

IPSWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY



A
REPORT
BY
PMP

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SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION

Introduction

- 1.1 During autumn 2007, Ipswich Borough Council (the Council) commissioned PMP to write a playing pitch strategy. The strategy has been developed following the methodology outlined in “Towards a Level Playing Field.”
- 1.2 This strategy has been developed in conjunction with a PPG17 compliant open space, sport and recreation study which considers the provision of open spaces borough wide, including outdoor sports facilities. This document provides further detail on the provision of pitches in the Borough, including an assessment of demand and specific priorities for future provision.
- 1.3 The key objectives of this playing pitch strategy are to:
- analyse the current level of pitch provision, including the geographical spread and quality of pitches;
 - assist the Council in meeting the requirements for playing pitches in accordance with the methodology developed by Sport England in conjunction with the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR);
 - identify the demand for pitches in Ipswich;
 - run the Playing Pitch Methodology (explained in detail in section five) to ascertain levels of under/over supply;
 - identify how facilities for pitch sports can be improved to meet the needs of residents;
 - provide strategic options and recommendations including:
 - provision to be protected;
 - provision to be enhanced;
 - relocation of pitches;
 - proposals for new provision;
 - sites considered to be surplus; and
 - provide information to help the decision making process and determine future development proposals including the production of specific local standards relating to playing pitch provision. These standards are integrated within the local standards developed for the Ipswich Borough Council PPG17 study that is being developed concurrently.
- 1.4 This playing pitch assessment is primarily concerned with voluntary participation by adults and young people in competitive association football (referred to in this document as ‘football’), cricket, rugby union and hockey.

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- 1.5 The strategy presents the key findings arising from extensive survey work and consultation, highlighting areas of both concern and opportunity and sets a vision and strategy for the future delivery of sports pitches across the borough.
- 1.6 It is important to emphasise that this document examines the provision of playing pitches (i.e. the playing surface, safety margins and the wider area for repositioning the pitch within the playing field) and not playing fields or open spaces (which include grass or other areas which are not used for sport). This is a key distinction since some of the areas surrounding pitches are not used for sport but are important in terms of open space. The wider use and secondary purpose of outdoor sports facilities is considered within the PPG17 assessment.
- 1.7 The following key areas are covered within this document:
- the current picture – a review of current participation trends and playing pitch provision in England, both at a national level, and specifically within Ipswich;
 - methodology – a summary of the research process;
 - supply and demand – a quantitative and qualitative appraisal of the extent to which existing playing pitch provision meets the current (and future) competitive needs of pitch sports;
 - an application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM); and
 - key actions, recommendations and priorities for the future based on the development of the main issues arising from the supply and demand consultation and PPM analysis.
- 1.8 Provision is analysed on a borough wide level. For the purposes of analysis, supply and demand is also considered geographically across the borough. This has been undertaken using neighbourhood area boundaries, derived from ward boundaries, natural boundaries and the characteristics of individual neighbourhoods. The use of these areas is consistent with the PPG17 study.
- 1.9 These geographical areas are illustrated in Figure 1.1 overleaf and a summary of the population within each area can be seen in Tables 1.1 and 1.2 overleaf. These populations are based on 2007 mid-year population estimates.
- 1.10 All data collected as part of this study has been inputted into a complex Excel spreadsheet. This spreadsheet has also been provided to the Council, enabling analysis of supply and demand issues at a geographical level. This allows detailed in depth analysis and testing of future scenarios.

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Table 1.1 Analysis area breakdown

Area 1 Central	Area 2 North East	Area 3 South East	Area 4 South West	Area 5 North West
Westgate	Rushmere	Holywells	Gipping	Whitton
St Margaret's	Bixley	Gainsborough	Sprites	White House
Alexandra	St John's	Priory Heath	Stoke Park	Castle Hill
			Bridge	

Table 1.2 Analysis area populations

Analysis area	Population
Central	24,024
North East	24,547
South East	22,356
South West	31,828
North West	25,318

Figure 1.1 Analysis area map



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The current picture

- 2.1 This section of the strategy assesses the current context for playing pitch provision both nationally and locally within Ipswich. It contains the following information:
- context - a review of national, regional and local strategies relevant to sport and recreation in Ipswich;
 - an analysis of demographic and participation trends; and
 - playing pitch provision - the national context and the local context.

National context

- 2.2 Despite the explosion of local authority provision during the 1970's and the private health and fitness boom of the 1990s, participation has remained static, with the 2007 – 2008 Active People Survey highlighting that 21.3% of the adult population aged 16 and over (8.8 million people) take part in sport and active recreation (a minimum of three times thirty minutes per week).
- 2.3 The survey results enable detailed analysis on the different sports that people are currently participating in. Walking remains the most popular form of physical activity with 22% of the population participating at least once a month. Fitness related activities are more popular than more traditional sports such as football, rugby, cricket and hockey. However football does feature in the top 10 of sporting activities with a total of 3.1 million people playing once a month or more. The findings from the survey reveal the popularity of different sports varies substantially between men and women and across different regions in England.
- 2.4 The breakdown of participation by sport is shown in Table 2.1 below:

Table 2.1 Sport by sport results from the 2007 – 2008 Active People Survey

Sport and recreational activities	Rank Order (out of 74)	% of the adult population (16 plus) taking part at least once a month	Number of adults (16 plus) taking part at least once a month
Football (all)	5	7.6	3,142,400
Cricket	18	1	419,600
Rugby Union	21	0.8	314,000
Hockey-field	30	0.4	156,500

Making the case for sport

- 2.5 The role of sport and active recreation in delivering quality of life benefits is being increasingly recognised at a national level.
- 2.6 This has been driven by **Game Plan: a strategy for delivering Government's sport and physical activity objectives (DCMS/Strategy Unit, December 2002)**. This report outlines the Government's long term vision for increasing participation and high performance in sport:
- “by 2020 to increase significantly levels of sport and physical activity, particularly among disadvantaged groups, and to achieve sustained levels of success in international competition”.*
- 2.7 The Government wants to encourage the growth of a mass participation culture, with the ambitious target of achieving 70% of the population active (currently 30%). However it is realised by experts within the field and those delivering sport and recreation that this target is challenging. It has therefore been recommended that a lower target of 50% of the population active by 2020, with a 1% increase targeted year-on-year.
- 2.8 Game Plan's remit is wider than sport alone and recognises the link between physical activity and improving health and the importance of focussing on young people. In achieving such links and targeted participation increases there is recognition of the need for more innovative solutions to provision.
- 2.9 In support of this, the **Health Profile of England (2007)** indicated that in the decade ending 2005, the proportion of obese children rose by over 50%. In addition, in 2005 almost a quarter of the adult population was obese.
- 2.10 Major investment to date and continuing investment relevant to this project has been made into schools through the Physical Education, School Sport and Club Link Strategy (PESSCL). **DfES: Learning through PE and Sport (2003)** stresses the importance of PE and sport in schools (curricular and extracurricular) and reinforces the role of schools in serving the community.
- 2.11 The case is further illustrated in **Sport Playing Its Part: The Contribution of Sport to Building Safe, Strong and Sustainable Communities (Sport England, 2005)**. This is one of a series of documents published by Sport England outlining how sport can enrich people's quality of life, raise self-esteem and confidence levels and provide enjoyment to individuals. Sport and active recreation also has the potential to contribute to strengthen community involvement, engagement, identity and civic pride.
- 2.12 Sport and other cultural (or leisure) services can be powerful tools to engage all sections of the community and break down barriers between them. Marginalised groups are often more willing to engage with such activities than other government funded activities.

2.13 **Community Cohesion - An Action Guide, (Local Government Association, 2004)** outlines the roles that sport can play in meeting wider corporate objectives including:

- strengthening community involvement, engagement, identity and pride;
- improving community cohesion;
- reducing crime and anti-social behaviour;
- improving quality of built and natural environment and creating a sense of place; and
- encouraging sustainable travel.

2.14 The provision of high quality playing fields in the right location is an important component in driving forward the health and physical activity agenda and increasing participation nationally. This playing pitch strategy will guide the effective distribution of playing pitches across Ipswich.

2.15 The **Building Schools For the Future Programme**, the largest investment into school estates for over 50 years, provides significant opportunities nationwide to provide community resources. This programme offers the opportunity to:

- protect school facilities;
- enhance the value of school playing fields to the local community;
- create and enhance school club links and provide home grounds for more sports clubs;
- facilitate the growth of mini and youth soccer; and
- support and improve opportunities to play sport in school.

2.16 Opportunities specific to Ipswich will be explored later in this strategy.

Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier

2.17 The Choosing Health White Paper emphasises that 21st century citizens should seek a healthier approach to life. By listening to people's views and taking into account the realities of lifestyles, three core principles towards making healthy choices easier have emerged:

- informed choice – people able to make their own decisions;
- personalisation – support for individuals; and
- working together – effective partnerships.

2.18 The consultation process also identified the following overarching priorities

- reducing the number of people who smoke;
- reducing obesity and improving diet and nutrition;
- increasing exercise;

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- encouraging and supporting sensible drinking;
- improving sexual health; and
- improving mental health.

2.19 As consumers, the choices we make can affect our health, so the Government White Paper aims to set out a modern strategy encompassing access to and quality of information.

2.20 Supporting children at a young age, by providing accessible health and social care, puts them on the right path for the future. Health is seen as a way of life – providing people with the tools to make informed lifestyle choices.

Choosing Activity: A physical activity action plan

2.21 The Government plans to encourage and co-ordinate the action of a range of departments and organisations to promote increased participation in physical activity across England.

2.22 The aim of the plan is to promote activity for all, in line with the Chief Medical Officer's recommendations – 30 minutes of moderate exercise at least five times a week.

2.23 The key outcomes of the action plan can be summarised as:

- improve information and raise awareness of the benefits of activity;
- support activity in the community by addressing barriers such as safety, cost and locality;
- support activity in early years and schools and improve community access to school facilities; and
- support and encourage everyday activities like walking and cycling.

2.24 The provision of sports pitches within Ipswich, alongside the promotion of opportunities for both pitch sports and other physical activity is a key vehicle towards the achievement of these objectives.

Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation (2005)

2.25 Sport England's aims are for a larger proportion of the population to become involved in sport and provide more places to play sport. Sport England seeks to:

- develop and improve the knowledge and practice of sport and physical recreation in England;
- encourage and develop higher standards of performance and the achievement of excellence;
- foster, support and undertake the development of facilities; and
- advise, assist and cooperate with other government departments and local authorities.

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2.26 Sport England will provide advice on what type of sports facilities are needed for communities in the future. They will also advise on how to protect and improve the current stock of facilities, in particular protecting playing fields.

2.27 Sport England takes the definition of spatial planning as set out in Planning Policy Statements 1 (PPS1) as its starting point. This states that:

‘Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function’.

2.28 Sport England sees the new UK spatial planning system as an opportunity to deliver its own aspirations for sport and recreation, whilst contributing to the goals of partners in public, private and voluntary sectors. With this there is the opportunity to deliver a planned approach towards the provision of facilities helping to reach sustainable development goals. These are:

- taking a broader view of the role of spatial planning as an enabling function which goes beyond the setting and delivery of land-use policy;
- identify opportunities for delivering an enhanced quality of life for communities, in the short, medium and longer term;
- recognising and taking full advantage of the unique ability of sport and active recreation to contribute to a wide array of policy and community aspirations;
- the development of partnership working stimulated by, and perhaps centred on, sport and active recreation as a common interest; and
- using sport and recreation as one of the building blocks of planning and delivery of sustainable communities.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002).

2.29 Planning Policy Guidance Notes set out the Government’s national policies on different aspects of planning.

2.30 PPG17 states that *“the government expects all local authorities to carry out assessments of needs and audits of open space and sports and recreational facilities”.*

2.31 Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives, which include:

- supporting an urban renaissance;
- supporting a rural renewal;
- promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion;
- health and well being; and
- promoting more sustainable development.

- 2.32 The policy guidance highlights the requirement for local authority decisions regarding open space, sport and recreation to be informed by local needs assessments and an audit of existing provision. Such audits should incorporate qualitative, quantitative and accessibility considerations as well as the overall non-monetary value of the land and the level of use. National standards are no longer considered to meet local needs, although they may be used as benchmarks.
- 2.33 The findings of this Playing Pitch Strategy are integrated with the Ipswich Borough Council PPG17 study and represent a local needs assessment for pitches.

Regional Context – East of England

The Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for The East of England (RSS), May 2008

- 2.34 The East of England Regional Assembly has prepared a new Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East of England called the East of England Plan. It covers economic development, housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation, mineral extraction and more.
- 2.35 The East of England Plan will not be restricted to matters that can be implemented through the planning system or local transport plan process. It will also take account of a wide range of activities and programmes which have a bearing on land use including health, education, culture, economic development, skills and training, social inclusion, crime reduction and the impact of climate change.
- 2.36 The RSS has a key role in contributing to the sustainable development of the region. It sets out policies which address the needs of the region and key sub-regions. These policies provide a development framework for the next 15 to 20 years that will influence the quality of life and the character of places and how they function, and inform other strategies and plans. A major feature of RSS is that it identifies the significant investment that will be needed in social, environmental, economic and transport facilities ('infrastructure') if it is to achieve its desired results. That investment will come from a variety of sources, including central and local government funding and private developer funding.
- 2.37 RSS contains some significant policies for open space, sport and recreation. For example, Policy C2 guides the provision and location of strategic cultural facilities (which includes sport and recreation facilities). Policy ENV1 requires areas and networks of green infrastructure to be identified in the region. RSS forms part of the Ipswich development plan and the Ipswich Local Development Framework must be in general conformity with it.
- 2.38 In order for future regionally or nationally significant leisure, sport, recreation, arts or tourism facilities to be supported, proposals must meet the following criteria.
- satisfy the sequential test. Priority should be given to the location of development in central urban locations before off-centre or out-of-town locations, and to the use of brownfield land in preference to greenfield sites;
 - do not adversely affect areas designated for their ecological, landscape or historic value;
 - meet sustainable development objectives as outlined in the, 'core spatial strategy' of the RSS;

- maximise opportunities to use means of transport other than the car and use transport networks that have adequate capacity to accommodate passenger and rail freight requirements without adverse affect upon rail, bus and other transport services;
- are well related to Regional Interchange Centres as defined in chapter 8, 'regional transport strategy';
- minimise their use of energy and natural resources and their impact on public services and have satisfactory proposals for minimising their long-term use and impact;
- have appropriate scale and impact; and
- meet other relevant criteria or considerations specific to the proposed location of the development.

The East of England Plan for Sport, Sport England 2004

- 2.39 Sport England as the national agency driving sports development, takes a strategic lead on the provision of sport. This plan sets out the plan for sport and physical activity in the East region and is the result of national, regional and local consultations with key stakeholders, agencies and organisations across the private, public and voluntary sectors. It has been facilitated by Sport England under the guidance of the East Regional Sports Board.
- 2.40 The plan states that sport should be central to improving health, generating economic impact and encouraging social equality. The plan sets a challenge to:
- '...raise participation levels, year on year, leading to a significant rise in the East's population being physically active by 2020'.*
- 2.41 The plan has six main priorities aimed at increasing participation:
- promotion and marketing;
 - legislation and regulatory change;
 - quality and improvement;
 - structures and partnerships;
 - innovation and delivery; and
 - strategic planning and research.
- 2.42 This study will help to deliver the priorities set out in the regional strategies through:
- providing an evidence base built on local need for the protection of playing fields;
 - setting out strategy for the provision of sufficient, good quality and accessible facilities to accommodate, facilitate and encourage increases in participation; and

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- driving a programme of enhancement across the Borough that will ensure facilities are of a quality that encourages high-level performance.
- 2.43 The PPG17 study will further contribute to the achievement of these objectives through the recognition of the wider roles that outdoor sports facilities can play in meeting the needs of local communities.

Sub Regional Context

Regional Planning Guidance for East Anglia: RG6 (2000)

- 2.44 This guidance sets the regional framework for development plans in East Anglia in the period to 2016. Together with RPG9 (South East) and the Milton Keynes/South Midlands Sub Regional Strategy it forms the Regional Strategy (RSS) for the East of England.
- 2.45 Policy 64 states local authorities should set clear priorities for the provision of community sport and recreation facilities in order to assist with funding applications. A consultation process should inform this.
- 2.46 The strategy states that the location of sporting facilities should take into account local needs assessments to minimise the need for travel and not be detrimental to the environment. Sport England and local community groups should be liaised with on this (Policy 65).

Suffolk County Sports Partnership – Suffolk Sport

- 2.47 Suffolk Sport is the official body for sport in the County and its role is to ensure everyone in Suffolk has the opportunity to take part in sport at their appropriate level. It works in partnership with many organisations to promote and setup new sporting opportunities.
- 2.48 Its Business Plan sets a vision ‘to make Suffolk physically active and successful sporting County through the provision of high-quality opportunities for everyone’. This is achieved through working in partnership with various organisations such as National Governing Bodies (NGBs), local authorities and schools as well as actively engaging with the Local Area Agreements and Local Strategic Partnerships.
- 2.49 One of eight key strategic objectives is entitled Strategic Planning, which relates to effective co-ordinating of national, regional and local policy to meet the sporting needs of local communities. This includes the development of an effective Community Sports Network across the county.
- 2.50 A second objective relates to Club Development, which aims to provide a quality club environment providing more opportunities for participation. This includes promoting and achieving Clubmark and NGB accreditation, alongside increasing participation at all levels. Community Well-being supports this by pointing to the value to the wider community of sports participation.

Local context

- 2.51 Whilst consideration of the national and regional context is important, the local context of Ipswich is more important in determining the detail of the playing pitch strategy.

Local strategic documents

Ipswich Local Plan (1997)

2.52 The Plan was adopted in 1997. The Plan

“...sets out detailed policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land and indicates areas of planned growth and restraint.”

2.53 Chapter 7 deals with Recreation and Leisure. Reference is made to a 1992/93 sports pitch audit that showed a high demand for existing pitch use and that demand was expected to increase in the following season. The provision of outdoor playing space was calculated to be 1.22 hectares per 1,000 people. This is a substantial shortfall on the 1.6-1.8 hectares per 1,000 people recommended by the NPFA. This provision does however increase to 1.57 hectares per 1,000 population once a number of sports facilities on the fringe on the borough boundary are included in the analysis.

