

**Roberto Tambini**  
**Chief Executive**

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Our Ref: PGH/Cabinet  
Date: 19 April 2013

## Notice of Meeting

### CABINET

**Date:** Tuesday 30 April 2013

**Time:** 19.00hrs

Please note the start time

**Place:** Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames.

<b>Members of the Cabinet</b>	<b>Cabinet member areas of responsibility</b>
R.L. Watts (Chairman)	Leader of the Council, Strategy and Corporate Governance
P. Forbes-Forsyth (Vice-Chairman)	Deputy Leader, Community Safety, Young People, Leisure and Culture
T.J.M. Evans	Finance
N. St. J. Gething	Economic Development and Fixed Assets
V. J. Leighton	Corporate Development
A. J. Mitchell	Environment (including Parks and Waste Management)
J. M. Pinkerton	Health, Wellbeing and Independent Living
J. R. Sexton	Communications, ICT and Procurement
S. Webb	Planning and Housing



## AGENDA

Description	Page Number
<b>1. Apologies for absence</b>	
To receive any apologies for non-attendance.	
<b>2. Minutes</b>	
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2013.	1 - 4
<b>3. Disclosures of Interest</b>	
To receive any disclosures of interest from members in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct for members.	
<b>4. Minutes of the Local Plan Working Party held on 9 April 2013</b>	
To consider the minutes and recommendation of the Local Plan Working Party held on 9 April 2013.	5 - 6
<b>5. Spelthorne Pay Award 2013-14</b>	
Councillor Leighton	7 - 14
<b>6. Proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Fees for 2013-14</b>	
Councillor Forbes-Forsyth	15 - 19
<b>7. Playing Pitch Strategy for Spelthorne</b>	
Councillor Mitchell	20 - 92
<b>8. Issues for future meetings</b>	
Members are requested to identify issues to be considered at future meetings.	
<b>9. Urgent Items</b>	
To consider any items which the Chairman considers as urgent.	



## Minutes of Cabinet

26 March 2013

### Present:

Councillor R.L. Watts, Leader of the Council, Chairman of the Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Strategy and Corporate Governance  
Councillor P. Forbes-Forsyth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Young People, Leisure and Culture  
Councillor T.J.M. Evans, Cabinet Member for Finance  
Councillor N. Gething, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Fixed Assets  
Councillor V.J. Leighton, Cabinet Member for Corporate Development  
Councillor T. Mitchell, Cabinet Member for Environment  
Councillor S. Webb, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing

### Apologies:

Councillor J.M. Pinkerton, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Independent Living  
Councillor J. Sexton, Cabinet Member for Communications, ICT and Procurement

### In attendance:

Councillors F. Ayers, C.A. Bannister and G. Forsbrey

### 1903. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

It was noted that the following Councillors were in attendance:

Councillors F. Ayers, C.A. Bannister, M. Bushnell, D.L. Grant, A. Patterson and M.W. Rough.

### 1904. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

### 1905. Annual Grants 2013-14

Cabinet considered a report on the support given to voluntary and charitable organisations and the proposed annual grant awards for 2013-14.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

1. Agrees that any residual better neighbourhood grants that are not spent by 28 February 2014 be distributed by the Leader of the Council to other worthy causes.
2. Notes all other support to the voluntary and charity sector.
3. Notes and supports the recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Committee to promote the involvement of elected members in the various charities that the Council funds.
4. Agrees the grants awards for 2013-14 as follows:
  - Crest (Cancer care and support) £5,000
  - Crossroads (Respite care) £3,000
  - Cruise Bereavement Care £1,000

• Daybreak Respite care	£2,000
• Relate	£3,000
• SCAN	£1,000
• Shepperton Village Fair	£1,440
• Spelthorne Mental Health Association	£5,000
• Staines upon Thames day	£1,000
• Sunbury Amateur Regatta	£1,440
• Mediation North Surrey	<u>£500</u>
	£24,380

**Reason for the decision:**

Cabinet noted the vital role played by voluntary and charitable organisations in the life of the Spelthorne community.

**1906. \*Search Moves Common Housing Allocation Policy – Key Decision**

Cabinet considered a report on the need to have a housing allocation policy which shows how the Council will prioritise applications for social housing.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** that Council:

1. Approves the proposed Search Moves Common Allocation Policy.
2. Authorises the portfolio holder to approve any minor amendments to the policy in the context of any changes to legislation and the changing needs of the community.

**Reason for the decision:**

The Council is required, under parts 6 and 7 of the Housing Act 1996, as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002, to have in place a housing allocation policy.

Under the Localism Act 2011, Councils were given the opportunity to change their housing allocation policy to reflect local need and ensure that applicants who have a strong local connection are given priority.

Cabinet chose to recommend this option to Council.

**1907. War Widows Pension and War Disablement Pension Housing Benefit Modified Local Scheme**

Cabinet considered a report on the local scheme in which all income received from war widows and war disablement pensions is disregarded from the benefit assessment.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

Agrees to continue to fund the localised housing benefit scheme which increases benefit payments to war widows and claimants who have suffered from any war disablement, until March 2017 when the housing benefit scheme is due to come to an end.

**Reason for the decision:**

Cabinet noted that this scheme has operated for several years but affects only 10 households and helps to maximise their overall income.

**1908. Spelthorne Pay Award for 2013-14**

Cabinet considered a report on a potential pay award for 2013-14 and received a letter at the meeting from UNISON responding to the contents of the report.

The options considered were in the main body of the report.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet agrees to:

1. Support a pay award for staff in 2013-14, but
2. Wait until details of the national pay settlement are known before confirming the details of the local pay award.
3. Have further discussions with UNISON in the light of their letter received at this meeting.

**Reason for the decision:**

Cabinet noted that it would be premature to make a local pay award before details of any national award are known.

### **1909. Capital Monitoring Report 2012-13**

Cabinet considered a report giving spend figures on the capital programme for the period April 2012 to February 2013.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

1. Notes the current spend position.
2. Agrees the removal of £27,600 from the capital programme for the Human Resources and Payroll system project, as it is no longer required.

### **1910. Net Revenue Monitoring and Projected Outturns 2012-13**

Cabinet considered a report on the net revenue spend figures as at 28 February 2013.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet notes the current spend position.

### **1911. Issues for Future Meetings**

There were none.

### **1912. Urgent Items**

There were none.

### **1913. Exempt Business**

**RESOLVED** to move the exclusion of the Press and Public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and by the Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006.

### **1914. Exempt report – Customer Services Revenues Write-offs (Paragraph 1 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority holding the information).**

Cabinet considered an exempt report on a proposal to write off some bad debts where recovery was no longer possible.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet agrees to the write-off of the bad debts listed in the report of the Chief Finance Officer.

**NOTES:-**

- (1) **Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are reminded that under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule, the "call-in" procedure shall not apply to recommendations the Cabinet makes to the Council. The matters on which recommendations have been made to the Council, if any, are identified with an asterisk [\*] in the above Minutes.**
- (2) **Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are entitled to call in decisions taken by the Cabinet for scrutiny before they are implemented, other than any recommendations covered under (1) above.**
- (3) **Within three working days of the date on which a decision of the Cabinet or a Cabinet Member is published, not less than three members [one of whom must be the Chairman] of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are able to "call in" a decision;**
- (4) **To avoid delay in considering an item "called in", an extraordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be convened within seven days of a "call in" being received if an ordinary meeting is not scheduled in that period;**
- (5) **When calling in a Cabinet decision for review the members doing so should in their notice of "call in":-**  
**Outline their reasons for requiring a review;**
  - **Indicate any further information they consider the Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to have before it in order to conduct a review in addition to the written report made by officers to the Cabinet;**
  - **Indicate whether, where the decision was taken collectively by the Cabinet, they wish the Leader or his nominee (who should normally be the Cabinet Member) or where the decision was taken by a Cabinet Member, the member of the Cabinet making the decision, to attend the committee meeting; and**
  - **Indicate whether the officer making the report to the Cabinet or the Cabinet Member taking the decision or his/her representative should attend the meeting.**
- (6) **The deadline of three working days for "call in" by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the above decisions by the Cabinet is the close of business on 3 April 2013**



## LOCAL PLAN WORKING PARTY

Tuesday 9 April 2013

### Present:

Cllr R Smith-Ainsley (Chairman)

Cllr I Beardsmore

Cllr N S Gething

Cllr T Evans

Cllr R Watts

Cllr Mrs S Webb

### 1 Apologies

Cllr G Forsbrey & Cllr Ms P A Broom

### 2 Election of Chairman

Cllr R Smith-Ainsley was proposed by Cllr R Watts and seconded by Cllr N Gething.

### 3 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of 30 January 2013 were agreed.

### 4 Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

#### i. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

A background report on the purpose, preparation and operation of CIL was presented. It was accompanied by a provisional timetable and a draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Consultants Dixon Searle, who have been appointed to advise on valuation matters relating to CIL and the setting of a CIL charge, gave a presentation which elaborated on the report and highlighted the valuation issues and the work they are currently engaged in.

#### Recommendations:

The Working Party noted:

- a) The stages required to introduce CIL and the work which is currently being undertaken.
- b) The provisional timetable leading to adoption and the likely need for special meetings of Cabinet Briefing and Cabinet.
- c) The preliminary draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan which is still in preparation and has been presented to the Working Party for information only.

#### ii. Local Economic Assessment (LEA) – (copy available in the members' room)

A background report was presented setting out the need for an LEA to provide a robust evidence base for the proposed Economic Strategy and future planning policy. The scope and findings of the LEA were explained along with the proposed consultation arrangements and programme. A presentation highlighted some of the key findings of the

LEA and wider contextual issues.

It was noted that officers will be working closely with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development on the consultation arrangements for the draft LEA.

**Recommendations:**

The Working Party recommends Cabinet agrees:

- a) The draft Local Economic Assessment as a basis for public consultation – subject to further clarification of Figure 23 on job vacancies and reference to congestion in paragraph 5.7.
- b) Public consultation on the LEA takes place between mid-May and mid-June and uses an appropriate range of means to engage with local businesses and residents.
- c) The public consultation be accompanied by a survey of Spelthorne businesses and for the findings to be reflected in the final version of the Local Economic Assessment.
- d) The remaining programme for completing the Local Economic Assessment and progressing the Economic Strategy.

**iii. General update on work programme**

The Working Party noted the current workload, future background work for the Economic Strategy and progress in appointing a Senior Planning Officer.

**Information**

**Cabinet****30 April 2013**

<b>Title</b>	Spelthorne Pay Award for 2013/14		
<b>Purpose</b>	Resolution required		
<b>Report of</b>	Chief Finance Officer	<b>Confidential</b>	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Vivienne Leighton	<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Report Author</b>	Jan Hunt, Head of Human Resources		
<b>Summary and Key Issues</b>	<p>To consider whether to make a Spelthorne Pay Award for 2013/14, and if so the form of that award.</p> <p>The key issues associated with the issue are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spelthorne's link to national pay</li> <li>• Impact on staff recruitment, retention and morale</li> </ul>		
<b>Financial Implications</b>	Staff costs are a significant item of expenditure. The budget for 2013/14 includes provision of £100,000 in case there is a national pay award.		
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	This item is not in the list of Corporate Priorities		
<b>Recommendations</b>	Cabinet to agree option 6 to support a Spelthorne pay award of 0.5% for staff up to and including Scale 6 from 1 April 2013 and leave other options open until the national pay settlement is known and for the Chief Executive to report back to Cabinet on proposals for arrangements in future years, including considering establishing a remuneration committee.		

## 1. Background

- 1.1 Spelthorne's terms and conditions of employment include a link to the national conditions of service for local government staff, for chief officers and for chief executives including the national pay awards agreed.
- 1.2 Since 2001 Spelthorne has had arrangements in place to consider awarding a Spelthorne Pay Award, so that due regard can be taken of local circumstances including pay comparability in Spelthorne's recruitment market of West London, Thames Valley and Surrey and any local recruitment and retention difficulties.
- 1.3 In the early years these local pay arrangements ensured that Spelthorne was able to implement pay awards in a timely manner while national pay negotiations were still not concluded and to agree pay awards above the national pay award where it was justified to do so.
- 1.4 These arrangements for Spelthorne local pay retain the guarantee to make pay awards that match national pay awards.
- 1.5 There has been no Spelthorne Pay Award or national pay award for the last 3 years. In November 2012 a one-off, non-consolidated payment of £250 was paid to the 32.5% of staff paid on pay points below £21,000, who have been hardest hit by the pay freeze.

## 2. Key issues

- 2.1 There is provision in the budget for 2013/14 for a pay award to the approximate value of 1% of paybill (£100,000).
- 2.2 Spelthorne terms and conditions link to national pay and any national pay award must be honoured. If a national pay award was agreed at a higher level than any Spelthorne Pay Award already implemented, staff would receive a further increase in pay, backdated to the effective date of 1 April, with the necessary adjustment to budgets that were required (compensating savings).
- 2.3 The practical arrangements for considering Spelthorne pay awards have not been formally agreed by Cabinet and it is appropriate to review arrangements for the future.
- 2.4 The national pay award has not yet been concluded. The national trades union side submitted a pay claim for a substantial increase citing the financial difficulties their members are facing and the key nature of local government services that staff provide. The national employers have not yet made a formal offer to the Trades Unions but have put 2 options to them for consideration. These are
  1. 1% on all pay points
  2. 1% for bottom 7 pay points, 0.6% for all others.

Both options also include some changes to the car allowance scheme with a change in mileage rates to HMRC advisory rates: if agreed as part of a change to national conditions, Spelthorne would change its mileage rates accordingly.

- 2.5 All of the three nationally recognised Trades Unions have rejected both these options and have asked the national employers to come forward with an offer by the end of April 2013, when they will consider their response. They do not

rule out consulting their membership on national industrial action and/or measures short of industrial action.

- 2.6 Spelthorne staff have not received a pay award for 3 years. All Surrey councils have local pay arrangements and some other councils have continued to make pay awards during this time with the effect that Spelthorne pay rates will be falling behind in those cases. This could affect Spelthorne's ability to recruit and retain staff and have a detrimental effect of staff morale. Information on pay awards within Surrey is in **Appendix 1**.

### **3. Options analysis and proposals**

- 3.1 Option 1. Delay making a decision on the pay award until the outcome of the national pay settlement is known, and then ensure that the Spelthorne Pay Award at least matches the national settlement. This would have the effect of delaying any pay award to staff and could affect Spelthorne's pay rates. However, the award would be backdated to April and positions advertised could refer to a pending pay award. Officers have clarified the UNISON response to such an approach, which is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.2 Option 2. Agree a Spelthorne Pay Award of 1% on all pay points in line with budget provision.
- 3.3 Option 3. Agree a Spelthorne Pay Award equivalent to 1% of payroll payable as a fixed sum of £338.64 per Full Time equivalent on all pay points below Management Team. This option would mean that the percentage increase would be greater for lower paid staff (with a percentage range from 2.5% to 0.5%) and that at management team the pay level falls further behind comparative pay rates in other councils. Any subsequent national pay award for this staff group would have to be met, with additional costs at that time. If there were a national pay award of 1% then the Council would need to bring up to 1% all those staff who received an increase of less than 1% under this proposal and increase the overall pay award cost.
- 3.4 Option 4. Agree a Spelthorne Pay Award equivalent to 1% payable as a lump sum of £338.64 per full time equivalent on all pay points below head of service. This option would mean that the percentage increase would be greater for lower paid staff and that at head of service and management team level pay falls further behind comparative pay rates in other councils. Any subsequent national pay award for this staff group would have to be met, with additional costs at that time. Heads of service working in partnership with other councils will be working alongside colleagues who have received pay awards. If there were a national pay award of 1% then the Council would need to bring up to 1% all those staff who received an increase of less than 1% under this proposal and increase the overall pay award cost.
- 3.5 Option 5. Agree a Spelthorne Pay award at a higher rate than the budget provision. Additional compensating savings would need to be identified.
- 3.6 Option 6. Agree a Spelthorne Pay award of 0.5% for staff up to and including Scale 6 from 1 April 2013 to be paid in the May payroll and backdated to 1 April. To leave other options open until the national pay settlement is known and to match the national pay award for all staff when known. This is the preferred option.
- 3.7 For the Chief Executive to set up a small group to consider proposals for arrangements for Spelthorne pay awards in future years, including

considering establishing a remuneration committee, and to report back to Cabinet later in the year.

