

**Ploszajski Lynch
Consulting Ltd.**



Spelthorne Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

November 2019

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	ASSESSING PITCH NEEDS	4
3	THE LOCAL CONTEXT	9
4	STRATEGIC INFLUENCES	14
5	FOOTBALL NEEDS	20
6	CRICKET NEEDS	59
7	RUGBY UNION NEEDS	80
8	HOCKEY NEEDS	96
9	APPLYING AND REVIEWING THE STRATEGY	113

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. (PLC) was commissioned by Spelthorne Borough Council (SBC) to produce a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the borough.

1.2 Background

SBC is currently preparing a new Local Plan. The Local Plan will set out the level of development required in the Borough to 2035 and where this should be located.

It is widely acknowledged that access to high quality open spaces and leisure facilities can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing for both individuals and wider communities. Planning has a role to play in ensuring the right balance of land use to ensure sustainable development is achieved which includes, amongst other things, leisure pursuits.

SBC has recently undertaken public consultation on its Local Plan Strategic Options document. This set out options for meeting development needs within the Borough. The standardised methodology for assessing housing need has been published by the Government which sets Spelthorne with a requirement to provide for 603 dwellings per annum. Part of the ongoing plan preparation work will involve producing an Infrastructure Delivery Plan to set out the infrastructure required to support the development.

To inform this work, SBC is seeking to update its previous PPS (2013) following the updated methodology approved by Sport England. The PPS will form part of the evidence base and inform the new Local Plan for SBC and will provide a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2019 and 2035, in line with population projections.

The PPS will also be used to ensure that there is a good supply of high quality playing pitches and playing fields to meet the sporting needs of local communities as far as possible. By providing valuable evidence and direction, the PPS will be used to help provide significant benefits to a wide variety of interested parties.

1.3 The aim and objectives of the strategy

1.3.1 Aim

The aim of the project is to produce a new PPS for Spelthorne Borough Council, with the evidence and recommendations to encompass all playing pitches in the borough. This will provide a baseline for current and future supply and demand assessments for each of the sports being considered and also set out a strategy towards playing pitch provision in the Borough in the short, medium and long term, with clear sport, area and site-specific recommendations and prioritised action plan.

1.3.2 Objectives

The objectives of the PPS are as follows:

- To gather all available supply and demand data from a range of sources for all sports covered by the PPS and achieve a high response rate from clubs, educational establishments (public and private) and other community organisations.
- To analyse the current level of pitch provision within the borough, taking into account availability for community usage.
- To assess the quality of all pitches in the borough and understand what improvements could be made to meet the needs of residents and sports clubs.
- To compile a comprehensive database of the location and quality of all playing pitches in the borough.
- To consider how facilities such as changing rooms can be improved.
- To identify the local demand for pitches and understand current trends.
- To provide recommendations to address the key issues around playing pitch provision, protection and enhancement.
- To support and inform the Local Plan and development policies and conform with the requirements of National Policy.
- To identify what opportunities exist to expand the local provision.
- To aid sports development and increase participation in sport/physical activity.
- To support health and wellbeing of residents.
- To provide a robust evidence base that can be used by multiple Council departments and other stakeholders for a wide range of projects.
- To ensure that the PPS is regularly monitored and updated.

1.4 The scope of the strategy

The sports included in the Strategy are:

- Football.
- Cricket.
- Rugby Union.

- Hockey.

The pitch sports that have been excluded are as follows:

- Rugby League - there is no rugby league played in the borough, the closest club is in Elmbridge.
- Lacrosse - there is no lacrosse played in the borough, the closest clubs are in Runnymede and Elmbridge.
- Gaelic Football - the Gael Londain Gaelic Football Club is based at London Irish Rugby Club's training ground but draws its membership from a much wider west London catchment. The governing body and the club did not respond to an invitation to participate in the Spelthorne PPS, so the impact of the demand generated has been assessed as part of the use of the London Irish RFC facilities.

1.5 Strategy format

The structure of the Strategy document is as follows:

- Assessing playing pitch needs in Spelthorne.
- The local context.
- Strategic influences.
- Football needs.
- Cricket needs.
- Rugby Union needs.
- Hockey needs.

2 ASSESSING PLAYING PITCH NEEDS IN SPELTHORNE

2.1 Introduction

This section explains the basis upon which the current playing pitch needs in Spelthorne have been identified, along with the approach for identifying the additional provision that will be needed as a result of population growth.

2.2 The study methodology

The methodology for the study follows the '*Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance*' (2013) approach to playing pitch assessments, developed by Sport England. The process involves five stages and ten steps as follows:

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

2.3 Assessing current needs

To assess whether the current provision is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site and how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate over an appropriate period of time without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of 'match equivalent sessions' at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches and related facilities are being used during their respective peak periods.
- The key issues with and views on the provision at a site and its use.
- The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are
 - Being overplayed - where use exceeds the carrying capacity.
 - Being played to the level the site can sustain - where use matches the carrying capacity.

- Potentially able to accommodate some additional play - where use falls below the carrying capacity.

The situation at individual sites can then be aggregated to identify the position at a wider geographical area, to identify the potential for excess demand at some sites to be accommodated by excess supply at others in the locality. Other factors can also be assessed such as:

- Any demand being accommodated on sites with unsecured community access.
- The impact of latent or displaced demand.
- The situation at priority sites.

This analysis then enables an assessment to be made of the adequacy of existing pitch and related facility provision.

2.4 Assessing future needs

2.4.1 Assessment methodology

The methodology applied to assess the additional future needs for pitches and related facilities arising from population growth also involves the approach advocated in Sport England's PPS guidance, namely:

- Establishing projected population change.
- Analysing sports development proposals and participation trends.
- Considering existing deficiencies or spare capacity.
- Taking account of any forthcoming changes to facility supply.

2.4.2 Assessed demand parameters

Analysis of the above factors influencing the future supply and demand for playing pitches in the borough has led to the following conclusions, which are reflected in the subsequent assessment of future needs:

- **Population change:** Spelthorne Borough Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 116,000 residents in the borough by 2035. This represents a 17.1% increase from the mid-2017 population estimate. The current housing target for the borough is for 590 dwellings per annum in the same period.
- **Participation trends:** According to Sport England's '*Active People*' survey, participation at a national level in all the pitch sports has remained static or fallen in the period since 2005, in some cases by quite significant margins. This means that future increases in participation in the pitch sports cannot be assumed based upon historic trends and have therefore not been factored in to projected needs.

- ***Sports development initiatives:*** A range of sports development initiatives are delivered in Spelthorne directly involving the pitch sports and the detail of these, together with any target increases in participation, are included in the chapters covering each sport.
- ***Changes in supply:*** Any known proposed gains or losses in pitches and related facilities provision will influence the ability to accommodate the additional demand arising from the increased population and this has been included in the capacity assessments.

2.5 Delivering future needs

2.5.1 Process

To identify the most appropriate way to meet the additional pitch and related facilities needs arising from population growth, four sequential questions were addressed:

- ***Existing deficiency or spare capacity:*** To what extent do existing pitches and related facilities have any current shortfalls or any over-supply?
- ***Additional needs:*** What additional needs will arise from population growth?
- ***Accommodating needs:*** Which needs can be met in whole or part by spare capacity in existing pitches and related facilities and which will need to be met in whole or part by new provision?
- ***Extra pitches:*** What extra pitches and related facilities of each type are required to provide for the residual unmet demand?

2.5.2 Methodology

The methodology provides quantified answers to the above questions as follows:

- ***Current provision:*** The adequacy of current provision and any existing spare capacity was assessed using Sport England's approved methodology, adapted where appropriate to assess informal demand and facilities.
- ***Additional needs:*** Additional needs were calculated by identifying the existing Team Generation Rates in the borough, to identify the number of people that are currently required to form a team of various types in each of the pitch sports. These figures have then been applied to the projected population increases, to calculate the gross additional team and related pitch needs arising from an extra 16,900 people.
- ***Net requirements:*** The net requirement for additional provision was calculated by comparing the extra required capacity to the current spare capacity where appropriate, to identify the difference.
- ***Location of provision:*** The location of additional pitch and related facilities needs was established by comparing the respective levels of projected population growth in each part of the borough.

2.6 Sources of information

2.6.1 Consultation

Information was gathered from a wide range of consultees including:

- ***Sport England:*** Guidance on the assessment methodology.
- ***Spelthorne Borough Council:*** Consultation with officers from Leisure, Planning and Grounds Maintenance on their respective areas of responsibility.
- ***Active Surrey:*** Information on local and wider strategic priorities.
- ***Neighbouring local authorities:*** Information on their playing pitch assessments and the impact of any cross-border issues.
- ***Governing bodies of sport:*** Information on local and wider strategic priorities and local supply and demand information.
- ***Individual pitch sports clubs:*** Information on playing pitch usage patterns, current and future needs and opinions on quality.
- ***Schools:*** Information on playing pitch needs and aspirations and attitudes towards community use from public and private schools.

2.7 The criteria assessed

2.7.1 Quantity

The number of pitches and related facilities was established and cross checked against other sources provided by local stakeholders and consultees.

2.7.2 Quality

The quality of playing pitches was assessed by visiting every pitch in the borough during the respective playing seasons and assessing quality criteria using the recognised non-technical visual assessment criteria. The ratings for each aspect of each pitch were checked and challenged via the clubs' survey and stakeholder consultation and amended where necessary.

2.7.3 Accessibility

The accessibility of pitches, in particular the extent of secured community use and pricing was assessed, to identify any barriers to use that might impact on the capacity of local provision.

2.7.4 Strategic priority

The assessment of need and priorities for provision was identified by the governing bodies of the respective pitch sports.

2.7.5 Used capacity

The used capacity of existing pitches at each site was assessed using a bespoke supply-demand spreadsheet.

2.8 Summary

Assessing playing pitch needs in Spelthorne borough using the approach advocated by Sport England in its *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013) and *'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance'* (2014) has ensured that the exercise is both robust and evidence-based and as a result complies with the provisions of the Government's Planning Policy Framework.

3 THE LOCAL CONTEXT

Key findings:

- **Population growth:** The population is projected to increase by 16,900 people by 2035. This will provide additional demand for the pitch sports.
- **Local deprivation:** Whilst the borough is relatively affluent, which is traditionally associated with higher than average participation in sport, there are significant geographical pockets of deprivation in the Stanwell North and Stanwell Moor, Stanwell South and Ashford North and Sunbury Common wards.
- **Participation rates:** General adult participation rates in sport and physical activity are below the county and regional averages, but above the national average.
- **Geographical variations:** Participation varies significantly across the borough, with the lowest rates coinciding with the areas of greatest deprivation. This should be borne in mind when planning sports development programmes.

3.1 Introduction

This section identifies the context within which playing pitch provision is made in Spelthorne.

3.2 Background

Spelthorne is located approximately 15 miles south-west of Central London. It borders the London boroughs of Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond-upon-Thames, the Berkshire borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and the two Surrey boroughs of Runnymede and Elmbridge. It is a relatively small borough (approximately 20 square miles) but is quite densely populated, 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 (65%) of 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, but transport between some neighbouring boroughs can be more difficult. The borough is situated within the M25 motorway and the M3 motorway runs through Sunbury-on-Thames. Six railway stations 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.

3.3 Population

3.3.1 Current population

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-2017 population estimates for Spelthorne indicate 99,100 residents. This represents an increase of 3,502 people or 3.7% growth) since the 2011 Census figure of 95,598.

3.3.2 Age structure

The ONS 2016 broad age estimates for Spelthorne were as follows, with comparator figures for Surrey and England as a whole. The figures show that the borough has a slightly polarised age structure, with proportionately more younger and older people than the county and the country as a whole.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Spelthorne %</i>	<i>Surrey %</i>	<i>England %</i>
0-15	19.1%	18.1%	18.9%
16-64	62.4%	64.7%	64.7%
65+	18.5%	17.2%	16.4%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

3.3.3 Ethnicity

Spelthorne's population is relatively close to the national averages in terms of the ethnicity of its residents. At the 2011 Census 87.3% of the resident population was White, 7.6% Asian/Asian British, 1.6% are Black/Black British and 3.3% are from mixed/multiple/other ethnic groups.

3.3.4 Population growth

Spelthorne Borough Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 116,000 residents in the borough by 2035. This represents a 17.1% increase from the mid-2017 population estimate. The current housing target for the borough is for 590 dwellings per annum in the same period.

3.4 Deprivation

Based upon the Government's 2018 Indices of Local Deprivation, Spelthorne is ranked as 236th most deprived local authority are in England (out of 326) but is still the most deprived local authority in Surrey:

- 10.3% of the borough's population live in a Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) ranked amongst the 20% most deprived in the country.
- Life expectancy is 6.2 years lower for men and 5.0 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Spelthorne than in the least deprived areas.
- Spelthorne has the highest number of young people living in low income housing in Surrey at 17.1%.
- Around 11% of all children and young people aged 0-18 live in households with out of work benefit claimants.

3.5 Health

Public Health England's *'Health Profile for Spelthorne'* (2018) records that:

- Life expectancy at birth is slightly higher than the national averages by 1.1 years for men and 0.8 years for women.

- 17.6% of year 6 children in Spelthorne are obese, compared with a South-East average of 16.9% and a national average of 20.0%.
- 63.0% of adults in the Borough are overweight or obese, compared with a South-East average of 59.7% and a national average of 61.3%.

3.6 Local playing pitch demand

3.6.1 'Active Lives' survey

Sport England's '*Active Lives*' survey measures physical activity rates amongst people aged 16 and over. The definitions used in the survey are as follows:

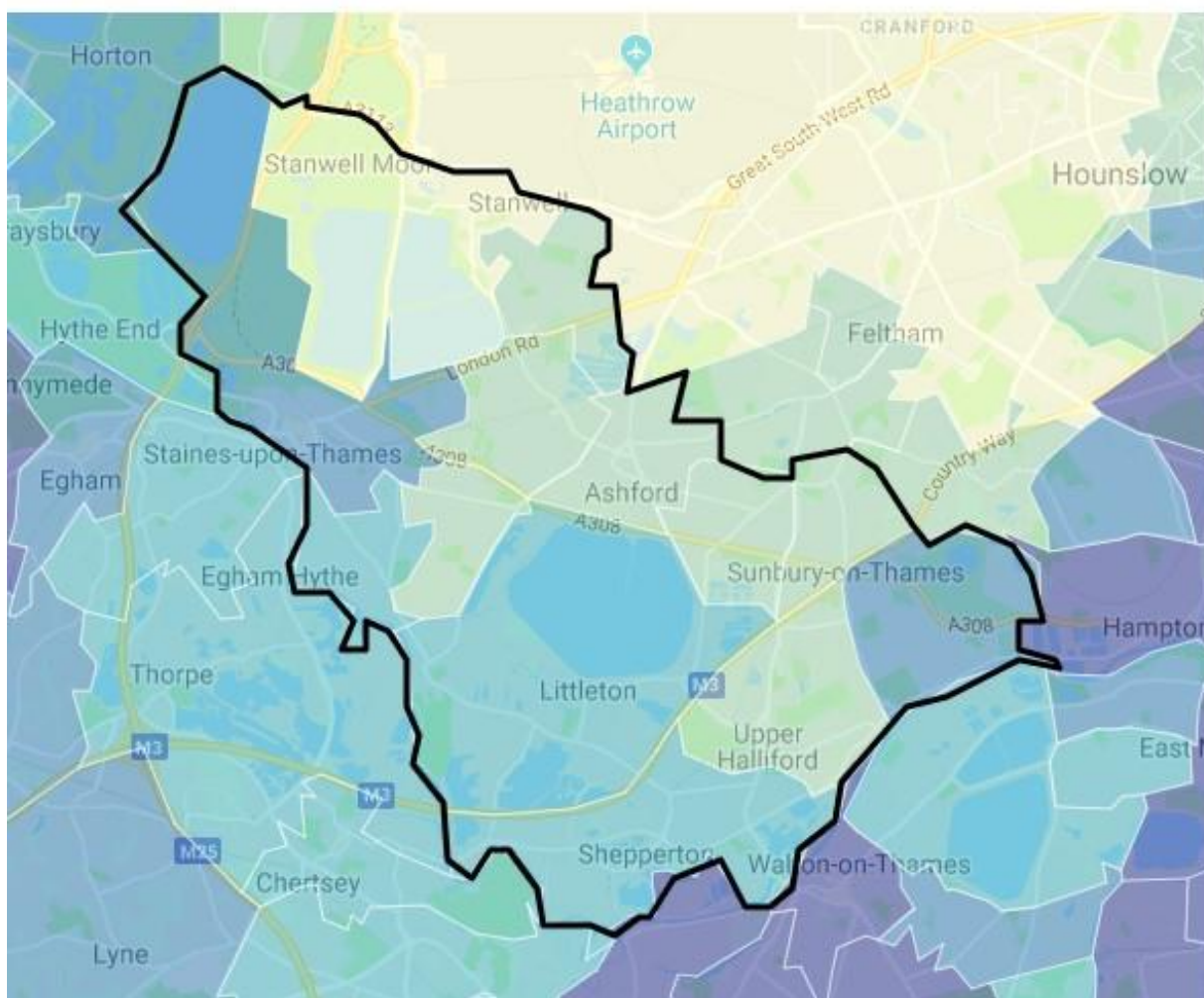
- ***Sport and physical activity:*** This includes at least 10-minutes of moderate or higher intensity sports activities, walking and cycling for leisure or travel, fitness and dance.
- ***Active:*** The 'Active' population is defined as those doing at least 150 minutes of the above activities per week.
- ***Fairly active:*** The 'Fairly active' population is defined as those doing between 30 and 149 minutes of the above activities per week.
- ***Inactive:*** The 'Inactive' population is defined as those doing 30 minutes or less of the above activities per week.

The key data for Spelthorne, with county, regional and national comparators from the 2018 survey is set out below. The results showing activity levels below the county and regional averages, but above the national averages:

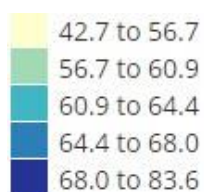
<i>Area</i>	<i>Active</i>	<i>Fairly active</i>	<i>Inactive</i>
Spelthorne	64.2%	14.6%	21.2%
Surrey	66.3%	12.9%	20.9%
South-East	65.2%	12.5%	22.3%
England	62.3%	12.5%	25.2%

3.6.2 Geographical variations

Figures for the proportion of the local population who are physically active for at least 150 minutes per week, collected for Sport England's '*Active Lives*' survey in 2018, show great variations at ward level, with the figures for Staines being in the second highest quintile nationally and those in Stanwell being in the lowest quintile nationally.



Key: Percentage of the population who are physically active for at least 150 minutes per week.



3.7 The local playing pitch supply network

Playing pitch provision in Spelthorne comprises a mixed economy involving the public and voluntary sectors. The key providers are as follows:

- **Spelthorne Borough Council:** The Council owns and manages playing pitches at seven sites in the borough, five of which are in active use at present.
- **Schools:** Public and private schools are significant playing pitch providers in the borough, although not all provision is community accessible.

- **Sports clubs:** Sports clubs provide and run a range of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- **Company sports grounds:** BP owns and operates the Meadhurst Sports Club.

3.8 *The implications for pitch provision*

The implications of the local context for playing pitch provision in Spelthorne are as follows:

- **Population growth:** The population is projected to increase by 16,900 people by 2035. This will provide additional demand for the pitch sports.
- **Local deprivation:** Whilst the borough is relatively affluent, which is traditionally associated with higher than average participation in sports including cricket, there are significant geographical pockets of deprivation in the Stanwell North and Stanwell Moor, Stanwell South and Ashford North and Sunbury Common wards.
- **Participation rates:** General adult participation rates in sport and physical activity are below the county and regional averages, but above the national average.
- **Geographical variations:** Participation varies significantly across the borough, with the lowest rates coinciding with the areas of greatest deprivation. This should be borne in mind when planning sports development programmes.

4 STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

Key findings:

- ***Spelthorne Planning policy:*** A robust, evidence-based assessment of sports facilities needs in the borough is required to inform planning policy and this PPS will provide this to help ensure good future provision.
- ***National sports policy shifts:*** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for sport to ensure that the traditional facilities 'offer' is sufficiently relevant and attractive to engage a wider participation base, including people who are currently inactive.

4.1 Introduction

This section examines the influence of relevant policies and priorities on sports facilities provision in Spelthorne, including the impact of national strategies.

Spelthorne Council's Corporate Plan

The '*Spelthorne Corporate Plan 2016-19*' (2016) sets out the Council's overall priorities and targets. The priority for a 'clean and safe environment' includes a commitment to provide:

- A clean, attractive borough with good leisure facilities can attract new and repeat visitors, bringing further inward investment'.
- 'High quality public spaces - maintaining our parks and open spaces and providing leisure facilities which encourage greater community use and an active lifestyle'.

4.2 Spelthorne Local Plan

The Council is currently working on a revised Local Plan, but current planning policy is contained in the '*Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document*' (2009). The key elements of relevance to the pitch sports are as follows:

- ***Objectives:*** These include 'to safeguard valuable urban open space and provide for open recreational uses. Quality open space has an important role in defining the character of areas and meeting recreational needs.
- ***Community needs:*** 'The strategy for meeting community needs is to ensure that development provision meets the needs of all sections of the community and that new developments that add to requirements for infrastructure and services contribute to necessary improvements'.
- ***Strategic Policy SP5: Meeting Community Needs:*** The policy states that 'the Council 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. New developments that individually or cumulatively add to requirements for infrastructure and services will be expected to contribute to the provision of necessary improvements'.