2.54 Policies RL14-RL16 refer to planning laws governing the development of, and on, sports pitches. These policies state that playing pitches should be retained unless an equivalent facility in an agreed location can be found and be secured with planning obligations. New proposals for pitches will also be supported providing the site is accessible, there is no undue conflict with the existing environment, residential amenity is not lost and there is not an unacceptable impact on highway safety. Specific locations were also allocated for sports pitch use, at Henley Road and Nacton Road, Picton Close, Airport Farm and Maidenhall Sports Centre.

Local Development Framework (LDF)

2.55 The Government's Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act has resulted in major changes to the way the planning policy system operates. It will result in the replacement of the old system of Structure Plans, Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Guidance with a new system of Local Development Documents. The local development documents together with other supporting documentation will make up the Local Development Framework for Ipswich (the LDF).

2.56 The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study incorporating Greenspace and Recreation Strategy, that sits alongside this Playing Pitch Strategy, is one of these local development documents.

Vibrant Ipswich – transforming Ipswich's culture and leisure scene

2.57 Vibrant Ipswich sets the strategic vision for the local cultural sector.

2.58 Despite the high quality of the Council's cultural facilities, further investment is deemed necessary in order to increase participation and widen access. A number of expansion plans to Crown Pools, Gainsborough and Whitton Sports Centres have been proposed.

2.59 The importance of sport for increasing social inclusion, community cohesion and contributing to crime reduction and anti-social behaviour is also recognised.

Team Ipswich

- 2.60 Team Ipswich was setup by the Council and its partners in 2005 as the single delivery team for sport in Ipswich. It aims to further develop sport in the town and make Ipswich the gateway to the London Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012. The goal is for the town's top sporting talent to get the coaching and finance they need to reach the highest level of their sport.
- 2.61 Four identified goals are:
- to support clubs and individuals to succeed competitively;
 - to increase club membership;
 - to raise the profile of Ipswich through our sporting achievers; and
 - to generate community pride in sport.

Team Ipswich Community Sports Network Strategy and Action Plan (DRAFT)

- 2.62 The strategy was formed by Team Ipswich, and acknowledges the need for first Programmes and Activities (labelled the 'software' of sport) and Facilities (the 'hardware') as two basic requirements to sport development. A key distinction is made between sport and active recreation – sport having an established set of rules, and recreational activities being a relatively unstructured use of people's leisure time.
- 2.63 The Strategy outlines the strengths of Ipswich's sporting scene – pointing to the national successes of Ipswich Swimming club, Ipswich Hockey club, the national gymnastics centre as well as extended sports colleges and Schools Sports Partnerships. The Director of the Suffolk County Sports Partnership commented:
- 'the level of funding that Ipswich Borough Council has committed over many years to sport and sports provision has borne fruit with high levels of participation, good community engagement and significant levels of resident satisfaction with the services provided. It is hoped that this level of support continues in the future.'*
- 2.64 Acknowledged strengths of sport in Ipswich include the network of voluntary clubs, the talents pool, sports centre management and the number of facilities it can offer. Weaknesses include the lack of capital investment in existing facilities, the lack of key high level facilities (such as a 6 to 8 court hall) and the potential for more coordinated working between agencies.
- 2.65 Ipswich's vision is to become 'the most active town in the East of England'. In order to achieve this, four aims have been identified:
- to increase the range and level of opportunity for children and young people to participate in both curricular and extra curricular sport and active recreation;
 - to obtain health, social inclusion and wider community benefits through locally based sport and active recreation initiatives and programmes;
 - to develop participation and achievement in sport through successful Ipswich sports clubs; and

- to ensure that the Borough's talented young people, sportsmen and sports women have the support and resources to reach the highest level of excellence and to achieve their full potential in their chosen sport.

Ipswich Borough Council – demographics and profile

- 2.66 In analysing the need and demand for any new sport and recreation facilities it is important to assess the size and composition of the local leisure markets and the impact they will have upon facility usage.
- 2.67 Ipswich Borough Council is located in the East of England region in the County of Suffolk. Its boundary closely follows that of the town of Ipswich, and is therefore an urban borough. It borders with three predominantly rural District Councils: Mid Suffolk to the north, Suffolk Coastal to the east and Babergh to the west.
- 2.68 Ipswich Borough covers an area of approximately 39,808 square kilometres and has an estimated population of 128,073 (based on 2001 census data). This population is expected to grow by 13.7% to 145,600 by 2021. The borough consists of 16 electoral wards.
- 2.69 In the summer of 2007 Ipswich received approval to become a Unitary Authority meaning it would assume autonomous control from Suffolk County Council of many public services. In December 2007 ministers put Ipswich's unitary bid on hold and called in the Boundary Committee to look at possible unitary options for the whole of Suffolk.
- 2.70 The Committee has published its draft proposals and announced only one preferred option, to create two separate unitary councils in the county which would run all local government services.
- 2.71 The proposed councils are:
- Ipswich and Felixstowe unitary authority, 'North Haven' (lead authority Ipswich Borough Council) ; and
 - Suffolk Rural authority, excluding Lowestoft (lead authority Suffolk County Council).
- 2.72 The Boundary Committee proposal went through a period of public consultation in 2008 and its final recommendation is due to be published in July 2009.
- 2.73 The age profile, unemployment rates, mobility and ethnic breakdown of Ipswich all affect the propensity of residents to use pitches and sports provision in general. For example, the cost of using facilities is a barrier for using facilities for people with low incomes whilst the locality of provision is a barrier for people without their own transport. Table 2.5 overleaf summarises the key demographic trends and the likely implications on pitch usage across the borough.
- 2.74 This study considers provision of pitches both borough wide, and also within specific geographical areas of the borough, using analysis areas derived from natural boundaries and ward lines. The areas used mirror those applied in the PPG17 study.
- 2.75 Population estimates in Table 2.5 overleaf are made from 2001 ONS census data, with the exception of the total population estimate which has been made on recent mid-census information from 2007.

Table 2.5 Demographic analysis summary

Demographic Indicator	Impact on facility usage
The total population is 128,073 (2007 estimate) and has grown by 13.7% over the last five years.	Such a high population growth rate in the borough suggests there will be an increasing demand for pitches in the future.
33.8% of the population are aged 25 or below. The figure is 31.4% across the region and 32.2% in England.	There is a slightly younger than average population in Ipswich. This will have an impact on the demand for junior pitches now, as well as adult pitches both now and in the future.
29.3% of households in Ipswich do not have a car or van, compared to 27% nationally.	The number of households without a car is higher than the national average, thus reflecting the urban nature of the borough as well as perhaps a tendency for cars over alternative transport methods.
93.4% of Ipswich's population is White British. The figure is 95.1% regionally and 90.1% nationally.	By national standards, Ipswich borough is not very multicultural. However it is more so than the surrounding East region. Sports facility providers will need to ensure facilities remain accessible to all sectors of the community as well as reflecting the specific sport demands of various ethnic groups.
The unemployment in Ipswich is the same as the national average of 5% (2001). The proportion of people in either higher or lower managerial positions is 23.5%, compared with a national average of 27.3%, and 29.0% regionally.	Indications are that the Ipswich area is an economically stable area in line with national averages. This suggest that the local rate of participation should be in line with the national level, as research by Sport England amongst others, consistently shows a strong correlation between economic standing and levels of participation. We can therefore assume that there should be a higher propensity to participate in sporting activity in Ipswich than the Active People survey results currently show, in line with national levels. Pitch provision must be prepared to meet this demand if participation increases to the expected levels.

Participation trends in key sports

2.76 Key national statistics, trends, issues and implications for future demand for playing pitches are outlined in Table 2.6.

Table 2.6 National trends in pitch sports

	Key facts	Key trends	Implication for pitches and ancillary facilities
Football	Out of school, football has experienced the biggest growth in 'frequent' participation.	More children are playing due to popularity of mini soccer	More mini soccer sized pitches needed
	Female soccer is now starting to grow nationally at a rapid pace	More women are playing the game	Improved quality of ancillary facilities and in particular dedicated changing facilities
	There has been a 300-400% growth in informal 5-a-side football	More mid-week fixtures, more non-grass pitches	Players defecting to five-a-side, therefore additional synthetic turf and indoor space may be required
	The FA forecast the number of youth players to increase by 10% over next five years. The Active People survey indicates that 7.6% of the active population now play football regularly, making football the 5th most popular sport in the UK in terms of participation.	More pitches will be needed	The vast number of children playing mini-soccer will result in the need for more junior pitches in five year's time
Cricket	Kwik cricket – a game devised for children is played by 1.1 million pupils in 90% of the country's primary schools – 434,000 of these are girls	Increased participation by young people	More pitches used for Kwik cricket and new mobile pitches introduced in schools
	Despite the declining men's game, the number of women's clubs increased from 4,200 in 1997 to 7,611 in 2001. The Active People survey indicates that 1% of the population currently play cricket, ranking it 18th in terms of overall participation.	Increased participation by women	Improved access needed to quality training pitches and improved ancillary facilities in smaller clubs is required

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	Key facts	Key trends	Implication for pitches and ancillary facilities
	England won The Ashes in 2005 and subsequently lost the series in 2007.	The England and Wales Cricket Board has reported a 50% increase in participation across all forms of cricket	Increased pressure on pitch availability, and requirements for additional ancillary accommodation
Rugby Union	Rugby - Making An Impact is the most comprehensive study into participation trends in rugby union in England. 254 ex-players, 193 people involved in rugby at all levels, and 1,708 members of the public were interviewed between January and April 2003.	Over the past five seasons, the average number of sides fielded by each active club has fallen to an average of 2.7 per club, from 2.9 in the 1997-98 season.	Clubs will be targeted to ensure they can run additional teams, therefore the demand for pitches will remain static or potentially increase (positive outcome of Rugby World Cup 2007 may have an impact)
	The number of adult males playing rugby has decreased by 12% over last five years. The Active People survey indicates that rugby is the 21st most popular sport in the UK, with participation rates of 0.8%.	Decline in the men's game is recognised but many initiatives are in place to increase opportunities and promote the sport	May require better quality pitches with ancillary facilities
	Women's participation has increased significantly in recent years.	Increase in participation by women. Women's rugby is still a minority sport but is stronger than ever, particularly in universities.	Improved clubhouse facilities and increased access to pitches

SECTION 2 – THE CURRENT PICTURE

	Key facts	Key trends	Implication for pitches and ancillary facilities
Hockey	Hockey is one of top five most popular games in schools, although adult participation has declined recently and the number of children citing it as enjoyable has dropped from 13% to 10%. The Active People survey indicates that 0.4% of the population participate in hockey.	Slight decline in youth participation. Emphasis therefore is placed on promoting hockey among young people to secure the future of the game. However, many clubs still do not have access to STPs	Continuing requirement for STPs and improved clubhouse facilities to meet league requirements and to encourage club/team formation may be required.

- 2.77 Whilst the above provides a useful indication as to the changing nature of pitch sports, it must be acknowledged that trends vary across the country. Therefore the local context is discussed below.
- 2.78 The analysis of participation rates for the borough is extremely important to ascertain the propensity of residents to partake in physical exercise. Sport England's Active People Survey has researched the participation rates of adults. The survey measures levels of participation in sport and active recreation and its contribution to improving the health of the nation. It includes walking and cycling for recreation in addition to more traditional formal and informal sports. Regular participation is described as three days a week for a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate intensity.
- 2.79 In addition a range of other important sport related measures are included such as club membership, involvement in competition, receiving tuition or coaching and contributing to sport through voluntary activity.
- 2.80 The survey results for Ipswich taken from the October 2007 – October 2008 survey revealed a participation rate of 16.5% of the population which places Ipswich within the bottom 25% of local authorities in England (decreased from 16.6% in the 2005 – 2006 survey). The East of England average is 21.2% and the national average for adults is 21.3%. Ipswich borough is near the bottom of the East of England rankings (46th out of 48).
- 2.81 This data indicates participation in Ipswich is currently at a poor level and contradicts the conclusions of Table 2.5 that suggested participation should be healthy. Levels of volunteering also reflect this conclusion, with the 2005 – 2006 figure of 3.7% falling in the bottom 25% nationally. This figure decreased to 3.3% in the 2007 – 2008 survey.
- 2.82 Participation, specifically in football will be measured against other local authorities using data derived from the FA County Administration System.

Playing pitch provision

Provision in England - A lack of reliable data

- 2.83 The most recent national pitch audit, the Register of English Football Facilities (REFF), was commissioned by the Football Foundation and the Football Association in 2001 and completed in February 2002. The information collected went 'live' on the REFF website (www.reff.org.uk) in November 2002. Research revealed that there are 35,044 grass football pitches in England (21,640 adult, 8,418 junior, 4,986 mini).
- 2.84 Most recently, analysis of football play by the FA reveals that 82% of all football is played on public sector land of which approximately 25% is on school sites.
- 2.85 In July 2004 Sport England launched the Active Places website (www.activeplaces.com). This website contains information about all sports facilities in England (of certain types) and includes information on pitches in each local authority. The audit produced as part of this study can be uploaded back on to the Active Places website, ensuring that all pitches are included and details are up to date. The Council will then be able to use this tool to complement the pitch strategy and to consider the implications of different scenarios, alongside assessments of other types of sport facility.

A lack of monitoring

- 2.86 With the exception of REFF and Active Places there are no other reliable data sources concerning the numbers of pitches in England. In addition, there is no nationally established system for monitoring change.
- 2.87 The exact number of pitches being lost to development or neglect remains a contentious issue. The DCMS has established a Playing Fields Monitoring Group, tasked with publishing some definitive data.
- 2.88 By virtue of statutory instrument made in 1996, Sport England is a statutory consultee on proposals for development that affect playing fields, land used as playing fields at any time in the last five years which remains undeveloped, or land which is identified for use as a playing field in a development plan. All applications that local planning authorities are minded to approve, but have attracted an objection from Sport England, will be referred to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for consideration.
- 2.89 The local planning authority must notify Sport England when a relevant planning application is received. Data stored by Sport England on statutory consultations since 1999 reveals the increasing pressure that is being placed upon pitches throughout the country (Table 2.7 overleaf).
- 2.90 Recently published figures (DCMS October 2006) suggest that sixty-two new playing fields were created in 2004/05 and in contrast, only two playing fields were completely lost neither of which had previously been accessible to the general public. Of all applications regarding playing pitches, 96% resulted in either no change to the overall level of pitch provision or an improvement on the pitches previously there.

Table 2.7 Statutory consultations with Sport England

Region	Number of consultations received						
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005 - 2006
East	38	93	88	116	144	197	219
East Midlands	30	74	112	140	137	151	96
London	25	36	39	59	59	40	46
North East	37	36	71	74	96	85	80
North West	92	129	145	193	175	72	112
South East	147	214	162	234	237	227	259
South West	48	36	73	83	181	149	138
West Midlands	111	162	161	213	194	199	182
Yorkshire	97	95	134	185	190	151	174
England	625	875	985	1297	1413	1271	1306

- 2.91 As shown in Table 2.7, Sport England was consulted on planning applications during 2003/2004 more than in any other year and the total level had declined slightly by 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. During 2004 /05, Sport England objected to 98 planning applications which compromised the provision of outdoor sports facilities. Of these, 51 did not go ahead.
- 2.92 Figures released by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) stated that £157 million had been invested in 2005 in 482 outdoor facilities and 157 indoor facilities. This includes synthetic pitches and sports halls amongst other facility types.
- 2.93 The DCMS commended these improvements, highlighting the role that investment in facilities can have in increasing the level of physical activity across the country. Sport England continues to safeguard pitches as well as helping to enhance sporting facilities by only giving approval for alterations where there are increased benefits for sporting facilities.
- 2.94 The supply of pitches in Ipswich will be considered in detail in section 4.

Summary

2.95 The box overleaf summarises the main implications that the contextual review has on Ipswich and the provision of playing pitches.

Area	Key Issues	Role of this strategy in achieving these objectives
National context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of meeting wider national policy objectives, particularly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provision of opportunities for identified target groups - promoting the health related benefits of sport and leisure activities - increasing mass participation levels • the importance of closely reflecting National Governing Body of Sport priorities • the importance of delivering sustainable communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it will highlight geographical deficiencies in provision and participation (through the number of teams) and provide suitable recommendation • recognises initiatives aimed at increasing participation levels to look at the future provision • the playing pitch strategy will ensure appropriate provision of opportunities for physical activity • the strategy will deliver good quality playing pitches that will enhance local green space and subsequently the overall quality of the environment.
Regional Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is a high emphasis placed on sport in the East region and the importance of providing opportunities for all to progress and improve their quality of life and health is recognised • the vision for the region is for a 1% increase per annum in participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the playing pitch strategy will ensure that Ipswich Borough Council is able to plan future pitch provision to ensure it contributes effectively to the overall objectives of the region • the playing pitch strategy will provide an evidence base for Suffolk Sport in order to help them achieve increased participation across the region.

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Area	Key Issues	Role of this strategy in achieving these objectives
Local Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need to ensure that sports development priorities and facility development are closely linked • Active People participation rates are lower than the borough's economic standing would suggest they should be • a desire to increase the number of people who have the opportunity to take part in various sporting activity, in particular in under-represented groups and areas • ensuring school outdoor sports facilities are used to supplement demand • the need to ensure that local needs are met particularly in light of the changing nature of the population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the strategy will support and guide the role of school pitches, highlighting areas where provision at school sites is particularly important to meet demand. The strategy will also guide future use of pitches at school sites both through the extended schools programme and the Building Schools for the Future initiative • the strategy will ensure that the Council are able to stimulate increased participation in pitch sports across all sectors and to accommodate this increased demand in future years • the strategy will provide an awareness of local need and will ensure that local facilities are delivered to meet the needs of all residents.