#### 4. Financial implications

4.1 The financial impact of the options is:

Option 1	Will not be known until national pay award is agreed.
Option 2 1% to all staff	£105,000
Option 3. Lump sum of £338.64 on all pay points below Management Team	£103,623
Option 4. Lump sum of £338.64 on all pay points below head of service	£100,237
Option 6. Pay award of 0.5% for staff up to and including Scale 6 from 1 April 2013, leaving other options open until the national pay award is known.	£29,500

Options 2 and 3 above equate to slightly more than the £100k provision in the budget and the additional cost would be accommodated from offsetting savings.

#### 5. Other considerations

- 5.1 Salaries must be at a sufficient level to attract and retain good staff to deliver the council's services and priorities.
- 5.2 Spelthorne terms and conditions of employment include the guarantee that Spelthorne Pay Awards will at least match national pay awards.

#### 6. Risks

- 6.1 A financial risk is that the national settlement could equate to more than the 1% provision made in the budget. In that event the Council will find additional savings in year to offset.
- 6.2 There is a risk that morale of some staff might be adversely affected by a delay in the pay rise. However, this can be addressed by explaining the Council is committed to making a pay award and that once agreed it will be backdated to April 2013.

#### 7. Timetable for implementation

- 7.1 The effective date of any Spelthorne Pay Award and any national pay award is 1st April.

**Background papers: There are none**

#### Appendices

Appendix 1: Pay awards in Surrey Councils

Appendix 2: Letter and chart from UNISON dated 10 April 2013



## Pay awards in Surrey Councils

## Appendix 1

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Spelthorne	1.75%	0	0	0. £250 for staff earning under £21,000	Proposed initial award of 0.5% for staff up to top of grade 6 and to leave options open until national settlement is known.
Elmbridge		0	0. £250 for staff earning under £21,000	£400 or 1% whichever is greater.	1.75%
Epsom & Ewell	2%	0	0	0. £250 for lower paid	1%
Guildford	2%	0 Small payment for lower paid	Small payment for lower paid	1%	1.5%
Mole Valley	2%	0	0	0. £250 for lower paid	1% for senior staff, 2% for other staff
Reigate & Banstead		0	0. £250 for staff earning under £21,000	£430 for all staff	2% for all staff, minimum of £475
Runnymede	1%	0	0	0	2%
Surrey Heath	2.31%	0	0	£500 for all staff	Not yet agreed, considering adding additional point to all pay grades below senior management
Tandridge	3.3%	0	0	1.4%	£450 for all (1.4%)
Waverley		0	0	£600 for all staff	2%
Woking	0	£260 for all	0. £250 for all under £21,000	2%	Not yet decided
Surrey County Council		0	0	£350 for all staff	£500 for all staff (1.5% of paybill)

Updated 18.4.2013



## Appendix 2

Council Offices  
Knowle Green  
Staines  
Middlesex  
TW18 1XB



10 April 2013

Mr R Tambini  
Chief Executive  
Spelthorne Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Knowle Green  
Staines upon Thames

Position Statement Pay Matters 2013-14:

Further to our discussions, I have prepared this position statement for consideration by Cabinet regarding a Spelthorne Staff Pay Award 2013/14, along with our previous letters on 18 and 26 March 2013.

We understand Councils across Surrey have already reached agreements with their staff and all but one are giving staff pay awards of higher than 1%. As the attached table shows Spelthorne is beginning to lag well behind all other Surrey Boroughs and Districts and is 'bottom of the pile.' In real terms taking account for CPI Spelthorne staff have seen the biggest cut to their pay compared with all Surrey authorities.

National negotiations were held on the 28 March, and the Trade Union side made it clear that they would like to reach an early agreement this year, in light of the three-year pay freeze, but that the options proposed were unacceptable. Basic earnings of staff have dropped 16% since 2009, when inflation is accounted for. If there is a delay in reaching an agreement, nationally, it is highly likely that UNISON will ballot members, for possible industrial action, and without the payment of a local award, Spelthorne Branch members would be included in this. In previous years this has been avoided because of the local settlement.

Local pay arrangements have been in place at Spelthorne since 2001, are reflected in all staff contracts and we see no reason why this should not continue.

Following the last Cabinet meeting there has been a lot of discussion with colleagues, across all levels and all are aware that a 1% increase has been allocated in the 2013/14 budget. There is consequently a lot of confusion and frustration at the delay in making a local settlement. Good will and morale are critical to ensure the on-going provision of high-quality services to the residents of Spelthorne, especially with so many staff regularly going 'above-and-beyond'. The swift conclusion to a local pay settlement will go some way to ensuring staff feel valued and appreciated for the excellent work they do.

Lucy McSherry  
UNISON Spelthorne Branch Secretary

Appendix 2

Council Offices  
Knowle Green  
Staines  
Middlesex  
TW18 1XB



£25,000	Base	2009/10		2010/11		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14			
	Year	increase		increase		increase		increase		increase		Overall increase	Ranking
SBC	25000	1.75%	25437.50	0.00%	25437.50	0.00%	25437.50	0.00%	25437.50	1.00%	25691.88	£691.88	12
EBC	25000	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25000.00	1.00%	25400.00	1.75%	25844.50	£844.50	8
E&EBC	25000	2.00%	25500.00	0.00%	25500.00	0.00%	25500.00	0.00%	25750.00	1.00%	26007.50	£1,007.50	5
GBC	25000	2.00%	25500.00	0.00%	25500.00	0.00%	25500.00	1.00%	25755.00	1.50%	26141.33	£1,141.33	2
MVDC	25000	2.00%	25500.00	0.00%	25500.00	0.00%	25500.00	0.00%	25750.00	2.00%	26265.00	£1,265.00	1
R&BDC	25000	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25430.00	2.00%	25938.60	£938.60	6
RBC	25000	1.00%	25250.00	0.00%	25250.00	0.00%	25250.00	0.00%	25250.00	2.00%	25755.00	£755.00	9
SHBC	25000	2.31%	25577.50	0.00%	25577.50	0.00%	25577.50	0.00%	26077.50	0.00%	26077.50	£1,077.50	4
TDC	25000	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25000.00	1.40%	25350.00	1.40%	25704.90	£704.90	11
WavBC	25000	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25600.00	2.00%	26112.00	£1,112.00	3
WokBC	25000	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25250.00	0.00%	25250.00	2.00%	25755.00	0.00%	25755.00	£755.00	9
SCC	25000	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25000.00	0.00%	25350.00	1.50%	25850.00	£850.00	7
CPI increase	25000	2.20%	25550.00	3.30%	26393.15	4.50%	27580.84	3.00%	28408.27	2.70%	28908.27	£3,908.27	

Lump sum awards

# Cabinet

## 30 April 2013



<b>Title</b>	Proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Fees for 2013-2014		
<b>Purpose</b>	Resolution required		
<b>Report of</b>	Assistant Chief Executive	<b>Confidential</b>	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Penny Forbes-Forsyth	<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Report Author</b>	Dawn Morrison Licensing Manager		
<b>Summary and Key Issues</b>	<p>To seek approval to charge the proposed fee levels for various hackney carriage (HC) and private hire (PH) licences for 2013/2014.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 21 February 2013 the Council approved a range of fees and charges for Services throughout the Council for 2013/2014. These included proposed increased fees for HC and PH licences as shown in <b>Appendix A</b>.</li> <li>• Spelthorne is required to advertise its intention to increase the HC and PH licence fees in a local newspaper and allow 28 days to receive representations or objections.</li> <li>• A formal objection to these increased fees was received by the Council from a licensed operator. The opposition is based on a belief that there is no justification for the increase in the fees coupled with an assertion that their drivers' incomes are decreasing.</li> <li>• The proposed HC and PH licence fees for 2013/2014 represent an increase of approximately 2.5% compared to the figures for 2012/2013. These licence fees are necessary in order for the Council to recover its costs in providing the service, which have gone up compared to the previous financial year.</li> </ul>		
<b>Financial Implications</b>	<p>If the HC and PH licence fees were not increased the projected income for 2013/14 is estimated at £76,000. However, the total salary payments and expenditure budget for the period 2013/14 is £79,746 and therefore the costs of providing this service would not be recovered. It is anticipated that by increasing these licence fees, as proposed, we will meet our service costs.</p>		
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Efficient use of assets</p>		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>Cabinet is asked to approve the proposed set of fees for the HC and PH licences outlined in <b>Appendix A</b>.</p>		

## 1. Background

- 1.1 Under section 53 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (the 1976 Act), Spelthorne may demand and recover the costs of the administration of the HC and PH licensing system.
- 1.2 The breakdown of numbers of different HC and PH licences issued by Spelthorne, over the last three years, are shown in the table below:

Type of licence	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
PH Operators	35	Data not available	23
PH drivers	130	As above	103
PH vehicles	130	As above	103
HC drivers	75	As above	70
HC vehicles	75	As above	70

- 1.3 Members will see from **Appendix A** that there are differences in some of the HC and PH licence fee rates. There are additional monitoring compliance checks required for the HC trade compared to the PH trade. Examples include monitoring compliance with the legal use of taxi tariff fare rates and taxi ranks. This requires extra staff resources which have to be reflected in the HC licence fee levels.

## 2. Key issues

- 2.1 On 21 February 2013 the Council approved a range of fees and charges for Services throughout Spelthorne for 2013/2014. This included the proposed increase of fees for HC and PH licences. These proposed fees are shown in **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 Under section 70 of the 1976 Act, if the Council needs to increase its HC and PH licence fees then it must advertise its intention within a local newspaper and allow 28 days to receive representations or objections. The proposed fees for 2013/2014 were advertised in the Surrey Herald group of newspapers on 27 February 2013. A deadline of 27 March 2013 was given to receive representations.
- 2.3 Letters were also sent out to all currently licensed HC and PH drivers and operators in Spelthorne to notify them of the proposed licence fees for 2013/2014.
- 2.4 One written objection was received by Spelthorne. The objection is from a PH Operator asserting that the fees keep increasing even though drivers' incomes are decreasing. The letter also requested a breakdown of how licence fees are spent, information about recent prosecutions of drivers licensed elsewhere, and current numbers of licensed PH Drivers. A response has been sent in relation to these.
- 2.5 A copy of the letter of objection is located in the Members' Room.

- 2.6 It has been projected that the income to be received by Spelthorne in 2013/2014 is unlikely to lead to full recovery of its costs in running the service. The proposed HC and PH licence fees for 2013/2014 represent an increase of approximately 2.5% compared to the figures in 2012/2013.
- 2.7 The licence fees have been increased to try to ensure that costs incurred are covered. It should be noted that although the numbers of licensed drivers has decreased in the last three years by 32 (there are a total of 173 licensed drivers compared to 205 in 2010) this has not been a contributory factor for increasing the HC and PH licence fees. A penalty points scheme has been introduced and compliance costs have increased in relation to that and also the officer time that has been necessary at the Gresham Road taxi rank.
- 2.8 The relevant Cabinet Member has been consulted over the proposed HC and PH licence fees for 2013/14 and has expressed her support for them to be implemented.

### **3. Options analysis and proposal**

- 3.1 The preferred option is for the Cabinet to reject the objection raised and approve the proposed licence fees for 2013/2014 outlined in **Appendix A**. This should allow Spelthorne to recover its costs in delivering this service.
- 3.2 There is an option to accept the objection raised and decide to keep the licence fees the same as in 2012/2013. However, this would mean that Spelthorne would not recover the costs of providing the service.

### **4. Financial implications**

- 4.1 If the HC and PH licence fees were not increased the projected income for 2013/14 is estimated at £76,000. However, the total salary payments and expenditure budget for the period 2013/14 is £79,746 and therefore the costs of providing this service would not be recovered. It is anticipated that by increasing these licence fees, as proposed, we will meet our service costs.

### **5. Risks and how they will be mitigated**

- 5.1 The only option available for aggrieved persons is to seek judicial review of the decision to approve the increase in HC and PH licence fees. However, since the correct legal process has been followed and we are able to justify the proposed increase in licence fees, in order to recover our costs, it is unlikely such a challenge would succeed.

### **6. Timetable for implementation**

- 6.1 Subject to Cabinet agreement, the proposed fees for HC and PH licences will come into force on 1 May 2013.

### **Background papers:**

**Appendices: Appendix A – Spelthorne Borough Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver, Vehicle Proprietor and Operator Licence fees chart**



## Appendix A

**SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER, VEHICLE PROPRIETOR AND OPERATOR  
LICENCE FEES CHART**

Licence	2011/12	2012/13	Proposed – 2013/14
Private hire operator licence fee (1 PHV)	£170.00	£180.00	£185.00
Private hire operator licence fee (from 2 - 5 PHVs)	£210.00	£220.00	£226.00
Private hire operator licence fee (6 - 20 PHVs)	£300.00	£315.00	£323.00
Private hire operator licence fee (21 – 40 PHVs)	£400.00	£420.00	£430.00
Private hire operator licence fee (over 40 PHVs)	£570.00	£600.00	£615.00
Private hire vehicle licence fee	£250.00	£260.00	£265.00
Private hire driver licence fee, NEW (inc DVLA check)	£250.00	£255.00	£260.00
Private hire driver licence fee, RENEWAL (inc DVLA check)	£115.00	£120.00	£123.00
Re-issue of *private hire / hackney carriage vehicle licence and plate due to change of vehicle	£80.00	£85.00	£87.00
RE-issue of *private hire/hackney carriage/ driver or vehicle licence due to any other reason.	£60.00	£65.00	£67.00
Replacement of lost or missing licence plate	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00
Hackney carriage vehicle licence fee	£280.00	£295.00	£302.00
Hackney carriage driver licence fee NEW (inc DVLA check)	£255.00	£265.00	£270.00
Hackney carriage driver licence fee RENEWAL (inc DVLA check)	£115.00	£120.00	£123.00
Discounted private hire / hackney carriage vehicle with wheelchair accessibility	£125.00 / £140.00	£130/ £145.00	£133.00/£149.00
Criminal Record Bureau check (normally valid 3 years)	£48.00	£48.00	£48.00
Transfer from Private Hire to Hackney Carriage driver	£55.00	£58.00	£59.00
HC geographic retest	£55.00	£58.00	£59.00
HC Conditions retest	£30.00	£32.00	£33.00
PH geographic test and licence conditions (each)	£30.00	£32.00	£33.00
_Spoken English and numeracy retest fee	£25.00	£26.00	£27.00
Full application pack – cost is deducted from the licence fee if an application is made within 6 months of the request	None	£15.00	£16.00
Appeal against the issue of penalty points – refunded if appeal	None	£50.00	£51.00

<b>is successful</b>			
<b>DVLA driver licence checks (where appropriate)</b>	<b>£7.50</b>	<b>£7.50</b>	
<b>Checked by</b>		<b>TOTAL FEE PAYABLE</b>	





**Cabinet****30 April 2013**

<b>Title</b>	A Playing Pitch Strategy for Spelthorne		
<b>Purpose</b>	Resolution required		
<b>Report of</b>	Assistant Chief Executive	<b>Confidential</b>	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Tony Mitchell	<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Report Author</b>	Lisa Stonehouse		
<b>Summary and Key Issues</b>	The previous playing pitch strategy expired in 2012. A new strategy is essential in order to inform decisions regarding pitch provision. The document will also be utilised at a corporate level to inform decisions regarding the best use of open space for sporting provision in all areas of the borough.		
<b>Financial Implications</b>	<p>The consultation will be undertaken by the Sport and Facilities Manager and will utilise the existing budget.</p> <p>A robust Playing Pitch Strategy is required, as agencies such as Sport England and National Governing Bodies for sport require that a strategy is in place before external grant funding is provided.</p>		
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Communication</p> <p>Efficient use of assets</p>		
<b>Recommendations</b>	The Cabinet is asked to approve the first draft of the Playing Pitch Strategy for Spelthorne, in order that our statutory and voluntary partners and members of the public can be consulted. The document has already been circulated internally.		