- ***Policy CO1: Providing Community Facilities:*** The policy states that ‘the Council will seek to ensure community facilities are provided to meet local needs by:
 - Supporting the provision of new facilities for which a need is identified in locations accessible to the community served.
 - Supporting improvements to existing facilities to enable them to adapt to changing needs.
 - 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 EN4: Provision of Open Space and Sport and Recreation Facilities:*** The policy states that ‘the Council 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:
 - Providing additional space where required.
 - Maintaining and improving provision and access to open space through the design and layout of new development, encouraging owners and users of private sites to make improvements and also improving provision on Council-owned land.
 - Seeking to maintain, improve and where appropriate expand networks of green space and pedestrian and cycle routes with a recreational role.
 - Retaining existing open space in the urban area used, or capable of use, for sport and recreation or having amenity value where:
 - There is a need for the site for sport or recreation purposes, or
 - The site as a whole is clearly visible to the general public from other public areas and its openness either makes a significant contribution to the quality and character of the urban area by virtue of its prominence, layout and position in relation to built development in the locality or is of particular value to local people where there is a shortage of open space in the locality.
 - The site is of particular nature conservation value, of at least SNCI or equivalent quality.
 - Exceptionally, development may be allowed on part of a site within the urban area which should otherwise be maintained for the above reasons where:
 - The remainder of the site is enhanced so its public value in visual and functional terms is equivalent to the original site or better, or

- Essential ancillary facilities are proposed to support outdoor recreational use of the site, or;
- 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’.

4.3 Spelthorne Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The ‘*Spelthorne Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016 - 2019*’ (2016) contains the following elements of relevance to the pitch sports:

- **Vision:** The vision for the strategy is ‘to reduce inequalities and improve health and wellbeing of people living in Spelthorne’.
- **Priorities:** One priority is ‘to develop a preventive approach’ by ‘increasing physical activity and reducing obesity’.

4.4 The Government’s Planning Policies

In July 2018, the Government published revisions to the ‘*National Planning Policy Framework*’ (2018), setting out its economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. These policies articulate the Government’s vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. The policies of greatest relevance to pitch provision and retention are as follows:

- **Sustainable development:** ‘The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’ and there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development.
- **Promoting healthy and safe communities:** ‘Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:
 - Promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other - for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages.
 - Are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion - for example through the use of clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
 - Enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs - for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

- To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:
 - Plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.
 - Take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
 - Guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs.
 - Ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community.
 - Ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services'.
- ***Open space and recreation:*** 'Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate'.
- 'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
 - An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements.
 - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
 - The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use'.

The Government also issued *Planning Practice Guidance* in 2014 and the following is of particular relevance to sports facilities and playing pitches:

- ***Open space, sport and recreation provision:*** 'Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby'.
 - 'Authorities and developers may refer to Sport England's guidance on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities'.

- 'Local planning authorities are required to consult Sport England in certain cases where development affects the use of land as playing fields. Where there is no requirement to consult, local planning authorities are advised to consult Sport England in cases where development might lead to loss of, or loss of use for sport, of any major sports facility, the creation of a site for one or more playing pitches, artificial lighting of a major outdoor sports facility or a residential development of 300 dwellings or more'.
- **Health and wellbeing:** 'Local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making'.
- 'Development proposals should support strong, vibrant and healthy communities and help create healthy living environments which should, where possible, include making physical activity easy to do'.
- 'Opportunities for healthy lifestyles must be considered (e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity and promotes high quality open spaces and opportunities for play, sport and recreation).

4.5 The Government's Sports Strategy

The Government's sports strategy '*Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation*' (2015) sets the context for a national policy shift. It contains the following material of relevance to pitch provision in Spelthorne:

- The Strategy seeks to 'redefine what success looks like in sport' by concentrating on five key outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.
- The benefit of engaging those groups that typically do little or no activity is immense. Future funding will therefore focus on those people who tend not to take part in sport, including women and girls, disabled people, those in lower socio-economic groups and older people.

4.6 Sport England Strategy

Sport England's strategy '*Towards an Active Nation*' (2016) contains a significant policy shift to encourage more currently inactive people to become active, with a relative move away from support for programmes aimed at existing participants. Elements of particular relevance to pitch provision in Spelthorne are as follows:

- More money and resources will be focused on tackling inactivity because this is where the gains for the individual and for society are greatest.
- There will be greater investment in children and young people from the age of five to build positive attitudes to sport and activity as the foundations of an active life.

- Sport England will work with those parts of the sector that serve existing participants to help them identify ways in which they can become more sustainable and self-sufficient.

4.7 The implications for pitch provision

The implications of the key strategic influences on pitch provision in Spelthorne are:

- **Local corporate priorities:** Given the increasing limitations on public finances, demonstrating the role sport and physical activity can play in delivering wider agendas such as health and wellbeing is a key requirement for attracting investment. The local emphasis on sports activities for the over 50's offers some opportunities in this regard.
- **Planning policy:** Whilst local and national planning policy is supportive of the retention and provision of playing pitches, the current work on the Playing Pitch Strategy will provide a methodologically robust basis for determining current and future needs.
- **National sports policy shifts:** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for the pitch sports to ensure that their 'offer' is sufficiently relevant and attractive to engage a wider participation base, including people who are currently inactive. Recent innovations such as walking and small-sided versions of the sports might prove more attractive than the more traditional models, but this will have implications for facilities needs in the future, because this type of activity does not need to be accommodated on formal grass pitches.

5 FOOTBALL NEEDS IN SPELTHORNE

5.1 Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders delivering football in Spelthorne are:

- **Middlesex FA:** Most football clubs in the borough affiliate to the Middlesex FA, which administers the game in the county, although four clubs affiliate to the Surrey FA.
- **FA-affiliated clubs:** There are 23 FA-affiliated clubs in Spelthorne, who collectively run 36 adult teams, 68 youth teams and 45 mini-soccer teams.
- **Pitch providers:** A range of organisations provide football pitches in the borough, in particular the borough council, clubs and schools.

5.2 Strategic context

5.2.1 Football Association

The Football Association's *National Game Strategy for Participation and Development 2018 - 2021* has a number of targets with important implications for football and its facilities needs at grassroots level (see box below).

- Boost female youth participation by 11% by 2021.
- Retain and support the 129,000 male, female and disability teams.
- Increase the number of over 16's playing every week by over 200,000, by offering a variety of formats by 2021.
- Create 100 new '3G' football turf pitches and improve 2,000 grass pitches by 2021.
- Develop 'Football Hubs' in 'areas where pressures on the local game are greatest'. The aim of the new programme is to create a new sustainable model for football facilities based around '3G' pitches and high-quality grass pitches on Hub Sites.
- Ensure that 50% of youth football and mini-soccer pitches are played on '3G' pitches by 2021.

The Football Association's emerging *National Facilities Strategy* also contains a number of longer-term (10-year) facilities-related targets:

- 1,000 new '3G' football turf pitches in a mix of sizes and settings, dependent upon local needs, all aimed at enhancing the quality of the playing experience.
- 20,000 improved natural-turf pitches: to help address drop-off due to a poor playing experience.
- 1,000 new changing pavilions/clubhouses all linked to priority sites.
- Small-sided facilities to grow the small-sided game for teams and leagues, recreational and informal play.

5.2.2 Middlesex Football Association

The 'Middlesex FA Strategy 2018-2021' (2018) contains the following material of relevance to football in Spelthorne:

- **High-quality introduction to football:** The county participation targets are tabulated below and will be supported by the following initiatives:
 - A Monday Flexi Football League.
 - The Middlesex Walking Football League.
 - A £500 'Rectory Park Fund' for affiliated clubs.
 - A £400 'Just Play' fund for turn-up-and-play sessions.
 - A £900 'Wildcats' fund (for 5-11 year- old girls).
 - £10,000 Futsal investment for leagues and sessions.

<i>Group</i>	<i>Baseline (2017-18)</i>	<i>2018/19</i>	<i>2019/20</i>	<i>2020/21</i>
Male affiliated and recreational players	32,518	33,518	35,218	36,711
Female affiliated and recreational players	2,474	2,738	3,002	3,267
Disability affiliated and recreational players	340	418	496	576
Futsal	80	110	140	160
SSE Wildcats	20	38	56	56

- **Embrace all formats - Engage all participants:** County targets for the recreational elements of the game (Just Play) are as follows.

<i>Group</i>	<i>Baseline (2017-18)</i>	<i>2018/19</i>	<i>2019/20</i>	<i>2020/21</i>
Affiliated player registration coverage	18%	25%	60%	80%
Just Play centres	0	20	26	34

- **Developing sustainable football facilities:** County targets for improved grass pitches are as follows:

<i>Baseline (2017-18)</i>	<i>2018/19</i>	<i>2019/20</i>	<i>2020/21</i>
-	30	95	176

5.2.3 Local Football Facility Plan

The Football Association, Premier League and the Government via Sport England have embarked upon a process to produce a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for each local authority area in England. The national funding partners have significantly increased investment to accelerate efforts to deliver more and better football facilities for the grassroots game. The purpose of the LFFP is to identify the priority projects for potential investment in Spelthorne and the key findings are summarised below:

Priorities for investment: The priorities for investment in Spelthorne are as follows:

'3G' football turf pitches:

- The geographic spread of existing '3G' pitches in the borough is even, there is one full-sized and one small-sided facility in the east and one small-sided pitch in the west. The key provision gap is in the centre of the authority, despite the high level of population and substantial affiliated football in that area. It is recommended that this is addressed.
- Potential sites to meet the shortfall are identified as Ashford Town FC, Thomas Knyvett College and the new Spelthorne Leisure Centre.

Grass pitches:

- Five priority projects for potential investment were identified. Prioritisation was informed by local partners based on a rationale of selecting sites in the poorest condition that are currently/potentially well-utilised and which reflect the strategic focus to improve football participation.
- Potential sites to meet the shortfall are identified as Ashford Town FC, Thomas Knyvett College, Kenyngton Recreation Ground, Laleham Recreation Ground and Long Lane Recreation Ground.

Changing rooms/pavilions/clubhouses:

- Five priority projects for potential investment were identified.
- Potential sites are identified as Ashford Town FC, Thomas Knyvett College, Staines and Laleham Sports Association, the new Spelthorne Leisure Centre and Long Lane Recreation Ground.

Small-sided facilities:

- ***Indoor facilities:*** Local consultation indicates that no indoor facilities presently require improvement to develop small-sided football.
- ***MUGA:*** Provision of a small-sided informal MUGA at Long Lane Recreation Ground is identified as a priority, based on the site being in an area of high population density with corresponding high demand for informal football.
- ***Parks and open green spaces:*** Cedars Recreation Ground has been identified as a priority to support small-sided informal football, based on it being a popular open space in proximity to three schools and with the space to accommodate small-sided pitches.

5.2.4 Neighbouring local authorities

Playing pitch strategies in neighbouring local authority areas identify cross-boundary issues. It should also be noted that through the Local Football Facility Plans, the current football facility assets and investment priorities in each local authority area have been reviewed, so the detail of the PPS assessments may alter.

Runnymede

The 'Runnymede Playing Pitch Strategy' (2018) identifies that there is:

- ***Adult grass pitches:*** A deficit of 2.0 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***Youth 11v11 pitches:*** A deficit of 2.0 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***Youth 9v9 pitches:*** A deficit of 5.0 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches:*** A deficit of 8.0 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches:*** A deficit of 11.0 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***'3G' football turf pitches:*** There is no effective peak-time spare capacity at the only '3G' football turf pitch in the borough and an assessed shortfall of 2.0 pitches.

Elmbridge

The Council is in the final stages of completing a Playing Pitch Strategy for the borough. The emerging findings in relation to football are as follows:

- ***Adult grass pitches:*** There is a surplus of 3.0 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***Youth 11v11 pitches:*** There is a deficit of 6.0 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***Youth 9v9 pitches:*** There is a deficit of 6.0 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches:*** There is a deficit of 14.0 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches:*** There is a deficit of 9.0 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***'3G' football turf pitches:*** Based on the FA's calculation of training needs, there is no effective peak-time spare capacity at '3G' football turf pitches in the borough and an assessed shortfall of 4.66 pitches.

London Borough of Richmond: The 'London Borough of Richmond Playing Pitch Strategy' (2018) identifies that:

- ***Adult grass pitches:*** There is a surplus of 2.5 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***Youth 11v11 pitches:*** There is a deficit of 1.5 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***Youth 9v9 pitches:*** There is a surplus of 4.0 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches:*** There is a surplus of 7.0 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches:*** There is a surplus of 5.0 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- ***'3G' football turf pitches:*** There is an assessed shortfall of at least five pitches.

Windsor and Maidenhead

The 'Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Playing Pitch Strategy' (2016) identifies that there is a deficit of two adult football pitches, four youth (11v11) pitches, three youth (9v9) pitches and five '3G' football turf pitches.

London Borough of Hillingdon:

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy and there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

London Borough of Hounslow: The 'London Borough of Hounslow Playing Pitch Strategy 2017-2030' (2016) identifies that:

- 'Although recent investments have reduced the deficiency substantially, there remains insufficient accessible and secured community use provision of football facilities to meet the current demand of football clubs based in the borough. Hounslow borough is home to several large Charter Standard football clubs with large and growing numbers of mini-soccer and youth football teams. Several clubs have teams that are displaced playing home fixtures and/or training on pitches in neighbouring boroughs'.
- 'However, should all the current proposals at advanced stages of planning for additional provision proceed, there will be sufficient accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand. The current advanced proposals for new pitches that will increase supply for football are at: Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub (grass and '3G'), Bedfont Sports Orchard Sports Ground pitch (grass to '3G' conversion), Green Lane Heathrow (grass) and Church Meadow Sutton Lane (grass)'.

5.2.5 Implications of the strategic context

The implications of the strategic context for football in Spelthorne are as follows:

- ***Participation increases:*** The FA's target increases in participation amongst the over 16s need to be set in the context of falling demand locally for adult league football.
- ***'3G' pitches:*** The increased dependence on '3G' football turf pitches for youth football and mini-soccer matches by 2019 is likely to place stresses on existing provision in the borough.
- ***Local Football Facility Plan:*** The LFFP identifies a range of priority football projects.

5.3 Football pitch demand in Spelthorne

5.3.1 Expressed demand

The information on football clubs and teams affiliated to the Middlesex and Surrey FAs and based in Spelthorne was supplied by the FA through its 'Whole Game System' database. Clubs drawing the majority of their players from outside Spelthorne are shown in *italics*.

The FA data was cross-referenced to a local clubs survey. The survey was circulated by the Middlesex FA to all FA-affiliated football clubs in Spelthorne. The following clubs responded, collectively representing 111 teams, or 74.6% of all the 149 affiliated teams in the Borough.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Ashford Town (Middx) FC | • Colne Valley Girls and Ladies FC |
| • Halliford Colts FC | • Shepperton Pumas FC |
| • Spelthorne Sports Club FC | • Staines Lammas Youth FC |
| • Staines Town Juniors FC | • Teddington FC |

<i>Club</i>	<i>Match venue</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Youth (11v11)</i>	<i>Youth (9v9)</i>	<i>Mini (7v7)</i>	<i>Mini (5v5)</i>
<i>AFC Egham</i>	Matthew Arnold Sports Centre Ashford Recreation Ground	2	-	-	-	-
<i>AFC Hampton</i>	Meadhurst Sports Club	2	-	-	-	-
AFC Spelthorne Sports	Spelthorne Sports Club	1	-	-	-	-
Ashford Town (Middx) FC	Ashford Town (Middx) FC Ashford Sports Club Long Lane Recn. Ground	4	9	10	8	5
Ashford Villa FC	Meadhurst Sports Club	1	-	-	-	-
<i>Brentford Free Church FC</i>	Meadhurst Sports Club	1	-	-	-	-
Colne Valley Girls FC	Kenyngton Recn. Ground	1	3	3	3	-
FC Hatton	Ashford Sports Club	1	-	-	-	-
Halliford Colts FC	Matthew Arnold Sp. Centre St. Paul's Catholic College	1	2	6	1	3
<i>Hampton & Richmond YFC</i>	St. Paul's Catholic College	-	1	-	-	-
Kempton Athletic FC	Thamesmead School	1	-	-	-	-
Laleham and Kempton FC	Kempton Cricket Club	1	2	1	2	1
Shepperton Pumas FC	Bishop Duppas Recn. Grd.	1	-	-	-	-
<i>Southall FC</i>	Ashford Town (Middx) FC	2	-	-	-	-
Spelthorne Rangers Veterans FC	Thamesmead School	1	-	-	-	-
Spelthorne Sports Club FC	Spelthorne Sports Club Littleton Recreation Ground	4	5	3	3	2
Staines Lammas FC	Laleham Recn. Ground	2	-	-	-	-
Staines Lammas Youth FC	Laleham Recn. Ground Kempton Cricket Club Meadhurst Sports Club	-	10	5	5	4
Staines Town FC	Wheatsheaf Park	6	-	-	-	-
Staines Town Juniors FC	Staines & Laleham Sports Club	-	5	3	4	4
Stanwell Village FC	Ashford Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-
<i>Teddington Veterans FC</i>	Meadhurst Sports Club	2	-	-	-	-
<i>Whitton Villains FC</i>	Meadhurst Sports Club	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	36	37	31	26	19

The key expressed demand issues are as follows:

- **Team numbers:** 32 men's teams, four women's teams, 29 youth male (11v11) teams, eight youth female (11v11) teams, 27 youth male (9v9) teams, four youth female (9v9) teams, 26 mixed mini-soccer (7v7) teams and 19 mixed mini-soccer (5v5) teams play in Spelthorne.
- **Charter Standard Clubs:** Nine clubs in Spelthorne have achieved the FA's quality-assured Charter Standard status. This is 39.1% which compares with the national average of 27%. In terms of teams, 89.4% (132 out of 149) play for a Charter Standard club in Spelthorne, compared with the national average of 81.1%. This means that the benefits of belonging to an accredited club with formalised safeguarding procedures and qualified coaches is enjoyed by all youth and mini-soccer players in Spelthorne.
- **Women and girl's football:** Football for women and girls is well-developed in Spelthorne, with four adult women's teams, seven youth 11v11 teams and three youth 9v9 teams.

5.3.2 Expressed demand trends

- **National trends:** Overall football participation by adults is falling across the country. The 'Active People' survey shows that participation has fallen from 3.15 million adult players in 2010/11 to 2.66 million in 2015/16.
- **Local trends:** Comparison of current football teams' data from Spelthorne with the number of teams playing in the borough when the Spelthorne Playing Pitch Strategy was last reviewed in 2013 reveals reductions in all age groups, particularly at adult level:

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams 2013</i>	<i>No. Teams 2019</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Adult teams	73	36	-50.7%
Youth teams	77	68	-11.7%
Mini-soccer teams	46	45	-2.2%
TOTAL TEAMS	196	149	-24.0%

5.3.3 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of football pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area, or vice versa:

- **Imported demand from external clubs:** 10 adult teams and one youth (11v11) team (shown in italics above) play their matches on pitches in Spelthorne are drawn from neighbouring boroughs.
- **Exported demand from internal clubs:** No teams from Spelthorne play matches on pitches in neighbouring areas, but there is exported demand for training on '3G' pitches.

The net effect of displaced demand in Spelthorne is therefore 11 imported teams.

5.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Pitches of a particular size or type may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.
- Three clubs have a membership waiting list (Colne Valley Girls and Ladies FC, Halliford Colts FC and Spelthorne Sports FC), although none of the clubs could confirm the number of team equivalents involved.
- Two clubs have unmet demand for additional match pitches (Ashford Town FC and Staines Town Juniors FC).

5.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist, latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from a population if they had access to more or better provision. Consultation with local clubs indicated that in their judgement the following additional teams could be accommodated in Spelthorne if pitch quality and quantity was improved.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Youth (11v11)</i>	<i>Youth (9v9)</i>	<i>Mini (7v7)</i>	<i>Mini (5v5)</i>
Ashford Town (Middx) FC	1	1	2	6	6
Colne Valley Girls and Ladies FC	1	2	2	2	2
Halliford Colts FC	5	5	5	5	5
Shepperton Pumas FC	1	0	0	0	0
Spelthorne Sports FC	0	0	0	0	0
Staines Lammas Youth FC	0	4	2	3	2
Staines Town Juniors FC	0	2	1	0	2
TOTALS	8	14	12	16	17

5.4 Football pitch supply in Spelthorne

5.4.1 Introduction

This section summarises the detail of football facilities supply in Spelthorne, including:

- ‘3G’ football turf pitches.
- Other artificial grass pitches used for football.
- Grass football pitches.

5.4.2 Full-sized ‘3G’ football turf pitches

The Matthew Arnold Sports Centre pitch is on the FA’s ‘3G’ Pitch Register and therefore can be used for training and matches where competition rules allow. The pitch (and the small-sided pitch below) were both funded by the Football Foundation and have a ‘sinking fund’ for re-surfacing in 2020.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Matthew Arnold Sports Centre	Kingston Road, Staines TW18 1PF	100m x 60m	Yes	2010

5.4.3 Small-sided ‘3G’ football turf pitches

The following ‘3G’ football turf pitches are too small to accommodate competitive play but is used for training purposes:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Matthew Arnold Sports Centre	Kingston Road, Staines TW18 1PF	50m x 30m	Yes	2010
Meadhurst Sports Club	Groveley Road, Sunbury TW16 7LQ	35m x 17m	Yes	2013

5.4.4 Other full-sized artificial turf pitches used for football

The following artificial turf pitches are also used for football:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Ashford Sports Club	Short Lane, Staines TW19 7BQ	100m x 60m	Sand-dressed	Yes	2012
London Irish RFC	Hazelwood Drive, Sunbury TW16 6QU	129m x 79m	Rugby-compliant AGP	Yes	2014
Staines & Laleham S C	Worple Road, Staines TW18 1HR	96m x 59m	Sand-dressed	Yes	2016

5.4.5 Other small-sided artificial turf pitches used for football

The following all weather pitch is too small to accommodate competitive play but is used for training purposes:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
St. James's Boys School	Church Road, Ashford TW15 3DZ	Sand-filled	90m x 40m	Yes	2010

5.4.6 Grass football pitches

Provision of grass pitches with regulation line markings and goalposts for organised football are as follows.