SECTION 3

METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Methodology for assessing supply and demand

Previous approaches to identifying need

- 3.1 The first attempt to establish a standard of provision for public open space and playing fields was made by the NPFA in 1925 and has been subsequently refined on a number of occasions. It is known as the 'Six Acre Standard'.
- 3.2 The Six Acre standard recommends a standard of six acres (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of four acres (ie 1.62 per 1,000 population) for outdoor sport, including pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens, tennis courts training areas and croquet lawns.
- 3.3 The Ipswich Public Open Space SPG recommends that all homes should be within 400 metres of a public open space (defined as a Local Park or a District Park) although does not set any quantity standards for outdoor sports facilities/sports pitches.
- 3.4 The PPG17 study recommends a new local standard to be incorporated within the LDF of 1.58 hectares per 1000 population for outdoor sports facilities. Outdoor sports facilities include the provision of pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens, athletics tracks and other types of outdoor sports facilities.
- 3.5 A local standard for pitches in Ipswich will be considered later in this document. This standard will then influence the standard set in the PPG17 study for outdoor sports facilities. An accessibility standard of 15 minutes walk time (720m) was also set for outdoor sports facilities within the PPG17 study.

The Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM)

- 3.6 *'Towards a Level Playing Field: A manual for the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy'* was launched in Spring 2003 and updates the previous 1991 methodology. This revised methodology was produced by PMP following widespread consultation on the 1991 methodology, in conjunction with a steering group comprising representatives from the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), Local Government Association, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), Loughborough University and Sport England.
- 3.7 The aim of the Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) is to determine the number of pitches required for each activity based on demand in an actual or predicted set of circumstances. The essential difference between the methodology and previous approaches based on standards is that, instead of using land area per head of population as the basic unit, it measures demand (at peak times) in terms of teams requiring pitches and then compares this with the pitches available, thus providing a tangible measure of the adequacy of existing supply.
- 3.8 The particular advantage of this methodology is that it is related precisely to the local situation and the very task of collating and analysing the information highlights problems and issues from which policy options and solutions can be explored.
- 3.9 The revised methodology incorporates:
 - a more holistic view of pitch provision as one element of open space;
 - the concept of 'team equivalents' and 'match equivalents' to reflect the requirements of the small-sided games;

- the refinement of team generation rates;
 - the revised definition of a pitch; and
 - the refined quantitative audits of pitches by the use of multiplication factors for:
 - availability / accessibility
 - quality (to include the importance of ancillary provision at pitch sites as well as pitches themselves)
 - carrying capacity.
- 3.10 The PPM comprises of eight stages. Stages 1 to 6 involve numerical calculations, whilst Stages 7 and 8 develop issues and solutions. The methodology is employed to analyse the adequacy of current provision and to assess possible future situations, in order that latent and future demand (identified through Team Generation Rates), and the problems with quality, use and capacity of existing pitches can be taken into account.
- 3.11 PPM calculations take into account only those pitches that are secured for community use, in line with Sport England guidance.
- 3.12 The Football Association (FA) has recently begun collecting participation data through the county administration systems, enabling accurate benchmarking against like authorities and more accurate assessments of latent demand. The information available has been used to add value to the findings of the strategy, enabling more detailed investigation of the reasons behind key issues.

Our approach

- 3.13 The success of the methodology outlined above depends largely on obtaining as accurate a tally as possible of the number of teams and pitches within Ipswich. To achieve this, a full audit of pitches, users and providers within the authority boundary was conducted. Questionnaires (which can be found in Appendix A) were sent to:
- all known football, cricket, rugby and hockey clubs based within (or close to) the authority boundaries (identified in governing body and county association handbooks, league handbooks, pitch booking records, websites, local press or local knowledge); and
 - all known schools and colleges within the Borough.
- 3.14 Table 3.1 below summarises the response rates. It was of paramount importance that a 100% response rate was received from providers of playing pitches. For this reason, all non-responding schools and colleges were contacted by telephone.
- 3.15 A 100% response rate was not needed from clubs. This is because missing club information was attained through a variety of sources including:
- telephone calls to league secretaries, clubs and schools all providing qualitative information as well adding to the quantitative detail. The league secretaries were particularly helpful in attaining the missing club information;
 - current league handbooks;

SECTION 3 – METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING SUPPLY AND DEMAND

- extensive internet research, through national databases including the Football Association, Rugby Football Union, England and Wales Cricket Board and England Hockey;
 - consultation with sport development groups; and
 - audit undertaken as part of the PPG17 study completed November 2007.
- 3.16 The purpose of the club surveys was to crosscheck information and gather qualitative information from clubs. The total response rate for the number of returned surveys was 15%, which is lower than average for postal surveys (25% is normally considered 'good'). Further information for all sports was gained from follow up phone calls to clubs who had not responded to the survey to ensure a comprehensive response. These telephone calls ensure that sufficient data is collected to undertake PPM calculations and also provide clubs with a further opportunity to comment.
- 3.17 In addition to the distribution of postal surveys, consultation has been undertaken with internal officers, league secretaries and external bodies for all sports. Data from the Council's sports clubs consultation for the Ipswich Sports Strategy has also been studied to avoid duplication of work and to ensure the information collected from clubs was sufficiently detailed.
- 3.18 Additional information has also been collected on informal demand for pitches through the local consultations undertaken as part of the PPG17 study. Where appropriate, this information has been used to inform the findings.
- 3.19 An assessment of the data obtained from the above research and consultation is detailed in Section 4.

SECTION 4
SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Supply and demand

Introduction

4.1 This section outlines the current situation in Ipswich in terms of pitch provision for, and demand from, football, cricket, rugby and hockey clubs. The overall supply is analysed, taking into consideration:

- overall pitch stock;
- community pitches;
- location of pitches;
- site visits; and
- club consultation.

Supply: playing pitch provision in Ipswich

Pitch stock

4.2 Overall, the research methods outlined in Section 3 identified 140 playing pitches in Ipswich. This figure includes all known public, private, school and other pitches whether or not they are in secured public use. The full audit of pitches can be seen in Appendix B. These pitches comprise:

- 64 adult football pitches;
- 24 junior football pitches;
- 9 mini soccer pitches;
- 15 cricket squares;
- 12 adult rugby union pitches;
- 5 junior rugby union pitches;
- 3 grass hockey pitches; and
- 8 full sized Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs), 6 of which are suitable for hockey.

4.3 The above totals are for pitches that fall within the Ipswich Borough boundary. There are a few pitches that are just outside the Borough boundary, such as the YMCA rugby ground, that have not been included in the supply. We have excluded them from our numerical analysis but we do comment on their impact on overall levels of provision. This issue will be commented on throughout the analysis.

4.4 Of these 140 pitches, 137 (67%) are full-size adult football, cricket, rugby and hockey pitches. This equates to circa one pitch for every 992 adults (16 plus) in Ipswich. This ratio compares unfavourably to many other authorities for which data is currently available (from PMP's database) as shown in Table 4.1 overleaf, however it is close to England's figure of one pitch for every 989 adults.

Table 4.1 Ratio of adult pitches per 1000 adults

Local Authority	Ratio (Pitches: adults)
Kennett District Council	1:365
St Albans City and District Council	1:540
South Somerset District Council	1:608
Halton Borough Council	1:677
Lichfield District Council	1:766
North Lincolnshire Council	1:773
North Wiltshire District Council	1:804
Derwentside District Council	1:815
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	1:867
South Ribble Borough Council	1:891
Swindon	1:926
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	1:968
England	1:989
<i>Ipswich Borough Council</i>	<i>1:992</i>
Colchester Borough Council	1:996
Northamptonshire County	1:1,015
St Helens	1:1,050
Portsmouth City Council	1:1,100
Sandwell MBC	1:1327
Wolverhampton City Council	1:1,537

Community pitches

4.5 In line with ‘Towards a Level Playing Field: A manual for the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy’ (Sport England and CCPR 2003), our definition of ‘community pitches’ is those pitches with ‘secured community use’, recognising that this has a considerable bearing upon the value of facilities both individually and collectively to the community at large.

4.6 In practice this definition embraces:

- pitches which are in local authority management or other public ownership or management;
- any facilities owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals which as a matter of policy or practice are available for use by large sections of the public through membership of a club or admission fee. In either case the ‘cost of use’ must be reasonable and affordable for the majority of the community;

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- pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use arrangements; and
 - any other institutional facilities which are available to the public as a result of formal dual/community agreements.
- 4.7 In line with 'Towards A Level Playing Field', pitches at educational establishments are only considered to be 'secured' for community use if one or more of the following is applicable:
- there is a formal community use agreement in place;
 - there is a leasing management arrangement between the Council and the school requiring the pitch to be available to community teams;
 - a policy of community use minuted by the school, including the provision of a tariff of charges;
 - minutes of the board of school governors allowing use of pitches by community teams;
 - written commitment from the school; and
 - where it is the proved intention of the school to maintain access for community teams to its pitch(es) at peak times for the next two or more years.
- 4.8 For the purposes of this strategy, only those schools considered to have secured community use by the Council have been considered as accessible community pitches. The issue of securing the remaining pitches for community use will be returned to in section six. This links to the opportunities offered through the extended schools programme and the Building Schools for the Future Programme.
- 4.9 School sites are unable to offer the same opportunities as other pitches because many do not have separate changing facilities and pitch hire is frequently impacted by school holidays. Furthermore, there is a cost to schools to open up their sites and this must be recouped through fees payable for the use of the pitch. Many schools also cite the increased risk to school property in terms of vandalism and damage to pitches, buildings and ancillary accommodation if they were to open for community use outside of school hours.
- 4.10 As a result of the reasons highlighted above, and the fact that curriculum use significantly reduces the capacity of pitches for community use, those school pitches currently used by the community have been considered able to sustain one community game per week.
- 4.11 Of the 140 pitches identified, **117 (84%) are secured for use by the local community**. As demonstrated in Table 4.3 overleaf, 84% is the highest ratio when compared with other local authorities. School pitches that are used by the community, but have no formal agreements, are not included within the 84%. If the additional schools with community use, but no formal agreement were included, this would increase the percentage to 93%. It is important to note that comparisons are made for information only, from a sample of other authorities that PMP has completed work for.

Table 4.3 Percentage of secured community pitches in other Local Authorities

Local Authority	% of pitches secured for community use
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	44%
Derwentside District Council	47%
South Ribble Borough Council	47%
St Albans City and District Council	49%
Halton Borough Council	54%
Swindon Borough Council	55%
Mid Devon District Council	57%
Maidstone Borough Council	61%
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	64%
Lichfield District Council	65%
Worcestershire County	66%
Sandwell MBC	67%
South Somerset District Council	69%
Croydon Borough Council	72%
Wolverhampton City Council	73%
North Lincolnshire Council	77%
<i>Ipswich Borough Council</i>	84%

4.12 The full breakdown of the ownership of these pitches can be seen in Appendix B. As highlighted earlier, school sites have been divided appropriately into those that are currently used by the community with secured community use, those that are currently used by the community without formal use agreements, and those that do not permit access at all at the current time.

4.13 There are eight synthetic turf pitches within Ipswich, all of which have secured community use. They are located at:

- Whitton Sports and Community Centre;
- Ipswich Sports Club, Henley Road;
- Ipswich Sports Club, Tuddenham Road;
- Ipswich Town FC;
- Ipswich School STP (Westwood);
- Chantry High School;
- Copleston High School/Sports Centre; and

SECTION 4 – SUPPLY AND DEMAND

- Gainsborough Sports Centre.
- 4.14 Of these pitches, only Whitton Sports and Community Centre and Ipswich Town FC's synthetic turf pitch are designed for football use only. The other six synthetic turf pitches (all sand based) are all suitable for hockey.
- 4.15 While sand based synthetic facilities are considered suitable for football training, they are rarely used in competitive match play due to local and national football league regulations. The FA has recently approved the use of 3rd Generation (3G) synthetic facilities for competitive football matches. The pitches at Whitton Sports and Community Centre and Ipswich Town FC are 3G pitches. This is the most advanced synthetic turf pitch surface and is suitable for competitive football matches.

Ownership

- 4.16 Table 4.4 below illustrates the ownership of all pitches. It can be seen that the Council is the largest overall provider across the Borough, with educational sites being the second largest provider. Of all the sites that have no community use available to them, all are educational sites.
- 4.17 All sites provided by the public sector are fully accessible to the local community. 15 pitches are owned privately (including three STPs).

Table 4.4 Ownership of all playing pitches within Ipswich

Ownership	Nr of adult football pitches	Nr of junior football pitches	Nr of mini football pitches	Nr of cricket pitches	Nr of adult rugby union pitches	Nr of junior rugby union pitches	Nr of adult grass hockey pitches	Nr of artificial pitches
Local Authority	28	2	2	1	0	0	0	2
LEA	18	20	3	6	3	0	1	2
Other Education	3	1	4	6	5	5	2	1
Voluntary Sector	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private/Corporate	6	0	0	2	4	0	0	3
Total	60	23	9	15	12	5	3	8

- 4.18 A summary of the ownership of community playing pitches in Ipswich is shown in Table 4.5 overleaf. Table 4.4 is very similar to Table 4.5.

Table 4.5 Ownership of playing pitches with secured community use in Ipswich

Ownership	Nr of adult football pitches	Nr of junior football pitches	Nr of mini football pitches	Nr of cricket pitches	Nr of adult rugby union pitches	Nr of junior rugby union pitches	Nr of adult grass hockey pitches	Nr of artificial pitches
Local Authority	28	2	2	1	0	0	0	2
LEA	14	8	3	4	3	0	1	2
Other Education	3	1	4	4	2	5	2	1
Voluntary Sector	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private/Corporate	6	0	0	2	4	0	0	3
Total	56	11	9	11	9	5	3	8

4.19 The key points arising from Table 4.5 above regarding the ownership of pitches are:

- the largest provider of pitches available for community use is Ipswich Borough Council, which owns 35 pitches. This is 32% of all community use pitches in the Borough;
- the local education authority and other education establishments (private schools) are the second and third highest providers of pitches in the Borough that have secured community use (31% and 20% respectively); and
- the eight STPs within the Borough all have secured community use.

Location of pitches

4.20 The location of the existing pitches in Ipswich has been considered, using the geographical areas defined in Section 1.

4.21 Table 4.6 illustrates the area of playing pitches available for community use in each area and the proportion of the total pitches available.

Table 4.6 Distribution of pitches in Ipswich Borough

Analysis area	Total playing pitch area (ha)	Total playing pitch area with secured community use (ha)	% of playing pitch area with secured community use
Central	18.28	18.28	100%
North East	34.50	22.20	64.3%
North West	16.30	14.94	91.7%
South East	19.18	16.18	84.4%
South West	37.20	26.42	71%
Total	125.46	98.02	78.1%

- 4.22 The largest area of playing pitches is found in the South West and North East analysis areas, with a total area of 37.2ha and 34.5ha respectively. South East contains the major sites of Gippeswyk and Chantry Parks. The North East contains the major sites of Northgate Sports Centre and Ipswich RFC on Humber Doucy Road. The other three analysis areas have between 16 and 18 hectares each of pitch space.
- 4.23 Unsurprisingly, the percentage of pitches that have secured community use is high across all areas. The lowest percentage of 64.3% is found in the North East, where total pitch area is high compared to other areas. All other areas have at least 84.4% of pitches secured for community use. Across all areas, 78% of pitch space in the Borough is secured for community use.
- 4.24 Of the pitches with secured community use, 60% are for football pitches (all sizes), 17% are for cricket pitches and 15% are for rugby pitches (all sizes).

Quality of pitch and ancillary facilities

- 4.25 Pitch quality is a key issue. Perceived quality of pitches (and ancillary facilities) is almost as important as actual quality as it can heavily influence the pattern of play.
- 4.26 The quality of pitches in Ipswich was ascertained through site visits. Cricket pitches were assessed towards the end of summer 2007, and football and rugby in autumn 2007 once the seasons had started. These visits assess the degree to which a sports pitch site is fit for purpose, and differ from the assessments carried out as part of the PPG17 assessment, which takes into account the characteristics of the whole site.
- 4.27 An assessment matrix (Appendix C) was used to assess the overall site and the quality of the pitches and ancillary facilities where available.
- 4.28 Perceived quality of pitches has also been considered from a user’s perspective. This will be returned to later in this section in the consultation summaries.
- 4.29 The main community use sites throughout Ipswich were assessed, including all sites maintained by the Council. It is important to note that the assessments are a snap shot in time and therefore any natural influences such as the weather may affect the quality of the pitches. Likewise, with the time of the visits for football and rugby being early in the season the quality should be better than if visited in winter.

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4.30 Site specific improvements will be covered in Section 6, and scores for each pitch will be provided in Appendix D. Key issues emerging from site visits are:

- car parking facilities are generally sufficient, especially at the larger Council sites such as Gainsborough. There were however some issues with peak time use, notably Sunday mornings. Parking at some of the smaller recreational sites, such as Gippeswyck Park or Dumbarton Rec, was poor;
- good weather conditions ensured that the majority of pitches were rated good or average. The level of wear and tear especially on football pitches was minimal at most sites as it was the start of the season and they had not been used greatly. As a result grass coverage and the length of grass was considered good or excellent on most pitches; and
- the quality of changing facilities was deemed to be good at the majority of sites. There were no recorded examples of where facilities were significantly below what could be expected, given the extent of pitches at the site.

4.31 The site assessment matrix rates both the ancillary facilities (changing rooms, parking, etc) and pitches and provides a combined percentage score for each site. Five sites that were visited scored 100% in terms of the quality of facilities and changing facilities. These were:

- Copleston Sports Centre/High School;
- Gainsborough Sports Centre;
- Ipswich School Playing Field (Notcutts);
- Ipswich School cricket ground (Ivy Street Field); and
- Whitton Sports and Community Centre.

4.32 The following four sites scored 50% or below:

- Bramford Lane Rec;
- Dumbarton Rec;
- Leslie Road Rec;
- Humber Doucy Lane; and
- Murray Road Rec.

4.33 The percentage scores translate into the following ratings:

Ancillary facilities

- over 90% - excellent;
- 60% to 89% - good;
- 40% to 59% - average;
- 30% to 39% - poor; and

- less than 30% - very poor.

4.34 The average score across all sites was 75%, equating to, on the whole, good ancillary facilities across Ipswich playing pitches.