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The Playing Pitch Strategy provides a complete assessment of playing pitch provision across Spelthorne and was undertaken in house by officers of Spelthorne Borough Council during 2012/13. It replaces the previously adopted strategy from 2007. The report follows the methodology recommended by Sport England as set out in the publication "Towards a Level Playing Field". This strategy was produced to meet a number of objectives which can be summarised as follows:-
- (a) to provide a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs for playing pitches within the borough focusing on quantity and quality issues within the supply and demand equation.
  - (b) to provide information to assist asset management planning of council owned playing fields and associated buildings.
  - (c) to provide information to assist in decisions associated with the provision of public open space.
  - (d) to provide information to underpin the protection, enhancement and qualitative improvement of the existing pitch stock
  - (e) to provide information to help identify improvements in community access to educational and non - local authority pitches
  - (f) to provide information to identify any necessary development and creation of new pitches to meet identified deficiencies
  - (g) to enable appropriate local standards of provision to be developed to ensure the adequate provision of additional pitches in relation to new housing developments
  - (h) to provide a framework for delivering government policies for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement and healthy living
  - (i) to provide robust information and evidence of need for funding bids for new and improved provision.
  - (j) to promote sports development and help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams.

## 2. Key issues

- 2.1 The previous playing pitch strategy expired in 2012. A new strategy is essential in order to inform decisions regarding pitch provision. The document will also be utilised at a corporate level to inform decisions regarding the best use of open space for sporting provision in all areas of the borough.

## 3. Options analysis and proposal

- 3.1 To approve the document for consultation. This would mean that we would ensure that the strategy is robust and has the support of our partner agencies.
- 3.2 Not to approve the document for consultation. The strategy cannot be adopted without the support and contribution of our partner agencies.

**4. Financial implications**

4.1 As outlined on the summary page (no further financial implications)

**5. Other considerations**

5.1 This document is utilised by Planning as part of open space assessments and needs analysis in relation to new developments.

5.2 The consultation with partners will enable the playing pitch strategy to be formally approved and an action plan and a playing pitch forum developed with our statutory and voluntary partners.

**6. Risks and how they will be mitigated**

6.1 There is a risk that consultation may identify problems with the strategy and areas may have to be amended. This will impact on officer time.

**7. Timetable for implementation**

7.1 Consultation with partners will be undertaken during May 2013. Any necessary amendments will be made to the strategy during June 2013. The final draft of the strategy will be submitted to Cabinet on 16 July 2013.

**Background papers: There are none**

**Appendices: A playing pitch strategy for Spelthorne**



# A Playing Pitch Strategy for Spelthorne

2013 - 2018



# Executive Summary

1. This Playing Pitch Strategy provides a complete assessment of playing pitch provision across Spelthorne and was undertaken in house by officers of Spelthorne Borough Council during 2012/2013. It replaces the previously adopted strategy from 2007. The report follows the methodology recommended by Sport England, as set out in the publication "Towards a Level Playing Field".
  
2. A new strategy is essential in order to inform decisions regarding pitch provision within Spelthorne. The strategy includes the following:-
  - A quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs for playing pitches.  
Information to:-
  - assist asset management planning of council owned playing fields and associated buildings.
  - assist in decisions associated with the provision of public open space.
  - underpin the protection, enhancement and qualitative improvement of the existing pitch stock.
  - help identify improvements in community access to educational and non local authority pitches.
  - identify any necessary development and creation of new pitches to meet identified deficiencies.
  - enable appropriate local standards of provision to be developed to ensure the adequate provision of additional pitches in relation to new housing development.
  - Provide a framework for delivering government policies for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement and healthy living.
  - Provide robust evidence of need for funding bids for new and improved provision.
  
3. A number of issues were identified during the research and the following recommendations for action have been identified:-
  - The strategy identifies quantitative pitch deficiencies in specific sports and this will be addressed by investigating the possibilities for changing the use of existing pitches.
  - Investigate the possibility of realigning existing playing field areas to improve pitches or create more pitches to improve capacity and address deficiencies.
  - The issues preventing or limiting community use on school sites

should be investigated further to try and open up more school sites for the community to help address deficiencies.

- Where deficiencies cannot be addressed by change of use, identify potential sites for re-instatement to help address recorded deficiencies. New sites should be considered carefully.
- If it is not possible to re-instate changing facilities in specific parks, the possible movement of pitches to sites where there is existing provision should be considered.
- Self management arrangements should be reviewed and possible lease arrangements with clubs considered. Clubs can access external funding to do this. This will therefore reduce maintenance costs for the council.
- Consideration should be given to extend the football playing season on council pitches where there is no cricket, to help ease fixture congestion and increase capacity.
- Update the supply and demand information annually for all sports to help to ensure that the information is current. Establish a playing pitch working group with representatives from council departments involved in pitch provision to help deliver the action plan and provide a joined up approach to pitch provision.
- Continue to review fees and charges annually and ensure that fees and charges are in line with neighbouring boroughs. The block booking policy should also be reviewed.
- Continue to engage with user groups and National Governing Bodies and consider resurrecting the playing pitch forum to help deliver the action plan.
- Review the pitch maintenance schedule regularly to ensure it meets the needs of all pitches, taking into account that some pitches may require more maintenance than others.
- Support clubs and other organisations with funding applications to improve facilities.
- Use the results of the study to prioritise investment in facilities.
- There are a number of services involved with the letting of playing pitches in the borough which can be confusing for users and staff. While this has started to be addressed and has improved recently more work is needed to ensure clear procedures are in place.

In addition to the above recommendations, there are some sport specific recommendations:

#### Football

- Work with the Football Association to investigate increasing access to floodlit training facilities.

#### Cricket

- Consider removing the unused pitch at Long Lane and relocating a

cricket pitch to Shepperton, where there is the greatest need. Consideration should be given to the management of the facility and access to changing facilities.

- Continue to engage with Surrey Cricket and the local clubs through the Spelthorne Cricket Development Group.

#### Rugby Union and Rugby League

- Monitor the agreement between the Rugby league Club and the current host Rugby Union Club and offer support should a new venue need to be found.

#### Hockey

- Support England Hockey in opposing the change of use from a sand based pitch to 3G (Third Generation) if hockey clubs are the predominant user of the facility.

#### Synthetic Turf Pitches (STP)

- Work in partnership with providers to ensure full community access to existing and new STP's
- Consider the development of a new STP to enhance training facilities in the borough.



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## 1. Introduction

This Playing Pitch Strategy provides a complete assessment of playing pitch provision across Spelthorne and was undertaken in house by officers of Spelthorne Borough Council during 2012/13. It replaces the previously adopted strategy from 2007. The report follows the methodology recommended by Sport England as set out in the publication "Towards a Level Playing Field".

### 1.1 Why develop a playing pitch strategy?

This strategy was produced to meet a number of objectives which can be summarised as follows

- to provide a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs for playing pitches within the borough focusing on quantity and quality issues within the supply and demand equation.
- to provide information to assist asset management planning of council owned playing fields and associated buildings.
- to provide information to assist in decisions associated with the provision of public open space.
- to provide information to underpin the protection, enhancement and qualitative improvement of the existing pitch stock
- to provide information to help identify improvements in community access to educational and non local authority pitches
- to provide information to identify any necessary development and creation of new pitches to meet identified deficiencies
- to enable appropriate local standards of provision to be developed to ensure the adequate provision of additional pitches in relation to new housing developments
- to provide a framework for delivering government policies for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement and healthy living
- to provide robust information and evidence of need for funding bids for new and improved provision.
- to promote sports development and help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams.

## 1.2 The scope of the study

This report presents the findings of the assessments undertaken for the pitch sports of football, rugby union, rugby league, cricket and hockey. The study covers all grass and artificial turf pitches in the local authority area including those not currently in community use. It also includes pitches at Staines Rugby club which is right on the border of Spelthorne and Hounslow, as it is recognised that cross border movement occurs.

### Definition of a playing pitch

For the purpose of this study the definition of a playing pitch is in accordance with the Government's statutory instrument 2010/2184 which states that the term "playing pitch" means "a delineated area which, together with any run-off area, is of 0.2 hectares or more, and which is used for association football, American football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo."

Playing pitches may have a grass surface or an artificial one.

## 1.3 The structure of this report

The report commences with an overview of Spelthorne (section 2) and continues by detailing the current legislation, policy and best practice guidance both locally and nationally which provides the strategic context for the study (section 3). Section 4 follows providing details of the methodology used to undertake the study and prepare this report. The approach used is endorsed by Sport England as the appropriate methodology to provide a detailed local assessment of playing pitch requirements within the local authority area. The methodology is detailed in 'Towards a level playing field, a guide to the production of playing pitch strategies' (Sport England 2002). The study looks at

- Supply and demand – an assessment of the quantity of teams, home games and current pitch supply.
- Future demand and supply – details of the likely future demand for and supply of playing pitches.
- Quality assessment – An assessment of pitch quality and that of associated changing accommodation and facilities.

The final section of this report looks at the key findings of the study and makes recommendations for pitch provision going forward.

## 2. About Spelthorne – Local Profile

Spelthorne is located approximately 15 miles south-west of Central London. It borders three London Boroughs, the Berkshire Boroughs of Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead and the two Surrey Boroughs of Runnymede and Elmbridge. It is a relatively small (approximately 20 square miles) but quite densely populated Borough with Heathrow Airport immediately to the north and the River Thames forming its southern boundary. Spelthorne's main towns are Ashford, Shepperton, Staines-upon-Thames, Stanwell and Sunbury on Thames. Spelthorne is flat and low-lying with more than half the area of the Borough designated as Green Belt. Due to its proximity to the River Thames a significant area is at risk from flooding, with Staines and Shepperton being the worst affected areas.

Spelthorne has very good transport links to London and neighbouring boroughs. The borough is situated within the M25 motorway and the M3 motorway runs through Sunbury on Thames, providing easy access to London as well as the South Coast. There are 5 railway stations that serve the borough giving access to Central London in just over half an hour. Bus routes serve all areas of the borough making most areas fairly accessible by public transport. Heathrow airport is within easy reach as are the other London airports.

### 2.1 Population and population predictions

Spelthorne has a current population of 95,598 (Census 2011). The census results show that a large percentage of Spelthorne's population are over 45. Nationally 16.4% of the population are over 65 but in Spelthorne this figure is 17.36%. The 2011 subnational population predictions estimate that the population of Spelthorne will continue to rise over the next 5 years and predict that by 2018 the population will be approximately 102,311 with 17.73% of the population being over 65.

#### Ethnicity

According to the 2011 census 87.3% of the borough's population classify their ethnicity as white which is slightly higher than England's average of 85.5%. The breakdown of the ethnicity of the borough's population is shown below.

Ethnic group	% of Spelthorne population
White British	81%
White Other	6.3%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic	2.4%
Asian /Asian British: Indian	4.2%
Asian /Asian British: Pakistani	0.7%

Asian Other	2.7%
Black	1.6%
Other	0.9%

### Economic Activity

Within Spelthorne there are 69916 people aged between 16 and 74, which are generally considered the ages where people could be classed as economically active. Of these 69916 people, 46.4% are employed full time, 13.3% are employed part time and 10% are self-employed. 3.3% of the economically active population in Spelthorne are unemployed. The unemployment rate in Spelthorne is lower than both the regional (3.4%) and the national (4.4%) averages. Spelthorne has a larger than average number of people employed in intermediate occupations and a high number of people employed in semi routine and routine occupations compared to the rest of Surrey. Less than the regional average are employed in higher managerial and higher professional occupations (source 2011 Census).

### Deprivation

According to the index of multiple deprivation Spelthorne ranks 260<sup>th</sup> out of 326 local authorities in England and Wales with 1 being the most deprived. Despite its relative affluence nationally, Spelthorne does have pockets of deprivation with 10.3% of its population living in the top 2 most deprived quintiles nationally. Spelthorne also has the highest number of lower super output areas in terms of deprivation in Surrey. Although lower than the rest of Surrey car ownership in Spelthorne is slightly higher than the regional average with 85.2% of households having at least 1 vehicle and 42.2% of households having 2 or more (2011 census).

## 2.2 Health

The Department of Health's 'Health profile for Spelthorne 2012' shows that the average life expectancy for females in Spelthorne is 84.3 years and life expectancy for males is 80.2 years. Both are significantly better than the England average however life expectancy for those living in the most deprived areas of Spelthorne is 4.7 years lower than those in the least deprived areas.

An estimated 26% of adults in Spelthorne are classified as being obese compared to the national average of 24.2%. 19% of year 6 children in Spelthorne are classified as obese, which mirrors the England average.

23.9% of adults in Spelthorne smoke which is not significantly different from the England average of 20.7%.

## 2.3 Sport and Physical Activity

The Active People Survey commissioned by Sport England is the largest survey of physical activity patterns ever undertaken. It is an annual survey involving telephone interviews with approximately 500 adults in every local authority area in England. Since the initial survey in 2006 there have been a further 5 surveys to date allowing trends relating to sport and physical activity to be tracked over a number of years. Spelthorne's results for a number of the survey's key performance indicators are shown below alongside the national and regional averages.

### Frequency of participation in 30 minutes Sport and Active Recreation

Area and year	0 days per week	Occasionally but less than 1 day per week	1 day per week	2 days per week	3 or 4 days per week	5 days per week
Spelthorne						
2005/6	46.4%	11.0%	12.4%	8.2%	11.3%	10.7%
2009/11	48.4%	8.9%	11.4%	10.4%	11.5%	9.4%
South East						
2005/6	46.2%	9.5%	12.9%	8.5%	10.4%	12.5%
2009/11	45.3%	9.8%	13.1%	8.9%	10.7%	12.2%
England						
2005/6	50%	8.8%	12.0%	8.0%	9.6%	11.7%
2009/11	48.2%	9.1%	12.4%	8.3%	10.6%	11.3%

### Volunteering at least one hour a week in sport

Area	2005/6	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Spelthorne	4.6%	6.1%	5.6%	3.9%	6.6%
South East	5.4%	5.3%	5.4%	5.0%	7.8%
England	4.7%	4.9%	4.7%	4.5%	7.2%

## Club membership

Area	2005/6	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Spelthorne	25.8%	27.4%	24.6%	24.4%	28.2%
South East	27.6%	27.5%	26.1%	26.2%	25.7%
England	25.1%	24.7%	24.1%	23.9%	23.3%

## Receiving coaching or tuition

Area	2005/6	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Spelthorne	19.9%	20.8%	21.4%	15.1%	19.4%
South East	20.7%	20.6%	19.5%	19.3%	18.0%
England	18.0%	18.1%	17.5%	17.5%	16.2%

## Taking part in organised competition

Area	2005/6	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Spelthorne	16.3%	14.8%	16.6%	14.1%	15.9%
South East	17.1%	16.3%	16.0%	15.7%	16.2%
England	15.0%	14.6%	14.4%	14.4%	14.3%

## Satisfaction with local sports provision

Area	2005/6	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Spelthorne	68.1%	62.1%	70.0%	68.1%	N/A
South East	71.8%	69.9%	71.2%	71.0%	N/A
England	69.5%	66.6%	68.4%	69.0%	N/A

The figures from the Active people survey show that there has been a slight increase in the number of inactive people in Spelthorne since the first survey was undertaken in 2005. They also show however that there has been a slight increase in the number of people taking part in sport or physical activity on at least one day each week. In

terms of volunteers the number of people supporting sport in Spelthorne has increased in the last 5 years although the figure is still below the regional and national average. The increase in volunteers locally may have helped to increase club membership numbers which have seen an increase over the last 5 years and are well above the regional and national averages. The number of adults receiving tuition or coaching in Spelthorne is also higher than the regional and national averages although the figure has decreased slightly over the study period. Despite higher than average numbers involved in clubs and tuition, those involved in organised competition has slightly decreased in Spelthorne over the last 5 years. The number competing does however remain higher than the national average. The question regarding satisfaction with sports provision has not been included in the recent surveys but levels of satisfaction in Spelthorne have remained similar over the study period which puts them slightly lower than the national average.

### Market Segmentation

Building on the results of the Active People Survey, Sport England developed market segmentation data which helps us to understand the nation's attitude to sport and their motivation for taking part along with the barriers that prevent them doing so. Understanding which of the market segments are most common in Spelthorne can help to anticipate the demand for certain sports.

The 19 market segments as defined by Sport England are shown below along with the percentage of Spelthorne's population that has been classified in that segment. For comparison the regional and national figures are also shown.