- ***Available for community use and used:***

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>
Ashford Recreation Grd.	Clockhouse Lane, Ashford TW15 2HH	1	-	-	-	-
Ashford Sports Club	Short Lane, Staines TW19 7BQ	-	2	1	-	-
Ashford Town FC	Short Lane, Staines TW19 7BH	1	1	1	2	2
Bishop Duppas Recn. Grd.	Bishop Duppas Park, Shepperton TW17 8NR	1	-	-	-	-
Kempton Cricket Club	Kempton Avenue, Sunbury TW16 5NG	3	-	-	-	-
Kenyngton Recn. Ground	Kenyngton Drive, Sunbury TW16 7RU	2	-	1	1	-
Laleham Recn. Ground	The Broadway, Laleham TW18 1RZ	1	-	-	2	1
Lammas Recn. Ground*	Wraysbury Rd, Staines TW18 4UA	-	1	1	-	-
Littleton Recn. Ground	Laleham Road, Shepperton TW17 0JF	1	-	-	-	-
Long Lane Recn. Ground	Cambria Gardens, Staines TW19 7ET	2	-	-	-	-
Matthew Arnold Sp. Ctre.	Kingston Road, Staines TW18 1PF	-	1	2	1	1
Meadhurst Sports Club	Groveley Road, Sunbury TW16 7LQ	2	-	1	1	-
Spelthorne Sports Club	Staines Road West, Ashford TW15 1RY	2	-	1	1	2
St. Paul's Catholic College	Manor Lane, Sunbury TW16 6JE	2	-	-	1	-
Shepperton Recn. Ground	Grove Road, Shepperton TW17 9EL	-	1	-	-	-
Staines and Laleham Sp. Cl.	Worple Road, Staines TW18 1HR	-	2	1	2	2
Thamesmead School	Manygate Lane, Shepperton TW17 9EE	2	-	-	-	-
Wheatsheaf Park	Wheatsheaf Lane, Staines TW18 2PD	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	21	8	9	11	8

* Scheduled for use in season 2019/20.

- ***Available for community use and not used:*** There are no pitches available for community use that are not used.

- ***Not available for community use:***

- ***Small-sided '3G' pitches:***

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Built</i>
HMP Bronzefield	Woodthorpe Road, Ashford TW15 3JZ	31m x 18m	2015

- **Grass pitches:** Overmarked pitches are shown in brackets:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>
Ashford C of E Primary School	School Road, Ashford TW15 2BW	-	-	-	1	-
Ashford Park Primary School	Station Crescent, Ashford TW15 3HN	-	-	-	1	1
Bishop Wand School	Layton's Lane, Sunbury TW16 6LT	2	-	-	-	-
Buckland Primary School	Berryscroft Road, Laleham TW18 1NB	-	-	-	2	-
Chennestone Primary School	Manor Lane, Sunbury TW16 5ED	-	-	-	1	-
Clarendon Primary School	Knapp Road, Ashford TW15 2HZ	-	-	-	1	-
Echelford Primary School	Park Road, Ashford TW15 1EX	-	-	-	2	-
Halliford School	Russell Road, Shepperton TW17 9HX	2	1	-	-	-
Halliford School Field	Church Road, Shepperton TW17 9AD	2	-	(2)	-	-
Hawkedale Primary School	Stratton Road, Sunbury TW16 6PG	-	-	-	2	-
Laleham Primary School	The Broadway, Laleham TW18 1SB	-	-	-	2	-
Meadhurst School	Feltham Hill Road, Ashford TW15 1LP	-	-	-	1	1
Our Lady of the Rosary School	Park Avenue, Staines TW18 2EF	-	-	-	1	1
Riverbridge Primary School	Park Avenue, Staines TW18 2EF	-	-	-	1	-
Saxon Primary School	Briar Road, Shepperton TW17 0JB	-	1	-	-	-
Springfield Primary School	Nursery Road, Sunbury TW16 6LY	-	-	-	1	-
St. Ignatius Primary School	Green Street, Sunbury TW16 6QG	-	-	-	-	1
St. James's Boys School	Church Road, Ashford TW15 3DZ	1	1	-	-	-
St. Michael's Primary School	Feltham Hill Road, Ashford TW15 2DG	-	-	-	1	-
St. Nicholas Primary School	Manor Farm Ave., Shepperton TW17 9AD	-	-	-	1	1
Stanwell Fields Primary School	Clare Road, Staines TW19 7DB	-	-	-	1	-
Sunbury Manor School	Nursery Road, Sunbury TW16 6LF	2	-	-	-	-
Thomas Knyvett College	Stanwell Road, Ashford TW15 3DU	1	1	-	-	-
Town Farm Primary School	St. Mary's Crescent, Stanwell TW19 7HU	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS	-	10	4	(2)	19	5

- **Disused pitches:** Use of the pitches at the following sites was discontinued in the past three years due to falling demand. Neither has on site changing facilities:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>
Cedars Recreation Ground	Green Street, Sunbury TW16 6QQ	-	1	-	-	-
Staines Park	Knowle Green, Staines TW18 1XH	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	2	-	-	-

5.4.7 Artificial turf pitch quality

The quality of the '3G' football turf pitches with community access in the borough was assessed by a site visit, to apply the Non-technical Visual Assessment criteria developed for use in conjunction with the 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'. The assessment generates an overall 'score' by evaluating the playing surface, fencing, floodlighting, disability access and changing provision:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>
Matthew Arnold Sports Centre (full-sized)	Good	Good
Matthew Arnold Sports Centre (small-sided)	Good	Good
Meadhurst Sports Club (small-sided)	Good	Good

5.4.8 Grass pitch quality

The quality of all grass football pitches and their associated changing facilities in Spelthorne was assessed from site visits during the playing season by applying the Non-technical Visual Assessment criteria developed by the FA for use in conjunction with the *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance*. The criteria assessed are as follows. A percentage score and associated ratings are generated as an overall measure of quality:

- **The playing surface:** This includes grass cover, pitch dimensions, gradient, evenness, length of grass, drainage and evidence of any unauthorised use.
- **The changing facilities:** This includes the availability of changing rooms, kitchen and/or bar, the interior and exterior appearance, showering and toilet provision, medical room, disability access and parking arrangements.
- **Grounds maintenance:** This includes the frequency of grass cutting, seeding, aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing.

The ratings for each grass football pitch in Spelthorne are below. The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of 'Good' for scores of 100% - 75% (highlighted in green below), 'Standard' for scores of 74.9% - 50% (highlighted in yellow below), 'Poor' for scores of 49.9% - 25% (highlighted in red below) and 'Unsuitable' below 25%. 'Standard', 'Poor' and 'Unsuitable' rated pitches will benefit from quality improvements to improve capacity:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Ashford Recreation Ground	Adult pitch	Poor	Standard	'Poor' quality pitch. Changing at the lower end of 'standard' quality. Car parking is good.
Ashford Sports Club	Youth 11v11 Pitch 1 Youth 11v11 Pitch 2 Youth 9v9 Pitch	Standard Standard Standard	Standard	Pitches at the upper end of 'standard' quality but heavily used and 'standard' changing facilities. Car parking is limited.
Ashford Town FC	Stadium Pitch	Good	Good	'Good' quality stadium facilities with good floodlights and car parking.
Ashford Town FC	Youth 11v11 Pitch Youth 9v9 Pitch Mini 7v7 Pitch 1 Mini 7v7 Pitch 2 Mini 5v5 Pitch 1 Mini 5v5 Pitch 2	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitches, changing shared with the stadium pitch. Car parking is good.
Bishop Duppas Recreation Ground	Adult pitch	Standard	Poor	Pitch at the lower end of 'standard' quality, with 'poor' quality changing. Car parking is adequate.
Kempton Cricket Club	Adult Pitch 1 Adult Pitch 2 Adult Pitch 3	Good Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches and changing, but car parking is inadequate.
Kenyngton Recreation Ground	Adult Pitch 1 Adult Pitch 2 Youth 9v9 Pitch Mini 7v7 Pitch	Standard Poor Standard Standard	Good	Pitches at the lower end of 'standard' quality, but one adult pitch is 'poor' (uneven and limited grass). Changing provision and car parking are 'good'.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Lammas Recreation Ground	Youth 11v11 pitch Youth 9v9 pitch	Standard Standard	None	'Standard' quality pitches brought back into use for the 2019/20 season.
Laleham Recreation Ground (Lucan Pavilion)	Adult Pitch Mini 7v7 Pitch 1 Mini 7v7 Pitch 2 Mini 5v5 Pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitches. Changing provision is 'good'. Car parking is inadequate when all pitches are in use.
Littleton Recreation Ground	Adult pitch	Standard	Standard	'Standard' quality pitches and changing facilities. Car parking is adequate.
Long Lane Recreation Ground	Adult Pitch 1 Adult Pitch 2	Poor Poor	Standard	'Poor' quality pitch. Changing at the lower end of 'standard' quality. Car parking is adequate.
Matthew Arnold Sports Centre	Youth 11v11 Pitch Youth 9v9 Pitch 1 Youth 9v9 Pitch 2 Mini 7v7 Pitch Mini 5v5 Pitch	Good Good Good Good Good	Standard	'Good' quality pitches but changing is at the higher end of 'standard' quality. Car parking is limited at busy times.
Meadhurst Sports Club	Adult Pitch 1 Adult Pitch 2 Youth 9v9 Pitch Mini 7v7 Pitch	Good Good Good Good	Standard	'Good' quality pitches but changing is at the higher end of 'standard' quality. Car parking is good.
Shepperton Recreation Ground	Youth 11v11 pitch	Standard	None	Pitch at the lower end of 'Standard' quality. No on-site changing facilities. Car parking is limited.
Spelthorne Sports Club	Stadium Pitch	Good	Poor	'Good' quality pitch but changing facilities serving the stadium pitch are 'poor' quality.
Spelthorne Sports Club	Adult Pitch 2 Youth 9v9 Pitch Mini 7v7 Pitch Mini 5v5 Pitch 1 Mini 5v5 Pitch 2	Good Good Good Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitch, changing facilities in the general pavilion and car parking.
St. Paul's Catholic College	Adult Pitch 1 Adult Pitch 2 Mini 7v7 Pitch	Standard Standard Standard	Standard	Pitches and changing facilities at the upper end of 'standard' quality. Car parking is adequate.
Staines and Laleham Sports Club	Youth 11v11 Pitch 1 Youth 11v11 Pitch 2 Youth 9v9 Pitch Mini 7v7 Pitch 1 Mini 7v7 Pitch 2 Mini 5v5 Pitch 1 Mini 5v5 Pitch 2	Good Good Good Good Good Good Good	Standard	'Good' quality pitches and car parking but changing facilities at the lower end of 'standard' quality.
Thamesmead School	Adult Pitch 1 Adult Pitch 2	Standard Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitches. Changing provision and car parking are 'good'.
Wheatsheaf Park	Adult Pitch	Good	Good	'Good' quality stadium facilities with good floodlights and car parking.

5.4.9 Summary of grass pitch quality

The number and percentage of pitches in each quality band is tabulated below. The summary shows that almost one-half of all pitches are rated as ‘good’ quality, with fewer than one-in-fifteen being assessed as ‘poor’ quality. However, ‘standard’ quality ratings do not necessarily imply that improvements are not also needed at those sites:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Good</i>		<i>Standard</i>		<i>Poor</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Adult 11v11	9	42.9%	8	38.1%	4	19.0%
Youth 11v11	3	37.5%	5	62.5%	0	0.0%
Youth 9v9	5	55.6%	4	44.4%	0	0.0%
Mini-soccer 7v7	5	45.5%	6	55.5%	0	0.0%
Mini-soccer 5v5	5	62.5%	3	37.5%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	27	47.4%	26	45.6%	4	7.0%

5.4.10 Summary of changing facilities quality

The number and percentage of pitches of each type that are served by ‘poor’ quality or no changing facilities is tabulated below. Whilst only around one-in-ten pitches are served by ‘poor’ quality changing facilities, the adverse impact on user experiences makes it more difficult to recruit and retain new players, particularly women and girls.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Adult 11v11	3	14.3%
Youth 11v11	2	25.0%
Youth 9v9	1	11.1%
Mini-soccer 7v7	0	0.0%
Mini-soccer 5v5	0	0.0%
TOTAL	6	10.5%

5.4.11 Grass pitch maintenance

Football pitch maintenance in the borough is organised as follows:

- **Club-managed pitches:** The pitches managed by local sports clubs, which comprise almost 50% of the pitches in the borough, are all maintained by the clubs themselves. This involves a combination of paid grounds staff, external contractors and volunteer help.
- **Council-owned pitches:** The council has an in-house team to undertake football pitch maintenance.
- **Pitches on education sites:** The school sites with community use all employ or contract their pitch maintenance staff.

5.4.12 Pitch hire charges

The cost of hiring football pitches in Spelthorne and other areas is as follows. All costs are for pitches with changing facilities. The comparison of prices shows that the ‘3G’ pitch in Spelthorne is significantly cheaper than those in neighbouring areas and this may have some influence on levels of imported demand. Grass pitch prices are comparable with most neighbouring areas.

- **3G' football turf pitches:**

Pitch	Cost per match (£)
<i>Matthew Arnold Sports Centre</i>	
Full pitch (Adult match)	£75
Full pitch (Youth match)	£55
<i>Elmbridge Xcel</i>	
Full pitch (Match)	£114.60 (non-member) £95.50 (member)
Full pitch (Peak training)	£97.80 (non-member) £81.50 (member)
One-third pitch (Peak)	£50.40 (non-member) £42 (member)
<i>Royal Holloway University</i>	£168 full pitch
<i>London Borough of Richmond</i>	
Full pitch	£118
One-third pitch	£60

- **Grass pitches:**

Local authority	Cost per match (£)
<i>Spelthorne Borough Council</i>	
Adult pitch	£98 (one-off hire)
Youth Pitch	£51 (one-off hire with changing) £35 (one-off hire no changing)
<i>Elmbridge Borough Council</i>	
Adult pitch	£118 (one-off hire) £73 (regular hire)
Youth Pitch	£53 (one-off hire) £31.50 (regular hire)
Mini-soccer pitch	£23.50
<i>Runnymede Borough Council</i>	
Adult pitch	£98
<i>London Borough of Hillingdon</i>	
Adult pitch	£55 (one-off hire)
Youth Pitch	£18 (one-off hire no changing)
<i>London Borough of Hounslow</i>	
Adult pitch	£96 (one-off hire with changing) £79 (one-off hire with changing)
Youth Pitch	£70 (one-off hire with changing) £48 (one-off hire no changing)
<i>Windsor and Maidenhead Council</i>	
Adult pitch	£90 (pro rata one-off hire)
Youth Pitch	£68 (pro rata one-off hire)

5.4.13 Ownership, management and security of access

The ownership, management and security of access of all football pitch sites in Spelthorne with community use and used is detailed below. Security of tenure refers to the extent to which community use is protected.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of tenure</i>
Ashford Recreation Ground	Spelthorne BC	Spelthorne BC	Secured
Ashford Sports Club	Ashford Sports Club	Ashford Sports Club	Secured
Ashford Town FC	Ashford Town FC	Ashford Town FC	Secured
Bishop Duppas Recn. Ground	Spelthorne BC	Spelthorne BC	Secured
Kempton Cricket Club	Kempton Cricket Club	Kempton Cricket Club	Secured
Kenyngton Recreation Ground	Spelthorne BC	Spelthorne BC	Secured
Laleham Recreation Ground	Laleham Recn. Grd. Assoc.	Laleham Recn. Grd. Assoc.	Secured
Lammas Recreation Ground	Spelthorne BC	Spelthorne BC	Secured
Littleton Recreation Ground	Spelthorne BC	Spelthorne BC	Secured
Long Lane Recreation Ground	Spelthorne BC	Spelthorne BC	Secured
Matthew Arnold Sports Centre	Matthew Arnold School	Lifestyle Fitness	Secured
Meadhurst Sports Club	BP	Meadhurst Sports Club	Unsecured
Spelthorne Sports Club	Spelthorne Sports Club	Spelthorne Sports Club	Secured
St. Paul's Catholic College	St. Paul's Catholic College	St. Paul's Catholic College	Unsecured
Staines and Laleham Sports Club	Staines and Laleham Sports Association Ltd.	Staines and Laleham Sports Association Ltd.	Secured
Thamesmead School	Thamesmead School	Thamesmead School	Unsecured
Wheatsheaf Park	Staines Town FC	Staines Town FC	Secured

Security of access for each type of football pitch in Spelthorne is summarised below. It shows that more than 80% of football pitches have secured access:

<i>Pitch Type</i>	<i>Secured</i>		<i>Unsecured</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Adult football	15	71.4%	6	28.6%
Youth football (11v11)	8	100%	0	0%
Youth football (9v9)	8	88.9%	1	11.1%
Mini-soccer (7v7)	9	81.8%	2	18.2%
Mini-soccer (5v5)	8	100%	0	0%
'3G' Football Turf Pitch	1	100%	0	0%
TOTALS	48	84.2%	9	15.8%

5.5 The views of local stakeholders

5.5.1 Middlesex FA

Consultation with the Middlesex FA highlighted that:

- **Local demand patterns:** The FA's National Game Strategy is seeking to halt the decline in the adult male game. Local demand for adult Saturday football is falling.
- **'Just Play':** There is an increased emphasis on the recreational game through the 'Just Play' initiative.

- **Local Football facility Plans:** Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs) are being rolled out across the country, which will ‘capture current football facility assets and identify investment priorities in each local authority area’. The Spelthorne LFFP was recently finalised.
- **Local club structures:** There are several, large, multi-team clubs in the borough, with comparatively few single team clubs.
- **Pitch supply issues:** There are no apparent supply issues for grass pitches but this will need to be tested with clubs.
- **‘3G’ pitches:** There is a need for additional ‘3G’ pitches in Spelthorne:
 - The pitches at Matthew Arnold School are heavily used.
 - The small-sided Meadhurst Sports Club pitch has limited community access due to high usage by club members.
 - Ashford Town FC is seeking funding for a ‘3G’ pitch.
 - The new Spelthorne Leisure Centre may feature ‘3G’ provision (either a full-sized or small-sided pitches).

5.5.2 Ashford Town (Middx) FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We are currently at full capacity with the amount of teams we have, currently we are hiring external venues to train and play for some of the youth teams including the senior teams’.
- ‘As a club we spend around £15,000 a season on external hire of training pitches and playing pitches for our youth. Our men’s team has to train at an external venue due to the pitch usage at our football club’.
- ‘We are in desperate need of our main pitch to be upgraded to a ‘3G’ facility, this would help us to continue to grow and save money with our external hire. Our current playing area is now far too small for our club, without a ‘3G’ facility we will struggle to grow the game within our community’.

5.5.3 Colne Valley Ladies and Girls FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We have a number of players that train only due to not enough girls in the relevant age group and also we have girls that need more training before they take part in the competitive teams’.
- ‘The only issue we have is a few dips in the second 11v11 pitch and poor grass coverage since 2018 hot Summer’.

5.5.4 Halliford Colts FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We would like to have our own ground but it’s not possible as we would need funding, we pay Matthew Arnold, Staines to rent their pitches, very expensive, we always try to increase membership but it is very hard with surrounding clubs all competing for the same players’.
- ‘If we had our own facilities and a clubhouse we would definitely get more players, this is one thing that puts people off coming to Halliford Colts as there is no way to mingle with our parents/supporters before and after matches, it’s such a shame that we can’t get our own ground’.
- ‘We are unable to have any team from U16s and over play at Matthew Arnold - Matthew Arnold do not allow this. We would like all games at one location’.

5.5.5 Staines Lammas Youth FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We are the fastest growing club in the area with 24 teams for boys football - we have a further need for training facilities’.
- ‘More ‘3G’ facilities/slots are needed’.
- ‘We would be very keen to enter into talks with the council and other parties to explore our goal for this growing club to be housed at one site’.

5.5.6 Staines Town Juniors FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We are at our full capacity with our current facilities’.
- ‘The playing facilities in Spelthorne borough are of reasonable standard. However, all the parks used to have football pitches but there are only about three now’.

5.6 The implications for football in Spelthorne

Analysis of local supply of football pitches in Spelthorne indicates the following:

- **Falling demand:** There have been reductions in the number of affiliated teams at local level since 2013 and whilst the trend most significant at adult level (a 50.7% reduction), unusually there have also been falls in the number of youth (11.7%) and mini (2.2%) teams.
- **Imported demand:** 10 adult teams and one youth (11v11) team play their matches on pitches in Spelthorne are drawn from neighbouring boroughs.
- **Unmet demand:** Three clubs have a membership waiting list (Colne Valley Girls and Ladies FC, Halliford Colts FC and Spelthorne Sports FC) and two clubs have unmet demand for additional match pitches (Ashford Town FC and Staines Town Juniors FC).

- **Grass pitch quality:** 93.0% of pitches in Spelthorne are rated as at least ‘standard’ quality, but some are at the lower end of this rating and will require quality improvements to optimise their usage.
- **‘3G’ football turf pitches:** There is only one full-sized ‘3G’ football turf pitch in Spelthorne, plus two additional small-sided ‘3G’ pitches and a rugby-compliant artificial grass pitch that is also used for football. Demand is currently exported to pitches at Elmbridge Xcel, Hampton School and Royal Holloway University. Whilst providing for some training needs, many local clubs have identified the lack of floodlit, all-weather pitches as an impediment to the development of the game locally. Based upon the FA calculation that there should be one full-sized ‘3G’ pitch per 38 teams, there should be 3.92 pitches in Spelthorne.
- **Secured community use:** 16% of pitches with community use do not have secured access, meaning that in theory usage could be rescinded at any time. Measures to secure community use at education sites would be advisable.