4.35 The percentage scores for pitches translate into the following ratings:

Pitches

- over 90% - excellent pitch;
- 64% to 90% - good pitch;
- 55% to 64% - average pitch;
- 30% to 54% - below average pitch; and
- less than 30% - poor pitch.

4.36 The ratings for each pitch at each site can be found in Appendix D and are summarised in Table 4.7 below.

Table 4.7 The quality of playing pitches across Ipswich

Quality of pitch	Proportion of pitches in this category
Excellent	0%
Good	61%
Average	36%
Below Average	3%
Poor	0%

4.37 The constraints of undertaking site visits in the summer and at the beginning of the football season should be recognised. However the overall results for pitch quality are high, with 61% of pitches being rated as good, and only 3% being rated as below average.

Demand: pitch sport clubs in Ipswich

4.38 Table 4.8 overleaf indicates the distribution of football, cricket, hockey and rugby (union and league) teams playing in Ipswich by analysis area. Clubs are assigned to wards (which have in turn been assigned to analysis areas) based on the location of their home pitch. Given the nature of Ipswich and its surrounding hinterland, a number of teams that play on grounds outside of Ipswich have been included as 'Ipswich' clubs, and assigned to the nearest Ipswich ward.

4.39 There are 359 teams that play across the four sports, at both adult and junior ages, male and female.

4.40 A summary of the consultation responses and key issues relating to the different sports is detailed in Tables 4.9 to 4.12.

Table 4.8 The spread of teams across Ipswich

Analysis area	Football					Cricket			Rugby (union and league)				Hockey					Total	
	Adult football	Adult female	Junior male	Junior female	Mini soccer	Adult male	Adult female	Junior male	Adult male	Adult female	Junior (male and female)	Veteran male	Adult male	Adult female	Adult mixed	Junior male	Junior female		Veteran male
Central	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	6
North East	63	5	28	6	11	4	2	0	7	0	10	0	6	7	1	2	2	1	155
North West	30	0	16	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	57
South East	30	0	19	0	6	9	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	69
South West	35	0	21	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	1	1	0	72
Total	160	5	84	13	28	13	2	2	7	0	10	0	10	14	1	5	4	1	359

Table 4.9 Football in Ipswich

Membership	Football is the most popular team sport in terms of participation in Ipswich with a total of 285 teams
Standard of play	<p>There are a number of leagues that have Ipswich teams. These leagues extend into Suffolk and Norfolk. The leagues from which teams come from are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felixstowe and District Youth Football League; • Ipswich and Suffolk Youth Football League; • Ipswich Sunday Football League; • Licensed Trades League; • Suffolk and Ipswich League; • Suffolk Girls' and Women's League; • Eastern Counties; and • Football League. <p>These teams play their home games within Ipswich Borough boundaries, or within close proximity to the Borough. These leagues are all considered part time social leagues, with the exception of the Eastern Counties (semi pro) and Ipswich Town FC who play in the football league.</p>
Distribution of teams	<p>81% of outdoor sports teams in Ipswich are football teams, and 43% of these teams are mini or junior sides. There is a strong demand for football in Ipswich, especially from junior teams. This mirrors the demographic profile outlined in section 2 which highlighted the young population of Ipswich.</p> <p>39% of teams play in the North East analysis area and broadly 20% play in the North West, South East and South West analysis areas. Pitch provision broadly reflects this. There are only two that play in the Central analysis area.</p>
Facilities used	<p>A number of facilities are used by football teams across Ipswich. The major public sites at Gainsborough, King George V Field (Bury Road), Northgate Sports Centre, Bourne Park and Chantry Park host most of the league games played. These were assessed and deemed to be of high quality. The pitches at Gainsborough scored an average of 70% (good) and the site scored 100%. There was positive feedback about the facilities and management at Gainsborough Sports Centre.</p> <p>The pitches at King George V, Northgate, Bourne Park and Chantry Park were all rated as good.</p>

Membership	Football is the most popular team sport in terms of participation in Ipswich with a total of 285 teams
<p>2001 IBC Playing Pitch Strategy</p>	<p>Ipswich Borough Council produced a playing pitch strategy in 2001. The study used a similar broad base of investigation – auditing teams and pitches as well as extensive consultation with users and key stakeholders. The results of this study have informed this 2008 playing pitch strategy. A summary of the conclusions are highlighted here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there was a capacity for 85 games per week, yet the weekly demand was for 99; • an additional 11 pitches were deemed necessary to address this shortfall; • a number of further issues were highlighted, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inadequate changing facilities; - need for more floodlit areas; - better maintenance of pitches required; - more parking required; - ITFC purchase of pitches had reduced unmet demand. • a selection of the major issues that affected the short-term availability of pitches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - loss of British Sugar Sports Ground, Civil Service Sports Ground, pitches at 405 Club; - addition of two new pitches and floodlight astro-turf pitch at Gainsborough; and - these amendments to the pitch capacity indicated that there would be an increased shortfall of pitches by an aggregate of 2 to 13 pitches. <p>Headline results from this study were that there will be a need for an additional three pitches in Ipswich by 2016.</p>

SECTION 4 – SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Membership	Football is the most popular team sport in terms of participation in Ipswich with a total of 285 teams
Issues	<p>The main quality, quantity and accessibility issues highlighted through site assessment and consultations were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • football clubs generally indicated the provision of football pitches was adequate; • almost half of clubs stated that their membership had expanded in the last few years, and a similar amount stated a desire to increase membership in the future. Improved playing and training facilities was seen as an important way to achieve this aim, alongside more funding and improved/more coaching; • changing facilities were sometimes seen as poor, especially with regard to heating and security. This was especially true at a number of the smaller sites across the Borough; • car parking was highlighted as an issue at all Council leisure facilities; • consultations with internal Council officers and the Suffolk Football Association indicated that provision of pitches is just about right although some further provision may be required; • the total quantity of Council pitches in Ipswich is considered to be good by local football league representatives. Sunday mornings were however deemed to be a busy period for football, especially at the major sites such as Gainsborough; • the quality of football pitches was generally though to be sufficient by internal and external sports consultees although the Suffolk Football Association identified some pitches that needed to be brought up to the quality of the other pitches in the Borough. Additionally, ancillary facilities such as parking and changing were deemed to be insufficient and needing quality improvements on some sites; • consultation with local football league representatives revealed that the quality of pitches in Ipswich was generally very good, especially at the major sites such as Gainsborough. Some issues with ancillary facilities were highlighted at Murray Road and Gippeswyk Park, in particular with changing facilities; and • Alan Girot, a representative from multiple youth football leagues in the Borough, indicated there was an increasing demand for 9-a-side football pitches, as a replacement for mini football. This was well accommodated at Gainsborough and the other major hub sites, but was more difficult at the smaller sites. He also felt that there may be an issue with junior/smaller pitch availability in the near future.

Table 4.9 Cricket in Ipswich

Membership	There are 27 cricket teams playing within Ipswich, spread across six clubs. 13 of these teams are men’s teams and only two are female. Only two junior teams were identified, at Ipswich and East Suffolk CC.
Standard of play	The larger teams in Ipswich (Ipswich CC, Ipswich and East Suffolk CC, Copdock and Old Ipswichians CC and St Margaret’s CC) have three teams each. They play predominantly on Saturdays although there are also Sunday friendly fixtures. Relevant leagues are the Suffolk Cricket Alliance and the Suffolk Premier cricket league.
Distribution of teams	Four of the teams play in the Gipping Ward (South West analysis area) and two play in Rushmere (North East).
Facilities used	<p>Ipswich CC has been recently created following a merger between two clubs. Their new ground falls outside the Borough boundary, and is privately owned. Chantry Park hosts Ipswich and East Suffolk CC and also BT Research CC. Pitches also exist at the Ransomes Sports Ground. Further pitches are used at grounds very close to the Borough boundary at The Street and in Copdock.</p> <p>As with all pitches in the Borough, pitches were generally rated as good, with only 3% of pitches being rated as below average.</p>
Issues	<p>Consultation revealed there were no major issues reported with regards for demand for new facilities or the quality of pitches provided by clubs or at Council sites, however BT Research CC specifically highlighted that they are forced to hire a cricket ground from Ipswich and East Suffolk CC as the Council pitches are not maintained to an appropriate standard.</p> <p>Council Officers generally believed that there were no major issues and that supply meets demand for cricket pitches.</p>

Table 4.9 Rugby in Ipswich

Membership	Ipswich RFC and Ipswich YMCA are the two rugby union clubs in Ipswich. Between them they have six full adult teams. Further, Ipswich RFC has a further 10 junior sides. Ipswich Rhinos are a rugby league side that use the Ipswich RFC facility; they have one adult team. There are no female or veteran sides that play in at these clubs.
Standard of play	Ipswich RFC 1XV plays in London 3 North East of the RFU National Structure. The other 2XVs play in the local Suffolk Leagues. Ipswich YMCA XVs play in the Eastern Counties league and also the local Suffolk League. Ipswich Rhinos play in the Eastern Division of the Rugby League Conference.
Facilities used	<p>Ipswich RFC play at their ground on Humber Doucy Lane, a facility with four adult pitches. Ipswich YMCA's ground has been excluded from our supply side analysis as it falls just outside the Borough boundary.</p> <p>A number of secondary schools have rugby pitches, including Ipswich School, Westbourne High School and Stoke High. St Joseph's College has three pitches, but they do not have secure community use.</p>
Issues and constraints	<p>Ipswich Rugby Club felt that it needed more land to accommodate demand. This was especially true regarding junior pitches where demand is increasing. This concurs with the demographic profile as outlined in section 2.</p> <p>The success of the national side in recent years may stimulate demand further.</p> <p>The quality and quantity of rugby pitches within the Borough was deemed to be acceptable by the local rugby clubs, although it was felt there will be increasing demand for junior and mini rugby in the near future.</p>

Table 4.9 Hockey in Ipswich

<p>Membership</p>	<p>There a total of 35 hockey teams that play in Ipswich. This is a high number given the demographic profile of the Borough, and is reflected by the status of Ipswich Hockey Club at the national level. Of the 35 teams, 10 are men’s sides and 14 are female sides (three clubs are female only clubs – Castaways, Christchurch Ladies and Grasshoppers).</p>
<p>Standard of play</p>	<p>Ipswich Hockey Club play in the national leagues, with the lower teams playing in regional and local divisions.</p>
<p>Facilities used</p>	<p>The availability of suitable synthetic turf pitches governs the location of hockey clubs. Ipswich Hockey Club trains and plays at the STP facilities at Tuddenham Road and Henley Road. Ipswich and East Suffolk HC play at Copleston High School and the other sites at Chantry High and Gainsborough Sports Centre. There are also facilities at Ipswich School and at The Street (outside the Borough boundary).</p>
<p>Issues and constraints</p>	<p>There is considered to be a very good supply of hockey pitches in Ipswich, to cater for acknowledged healthy supply of hockey teams.</p> <p>Charlie Farrow, from England Hockey, agreed that there was a reasonable supply of pitches across the Borough. He however felt there was an issue with strategic planning, in particular referring to the lack of a two pitch facility. Such sites are needed to maximise the social nature of the game where tournaments can be hosted and more games can be played simultaneously.</p>

Summary

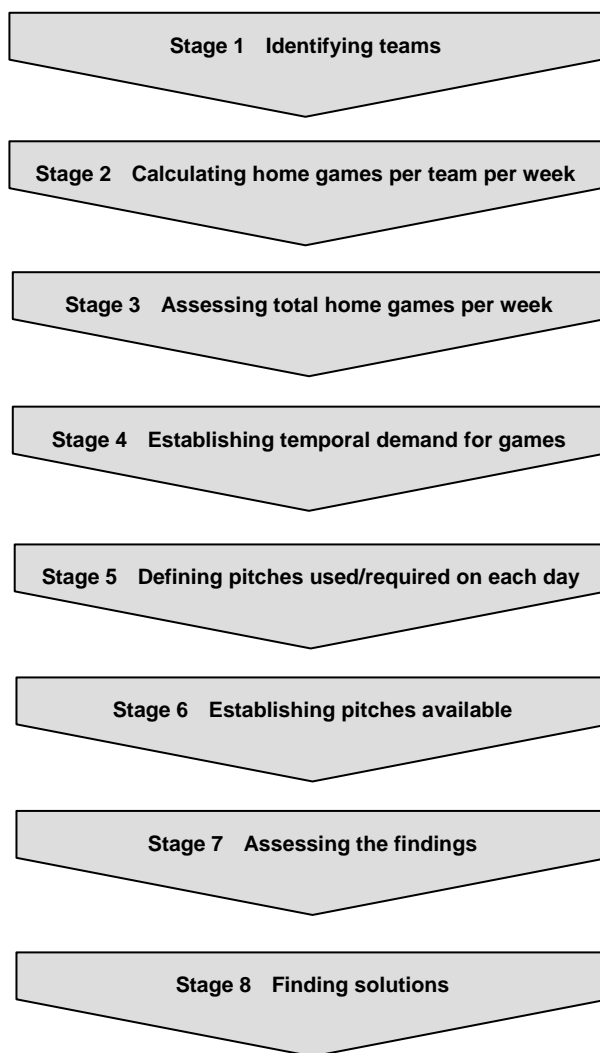
- 4.41 The key issues emerging from supply and demand data detailed in Section 4 are:
- the ratios of pitches per adult population are very close to the national average. They are below the national average for football and rugby union pitches, but above the national average for cricket and hockey;
 - the proportion of the total pitch stock available for community use in comparison to the majority of known local authorities is very high, with 83% of pitches deemed to be publicly accessible (to varying degrees);
 - Ipswich Borough Council are the main providers of playing pitch provision in the Borough although the education providers (both LEA and private schools) are deemed to be very good providers of pitches to the community;
 - distribution is greatest in the North East and South West analysis areas, although there are significant numbers of pitches that exist in the North West and South East analysis areas. The Central area is the only one with a significantly lower amount of pitch provision;
 - site visits revealed that the quality of pitches across the Borough was good, with 64% actually being rated as good and only 3% being below average. This was supported by Council officers and feedback from clubs and league representatives who felt that pitch quality was not an issue across the Borough;
 - ancillary accommodation was also rated as good through site assessments and consultation feedback. The larger sites had ample parking and more and better changing facilities. Some of the smaller sites, perhaps inevitably, had lesser facilities and so scored lower in this regard.
- 4.42 The supply and demand data contained in this section will be set in context by applying the *Playing Pitch Methodology* in Section 5.

SECTION 5
METHODOLOGY FINDINGS

The playing pitch methodology: findings for Ipswich

- 5.1 The Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) comprises eight stages. Stages 1 to 6 involve numerical calculations, whilst Stages 7 and 8 develop issues and solutions. The methodology is employed to analyse the adequacy of current provision and to assess possible future situations, in order that latent and future demand (identified through Team Generation Rates), and the problems with quality, use and capacity of existing pitches can be taken into account.

Figure 5.1 Flow chart to illustrate the key stages



- 5.2 It is implicit to the methodology that each sport is dealt with individually with a specific set of calculations for each because, despite some superficial similarities, they exhibit very different patterns of play.
- 5.3 We have further subdivided the analysis of some sports to deal with specific sub-sectors of activity within them, e.g. junior play or adult play, in order that important aspects are not submerged in aggregated data. Football and rugby have been subdivided in this manner, whereas no differentiation has been made between junior and senior cricket and junior and senior hockey teams as they play on pitches of similar dimensions.

- 5.4 As the playing pitch strategy is a peak day model, we have determined on which day teams/leagues wish to play their fixtures, as well as the peak time (AM or PM). The methodology also considers the ability of pitches to sustain play on the peak day and at the peak time.
- 5.5 Site assessments carried out in fine weather during the summer and autumn found that pitch quality was generally good. This was generally supported by consultation, although the use of pitches at peak time was suggested as a reason for possible pitch deterioration during the winter months.

Carrying capacity

- 5.6 The methodology set out Towards A Level Playing Field encourages local authorities to take into account carrying capacity (i.e. the number of games that pitches are adequately able to sustain per week) when calculating the playing pitch methodology.
- 5.7 There is no formula for calculating the carrying capacity of pitches, as it is dependent on a wide range of factors such as weather conditions, age/weight of users, quality of players etc. However, through local knowledge, user surveys, site visits, interviews and an analysis of usage patterns from the previous season, it is possible to estimate the approximate capacity of each pitch.
- 5.8 In calculating the carrying capacity of a pitch, the following should be considered:
- what proportion of games are cancelled on the pitch due to poor pitch condition?
 - is the condition of the pitch declining over the season?
 - what is the maintenance regime for the pitch at present?
 - could the capacity of the pitch be improved by enhanced maintenance?
 - to what extent are pitches required to accommodate training activity?
- 5.9 In addition to considering the degree to which pitches meet existing demand, it is important to take into account the provision of the long-term life of pitches. The importance of rest and recovery of pitches should not be underestimated in order to maintain pitch quality and to prevent the longer-term deterioration as a result of constant use.
- 5.10 The playing pitch methodology calculations therefore take into account the perceived carrying capacity of pitches. The weighting system used and the resulting audits are outlined in Tables 5.1. The standard PPM assumes that pitches are able to take two games per week, Sport England's recommendation. If in reality, the pitch in question is only able to accommodate one match, it is equivalent to half a pitch – able to take one game per week.