Name allocated	Description	Spelthorne	South East	England
Ben	Competitive Male Urbanites	6.7%	6.0%	4.9%
Jamie	Sports Team Drinkers	2.2%	3.9%	5.4%
Chloe	Fitness Class Friends	6.5%	6.1%	4.7%
Leanne	Supportive Singles	2.1%	3.1%	4.3%
Helena	Career Focused Females	5.8%	5.2%	4.5%
Tim	Settling Down Males	13.3%	11.4%	8.8%
Alison	Stay at Home Mums	7.4%	6.3%	4.4%
Jackie	Middle England Mums	4.7%	4.6%	4.9%
Kev	Pub League Team Mates	2.3%	3.5%	5.9%
Paula	Stretched Single Mums	1.7%	2.7%	3.7%
Philip	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	10.1%	9.7%	8.6%
Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	7.3%	6.8%	6.1%
Roger & Joy	Early Retirement Couples	8.7%	7.3%	6.8%
Brenda	Older Working Women	1.9%	2.8%	4.9%
Terry	Local 'Old Boys'	1.6%	2.4%	3.7%
Norma	Later Life Ladies	1.1%	1.3%	2.1%
Ralph & Phyllis	Comfortable Retired Couples	6.2%	6.5%	4.2%
Frank	Twilight Year Gents	3.4%	3.5%	4.0%
Elsie & Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	7.0%	6.8%	8.0%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The 5 most dominant segments within Spelthorne are Tim, Philip, Roger and Joy, Alison and Elaine. The characteristics of these segments along with the sports and activities they are most likely to take part in are shown below.

Segment name	Characteristics	Sports most likely to participate in
Tim	<p>Aged 26 – 45</p> <p>Married or single</p> <p>May have Children</p> <p>Professional</p> <p>27% of this segment take part in 3 x 30mins sport each week</p> <p>37% of this segment have done no sport in the last</p>	<p>Cycling</p> <p>Keep Fit/Gym</p> <p>Swimming</p> <p>Football</p> <p>Athletics</p>

	<p>month</p> <p>66% of this segment would like to do more sport.</p>	
Philip	<p>Mainly aged 46 – 55</p> <p>Married with Children</p> <p>Full time employment</p> <p>Owner Occupier</p> <p>19% take part in 3 x 30 minutes of sport each week</p> <p>50% have done no sport in the last month</p> <p>58% would like to do more sport</p>	<p>Cycling</p> <p>Keep fit/ gym</p> <p>Swimming</p> <p>Football</p> <p>Golf</p>
Roger and Joy	<p>Mainly aged 56 – 65</p> <p>Married</p> <p>Full time employment or retired</p> <p>Slightly less active than average adult.</p> <p>10% participate in 3 x 30 minutes sport each week.</p> <p>66% have done no sport in the last month</p> <p>44% would like to do more sport.</p>	<p>Keep fit / gym</p> <p>Swimming</p> <p>Cycling</p> <p>Golf</p> <p>Angling</p>
Alison	<p>Mainly aged 36 – 45</p> <p>Married</p> <p>Stay at home mum</p> <p>Have Children</p> <p>Above average</p>	<p>Keep fit / gym</p> <p>Swimming</p> <p>Cycling</p> <p>Athletics</p>

	<p>participation in Sport</p> <p>20% take part in 3 x 30 minutes sport each week</p> <p>46% have done no sport in last month.</p> <p>72% of this segment would like to do more sport</p>	Equestrian
Elaine	<p>Mainly aged 46 – 55</p> <p>Married</p> <p>Children have left home</p> <p>Similar to average activity levels</p> <p>12% do 3 x 30 minutes of sport each week</p> <p>62% have done no sport in the last month.</p> <p>55% would like to do more sport.</p>	<p>Keep fit / gym</p> <p>Swimming</p> <p>Cycling</p> <p>Athletics</p> <p>Tennis</p>

### Implications for pitch provision

The demographics of Spelthorne, the Active People Survey results and market segmentation data suggest the following implications for pitch provision.

- Based on Sport England guidance for active age groups for pitch sports which although differs per sport is generally considered to be 6 – 55years, the relatively elderly population suggests that the demand for pitch sports in Spelthorne may be slightly lower than areas who have a greater percentage of their population within active age groups.
- The increase in population predicted over the next 5 years suggests that the demand for pitches (as well as other local services) will increase in line with the rise in population. Existing playing pitches may come under threat from development to accommodate more housing.
- Spelthorne’s higher than average employment rate and relative affluence nationally indicates that that residents are likely to have more disposable income to spend on activities such as sport and physical activity than other

areas, which may see an increase in the demand for pitches compared to other parts of the country.

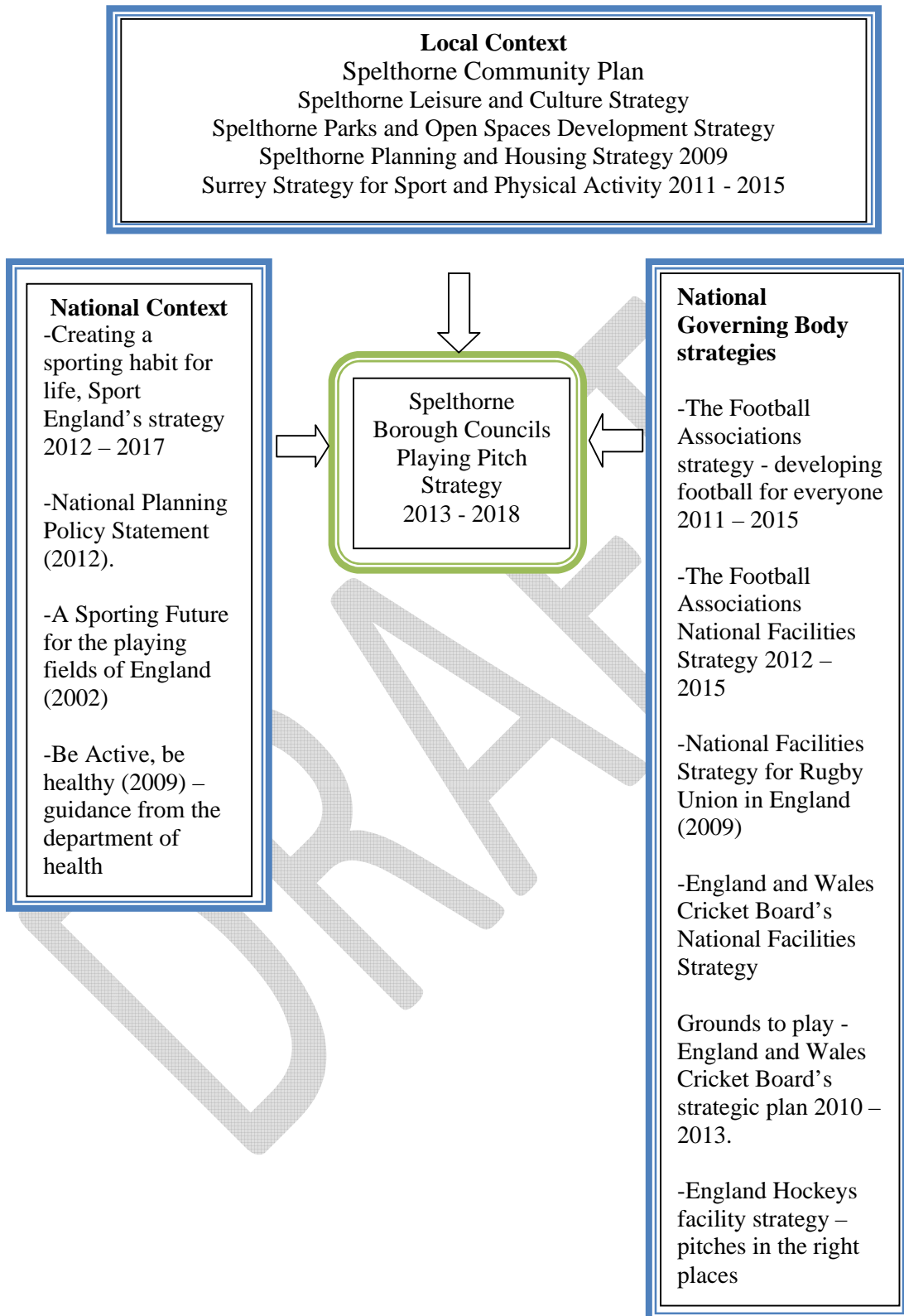
- On average black and ethnic minority groups have a lower sports participation rate than the national average (Sportingequals.org.uk) so a higher than average white population should generate a higher than average demand.
- With activity levels and the obesity rates not significantly different to the national average the demand for sports facilities locally is likely to be similar to the demand nationally.
- High numbers of club members and more than the national average number of adults receiving tuition or coaching suggests clubs in Spelthorne are likely to have a higher demand for pitches than other clubs.
- The market segmentation data suggests that the top 2 of Spelthorne's dominant segments traditionally favour football which is likely to be reflected in the demand for football pitches compared to other sports however the other 3 of the top 5 segments in Spelthorne don't favour pitch sports at all which may impact overall demand.

### 3. Strategic Context

Links to other strategies and plans

This playing pitch strategy is a stand-alone document but links to a number of key strategies and plans both locally and nationally. These can be summarised by the diagram below.

Local and National Strategies with links to the Playing Pitch Strategy



These plans and strategies have helped support the development of this playing pitch strategy by providing context and rationale for developing this document. In turn the playing pitch strategy and implementation of the action plan will help to deliver the aims and objectives of these other strategies. The key points of these strategies and plans along with the implications for pitch provision are summarised below.

### 3.1 Local Strategic Context

#### Spelthorne Community Plan

Spelthorne's Community Plan 2005 – 2015 describes the outcomes partners will strive to achieve. A challenging vision for the future of Spelthorne provides a focus for the work of a wide range of partners to improve Spelthorne as an area to live, work, travel and take part in leisure activities.

Two of the themes for this plan are Children and Young People and Health and Well Being. Within these themes are key priorities which include places to go and improving the mental health and well being of the Spelthorne population. The ability of sport to improve health and wellbeing is well documented.

#### Spelthorne's Leisure and Culture Strategy

This high level document seeks to provide direction for the provision of leisure and culture within Spelthorne. The key aims of the strategy's improvement plan which are relevant to pitch provision are:-

- To support the development of sports facilities managed/owned by the voluntary and private sector.
- To investigate new management arrangements for facilities owned by the Council, with the possibility of passing full control over to voluntary organisations.
- To complete the Playing Pitch Strategy, investigating the possible future development options for the pitches in Spelthorne.
- To encourage Borough residents to utilise the parks and open spaces.
- To increase participation in physical activity by 1% each year.

#### Spelthorne's parks and open spaces development strategy

Spelthorne's parks and open spaces strategy acknowledges that open space and sport and recreational facilities have an important part to play in the wellbeing and quality of life of residents. It also documents that there are significant areas of open space within the Borough that perform a valuable role in providing facilities for sport and recreation.

The action plan pledges to 'upgrade existing pavilions, as part of a rationalisation plan that matches demand for sports use and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act, within existing or upgraded facilities'.

## Spelthorne's planning and housing strategy

Spelthorne's planning and housing strategy is part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and sets out the Council's core strategy and detailed policies for guiding and controlling the development and use of land and buildings. With regards open space and sport and recreation facilities it says the following.

- Policy EN4: Provision of Open Space and Sport and Recreation Facilities 'will seek to ensure there is sufficient open space which is well sited and suitable to meet a wide range of outdoor sport, recreation and open space needs by:
  - a) providing additional space where required
  - b) maintaining and improving provision and access to open space through the design and layout of new development,
  - c) retaining existing open space in the urban area used, or capable of use, for sport and recreation where there is a need for the site for sport or recreation purposes'

Exceptionally, development may be allowed on part of a site within the urban area which should otherwise be maintained for the above reasons where:

- a) the remainder of the site is enhanced so its public value in visual and functional terms is equivalent to the original site or better
  - b) essential ancillary facilities are proposed to support outdoor recreational use of the site, or
  - c) the sport or recreational use is relocated to an alternative site of equivalent or greater value in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility to users of the original site, and other factors do not justify retention.
- Policy CO1: Providing Community Facilities 'will seek to ensure community facilities are provided to meet local needs by:
    - a) supporting the provision of new facilities for which a need is identified in locations accessible to the community served,
    - b) supporting improvements to existing facilities to enable them to adapt to changing needs,
    - c) resisting the loss of existing facilities except: where it is demonstrated that the facility is no longer needed, or where it is established that the services provided by the facility can be provided in an alternative location or manner that is equally accessible to the community served.
  - Policy SP5: Meeting Community Needs 'will ensure provision is made for services and facilities to meet the needs of the community. It will also seek to retain existing services and facilities that meet a local need or ensure adequate replacement is provided.

## Surrey's Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity

Surrey's Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity presents the views of multiple agencies and stakeholders with regards improving sport and physical activity provision across Surrey. It focuses on delivering 4 outcomes

- 1) Everyone has the opportunity to be active for life
- 2) Strong Sustainable infrastructure is available in every community.
- 3) Sufficient, well managed facilities meet Surrey's needs
- 4) Talented performers are supported

The strategy highlights 17 objectives to help deliver the outcomes. Those of greatest relevance to playing pitches are

- Encourage more people of all ages to exercise at government recommended age appropriate levels.
- Oppose the loss of existing sport and leisure facilities where they are not to be replaced.
- Encourage more shared use of private facilities
- Enable local communities to fully utilise public facilities
- Develop and update existing facilities through effective guidance, maintenance programmes, sinking funds and volunteer engagement.
- Plan to ensure suitable facilities are within reach of more Surrey residents.

### 3.2 Wider Strategic Context

#### Sport England's strategy 2012 – 2017

Sport England's strategy, a sporting habit for life sets out the objectives for the national sports policy until 2017.

The overall aim of the strategy is to transform sport in England so that playing sport becomes a lifelong habit for more people and a regular choice for the majority. To help achieve this aim Sport England are looking for a year on year increase in the number of adults taking part in sport, a rise in the percentage of 14 – 25 year olds playing sport at least once a week and a reduction in those dropping out of sport by the age of 25.

To help meet these aims the strategy will deliver a number of outcomes. Those that are likely to have the greatest impact on playing pitch use and provision are as follows.

- Every one of the 4,000 secondary schools in England, will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more National Governing Bodies, depending on the local clubs in its area



- County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community
- All secondary schools who wish to do so will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen
- There will be a new £40 million local sport fund to help local authorities improve sport provision
- Building on the early success of Places People Play, a further £100m will be invested in new facilities for the most popular sports

#### Sport England's Planning Policy Statement (2002)

Sport England is a statutory consultee on all proposals for development which affect playing fields. Sport England's planning policy, a sporting future for the playing fields of England, opposes the granting of planning permission for any developments which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of, all or any part of a playing field unless, in the judgement of Sport England, one of the following specific circumstances applies.

- 1) A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
- 2) The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use
- 3) The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming a full or part of a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing areas of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on the site.
- 4) The playing field or playing fields, which would be lost as a result of the proposed development, would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development.
- 5) The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

## The Football Association

The Football Association's National Game Strategy, developing football for everyone 2011 – 2015 states the FA's priorities for the development of football until 2015. There are a number of national targets for both football development and facility development which are of relevance to Spelthorne.

### Football development targets

- Retain 30,355 adult male 11-a-side teams and grow to 30,550 teams
- Retain 1,437 adult female 11-a side teams and grow to 1,500 teams
- Grow adult football by 150,000 new participants playing football once a week
- Increase male and female disability teams to 1,264 and 238 teams respectively
- Increase adult small-sided teams from 28,370 to 30,000 (5.75% increase)
- Retain and grow mini-soccer, male and female youth teams
- Retain 30,500 Intra and Inter-school teams

### Facility development target

- £150 million invested into facilities nationally

The FA also have a national facilities strategy which following extensive research into the nations priorities in 2011 sets out the FA's vision "To build, protect and enhance sustainable football facilities to improve the experience of the nation's favourite game"

To support this vision they are looking to

- Provide new facilities and pitches, to FA standards in key locations
- Ensure that (the right) pitches and facilities are protected for current and future participants.
- Invest in existing pitches and facilities, ensuring that participation in the game is sustained and expanded

To provide a complete picture for football and how it may impact on pitch provision in Spelthorne over the next 5 years we also need to consider the FA's youth development review. The conclusion of this review led to the FA formally ratifying a number of the reviews recommendations in May 2012 which will lead to changes in the format and facilities for youth football from the 2013/14 season onwards. The changes include smaller teams, smaller pitches and smaller goals including the introduction of a 9 v 9 version of the game for the under 11's and under 12's.