5.7 Assessment of current needs

5.7.1 Introduction

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site with how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of ‘match equivalent sessions’ at each site. A ‘match equivalent session’ represents the wear and tear on a pitch equivalent to a formal match, so the impact of training sessions and unauthorised use can also be accounted for.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during their peak periods.

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are:

- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity (highlighted in red in the tables below).
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity (highlighted in yellow in the tables below).
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use falls below the carrying capacity (highlighted in green in the tables below).

In line with FA guidance, the following assumptions have been made in relation to the number of weekly match equivalents that can be accommodated by different quality pitches:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Good quality</i>	<i>Standard quality</i>	<i>Poor quality</i>
Adult	3	2	1
Youth 11v11	4	2	1
Youth 9v9	4	2	1
Mini-soccer 7v7	6	4	2
Mini-soccer 5v5	6	4	2

The supply demand balance is tabulated below. Spare capacity is highlighted by green shading, balanced usage levels are highlighted in yellow and sites that are overused are highlighted in red:

5.7.2 Adult pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Ashford Recreation Grd.	1	AFC Egham (1 team) Stanwell Village FC (1 team)	1.0	1.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Ashford Town FC	1	Ashford Town FC (3 teams) Southall FC (2 teams)	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Bishop Duppas Recn. Grd.	1	Shepperton Pumas FC (1 team)	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Kempton Cricket Club	3	Laleham and Kempton FC (1 adult/2 youth 11v11 teams)	9.0	5.0	+4.0	3.0	2.0	+1.0
Kenyngton Recn. Ground	2	Colne Valley Ladies/Girls FC (1 adult/3 youth 11v11 teams)	3.0	2.0	+1.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Laleham Recn. Ground	1	Staines Lammas FC (2 teams)	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Littleton Recn. Ground	1	Ashford Town FC (1 youth 11v11 team) Spelthorne Sports Club FC (1 youth 11v11 team)	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Long Lane Recn. Ground	2	Ashford Town FC (2 youth 11v11 teams)	2.0	1.0	+1.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Meadhurst Sports Club	2	AFC Hampton (2 teams) Ashford Villa FC (1 team) Brentford Free Church FC (1 team) Teddington Veterans FC (2 teams) Whitton Villains FC (1 team)	6.0	5.0	+1.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Spelthorne Sports Club	2	AFC Spelthorne Sports (1 team) Spelthorne Sports Club FC (3 teams)	6.0	5.0	+1.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
St. Paul's Catholic College	2	Halliford Colts FC (1 adult team/3 youth 11v11 teams) Hampton and Richmond FC (2 teams) St. Paul's Catholic College (3 teams)	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Thamesmead School	2	Kempton Athletic FC (1 team) Spelthorne Rangers Vets FC (1 team) Thamesmead School (4 teams)	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Wheatsheaf Park	1	Staines Town FC (6 teams)	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTALS	21	-	47.0	38.0	+9.0	21.0	18.0	+3.0

The key findings are:

- Adult demand is supplemented by 12 youth (11v11) teams using adult pitches at Littleton Recreation Ground, Kempton Cricket Club, Kenyngton Recreation Ground, St. Paul's Catholic College and Spelthorne Sports Club.
- Peak time utilisation is balanced at ten sites and there is peak time spare capacity at three sites, so there are limited opportunities for utilising spare capacity.

- Collective peak time spare capacity in the borough amounts to 3.0 match equivalent sessions. This figure becomes a deficit of 1.0 match equivalent session if the education sites without secured community access are excluded.

5.7.3 Youth 11v11 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Ashford Sports Club	2	Ashford Town FC (5 teams)	4.0	5.0	-1.0	2.0	3.0	-1.0
Ashford Town FC	1	Ashford Town FC (2 teams)	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Lammas Recreation Ground	1	No recorded use	2.0	0.0	+2.0	1.0	0.0	+1.0
Matthew Arnold Sports Centre	1	Halliford Colts FC (2 teams) Matthew Arnold School (4 teams)	4.0	6.0	-2.0	1.0	3.0	-2.0
Shepperton Recn. Grd.	1	Halliford School	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Staines & Laleham Sports Club	2	Staines Town Juniors FC (5 teams)	8.0	5.0	+3.0	2.0	3.0	-1.0
TOTALS	8	-	22.0	19.0	+3.0	8.0	12.0	-4.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at four sites and spare capacity at one site.
- The collective peak time supply-demand position in the borough is a deficit of 4.0 match equivalent sessions. The deficit increases to 6.0 match equivalent sessions if the education site without secured community access is excluded.

5.7.4 Youth 9v9 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Ashford Sports Club	1	Ashford Town FC (4 teams)	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Ashford Town FC	1	Ashford Town FC (6 teams)	2.0	3.0	-1.0	1.0	3.0	-2.0
Kenyngton Recn. Ground	1	Colne Valley Ladies/Girls FC (3 teams)	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Lammas Recn. Ground	1	No recorded use	2.0	0.0	+2.0	1.0	0.0	+1.0
Matthew Arnold Sports Centre	2	Halliford Colts FC (6 teams) Matthew Arnold School (2 teams)	8.0	6.0	+2.0	2.0	3.0	-1.0
Meadhurst Sports Club	1	Staines Lammas Youth FC (5 teams)	4.0	3.0	+1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Spelthorne Sports Club	1	Spelthorne Sports Club FC (3 teams)	4.0	3.0	+1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Staines and Laleham Sports Club	1	Staines Town Juniors FC (3 teams)	4.0	3.0	+1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
TOTALS	8	-	28.0	22.0	+6.0	9.0	15.0	-6.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at six sites and a balance at one site.

- The collective peak time deficit in the borough amounts to 6.0 match equivalent sessions. The deficit increases to 7.0 match equivalent sessions if the education site without secured community access is excluded.

5.7.5 Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Ashford Town FC	2	Ashford Town FC (8 teams)	8.0	8.0	Balanced	2.0	4.0	-2.0
Kenyngton Recn. Ground	1	Colne Valley Ladies/ Girls FC (3 teams)	4.0	3.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Laleham Recn. Ground	2	Staines Lammas Youth FC (5 teams)	8.0	5.0	+3.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Matthew Arnold Sports Centre	1	Halliford Colts FC (1 team)	6.0	1.0	+5.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Meadhurst Sports Club	1	Staines Lammas Youth FC (5 teams)	6.0	5.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Spelthorne Sports Club	1	Spelthorne Sports Club FC (3 teams)	6.0	3.0	+3.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
St. Paul's Catholic College	1	No recorded use	4.0	0.0	+4.0	1.0	0.0	+1.0
Staines and Laleham Sports Club	2	Staines Town Juniors FC (4 teams)	12.0	4.0	+8.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
TOTALS	11	-	54.0	29.0	+25.0	11.0	13.0	-2.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows a deficit at two sites, is balanced at five further sites and there is peak time spare capacity at one site where there is currently no recorded use.
- The collective peak time deficit in the borough amounts to 2.0 match equivalent session. The deficit increases to 3.0 match equivalent sessions if the education site without secured community access is excluded.

5.7.6 Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Ashford Town FC	2	Ashford Town FC (5 teams)	8.0	5.0	+3.0	2.0	3.0	-1.0
Laleham Recn. Ground	1	Staines Lammas Youth FC (4 teams)	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Matthew Arnold Sports Centre	1	Halliford Colts FC (3 teams)	6.0	3.0	+3.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Spelthorne Sports Club	2	Spelthorne Sports Club FC (2 teams)	12.0	2.0	+10.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Staines and Laleham Sports Club	2	Staines Town Juniors FC (4 teams)	12.0	4.0	+8.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
TOTALS	8	-	42.0	18.0	+24.0	8.0	10.0	-2.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at three sites, is balanced at one site and shows spare capacity at one site.
- The collective peak time deficit in the borough amounts to 2.0 match equivalent sessions.

5.7.7 '3G' football turf pitches

The methodology for assessing the used capacity of the full-sized artificial grass pitches used for football in Spelthorne is based upon assessing information from two sources:

- The actual used capacity of the two artificial grass pitches with football use is based upon their hours of use in the peak period supplied by the pitch operators.
- A projection based upon the FA's guide figure of one pitch per 38 teams.

Used capacity: The used capacity of the full-sized '3G' football turf pitches used for football in Spelthorne is as follows:

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Peak hours</i>	<i>Utilised peak hours</i>	<i>Peak utilisation rate</i>
London Irish RFC	18.00 - 21.30 Mon - Fri	17.5*	100%
Matthew Arnold Sports Centre	18.00 - 22.00 Mon - Fri	20	100%

* Includes rugby use

FA guidance: An alternative way to assess '3G' pitch needs is to apply the FA's guide figure for training needs of one full-sized pitch per 38 teams. With 149 football teams in Spelthorne at present, there is a requirement for 3.92 pitches the borough. Existing provision of two community-accessible full-sized pitches leaves an effective shortfall of 1.92 full-sized '3G' pitches. This shortfall is endorsed by the Local Football Facility Plan.

5.8 Assessment of future needs

5.8.1 Population growth

Spelthorne Borough Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 116,000 residents in the borough by 2035. This represents a 17.1% increase from the mid-2017 population estimate.

5.8.2 Potential changes in demand

Changes in demand for football in the in future can be modelled on a trend-based projection:

- **FA strategic targets:** The FA's 'National Game Strategy 2016 - 2019' sets the following participation targets:
 - Boost female youth participation by 11% by 2021.
 - Retain and support the 129,000 male, female and disability teams.
 - Increase the number of over 16's playing every week by over 200,000, by offering a variety of formats by 2021.

- **Local trends:** Whilst most respondents to the clubs' survey have experienced an increase in membership in recent years, comparison of current football teams' data from Spelthorne with the number of teams playing in the borough when the Spelthorne Playing Pitch Strategy was last reviewed in 2013 reveals significant differences for the various age groups:

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams 2013</i>	<i>No. Teams 2019</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Adult teams	73	36	-50.7%
Youth teams	77	68	-11.7%
Mini-soccer teams	46	45	-2.2%
<i>TOTAL TEAMS</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>-24.0%</i>

Consultation with local clubs indicated that the following additional teams could be accommodated in Spelthorne if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. The projected increase is equivalent to a 47.2% rise in current team numbers. Given the actual trends over the past five years, it is considered appropriate to project future needs based on current team numbers.

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams</i>
Adult teams	8
Youth 11v11 teams	14
Youth 9v9 teams	12
Mini 7v7 teams	16
Mini 5v5 teams	17
<i>TOTAL TEAMS</i>	<i>67</i>

5.8.3 Site-specific pressures

Spelthorne Borough Council needs to identify sites upon which it can deliver its housing targets. Whilst planning policy offers protection to playing pitches, those sites that do not currently accommodate formal football activity may be vulnerable unless it can be proved that they are needed to accommodate existing or future shortfalls in supply or serve some other green space functions.

5.8.4 Potential changes in supply

- Ashford Town FC is seeking funding for a '3G' pitch.
- Thomas Knyvett College is considering provision of a full-sized '3G' pitch (although there have been some past issues with community use at the site).
- The new Spelthorne Leisure Centre may feature '3G' provision (either a full-sized or small-sided pitches).

5.8.5 Existing spare capacity

Existing surpluses (shown with a '+') or deficits (shown with a '-') in football pitch peak-time capacity have been calculated in section 5.7 above and are as follows. It is important to note that the shortfalls cannot be met by improvements to pitch quality (and related capacity), because they relate to peak period demand, which is defined by the number of pitches:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Match equivalents</i>
Adult	+3.0
Youth 11v11	-4.0
Youth 9v9	-6.0
Mini-soccer 7v7	-1.0
Mini-soccer 5v5	-2.0

5.8.6 Future grass pitch needs

Future formal grass pitch needs to 2035 are modelled below using ‘Team Generation Rates’ (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the borough are required to generate one team. These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future.

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Pop. 2035</i>	<i>Teams 2035</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>	<i>Match equivalents</i>
Adult male football	18-45	17,660	32	1: 552	18,120	33	1	0.5
Adult female football	18-45	17,800	4	1: 4,450	17,160	4	0	0.0
Boys youth 11v11 football	12-17	2,780	29	1: 96	3,200	33	4	2.0
Girls youth 11v11 football	12-17	2,520	8	1: 315	2,900	9	1	0.5
Boys youth 9v9 football	10-11	1,160	27	1: 43	1,280	30	3	1.5
Girls youth 9v9 football	10-11	1,040	4	1: 260	1,160	4	0	0.0
Mini-soccer 7v7 (mixed)	8-9	2,480	26	1: 103	2,400	26	0	0.0
Mini-soccer 5v5 (mixed)	6-7	2,480	19	1: 131	2,400	19	0	0.0

5.8.7 Future ‘3G’ pitch needs

Future ‘3G’ pitch needs to 2035 are modelled based upon the projected number of additional teams identified above (9) multiplied by the FA’s guide figure for training needs of 38 teams per pitch, to produce a requirement for 0.24 additional pitches, in addition to the existing assessed shortfall of 1.92 pitches.

5.8.8 Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator

A supplementary way of modelling future playing pitch needs is Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator. The model applies Team Generation rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand but provides helpful context for the site-specific supply-demand assessment in section 5.7 and the TGR calculations in 5.8.6 above. The results of applying the Calculator for football needs in Spelthorne are set out below:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand 2035</i>		
	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Youth</i>	<i>Mini</i>
Extra peak match equivalent sessions	2.22	5.72	3.78
Extra training per week on ‘3G’ pitches	25.05		
Extra grass pitches to meet demand	2.22	5.72	3.78
Capital cost of extra pitches	£264,084	£510,162	£112,536
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£55,722	£107,134	£23,633
Extra ‘3G’ pitches to meet demand	0.66		
Capital cost of extra ‘3G’ pitches	£776,616		
Annual running costs of extra ‘3G’ pitches	£24,147		

5.9 Key findings and issues

5.9.1 What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

- **Falling demand:** There have been reductions in the number of affiliated teams at local level since 2013 and whilst the trend is most significant at adult level (a 50.7% reduction), unusually there have also been falls in the number of youth (11.7%) and mini (2.2%) teams.
- **Imported demand:** Ten adult teams and one youth (11v11) team play their matches on pitches in Spelthorne are drawn from neighbouring boroughs.
- **Unmet demand:** Three clubs have a membership waiting list (Colne Valley Girls and Ladies FC, Halliford Colts FC and Spelthorne Sports FC), although none of the clubs could confirm the number of team equivalents involved. Two clubs have unmet demand for additional match pitches (Ashford Town FC and Staines Town Juniors FC).
- **Grass pitch quality:** 92.7% of pitches in Spelthorne are rated as at least 'standard' quality.
- **'3G' football turf pitches:** There is only one full-sized '3G' football turf pitch in Spelthorne, plus two small-sided '3G' pitches and a rugby-compliant artificial grass pitch that is also used for football. Whilst providing for some training needs, many local clubs have identified the lack of floodlit, all-weather pitches as an impediment to the development of the game locally. Based upon the FA calculation that there should be one full-sized '3G' pitch per 38 teams, there should be 3.92 pitches in Spelthorne.
- **Secured community use:** One in five pitches with community use do not have secured community use, meaning that in theory usage could be rescinded at any time. Measures to secure community use at education sites would be advisable.

5.9.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **NO** - there is a deficit for most pitch types

- **Adult grass pitches:** There is a collective surplus of 3.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at accessible, community-secured sites.
- **Youth 11v11 pitches:** There is a collective deficit of 4.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at the community-secured sites.
- **Youth 9v9 pitches:** There is a collective deficit of 6.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at community-secured sites.
- **Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches:** There is a collective deficit of 2.0 weekly match equivalent session at community-secured sites.
- **Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches:** There is a collective deficit of 2.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at the community-secured sites.
- **'3G' football turf pitches:** Based on the FA's calculation of training needs, there is no effective peak-time spare capacity at '3G' football turf pitches in the borough and an assessed shortfall of 1.92 pitches. The small-sided Meadhurst Sports Club pitch has limited community access due to high usage by club members.

5.9.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **YES** - at most pitches

- **Quality:** Pitch quality was rated ‘poor’ at only four out of 57 football pitches in the borough. However, quality is at the lower end of ‘standard’ at a further five pitches, many of which are likely to fall into the ‘poor’ category in the future, without enhanced maintenance and/or quality improvements.
- **Maintenance:** Most pitches in Spelthorne are appropriately maintained.

5.9.4 What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

- **Population growth:** The borough’s population is projected to increase by 16,900 people by 2035, a 17.1% increase over the 2016 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** Projecting future need based on current demand patterns is a reasonable basis for forecasting.
- **Changes in supply:** The proposed sports hall at St. James’s Boys School will reduce the size of the sand-filled artificial turf pitch that has some limited football use.
- **Existing spare capacity:** The only notional spare capacity is 3.0 match equivalent sessions at adult football pitches.
- **Future needs:** Based on projected population growth, additional future needs have been assessed as follows. Mini-soccer shows no additional needs because due to demographic change reducing the number of people in that age group in the borough by 2035:
 - Adult grass pitches: 0.5 match equivalent session.
 - Youth 11v11 grass pitches: 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
 - Youth 9v9 grass pitches: 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
 - Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches: 0 match equivalent sessions.
 - Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches: 0 match equivalent sessions.
 - ‘3G’ football turf pitches: 0.24 pitches (9 match equivalent sessions).

5.9.5 Is there enough accessible and secured provision to meet future demand? **No** - there is a deficit for all pitch types.

The situation at community accessible pitches in the borough is summarised below:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Current secured pitches</i>	<i>Current secured peak spare pitch capacity</i>	<i>Current peak needs</i>	<i>Extra match equivalents by 2035</i>	<i>Total peak needs by 2035</i>
Adult football	15	+1.0	14.0	1.0	15.0
Youth 11v11	7	-5.0	13.0	5.0	18.0
Youth 9v9	7	-7.0	14.0	3.0	17.0
Mini 7v7	9	-2.0	11.0	0.0	11.0
Mini 5v5	8	-2.0	10.0	0.0	10.0

5.10 Scenario Testing

5.10.1 Introduction

Based upon the key findings and issues identified above, a number of scenarios have been examined, to identify the optimum approach to addressing needs.

5.10.2 Scenario 1: Re-instating un-used and disused pitches

- **Rationale:** The table below models the effect of re-instating unused and disused pitches to meet future demand. The pitches concerned and the reasons why they are currently unused are as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Reasons for non-usage</i>
Cedars Recreation Ground	Green Street, Sunbury TW16 6QQ	-	1	-	-	-	Pitch available but no current demand.
Staines Park	Knowle Green, Staines TW18 1XH	-	1	-	-	-	Pitch available but no current demand.
TOTALS	-	0	2	0	0	0	-

- The pitches can all be restored to ‘standard’ quality and whilst there are no changing facilities at either site, there are no access and parking issues at the sites. Whilst it would have limited impact on the amount of additional pitch capacity that would still need to be provided, it would at least reduce the number required. It would therefore make sense to consider resuming use of these pitches to meet additional future demand, rather than making entirely new provision.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Both pitches were used until recently, so could be reinstated at relatively low cost.
 - Both sites have secured community access so usage would be assured.
- **Disadvantages:** There are no obvious disadvantages to this scenario.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers some advantages for enhancing local pitch capacity on a cost-effective basis.

5.10.3 Scenario 2: Accessing pitches on education sites

- **Rationale:** The following pitches on school sites in Spelthorne have no community use at present. Local clubs with surplus demand in the vicinity of each site that would benefit from additional pitch access are also listed:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Local clubs with surplus demand</i>
Ashford Park Primary School	Ashford	-	-	-	1	1	Ashford Town FC
Bishop Wand School	Sunbury	2	-	-	-	-	Colne Valley Girls FC
Buckland Primary School	Laleham	-	-	-	2	-	Laleham & Kempton FC
Chennestone Primary School	Sunbury	-	-	-	1	-	Halliford Colts FC

<i>Site</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Local clubs with surplus demand</i>
Clarendon Primary School	Ashford	-	-	-	1	-	Ashford Town FC
Echelford Primary School	Ashford	-	-	-	2	-	Ashford Town FC
Halliford School	Shepperton	2	1	-	-	-	Halliford Colts FC
Halliford School Field	Shepperton	2	-	(2)	-	-	Halliford Colts FC
Hawkedale Primary School	Sunbury	-	-	-	2	-	Colne Valley Girls FC
Laleham Primary School	Laleham	-	-	-	2	-	Laleham & Kempton FC
Meadhurst School	Ashford	-	-	-	1	1	Ashford Town FC
Our Lady of the Rosary School	Staines	-	-	-	1	1	Staines Lammas YFC
Riverbridge Primary School	Staines	-	-	-	1	-	Staines Town YFC
Saxon Primary School	Shepperton	-	1	-	-	-	Halliford Colts FC
Springfield Primary School	Sunbury	-	-	-	1	-	Colne Valley Girls FC
St. Ignatius Primary School	Sunbury	-	-	-	-	1	Colne Valley Girls FC
St. James's Boys School	Ashford	1	1	-	-	-	Ashford Town FC
St. Michael's Primary School	Ashford	-	-	-	1	-	Ashford Town FC
St. Nicholas Primary School	Shepperton	-	-	-	1	1	Halliford Colts FC
Stanwell Fields Primary School	Staines	-	-	-	1	-	Staines Lammas YFC
Sunbury Manor School	Sunbury	2	-	-	-	-	Colne Valley Girls FC
Thomas Knyvett College	Ashford	1	1	-	-	-	Ashford Town FC
Town Farm Primary School	Stanwell	-	-	-	1	-	Staines Town YFC
TOTALS	-	10	4	(2)	19	5	-

- The table below models the effect of gaining access to school pitches to meet future community demand. It shows that whilst additional capacity would still need to be provided for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9, the amount of provision required would be reduced. Whilst pitch capacity is reduced by the education use, it would nevertheless make sense to consider negotiating the use of these pitches to meet additional future demand, rather than making entirely new provision.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Current School pitches</i>	<i>Peak match equivalent capacity</i>	<i>Unmet current and future peak demand (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Adult football	10	10.0	0.0	+10.0
Youth 11v11	4	4.0	9.0	-5.0
Youth 9v9	(2)	2.0	9.0	-7.0
Mini 7v7	19	19.0	2.0	+17.0
Mini 5v5	5	5.0	2.0	+3.0

- Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The pitches already exist and therefore could be brought into use at little or no additional cost, depending on the current quality of the respective pitches.
 - There would be opportunities to establish closer school-club links if community-based clubs were playing on school sites.
 - The pitches should be available during the peak demand periods for community-based teams at weekends.

- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - None of the schools has community use at present and there is no obvious mechanism for securing it, so there is no guarantee that they would be prepared to commence such an arrangement.
 - No site has a Community Use Agreement so continued access would be unsecured.
 - No assessment has been made of the quality of schools pitches without community use, so the extent of their capacity to accommodate additional use is unknown.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers some advantages for enhancing local pitch capacity on a cost-effective basis and should therefore be examined further on a site-by-site basis.

5.10.4 Scenario 3: De-commission all council-operated football pitches

- **Rationale:** Spelthorne Borough Council provides eleven football pitches at six sites in the Borough, four of which are 'poor' quality and six are 'standard' quality. In addition, two further pitches at Council-owned sites are currently unused. Providing pitches is a permissive rather than a statutory requirement for local authorities, therefore the Council is under no obligation to provide them. If alternatives were available therefore, the Council could decommission its pitches. The table below models the effects of removing council pitches but obtaining access to those on school sites with no current community access. The data shows that current and future football needs cannot be met without using council-owned pitches.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Secured non-SBC pitches</i>	<i>Current peak pitch needs</i>	<i>Deficit at non-SBC pitches</i>	<i>Pitches with no access</i>	<i>Position including no access pitches</i>
Adult football	15	18.0	-3.0	9	+6.0
Youth 11v11	8	11.0	-3.0	3	Balanced
Youth 9v9	8	15.0	-7.0	(2)	-6.0
Mini 7v7	9	12.0	-3.0	19	+16.0
Mini 5v5	8	10.0	-2.0	5	+3.0

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that there would be significant pitch maintenance cost savings for the Council.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - As indicated in Scenario 2, schools are under no obligation to hire their pitches for community use and many are unwilling to do so for a variety of reasons including wear-and-tear to the playing surfaces that impacts adversely upon education use and logistical problems of accessing school fields out of hours. For this reason, no assumptions could be made about community accessibility to school pitches.
 - As identified in section 5.9.5, all existing pitches are required to meet current and/or future needs, so Council pitches could not be lost without serious detriment to overall local pitch needs.
- **Conclusions:** It would be unacceptably risky to decommission the Council's football pitches, given the difficulties of securing community use of school pitches and the continued shortfall of youth pitches even if all school pitches were made available.

5.10.5 Scenario 4: Improve existing grass pitch carrying capacity

- **Rationale:** The following football pitches in Spelthorne are either ‘standard’ or ‘poor’ quality and as such their carrying capacity is compromised. The users of each site are also listed in the table below, to illustrate which clubs might benefit from pitch quality (and related capacity) improvements:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Club users</i>
Ashford Recreation Ground	Ashford	1	-	-	-	-	AFC Egham Stanwell Village FC
Ashford Sports Club	Ashford	-	2	1	-	-	Ashford Town FC
Bishop Duppas Recn. Ground	Shepperton	1	-	-	-	-	Shepperton Pumas FC
Kenyngton Recreation Ground	Sunbury	2	-	1	1	-	Colne Valley Ladies FC
Laleham Recreation Ground	Laleham	1	-	-	2	1	Staines Lammas FC
Lammas Recreation Ground	Staines	-	1	-	-	-	No recorded use
Long Lane Recreation Ground	Staines	2	-	-	-	-	Ashford Town FC
St. Paul’s Catholic College	Sunbury	2	-	-	1	-	Halliford Colts FC Hampton and Richmond FC St. Paul’s Catholic Coll.
Thamesmead School	Shepperton	2	-	-	-	-	Kempton Athletic FC Spelthorne Rangers VFC Thamesmead School
TOTALS	-	11	3	2	4	1	-

- The table below models the effect of improving the pitches to ‘good’ quality and subsequently maintaining them as such.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Improved pitch capacity (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Unmet current and future demand (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Balance (match equivalents)</i>
Adult football	14.0	0.0	+14.0
Youth 11v11	6.0	9.0	-3.0
Youth 9v9	4.0	9.0	-5.0
Mini 7v7	8.0	2.0	+6.0
Mini 5v5	2.0	2.0	Balanced

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Overall usage capacity would be improved and the boroughwide collective weekly capacity deficiencies would mini-soccer pitches would be eliminated..
 - This would be a cost-effective option compared with the expense of providing new pitches, particularly if land acquisition costs are factored in.
 - The LFFP identifies that pitch quality improvements at Ashford Town FC, Thomas Knyvett College, Kenyngton Recreation Ground, Laleham Recreation Ground and Long Lane Recreation Ground are the highest local priority. In addition to these sites other priorities may also emerge.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:

- There would still be a deficiency of youth (11v11 and 9v9) pitches, unless adult pitches were converted for this purpose.
- The capital cost of pitch improvements may be supported by the Football Foundation grants programmes, the main financial challenge to many pitch providers would be meeting the revenue cost implications of the enhanced works associated with maintaining the pitch quality as 'good'.
- The major benefit of capacity improvements are on weekly capacity and would have very limited impact on the peak period shortfalls.
- **Conclusions:** The priorities identified in the LFFP are those which will best support current and future pitch needs in the borough and should therefore be supported.

5.10.6 Scenario 5: Improve poor quality changing facilities

- **Rationale:** Five football pitches in Spelthorne (8.9%) are served by either 'poor' quality or no changing facilities. Whilst youth and mini players frequently do not use changing facilities even where they are provided, it is nevertheless concerning that some pitches are served by 'poor' quality changing facilities. The adverse impact on user experiences makes it more difficult to recruit and retain new players, particularly women and girls. Improving or providing changing facilities would help to improve efforts to increase participation. The sites identified in the LFFP that would benefit most from improvements/new provision are:
 - Ashford Town FC
 - Long Lane Recreation Ground
 - The new Spelthorne Leisure Centre
 - Staines and Laleham Sports Association
 - Thomas Knyvett College
- **Advantages:** The main advantage of this scenario is that better quality changing provision would improve the likelihood of retaining existing and attracting new players.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Changing facility enhancements would not impact directly on the usage capacity of the sites, so improvements would be qualitative rather than quantitative.
 - Youth and mini-soccer players generally make limited use of changing facilities - often toilets are the key requirement rather than changing space and showering facilities *per se*, so the cost of new or improved provision in relation to its benefits would be relatively high.
- **Conclusions:** The priorities identified in the LFFP are those which will best support current and future pitch needs in the borough and should therefore be supported.

5.10.7 Scenario 6: The impact of current '3G' pitch proposals

- **Rationale:** There are currently three potential '3G' pitch proposals in Spelthorne, which will add capacity and address current shortfalls:
 - Ashford Town FC
 - Thomas Knyvett College
 - The new Spelthorne Leisure Centre
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows.
 - Assuming that all three pitches are provided as full-sized facilities with full community access, they will be capable of accommodating an additional 114 training slots per week, in addition to the current capacity of 76 weekly training slots at existing pitches, which is more than enough to accommodate all current and projected future demand.
 - In addition to the extra training capacity, assuming the permissibility of staggered kick-off times and the accreditation of each pitch on the FA Register, the pitches could collectively provide for 12 adult or youth 11v11, or 18 youth 9v9 or mini 7v7 or 24 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions per weekend per weekend, thus reducing peak demand pressure on grass pitches.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Demand from Ashford Town FC is so high that their pitch would be unlikely to be able to accommodate usage by any other local clubs.
 - Thomas Knyvett College has no current community use of its grass pitches, so there is no guarantee of the extent of any public access to the proposed '3G' pitch (although this could be secured as a condition of planning consent and/or grant funding).
 - The precise facilities mix at the new Spelthorne Leisure Centre and the timing of the development are uncertain at present, so it is difficult to plan for what '3G' pitch provision might be made and when.
- **Conclusions:** The current '3G' pitch proposals in Spelthorne have the potential to provide for all current and future football training needs and some match play, so the development of each project should be supported, subject to detailed feasibility studies. In the event that any of the projects do not proceed, alternative proposals should be encouraged.

5.11 Policy recommendations

5.11.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to football are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;
- The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

The following recommendations are arranged under the three main headings of ‘protect’, ‘enhance’ and ‘provide’.

5.11.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The Spelthorne PPS is a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for football in the borough. The Strategy identifies a need for all current and disused football pitch sites to be retained, on the basis of the specific identified roles that each can play in delivering the needs of the sport and/or other wider open space functions in Spelthorne both now and in the future. It is therefore recommended that existing planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the PPS. If any pitch sites do become the subject of development proposals, this will only be permissible if they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy. This states that ‘the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must 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’.

Recommendation 2 - Security of tenure: 17% of the football pitches in Spelthorne are on sites without secured community use and the absence of a Community Use Agreement at some school sites makes it impossible to assume the continued availability of the pitches for the community. It also makes it impossible for a school to apply for external grant funding to improve its facilities, including the receipt of funds from developer contributions. It is therefore recommended that efforts are made to achieve security of Community Use Agreements at sites without them at present.

5.11.3 Enhance

Recommendation 3 - Improving existing ‘poor’ quality provision, including dis-used sites: Four pitches (7.2%) in the borough are rated as ‘poor’ quality and several more are rated at the lower end of ‘standard’ quality. Additionally, five pitches are served by ‘poor’ quality or no changing facilities. This reduces the quality of playing experience and may deter some potential participants. Subject to security of tenure issues, it is recommended that:

- The site owners concerned should be supported to apply for external funding for facility enhancements, including the receipt of developer contributions (see below) where the usage capacity would be enhanced.
- Sites with poor playing surfaces should apply to be part of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme, which will offer a programme to improve the short, medium and long-term maintenance of pitches to improve pitch quality.

Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions (enhancements): Some of the additional demand for football arising from the proposed housing development in Spelthorne to 2035, should be accommodated through enhancements to existing pitches and facilities. It is recommended that the site-specific action plan in the Spelthorne PPS be used as the basis for determining facility enhancements that demonstrably relate to the scale and location of specific developments and that an appropriate level of financial contributions be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of the enhancements. To facilitate this, specific playing pitch projects should be listed as ‘relevant infrastructure’, under CIL Regulation 123. Larger strategic projects should be exempt from CIL, with funding collected via Section 106 contributions.

5.11.4 Provide

Recommendation 5 - ‘3G’ football turf pitches: Based upon the FA’s guide figure, there is a current shortfall of 2 full-sized ‘3G’ pitches in the borough, with additional demand equivalent to 0.24 full-sized pitches being generated by population growth by 2035. ‘3G’ pitches are an important component of provision because their all-weather nature and floodlights enable a high volume of play to be accommodated on good quality playing surfaces. The provision of additional ‘3G’ pitches to meet needs identified in the Spelthorne PPS should be supported as a priority in appropriate locations. Sites currently under active consideration and supported by the LFFP include Ashford Town FC, Thomas Knyvett College and the new Spelthorne Leisure Centre.

Recommendation 6 - Developer contributions (new provision): Most of the extra demand for youth football in particular arising from the proposed housing development in Spelthorne to 2035, will need to be accommodated through the provision of new pitches and facilities. It is recommended that agreement be concluded with developers to provide football pitches to meet the specific future needs identified in the Spelthorne PPS.

5.12 Action Plan

5.12.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the football site-specific action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for SBC - Spelthorne Borough Council, FA - Football Association and GANTIP - Grass and Natural Turf Pitch Improvement Programme. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England’s *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2018* (2018), but actual costs will vary based on site-specific conditions.

5.12.2 Key strategic actions

Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Community access to public and private education pitches	Pursue formal Community Use agreements at all existing and any future proposed pitches on public and private education sites.	SBC	Academies and schools	Possible funding for improvements to physical accessibility.	High
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved football facilities.	SBC	Developers	Determined by Sport England’s New Development Calculator	High

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Identification of sites for additional '3G' football turf pitches	Examine the feasibility of providing additional pitches at Ashford Town FC, Thomas Knyvett College and the new Spelthorne Leisure Centre.	SBC	Potential host sites Football Foundation S106 funding	£10,000 for feasibility studies	High
Site specific grounds maintenance needs	Review site specific grounds maintenance needs when next reviewing SBC's grounds maintenance contract specification.	SBC	GANTIP	-	High

5.12.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Ashford Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Poor' standard pitch. • Changing facilities at lower end of 'standard' quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review grounds maintenance with GANTIP. • Assess the need for changing facility improvements. 	SBC	GANTIP	-	Medium
Ashford Sports Club	Youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches used to over-capacity in the peak period.	Move youth 11v11 and 9v9 matches to '3G' pitches.	Ashford Sports Club	-	-	Medium
Ashford Town FC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing pitches used to over-capacity in the peak period • Identified in the LFFP as a priority site for a '3G' pitch, grass pitch and changing improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a '3G' football turf pitch. • Improve grass pitches. • Implement changing facility improvements. 	Ashford Town FC	Football Foundation	£750,000 for '3G' pitch £100,000 for grass pitches £665,000 for changing facilities	High
Bishop Duppas Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch at lower end of 'standard' quality. • 'Poor' standard changing facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review grounds maintenance with GANTIP • Assess the need for changing facility improvements. 	SBC	GANTIP	-	Medium
Cedars Recreation Ground	Identified in the LFFP as a priority site for informal small-sided pitches.	Provide informal, small-sided pitches.	SBC	Football Foundation	£20,000 annual maintenance	Medium
Kempton Cricket Club	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Kenyngton Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One adult pitch poor, others at lower end of 'standard' quality. • Identified in the LFFP as a priority site for grass improvements. 	Improve grass pitches	SBC	Football Foundation	£100,000 for pitch improvements	High
Laleham Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini-soccer 5v5 pitch used to over capacity in the peak period. • Car parking inadequate. • Identified in the LFFP as a priority site for grass improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve grass pitches and car parking capacity. • Move 5v5 matches to '3G' pitches. 	Laleham Recn. Grd. Assoc.	Staines Lammas Youth FC	£100,000 for pitch improvements	High

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Lammas Recreation Ground	No changing facilities.	Assess the need for changing facility	SBC	-	-	Low
Littleton Recreation Ground	No changing facilities.	Assess the need for changing facility	SBC	-	-	Low
Long Lane Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Poor' standard pitch. • Changing facilities at lower end of 'standard' quality. • Identified in the LFFP as a priority site for pitch improvements and a new MUGA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve grass pitches. • Implement changing facility improvements. 	SBC	Football Foundation	£50,000 for grass pitches £150,000 for MUGA	High
Matthew Arnold Sports Centre	Youth 11v11 and 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches used to over-capacity in the peak period.	Move youth 11v11 and 9v9 and mini 5v5 matches to '3G' pitches.	Matthew Arnold School	-	-	High
Meadhurst Sports Club	Youth 9v9 pitches used to over-capacity in the peak period.	Move youth 9v9 matches to '3G' pitches.	Meadhurst Sports Club	-	-	Medium
New Spelthorne Leisure Centre	Identified in the LFFP as a priority site for a '3G' pitch and changing facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a '3G' football turf pitch. • Provide changing facilities 	SBC	Football Foundation	£750,000 for '3G' pitch £665,000 for changing facilities	High
Shepperton Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch at lower end of 'standard' quality. • No changing facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review grounds maintenance with GANTIP • Assess the need for changing facility improvements. 	SBC	GANTIP	-	Medium
Spelthorne Sports Club	Youth 9v9 pitches and mini 7v7 pitches used to over-capacity in the peak period.	Move youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 matches to '3G' pitches.	Spelthorne Sports Club	-	-	Medium
St. Paul's Catholic College	No secured community access.	Negotiate a formal Community Use Agreement	SBC	St. Paul's Catholic College	-	Low
Staines and Laleham Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches used to over-capacity in the peak period. • Changing facilities at the lower end of 'standard' quality, identified in the LFFP as a priority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move youth 11v11 and 9v9 matches to '3G' pitches. • Improve changing facilities. 	Staines and Laleham Sports Club	Football Foundation	£665,000 for changing facilities	High
Thamesmead School	No secured community access.	Negotiate a formal Community Use Agreement	SBC	Thamesmead School	-	Medium

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Thomas Knyvett College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified in the LFFP as a priority site for a '3G' pitch, grass pitch and changing improvements. • No community use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a '3G' football turf pitch. • Improve grass pitches. • Implement changing facility improvements. • Negotiate a formal Community Use Agreement 	Thomas Knyvett College	Football Foundation	£750,000 for '3G' pitch £100,000 for grass pitches £665,000 for changing facilities	High
Wheatsheaf Park	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-

6 CRICKET NEEDS IN SPELTHORNE

6.1 Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders delivering cricket in Spelthorne are:

- **Surrey Cricket:** Surrey Cricket manages recreational cricket in the county, from its grass-roots foundations through to the interface with the first-class game.
- **Surrey Cricket-affiliated clubs:** There are six affiliated clubs in Spelthorne, who collectively run 35 adult and 25 junior teams.
- **Pitch providers:** Pitches in the borough are variously managed and maintained by cricket clubs and some schools.

6.2 Strategic context

6.2.1 National cricket strategy

The England and Wales Cricket Board's strategy for 2020 -2024 '*Inspiring Generations*' (2019) contains the following priorities and activities of relevance to Spelthorne

Grow and nurture the core: The following will be prioritised:

- A new investment fund for County Cricket Boards.
- Investment in club facilities.
- Further investment in county competitions.

Make cricket accessible: The following will be prioritised:

- Creating a new digital community for cricket.
- Installing non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas.
- Continuing to deliver the South Asian Action Plan.
- Launching a new participation product linked to the new 100-ball competition.

Engage children and young people: The following will be prioritised:

- Doubling cricket participation in primary schools.
- Delivering a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards.
- Developing safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people.

Transform women and girl's cricket: There will be a structured pathway for women and girl's in both softball and hardball cricket that will include:

- Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- Investing in girls' county age group cricket.
- Delivering a girls' secondary school programme.

Support our communities: The following will be prioritised:

- Doubling the number of volunteers in the game.
- Creating a game-wide approach to Trusts and Foundations through the cricket network.
- Developing a new wave of officials and community coaches.
- Increasing participation in disability cricket.

6.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

Playing pitch strategies in neighbouring boroughs identify cross-boundary issues:

Runnymede

The 'Runnymede Playing Pitch Strategy' (2018) was recently adopted and identifies that there is insufficient peak time capacity to meet current needs, particularly for junior play and that two additional pitches are required to meet needs to 2030.

Elmbridge

The Council is in the final stages of completing a Playing Pitch Strategy for the borough. The emerging findings in relation to cricket are that there is a current seasonal and peak time deficit of grass pitches, with a projected future shortfall of six pitches by 2036.

Windsor and Maidenhead

The 'Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Playing Pitch Strategy' (2016) identifies that 'there is a sufficient supply of cricket pitches to cater for demand from clubs within the borough at peak time, however current provision is insufficient to accommodate any increases at peak time'.

London Borough of Hillingdon

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy and there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

London Borough of Richmond

The 'London Borough of Richmond Playing Pitch Strategy' (2018) identifies spare capacity of 118 seasonal match equivalent sessions, decreasing to 108 match equivalent sessions by 2033.

London Borough of Hounslow

The 'London Borough of Hounslow Playing Pitch Strategy 2017-2030' (2016) identifies that with the development of a new hub site in Gunnersbury Park, there is sufficient capacity to meet current needs, but that additional cricket pitches will be needed to meet extra demand by 2030.

6.2.3 Implications of the strategic context

The implications of the strategic context for cricket in Spelthorne are as follows:

- ***Wider agendas:*** Given the increasing limitations on public finances, demonstrating the role that cricket can play in delivering wider agendas such as health and wellbeing is a key requirement for attracting investment.
- ***Policy shifts:*** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for cricket to demonstrate that it can attract new and lapsed participants. Recent innovations such as 'Last Man Stands', Tape-ball and soft ball tournaments might prove more attractive than the more traditional model.