Table 5.1 Carrying capacity for each type of pitch

Carrying Capacity	Multiplication Factor
Three matches (or more) per week	1.5
Two matches	1.0
One match per week	0.5
One match or less per fortnight	0.25

- 5.11 As discussed in Section 4, the majority of school facilities in Ipswich are available for community use outside of school hours, primarily at weekends. In light of the demands placed on the pitches as a result of curriculum pressures and the heavy use of pitches by pupils, facilities at schools have been considered able to take only one community game per week. Mini football pitches at school sites are still considered able to sustain two community matches per week, due to the reduced level of wear and tear generated by smaller children.
- 5.12 Synthetic hockey pitches are not affected by the conditions discussed above as wear and tear on these pitches does not occur to the same degree as grass. These pitches have therefore been considered able to take four games on the peak day. This will however depend on flexible programming of matches to ensure this is feasible. Grass hockey pitches are no longer used for competitive senior matches and have therefore been excluded.
- 5.13 In our calculations, we have assumed that all Council pitches are able to undertake a standard two games per week (for the full season). This should be considered the optimum usage. Increasing the number of games each pitch takes per week reduces the overall number of pitches required.
- 5.14 This assumption has been validated through consultation with clubs in Ipswich, who have indicated that the majority of pitches are of sufficient quality to sustain two games per week (assuming that there are no abnormal weather conditions that cannot be accounted for in the study).
- 5.15 The ability to sustain two games per week is further validated by analysis of cancellations, which indicates that over the past season, few matches have been postponed and these have all been as a result of adverse weather conditions as opposed to the poor quality of the pitch. Site visits also indicated that while the pitch quality was poor in some instances, this was primarily due to sloping/uneven pitches, rather than issues that constrain the ability of a pitch to sustain matches effectively.
- 5.16 As illustrated in Section 4, consultation highlighted that there are 10 schools which have secured community use for their pitches, a very high percentage. This is helped by the fact that many of the Council's sports facilities are located at school sites, such as Copleston and Northgate.
- 5.17 PPM calculations take into account only those pitches with secured community use, in line with Sport England guidance.
- 5.18 Table 5.2 overleaf shows the calculations undertaken to determine the surplus/deficit of pitches in Ipswich. One STP is considered to be able to sustain three games per peak day for the purposes of calculation of the PPM.

SECTION 5 – METHODOLOGY FINDINGS

Table 5.2 PPM calculations for Ipswich Borough Council (2007)

			Football	Mini-soccer	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey	
STAGE ONE			Adult games	165	28	15	6	1	26
Identifying teams			Junior teams	97		2	10	0	10
STAGE TWO			Adult games	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5
Calculate home games per week			Junior teams	0.5		0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5
STAGE THREE (S1x S2)			Adult games	83	14	11	3	1	13
Assessing total home games per week			Junior teams	49		1	5	0	5
STAGE FOUR			Adult games	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Establish temporal demand for pitches			Junior teams	0%		0%	0%	0%	0%
			Adult games	33%	0%	50%	100%	100%	100%
			Junior teams	33%		50%	0%	0%	0%
			Adult games	67%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%
			Junior teams	67%		0%	100%	100%	100%
			Adult games	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%
			Junior teams	0%		50%	0%	0%	0%
			Adult games	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
			Junior teams	0%		0%	0%	0%	0%
			Adult games	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Junior teams	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%			
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4)			Adult games	0	7	0	0	0	0
Defining pitches used each day			Junior teams	0		0	0	0	0
			Adult games	27	0	5	3	1	13
			Junior teams	16		1	0	0	0
			Adult games	55	7	0	0	0	0
			Junior teams	32		0	5	0	5
			Adult games	0	0	5	0	0	0
			Junior teams	0		1	0	0	0
			Adult games	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Junior teams	0		0	0	0	0
			Adult games	0	0	0	0	0	0
Junior teams	0	0	0	0		0			
STAGE SIX			Adult games	49	8	9	8	0	15
Establishing pitches currently available			Junior teams	7		5	0		
STAGE SEVEN (S6-S5)			Adult games	49.0	0.5	9.0	7.5	0.0	14.5
Identifying shortfall (-) and surplus (+)			Junior teams	7.0		5.0	0.0		
			Adult games	21.8	7.5	3.1	4.5	-0.5	1.5
			Junior teams	-9.0		5.0	0.0		
			Adult games	-6.3	0.5	9.0	7.5	0.0	9.5
			Junior teams	-25.5		0.0	0.0		
			Adult games	49.0	7.5	3.1	7.5	0.0	14.5
			Junior teams	7.0		5.0	0.0		
			Adult games	49.0	7.5	9.0	7.5	0.0	14.5
			Junior teams	7.0		5.0	0.0		
			Adult games	49.0	7.5	9.0	7.5	0.0	14.5
Junior teams	7.0	5.0	0.0						

Notes:

- As per PPM guidance, it is assumed that all football and rugby teams play a home match every fortnight. However, for cricket teams it is assumed that many teams play home matches more than every fortnight (ie mid-week matches), hence the figure of 0.7.
- Determined by a combination of questionnaire responses, telephone interviews and discussions with league secretaries. Figures are approximate and it is acknowledged that these may change weekly.
- The figures highlighted in **Red** or **Green** represent the peak-day demand.

Ipswich Borough Council 2001 PPS

5.19 Ipswich Borough Council produced a playing pitch strategy in 2001, the parameters of which have been applied to the PMP methodology to allow some more accurate comparison between the 2001 and this 2007/8 study. Where relevant we have commented on these throughout our evaluation to offer a more detailed picture of playing pitch provision in the Borough. Three key differences were noted between the 2001 study and this 2007/8 study. These were:

- the 2001 study used a playing pitch capacity of 1.3 matches per week per pitch, as opposed to the assumption of 2 matches per week assumed for fully accessible community pitches in this study (LEA pitches retained their capacity of one match per week);
- the 2001 study did not use peak time modelling, assuming that 100% of the pitches are required at any one point. PMP calculations have amended capacities to reflect actual usage per day based on feedback from clubs, leagues and consultations. The results are then reported based on the demand level on the peak time day; and
- the audit of the 2001 model assumes that 57 out of 73 junior teams use senior size pitches. The 2007/8 study assumes that only teams of u16 and above use adult pitches, as per Towards a Level Playing Field guidance. If we amend our methodology to match the 2001 audit methodology and assume that a greater proportion of junior age groups actually use adult size pitches, the total demand for adult pitches increases and the total demand for junior pitches falls. These amendments have been factored into our model and results are commented on throughout the evaluation in the following pages.

5.20 Key issues arising from the PPM Calculations (Table 5.2) are:

- there is an undersupply of adult football pitches at peak time delivery (taken to be Sunday AM given the size of the Ipswich Sunday and Licensed Trades Leagues) equal to six football pitches. This indicates that senior football is currently undersupplied at peak times;
- there is a large under-supply of junior football pitches at peak time, again taken to be Sunday AM, of 25.5 pitches;
- mini football usage split 50/50 between Saturday and Sunday AM. This results in a small over-supply of mini football pitches on Saturday and Sunday mornings equal to one pitch;
- there is an over-supply of cricket pitches equal to 3 pitches on both Saturday and Sunday PM;
- there is an over-supply of rugby union hockey pitches at peak times, of 4.5 pitches on Saturday PM and 7.5 on Sunday AM; and
- there is an over-supply of hockey pitches equal to 1.5 pitches at peak time.

Analysing provision in Ipswich in more detail

- 5.21 Analysing pitch provision in Ipswich as a whole disguises the patterns of supply and demand within different geographical areas. This is especially important to consider in a Borough like Ipswich, which has a boundary that does not match exactly the natural boundary of the town.
- 5.22 For pitch sports there is an accepted need for players to travel to games. Despite this, consideration of local needs as part of the PPG17 study indicated that residents expect to find a sport facility (not necessarily a pitch) within a 15 minute walk time of their home. This reinforces the expectation that facilities are relatively local to residential areas.
- 5.23 Although valuable, analysis on a borough wide basis assumes that all residents are willing and able to travel to pitches. Consideration has therefore been given to supply and demand at a local level. Public transport networks are vital in particular for junior pitches, as players are unable to travel to matches themselves. Consideration of provision in the five geographical analysis areas is therefore set out below. Recommendations and solutions are discussed in Section 6.
- 5.24 Demand has been classified according to the home ground at which a club plays.
- 5.25 Table 5.3 reveals the shortfall/surplus by each area. Black numbers indicate and oversupply of pitches. Negative numbers indicate a shortfall of provision and are highlighted in red.

Table 5.3 Summary of PPM results by area in 2007

Sub-area name	Shortfall of adult football	Shortfall of junior football	Shortfall of Mini-soccer	Shortfall of cricket	Shortfall of adult rugby union	Shortfall of junior rugby union	Shortfall of hockey	Total pitches
Central	2.3	1.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	5.0	2.5	20.8
North East	-15.3	-9.4	-2.8	-0.1	1.0	-5.0	-4.5	-36.5
North West	-1.7	-7.7	-0.8	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.5	-8.7
South East	4.5	-5.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.4
South West	4.0	-4.4	-1.0	-1.4	1.0	0.0	2.0	0.2
	-6.3	-25.5	0.5	3.1	4.5	0.0	1.5	

- 5.26 Analysis of the information presented in Table 5.3 suggests that:
- there is a 2007 undersupply of adult football pitches (6.3) and a significant under supply of junior pitches (25.5);

- there is a significant shortfall in the provision of adult football pitches in the North East area equal to just over 15 pitches. There is however an over-supply recorded for the South East, South West and Central analysis areas;
- the highest shortfall of any type is in junior football, where there is an under-supply in all areas except the Central. This under-supply is most notable in the North East and North West analysis areas;
- the North East analysis area shows an under-supply of all types of pitches, with the exception of adult rugby union, where there is a small over-supply;
- the Central area has an over-supply of all pitches. This is because despite there being few pitches that exist in the area, few teams also exist (as a team's location is defined by the home pitch it uses);
- there is an over-supply of adult rugby pitches in all areas, except the South East analysis areas where supply equals demand;
- with the exception of the Central and North East areas, there is a good match between supply and demand for cricket pitches throughout the Borough; and
- there is an over-supply of hockey pitches in all analysis areas except for a significant shortfall of them in the North East analysis area.

5.27 While this analysis provides an indication of the ability of pitches to meet existing demand, it does not consider latent demand. Where there are no facilities, teams are not able to play in an area. This is shown in the results for the Central area in particular, where a small total provision is deemed to be an oversupply due to the lack of teams that are based in the area.

5.28 Amending pitch capacities significantly from 2 games per week to 1.3 games per week, as per the 2001 methodology, alters the results of this model in relation to adult senior pitches. This results in a current significant under-supply of 27 pitches if we apply the reduced capacities to the pitches.

5.29 If we were to amend the model to reflect a larger demand for adult pitches by assuming more junior teams play on senior size pitches, the demand for adult pitches increases. The result is a current under-supply of 34 pitches.

Predicting the future

Team Generation Rates

5.30 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables fair comparison of participation to be made between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken.

5.31 TGRs can be calculated for each of the individual disciplines, eg adult men's football, adult women's football, mini-soccer. Once these TGRs have been calculated, they can be brought together to form one TGR for each sport.

SECTION 5 – METHODOLOGY FINDINGS

- 5.32 The TGRs for football, rugby union, hockey and cricket in Ipswich Borough are shown in Table 5.4 to 5.7, and are compared to the national average based on the Sport England database of Playing Pitch Strategy information. Team Generation Rates for Ipswich should be submitted to Sport England for inclusion in this database.
- 5.33 The following examples help clarify what TGRs mean:

1:100	→	high TGR	→	relatively low latent (unmet) demand
1: 1000	→	low TGR	→	relatively high latent (unmet) demand

- 5.34 These figures are only a guide and do not specify the sport or refer to local conditions. For example, the national popularity of football will mean that it will almost always have the lowest TGR. Equally, hockey usually has the highest. Therefore, it is more useful to compare Ipswich TGRs with other areas. Table 5.4 – 5.7 therefore set the TGRs for Ipswich in the context of the national average.

Table 5.4 Football Team Generation Rates

Age group	Ipswich TGR	National average
Senior male	1:163	1:314
Senior female	1:5,431	1:10,593
Junior male	1:61	1:71
Junior female	1:412	1:818
Mini-soccer	1:242	1:141
Overall average (excluding mini soccer)	1:243	

- 5.35 Table 5.4 indicates that the population required, across each age group, to generate one team is significantly less than the national average; the only exception being mini-soccer.

Table 5.5 Cricket Team Generation Rates

Age group	Ipswich TGR	National Average
Senior male	1:2,440	1:1,333
Senior female	1:16,505	1:72,518
Junior male	1:2,964	1:1,481
Junior female	0	1:15,926
Overall average	1:4,519	

- 5.36 Table 5.5 tells us that for male cricket at both senior and junior level, the population required to generate one team is significantly higher than the national average, suggesting that cricket is not as popular in Ipswich compared to other areas.

Table 5.6 Rugby Union Team Generation Rates

Age group	Ipswich TGR	National Average
Senior male	1:4,073	1:10,315
Senior female	0	1:43,770
Junior male	1:419	1:1,864
Junior female	0	1:19,529
Overall average	1:3,487	

- 5.37 Similarly to football results from Table 5.4, Table 5.6 tells us that the population needed to generate one male team, for both senior and junior level, is significantly less than the national average, suggesting to us there is high demand for rugby in the area.

Table 5.7 Hockey Team Generation Rates

Age group	Ipswich TGR	National Average
Senior male	1:2,174	1:7,595
Senior female	1:1,940	1:10,292
Junior male	1:855	1:4,239
Junior female	1:1,113	1:5,115
Overall average	1:1,771	1:2,376

- 5.38 Table 5.7, like 5.4 and 5.5 again tell us that the population required to generate a team is significantly below the national average across all age groups, and in this case of hockey, sexes as well. This is reflected by the popularity of hockey in Ipswich with the presence of 35 teams across the age groups and both sexes.

Football

- 5.39 Over recent years The FA, together with the County FAs and Local Football Partnerships, have been developing a robust system to accurately measure levels of affiliated participation across the country. This system, known as CAS (County Administration System) produced the first set of data for the season 2005/06. The system tracks how many people are taking part in affiliated football throughout the country and can be analysed down to a local authority level.
- 5.40 At present the approach adopted for identifying future need relies on a mix of local consultation, sports development targets, demographic trends, and a degree of benchmarking of TGRs. The data collected by the FA enables benchmarking across the country. This data has been used to provide an indication of participation in Ipswich in contrast to other like Boroughs, and has also been used as a means of determining latent demand. The future implications for pitch provision, should this latent demand be realised, have then been considered.

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- 5.41 Unlike cricket, rugby and hockey, the FA data measures participation in terms of conversion rates. Conversion rates are defined as the percentage of the relevant population actively playing affiliated football.
- 5.42 Conversion rates are calculated by dividing the number of teams by an assumed number of players per team (e.g. 15 players per 11-a-side team). This gives a figure for the total number of players and is then divided by the relevant population to provide the percentage of affiliated players within that relevant population.
- 5.43 From the analysis of these conversion rates, it is possible to determine which quartile the level of participation falls into and therefore identify potential opportunities to increase participation. Authorities falling into the top quartile are the highest performing authorities in terms of participation.
- 5.44 The target conversion rates for 'new and growing towns' (the local authority benchmark group into which Ipswich Borough falls) are set out in table 5.8 below.

Table 5.8 Target conversion rates for new and growing towns

		Conversion %							Total
		Adult 11-a-side		Youth 11-a-side		Mini-soccer	Small-sided - adult		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Mixed	Male		
Quartiles	0%	3.1%	0.1%	12.5%	0.7%	3.2%	0.0%	3.8%	
	25%	4.3%	0.1%	19.8%	1.3%	5.7%	0.9%	4.5%	
	25%-50%	5.1%	0.2%	24.5%	1.9%	7.5%	2.1%	5.0%	
	50%-75%	6.1%	0.2%	26.8%	2.4%	9.3%	3.2%	5.8%	
	75%-100%	7.4%	0.5%	31.4%	3.3%	12.7%	17.9%	12.2%	

- 5.45 Conversion rates for Ipswich and other Essex and Suffolk local authorities (using information collected by the FA through the County Administration system to ensure that they are measured against like areas) are set out in table 5.9 overleaf.

Table 5.9 Conversion rates for Ipswich and other Essex and Suffolk authorities of a similar benchmark

	Conversion %						
	Adult 11-a-side		Youth 11-a-side		Mini-soccer	Small-sided - adult	Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Mixed	Male	
Basildon	4.3%	0.2%	27.5%	2.8%	12.0%	0.0%	5.2%
Forest Heath	5.0%	0.1%	18.2%	0.0%	4.1%	0.8%	4.0%
Harlow	6.3%	0.2%	23.2%	3.3%	5.2%	0.0%	4.8%
Ipswich	7.4%	0.1%	12.5%	0.7%	4.0%	3.3%	5.6%
Thurrock	6.3%	0.1%	29.5%	2.5%	10.2%	0.0%	5.7%

5.46 As can be seen in Table 5.9:

- overall participation across Ipswich is good as it falls in the top 50% at a national level;
- adult male and mini-soccer participation falls within the top 25% nationally;
- adult female participation falls in the bottom 50% nationally;
- participation of junior football and of mini soccer falls in the bottom 25% nationally; and
- Ipswich borough compares well with comparable authorities, in what is a region of relatively high levels of participation.

5.47 Whilst the above conversion rates provide an indication of current participation, it is possible to use this data to assess latent demand. This will be returned to when assessing future pitch requirements later in this section.

Sports development

5.48 The Council has four multi-activity centres that include outdoor sports pitch provision at Gainsborough, Northgate, Whitton and Chantry Sports Centres.

5.49 The provision of pitches is considered by the Council's sports development team to be generally adequate with a slight undersupply of football pitches. There are no issues perceived by the Council with regards to quality of pitches.

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5.50 With regards to football, the views of the Council are generally supported by the Suffolk Football Association who believe that quantity is almost meeting demand. However quality is varied with some good pitches and changing facilities and some poor pitches and changing facilities. They believe that the poorer facilities need to be brought up to the standard of the best facilities. Examples of good facilities highlighted by the Suffolk Football Association were pitches at Gainsborough and the STP at Whitton. Examples of poor facilities were highlighted at Dunbarton Road and at Bourne Park.

5.51 The Sports Development team is working hard to facilitate links between schools and community clubs, providing development pathways and encouraging participation.

Projections for 2021

5.52 By applying TGRs to the population projections for 2021, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated over the next decade. This can then be applied to the PPM model to forecast the future shortfall of pitches; assuming the supply of pitches and capacity of pitches does not alter in the interim.

5.53 The future PPM model is based on current team generation rates combined with future population figures and likely participation trends to predict future demand.

5.54 Current national and local agendas to increase health, physical activity and promotion in sport may have a significant increase on participation in pitch sports in future years and may impact on the overall demand for pitches. Provision of pitches will help achieve the aims and objectives of the health agenda.