Pitches in the past have been marked out using the maximum and minimum pitches sizes as outlined in the laws of the game. These sizes vary tremendously, are often adapted to fit the space available and have been open to local interpretation. The FA

has consulted widely and has been encouraged to produce national pitch sizes for mini soccer, 9v9, Youth football as well as Adult football.

The table below shows the FA's recommended pitch and goal post sizes for all age groups

Age grouping	Format	Pitch size without runoff Length x width (yards)	Pitch size with runoff Length x width (yards)	Size of goal posts height x width (ft)
Mini Soccer U7/U8	5 v 5	40 x 30	46 x 36	6 x 12
Mini Soccer U9/U10	7 v 7	60 x 40	66 x 46	6 x 12
Youth U11/U12	9 v 9	80 x 50	86 x 56	7 x 16
Youth U13/U14	11 v 11	90 x 55	96 x 61	7 x 21*
Youth U15/U16	11 v 11	100 x 60	106 x 66	8 x 24
Youth U17/U18	11 v 11	110 x 70	116 x 76	8 x 24
Over 18 (senior)	11 v 11	110 x 70	116 x 76	8 x 24

\*If a pitch is to be provided for U13/14 it is recommended that 7 x 21 goalposts are provided. However, it should be noted that 8 x 24 would also be acceptable as not all sites will be able to provide specifically for this age group.

### The England and Wales Cricket Board

The England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) National Club Strategy 2012 lays out the challenges for cricket and the ECB's priorities for helping overcome these.

The following issues have been identified

- Inability of many clubs to make long term plans for a sustainable future
- Difficulty of recruiting and retaining adult players, members and volunteers
- Lack of growth due to poor access to, and quality of, club facilities
- Growing risk to many clubs' security of tenure
- Static or falling club income streams
- Ineffective use of volunteers' time due to unnecessary bureaucracy
- Increasing cost and time spent travelling to and from fixtures
- Damaging effects of rising temperatures and increased rainfall due to climate change.

The key priority for the ECB is to ensure clubs can plan for a sustainable future. To help clubs do this the ECB's cricket partnerships team will support clubs in 4 key areas, People, Places, Playing and Policy.

People - Support, develop and reward the skills required to grow and sustain participation. Provide easy access to affordable, high-quality training and support. Ensure people are at the heart of maintaining the spirit of cricket and providing a fun, open, fair and accessible game.

Places - Develop accessible, high quality and innovative facilities, which inspire the nation to choose cricket. Create a culture of sustainable development, which will leave a legacy for generations to come.

Playing - encourage the development of appropriate, innovative competitions. It will also focus on recruiting lapsed players, as well as retaining current players by increasing the levels of satisfaction felt by all.

Policy - help clubs and County Boards to organise and govern themselves better and as a result, enable clubs to gain Clubmark accreditation. It will also reduce the level of bureaucracy clubs face.

#### England Hockey

England Hockey's facilities strategy, pitches in the right places (2011) sets out their strategy for the provision of hockey facilities in England.

The strategy recognises that there are approximately 1000 sand filled or dressed and 50 water based pitches in England. Most have been installed in the past 10-15 years. Many of the sand-filled or sand-dressed pitches involve provision in partnerships involving clubs, schools and/or local authorities. A considerable number of these pitches are used for multi-sport activity and in most cases hockey is not the dominant user. As of 2011 affiliated hockey clubs were utilising approximately two thirds of the sand and water based pitches in England collectively using around 7000 hours between September and April and a reduced number of hours over the summer months.

The strategy also acknowledges that 32% of the pitches in England are over 10 years old, 12% are over 15 years old and 4% are over 20 years old.

England Hockey are aiming to increase the number of people playing the sport by retaining existing club members and increasing new membership by 10000 adults and 35000 children. To do this the correct facilities are required to support this development.

The strategy lists the challenges for current provision as follows

- Access
- Costs
- Quality
- Lack of Ancillary Facilities
- Over crowding and lack of programming

Alongside developing new facilities England Hockey will be focusing on resurfacing and pitch maintenance. They will be looking into pitch resurfacing cycles so they can guide facility providers as to when they need to think about resurfacing and will be looking to ensure pitches receive sufficient and appropriate maintenance.

## Rugby Football Union

The RFU's 'National Facilities Strategy for Rugby Union provides a framework for sustainable facility provision in England.

The strategy indicates a number of areas where facility development is required. These are listed as follows

- improved quality and quantity of natural grass pitches
- improved quality and quantity of changing provision for men, women and young people
- improved access to artificial turf training facilities
- increased quantity and quality of floodlit areas
- improved standard of social facilities
- enhanced and increased provision for spectators

The condition of a number of facilities at club level is also a cause for concern.

- 65% of women's teams felt constrained by inadequate changing facilities
- 69% of clubs said that their changing facilities were generally inadequate
- only 12% of clubs have adequate floodlighting at 200 lux
- 40% of clubs have adequate floodlighting at 100 lux
- 22% of clubs have no training area at all
- 31% of clubs have limited disabled access

The strategy sets out the RFU's priorities for facility developments and improvements as follows.

- Increase the provision of integrated changing facilities that are child friendly and can sustain concurrent male and female activity at the club
- Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches
- Increase the number of Artificial Turf Pitches (ATPs)
- Improve the quality and quantity of community use floodlighting
- Improve the quality and quantity of competition floodlighting
- Provide a safe environment for all rugby and sporting activity
- Support central venues for player, coach, official and volunteer training
- Support the development of multi-sports clubs
- Other projects that assist clubs to become sustainable.

## 4. Methodology

This study has been undertaken and the resulting strategy produced according to the methodology and guidance laid out in 'Towards a level playing field, a guide to the production of playing pitch strategies' Sport England 2002. The approach used is endorsed by Sport England as the appropriate methodology to provide a detailed local assessment of playing pitch requirements within the local authority area.

### 4.1 Assessing needs and establishing demand

The successful and accurate working of the methodology depends on obtaining as accurate a tally as possible of the number of teams and other users of the pitches and the existing pattern of play.

In the first instance a direct count of clubs and teams was made by using a number of sources including

- National Governing Bodies (NGB's) and County Association records and reports
- Discussions with NGB officers
- The Spelthorne Leisure Directory
- The previous Playing Pitch Strategy for Spelthorne (2007)
- Booking records for pitches
- Local knowledge
- The internet
- The local press

The table below shows the number of clubs and teams identified in the study area by sport, gender and team type.

Sport	Football	Cricket	Hockey	Rugby Union	Rugby League
Number of clubs	43	6	3	2	1
Number of mini teams	46	0	7	23	4
Number of male junior teams	68	36	6	9	3
Number of female junior teams	9	2	9	0	2
Number of male adult teams	40	31	18	11	1
Number of female adult teams	5	3	14	0	0
Number of mixed adult teams	0	0	1	0	0
Total number of teams	168	72	55	43	10

Once all of the clubs had been identified a club questionnaire (appendix 1) was sent out to all clubs to help ensure the strategy reflected local concerns and issues. The responses of this questionnaire along with the sources mentioned above further helped identify demand by identifying the:-

- Membership, membership trends and number of teams per club
- place of origin of team members
- matches played per season (home and away)
- length of season
- duration and frequency of matches
- number of postponements and cancellations last season
- level of activity at existing facilities
- preferred time of play
- unmet demand
- links with local schools and other users
- sports development plans.

#### 4.1.1 Sports Club Survey

A sports club survey was conducted by means of a playing pitch questionnaire. The questionnaire was sent out as a hard copy and/or by email to the 55 pitch sport clubs identified in the study area who together have a total of 351 teams. Phone calls and follow up emails were also made to those clubs who were slow to respond to the questionnaire. Middlesex FA also helped follow up a number of the football clubs by email and phone. In total a response rate of 47.3% was achieved from sports clubs which represented 78.9% of the pitch sport teams in the study area.

- The response rate per sport is broken down as follows.

Sport	Number of clubs responding	% of clubs responding	Number of teams represented by clubs responding	% of teams represented by clubs responding
Football	16	37.2%	111	71.2%
Cricket	5	83.3%	68	94.4%
Hockey	3	100%	55	100%
Rugby Union	2	100%	43	100%

#### Club profile

The club survey indicates the following

### Membership numbers

- 50% of responding clubs have more than 150 members.
- 25% of clubs have between 50 and 150 members
- 23% of clubs have less than 50 members

### Membership composition

- 56% of responding clubs have an adult and a junior section
- 24% of clubs are adult only
- 20% of clubs are youth only
- 31% of clubs have male and female sections, 4% of clubs are female only with the remaining 65% males only.

### Membership trends

- 64% of clubs reported an increase in membership over the last 5 years
- 16% of clubs reported their membership had remained static over the last 5 years
- 12% of clubs reported a decrease in membership over the same period

### Members place of residence

- The majority of clubs reported that their membership is made up of Spelthorne residents but clubs also reported members travelling from Bedfont, Bedfont Green, Feltham, South West London, Weybridge, Greater London, Walton and elsewhere.

### Development plans

- 31% of clubs have written development plans

### Problem issues

Clubs reported the following problem issues

Problem issue	% of clubs reporting the issue
Internal funding (subs etc)	31%
External funding (grants etc)	46%



Lack of appropriate local facilities	19%
Access difficulties (e.g. lack of public transport)	12%
Lack of information about facilities or services	8%
Relationships with other clubs	15%
Voluntary assistance (to help run the club)	38%
Membership (retention or recruitment)	27%
Other	50%

Other problem issues clubs reported included

- Running costs too high
- Lack of use of social facility
- Site security
- Cost of pitches
- Securing a new lease
- Pitch availability during cricket season
- Difficulty in replacing specialist facilities and equipment
- Lack of floodlit facilities
- Clubs facilities not up to standard
- Inflexibility of kick off times
- Lack of indoor facilities
- Having to block book pitches when they don't use them every week.

#### Quality of Facilities

Clubs rated the quality of the pitches and facilities used and results are shown in the table below. Totals don't equal 100% as some survey respondents didn't answer all of the questions.

Element	Good	Acceptable	Poor
Firmness of surface	69%	16%	0%
Grip underfoot	73%	8%	4%
Bounce of ball on pitch	62%	16%	8%
Evenness of pitch	46%	35%	4%
Length of grass	50%	19%	16%
Grass Cover	73%	4%	4%
Posts and Sockets	46%	12%	12%
Line Markings	69%	8%	4%
Free from litter/dog fouling	54%	23%	4%
Changing Facilities	46%	23%	8%
Showers	50%	19%	4%
Parking	46%	27%	4%
Value for Money	50%	19%	4%
Overall Quality of pitch	65%	16%	4%

#### Clubs future plans

- 56% of clubs plan to increase their membership
- 48% of clubs have plans to refurbish facilities
- 20% of clubs plan to expand their facilities
- 8% are looking to relocate
- 4% are looking to improve security

#### The current demand for playing pitches

The analysis of the demand for playing pitches and ancillary facilities in the study area is broken down per sport to show the demand for

- Football
- Cricket
- Rugby Union
- Rugby League
- Hockey

The analysis also splits the study area into sections to provide a sub-area analysis. The table below shows the areas used for the sub-area analysis and the borough wards which are included in each sub area.

Sub - area	Wards included	Sub-area population
Staines and Laleham	Staines, Staines South and Riverside and Laleham	21,702
Stanwell	Stanwell North and Ashford North and Stanwell South	15,924
Ashford	Ashford Town, Ashford Common and Ashford East	22,353
Shepperton	Shepperton Town and Laleham and Shepperton Green	14,639
Sunbury	Sunbury Common, Sunbury East and Halliford and Sunbury West	20,980

## Football

### Clubs and teams

- Spelthorne has a total of 43 affiliated clubs with a total of 171 teams of which 168 play in Spelthorne. A full list of clubs can be found in the appendix.
- There are 3 teams who are affiliated to Spelthorne clubs, but playing in neighbouring Local Authorities areas.
- Of the 168 teams operating in Spelthorne, 45 (26.8%) are adult teams, 77 (45.8%) are youth teams (all formats) and 46 (27.4%) are Mini-Soccer teams.
- The number of teams has increased by 22 teams overall in Spelthorne from

season 11/12 to season 12/13. This comprises of an increase of 11 adult teams, 4 youth teams (all formats) and 7 Mini-Soccer team(s).

- The peak youth age is U11, with 19 teams playing at this level.

#### Conversion rates

The FA estimates the number of people playing football by calculating football conversion rates. The number of teams in an area is multiplied by the average number of people involved in the different forms of football and then expressed as a proportion of the population at each age group. The conversion rates for Spelthorne are shown below along with those for the South East and England.

Age Group	Spelthorne	South East	England
Adult male	4.1%	5.5%	5.2%
Adult female	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%
Youth male	25.7%	23.7%	20.5%
Youth female	2.9%	2%	2%
Mini Soccer (mixed)	11.8%	10.6%	9.6%
Total (all forms)	5.3%	5.5%	5.2%

#### Charter Standard

96.8% or 119 of the 123 Youth and Mini-soccer teams play in a club that has achieved the FA's Charter Standard quality assurance award compared to a national average of 78.3%.

#### Competitions

Teams in Spelthorne play in a total of 30 different leagues. 23 of these are adult leagues with the remainder being youth leagues. Due to the location of Spelthorne teams play in leagues covering Surrey, Middlesex, Greater London, Berkshire and Hampshire and elsewhere.

#### Cricket

#### Clubs and teams

- There are 6 clubs in Spelthorne with a total of 72 teams broken down as follows
  - 36 junior male teams
  - 2 junior female teams
  - 29 adult male teams
  - 3 adult female teams
  - 2 veteran male teams

A full list of the clubs in Spelthorne can be found in the appendix.

- All 6 cricket clubs have reported an increase in membership over the last 5 years.
- Although all 6 clubs have home grounds in the Spelthorne area, 1 club doesn't have the pitch capacity to play all home games at its home ground and a number of teams have to travel outside the borough to neighbouring boroughs and in some cases beyond to access pitches for their home matches.

#### Clubmark

100% of the clubs in Spelthorne have achieved this quality assurance accreditation.

#### Competitions

The majority of teams in Spelthorne play relatively locally in leagues in Surrey and Middlesex. Female leagues containing Spelthorne teams tend to cover wider areas including parts of Kent and Somerset.

#### Rugby Union

##### Clubs and teams

- There is 1 club (London Irish) within Spelthorne with another 1 (Staines) just on the borough boundary and is included as being in the study area for the purposes of this study. These 2 clubs together have 43 teams

This breaks down into

5 mini male teams  
 9 male junior teams  
 10 male adult teams  
 1 male veteran team  
 18 mixed mini teams  
 0 female teams

- One club has reported an increased membership over the last 5 years while the other has reported a decrease in members.

#### Club Accreditation

Both clubs in the study area have achieved the RFU's new club accreditation award as a sign of quality assurance.

## Competitions

Clubs in the study area play in leagues that cover wide areas including National leagues. The professional team at London Irish play their matches outside of Spelthorne at the Madejski Stadium in Reading although their training venue remains in the borough.

## Rugby League

- There is 1 club which plays within the study area. This club has the following teams.
  - 4 mini teams
  - 3 male youth teams
  - 2 female youth teams
  - 1 male adult team

## Club accreditation

The club does not currently have Clubmark but is working towards this accreditation.

## Hockey

- There are 3 clubs in Spelthorne with a total of 55 teams. The break down of these teams is as follows
  - 16 adult men's teams
  - 13 adult ladies teams
  - 1 mixed senior team
  - 2 veteran men's teams
  - 1 female veteran team
  - 2 mini male teams
  - 2 mini female teams
  - 3 mixed mini team
  - 9 female junior teams
  - 6 male junior teams
- 2 of the 3 hockey clubs have reported an increase in members over the last 5 years. The other clubs membership has remained static.

## Club Accreditation

All 3 of the Hockey Clubs in Spelthorne have been awarded England Hockey's ClubsFirst accreditation for quality assurance.

## Competitions

The majority of teams in Spelthorne play in leagues which cover Surrey, Middlesex, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and London. One team plays National League Hockey in the women's conference west.

## Sub-area analysis

The following table gives a breakdown of the number of teams per sport in each of the sub areas. For the purposes of sub area analysis Staines Rugby Club and Staines Titans Rugby League Club are counted as being in Sunbury as this is the closest part of Spelthorne to the clubs.