6.3 Cricket demand in Spelthorne

6.3.1 Affiliated clubs and teams

A questionnaire survey was circulated to all ECB-affiliated Cricket clubs in Spelthorne. The information was supplemented by consultation at a Spelthorne cricket clubs' forum, moderated by Surrey Cricket, so information was collected on all clubs and teams in the Borough. The following clubs affiliate to Surrey Cricket and play in Spelthorne:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground(s)</i>	<i>Adult male teams</i>	<i>Adult female teams</i>	<i>Junior male teams</i>	<i>Junior female teams</i>
Ashford Cricket Club	Ashford Sports Club	6	1	6	-
Kempton Cricket Club	Kempton Cricket Club	6	-	1	-
Shepperton Cricket Club	Shepperton Cricket Club Halliford School	5	2	4	1
Spelthorne Sports CC	Spelthorne Sports Club	2	-	2	-
Sunbury Cricket Club	Sunbury Cricket Club	8	1	9	-
Staines and Laleham CC	Staines and Laleham Sports Club	4	-	2	-
TOTALS	-	31	4	24	1

6.3.2 Demand trends

- **National demand:** The ECB's most recent 'National Cricket Playing Survey' (2016) identified a 7% decrease in player numbers between 2014 and 2015. Of the 850,000 players nationally, 250,000 are 'core' players (playing at least 12 times per season), 400,000 are 'occasional' players (playing between three and 11 times per season) and 200,000 are 'cameo' players (playing once or twice per season). 5% of all organised fixtures were cancelled in 2015 because at least one of the teams was unable to field eleven players.
- **Local demand:** Comparison of current Cricket teams' data from Spelthorne with the number of teams playing in the borough when the Spelthorne Playing Pitch Strategy was last reviewed in 2013 reveals significant differences for the two age groups:

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams 2013</i>	<i>No. Teams 2017</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Adult male teams	31	31	-
Adult female teams	3	4	+33.3%
Junior male teams	36	24	-33.3%
Junior female teams	2	1	-50.0%
TOTAL TEAMS	72	60	-16.7%

6.3.3 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area and vice versa:

- **Imported demand in Spelthorne-based clubs:** No teams from outside Spelthorne play their home matches on pitches in the borough.

- **Exported demand from internal clubs:** No teams from Spelthorne play their matches on pitches in neighbouring areas.

There is therefore no evidence of displaced demand for cricket in Spelthorne.

6.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Some pitches may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

Consultation with local clubs identified the following evidence of unmet demand:

- **Ashford CC:** The Club stated that ‘we currently have two pitches at our Short Lane site but we are keen to expand and run a 5th XI for the men and/or a 2nd XI for the ladies. If we achieve this aim we will need additional home facilities and there are none available in the Borough of Spelthorne’.
- **Shepperton CC:** The club stated that ‘we are planning to extend our clubhouse’.

6.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist, latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from a population if they had access to more or better provision. Consultation with local clubs indicated that a total of 13 additional teams of all age groups could be accommodated in Spelthorne if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Adult male teams</i>	<i>Adult female teams</i>	<i>Junior male teams</i>	<i>Junior female teams</i>
Ashford Cricket Club	1	0	0	0
Kempton Cricket Club	0	0	5	0
Shepperton Cricket Club	0	0	2	1
Spelthorne Sports CC	1	0	2	0
Sunbury Cricket Club	-	-	-	-
Staines and Laleham CC	0	0	1	0
TOTALS	2	0	10	1

6.4 Cricket supply in Spelthorne

6.4.1 Cricket facilities

Provision of cricket pitches in Spelthorne is set out below. The pitches included in the analysis are defined as natural grass or artificial turf wickets (shown in brackets).

- Available for community use and used:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
Ashford Sports Club	Short Lane, Staines TW19 7BQ	2	22
Halliford School	Church Road, Shepperton TW17 9JT	1	4
Kempton Cricket Club	Kempton Avenue, Sunbury TW16 5NG	2	12
Shepperton Cricket Club	Russell Road, Shepperton TW17 9HB	1	11(1)
Spelthorne Sports Club	Staines Road West, Ashford TW15 1RY	1	9(1)
Sunbury Cricket Club	Lower Hampton Rd., Sunbury TW16 5PS	3	40
Staines and Laleham Sports Assoc.	Worple Road, Staines TW18 1HR	2	30(1)
TOTAL	-	12	128

- Available for community use and not used:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
St. James's Boys School	Church Road, Ashford TW15 3DZ	2	12
Thamesmead School	Manygate Lane, Shepperton TW17 9EE	2*	(2)*
TOTAL	-	4	12(2)

*Pitches installed in June 2019, available for community use on a 10-year agreement but not yet used.

- Not available for community use:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
Bishop Wand School	Layton's Lane, Sunbury TW16 6LT	1	(1)
Halliford School	Russell Road, Shepperton TW17 9HX	1	(1)
Halliford School	Church Road, Shepperton TW17 9JT	2	(2)
Laleham Primary School	The Broadway, Laleham TW18 1SB	1	(1)
Riverbridge Primary School	Park Avenue, Staines TW18 2EF	1	(1)
Springfield Primary School	Nursery Road, Sunbury TW16 6LY	1	(1)
Sunbury Manor School	Nursery Road, Sunbury TW16 6LF	1	(1)
Thomas Knyvett College	Stanwell Road, Ashford TW15 3DU	1	(1)
TOTAL	-	9	(9)

- Pitches decommissioned in the past five years:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Wickets</i>	<i>Reason for decommissioning</i>
Laleham Recreation Ground	The Broadway, Laleham TW18 1RZ	1	6	Falling demand and declining pitch quality.
Long Lane Recreation Ground	Cambria Gardens, Staines TW19 7ET	1	8	Falling demand and declining pitch quality.
TOTAL	-	2	12	

6.4.2 Cricket facilities quality

The qualitative analysis of pitches in Spelthorne involved visits to all cricket pitches, to undertake the sport-specific non-technical visual inspections produced by the ECB for Sport England's *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* (2013). The assessment evaluated the condition of:

- **Grass wickets:** This includes presence of line markings, evidence of rolling, grass cut and height, repaired wickets, grass coverage and ball bounce.
- **Outfield:** This includes grass coverage, length of grass, evenness and evidence of unofficial use or damage to the surface.
- **Non-turf wickets:** This includes integration with the surrounding grass, evenness, stump holes any evidence of moss, tears or surface lifting and ball bounce.
- **Changing facilities:** This includes the presence or absence of umpires' provision, toilets, hot/cold water, heating and an assessment of the condition of the building.
- **Non-turf practice nets:** This includes integration with the surrounding grass, surface quality, ball bounce, safety and integrity of the steel frame and nets and safety signage.

The assessment generates a 'score' for each site. The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of 'Good' for scores of 81% or more (shaded green in the table below) 'Standard' for scores of 80% - 51% (shaded yellow in the table below) and 'Poor' for scores of 50% or below (denoted by shaded red in the table below). The scores are as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Wicket</i>	<i>Non-turf</i>	<i>Outfield</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Practice nets</i>
Ashford Sports Club	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor
Bishop Wand School	None	Standard	Standard	None	None
Halliford School	Standard	Standard	Standard	None	None
Kempton Cricket Club	Good	None	Good	Good	Poor
Laleham Primary School	None	Standard	Poor	None	None
Riverbridge Primary School	None	Poor	Poor	None	None
Shepperton Cricket Club	Good	Good	Good	Good	Standard
Spelthorne Sports Club	Standard	Good	Standard	Good	None
Springfield Primary School	None	Standard	Standard	None	None
Sunbury Cricket Club	Good	None	Good	Good	Good
Sunbury Manor School	None	Standard	Poor	None	None
Staines and Laleham Sports Assoc.	Good	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
St. James's Boys School	Standard	None	Standard	None	None
Thamesmead School	None	Good	Standard	Standard	None
Thomas Knyvett College	None	Standard	Standard	None	None

6.4.3 Pitch carrying capacity

The carrying capacity of pitches is related to their quality and is expressed as the number of 'match equivalents' that can be accommodated each season. The *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* indicates the following seasonal carrying capacities for cricket pitches:

- A 'good' quality wicket will accommodate five matches per season, a 'standard' quality wicket will accommodate four and a 'poor' quality wicket will accommodate none.

- ‘Good’ and ‘Standard’ quality artificial turf wickets accommodate 60 matches per season.
- The seasonal pitch carrying capacity of each cricket site with community use in Spelthorne is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Grass wickets</i>	<i>Artificial wickets</i>	<i>Total capacity</i>
Ashford Sports Club	22	-	110
Halliford School	4	-	16
Kempton Cricket Club	12	-	60
Shepperton Cricket Club	11	1	115
Spelthorne Sports Club	9	1	96
Sunbury Cricket Club	40	-	200
Staines and Laleham Sports Assoc.	30	1	150
St. James’s Boys School	12	-	48
Thamesmead School	-	2	120
TOTALS	140	5	915

6.4.4 Pitch maintenance

Cricket pitch maintenance in the borough is organised by the managers of the facilities as follows:

- **Club-managed pitches:** The pitches owned and managed by local sports clubs, are all maintained by the clubs themselves. This involves a combination of paid grounds staff, external contractors and volunteer help.
- **Pitches on education sites:** The school sites with community use employ their own pitch maintenance staff and/or contractors.

6.4.5 Ownership, management and security of access

The ownership, management and security of community access of all cricket pitch sites with community use in Spelthorne is detailed below. Security of access refers to the extent to which community use of the site is protected (through public ownership, planning policy ownership covenants etc.), rather than the security of tenure of specific club users.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of access</i>
Ashford Sports Club	Ashford Sports Club Ltd.	Ashford Sports Club Ltd.	Secured
Halliford School	Halliford School	Halliford School	Unsecured
Kempton Cricket Club	Private owner	Kempton Cricket Club	Unsecured
Shepperton Cricket Club	Shepperton Cricket Club	Shepperton Cricket Club	Secured
Spelthorne Sports Club	Spelthorne Sports Club	Spelthorne Sports Club	Secured
Sunbury Cricket Club	Sunbury Cricket Club	Sunbury Cricket Club	Secured
Staines and Laleham Sports Assoc.	Staines and Laleham Sports Association Ltd.	Staines and Laleham Sports Association Ltd.	Secured
St. James’s Boys School	St. James’s Boys School	St. James’s Boys School	Unsecured
Thamesmead School	Thamesmead School	Thamesmead School	Unsecured

6.4.6 Indoor cricket facilities

In addition to outdoor pitches, cricket is dependent on access to indoor facilities for pre-season practice nets in the period January to April and also for small-sided competitive games in the same period.

- Surrey Cricket has identified a general shortage of indoor net space in Spelthorne.
- Due to the lack of available indoor capacity, some local clubs have to access sports halls outside the borough for indoor nets (Sunbury Cricket Club uses the sports hall at Hampton School and Kempton Cricket Club uses the hall at Strodes College, Egham).
- Local clubs are critical of the quality of indoor net facilities, primarily the inadequate lighting, hall dimensions (at 33m in length, a 'standard' sports hall constricts bowlers' run-ups) and unsafe netting.
- St. James's School in Ashford recently received planning consent for a new sports hall including specific provision for indoor cricket and with a condition securing community use. This should also be built into the proposals for the new Spelthorne Leisure Centre.

6.5 The views of local stakeholders

Consultation with the ECB and Surrey Cricket highlighted that:

- **Junior participation:** Whilst junior team numbers have declined since 2013, Surrey Cricket is focussed on supporting clubs to address this and the new national strategy involving substantial investment into developing cricket in schools will have an impact in the area.
- **Facility developments:** Two new artificial turf pitches have been supported at Thamesmead School, with a link to Shepperton CC which will also support the growth of junior cricket. The change of junior formats will create more teams, with junior teams decreasing in size, which will also have an impact during the strategy.
- **Local demand patterns:** There are six strong clubs with home grounds based mainly in the south of the borough
- **Peak demand periods:** There is weekend league cricket and mid-week T20 matches.
- **Unmet demand:** There is demand for additional facilities for lower XIs.
- **Women and girls cricket:** Surrey Cricket is currently looking to create women and girls hub sites/clubs.
- **Council pitches:** There has been no parks cricket on local authority pitches in the borough since the loss of the Long Lane wickets.
- **Indoor nets:** There is a need for additional indoor net space.
- **'All Stars' cricket:** All Stars' cricket is expected to continue to grow.

6.5.1 Ashford Cricket Club

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We are raising funds for new outdoor nets’.
- ‘Membership increased in both junior and seniors in 2018’.
- ‘We use Matthew Arnold School in the winter for training, which is not the best’.
- ‘We currently have two pitches at our Short Lane site but we are keen to expand and run a 5th XI for the men and/or a 2nd XI for the ladies. If we achieve this aim we will need additional home facilities and there are none available in the Borough of Spelthorne’.

6.5.2 Kempton Cricket Club

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We don't have a formal security of tenure agreement but have played at this venue for a long time’ [the site is owned by a club member].
- ‘The nets need replacing and repositioning - the bounce is currently unrealistic and we want to have a fully enclosed area’.

6.5.3 Shepperton Cricket Club

The club made the following comments:

- ‘In addition to our main site, we also use Halliford school nearby’.
- ‘We are planning to extend our clubhouse’.
- ‘We have a women’s team and a development women’s team’.
- ‘Thamesmead School nearby is having two new NTP’s put in and linking with the club, hoping to bring in more kids through this’.

6.5.4 Spelthorne Sports Cricket Club

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We recently installed a new artificial turf wicket at the club’.
- ‘The club struggles as the football section of Spelthorne Sports is growing and there is concern about falling membership in the cricket section’.
- ‘We have 40 junior players’.

6.5.5 Staines and Laleham Cricket Club

The club made the following comments:

- 'We have played at Laleham Village in the past at Laleham Recreation Ground but this site is not being used at present'.
- 'We have 30 junior players at the club, with one junior team and rebuilding. A further 30 children attended the 'All Stars' cricket programme'.
- 'We need to retain our 4th team which we are struggling to fill this year. junior teams increase one age group per year'.
- 'We could do with new nets'.
- 'We are potentially looking at selling off some of the land at our site for flats.
- 'We are working with Riverbridge School and Staines Prep School for use of their [indoor] nets'.

6.5.6 Sunbury Cricket Club

The club made the following comments:

- 'We have 300+ junior members and run nine junior teams across the age groups'.
- 'There are 30 children in the 'All Stars' cricket programme'.
- 'We use the sports halls at Hampton School, Bishop Wand School and Matthew Arnold School for winter nets'.

6.6 The implications for cricket in Spelthorne

Analysis of local supply of cricket pitches in Spelthorne indicates the following:

- **Participation rates:** A decline of 17% in the number of cricket teams since 2013 is in line with national trends.
- **Displaced demand:** There is no evidence of any imported or exported demand for cricket in Spelthorne, other than the 20% of members of Spelthorne-based clubs that live outside the borough.
- **Unmet/latent demand:** Local clubs believe that there is unmet demand for a further 13 teams in Spelthorne (an increase of around 21.7% on the current team numbers).
- **Pitch quality:** The non-turf pitch at Staines and Laleham Sports Club is poor quality, as are the practice nets there and at Ashford Sports Club and Kempton Cricket Club. The poor quality of the council-owned Long Lane pitch was instrumental in it being decommissioned because clubs did not want to use it.

- **School facilities:** Cricket provision on schools sites has additional resonance given the emphasis in the ECB's new strategy *'Inspiring Generations'* to double participation in primary schools. All of the non-turf pitches on primary schools sites in Spelthorne are 'standard' or 'poor' quality, as are the outfields which often have very short boundaries due to the limited size of the playing fields.

6.7 Assessment of current needs

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site with how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of 'match equivalent sessions' at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during their peak periods.

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are

- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity (highlighted in red in the tables below).
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity (highlighted in yellow in the tables below).
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use falls below the carrying capacity (highlighted in green in the tables below).

In line with ECB guidance, the following assumptions have been made in relation to the number of weekly match equivalents that can be accommodated by different quality pitches:

- Overall capacity is expressed as match equivalents per **season**, as opposed to per **week** for all other pitch types.
- The number of wickets at each site is shown below.
- The supply-demand balance for grass and artificial turf wickets respectively have been assessed separately because there is little or no use of artificial wickets by adult teams, with use confined to junior teams.
- In line with the guidance it has been assumed that a 'good' quality grass wicket will accommodate five matches per season, a 'standard' quality wicket will accommodate four and a 'poor' quality wicket will accommodate no play.
- 'Good' and 'standard' quality artificial turf wickets will accommodate 60 matches per season and the additional capacity that they provide is analysed in a separate column in the table.
- Adult teams typically play ten home games per season and junior teams typically play eight home games per season

- Aspects of each site shaded in red indicate a deficiency, those shaded in yellow indicate that supply and demand are balanced and those shaded in green have some spare capacity.

6.7.1 Grass wickets

<i>Site</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Seasonal demand</i>	<i>Seasonal capacity</i>	<i>Seasonal balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Ashford Sports Club	Ashford Cricket Club	118	110	-8	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Halliford School	Halliford School Shepperton Cricket Club	16	16	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Kempton Cricket Club	Kempton Cricket Club	68	60	-8	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Shepperton Cricket Club	Shepperton Cricket Club	70	55	-15	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Spelthorne Sports Club	Spelthorne Sports CC	20	36	+16	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Sunbury Cricket Club	Sunbury Cricket Club	162	200	+38	3.0	3.0	Balanced
Staines and Laleham Sports Club	Staines and Laleham Cricket Club	56	150	+94	2.0	2.0	Balanced
St. James's Boys School	St. James's Boys School	30	48	+18	2.0	2.0	Balanced
TOTALS	-	540	675	+135	15.0	15.0	Balanced

The key findings are as follows:

- If grass pitch usage alone is considered, there is collective spare capacity of 135 match equivalent sessions.
- Three sites show a seasonal deficit but peak usage is balanced in the borough as a whole.
- Seasonal spare capacity at sites with secured community use reduces by 124 match equivalent sessions, leaving boroughwide seasonal spare capacity of 11 match equivalent sessions.

6.7.2 Artificial turf wickets

<i>Site</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Seasonal demand</i>	<i>Seasonal capacity</i>	<i>Seasonal balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Shepperton Cricket Club	Shepperton CC	24	60	+36	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Spelthorne Sports Club	Spelthorne Sports CC	16	60	+44	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Staines and Laleham Sports Club	Staines and Laleham Sports Club	0	0	Balanced	0.0	0.0	Balanced
Thamesmead School	Thamesmead School	30	120	+90	2.0	2.0	Balanced
TOTALS	-	70	240	+170	4.0	4.0	Balanced

The key findings are as follows:

- Collectively there is some seasonal spare capacity in the district as a whole.
- Peak usage is balanced at all sites.
- Seasonal capacity at sites with secured community access reduces to 120 match equivalent sessions, which leaves boroughwide seasonal spare capacity of 20 match equivalent sessions.

6.8 Assessment of future needs

6.8.1 Population growth

Spelthorne Borough Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 116,000 residents in the borough by 2035. This represents a 17.1% increase from the mid-2017 population estimate.

6.8.2 Potential changes in demand

Changes in demand for cricket in the future can be modelled on a trend-based projection. Two sets of data can help to inform this:

- **National cricket playing survey:** The ECB's most recent *National Cricket Playing Survey* (2016) identified a 7% decrease in player numbers between 2014 and 2015.
- **Local demand:** Comparison of current Cricket teams' data from Spelthorne with the number of teams playing in the borough when the Spelthorne Playing Pitch Strategy was last reviewed in 2013 reveals significant differences for the two age groups:

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams 2013</i>	<i>No. Teams 2019</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Adult male teams	31	31	-
Adult female teams	3	4	+33.3%
Junior male teams	36	24	-33.3%
Junior female teams	2	1	-50.0%
<i>TOTAL TEAMS</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>-16.7%</i>

Consultation with local clubs indicated that the following additional teams could be accommodated in Spelthorne if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. The numbers represent a 21.7% increase over current teams. Given the actual trends over the past five years, it is considered appropriate to project future needs based on current team numbers.

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams</i>
Adult men's teams	2
Adult women's teams	0
Junior boy's teams	10
Junior girl's teams	1
<i>TOTAL TEAMS</i>	<i>13</i>

6.8.3 Site-specific pressures

Spelthorne Borough Council needs to identify sites upon which it can deliver its housing targets. Whilst planning policy offers protection to playing pitches, those sites that do not currently accommodate formal cricket activity may be vulnerable unless it can be proved that they are needed to meet existing or future shortfalls in supply or serve some other open space needs.

6.8.4 Potential changes in supply

There are no known changes in cricket pitch supply in the borough.

6.8.5 Existing spare capacity

Existing cricket pitch capacity has been calculated in section 6.6 above and indicates seasonal spare capacity of 79 match equivalent sessions on grass wickets and collective seasonal spare capacity of 140 match equivalent sessions at artificial grass pitches. If weekly peak time capacity is considered, supply and demand is balanced, which confirms that there is no effective spare capacity in the peak period for cricket at present.

6.8.6 Future cricket pitch needs

Future cricket pitch needs to 2035 are modelled below using ‘Team Generation Rates’ (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the borough are required to generate one team. These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future.

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Pop. 2035</i>	<i>Teams 2035</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>
Adult males	18-55	25,360	31	1: 818	25,760	32	1
Adult females	18-55	25,860	4	1: 6,456	25,340	4	0
Junior males	7-18	3,420	24	1: 143	3,840	27	3
Junior females	7-18	2,880	1	1: 2,880	3,480	1	0

6.8.7 Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator

A supplementary way of modelling future playing pitch needs is Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator. The model applies Team Generation rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand but provides helpful context for the site-specific supply-demand assessment in section 6.7 and the TGR calculations in 6.8.6 above. The results of applying the Calculator for cricket needs in Spelthorne are set out below:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand</i>
Extra seasonal match equivalent sessions	92.47
Extra pitches to meet demand	2.07
Capital cost of extra pitches	£727,196
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£146,894

6.9 Key findings and issues

6.9.1 What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

- **Quantity:** There is seasonal spare capacity of 135 match equivalent sessions on grass wickets and collective seasonal spare capacity of 170 match equivalent sessions at artificial grass pitches. However, if weekly peak time capacity is considered, supply and demand is balanced, which confirms that there is no effective spare capacity as present.
- **Participation rates:** A decline of 17% in the number of cricket teams locally since 2013 is in line with national trends.