5.55 Modelling this change in future demand has the following affect on the results of the PPM (Table 5.10 below). Shortfalls are shown as negative (and in red), oversupplies are positive (and in black).

Table 5.10 Summary of PPM results by analysis area for 2021

Sub-area name	Shortfall of adult football	Shortfall of junior football	Shortfall of Mini-soccer	Shortfall of cricket	Shortfall of adult rugby union	Shortfall of junior rugby union	Shortfall of adult rugby league	Shortfall of junior rugby league	Shortfall of hockey	Total pitches
Central	2.2	1.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	20.6
North East	-18.4	-10.9	-3.1	-0.4	0.6	-5.7	-0.6	0.0	-5.5	-44.0
North West	-3.3	-8.8	-1.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	-11.9
South East	3.1	-6.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	-1.2
South West	2.6	-5.2	-1.2	-1.9	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	-2.9
	-13.8	-29.9	-0.5	2.2	4.1	-0.7	-0.6	0.0	-0.3	

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- 5.56 As shown in Table 5.10, the demand for all pitches is projected to increase over the next 14 years to 2021. Pressures on junior pitches especially will continue to grow reflecting the demographic trend expected for Ipswich, as identified in section 2. Notably also the demand for adult pitches will increase significantly by 2021.
- 5.57 By applying the amended carrying capacities of the pitches to 1.3, 2021 projections show a significant shortfall, especially again for adult football pitches. By amending the junior team pitch requirements – to senior pitches, from junior pitches – there will also be a significant under-supply of adult pitches in 2021.
- 5.58 The population profile will affect demand for different pitch sports and may generate differences both between different areas of Ipswich and also when comparing participation in Ipswich to other areas and national averages.
- 5.59 While it is more difficult to plan the delivery of pitches over long time periods, particularly in light of changing demands for different sports, consideration has been given to the likely level of demand over the Ipswich Local Plan First Review First Draft Deposit, which runs from 2007 to 2021.
- 5.60 Accurate predictions of demand over this time duration should be treated with particular caution in light of the number of unknown entities, specifically:
- the unknown impact of the 2012 Olympics – this may stimulate high demand;
 - changing popularity of sports – this is often linked to the success of national teams;
 - impact of the emphasis on alternative physical activities rather than the promotion of formal sports; and
 - the impact of local investment in facilities.
- 5.61 Table 5.10 assumes that the structure of the population remains the same. While it is difficult to accurately project ahead, in all likelihood, by 2021 there will be a larger young population (as per the projections in section 2), as well as an older population, as people are generally living longer. This changing population structure may impact on the demand for pitch sports, although this change will happen gradually. It is important for pitch providers to be aware of these changing demographics and be prepared and able to respond in kind.
- 5.62 These effects are likely to be closely related to housing projections and developments in the Borough which affect the growth of the population.
- Mini sports**
- 5.63 The effect of mini sports (both rugby and football) must also be taken into consideration when assessing the level of under/oversupply in Ipswich. Participation in mini soccer is growing rapidly both nationally and locally in Ipswich and demand for pitches is therefore likely to continue to increase.
- 5.64 Mini soccer is very popular in Ipswich, with 28 mini soccer teams in the Borough. Mini rugby is less popular but Ipswich RFC still has 10 junior teams that use the Humber Doucy Road site on Sunday mornings, and consultation revealed there is demand for more.

- 5.65 A growth in the numbers of participants at a young age may also generate increased levels of participation in junior and senior sports in future years.
- 5.66 The 28 mini soccer teams in Ipswich play predominantly in the South East (11 teams), North East (six teams) and North West (seven teams) analysis areas. A number of different sites are used by clubs, including Council sites such as Gainsborough and Northgate, as well as school facilities such as Halifax School.
- 5.67 The key issues for future pitch provision from this growth can be summarised as:
- the high growth in mini soccer is likely to place further demand on existing facilities that are currently undersupplied. Similar growth in junior football is also likely to generate further shortfalls of junior pitch provision;
 - shortages of junior rugby pitches are likely to rise in light of participation increases. Mini rugby development will have to be monitored to ensure pitch supply meets demand; and
 - as the majority of growth in participation in all sports is at junior level, this may result in consequential increases in participation at adult level in future years.

The role of synthetic pitches

- 5.68 Common problems with pitch provision are often related to a lack of training/practice facilities. If players are to improve and clubs develop they require access to training facilities as well as match pitches. Training on match pitches further exacerbates the quality issues at pitch sites and generates wear and tear.
- 5.69 Artificial surfaces provide more consistent playing and practice conditions than grass. The development of synthetic turf pitches (STPs) has fundamentally changed the way some sports are played and matches are programmed. Few hockey matches are now played on grass, and frequently games can only be accommodated by sequential programming on match days. In time, the development of ‘third generation’ STPs for football may have a similar effect.
- 5.70 Sport England research into the use of STPs indicates that they play two principal roles, midweek training for football and weekend matches for hockey. Additionally, the popularity of 5-a-side football as a game in its own right is increasing.
- 5.71 Throughout this report, the analysis of the demand for synthetic pitches has focused on the demand for hockey pitches. The need for additional pitches to meet the demand from hockey teams will be considered in section six. In light of the growing role of synthetic pitches for football training, it is essential to consider the need for additional facilities.
- 5.72 The capacity of artificial pitches is greater than grass pitches, however this is dependent on opening hours and the availability of floodlighting. One of the greatest impacts of artificial training areas and 5-a-side courts is that they free up sports hall space for other sports by accommodating 5-a-side football. It is necessary therefore that links are created between this playing pitch strategy and consideration of indoor sports facilities. Additionally, the provision of 5-a-side facilities may reduce the demand and programming issues on full size synthetic pitches that are required for hockey training. Artificial training areas can provide for the casual needs of various sports and reduce pressure on existing grass pitches from casual use and training.

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- 5.73 The role of artificial training areas and 5-a-side courts should therefore be recognised in terms of provision for informal/casual use and all-weather training for football. Current behaviour patterns are not necessarily a good means of assessing demand for training, as demand is constrained by supply. Finding suitable floodlit and well drained facilities in winter is a common issue for clubs.
- 5.74 Many clubs currently train on the main grass pitches. This may lead to deterioration in quality over time. While floodlit grass training areas minimise the quality deterioration on the match pitch sites, grass surfaces have a low capacity and tolerance and frequently do not justify investment in floodlighting.
- 5.75 Similarly, it is difficult to justify providing floodlighting on existing grass pitches due to the quantity of matches sustained during the day. It is essential that where possible, separate training areas are provided – adjacent to existing pitch sites.
- 5.76 The use of third generation synthetic facilities for competitive football is becoming increasingly acceptable and the benefits that synthetic facilities provide is recognised. Third generation pitches are suitable for both training and competitive matches for football. The replacement of any grass pitches with synthetic provision should be considered carefully in light of the loss of open space, taking into account the need for other types of open space as well as the demand for sports provision.

Summary

- 5.77 The playing pitch methodology takes into account the supply of pitches (number of pitches), and the demand for pitches (number of teams). It measures the demand for pitches on peak days for each sport.
- 5.78 Calculations indicate that there are currently insufficient adult and junior football pitches to meet demand. There is currently a healthy supply of cricket, rugby and hockey pitches. This will be discussed further in section six.
- 5.79 Current national and local agendas to increase health, physical activity and promotion in sport may have a significant increase on participation in pitch sports in future years and may impact on the overall demand for pitches. Provision of pitches will help achieve the aims and objectives of the health agenda.
- 5.80 In order to calculate future provision and assess current participation team generation rates are calculated. It is essential that future participation in sport is considered now to ensure that appropriate planning of facilities to meet the projected increases in demand can be undertaken.
- 5.81 Further analysis and recommendations based on the above calculations will be discussed in Section six.

SECTION 6

DELIVERY OF PLAYING PITCH PROVISIONS ACROSS IPSWICH

The future delivery of playing pitch provision across Ipswich

- 6.1 The application of the Playing Pitch Methodology and a detailed analysis of the supply and demand for pitch sports across Ipswich has been set out in sections four and five.
- 6.2 The key issues arising from this analysis are summarised in Table 6.1 below. This section sets out:
- the vision for the delivery of pitches;
 - aims and objectives;
 - the principles of the strategy; and
 - recommended actions for the next few years across each analysis areas in the Borough.

Table 6.1 PPS key issues

Sport	Issues
Football	<p>The PPM shows that there is an under-supply in the number of adult football pitches across the Borough. There is a significant under-supply in the North East, and a large over-supply in the South East and West. There are however significant deficits in the number of junior pitches in every analysis area (with the exception of the Central area) in the Borough. There is a national trend for increased junior/mini football participation, and analysis for Ipswich is in line with this trend. The future growth in the population and continued youth participation trends is likely to see increasing pressure on junior and mini pitches over the LDF period.</p> <p>The site assessments of football pitches revealed a generally good quality of pitches and ancillary facilities. However the assessments were undertaken during the summer and autumn period where pitch quality would have been at its best. The consultation results revealed that there were some concern about the quality of facilities at smaller sites, but in general facilities were deemed to be very good.</p>
Cricket	<p>There is an over supply of cricket pitches across the Borough as a whole, most significantly in the Central area. Despite this, provision is evenly distributed across the Borough. There has been no acknowledged demand for new pitches.</p> <p>Alongside pitch assessments of the other sports, pitch and ancillary facilities in the Borough were deemed to be good for cricket pitches.</p>
Rugby	<p>PPM calculations suggest there is an over supply of rugby pitches in Ipswich Borough. However, similarly to football, there has been an increased uptake in mini/junior rugby in recent years and this has been reflected in the pressure placed on the core rugby site at Ipswich RFC. Pressure on pitches at Humber Doucy Road has increased so the Council should monitor the situation to see if demand increases for new pitches, especially junior/mini pitches, in the coming years. Indeed, the PPM 2021 projections suggest there will be an undersupply of junior pitches by 2021.</p>

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Sport	Issues
Hockey	The PPM model suggests there is an over-supply of hockey pitches across the Borough, with the exception of the Northeast analysis area. Consultation with England Hockey indicated that Ipswich lacks a two-pitch site that would allow games to run all day alongside a pavilion and with associated social activities (although there are concerns over how sustainable this would be in Ipswich). According to England Hockey, national trends in hockey show a slight decrease in school participation but a significant increase in junior club membership. However, there is not believed to be significant latent demand for hockey within the Borough, given the current existence of numerous teams.

6.3 When considering the delivery of future pitch provision in Ipswich it is important to consider the local context, in particular:

- the urban nature of the Borough, meaning that the Council has an opportunity to maintain/further develop sustainable transport links between sites to improve accessibility to sports facilities and pitches;
- facilities should meet the needs of all sectors of the community, measured by sex, age group, ability and ethnic diversity;
- the levels of deprivation in some areas of the Borough so the costs of participating should not be prohibitive; and
- although by no means low at the moment, there is a need to increase the current levels of participation in physical activity in order to combat obesity and other health related issues.

Vision for pitch provision across Ipswich

- 6.4 Ipswich Borough Council has a central role in planning, providing and co-ordinating provision of playing pitches across the Borough. The Council works in partnership with other providers to ensure the effective delivery of sport across the Borough. Partnership working is critical to the success of the delivery of this strategy.
- 6.5 The need to improve health through increased physical activity increases the importance of effective provision for pitch sports across the Borough.
- 6.6 Consultation undertaken for this playing pitch strategy and the related PPG17 study has resulted in the following quality standard for the provision of outdoor sports facilities:

Essential features	Desirable features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilities should meet relevant national governing body of sport specifications • have well-kept grass, be clean and litter free, and have toilets/changing facilities where deemed to be appropriate • facilities for cycle parking should be provided, along with adequate signage displaying contact information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff should be located on-site where appropriate and adequate parking provision should be provided on all sites • sites should be accessible by bus and cycle routes.

- 6.7 Taking into account the above quality standard and the consultations undertaken, the vision for this strategy is to:

“facilitate the delivery of a network of well distributed playing pitches which are fit for purpose and with appropriate ancillary accommodation to meet the needs of the residents of Ipswich Borough now and in the future”.

Objectives

- 6.8 The vision for the strategy is underpinned by the following objectives:
 - ensuring the quantity of pitches is sufficient to meet the needs of residents across the Borough both now and in the future;
 - ensuring pitches and ancillary facilities are of the quality and design to serve their intended purposes;
 - maximising access to facilities in the Borough; and
 - managing and maintaining the facilities in the most effective way.

Quantity

Ensure the quantity of pitches in the Borough is sufficient to meet demand both now and in the future

- 6.9 The PPM indicates that there are shortfalls in some pitch types, in particular adult and junior football pitches across the Borough. This conclusion is supported by further consultation. The Borough's population growth and increasing participation rates are likely to increase the demand for junior pitches in particular across the Local Plan period.
- 6.10 Playing pitches are often under threat from non-sporting development. The NPFA estimates that one pitch in the country is lost to development every day.
- 6.11 Ipswich Borough Council should facilitate the delivery of this strategy through the following policy objectives:
- 1) Meet identified deficiencies through**
 - the redesignation of existing 'surplus' pitch sites (guidance on appropriate pitch sizes can be found www.thefa.com);
 - creation of new facilities where appropriate;
 - increasing access to pitches; and
 - improving pitch quality.
 - 2) Ensure that all new developments contribute to the provision of outdoor sports facilities** through the use of S106 agreements. Where quantitative deficiencies do not exist, money should still be required for qualitative improvements. Contributions should also be required towards the ongoing maintenance of pitches. Emphasis should be given to:
 - pursuing a strategic approach at local authority level;
 - the need to link the corporate strategy, strategies for the future delivery of education/BSF and corporate performance targets with the process of negotiating new and refurbished sports facilities;
 - joint working between sport and leisure professionals, education professionals and land use planners; and
 - the provision of sound justification for what is sought from developers and other applicants for planning permission through S106 agreements.

SECTION 6 – DELIVERY OF PLAYING PITCH PROVISION ACROSS IPSWICH

- 6.12 PPG17 advocates the development of local standards that consider local community needs. An overarching quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities, used alongside an accessibility standard to assess the adequacy of existing provision and determine contributions required from new developments is set out in the PPG17 study. The findings of this playing pitch strategy enable the development of a local standard specific to pitch provision for football, cricket, rugby and hockey in Ipswich. This standard has been integrated within the PPG17 study and should be included alongside other standards referring to open space, sport and recreation facilities in the Local Plan.
- 6.13 The rationale behind the recommended standard for pitch provision is set out below.
- 6.14 The existing and future local standard has been calculated overleaf. The existing standard is based upon the current supply of pitches (measured in hectares) in each analysis area, divided by the population in that analysis area. The current level of provision is therefore equivalent to 0.73ha per 1000 population.
- 6.15 Playing pitch methodology calculations show where current shortfalls and surpluses exist for each type of sport. We have recommended potential solutions to ensure that provision meets the needs of the community.
- 6.16 The future local standard calculation is based upon the findings of this report for 2021. It takes into account the additional (or surplus) pitches identified within this report in 2021 and calculates the required area per 1000 population.
- 6.17 The required area is 0.69ha/1000 population which is lower than the existing standard. This is not a reduction in the number of pitches overall, as the Borough still requires a total increase of 6.92 hectares of pitches (approximately equivalent to seven football pitches) however the predicted future growth of the population in the Borough will result in a lower provision per 1,000 people.
- 6.18 However, this figure is a minimum level of provision to ensure that supply and demand are aligned, and does not take into account a strategic reserve. In addition to providing pitches to meet a minimum quantity standard, it is important to allow for the rest and recovery of sites. It is therefore suggested that an additional 10% is added onto the standard to allow for this. It is therefore recommended that the local standard is set at 0.76ha per 1000 population.

6.19 The calculations behind this recommendation are set out below:

Table 6.2 Current and future pitch provision by analysis area

Sub-area	Population	Total playing pitch area with secured community use (ha)	Playing pitch area per 1,000 population (ha)	Additional pitch area required (ha)	Total future pitch area (ha)	Future population	Future playing pitch area per 1,000 population (ha)
Central	24,024	18.28	0.76	-17.38	0.90	27,312	0.03
North East	24,546	22.20	0.90	24.06	46.26	27,905	1.66
North West	25,319	13.86	0.55	3.81	17.67	28,784	0.61
South East	22,356	15.54	0.70	-2.19	13.35	25,415	0.53
South West	31,828	24.20	0.76	-1.38	22.82	36,184	0.63
Total	128,073	94.08	0.73	6.92	101.00	145,600	0.69

3) Ensure that all pitch sites are afforded protection within the Local Plan.
Pitch sites should not be developed unless it can be proved through the application of both the playing pitch methodology and PPG17 that the site(s) in question is:

- surplus to requirements and not providing an important local amenity (where there is a deficiency of other forms of open space, permission should be subject to securing the use of some of the land to reduce the deficit (s)); and
- not surplus to requirements but the proposed development will secure the conversion of other land to substitute the land provision to an equal or higher quality is provided.

6.20 Tables 6.3 to 6.8 later in this section will detail key pitch sites within each area and highlight sites which could be considered for alternative open space uses if appropriate.

4) Ensure that the quantity of provision is above the minimum standard.
The minimum level of provision required to meet local need is equivalent to the level at which the results of the Playing Pitch Methodology calculations indicate that supply is in balance with demand. Some degree of spare capacity is an integral part of playing pitch provision for the following reasons:

- to accommodate latent and future demand for existing pitch sport teams;
- to enable the development of new clubs and teams;

- for the development/expansion of new pitch sports (such as mini-soccer and ‘tag’ rugby); and
- to accommodate backlogs and for rest and recovery periods.