Team type	Staines and Laleham	Stanwell	Ashford	Shepperton	Sunbury
Senior Football	17	5	10	4	9
Junior Football	43	14	7	1	12
Mini Soccer	27	1	10	1	7
Adult Cricket	6	7	2	8	11
Junior Cricket	4	7	2	10	15
Adult Rugby	0	0	0	0	11
Junior/Mini Rugby	0	0	0	0	32
Adult Hockey	12	10	0	0	11
Junior/Mini Hockey	6	8	0	0	8

## 4.2 Analysing demand

### 4.2.1 Defining a team

Research showed that within the study area there are 55 pitch sport clubs with 351 teams between them. The methodology uses teams as the basic unit of demand however with the increase in mini and small sided games and when taking into account training sessions and school use it is necessary to use the concept of team equivalents and units of play to work out demand for pitches. Team equivalents can be calculated on the basis of:

- the number and ages of players (which affects wear and tear of the pitch)
- the length of a match/session
- the area of play/size of pitch required.

The desirability of thinking in terms of 'team equivalents' becomes clear when considering the following conundrums:

- Mini-soccer involves short games with small teams of young players. It is frequently played on specially marked adult pitches to allow more than one game to be played at a time. Games are played one after the other, according to age. Clearly, in determining the capacity of a playing pitch to accommodate games, it would be wrong to equate one mini-soccer team with one adult football team. So how can mini-soccer matches and teams be included in the assessment?
- Sports training is an important component of demand for playing pitches. However, training on grass pitches produces wear and tear and reduces the capacity of pitches for competitive play. The needs of training should be reflected in a playing pitch assessment. Therefore, how best can a training session be reflected in the study for the purposes of assessing pitch capacity?
- School pitches available to community teams will not only be used for pitch sports, but also for school PE and 'breaktime' activity. Such activity will also produce wear and tear and influence the capacity of pitches to accommodate competitive games. How can this be reflected in a playing pitch assessment?

The table below seeks to overcome some of these issues by defining the 'team equivalent' for various forms of activity. In essence, it seeks to convert different types of activity into an equivalent proportion of an adult team. The contents of the table therefore helps to assess the relative impact of different types of activity on the supply of pitches and help to encourage a more sophisticated assessment of demand based on the requirements of other activities beyond conventional competitive matches involving adult teams.



**Table: Calculation of team equivalents**

Type of players	Length of match/session	Area of play/size of pitch	Team equivalent
PE lesson: 11–16 year olds: football/rugby	Assume 2 hours	1 junior football/rugby pitch	1 junior football/rugby team
PE lesson: 7–11 year olds	Assume 2 hours	1 junior football/rugby pitch	1 mini-soccer/mini-rugby team
28 mini-soccer teams	15 minutes per team/match (14 matches)	4 matches concurrently across 1 adult pitch	1 adult football team
30 midi/mini/tag rugby teams	10 minutes per team/match (15 matches)	3 matches concurrently across 1 adult pitch	1 adult rugby team
Football/rugby training – adults	Up to 2 hours	1 adult football/rugby pitch	1 adult football/rugby team
Junior cricket training	Up to 2 hours	1 cricket pitch	1 junior cricket team
Breaktime activity	Up to 1 hour	1 junior or adult football pitch	1 junior football team

### Football

Based on the survey and research results there are 45 adult football teams in the study area. On average the adult teams locally train once per week. Training mainly tends to take place on artificial turf pitches and occasionally at indoor venues rather than on grass pitches. Where training does take place on grass it doesn't usually take place on the teams match pitch. Working on the basis that the average training session for adult teams is 1.5 hours the training usage in the study area equates to an estimated additional 34 team equivalents where 2 hours are allocated for a match. Research indicates that training usage for grass pitches is approximately 10% of this equating to 3 team equivalents. Adult team equivalents for grass pitches is 48.

77 youth football teams have been identified in the study area the majority of whom play on dedicated junior pitches and we don't therefore need to equate junior matches to adult team equivalents. Youth football teams are also shown to train once per week and use a similar mix of facilities to adult teams. Research suggests an average training time of 1 hour per team per week equating to an estimated additional 39 team equivalents with approximately 4 of these team equivalents being for grass pitches. Team equivalents for grass pitches is 81.

46 mini soccer teams have been identified in the study area. Mini-soccer involves short games with small teams of young players. Although mini games can be played on specially marked adult pitches to allow more than one game to be played at a time, from the survey responses and other research it appears that the majority of mini teams in the study area play their games on dedicated mini pitches. We don't therefore need to take into account team equivalents for mini matches.

The Study shows that mini soccer teams train on average of once per weekend and use a similar mix of facilities to adult teams with approx 10% training on grass. Mini football training is not always on a mini pitch. Clearly, in determining the capacity of a playing pitch to accommodate training sessions, it would be wrong to equate one mini-soccer team with one adult football team. 'Towards a level playing field' equates 28 mini soccer teams to 1 adult team in terms of match play (2 hours allocated for adult match). Working on the basis that pitch demand for training is similar to that for matches at this age for a one hour training session, 14 mini soccer teams would equate to 1 adult team equivalent. In the study area the adult team equivalent for training can therefore be said to be approximately 3.3. Approximately only 10% of training occurs on grass and therefore the team equivalent for grass pitches is approximately 0.33 teams which for the purpose of the model will be zero.

In terms of training demand from football clubs for artificial pitches the demand is equivalent to 69 adult teams.

#### Cricket

Based on the survey and research results there are 34 adult cricket teams and 38 junior teams in the study area. Teams train once or twice a week during cricket season. Some of this training involves the use of nets or artificial turf wickets however survey results show that teams spend an average of 45 minutes a week training on their match pitch. Using the guidance in "Towards a Level Playing Field" 2 hours training equates to 1 team equivalent giving us an additional team equivalent of 27.

#### Hockey

The study shows that there are a total of 33 adult hockey teams and 17 Junior and 5 mini teams in the study area. Teams generally train once per week but several teams often train together. The survey shows that the average number of hours each of the 3 clubs train is 9 so we can calculate from this that in total 27 hours are used for hockey training each week which is a total of 18 adult team equivalents based on 1.5 hours per team ( which is the equivalent time for a match). As with mini soccer, mini hockey games are short small sided games. They are generally played across an adult pitch with 2 games taking place at the same time. For the purpose of this study 6 mini hockey teams are equivalent to 1 adult team meaning the mini teams in the study area equates to 0.83 adult team equivalents or for the purpose of this study 1.

#### Rugby Union and Rugby League

The study shows that there are a total of 12 adult, 14 junior and 27 mini rugby teams in the study area. Other than the professional team who train 5 days a week the other teams typically train once a week. If we base our calculations on each adult and junior team excluding the professional team training on average for 1.5 hours then based on the guidance that up to 2 hours equates to 1 team equivalent we can work out that training for the local teams equates to 19.5 team equivalents which for the purposes of this study we will round up to 20. They have access to flood lit grass pitches for training.

As with other mini sports teams the mini rugby teams generally play matches across adult pitches. Based on guidance in towards a level playing field which indicates that 30 mini rugby teams equates to 1 adult team equivalent, for the purposes of this study the mini teams in the study area therefore equates to 1 adult team equivalent.

#### School and College Use

A number of the pitches identified for community use in the study area are on school or college sites and are therefore also used by students. Such activity will produce wear and tear on the pitches and therefore must be taken into consideration when looking at the capacity of pitches in the study area. On the whole the education establishments on whose land the pitches are situated don't tend to use the pitches for break time activity so therefore it is only PE lessons that need to be taken into account. Research suggests that on average, each pitch on a school site in the study area is used for 2 PE lessons a day 5 days a week. Towards a level playing field assumes 2 hours for a PE lesson and suggests that 1 lesson is equivalent to 1 junior team. 2 PE lessons on 5 days a week therefore gives us team equivalents of 10 junior teams per pitch on a school or college site. In the study area there are 2 rugby, 9 adult football, 3 junior football, 3 mini football, 1 cricket and 2 hockey pitches on school sites which have community use. The team equivalents generated by school use is 20 junior rugby teams, 150 junior football teams, 10 junior cricket teams and 20 junior hockey teams.

Table – Summary of team equivalents.

Sport	Actual Number of teams	Additional team equivalents from mini matches or training	Additional team equivalents from school use	Total team equivalents
Adult Football	45	3	0	48
Junior Football	77	4	150	231
Mini Soccer	46	0	0	46
Adult Cricket	34	13	0	47
Junior Cricket	38	14	10	62
Adult Hockey	33	19	0	52
Junior Hockey	17	0	20	37
Adult Rugby	12	21	0	33
Junior Rugby	14	0	20	34

#### 4.2.2 Team generation rates

Team generation rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are derived by dividing the population figure for each age band in an area by the number of teams in that area in that age band. TGR for each sport and age group can be calculated to assist in modelling current adequacy and to help predict future demand.

Table: Team generation rates for the Spelthorne study area

	Age Groups	Pop'tion within Age group	Age group as a % of total active pop'tion	Number of Teams within age group	Teams generated per 1000 pop	TGR= Pop in age group needed to generate 1 team
<b>Football:</b>						
Mni-soccer (U7-U10s) - mixed	6-9yrs	4428	7.1%	46	10.4	96
Junior football - boys	10-15yrs	3165	5.0%	147	46.4	22
Junior football - girls	10-15yrs	2969	4.7%	84	28.3	35
Men's football	16-45yrs	18678	29.8%	43	2.3	434
Women's football	16-45yrs	18902	30.1%	5	0.3	3780
<b>Totals for football (excluding mini)</b>		43714	69.7%	279	6.4	157
<b>Cricket:</b>						
Junior cricket - boys	11-17yrs	3778	6.0%	60	15.9	63
Junior cricket - girls	11-17yrs	3499	5.6%	2	0.6	1750
Men's cricket	18-55yrs	24933	39.7%	44	1.8	567
Women's cricket	18-55yrs	25066	40.0%	3	0.1	8355
<b>Totals for Cricket</b>		57276	91.3%	109	1.9	525
<b>Hockey:</b>						
Junior hockey—boys	11-15yrs	2635	4.2%	16	6.1	165
Junior hockey—girls	11-15yrs	2468	3.9%	19	7.7	130
Men's hockey	16-45yrs	18678	29.8%	29	1.6	644
Women's hockey	16-45yrs	18902	30.1%	23	1.2	822
<b>Totals for Hockey</b>		42683	68.0%	87	2.0	491
<b>Rugby Union:</b>						
Mni-rugby- mixed	8-12yrs	5086	8.1%	23	4.5	221
Junior rugby - boys	13-17yrs	2783	4.4%	29	10.4	96
Junior rugby - girls	16-17yrs	1031	1.6%	0	#DIV0!	#DIV0!
Men's rugby	18-45yrs	17535	28.0%	32	1.8	548
Women's rugby	18-45yrs	17871	28.5%	0	#DIV0!	#DIV0!
<b>Totals for Rugby (ex mini)</b>		39220	62.5%	61	1.6	643
<b>Rugby League:</b>						
Junior rugby - boys	13-17yrs	2783	4.4%	3	1.1	928
Junior rugby - girls	13-17yrs	2558	4.1%	2	0.8	1279
Men's rugby	18-45yrs	17535	28.0%	1	0.1	17535
Women's rugby	18-45yrs	17871	28.5%	0	#DIV0!	#DIV0!
<b>Totals for Rugby</b>		40747	65.0%	6	0.1	6791
<b>All sports</b>						
		62735	100%	542	8.6	116

#### 4.2.3 Latent demand

In analysing the adequacy of provision it is important to consider latent demand. This is demand that cannot be expressed because of lack of access to pitches or other ancillary facilities. Factors to take into account when assessing latent demand include

- Current frustrated demand – e.g. teams not currently playing in their preferred location or perhaps are waiting for home pitches so they can join a league.
- The influence of sports development initiatives – sports development targets and local and national initiatives looking to increase demand need to be considered as they may increase the demand for playing pitches
- The quality of pitches / ancillary facilities – Poor quality facilities (identified through questionnaires/site visits) may restrict new players from being attracted to sport or result in poor retention levels.
- National sporting success, and its influence on increasing participation
- Pricing Policies - A high cost for hiring/leasing facilities may prevent teams from forming (or hinder the long-term sustainability of existing clubs).
- Sport in the school curriculum – an increased profile of school sport may impact upon after-school clubs, inter-school matches and, ultimately, more people playing team sports beyond school hours and school years.
- The impact of mini-sports in engendering long-term increases in adult play
- Lifestyle changes and other activities competing for leisure time/spend, including other forms of sport e.g. small sided soccer at commercial venues may lead to an overall reduction in the demand for formal pitch sports

Latent demand in the study area

Factor	Analysis for Spelthorne study area	Impact on demand
Current frustrated demand	One football club responding to the club survey reported not playing in their preferred location and three teams affiliated to Spelthorne clubs are currently playing outside the borough. Two cricket clubs reported that lack of facilities was limiting their development. Facilities are also causing issues for the development for one of the rugby clubs. One Cricket club has teams	There is evidence of frustrated demand affecting latent demand.

	playing home matches outside of the borough. A number of football clubs reported having difficulty accessing pitches when the cricket season starts.	
Sports development initiatives	There are both national and local initiatives to increase participation. National Governing bodies have national targets to increase participation. The pitch sports covered by this study are included in the Surrey Youth Games and the Surrey school games with the aim to get more people playing.	Additional demand created from sports development initiatives and the increase in teams resulting from the youth review is likely to increase pressure on pitches.
Quality of pitches/ancillary facilities	The club survey and the qualitative assessments show the facilities in the study area as a whole appear to be of a relatively good standard. Lack of changing facilities or segregated changing is an issue.	The issues around changing may be restricting some players from being attracted to the sport. It may also be affecting clubs development of female teams as well as causing issues for clubs with junior and senior sections.
National Sporting Success	There is no evidence to suggest that success for the national teams has an impact on participation locally. With England hosting the 2015 Rugby World cup and Spelthorne's close proximity to Twickenham it's possible that there may be an increased demand for Rugby in the build up to and after the event.	There is currently no evidence to suggest latent demand locally as a result of national team success.
Pricing policies	The majority of clubs reported that they felt that the pitches they hired were good value for money however a small	There is some limited evidence to suggest that the cost of pitches locally may have an impact on latent demand.

	number of clubs indicated that the rising costs of pitch hire and running a team was affecting their ability to attract players.	
School sport	Recent initiatives such as the school games, secondary schools hosting sports clubs and the government's recent announcement of funding for sports coaches in primary schools is increasing the profile of school sport.	An increase in the profile of school sport may result in more young people taking part in sport both at school and in the community.
Mini sports and small sided games.	The FA's youth review and the move to 9 v 9 is also likely to increase the number of teams as fewer players will be needed for each team. The increase in mini teams for all sports may provide an increase in the demand for adult sport as children get older.	It is likely that there will be an increase in the demand for adult pitches in the future as players get older.
Lifestyle changes	The introduction of initiatives such as back to hockey are encouraging lapsed players back to the game. Small sided versions of the traditional games such as Rush hockey may increase numbers playing as they involve less commitment.	With these types of initiatives being run locally there may be a small increase in demand for pitches.

#### 4.3 Establishing Playing Pitch Supply

Before playing pitch supply can be established and analysed it is important to establish what is meant by the term playing pitch and what constitutes a playing pitch.

##### Definition of a playing pitch

For the purpose of this study the definition of a playing pitch is in accordance with the Government's statutory instrument 2010/2184 which states that the term

“playing pitch” means “a delineated area which, together with any run-off area, is of 0.2 hectares or more, and which is used for association football, American football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.”

Playing pitches may have a grass surface or an artificial one.

### Establishing Supply

The responses from the club questionnaire also helped provide information relating to the supply of facilities by providing details of the

- home ground facilities (including size, ownership)
- use/location of indoor facilities and artificial surfaces
- quality of pitch provision
- quality of ancillary facilities at different venues
- facility constraints on membership and development

Further information on the supply of facilities was obtained from a number of other sources including

- Active Places Power, a planning tool developed by Sport England
- National Governing Bodies facility and club audits
- Discussions with grounds maintenance, planning and leisure staff at Spelthorne Council and Lotus Landscapes, the council’s ground’s maintenance contractor.
- The internet
- A questionnaire survey of schools (appendix 2)
- The Spelthorne Leisure Directory
- The previous playing pitch strategy for Spelthorne (2007)
- Site visits

This research helped provide information on the

- type, size and number of pitches
- sports accommodated
- area covered by pitches



- condition and quality of pitches
- pitch capacity (an estimate of the number of games per week a pitch can accommodate)
- ownership and/or operator:
- availability on different days and at different times
- ancillary facilities – availability and quality of changing facilities and social accommodation
- presence of floodlights
- land that could be brought into pitch use relatively quickly
- proposals for new pitch land and new sports facility development.