- **Displaced demand:** There is no evidence of any imported or exported demand for cricket in Spelthorne, other than the 20% of members of Spelthorne-based clubs that live outside the borough.
- **Unmet/latent demand:** Local clubs believe that there is unmet demand for a further 13 teams in Spelthorne (an increase of around 21.7% on the current team numbers).
- **Pitch quality:** The non-turf pitch at Staines and Laleham Sports Association is poor quality, as are the practice nets there and at Ashford Sports Club and Kempton Cricket Club. The poor quality of the council-owned Long Lane pitch was instrumental in it being decommissioned because clubs did not want to use it.
- **School facilities:** Cricket provision on schools sites has additional resonance given the emphasis in the ECB's new strategy *'Inspiring Generations'* to double participation in primary schools. All of the non-turf pitches on primary schools sites in Spelthorne are 'standard' or 'poor' quality, as are the outfielders which often have very short boundaries due to the limited size of the playing fields.

6.9.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **YES**

- **Seasonal pitch capacity:** For grass pitches, seasonal spare capacity at sites with secured community use reduces by 124 match equivalent sessions, leaving boroughwide seasonal spare capacity of 11 match equivalent sessions. For artificial turf wickets, seasonal capacity at sites with secured community access reduces to 120 match equivalent sessions, leaving boroughwide seasonal spare capacity of 20 match equivalent sessions.
- **Peak time pitch capacity:** Supply and demand are precisely balanced at secured sites at peak times.

6.9.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **YES** - Only the non-turf pitch at Staines and Laleham Sports Club is 'poor' quality,

All pitches and outfielders are rated at least 'standard' quality, apart from the non-turf wicket at Staines and Laleham Sports Club, which is rated as poor.

6.9.4 What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

- **Population growth:** The borough's population is projected to increase by 16,900 people by 2035, a 17.1% increase over the 2016 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** Balancing past trends that identify falling demand against the target increases in participation, suggests that projecting future need based on current team generation rates is a reasonable basis for forecasting.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known development threats to any existing pitch sites, including those that are currently disused.
- **Existing spare capacity:** There is no effective peak time spare capacity as present.

- **Future needs:** Based on projected population growth, there will be additional demand from four extra cricket teams (or 34 seasonal match equivalent sessions) by 2035. This is equivalent to seven good quality grass wickets (equivalent to one pitch) or one artificial turf wicket.

6.9.5 Is there enough accessible and secured provision to meet future demand? **No** - There is no effective spare capacity at present.

There is insufficient accessible and secured provision to meet future demand at present, but additional capacity could be created in four ways:

- **Pitch quality improvements:** If the ‘poor’ quality artificial turf wicket at Staines and Laleham Sports Club was upgraded, it would add 60 seasonal match equivalent sessions to overall capacity.
- **Installation of non-turf wickets:** Installing non-turf wickets at some sites would help to expand seasonal carrying capacity, although would have little impact on peak time provision if provided as part of an existing square.
- **Re-instating unused pitches:** Re-instating unused or recently decommissioned sites in the borough would expand collective seasonal carrying capacity by two pitches and 12 wickets. If all wickets were maintained to a ‘good’ quality standard, this would increase seasonal carrying capacity by 120 match equivalent sessions.
- **Using pitches on school sites:** Using the pitches at St. James’s Boys School that are available but have no community use at present would add a further two pitches and 12 wickets to the available supply. This could be secured through the community use agreement relating to the sports hall for which planning consent was recently approved. This would increase seasonal carrying capacity by a further 48 match equivalent sessions.

6.10 Scenario Testing

6.10.1 Introduction

Based upon the key findings and issues identified above, a number of scenarios have been examined, to identify the optimum approach to addressing needs.

6.10.2 Scenario 1: Increasing capacity by improving ‘poor’ quality pitches to ‘standard’ quality.

- **Rationale:** If the ‘poor’ quality artificial turf wicket at Staines & Laleham Sports Association was upgraded, it would add 60 seasonal match equivalents sessions to overall capacity, which would provide an option for accommodating additional junior matches in particular.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that additional seasonal capacity would be created and the improvements to the pitch could be achieved at relatively low cost.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantage of this scenario is that there is already surplus seasonal capacity, the key pinch point is at peak periods when supply and demand are balanced. Because the Staines and Laleham Sports Association pitch is part of an existing square, it would not provide additional use in the peak period.

- **Conclusions:** This scenario has limited benefits for meeting additional cricket pitch demand in Spelthorne.

6.10.3 Scenario 2: Installation of additional non-turf wickets

- **Rationale:** Installing non-turf wickets at the following sites, in particular to support junior play, would help to expand seasonal carrying capacity:
 - Ashford Sports Club.
 - Kempton Cricket Club.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The pitches can be installed at relatively low cost (£8,000 - £10,000).
 - They have the potential to accommodate 60 match equivalent sessions per season.
 - Pitch maintenance costs are relatively low compared with natural turf.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Non-turf wickets are used primarily for junior matches, so they would have limited impact on addressing capacity issues in relation to adult play.
 - Unless there is space to accommodate non-turf pitches away from the main square, they would not address peak-time deficiencies because they could not be used simultaneously with the grass wickets.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario should be examined further at Ashford Sports Club and Kempton Cricket Club.

6.10.4 Scenario 3: Re-instating un-used pitches.

- **Rationale:** The pitches at Laleham Recreation Ground and Long Lane Recreation Ground ceased to be used in the past five years. Re-instating the use of these pitches at 'standard' quality would collectively provide an additional 48 match equivalent sessions per season a collective total of two peak time match equivalent sessions.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that the pitches are in the vicinity of Ashford CC and Staines and Laleham CC and would help to ease the peak period capacity issues identified by each club.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that both pitches were rated as 'poor' quality, which caused their use to be discontinued, so would require additional investment to improve standards. The capital costs of restoring each pitch are estimated at £12,000, with annual maintenance budgets of £7,500 per annum.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers a partial solution to meeting additional cricket pitch demand in Spelthorne.

6.10.5 Scenario 4: Negotiating access to school pitches

- **Rationale:** Two schools in Spelthorne have cricket pitches with community access that are unused (St. James's Boys School and Thamesmead School), collectively providing four pitches comprising 12 grass wickets and two non-turf pitches. A further eight schools collectively provide nine non-turf pitches. If community use could be negotiated it would collectively provide an additional 48 match equivalent sessions per season on grass wickets 330 match equivalent sessions per season on non-turf wickets (taking account of the schools' use of the pitches). It would also add to peak time capacity by a collective total of four match equivalent sessions.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Additional peak time pitch capacity could be accessed, particularly for junior matches on non-turf pitches.
 - The pitches already exist and therefore could be brought into community use at little or no additional cost.
 - There would be opportunities to establish closer school-club links if community-based clubs were playing on school sites.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Not all of the schools has community use at present and there is no obvious mechanism for securing it, so there is no guarantee that they would be prepared to commence such an arrangement.
 - None of the sites has a formal Community Use Agreement, so continued access would not be secured.
 - Existing use by the respective schools reduces the overall seasonal carrying capacity of the pitches.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers some possibilities for meeting additional cricket pitch demand in Spelthorne from junior teams, particularly for Ashford CC and Shepperton CC.

6.11 Policy recommendations

6.11.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to cricket are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 74, which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;

- The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

The following recommendations are arranged under the main headings of ‘protect’, ‘enhance’ and ‘provide’.

6.11.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The Spelthorne PPS comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for cricket in the borough. The PPS identifies a need for all current cricket pitch sites to be retained on the basis of the specific identified roles that each can play in delivering the needs of the sport in Spelthorne both now and in the future. It is therefore recommended that planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites based upon the evidence in the PPS. If any pitch sites do become the subject of development proposals, this will only be permissible if they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy. This states that ‘the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must 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’.

Recommendation 2 - Security of tenure: Four of the nine cricket pitch sites with community use in Spelthorne do not have security of tenure, primarily on school sites. The absence of a Community Use Agreement at most school sites makes it impossible to assume the continued availability of the pitches for the community. It also makes it impossible for a school to apply for external grant funding to improve its facilities, including the receipt of funds from developer contributions. It is therefore recommended that efforts are made to achieve security of Community Use Agreements at sites without them at present.

6.11.3 Enhance

Recommendation 3 - Improving existing ‘poor’ quality provision: Two sites in the Borough have ‘poor’ quality non-turf wickets, three have ‘poor’ quality outfielders and three have ‘poor’ quality practice nets. This reduces the quality of playing experience and may deter some potential participants. Subject to security of tenure issues, it is recommended that the clubs and schools concerned should be supported to apply for external funding for facility enhancements, including the receipt of developer contributions (see below) where the usage capacity would be enhanced.

6.11.4 Provide

Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions: It is recommended that the action plan in the Spelthorne PPS be used as the basis for seeking an appropriate level of financial contributions under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of providing additional cricket pitches to meet the needs of the additional population arising from housing growth by 2035. To facilitate this, smaller projects should be listed as ‘relevant infrastructure’ under CIL Regulation 123. Larger strategic projects should be exempt from CIL, with funding collected via Section 106 contributions.

6.12 Action Plan

6.12.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the cricket action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for SBC - Spelthorne Borough Council, ECB - England and Wales Cricket Board and SC - Surrey Cricket. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2018* (2018).

6.12.2 Key strategic actions

Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved cricket facilities.	SBC	Developers Local clubs	Determined by Sport England's New Development Calculator	High
Improving council-owned pitches to add to available capacity	SBC to work in partnership with clubs to improve the quality of pitch maintenance	SBC	Local clubs	£5,000 pa for additional pitch maintenance	High
Access to school sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach schools regarding access Secure Community Use Agreements 	SBC	Schools Local clubs	Possible funding for improvements to physical accessibility.	Medium
Access to indoor training facilities	Make provision for cricket practice nets in new sports halls at St. James's Boys School and the new Spelthorne Leisure Centre.	SBC	St. James's Boys School	Costs part of the wider projects	High

6.12.3 Site specific actions

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Ashford Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small seasonal deficit on the grass pitches. 'Poor' quality practice nets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide new non-turf pitch Provide new practice nets 	Ashford Cricket Club	-	£10,000 for non-turf pitch £25,000 for new nets	High
Kempton Cricket Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small seasonal deficit on the grass pitches. 'Poor' quality practice nets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide new non-turf pitch Provide new practice nets 	Kempton Cricket Club	-	£10,000 for non-turf pitch £25,000 for new nets	High
Laleham Recreation Ground	Pitches currently unused.	Reinstate pitches subject to confirmed demand from Staines & Laleham CC	Laleham Recreation Ground Committee	Staines & Laleham CC	£5,000 per annum for pitch maintenance	High
Long Lane Recreation Ground	Pitches currently unused.	Reinstate pitches subject to confirmed demand from Ashford CC	SBC	Ashford CC	£5,000 per annum for pitch maintenance	High
Shepperton Cricket Club	Small seasonal deficit on the grass pitches.	Negotiate access to Thamesmead School non-turf pitches	Shepperton CC	Thamesmead School	-	High

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Spelthorne Sports Club	Small seasonal deficit on the grass pitches.	Extra capacity provided by new non-turf wicket	Spelthorne Sports Club		-	-
Sunbury Cricket Club	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Staines and Laleham Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality non-turf pitch. • Poor quality practice nets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide new non-turf pitch • Provide new practice nets 	Staines and Laleham Sports Club	-	£10,000 for non-turf pitch £25,000 for new nets	High
St. James's Boys School	Unsecured community use	Seek community use agreement	SBC	St. James's Boys School	-	Medium
Thamesmead School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current community use of new non-turf pitches • Unsecured community use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow use by Shepperton CC • Seek community use agreement 	SBC	Thamesmead School Shepperton CC	-	Medium

7 RUGBY UNION NEEDS IN SPELTHORNE

7.1 Organisational context

- **Rugby Football Union:** The RFU is the governing body of the sport and supports the development of the game in Spelthorne.
- **RFU-affiliated Rugby Clubs:** There are two clubs based in the borough (or in the case of Staines RFC, just beyond its boundary), which collectively field eight adult teams 17 junior teams and 21 mini-rugby teams.

7.2 Strategic context

7.2.1 National rugby facilities strategy

The RFUs *National Facilities Strategy for Rugby Union in England 2013 - 2017* (2013) provides a framework for facility provision.

- 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.
- Improve social, community and catering facilities, which can support diversification and the generation of additional revenues.
- Invest in facility upgrades which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs.

7.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

Playing pitch strategies in neighbouring local authority areas identify cross-boundary issues:

Runnymede

The *'Runnymede Playing Pitch Strategy'* (2018) was recently adopted and concluded that there is sufficient pitch capacity to meet current needs and that quality improvements at existing pitches will be sufficient to meet projected future needs.

Elmbridge

The Council is in the final stages of completing a Playing Pitch Strategy for the borough. The emerging findings in relation to rugby union are that there is sufficient pitch capacity to meet current needs and that future demand will need to be met through additional artificial grass and natural turf pitches.

Windsor and Maidenhead

The *'Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Playing Pitch Strategy'* (2016) identifies that there is a deficit of rugby pitches, which should be addressed through developing an additional World Rugby-compliant artificial grass pitch.

London Borough of Hillingdon

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy and there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

London Borough of Richmond

The 'London Borough of Richmond Playing Pitch Strategy' (2018) identifies that there is a severe shortfall of grass (equivalent to 25 match equivalent sessions per week) and artificial grass pitches for rugby.

London Borough of Hounslow:

The 'London Borough of Hounslow Playing Pitch Strategy 2017-2030' (2016) identifies that:

- There is just enough rugby pitch capacity to meet existing needs, although poor maintenance limits the carrying capacity at some sites.
- Facility enhancements to help meet future needs includes at Staines RFC 'ongoing pitch improvements, lighting upgrades and possible extension of site to provide a further pitch'.

7.2.3 Implications of the strategic context

The implications of the strategic context for rugby union in Spelthorne are:

- ***Existing deficits:*** The lack of spare pitch capacity in several neighbouring areas means that there is no prospect of accommodating any demand from Spelthorne.
- ***Future deficits:*** In all cases where a detailed assessment has been undertaken, rugby pitch shortfalls are projected to increase in the future.

7.3 Rugby Union demand

7.3.1 RFU-affiliated clubs and teams

The following clubs affiliate to the RFU and play in, or immediately adjacent to Spelthorne. In addition, the London Irish professional rugby team trains at Hazelwood so creates some extra demand for the facilities on weekdays.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult male teams</i>	<i>Adult female teams</i>	<i>Boys junior teams</i>	<i>Girls junior teams</i>	<i>Mini teams</i>
London Irish Amateur RFC	Hazelwood	4	1	12	3	14
Staines RFC	The Reeves	3	0	1	1	7
<i>TOTALS</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>21</i>

7.3.2 Demand trends

Local trends: Comparison of current rugby teams' data from Spelthorne with the number of teams playing in the borough when the Spelthorne PPS was last reviewed in 2013 reveals reductions at adult and mini level, but an increase at junior level and overall level:

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams 2013</i>	<i>No. Teams 2019</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Adult teams	11	8	-27.3%
Junior teams	9	17	+88.9%
Mini teams	23	21	-8.7%
<i>TOTAL TEAMS</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>+7.0%</i>

7.3.3 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area.

- **Imported demand in Spelthorne-based clubs:** Based on the clubs' survey, around 45% of members from Spelthorne-based rugby union clubs are resident outside the borough.
- **Exported demand from internal clubs:** Staines Rugby Club is based just over the border with Hounslow but otherwise matches and training needs are met within the borough.

7.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Some pitches may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

There is no evidence of any unmet demand in Spelthorne at present.

7.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. Consultation with local clubs indicated that a total of 15 additional teams of all age groups could be accommodated in Spelthorne if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Adult male teams</i>	<i>Adult female teams</i>	<i>Boys junior teams</i>	<i>Girls junior teams</i>	<i>Mini teams</i>
London Irish Amateur RFC	1	0	3	0	0
Staines RFC	0	1	5	3	2
<i>TOTALS</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>

7.4 Rugby union supply in Spelthorne

7.4.1 Quantity

This section summarises the detail of rugby pitch supply in Spelthorne. The pitches included in the analysis are defined as natural or artificial turf areas permanently laid out with regulation markings. The artificial grass pitch complies with the World Rugby Regulation 22 specification. The categories assessed are as follows:

- **Available for community use and used:**
 - **Full-sized '3G' Artificial Grass Pitch:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Built</i>
London Irish Amateur RFC	Hazelwood Drive, Sunbury TW16 6QU	129m x 79m	2014

- **Grass pitches:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Floodlit pitches</i>	<i>Non-floodlit pitches</i>
London Irish Amateur RFC	Hazelwood Drive, Sunbury TW16 6QU	1	5
Staines RFC	The Reeves, Snakey Lane, Hanworth TW13 7NB	2	3

- **Available for community use and not used:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>
Matthew Arnold Sports Centre	Kingston Road, Staines TW18 1PF	1

- **Not available for community use:** The following grass rugby union pitches on school sites are not available for community use. All are non-floodlit:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>
Bishop Wand School	Layton's Lane, Sunbury TW16 6LT	2
Halliford School	Russell Road, Shepperton TW17 9HX	2
Halliford School Field	Church Road, Shepperton TW17 9AD	1
St. James's Boys School	Church Road, Ashford TW15 3DZ	2
St. Paul's Catholic College	Manor Lane, Sunbury TW16 6JE	1
Thamesmead School	Manygate Lane, Shepperton TW17 9EE	1
Thomas Knyvett College	Stanwell Road, Ashford TW15 3DU	1

- **Not available as disused:** There are no rugby union pitches that are available for community use that are disused.

7.4.2 Quality

- **Artificial turf pitch quality:** The quality of the only rugby-compliant artificial grass pitch in Spelthorne was assessed from a site visit, to apply the Non-technical Visual Assessment criteria developed for use in conjunction with the 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'. The assessment generates an overall 'score' by evaluating the playing surface, fencing, floodlighting, disability access and changing provision.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>
London Irish Amateur RFC	Good	Good

- **Grass pitch quality:** The qualitative analysis involved a visit to all rugby pitches in Spelthorne with community use and used during the playing season, to undertake the sport-specific non-technical visual inspections produced by the RFU for Sport England's *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* (2013). The assessment generated 'scores' for each pitch by evaluating the condition of:
 - **Pitch drainage:** Inadequately naturally drained (score D0), adequately naturally drained (score D1) pipe drained (score D2) and pipe and slit drained pitches (score D3).
 - **Grounds maintenance:** Frequency of aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing. This generates scores of 'Poor' (M0), 'Adequate' (M1) and 'Good' (M2). The floodlit pitches are indicated to identify the pitches with the greatest midweek training usage:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Drainage</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>
London Irish Amateur RFC Pitch 1	M2	D3	Yes
London Irish Amateur RFC Pitch 2	M2	D3	No
London Irish Amateur RFC Pitch 3	M2	D3	No
London Irish Amateur RFC Pitch 4	M2	D3	No
London Irish Amateur RFC Pitch 5	M1	D0	No
London Irish Amateur RFC Pitch 6	M1	D0	No
Staines RFC Pitch 1	M2	D2	Yes
Staines RFC Pitch 2	M2	D2	Yes
Staines RFC Pitch 3	M1	D1	No
Staines RFC Pitch 4	M1	D1	No
Staines RFC Pitch 5	M1	D1	No

7.4.3 Grass pitch carrying capacity

The carrying capacity of grass pitches is related to their quality and is expressed as the number of 'match equivalent sessions' that can be accommodated each week. The *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* indicates the following weekly carrying capacities for rugby union pitches:

<i>Drainage</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>		
	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Good</i>
Natural inadequate	0.5	1.0	2.0
Natural adequate	1.5	2.0	3.0
Pipe drained	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and slit drained	2.0	3.0	3.5

7.4.4 Artificial turf pitch usage

The artificial turf pitch at London Irish Amateur RFC is used as follows.

<i>Time period</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Hours used</i>	<i>% Utilised</i>
Midweek evenings	London Irish ARFC Spelthorne Sports Club FC (Football) PDA Coaching (Football) Gael Londain (Gaelic football)	17.5	100%
Saturday mornings	PDA Coaching (Football)	3	75%
Saturday afternoons	London Irish ARFC	5	100%
Sunday mornings	London Irish ARFC	4	100%
Sunday afternoons	None	0	0%
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>39.5</i>	<i>81.8%</i>

7.4.5 Total site usage

The weekly collective carrying capacity of the rugby union sites in Spelthorne, expressed as ‘match equivalents’ is therefore as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Grass capacity</i>	<i>AGP capacity</i>	<i>Total capacity</i>
London Irish Amateur RFC	16.0	26.0	42.0
Staines RFC	11.0	-	11.0

7.4.6 Changing quality

The quality of the changing facilities at each of the rugby union sites in Spelthorne is as follows.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>
London Irish Amateur RFC	Good
Staines RFC	Good

7.4.7 Pitch maintenance

The London Irish pitches are maintained by contractors, whilst the Staines RFC pitches are maintained by volunteers from the club.

7.4.8 Pitch hire charges

All grass rugby union pitches with community use and used in Spelthorne are owned and/or operated by the incumbent clubs and therefore no pitch hire charges are levied for their use. The scale of charges for the London Irish ARFC artificial grass pitch, which does have external hirers, are as follows:

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Cost per hour (£)</i>
Full pitch	£159
One-third pitch	£50

7.4.9 Ownership, management and security of access

The ownership, management and security of community access of rugby union pitch sites is detailed below. Security of access refers to the extent to which community use is protected (through public ownership, community use agreements etc.), rather than the security of tenure of specific club users.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of access</i>
London Irish Amateur RFC	London Irish Holdings Ltd.	Hazelwood Community Company	Secured
Staines RFC	Staines RFC & Sports Club Ltd.	Staines RFC	Secured

7.5 The views of local stakeholders

7.5.1 The Rugby Football Union

Consultation with the RFU highlighted that:

- The Rugby World Cup will be held in 2019 and will provide an enhanced profile for the game.
- London Irish Amateur RFC is the main club in Spelthorne, although almost 50% of players are drawn from outside the borough.
- Staines RFC is based just over the border in the London Borough of Hounslow, but as its name suggests, it draws a significant proportion of its membership from within Spelthorne so has been included in this PPS. The Club appears to have reached plateau in terms of team numbers.
- There are no single team or wandering clubs in the borough.
- A women and girls action plan is being created as part of the RFU's National Strategy with special reference to changing facilities development at club sites.