Quality

Ensuring pitches and ancillary facilities are of the quality and design to serve their intended purposes

- 6.21 Provision of quality facilities is essential to encourage people to participate. In addition, it impacts not only on the quality of play, but also on the potential capacity of a pitch.
- 6.22 The quality of pitches across Ipswich Borough is generally good, especially at the larger Council run sites such as Gainsborough. The Council should facilitate the delivery of facilities which are fit for purpose through the implementation of the following policy objectives:
- 5) **Instigate a rolling programme of improvements across Council pitch sites.** This will improve capacity at pitch sites, drive increases in participation, improve access for all groups and enable higher participation levels to be maintained over a sustained period. The rolling programme of improvement should ensure that providers of facilities strive to meet appropriate standards. All facilities should meet with national governing body of sport standards and the local standard for outdoor sports facilities recommended in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (see Paragraph 6.7).
- 6.23 This standard is derived from local consultation and highlights the key elements which a good quality sports pitch should include. This vision should be applied to all sports pitches and ancillary facilities. Guidance for appropriate provision of pitches can be found in the Sport England document ‘Natural Turf for Sport’.
- 6.24 Site visits undertaken as part of this study were summarised in Section 4. The results of the visits provide an indication of the current quality of provision. In order to drive a programme of improvements, a minimum quality standard should be applied, measured by the score according to the site assessment matrix. It is recommended that this is set at:
- 90% for the site and ancillary facilities (the score currently required to fall within the top quarter of sites); and
 - 75% for the pitch area (the score currently required to fall within the top quarter of sites). This should reflect a minimum standard of provision.
- 6.25 The proportion of pitches and ancillary facilities meeting this requirement should be monitored annually.
- 6) **Provide support to all partners** in the maintenance, improvement and enhancement of their facilities.

- 7) Operate a policy of rest and recovery at all pitch sites**, ensuring that the quality of pitches does not deteriorate over the course of a season or from season to season.

Enhancing accessibility

- 6.26 Access to outdoor sports facilities is of particular importance, as sites are only highly valued if they are accessible to the local community. An inaccessible facility is of limited value to the local community as a sports facility, regardless of the quality of the space.
- 6.27 Access to school sites is a frequently raised issue across the UK, with many good quality playing fields sitting unused on peak days. The use of education facilities across Ipswich Borough is very good, with many school sites doubling up as Council run sports facilities. Further, a number of independent schools with extensive facilities, such as Ipswich School, have pitches available for public use. The extended schools and Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programmes offer further opportunities for investment and access. Ensuring this open access policy and encouraging schools to permit community use may require financial commitment from the local authority to improve playing surfaces and capacity, provide or improve changing accommodation. The BSF programme may offer opportunities to enhance community use of facilities in future years.
- 6.28 Increasing access to sports pitches ensures that resources are maximised. The PPG17 study sets a local accessibility standard for outdoor sports facilities, which encompasses sports pitches and states that all residents should be within a 15 minute walk of at least one grass pitch, tennis court or bowling green. This aims to ensure an equitable distribution of outdoor sports facilities and provide all residents with the opportunity to participate.
- 6.29 In addition to meeting this criterion, set within the PPG17 study, Ipswich Borough Council should look to increase access to pitches through the implementation of two key policy objectives, specifically;

- 8) Improving access to school pitches** - school pitches can provide a crucial resource for community sport in Ipswich Borough. Opening up school facilities is also a key means of addressing location deficiencies. Despite this, schools are frequently reluctant to open up their facilities for community access and clubs may not be attracted to using them. Reasons for this include:

- poor drainage and lower quality maintenance of some school pitches;
- access to appropriate changing facilities;
- schools need to ensure that pitches are playable for their primary purpose – curricular use. This restricts opportunity for community use of the site; and
- the use of school pitches can frequently be governed by the school term times. In addition, it is common for schools to change pitches from football to cricket for the summer term, which may not correspond with the requirements of community use teams.

6.30 The Council should support schools in drawing up formal community use agreements which secure the use of the facility for use outside school hours where there is local community need. These agreements should facilitate the use of these facilities and ensure long-term access. Access to all of these facilities would ensure that all residents had local outdoor sports facilities.

9) **Ensuring facilities are accessible to all through compliance with DDA** - the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) of 1995 received more powers in October 2004 when an additional phase came into force. This renewed focus upon disability rights has not only introduced greater legal powers in the protection of disabled person's legal rights, it has also reinforced awareness of existing legislation in this area. The implications of this are considerable as all goods, services and facilities – whether charged for or provided free of charge – are covered by the legislation. Providers should ensure that:

- disabled people are not treated less favourably;
- service providers must make reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities, such as providing extra help or making changes to the way they provide their services; and
- service providers may have to make other reasonable adjustments in relation to the physical features of their premises to overcome physical barriers to access.

6.31 The full Code of Practice is downloadable from <http://www.disability.gov.uk>.

Improving the current and future management and maintenance of facilities

Managing and maintaining the facilities in the most effective way

6.32 Efficient management and maintenance of facilities is as important as the quality, quantity and access to the facilities. Pitch bookings for Council pitches are taken centrally and schools are responsible for any pitch bookings at their site. Clubs highlighted that access to pitches at school sites is difficult, with clubs needing to approach each school individually.

6.33 The Council takes a hands on approach to the delivery of pitches at the current time. It should look to maintain and improve this service through:

- 10) **Ensuring the pitch booking system is simple and efficient to use** – this should be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with users. Consideration should be given to the inclusion of school facilities with formal agreements in the system to facilitate access to these sites.
- 11) **Ensure facilities offer value for money** – consideration should be given to the implementation of a pricing hierarchy, where higher fees are charged for higher quality facilities. Maintaining an affordable cost should however be central to the aims and objectives of pitch providers. Consideration should also be given to a concessionary pricing scheme should higher prices for higher quality facilities be introduced.

- 12) **Promote joint and partnership working across the Council and with key stakeholders in the provision of playing pitches** through the development of a joint working group. The group should involve key stakeholders across the Borough including the Parks and Contracts Team, Sports Development, Key Clubs and Planning.

The principles behind the Strategy

6.34 All suggested actions are linked to the overriding themes and detailed policy objectives and are based on the principles of:

- provision of a network of sites across the Borough – ensuring that all residents have access to local facilities;
- sustainability – ensuring the long term sustainability of pitch provision;
- economies of scale – promoting enhancement of larger sites where possible and avoiding use of single site pitches;
- maximising resources – promoting the use of all facilities by the local community;
- partnership working – between key stakeholders and providers of pitches; and
- partnership working between all sectors of the community – including the concept of multi sports villages/sport hubs, where the incorporation of wider services offers an opportunity to cross subsidise sporting provision courtesy of assured rental income on the site. Examples of other partners include health, education/skills, community development, social facilities, and private sector.

Recommendations and actions

6.35 The suggested key actions and areas for further investigation are set out in Tables 6.3– 6.6 overleaf. Sources of capital and revenue funding are then discussed in the text that follows.

SECTION 6 – DELIVERY OF PLAYING PITCH PROVISION ACROSS IPSWICH

Table 6.3 Football

Theme	Action	Related objective	Priority
<p>Quantity</p> <p>Current:</p> <p>Adult 56</p> <p>Junior 11</p> <p>Mini 9</p>	<p>There are deficits in the supply of football pitches at all age groups. This is predicted to worsen by 2021 where there will be significant deficits both senior and junior football pitch provision.</p> <p>Given the popularity of outdoor sports in the Borough (notably football and hockey), and the changing demographic of the Borough, it is recommended that planning for increases in participation takes place now.</p> <p>Consultation with league representatives indicates that there is currently a good supply of pitches, but that there was potential for increased demand in the near future, particularly at the junior level. This is in line with national and regional trends of increased participation.</p>	1	Medium
<p>2007 needs:</p> <p>Adult 62</p> <p>Junior 37</p> <p>Mini 9</p>	<p>Our consultation with league representatives indicates there is still demand for more teams and therefore more pitches in the Ipswich area. There was expected to be increased demand for junior and mini pitches. We would therefore not recommend any strategic reduction in the total number of pitches. We would however suggest a revision in the mix of pitch types (more junior football pitches in particular) to more accurately reflect the specific football needs of the Borough. The provision of nine-a-side pitches may also need to be investigated to see if there is any demand for these pitches in future.</p>	1, 2	Medium
<p>2021 future needs:</p> <p>Adult 68</p> <p>Junior 37</p> <p>Mini 8</p>	<p>This result mirrors the result of the 2001 PPS which, despite being based on different assumptions and different methodology, identified a similar need to provide more pitches. By applying the 2001 carrying capacity assumptions to the 2007/8 model the under-supply in adult pitch provision is significantly increased, further supporting the Council view that there is a shortage of pitches in the Borough.</p> <p>In order to ensure that there are sufficient facilities so as not to constrain demand (and to allow for the rest and recovery of pitches) a strategic reserve equivalent to an additional 10% of demand should be maintained at all times. Pitches should also be protected under the Local Plan and any new developments taking place should contribute to new pitch development/pitch improvement through S106 agreements.</p>	2, 7	Medium

SECTION 6 – DELIVERY OF PLAYING PITCH PROVISION ACROSS IPSWICH

Theme	Action	Related objective	Priority
<p>Quality</p>	<p>The quality of pitches and ancillary facilities is generally good however there remain some sites which need upgrading, such as at Bramford Lane and Murray Road Recreation grounds. Provision of pitches and ancillary facilities should be upgraded at sites to ensure that ancillary facilities score 90% and pitches score 75%, bringing all facilities up to the level of the current highest quartile scores.</p>	<p>4, 5</p>	<p>Short</p>
	<p>Pitches should comply with national governing body and DDA requirements and any necessary improvements should be included within the rolling programme of capital investment.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Short</p>
<p>Accessibility</p>	<p>The Council provides a number of hub sites where multiple sports pitches are provided: at Gainsborough, Northgate, Whitton and Chantry High school. These sites provide opportunities for economies of scale in terms of maintenance and ancillary facilities provision (such as car parking). It is important that transport links are maintained and improved where possible to ensure access is made to these sites.</p>		

SECTION 6 – DELIVERY OF PLAYING PITCH PROVISION ACROSS IPSWICH

Table 6.4 Cricket

Theme	Action	Related objective	Priority
Quantity There is a currently an over-supply of three cricket pitches. This will decrease to two by 2021	Supply currently exceeds demand in the Borough. Despite demand increasing in the future, in line with increasing participation and expected population growth, there will still be an oversupply of pitches in 2021. It is however important to afford the current level of pitch provision with Local Plan protection so that any future changes in demand can be accounted for. Cricket pitches also have the benefit of being used during the summer months and therefore can co-exist alongside football and/or rugby pitches during the winter.	3	Short
	There was no acknowledged shortage in cricket pitch provision identified through consultation. In all areas, consideration should be given to the provision of a 10% strategic reserve in order to aid rest and recovery of pitches.	7	Medium
Quality	The quality of cricket facilities across Ipswich was perceived to be good on club sites. Support should be given to clubs where appropriate to ensure appropriate maintenance of cricket facilities in light of the specialist nature of this task.	4	Short
	Pitches should comply with governing body standards and DDA requirements and any necessary improvements should be included within the rolling programme of capital investment.	9	Short
Accessibility	As with other sports clubs' feedback, the car was deemed to be the preferred method of transport to and from training and matches by cricket clubs. The nature of the sport determines this, given the equipment requirements. St Joseph's School is perhaps the only major school site where community use is not yet currently available. If access were made available formally, the total number of cricket facilities across the Borough would increase and accessibility for residents would improve.		

SECTION 6 – DELIVERY OF PLAYING PITCH PROVISION ACROSS IPSWICH

Table 6.5 Rugby

Theme	Action	Related objective	Priority
<p>Quantity</p> <p>There is a current surplus of five adult rugby union pitches. This will reduce to four by 2021.</p> <p>There will be demand for one extra junior pitch by 2021.</p>	<p>There is currently an oversupply of adult rugby pitches in Ipswich. However, Ipswich Rugby Club felt that they needed more land to accommodate demand. This conclusion agrees with the conclusions of our junior pitch and demand analysis, where demand is increasing. This agrees with the demographic profile as outlined in Section 2 which identifies a young population.</p> <p>The YMCA rugby club, located near to Ipswich Rugby club, has not been included in this analysis as it falls outside of Ipswich Borough boundary. If this were included, this would further increase the current supply, particularly with regards to adult pitches.</p> <p>The success of the national side in recent years may stimulate demand further.</p> <p>If the game of rugby is to continue to develop, consideration should be given to the provision of rugby pitches at school sites. Any opportunities arising through BSF should be taken to maintain and increase demand for rugby across the Borough. School sites offer particular opportunities for training facilities, where linking with the FA, the RFU support the development of 3g pitches for training requirements. St Joseph's represents a site where pitch provision is extensive but no community use is available.</p> <p>All pitches should be protected under the Local Plan and the need for additional pitches should be monitored on an ongoing basis. It is important to ensure that the growth of the club/demand for rugby is not constrained by a shortage of facilities. At all times, a 10% strategic reserve should be maintained to ensure pitches have appropriate rest and recovery periods and pitch provision does not constrain demand.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p>
<p>Quality</p>	<p>Ipswich RFC was deemed to be an excellent hub facility with very good pitch quality and extensive ancillary facilities including changing rooms/pavilion and car parking.</p> <p>Pitches should comply with DDA and any necessary improvements should be included within the rolling programme of capital investment.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Short</p>

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Theme	Action	Related objective	Priority
<p>Accessibility</p>	<p>The concentration of sports at hub sites has both negative and positive effects. In the case of rugby, given the lower demand for the sport (compared to football), the current situation is satisfactory in that there is no reasonable opportunity or rationale to provide other facilities across the Borough, other than at school sites to encourage the junior game. However, the presence of YMCA Rugby Club to the north east of the Borough further means that significant rugby provision is located in one corner of the town, thus placing transport demands on those who live in other areas of the Borough.</p>		

SECTION 6 – DELIVERY OF PLAYING PITCH PROVISION ACROSS IPSWICH

Table 6.6 Hockey

Theme	Action	Related objective	Priority
<p>Quantity</p> <p>There is an oversupply of two hockey pitches currently. This will become a negligible undersupply of pitches by 2016.</p>	<p>There is currently a good supply of hockey pitches in the Borough, with six sand-based synthetic pitches, all of which are available for community use. Synthetic pitches are specialised facilities and while it is important to ensure an equal distribution across the Borough, supply of synthetic facilities should be considered on a Borough-wide basis.</p> <p>Despite supply currently exceeding demand, changes in demand for sports will need to be monitored. For example, increases in 5-a-side football participation will also impact on the level of demand for synthetic facilities and will have particular implications for training.</p> <p>Consultation confirmed that there are sufficient pitches to meet demand. Synthetic pitches should therefore be protected under the Local Plan.</p> <p>Despite this, opportunities to provide one new synthetic hockey pitch via the BSF programme should be explored. An increase of one pitch across the Borough should ensure that demand for hockey is not constrained. New housing development should contribute to pitch provision through S106 agreements.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1, 2, 8</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p>
<p>Quality</p>	<p>In light of the high levels of use at the synthetic facilities across the Borough, it is important to maintain the quality of pitches to ensure they are able to meet requirements both now and in the future. It is important that all facilities are able to sustain matches at all times.</p> <p>The growing trend for football teams to use synthetic facilities, especially for training purposes, may compete with hockey’s own demands for training and matches. Where relevant, priority must be given to hockey club usage of STP facilities.</p> <p>Pitches should comply with national governing body and DDA requirements and any necessary improvements should be included within the rolling programme of capital investment.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9</p>	<p>Short</p> <p>Short</p>
<p>Accessibility</p>	<p>The playing pitch model shows an undersupply of pitches in the North East area is a result of the number of teams based in this area. In reality, teams are willing to travel further for high quality hockey facilities such as STPs so the overall provision in the Borough (which is sufficient) should be used as a barometer of accessibility.</p>		

Sources of capital funding

6.36 Areas for improvement identified in the site visits may require either capital or revenue expenditure (or both). There are several potential sources of financial aid. These include:

- Building Schools for the Future;
- Football Foundation;
- Sport England Community Investment Fund;
- Rugby Football Foundation;
- Community Club Development Fund; and
- various National Lottery programmes.

Building Schools for the Future

8.1 Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a £45 million, 15 year programme to transform education in England via the rebuilding or refurbishment of every secondary school in the country. New or refurbished schools are being delivered in annual waves, and consideration of sport has become a mandatory requirement in the current wave, 5, and all future waves. Ipswich is in Wave six. BSF offers a golden opportunity to improve sports facilities, including pitches, via new provision on school sites. Ipswich Borough Council will need to express its requirements via the PE and Sport Stakeholder Group which is set up during the early stages of local planning.

Football Foundation

6.37 The Foundation is dedicated to revitalising the grass roots of the game, constructing modern football infrastructure creating facilities that are fit for the game in the 21st century. The maximum grant for a capital project is £1 million. Grants of this size will only be awarded in exceptional circumstances. The percentage level of support is typically around 50% but in exceptional circumstances could reach 90% (See <http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/> for more information).

Sport England Community Investment Fund

6.38 The Sport England Community Investment Fund (http://www.sportengland.org/text/cif_guidance_notes.pdf) is used for funding applications over £5000. Projects that are eligible for funding are assessed against the priorities of the national framework for sport. However, decisions regarding funds are actually made by the nine regional sports boards and applications must also fit in with the regional funding criteria.

6.39 Sport England's mission is to increase participation in sport and active recreation by 1% every year to 2020. It is committed to investing in a coherent system for community sport and promoting a consistent framework for how sport is organised at a local level. County Sports Partnerships have responsibility for achieving increases in participation within their area and it is therefore important that discussions about each project are held with the CSP.

6.40 Projects must:

- directly increase participation in priority groups;
- have secured or have strong indication of securing significant levels of partnership funding;
- come from areas of social deprivation and that particularly benefit isolated rural communities; and
- develop more than one sport or activity.

(See <http://www.sportengland.org/> for more information)

Rugby Football Foundation

6.41 In January 2003, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) announced the commencement of this fund. Community rugby clubs can apply for grants and/or interest-free loans to fund capital facility projects which contribute to the recruitment and retention of players. This funding is available to clubs participating at Level 5 or below.

6.42 There are two different elements to the fund as set out below.

6.43 **Ground Match Grant Scheme:** this provides easy-to-access grant funding for capital playing projects which contribute to the recruitment and retention of players. A list of projects that qualify for a grant will be sent to clubs on request as part of the application pack. All projects that qualify for a grant also qualify for the loan (see below). At present, clubs can apply for between £1,500 and £5,000, which they must equally match (i.e. 50:50). Clubs may only apply for one grant per project.