#### Total existing supply

The study identified a total of 124 pitches in the study area. These can be broken down to the following types.

- 39 adult football pitches
- 26 junior football pitches
- 18 mini soccer pitches
- 17 cricket pitches
- 12 rugby union pitches
- 1 rugby league pitch
- 2 grass hockey pitches
- 4 full size artificial turf pitches (sand based)
- 1 full size artificial turf pitch (3G) (3G is a type of artificial turf pitch)
- 4 small artificial pitches of which 1 is 3G

#### Ownership and accessibility

The ownership and accessibility of pitches influences their actual availability for community use. When assessing adequacy of playing pitch provision it is important to establish the availability of the pitches for the community. Sport England has produced the following categories of pitches to help interpret the term community use.

Category	Definition	Supplementary information
A(i)	Secured community pitches	Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management
A(ii)		Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public#
A(iii)		Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use arrangements*
B	Used by community, but not secured	Pitches not included above, that are nevertheless available for community use, e.g. school/college pitches without formal user agreements
C	Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public

Using the above classifications it has been established that of all of the pitches in the study area 92 are currently available for community use and 31 are not currently available for community use.

Table: The number of pitches currently in community use and not currently in community use.

Pitch type	Number in community use (Categories A and B)	Number not in community use (Category C)
Adult football	35	4
Junior football	14	12
Mini football	11	7
Cricket	14	3
Ruby Union	9	3
Rugby League	1	0
Grass Hockey	1	1
Full size ATP	5	0
Small ATP	3	1

The table below gives a breakdown of pitches in community use by ownership.

Ownership	Football	Cricket	Rugby	Grass Hockey	ATP
Local Authority	20%	7%	0%	0%	0%
Leased to club by Local Authority	5%	7%	0%	0%	0%
Leased to club (other landlord)	6%	14%	0%	0%	0%
Owned by club / sports association	39%	65%	80%	100%	25%
School (Surrey County Council)	15%	0%	10%	0%	50%
School (independent / academy)	10%	7%	10%	0%	12.5%
Private company	5%	0%	0%	0%	12.5%

#### Sub-area analysis

The breakdown of pitches with community use can be broken down by sport in sub areas as follows.

Sub area	Adult football	Junior football	Mini Soccer	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Full-size ATP	Small ATP
Staines and Laleham	6	6	5	3	0	0	2	2
Stanwell	9	3	0	3	0	0	1	1
Ashford	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Shepperton	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sunbury	12	2	5	5	9	1	2	0

#### 4.3.1 School Survey

A survey of the 31 schools in Spelthorne was undertaken by means of a playing pitch questionnaire. The questionnaire was sent out as a hard copy and by email to all of the infant, primary, secondary and independent schools in the borough. Phone calls and follow up emails were also made to those schools that were slow to respond to the questionnaire. In total 26 schools responded achieving a response rate of 83.9%.

The table below shows the quantity and type of pitches that are on school sites along with the numbers currently available for community use.

Table: pitches on school sites

Type of pitch	Number on school sites	Quantity currently available for community use.
Adult football	11	8
Junior football	15	3
Mini Soccer	10	3
Cricket	4	1
Rugby	5	2
Grass Hockey	1	0
Small Artificial turf pitch	3	2
Artificial turf pitch (sand based) full size	2	2
Artificial turf pitch (3G) full size	1	1
Total	52	22

#### Community use

9 schools currently have community use of their pitches although only 2 of these have community use agreements in place. Another 9 schools may consider community use in future if current issues could be overcome.

Table: Potential pitches for community use on school sites

Pitch type	Quantity which may be considered in future.
Junior football	8
Mini soccer	6
Mini artificial pitch	1

The issues schools listed which would need to be overcome to enable community use included

- Security of site
- Issues with residents due to being in residential area
- No parking
- No changing facilities or toilets
- Planning restrictions
- No vehicular access
- Additional wear and tear may compromise school use

As part of the survey, as well as giving information about the type and number of pitches on school sites, schools answered questions regarding the quality of the pitches they owned. The conditions of school pitches were self assessed as follows. Where totals don't equal 100% it is because the question was either non applicable to some schools or they didn't answer the question.

Element	Good	Acceptable	Poor
Firmness of surface	21%	66%	0%
Grip underfoot	29%	58%	0%
Bounce of ball on pitch	29%	42%	4%
Evenness of pitch	29%	46%	17%
Length of grass	37%	50%	4%

Grass Cover	33%	54%	0%
Posts and Sockets	21%	42%	12%
Line Markings	33%	37%	21%
Free from litter/dog fouling	54%	29%	4%
Changing Facilities	17%	33%	12%
Showers	12%	17%	12%
Parking	29%	37%	8%
Value for Money	29%	37%	4%
Overall Quality of pitch	25%	54%	4%

#### 4.3.2 Qualitative analysis

Grass pitches are a natural resource and their capacity to accommodate games over the given period of time is determined by their physical quality. At the minimum, capacity affects the quality of the playing experience and, in the extreme, can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for play at certain crucial times or by certain groups.

Moreover, it is not just the quality of the pitch itself – drainage, type of soil, grass cover, wear and tear, slope, quality of maintenance, markings – but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities – changing, floodlights, spectator facilities, car parking, social provision, practice areas – that determine whether the facility can contribute to meeting the demand from various groups and for different levels of play.

The table below summarises those factors that may influence the quality (and therefore capacity) of pitches and ancillary facilities.

Table: Factors that influence quality and capacity

Factor	Comment
Slope	These factors will have a major impact on the number of games that can be played on a pitch over a given period, and hence the overall pitch capacity. Factors such as drainage and soil type will also greatly influence the extent to which matches may be lost during periods of wet weather. Indeed, climate has a big effect on the carrying capacity of pitches.
Exposure (openness to elements)	
Soil type	
Drainage	
Grass cover or surface type	This will impact upon not only the number of games that can be played but also the types of game. For example, artificial turf is not currently an acceptable medium for most competitive football.
Type and quality of changing (if available) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="225 801 624 833">- Showers</li> <li data-bbox="225 846 624 878">- Cleanliness</li> <li data-bbox="225 891 624 922">- Security</li> </ul>	<p>Good-quality changing, with clean and secure accommodation, is desirable for most levels of play and essential for many. Changing accommodation to a reasonable specification is usually a league requirement for adult football, and the level of specification increases with higher standards of play.</p> <p>The lack of female changing accommodation is a potential constraint on the further development of girls' and women's football.</p>
Floodlighting	<p>Floodlighting is often required for clubs/teams playing above a certain standard. Floodlighting also allows greater use of a pitch for both training and competition, on winter midweek evenings for example. Provision of floodlighting can therefore help to spread demand over the week.</p> <p>Contrary to this, floodlighting of pitches can often lead to over-use as such pitches are often used intensively towards the end of a season to counter the backlog of fixtures.</p>
Car parking	Off-street dedicated car parking for both players and spectators is desirable for all facilities and essential for many due to the requirements of leagues and relevant governing bodies.
Spectator and social facilities	<p>Formal spectator facilities will only be a requirement beyond a given standard of play and will be determined by the requirements of relevant leagues and governing bodies.</p> <p>The absence of these facilities can frustrate the development of aspiring clubs, especially where there are planning issues or lack of security of tenure (see below).</p>
Practice areas	Practice areas (off the main body of the pitch) are essential at all levels of competitive play. They also play an important role in reducing wear and tear on conventional pitches.
Security of tenure	This can prove a fundamental constraint to clubs developing the quality and capacity of their home facilities. Many clubs will not be able to take an active involvement in the maintenance and improvement of their facilities due to a lack of security of tenure – for example, where clubs play on council pitches or school sites.

Factor	Comment
Management	Movement of goal posts reduces wear of turf pitches.

### Artificial turf pitches

The development of Artificial Turf Pitches (ATPs) has fundamentally changed the way some sports are played and matches are programmed. For example, the fact that, ATPs are almost a prerequisite for hockey has meant that games can only be accommodated by sequential programming on match days.

Research conducted by Sport England into the use of ATPs has suggested that they play two principal roles – midweek training for football and weekend matches for hockey. For football the size of the pitch is less important, as they are often divided up for training purposes. However, for hockey the dimensions of the pitch must meet a minimum standard to allow league play. The role of ATPs as an alternative to grass pitches is currently limited for football due to current league rules. However It is likely that in the future leagues may allow more match play on artificial pitches. The capacity of ATPs is of course greater than grass pitches, but this is dependent on the facility's opening hours and the availability of floodlighting.

There is little demand for grass pitches from hockey because most competitive matches are played on artificial turf pitches.

For inclusion in the Playing Pitch Model, the assumption should be made that the average peak day capacity for an ATP is four, that is, no more than four matches can be played on an ATP on the peak day (normally Saturday).

### Qualitative assessments

Qualitative assessments were undertaken for all of the pitches in the study area which are in community use. The qualitative assessments involved a site visit to each playing pitch to audit the quality of provision. The site visits were all undertaken by the same member of staff over a short time period to help ensure consistency. The pitches and ancillary facilities were rated using the non technical visual quality assessment criteria in Sport England's playing pitch toolkit. The tables below show the criteria on which the facilities were scored



Table: assessment criteria for grass pitches

Criteria
The % of games cancelled per season due to the unfitness of the pitch (excluding frozen pitches)
The % of grass cover on the pitch
The size of the pitch / cricket field e.g. does it meet NGB standard?
Are there adequate safety margins?
The slope/overall gradient of the pitch
Evenness of pitch / cricket field
Is there evidence of dog fouling?
Is there evidence of glass/stones/litter?
Is there evidence of unofficial use?
Is there evidence of damage to the pitch surface?
How much training takes place on the pitch?
Is the pitch serviced by changing accommodation?
What is the quality of the goalposts (winter sports only)
Is the wicket protected when not in use? (cricket only)
Quality of the line markings
Is there a training area off the main body of the pitch?

Table: assessment criteria for changing facilities

Criteria
Overall Quality – Does it look well maintained/ clean / safe?
Is there any evidence of vandalism e.g. damage, graffiti?
Showers – Are there showers and if so what is the quality?
Toilets - Are there toilets and if so what is the quality?
Parking – is their enough for circa 20 cars?

Public transport links e.g. proximity of station / bus stop
Security – does it look secure? Is there evidence of break ins?
Is there segregated changing?

Assessment of the above criteria generated a percentage score to assess the quality of provision.

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Table: Quality ratings by score awarded

Quality rating	Score required for pitch	Score required for changing facility
Excellent	90%+	90%+
Good	64 – 89%	60 – 89%
Average	55 – 63%	40 – 59%
Below Average	30 – 54%	30 – 39%
Poor	Less than 30%	Less than 30%

The overall results for the pitches in the study area are shown below

Type of pitch	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor
Adult football	36%	38%	6%	0%	0%
Junior Football	36%	54%	0%	0%	0%
Mini Soccer	9%	91%	0%	0%	0%
Cricket	38%	54%	6%	0%	0%
Rugby	10%	90%	0%	0%	0%
Grass Hockey	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%

#### Quality of artificial turf pitches in the study area

2 of the artificial surfaces in the study area are brand new, entirely flat and have no evidence of wear. They can therefore be considered high quality. 3 Others are relatively new being under approx 18 months old. These also are entirely flat and have little or no evidence of wear and can also be considered high quality. Of the remaining 3, 2 are scheduled to be resurfaced in the summer of 2013 so while at the moment they have signs of considerable wear and could be considered poor quality the standard is soon to be improved. The final ATP is also due for replacement, is not entirely flat and is showing significant signs of wear but as yet there are no immediate plans to resurface it. It can therefore be considered of poor quality.

### Pitch carrying capacity

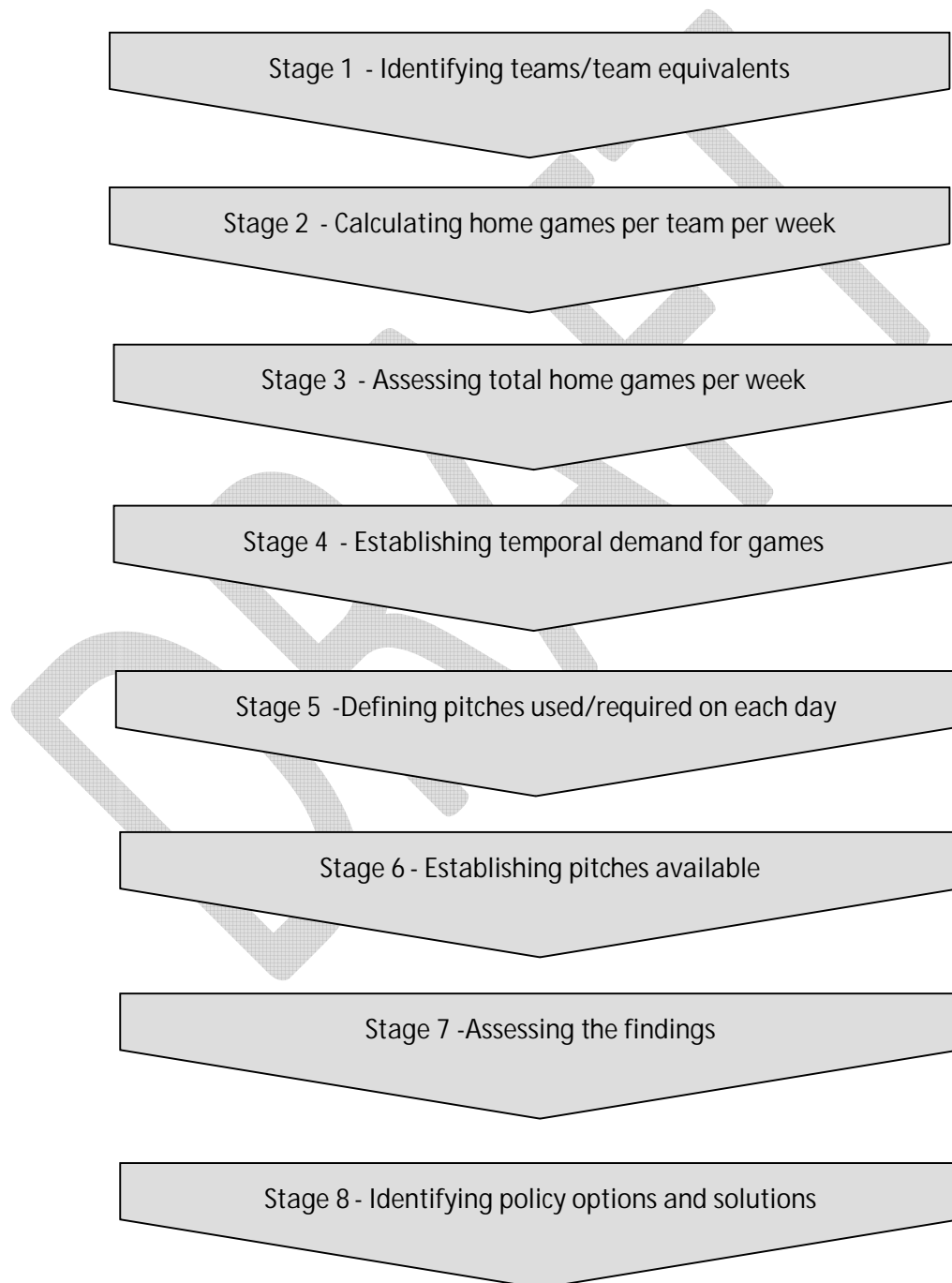
The carrying capacity of a pitch is the number of games a pitch can accommodate per week. There is no formula for calculating the carrying capacity of pitches as it is dependent on a wide range of factors, such as weather conditions, age/weight of users, quality of players etc. The results of the user survey, the site visits and other information available indicate that grass pitches in Spelthorne are all average quality or better. Pitches rated average quality or better have a carrying capacity of 2 games or training sessions per week. Sport England methodology awards pitches with a carrying capacity of 2 games a multiplication factor of 1. Therefore in the study area the effective availability of pitches is the same as the number of pitches in the area because the quality is good.

