new outdoor provision required within the area. By clustering facilities in this way and by ensuring there is an appropriate management arrangement for the facility there is an opportunity that the offer will be financially viable in the longer term. This does not negate the potential for community involvement in the running of the facility, but it ensures that an appropriately skilled management team drives income generation, complementary programming and financial viability of the facility.

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Within the new Handforth development, it will be important that the facility is also co-located with other relevant services (e.g. new primary school, local shops, etc.) in order that the facility benefits from passing trade and is easily accessible within the new community and outside of the area. It is unlikely that this facility would sustain any significant fitness offer; but there is a need to ensure that the facility can accommodate smaller scale multi-activities within a new community offer.

Work with colleagues in Education to ensure that any new schools or improvements to sports facilities in existing schools are accompanied by a community use agreement.

Cheshire East Council has recently been working with St Johns Wood Community School to get the school to sign up to a community use agreement to enable access to the school sports hall. In addition to this the Council has a number of community use agreements and dual use agreements at other school sports facility sites in the area (e.g. Poynton LC, Knutsford LC, etc.).

A number of educational establishments have identified an aspiration to enhance the range of sports facilities available at the school. These include Reaseheath College (4 court sports hall), Kings School Macclesfield (sports hall and swimming pool), Eaton Bank Academy (4 court sports hall) and Fallibroome Academy (4 court sports hall). These aspirations and potential proposals present Cheshire East with an opportunity to work with respective schools and colleges to ensure that community use is considered within the design and access arrangements for the facilities. Coupled with this, there is an opportunity through the planning system to ensure that schools sign up to a community use agreement and honour this regardless of changes to school governance arrangements.

Within the development of this recommendation, consideration should also be given to working with schools to determine the potential to have community access to facilities throughout the school day. This will require the effective design of facilities to ensure that safeguarding measures are designed in, but that schools can have community access when the timetable allows.

In order to deliver enhanced community use of schools the Council should consider allowing planning gain funds (e.g. CIL, Section 106) to be used to contribute to these. However, a specific requirement of the funding will be that a signed and actioned community use agreement is put into place and regularly monitored.

Core findings from Playing Pitch Strategy – 3G pitches

The playing pitch strategy findings showed that there is a shortfall of five 3G pitches when assessing Cheshire East as a whole or a shortfall of eight when assessing it by analysis area. The PPS findings are:

Shortfall is evident in Alsager, Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Poynton, Sandbach (all one) and Wilmslow (two). The Shortfall in Alsager will be alleviated after the development at MMU and the shortfall in Macclesfield could be alleviated after a development at Priory Park, but only if it is made available for football (it will primarily be for Rugby).

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The PPS Strategy recommends exploring feasibility at Eaton Bank Academy to alleviate shortfall in Congleton. Likewise at Sandbach Community Football Centre to alleviate the shortfall in Sandbach (has one 3G but could have two).

The PPS also suggests that the sand based AGP at Macclesfield Academy could be converted to 3G to alleviate Macclesfield shortfall as no hockey demand exists.

There is a need to follow the current trends of locating 3G pitches primarily at school sites or alternatively managed sites for example at leisure centres adjacent to schools.

Aligned to the PPS there is a need to invest, and consider the option of co-locating facilities or providing pitches at Poynton High School or in Poynton where a management presence already exists.

In Macclesfield consider how 3G provision might fit with the new housing growth in the area and how it contributes to wider sustainability and any new provision in the area.

Within Congleton where Eaton Bank Academy have already expressed an interest in developing 3G facilities and a want to engage further with the wider community through the use of the school's facilities, consider the opportunities to develop other facilities at Eaton Bank Academy aligned with other facilities in the area as part of the academy development.

In line with the above consider the most appropriate school based locations for pitches in line with the regulations of the FA and ensure that the 3G pitches enhance the offer at the schools.

Work with selected schools to increase their availability for community use.

Almost all schools in Cheshire East make their sports facilities (mainly sports halls) available for community use. With the recent community use agreement developed in partnership with St John's Wood Community School, this leaves one school which does not provide access to its facilities for community use, namely Alderley Edge School for Girls.

Therefore, there is an opportunity for the Council to work in partnership with the school to facilitate community use of the school's sports facilities.

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Enhance the quality of the existing sports facility infrastructure and improve its longer term financial sustainability by ensuring sufficient capital funds are available for improvement and upkeep.

There is a need for Cheshire East Council to invest in its current sport and leisure infrastructure in order to sustain provision within key communities and to address some of the longer term financial viability challenges with the cost of operating facilities. The key findings within the main settlement areas identifies the challenges that will need to be addressed in relation to the existing sports facility infrastructure. However, there is also a need to consider this with respect to opportunities to increase income from key sites. The key focus for investment within the life of this strategy can be identified as follows:

- ◀ Improve the quality of the sports hall and changing facilities alongside the investment in the gym extension and studio spaces at Alsager LC.
- ◀ Within the redevelopment of Peter Mason LC consideration should be given to the following:
 - ◀ Providing a larger teaching pool alongside replacing the existing 6 lane 25 m pool.
 - ◀ Retaining the current size of sports hall provision at the facility.
 - ◀ Extending the size and scale of the health and fitness offer by providing a larger fitness suite as well as two group fitness studios.
 - ◀ Ensure that consideration is given to providing changing rooms to service the outdoor pitches adjacent to the centre.
 - ◀ Consider the opportunity to provide indoor soft play provision as part of the development.
- ◀ Develop a holistic plan to provide an enhanced community sport and leisure offer in the Knutsford area. This should ideally build on the success of the existing dual use agreement, retain the existing size sports hall for school use and provide the following:
 - ◀ 5 lane 25m pool
 - ◀ Extended health and fitness offer by providing a larger fitness suite as well as two group fitness studios.
- ◀ Develop a holistic plan to maintain the quality of Macclesfield LC and where possible expand the health and fitness offer at the facility. If funding is available to provide a new sports hall at Fallibroome Academy and this has secured community use; there is an opportunity to consider using one of the sports hall spaces to enhance the income generation potential of the facility (e.g. extend the fitness offer and provide a soft play offer).
- ◀ Improve the quality of Middlewich LC with a view to establishing a formal community use agreement for the facility.
- ◀ Centralise the health and fitness offer at a single site in Nantwich (i.e. preferably Nantwich Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre) with a focus on extending the size and scale of the health and fitness offer by providing a larger fitness suite as well as group fitness studio.

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- ◀ Develop a holistic plan to provide an enhanced community sport and leisure offer in the Poynton area. This should ideally build on the success of the existing dual use agreement, retain the existing size sports hall for school use and provide the following:
 - ◀ 5 lane 25m pool
 - ◀ Extended health and fitness offer by providing a larger fitness suite as well as group fitness studio.
- ◀ Develop a holistic plan to provide an enhanced community sport and leisure offer in the Sandbach area. This should ideally be at Sandbach LC and take account of the anticipated life expectancy of facilities available on the Sandbach School site.
- ◀ Develop a holistic plan to maintain the quality of Wilmslow LC and where possible expand the health and fitness offer at the facility.

To protect key sports facilities which are deemed at risk or closure, either as a result of age or potential development.

The research findings identified that there is the potential that the Manchester Metropolitan University (Crewe campus) sports centre will be lost as a result of the relocation of the campus. This facility is accessible by the local community and contributes to the current supply of sports halls. Furthermore, given the housing and population growth expected for Crewe as well as the potential wider impacts from HS2 there is a need to retain this facility for community use. Alternatively, the Council should seek to negotiate mitigation from the loss of the facility and invest this in a strategic development in the area.

Strategically programme sports and leisure provision to ensure that there is sufficient access for a range of sports to enable growth and increase participation.

Cheshire East has a strong network of sports clubs and users of facilities. As such, there is high demand for spaces (especially sports halls and swimming pools) to play sport and physical activity during peak times. However, the current approach to programming does not appear to accommodate priority sports with all facilities having an aspiration to have a balanced programme of activities. Although this is a valued approach it does not necessarily provide key sports with the opportunity to flourish and grow, thus increasing participation levels in the Borough.

There is a need for the Council and its leisure management operator, Everybody Sport and Recreation to develop a wider approach to programming (e.g. settlement area or geographical cluster) which incorporates not only leisure centre programmes, but also programmes at schools and private sector (e.g. Alderley Park) sites. As such there is a need to consider the best options for particular sports (not the operators or facilities), in order that they can grow and develop.

As an example, netball and badminton clubs have identified challenges with accessing appropriate facilities to train and play fixtures in order to grow participation within their sports. Furthermore, there is an awareness that the Cheshire FA has an aspiration to develop Futsal across the area.

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Therefore, there is a need for the Council and Everybody Sport and Recreation to engage with specific national governing bodies of sport to identify how growth potential of certain sports can be nurtured and accommodated across the full network of facilities. This requires both organisations to consider how clubs and programmes should be ‘pushed and pulled’ across all facilities and potentially to accommodate increased use of a single facility.

CHESHIRE EAST INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES –STRATEGY

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy identifies the investment and actions required to deliver and maintain a high quality built facilities infrastructure for Cheshire East for the period up until 2030.

It is important that the Strategy is a live document and is used in a practical manner to prioritise investment, develop key work programmes and partnerships, guide planning gain investment and ensure that built sports facilities are a vital component which contribute to the quality of life of Cheshire East's residents.

The production of the Strategy should be regarded as the start of the strategic planning process with a requirement for all partners to engage in ongoing dialogue and review in order to ensure that a strategic approach is adopted throughout the life of the strategy.

It will be important for Cheshire East Council and its partners to develop a 3 – 5 year action plan based around the Strategy and for this to be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis. This process should not only be a review against the action plan, it should also identify any potential changes in the supply and demand for facilities across the authority. This is on the basis that the Strategy is as much about how facilities are used as ensuring the infrastructure is of a good quality.

In particular the annual review process should include:

- ▶ A review of annual progress on the recommendations and the 3 – 5 year action plan; taking into account any changes required to the priority of each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others)
- ▶ Lessons learnt throughout the year.
- ▶ New facilities that may need to be taken into account.
- ▶ Any specific changes of use of key sites in the Borough (e.g. sport specific specialisms of sites, changes in availability, etc.).
- ▶ Any specific changes in demand at particular facilities and/or clubs in the area (e.g. reduction or increase in club numbers, new housing growth,
- ▶ New formats of traditional sports that may need to be taken account of.
- ▶ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

The outcome of the review will be to develop a new annual and medium term action plan for indoor and built sports facilities across the Borough.

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