6.44 **Interest-free loan schemes:** the interest-free loan scheme provides loans to clubs to help finance capital projects which contribute to the recruitment and retention of players. The key features of the scheme are:

- loans will be interest-free (though if a club defaults on a capital payment, the whole loan will be subject to interest until the outstanding amounts are paid);
- the maximum loan available is £100,000;
- the maximum loan period will be 15 years, including an initial two-year capital holiday; and
- security will be required for the loan scheme in the form of either a charge over property or personal guarantees.

6.45 Clubs may apply for both a grant and a loan for the same project (providing that the appropriate conditions are met). A club could, therefore, apply for a maximum grant of £5,000 (providing it matches it with £5,000 of other funding) and a maximum loan of £100,000. Grants and loans will be awarded by the Trustees of the Rugby Football Foundation.

The Big Lottery Fund

- 6.46 The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) hands out half the good causes money from the National Lottery. It is committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need. There is a range of grants available. Listed below are some of them that are most applicable to funding sports projects and improvements to outdoor sports facilities and voluntary sports clubs. For more information on the programme visit the website at <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/index/>.

Awards for All

- 6.47 The Lottery Small Grants Scheme offers Awards for All grants of between £500 and £10,000 for small projects which involve people in their community. The Council could not directly apply for such funds but could work with clubs in order for them to apply.

Parks for People

- 6.48 This fund is committing £90 million over the next three years to parks and gardens in England. It aims to improve local environments and quality of life as well as making a lasting impact on the lives of local people and the places where they live.
- 6.49 Grants will range from £250,000 to £5m however the main aim is for improvements to a green space used for informal recreation and enjoyment. 25% of the project costs would need to be raised by the Council themselves, including at least 5% cash from the Council's own resources.

Reaching Communities

- 6.50 This lottery fund is about responding to the needs identified by communities, funding projects that help those most in need including people or groups who are hard to reach. It is a three-year programme that will give grants of more than £10,000 and up to £500,000, including a maximum of £50,000 for capital grants. The fund hopes to bring about the following changes:
- people having better chances in life, including being able to get better access to training and development to improve their life skills;
 - strong communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems;
 - improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy; and
 - healthier and more active people and communities.
- 6.51 Reaching Communities has proven to be a very popular and highly competitive programme. Competition for funds is very high, and difficult decisions have to be made, often resulting in very good projects not being funded. For more information visit http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_reaching_communities.htm?regioncode=uk&progStatus=open&status=theProg&title=Reaching%20Communities.

Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

- 6.52 The landfill tax credit scheme (LTCS) was introduced with the landfill tax in October 1996 and enables landfill site operators to donate up to 6.0 per cent of their landfill tax liability to environmental projects in return for a 90 per cent tax credit. The LTCS was designed to help mitigate the effects of landfill upon local communities. It encourages partnerships between landfill operators, their local communities and the voluntary and public sectors.
- 6.53 Landfill tax credits must be spent in compliance with the landfill tax regulations, which set the following objects for the LTCS:
- projects that involve reclaiming land, the use of which has been prevented by some previous activity;
 - projects that reduce or prevent pollution on land;
 - projects that provide or maintain public amenities or parks within 10 miles of a landfill site;
 - delivery of biodiversity conservation for UK species habitats;
 - projects to restore or repair buildings for religious worship, or of architectural or historical interest within 10 miles of a landfill site; and
 - projects fund the cost of administrative, financial or other similar services, supplied to other enrolled environmental bodies.
- 6.54 For further information on this scheme go to the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme website <http://www.entrust.org.uk/home/lcf>.

Sportsmatch

- 6.55 The Sportsmatch scheme is government funded and designed to match pound for pound funds raised. Funding is aimed at projects which aim to increase participation in sport at the grass root level and/or improve basic skills. Capital projects under £5,000 are considered but most of the annual £3.6 million pounds are aimed at revenue based projects. The maximum amount available is £50,000.

Lord's Taverners

- 6.56 The Lord's Taverners distribute funding for cricket projects through various County Cricket Boards. Grants of up to £6,000 are available for the installation and of non-turf pitches and practice ends. The Council cannot apply for funds directly but could work with other local organizations to prepare such a bid.

Barclays Spaces for Sport

- 6.57 The Barclays Spaces for Sports scheme is an exciting new partnership between Barclays, Groundwork and the Football Foundation, providing £30 million over three years to create or improve sports facilities in communities across the UK.
- 6.58 Seven flagship sites per year will be delivered with matched funding from the Football Foundation. A further number of smaller sites will also be created, offering basketball, netball, tennis through to skateboard and BMX tracks.

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- 6.59 Every site will be supplied with sports equipment with further support available to help the community get the most out of the new facilities.
- 6.60 In terms of site selection, Barclays Spaces for Sports is a closed Scheme, which means the general public are not being asked to send in applications for the sites. Instead, Barclays will use and build upon the existing local networks of Groundwork and Football Foundation to identify potential sites.

Foundation for Sports and the Arts

- 6.61 The foundation for sports and the arts distribute monies collected by the football pools companies. The aim of the charity is to:
- “increase participation in sports and the arts, especially amongst young people and those with more ability than resources”*
- 6.62 Awards up to £100,000 have been awarded in the past, though such levels are unusual. It is not currently possible to make applications for football based projects and no new applications will be accepted after March 2009.

Community Club Development Fund

- 6.63 This fund is distributed by Sport England but is actually funded directly from central government. £20 million was released to clubs in the period 2004 to 2006 and it is expected that further monies will be made available from March 2007.
- 6.64 The criteria for successfully applying for funding includes:
- projects which provide enhanced facilities for sports at clubs with inadequate existing provision;
 - projects which are demonstrably linked to other NGB priority development work e.g. volunteering, coaching talent development and club/school links;
 - projects serving clusters (e.g. through a Beacon club infrastructure) meeting the needs of several clubs/sports;
 - clubs able to provide the greatest sporting and community benefit in terms of contributing to improved health, community cohesion, crime prevention etc; and
 - clubs in areas of both sporting and greatest social deprivation.

Developers

- 6.65 Through Section 106 agreements (see earlier in this Section).

Funding strategy

- 6.66 It is assumed that sufficient financial resources will not be available immediately to meet all the identified needs. To ensure strategic development of all the potential projects in the Borough it is necessary to:
- give all partners, providers and users the opportunity to add to this long list of projects and ensure that it evolves as necessary throughout the course of this strategy;

- develop a set of criteria against which projects can be judged, in order to assess which of the potential projects should be developed first; and
- make priorities against this criteria.

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)

6.67 The DDA aims to end the discrimination that many people with disabilities face. This act gives people with disabilities rights in the areas of:

- employment;
- access to goods, facilities and services; and
- buying or renting land or property.

6.68 On 1 October 2004 the final stages of the goods, facilities and services provisions of Part III of the DDA came into force. The new duties will apply to all providers of services to the public where physical features make access to their services impossible or unreasonably difficult for people with disabilities.

6.69 The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) published the revised Code of Practice on this subject in February 2002. This statutory code, agreed by Parliament, provides detailed advice on the way the law will work, together with practical examples. This document can be obtained from www.drc-gb.org.

6.70 The DRC list 18 types of services and facilities that are covered by the DDA, one of which is sport and leisure. Therefore, the Council should ensure that all their facilities comply with the DDA requirements. Some funding opportunities to help ensure facilities comply are shown below.

Children in Need

6.71 The BBC Children in Need Appeal gives grants to organisations with disadvantaged children and young people living in the United Kingdom. Applicants must be from properly constituted non-for-profit organisations, for example:

- self-help groups;
- voluntary organisations; and
- registered charities.

6.72 This would make it unlikely that The Council could directly approach the fund, however it can encourage and assist disability groups in the area to apply to the fund. It should be noted that any application for funds must be for a project that starts within 12 months of the application date.

LloydsTSB foundation for England and Wales

6.73 The mission of this trust is:

“to support and work in partnership with charitable organisation which help people, especially those who are disadvantaged or disabled, to play a fuller role in communities throughout England and Wales”

- 6.74 The trust does not fund Council's directly and application would be best served through a sports club or charitable organisation. Grants can be between £500 and £10,000.

Peter Harrison Foundation

- 6.75 The foundation runs a nationwide programme entitled "opportunities through sport" and only accepts application from organisations that are:
- registered charities – or
 - friendly societies or industrial provident societies – or
 - organisations whose charitable status is recognised by the Inland Revenue in Scotland or Northern Ireland.
- 6.76 The organisation will not fund projects that directly replace statutory funding or activities that are primarily the responsibility of central or local government. Applicants can apply for up to a maximum of 3 years of revenue support and projects that are likely to be successful should include a high degree of community.
- 6.77 The Foundation generally funds projects in the south east of England region but may also fund projects in the East of England region.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

PITCH SPORTS CLUB QUESTIONNAIRE



A Playing Pitch Strategy for Ipswich Borough SPORTS CLUB SURVEY

Q1. Please state the full name of your sports club:

Q2. Which sport(s) does your club participate in?

Football	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hockey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cricket	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rugby Union	<input type="checkbox"/>		

If you only selected 'other', you do not need to complete the questionnaire. Thank you for your time

Q3. How many members does your club have?

	Under 18	Adult	Veteran
Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4. Over the last 5 years has membership....

Increased	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decreased	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remained static	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approx percentage change	<input type="text"/>	%
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Q5. How many teams does your club have?

	Mini (Under 11)	Junior 11-15)	Adult (16 to 45)	Veteran (over 45)
Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q6. Do any of your junior teams currently use an adult sized pitch?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

If yes would you prefer them to be using a junior sized pitch?

Q7. Which leagues/ competitions do your teams participate in? Please include contact name and telephone number for the league/ competition organisers
(if possible, please attach a fixture list)

Q8. Does your club currently have a written development plan?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	(please enclose a copy)
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q9. Which of the following issues are currently problematic for your club? (please tick all that apply)

- Lack of internal funding (subs/ fund-raising)
- Lack of external funding (parish council, governing bodies etc)
- Lack of appropriate local facilities
- Access difficulties for members (cost, lack of public transport etc)
- Lack of information about local facilities/ services
- Poor/ No relationship with other local clubs (facility usage/ exit routes etc)
- Lack of voluntary assistance (committee members/ coaches etc)
- Membership recruitment/ retention
- Other (Please specify)

Q10. Please complete the table below, listing the venue(s) that your club use for home matches and training:

(example responses are shown in *italic*)

MATCHDAY VENUES

Name and address	Postcode	Facility details (size/ surface/ ancillary)	Hired/ leased/ owned	If hired/ leased, from who?	Days/ times when used
<i>Alton Recreation Ground, Kings Road,</i>	<i>GU99 1AB</i>	<i>2 junior grass football pitch, with changing rooms</i>	<i>Leased</i>	<i>Alton Parish Council</i>	<i>Sunday 10-12am Tuesday 6-7pm</i>
1					
2					
3					

OUTDOOR TRAINING VENUES

Name and address	Postcode	Facility details (size/ surface/ ancillary)	Hired/ leased/ owned	If hired/ leased, from who?	Days/ times when used
<i>Alton School, Queens Road, Alton</i>	<i>GU99 1CD</i>	<i>1 junior grass football pitch, no changing rooms</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Alton School</i>	<i>Tuesday 6-7pm</i>
1					
2					
3					

INDOOR TRAINING VENUES

Name and address	Postcode	Facility details (size/ surface/ ancillary)	Hired/ leased/ owned	If hired/ leased, from who?	Days/ times when used
<i>Alton Leisure Centre, Prince Road, Alton</i>	<i>GU99 1EF</i>	<i>3 court sports hall, with changing rooms</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Alton Leisure Centre</i>	<i>Thursdays 8-10pm</i>
1					
2					
3					

Q11. Are the matchday pitches listed in Q10 your preferred location to play home matches?

Yes
No

If NO, please state your preferred location (site name and address with postcode)

Q12. How many matches do you play on your main pitch each season? (please tick)

 1 to 10 11 to 20 21 to 30 over 30

Q13. How many games were cancelled due to the pitch condition last season (excluding frozen pitches)? (please state approximate number)

Q14. How many matches per week do you feel that your main match pitch can adequately sustain? (please tick)

 1 match 3 matches 2 matches 4 matches or more

Q15. Does your club train on your main match pitch?

Yes

If YES, for how many hours per week?

Number of hours:

No

If NO, do you train on another grass pitch? If so, where

Other pitch details:

Q16. What are the three BEST pitches in Ipswich Borough you have played on this season (home or away)? Please state site name and address:

1	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>

Q17. What are the three WORST pitches in Ipswich Borough you have played on this season (home or away)? Please state site name and address:

1	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>

Q18. Please rate the following aspects of your main match pitch:

	Good	Acceptable	Poor
Firmness of surface	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grip underfoot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bounce of ball on pitch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evenness of pitch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Length of grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grass cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Posts and sockets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Line markings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Free from litter, dog fouling etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changing facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Showers - clean, hot, plenty of water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall quality of pitch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q19. What future plans does your club have?

- Increase the number of members
- Expand the range of facilities provided
- Refurbish existing facilities
- Relocation to different premises
- None
- Other - please state

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Q20. In which town/ village do the majority of your players reside?

Q21. In your opinion is pitch provision (quality and quantity) in the Borough of Ipswich area sufficient to meet your clubs needs?

Q22. How long do you believe it is reasonable for players to travel to home games?

0-5 mins 5-10 mins 10-15 mins 15-20 mins 20-25 mins Over 25 mins

Q23. What mode of transport do the majority of your clubs members use to attend home games?

Car Walk Bus Motorcycle Cycle Train Other (please state)

Q24. If your club does not use public pitches, would you consider doing so in the future?

Yes No

Q25. In your opinion, do the ancillary facilities at the site where you play your homes matches meet the requirements of people with disabilities?

Yes No

Q26. Does your club operate an equal opportunities policy for membership?

Yes No

Q.27 Does your club have a child protection policy?

Yes No

Q.28 If you have any other comments about any sports provision in the Borough of Ipswich please let us know in the box below.



Please return this questionnaire in the FREEPOST envelope provided by no later than 31 August 2007.

Many thanks for your assistance

MD

APPENDIX B
AUDIT OF PITCHES

APPENDIX C

PLAYING PITCH SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Quality Assessment - Site Sheet and Ancillary Facilities

Site Name:
Assessment undertaken by:

Site Address:
Date of Assessment:

Grid Ref: X
Grid Ref: Y
Weather condition:

Nr of pitch(es):
 Football
 Cricket
 Rugby
 Hockey
Other

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating	Guidance notes	Comments
About the ancillary facilities...			
Perceived quality of changing accommodation	Excellent <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/> Good <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/> Average <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/> Poor <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/> No changing <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Does it look well maintained, clean, safe etc	
Evidence of vandalism	None <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/> Yes - some <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/> Yes - lots <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Damage to pavillion, graffiti, broken glass etc	
Parking	Good <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/> Average <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/> Poor <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Is there enough for circa 20 cars, bays marked out etc	

Scoring: out of 20

Key:

over 90%	Excellent
60%-89%	Good
40%-59%	Average
30%-39%	Poor
Less than 30%	Very Poor

Total Score 0 %

Quality Assessment - Individual Pitch Assessment

Pitch Number:

Sport:

Pitch Name:

Background information:

Number of games played on pitch each season
 Number of hours of training on pitch during season/ pre-season
 Number of games cancelled due to unfitness of pitch (excluding frozen pitches)
 % of games cancelled per season

#DIV/0!

(total for year)

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments
About the pitch/ outfield...								
Grass cover - entire pitch/ outfield?	>94% <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	85-94% <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	70-84% <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	60-69% <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	<60% <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		Where, 90%+ grass cover should be given 'Excellent'; less than 50% should be considered 'very poor'	
Length of grass?	Excellent <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Average <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Very Poor <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		The ideal length of grass will vary between sports	
Drainage - % of games cancelled (see above)	None <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	1-10% <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	11-30% <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	31-49% <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	>50% <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		Take % from above	
Size of pitches? - does it meet the NGB standard?	Yes - for adults <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		Yes - for juniors <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		No <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		See guidance notes for pitch dimensions	
Adequate safety margins? - does it meet the NGB standard?	Yes - for adults <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		Yes - for juniors <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		No <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		See guidance notes for pitch dimensions	
Slope of pitches (gradient and cross fall)	Excellent <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>				Where, flat pitch = 'Excellent'	
Evenness of pitch	Excellent <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>					
Problem Areas: Evidence of Dog fouling	None <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>				If no evidence, assume none ie score as '5' or refer to user survey	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>				If no evidence, assume none ie score as '5' or refer to user survey	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Unofficial use	None <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>				eg trespass, kids kickabout etc. If no evidence, assume none ie score as '5' or refer to user survey	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Damage to surface	None <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>				eg. golf divots, car-parking on field etc. If no evidence, assume none ie score as '5' or refer to user survey	
Exposure of pitch to elements	Yes <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		No <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>				Is the pitch sheltered from the prevailing wind	
Training area	Yes <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		No <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>				eg nets/ gaols/ grids off main body of pitch	
Goal posts/ nets/ wicket square - quality	Excellent <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Average <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Very Poor <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		Eg. Well painted, upright and has safe hooks...at both ends. If posts are dismantled after game, assume Excellent ie score as '5'	
Line markings - quality	Excellent <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Average <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>	Very Poor <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		Eg. Have they been painted recently; are lines clear etc	
Protection of pitch/ wicket	Yes <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>		No <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: yellow;" type="checkbox"/>				Is goal mouth cordoned off, wicket covered etc when pitch is not being used	

Scoring:

Pitch	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text" value="0"/>	out of	61
Equipment	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text" value="0"/>	out of	15
TOTAL	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text" value="0"/>		76

Key:

90%+	An excellent pitch
64-90%	A good pitch
55-64%	An average pitch
30-54%	A below average pitch
Less than 30	A poor pitch

Total Score 0 %

APPENDIX D
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT SCORES