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The Playing Pitch Model (PPM)

The Playing pitch model uses the data collected to assess the adequacy of provision in the study area. There are 8 stages to the model. These stages are illustrated by the diagram below.

### **A step-by-step guide to the Playing Pitch Model**



Playing pitch model results for the Spelthorne Study

Stage 1: Identifying team equivalents

	Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey
Adult teams	48	47	32	1	52
Junior teams	231	62	25	9	37
Mini teams	46	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Stage 2: Calculating home games per team per week

	Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey
Adult games	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5
Junior games	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.4
Mini games	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Stage 3: Assessing total home games per week

	Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey
Adult games	24	32.9	16	0.5	26
Junior games	92.4	43.4	10	4.5	14.8
Mini games	23	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Stage 4: Temporal demand for games

		Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey
Saturday Morning	Adult games	0%	0%	0%	75%	35%
	Junior games	10%	0%	0%	75%	0%

	Mini games	10%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saturday Afternoon	Adult games	15%	40%	50%	0%	35%
	Junior games	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Mini games	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sunday Morning	Adult games	75%	0%	0%	0%	5%
	Junior games	45%	40%	65%	0%	35%
	Mini games	55%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sunday Afternoon	Adult games	4%	30%	0%	0%	0%
	Junior games	30%	0%	0%	0%	15%
	Mini games	20%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Midweek	Adult games	6%	30%	50%	25%	25%
	Junior games	15%	60%	35%	25%	50%
	Mini games	15%	N/A	N/A	0%	0%

Stage 5: Calculating pitches required to meet demand on peak days

		Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey
Saturday Morning	Adult games	0	0	0	0.4	9.1
	Junior games	9.2	0	0	3.4	0
	Mini games	2.3	0	0	0	0
Saturday Afternoon	Adult games	3.6	13.2	8	0	9.1
	Junior games	0	0	0	0	0
	Mini games	0	0	0	0	0
Sunday Morning	Adult games	18	0	0	0	1.3
	Junior games	41.6	5.6	6.5	0	5.2
	Mini games	12.65	0	0	0	0
Sunday	Adult games	1	9.9	0	0	0

Afternoon	Junior games	27.7	0	0	0	2.2
	Mini games	4.6	0	0	0	0
Midweek	Adult games	1.4	9.9	8	0.1	6.5
	Junior games	13.9	8.4	3.5	1	7.4
	Mini games	2.8	0	0	0	0

## Stage 6: Community pitches available to meet demand

	Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey
Adult pitches	35	14	9	1	5
Junior pitches	14				
Mini pitches	11				

## Stage 7: Assessing the findings – Under use or shortfall?

		Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey
Saturday Morning	Adult pitches	+35	+14	+9	-2.8	-4.1
	Junior pitches	+4.8				
	Mini pitches	+8.7				
Saturday Afternoon	Adult pitches	+31.4	+0.8	+1	+1	-4.1
	Junior pitches	+14				
	Mini pitches	+11				
Sunday Morning	Adult pitches	+17	+4.1	+2.5	+1	-1.5
	Junior pitches	-27.6				
	Mini pitches	-1.65				
Sunday Afternoon	Adult pitches	+34	+14	+9	+1	+2.8
	Junior pitches	-13.7				



	Mini pitches	+6.4				
Midweek	Adult pitches	+33.6	-18.3	<b>-2.5</b>	-0.1	-8.9
	Junior pitches	+0.1				
	Mini pitches	+8.2				

### Strategic reserve

Another consideration when analysing supply and demand of grass pitches is strategic reserve. The strategic reserve allows pitches to be rested on a weekly or seasonal basis to allow for regeneration of pitches. It is generally considered that the strategic reserve should be a minimum of the number of pitches required at periods of peak demand.

### The Current situation

#### Football

During periods of peak demand there is a surplus of 17 adult football pitches in Spelthorne. When adding a strategic reserve of 10% of the 35 available pitches this reduces this surplus by 3.5 to 13.5 pitches.

For junior football there is a shortfall of 27.6 on Sunday mornings which is the period of peak demand for youth football. There is also a shortfall of 1.65 mini pitches during the same time period. Taking into account the strategic reserve this gives us a shortfall of 29 junior pitches and 2.7 mini pitches. This shortfall is currently managed by playing matches on senior pitches.

#### Cricket

The playing pitch model shows that the peak demand for cricket is midweek and indicates a shortfall of 18.3 pitches. This however makes the assumption that all the midweek games are played on one day when in fact they are spread over 5 evenings. If we divide this figure by 5 we get a more accurate indication of the shortfall in cricket provision. This gives us a current shortfall of 3.7 pitches before strategic reserve is taken into account and a deficit of 5.1 including strategic reserve.

#### Rugby Union

During periods of peak demand there is a shortfall of 2.5 rugby pitches although this is during midweek and tends to be spread over 2 evenings so in fact the deficit is 1.25 before strategic reserve and 2.25 when strategic reserve is included.

#### Rugby League

The playing pitch model indicates a shortfall of 2.8 rugby league pitches in the study area. With strategic reserve this increases to 2.9.

## Hockey

There is a deficit of 8.9 pitches during the midweek period however this assumes all the midweek play is on one evening. More frequently it is spread over 3 evenings in the middle of the week which gives us a shortfall 3 pitches during the week. A larger deficit of 4.1 is therefore seen on Saturdays.

## Future demand

In order to assess future demand for sports pitches, existing team generation rates (TGRs) can be applied to estimated future changes in the population. By breaking down population estimates into age groups, future demand among the team-generating age groups can be identified.

Existing TGRs were applied to population estimates for 2018. Revised participation rates taking into account latent demand and predicted future demand were then applied to give a prediction of the number of teams by sport and playing pitch demands in 2018. The projected figures assume the same availability of playing pitches as currently.

Table: Current demand and 2018 predicted demand

Pitch type	Current teams/team equivalents	Projected team/team equivalents 2018	Current peak demand surplus/deficiency	Projected peak demand by 2018 surplus/deficiency
Mini Soccer	46	51	-2.7	-4
Junior football	231	308	-29	-31.7
Adult football	48	62	+13.5	+9.4
Cricket	109	120	-5.1	-7.6
Rugby Union	67	74	-2.25	-4.3
Rugby League	10	11	-2.9	-6.6
Hockey	89	98	-4.1	-5.8

## 5. Key Findings

### 5.1 Key issues from key consultees

- There are a number of services at Spelthorne Borough Council involved in the letting of football and cricket pitches in the borough. Environment services have a responsibility for parks and open spaces, customer services take bookings, Streetscene oversee the grounds maintenance contract, asset

management are responsible for maintenance of the pavilions and leisure services are responsible for sports development and the end users. This can be confusing for users and staff.

- In recent years several changing facilities (Cedars Recreation Ground and Shepperton Recreation Ground) have been closed leaving a number of pitches without shower and changing facilities causing issues for clubs and meaning it is harder to use these pitches for matches. One club has made an arrangement with a local school to use their facilities while playing on council pitches.
- Pitch availability is an issue. For football this tends to be at the end of the season when the cricket season starts. Many football teams share grounds with cricket clubs. This is particularly the case when the winter has been very cold and/or very wet leading to a backlog of games.
- Flexibility of bookings is an issue for some clubs especially those with only 1 team. Having to block book means they are sometimes paying for a pitch they are not using which causes issues for clubs either financially or by having to find alternative pitches.
- Flexibility of kick off times is an issue as league stipulations don't always match those of pitch providers.
- There are only a few community use agreements with schools in place. A number of schools would like to increase community usage or would consider providing community access but a number of issues would need to be addressed for this to happen.
- A number of clubs are looking to develop facilities on council owned sites. Clubs would need to secure long leases to access funding.
- There are some issues regarding casual use at a number of sites in the borough. Goal posts are removed at the end of the season to help prevent informal use.
- The introduction of 9 v 9 football is causing some concern for clubs and schools around facilities and goal post sizes.
- Lotus has the grounds maintenance contract until 2019. This is specification led and all pitches are managed in the same way. There is no hierarchy of pitches.
- The cricket pitch at Long Lane, Stanwell, is underused. Clubs are not using it due to concern over the maintenance and also report that it is in the wrong location for the clubs that would most benefit from an additional pitch.
- The council have a good relationship with Surrey Cricket and the borough's cricket clubs through the Spelthorne Cricket development group. An attempt

was made by Middlesex FA to host a similar group for football but the interest didn't appear to be there from clubs at the time.

- The playing pitch forum which was held up until 2011 was fairly well attended by clubs, NGB's and league reps but the same issues were continuously being raised without a positive outcome for clubs and interest wavered.
- Training facilities and lack of floodlit / indoor facilities is a cause of concern for clubs.
- The training fee in place in the council's parks deters people from using the parks for training purposes although a number of clubs are thought to use the parks for training without paying the fee. This has led to some issues around casual use. As there are no park wardens in place it is difficult to monitor usage and enforce the fee. Goalposts are removed at the end of the season to help prevent informal use during close season.

## 5.2 Key issues by sport

### 5.2.1 Football

- There is a shortage of mini soccer and junior pitches in Spelthorne. Although using the surplus in adult pitches for junior games helps ease the deficit there is still a shortfall. The move to the 9 v 9 version of the game may contribute further to this issue.
- Demand for mini soccer and junior pitches will continue to grow over the next 5 years if predicted participation rates are achieved.
- A number of the pitches in the borough that aren't in community use are junior pitches. If issues with schools could be resolved and community use agreements formed this could help increase community use and reduce the shortfall.
- The majority of pitches in the borough are rated as good or excellent however there are issues with the lack of changing facilities at some sites. Non-segregated showers/changing at some sites is also an issue as it limits the activities that can take place at the same time e.g. men/ladies and adults and juniors.
- Despite the good and excellent ratings there are a number of pitches in the study area which have some drainage issues, reducing the carrying capacity of the pitch.
- League stipulations on day/time of matches are restrictive and can cause issues for clubs. Sunday morning is a time of very high demand and if matches could be spread out it would help address the deficiencies in pitch provision.
- Oversubscription of floodlit training facilities is a problem for clubs.

### 5.2.2 Cricket

- There is a quantitative deficiency in the number of cricket pitches in the borough. The highest demand is for midweek matches.
- The cricket pitch at Long Lane, Stanwell is underused. Clubs are not using it due to concern over the maintenance and also report that it is in the wrong location. The clubs that would most benefit from an additional pitch, are in the south of the borough.
- Demand for pitches will continue to grow over the next 5 years if predicted participation rates are achieved.
- The majority of cricket pitches in the borough were rated good or excellent although at present at least 1 pitch is being overplayed due to the shortfall in pitches.
- Access to training facilities/indoor facilities is a problem for clubs.
- Improving access to school pitches would help address the pitch deficit at peak times.

### 5.2.3 Rugby Union

- There are quantitative deficiencies in the provision of rugby pitches.
- Non-segregated showers/changing is also an issue as it limits the activities that can take place at the same time e.g. men/ladies and adults and juniors.
- Demand for pitches will continue to grow over the next 5 years if predicted participation rates are achieved.
- London Irish currently have planning permission approved to move to a new site in Sunbury in 2014. This move will address all the deficiencies for rugby union locally and enable the sport to develop further locally.

### 5.2.4 Rugby League

- There is a quantitative deficiency in the provision of rugby league pitches in the study area.
- While there are actually no clubs within the borough, Staines Titans is located right on the borough boundary and serves the borough.
- The agreement for the Rugby League Club to use pitches at Staines Rugby Club is a year on year agreement which doesn't provide much security for the club.
- Demand for pitches will continue to grow over the next 5 years if predicted participation rates are achieved.

### 5.2.5 Hockey

- There is a quantitative deficiency in the provision of synthetic turf pitches in the borough.
- 2 of the sand based pitches in the borough are in need of resurfacing. One is scheduled to be resurfaced in the summer but the type of surface is still being debated.
- The cost of re-surfacing is currently prohibiting one club from resurfacing its pitch and is making it difficult for the club to attract top level players required for National League hockey.
- Hockey cannot really be played on 3G synthetic turf pitches so any future developments should take this into account.
- England Hockey has an agreement with the FA with regards synthetic turf pitches. The FA has agreed not to support the change of use from sand based to 3G if hockey clubs are a predominant user of the facility.
- Two of the sand based pitches have new surfaces so an adequate maintenance programme should be encouraged to give the pitches maximum life expectancy.

## 6. Strategic recommendations

The following recommendations are made from the results of the study. There are a number of solutions which need to be considered in relation to the issues identified to help address pitch deficiencies. These can be summarised broadly as

- changing pitch use
- accessing dual-use facilities
- enhancing carrying capacity
- exploring management options
- developing new pitches.

The recommendations help provide a framework for the prioritisation of resources. The action plan that follows provides more detailed actions.

### General

- 1) Look at addressing pitch deficiencies by investigating the change of use of existing pitches.

- 2) Investigate if it may be possible to realign existing playing field areas to improve pitches or create more pitches to help improve carrying capacity and help address deficiencies.
- 3) The issues preventing or limiting community use on school sites should be investigated further to try and open up more school sites for the community to help address deficiencies.
- 4) Where deficiencies cannot be addressed by change of use, Identify potential sites for re-instatement to help address recorded deficiencies. Detailed site feasibility studies should be undertaken to assess potential. New sites which haven't previously been used for pitches should be considered carefully.
- 5) Consideration should be given to council pitches without changing provision. If it's not possible to re-instate changing facilities the possible movement of pitches to sites where there is existing provision should be considered.
- 6) Self-management arrangements should be reviewed and possible lease arrangements with clubs looked into to help access funding and reduce maintenance costs for the council.
- 7) Consideration should be given to extend the football playing season on council pitches where there is no cricket to help ease fixture congestion and increase capacity.
- 8) Update the supply and demand information annually to help ensure information is current. A full playing pitch strategy should be repeated every 5 years.
- 9) Establish a playing pitch working group with representatives from the different council departments involved in pitch provision to help deliver the action plan and provide a joined up approach to pitch provision.
- 10) Continue to review the fees and charges annually and take account of the fees and charges in neighbouring boroughs as well as those within the study area from other providers. The block booking policy should also be reviewed.
- 11) Continue to engage with user groups and National Governing Bodies and consider resurrecting the playing pitch forum to help deliver the action plan.
- 12) Review the pitch maintenance schedule regularly to ensure it meets the needs of all pitches taking into account that some pitches may need more maintenance than others due to use and other factors.
- 13) Support clubs and other organisations with funding applications to improve facilities.

- 14) Use the results of the study to prioritise investment in facilities.

#### Football

- 1) Use the results of the assessment to re-designate surplus adult pitches as junior or mini pitches taking into account the need for 9 v 9 pitches going forward.
- 2) The issues preventing or limiting community use on school sites should be investigated further to try and open up more school sites for the community to help address deficiencies.
- 3) Self management arrangements should be reviewed and possible lease arrangements with clubs looked into to help access funding and reduce the maintenance costs for the council.
- 4) Consideration should be given to extend the football playing season on council pitches where there is no cricket to help ease fixture congestion and increase capacity.
- 5) Work with the FA to investigate increasing access to floodlit training facilities.
- 6) Continue to monitor growth areas in the sport and the possible effect on future demand.

#### Cricket

- 1) Consider removing the unused pitch at Long Lane and installing a cricket pitch in Shepperton where there is the greatest need. Consideration should be given to the management of this facility and access to changing facilities.
- 2) The issues preventing or limiting community use on school sites should be investigated further to try and open up more school sites for the community to help address deficiencies.
- 3) Continue to engage with Surrey Cricket and the local clubs through the Spelthorne Cricket development group.
- 4) Continue to monitor growth areas in the sport and the possible effect on future demand.

#### Rugby Union and Rugby League

- 1) Work with local clubs to support improvements to the quality of facilities.
- 2) Continue to monitor growth areas in the sport and the possible effect on future demand.
- 3) Monitor the agreement between the Rugby League Club and the current host Rugby Union club and offer support should a new venue need to be found.



## Hockey

- 1) Support England Hockey in opposing the change of use from a sand based pitch to 3G if hockey clubs are the predominant user of the facility.
- 2) Support clubs with funding applications for resurfacing pitches or for new facilities
- 3) Continue to monitor growth areas in the sport and the possible effect on future demand.

## Artificial turf pitches

- 1) Work in partnership with providers to ensure full community access to existing and new ATP's being developed.
- 2) Consider the development of a new ATP to enhance sports training facilities in the borough.

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