7.5.2 London Irish Amateur RFC

- 'Hazelwood Community Company, which is jointly owned by the London Irish professional and amateur clubs, runs the facilities and as well as operating the rugby facilities is charged with maximising community use'.
- 'Our site was created six years ago on a former nine-hole golf course so extends to 63 acres in total. We have a World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant floodlit artificial grass pitch, one floodlit grass pitch, five non-floodlit grass pitches and ten marked areas for mini-rugby'.
- 'Our two floodlit pitches are fully utilised every midweek evening and we would like to provide floodlighting to two extra grass pitches to spread the training usage more evenly'.
- 'There is extensive regular use of our facilities by other sports, including football and Gaelic football on the artificial grass pitch and a weekly 'Park Run' event. A number of professional sports teams make occasional use, including international rugby teams and NFL American Football teams.

7.5.3 Staines Rugby Club

- ‘Two of our pitches suffer from compaction and poor drainage and we would like to improve them to increase usage’.
- ‘We use cones to mark-up smaller pitches for training and for tournaments. We also offer an off-pitch area that can be used for training’.

7.6 The implications for rugby union in Spelthorne

Analysis of local supply of rugby union pitches in Spelthorne indicates the following:

- **Local clubs:** There are two clubs serving Spelthorne (although Staines RFC is located just outside the borough boundary) providing high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Participation trends:** The number of rugby teams in all age groups in Spelthorne has increased between 2013 and 2019, although this is due to a big increase in junior players outstripping reductions at mini and adult levels.
- **Imported and exported demand:** There is a complex mix of imported and exported demand, given the broad membership base of London Irish and Staines RFC’s out-of-borough location. Taken collectively, 45.2% of members of the two clubs are drawn from outside Spelthorne.
- **Pitch supply:** There is no immediate evidence of a shortage of rugby union pitch supply in the borough, although that there is no midweek spare capacity at London Irish, even when the artificial grass pitch capacity is included.
- **Pitch quality:** There are some pitch quality issues at both club sites that compromise carrying capacity.

7.7 Assessment of current needs

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site and how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of ‘match equivalent’ sessions at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during their peak periods.

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are:

- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity (highlighted in red in the table below).

- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity.
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use falls below the carrying capacity.

As per RFU guidance, rugby union pitch capacity, demand and the resultant balance are expressed as ‘match equivalent sessions’, both weekly and at peak times.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
London Irish Amateur RFC	6*	London Irish Amateur RFC London Irish RFC	16.0*	16.0	Balanced	6.0*	3.0	+3.0
Staines RFC	5	Staines RFC	11.0	10.0	+1.0	5.0	3.0	+2.0

* Includes grass pitch capacity only. The artificial turf pitch provides for a further 26.0 weekly match equivalent sessions and 2.0 match equivalent sessions in the peak period.

The split between midweek training supply and demand and weekend match supply and demand is tabulated below, to highlight the main capacity pinch points.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Midweek training capacity</i>	<i>Midweek training demand</i>	<i>Midweek training balance</i>	<i>Weekend match capacity</i>	<i>Weekend match demand</i>	<i>Weekend match balance</i>
London Irish Amateur RFC	10.0	10.0	Balanced	6.0*	3.0	+3.0
Staines RFC	6.0	5.0	+1.0	5.0	3.0	+2.0

The key findings are that the weekend supply and demand figures indicate spare capacity at both sites, but that there is no midweek training spare capacity at London Irish, even when the artificial grass pitch capacity is included.

7.8 Assessment of future needs

7.8.1 Population growth

Spelthorne Borough Council’s planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 116,000 residents in the borough by 2035. This represents a 17.1% increase from the mid-2017 population estimate.

7.8.2 Potential changes in demand

The number of rugby teams in all age groups in Spelthorne has increased between 2013 and 2019, although this is due to a big increase in junior players outstripping reductions at mini and adult levels. Given the focus on development of the women and girl’s game, the RFU has identified that one additional adult women’s team and two additional junior girl’s teams will be generated in Spelthorne during the PPS timespan, so projecting needs based on current demand patterns for male teams and the RFU forecasts for female teams is a reasonable basis for forecasting.

7.8.3 Site-specific pressures

There are no known pressures at either of the main sites. There is space to expand the number of pitches at London Irish if required, although there are some planning sensitivities relating to the use of the site.

7.8.4 Potential changes in supply

There are no known potential changes in rugby pitch supply in the borough.

7.8.5 Existing spare capacity

There is peak time spare capacity at both the rugby union pitch sites in the borough at present, but there is no midweek spare capacity at London Irish, even when the artificial grass pitch capacity is included.

7.8.6 Future rugby pitch needs

Future rugby pitch needs are modelled below using 'Team Generation Rates' (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the borough are required to generate one team. These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future:

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>Projected extra teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Pop. 2035</i>	<i>Teams 2035</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>
Adult males	19-45	16,620	7	0	1: 2,374	16,200	7	0
Adult females	19-45	16,940	1	1	1: 8,470	16,200	2	0
Junior males	13-18	3,240	13	0	1: 249	3,780	15	2
Junior females	13-18	3,360	4	2	1: 560	3,480	6	0
Mini-rugby	7-12	7,080	21	0	1: 337	7,260	22	1

7.8.7 Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator

A supplementary way of modelling future playing pitch needs is Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator. The model applies Team Generation rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand but provides helpful context for the site-specific supply-demand assessment in section 7.7 above and the TGR calculations in section 7.8.6. The results of applying the Calculator for rugby union needs in Spelthorne are set out below:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand</i>
Extra peak match equivalent sessions	2.8
Extra weekly match equivalent sessions	3.24
Extra pitches to meet demand	2.8
Capital cost of extra pitches	£465,648
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£99,649

7.9 Key findings and issues

7.9.1 What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

- **Local clubs:** There are two clubs serving Spelthorne (although Staines RFC is located just outside the borough boundary) providing high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Participation trends:** The number of rugby teams in all age groups in Spelthorne has increased between 2013 and 2019, although this is due to a big increase in junior players outstripping reductions at mini and adult levels.
- **Imported and exported demand:** There is a complex mix of imported and exported demand, given the broad membership base of London Irish and Staines RFC's out-of-borough location. Taken collectively, 45.2% of members of the two clubs are drawn from outside Spelthorne.
- **Pitch supply:** There is no midweek spare capacity at London Irish, even when the artificial grass pitch capacity is included and very limited spare capacity at Staines RFC.
- **Pitch quality:** There are some pitch quality issues at both club sites that compromise carrying capacity.

7.9.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **YES** - Although midweek supply and demand are balanced at London Irish

There is no midweek spare capacity at London Irish, even when the artificial grass pitch capacity is included and very limited spare capacity at Staines RFC.

7.9.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **NO** - Several pitches have poor quality drainage

Pitch drainage is poor at two pitches at Staines Rugby Club and two pitches at London Irish, which compromises the pitch carrying capacity.

7.9.4 What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

- **Population growth:** The borough's population is projected to increase by 16,900 people by 2035, a 17.1% increase over the 2016 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** Projecting future need based on current demand patterns, plus the RFU's forecasts of increases in women's and girl's teams, is the most appropriate basis for forecasting.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known development threats to any existing pitch sites.
- **Existing spare capacity:** There is collective peak time spare capacity equivalent to 5.0 match equivalent sessions in the borough at present, but that there is no midweek spare capacity at London Irish, even when the artificial grass pitch capacity is included.
- **Future needs:** Additional future needs involves demand from 3 additional teams for 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

7.9.5 Is there enough accessible and secured provision to meet future demand? **NO**

With collective weekly spare capacity of only 1.0 match equivalent session on the grass pitches at both club sites in the borough, there is insufficient accessible and secured provision to meet future demand at present, so some additional capacity will need to be developed at both sites.

7.10 Scenario testing

7.10.1 Introduction

Based upon the key findings and issues identified above, some scenarios examining the effect of securing additional pitch capacity have been rehearsed to identify the optimum approach to addressing needs.

7.10.2 Scenario 1: Enhancing grass pitch carrying capacity with maintenance and drainage improvements

- **Rationale:** Improving the drainage and maintenance of the grass pitches where they are sub-optimal at present would add the following capacity (in match equivalent sessions) at each site:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Current capacity</i>	<i>Extra capacity</i>	<i>Total capacity</i>
London Irish Amateur RFC	16.0	5.0	21.0
Staines RFC	11.0	6.5	17.5
TOTAL	27.0	11.5	38.5

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The additional capacity would support the clubs' aspirations to increase team numbers over and above population-based team generation rates.
 - The extra capacity could be achieved at the existing sites without the need for additional land acquisition costs.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantage of this scenario is that the main pinch points are in the midweek evenings for training, so without additional floodlight provision, the improved pitch capacity could not be used during the hours of darkness in the winter months.
- **Conclusions:** There would be merit in exploring the potential for drainage and maintenance improvements. However, to maximise the benefits of this, the review will also need to consider the issue of floodlighting to maximise the benefits in the midweek evening period (see below).

7.10.3 Scenario 2: Enhancing grass pitch carrying capacity by providing floodlights

- **Rationale:** Whilst improved maintenance and drainage would add overall capacity, to achieve the maximum benefits floodlighting will be required to facilitate use during midweek evenings. Collectively, three pitches are already floodlit, but eight are not.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Floodlighting additional pitches will increase their availability on midweek evenings when training sessions take place.
 - Both sites in the borough already have at least one floodlit pitch, which should simplify obtaining planning consent and in may reduce installation costs if some of the services infrastructure is already in place.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Its effectiveness is contingent upon the pitch capacity enhancements achievable through the drainage and maintenance improvements, so it needs to be considered in conjunction.
 - There are planning sensitivities relating to the use of the London Irish site, so planning consent for floodlighting and/or extended hours of use may not be achievable.
- **Conclusions:** The greatest benefits of floodlighting will be at sites where it is combined with an improvement in pitch maintenance or drainage ratings, specifically impacting those sites where supply and demand for mid-week match equivalent sessions is either balanced or shows only a small surplus. Staines RFC would most benefit from additional floodlighting in this regard, but additional lights for two pitches at London Irish RFC would enable the club to spread training usage more evenly.

7.10.4 Scenario 3: Negotiating access to rugby pitches on school sites

- **Rationale:** There are ten rugby pitches on school sites with no community use at present and accessing these facilities would provide some additional capacity. The pitches at Bishop Wand School and St. Paul's Catholic College are relatively close to the London Irish site and those at St. James Boy's School and Thomas Knyvett College to Staines RFC.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that:
 - The pitches already exist and therefore could be brought into community use at little or no additional cost.
 - There would be opportunities to establish closer school-club links if community-based clubs were playing on school sites.

- **Disadvantage:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that:
 - Some capacity is already used by the schools to meet their educational needs, so the potential net availability for community use is around half the total number of match equivalent sessions.
 - Some schools only mark rugby pitches for the spring term, so they are not available for the full rugby season.
 - The main capacity issues at the club sites are at midweek evenings when pitch usage is dependent on floodlighting. None of the schools pitches are floodlit.
- **Conclusions:** Given the scope to improve pitch carrying capacity on the two club sites in the borough, this scenario is not the preferred way to meet identified current and future needs.

7.11 Policy recommendations

7.11.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to rugby union are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 74, which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;
- The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

The following recommendations are arranged under the main headings of ‘protect’ and ‘enhance’.

7.11.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The Spelthorne PPS comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for rugby union in the borough. The PPS has identified a need to increase local rugby pitch capacity and to this extent, it will be important for all current community used rugby pitch sites to be retained. It is therefore recommended that planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the PPS. If proposals to redevelop rugby pitches do come forward, this will only be permissible they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy. This states that ‘the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must 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’.

7.11.3 Enhance

Recommendation 3 - Improving existing pitch capacity: Additional pitch capacity would best be developed by improving the quality of pitch drainage and maintenance, with related floodlighting provision at both club sites in the borough.

Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions: All the additional demand for rugby arising from the proposed housing development in Spelthorne to 2035, should be accommodated through the developments outlined above. It is recommended that the action plan in the Spelthorne PPS be used as the basis for seeking an appropriate level of financial contributions under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of the enhancements. To facilitate this, specific playing pitch projects should be listed as ‘relevant infrastructure’, under CIL Regulation 123. Larger strategic projects should be exempt from CIL, with funding collected via Section 106 contributions.

7.12 Action Plan

7.12.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the rugby union action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for SBC - Spelthorne Borough Council, LIARFC - London Irish Amateur Rugby Football Club and SRFC - Staines Rugby Football Club. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England’s *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2018* (2018).

7.12.2 Key strategic actions

Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards improved rugby facilities.	SBC	Developers	Determined by Sport England’s New Development Calculator	High

7.12.3 Site specific actions

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
London Irish ARFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ‘Poor’ quality drainage on two grass pitches.• Weekly usage is balanced• Need to provide for Gaelic Football needs in addition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve pitch drainage• Provide floodlights to two additional pitches, subject to a feasibility study• Continue to provide capacity for Gaelic Football users.	LIARFC	Developers	£50,000 for drainage improvements £50,000 for floodlights	High
Staines RFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ‘Standard’ quality drainage.• Weekly usage is balanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve pitch drainage• Provide floodlights to two additional pitches	SRFC	Developers	£25,000 for drainage improvements £50,000 for floodlights	High

8 HOCKEY NEEDS IN SPELTHORNE

8.1 Organisational context

- **England Hockey:** England Hockey is the governing body of the sport and supports the development of the game in Spelthorne.
- **England Hockey-affiliated clubs:** There are three affiliated clubs in Spelthorne, who collectively provide 26 adult and 29 junior teams.

8.2 Strategic context

8.2.1 National hockey strategy

England Hockey's strategic plan 2013 - 2017 '*A Nation Where Hockey Matters*' (2013) contains the following priorities of relevance to Spelthorne:

Our vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.

- We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.
- Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.
- As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.
- Our core objectives are as follows:
 - Grow our Participation.
 - Deliver International Success
 - Increase our Visibility
 - Enhance our Infrastructure
 - For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

Club Participation

- Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.
- Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.
- Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks - a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds - in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

8.2.2 Hockey facilities strategy

England Hockey's '*Facilities Strategy*' (2016) contains the following key elements:

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

Mission: 'More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities'. The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

- ***Protect - To conserve the existing hockey provision:*** There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) The current provision must be retained where appropriate, to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
- ***Improve - To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively):*** The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers and education around owning an asset.
- ***Develop - To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain:*** The research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable Hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

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

8.2.3 Neighbouring local authorities

Playing pitch strategies in neighbouring boroughs identify cross-boundary issues:

Runnymede

The 'Runnymede Playing Pitch Strategy' (2018) was recently adopted and identifies that existing collective peak time spare capacity in the borough amounts to the equivalent of 1.45 pitches. Future demand from Runnymede will be equivalent to another 0.82 hockey pitches by 2030, all of which can be accommodated by identified spare capacity.

Elmbridge

The Council is in the final stages of completing a Playing Pitch Strategy for the borough. The emerging findings in relation to hockey are that there is sufficient pitch capacity to meet current needs but that two further artificial grass pitches for hockey will be required by 2030.

Windsor and Maidenhead

The 'Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Playing Pitch Strategy' (2016) identifies that all current and future hockey needs can be met by existing pitch provision.

London Borough of Hillingdon

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy but bases its needs assessment on a 2007 study of open space, sport and recreation. There is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

London Borough of Richmond

The 'London Borough of Richmond Playing Pitch Strategy' (2018) identifies that 'there is clear undersupply of hockey suitable AGPs within Richmond and its surrounding areas'.

London Borough of Hounslow

The 'London Borough of Hounslow Playing Pitch Strategy 2017-2030' (2016) identifies that:

- 'Some imported demand is evident at the sand-based pitch at Feltham Community College which Staines Hockey Club (based in Spelthorne) use as an overspill pitch, although to a reduced extent in the last two seasons'.
- 'In the west sub area, the net direction of flow is outward to the hockey AGPs and clubs - including Staines HC but also British Airways HC, Sunbury and Walton Hawks and Ashford (Middlesex) HC - located in the boroughs of Hillingdon and Spelthorne'.
- 'To the west, there is spare capacity at weekends and midweek on the sand AGPs at The Heathland School and Feltham Community College. Although these AGPs are also used for football, there are spare slots available for hire from the schools in the peak hours'.

8.2.4 Implications of the strategic context

Most current needs for hockey are being met in neighbouring areas, but additional pitches will be needed to cater for future demand.

8.3 Hockey demand

8.3.1 England Hockey-affiliated clubs and teams

The following clubs are affiliated to England Hockey and are based in Spelthorne:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Men's teams</i>	<i>Women's teams</i>	<i>Boy's teams</i>	<i>Girl's teams</i>
Ashford (Middlesex) HC	Ashford Sports Club	4	5	5	4
Staines HC	Staines HC	4	3	4	4
Sunbury & Walton Hawks HC	St. Paul's Catholic College	6	4	5	7
TOTALS	-	14	12	14	15

8.3.2 Demand trends

- **National trends:** National affiliation data for hockey club members provided by England Hockey reveals a different picture compared with the 'Active People' survey, recording successive increases in the period since 2010 as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. players</i>	<i>Annual % increase</i>
2010/11	102,313	-
2011/12	106,665	4.3%
2012/13	114,642	7.5%
2013/14	113,575	-0.9%
2014/15	120,404	6.0%
2015/16	129,857	7.9%
2016/17	138,915	6.6%
2017/18	143,762	3.6%

- **Local trends:** Comparison of current hockey teams' data from Spelthorne with the number of teams playing in the borough when the Spelthorne Playing Pitch Strategy was last reviewed in 2013 reveals a small increase in overall team numbers, which is attributable to strong growth in the junior age groups:

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams 2013</i>	<i>No. Teams 2019</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Adult male teams	14	14	0%
Adult female teams	18	12	-33.3%
Boys teams	10	14	+40.0%
Girls teams	12	15	+20.0%
TOTAL TEAMS	54	55	+1.9%

8.3.3 Displaced demand

Based upon the results of the clubs' survey, the proportion of members from Spelthorne-based hockey clubs that are resident outside the borough is 27.3%. No hockey teams from neighbouring boroughs play their matches on pitches in Spelthorne. No teams from Spelthorne play their matches on pitches in neighbouring areas.

8.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Some pitches may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

There is no evidence of any unmet demand for hockey in the borough at present.

8.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to exist, latent demand is demand that may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. Consultation with local clubs indicated that a total of 13 additional teams of all age groups could be accommodated in Spelthorne, for example if football use could be relocated to additional '3G' pitch provision.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Men's teams</i>	<i>Women's teams</i>	<i>Boy's teams</i>	<i>Girl's teams</i>
Ashford (Middlesex) HC	0	1	2	2
Staines HC	1	1	3	3
Sunbury & Walton Hawks HC	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	1	2	5	5

8.4 Hockey pitch supply in Spelthorne

8.4.1 Quantity

This section summarises the detail of the supply of artificial turf pitches suitable for hockey (water-based, sand-dressed and sand-filled) in Spelthorne.

- Water-based pitches are the preferred surface for elite-level hockey. The sports turf uses a denser pile than other surface types which, combined with the water layer, provides the truest ball roll of any artificial turf system. There are no such pitches in Spelthorne.
- Sand-dressed artificial turf is a higher specification surface designed specifically for fast-paced hockey.
- With sand-filled pitches, the playing surface is only partially filled (usually about two-thirds of the pile height) so the game is played on the sports carpet, not the sand infill.

- Both types of sand-based pitches can also be used for football, but the rubber crumb-filled, long-pile surface of '3G' football turf pitches and/or World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant pitches are not suitable for hockey use.
- Pitches with community use and used:** These are as follows.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Ashford Sports Club	Short Lane, Staines TW19 7BQ	Sand-dressed	100m x 63m	Yes	2012
St. Paul's Catholic College	Manor Lane, Sunbury TW16 6JE	Sand-filled	100m x 70m	Yes	2015
Staines & Laleham Sports Assoc.	Worple Road, Staines TW18 1HR	Sand-dressed	96m x 59m	Yes	2016

- Pitches with community access but not used for hockey:** There are no full-sized pitches on sites with community access that are not used for hockey by external hirers.
- Pitches not available for community use:** These are as follows.
 - Full-sized pitches:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Bishop Wand School	Layton's Lane, Sunbury TW16 6LT	Sand-filled	100m x 60m	Yes	2010

- Small-sided pitches:** England Hockey does not include small-sided pitches as part of demand/supply model as competitive fixtures cannot be catered for, but the following pitches could be used for junior training purposes if community use was allowed.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Our Lady of the Rosary Sch.	Park Avenue, Staines TW18 2EF	Sand-filled	34m x 18m	No	Unknown
St. James's Boys School	Church Road, Ashford TW15 3DZ	Sand-filled	90m x 40m*	Yes	2010
Staines Preparatory School	Gresham Road, Staines TW18 2BT	Sand-dressed	36m x 21m	Yes	Unknown
Staines Preparatory School	Gresham Road, Staines TW18 2BT	Sand-dressed	36m x 20m	Yes	Unknown

* Dimensions will be reduced if the proposed sports hall is built.

8.4.2 Use of hockey pitches for football

With a shortage of '3G' football turf pitches in Spelthorne, all three community accessible hockey pitches are used for football training. This reduces the capacity of the pitches to cater for hockey as follows. The usage figures represent hours per week at evenings and weekends:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Hockey use</i>	<i>Hockey use (%)</i>	<i>Football use</i>	<i>Football use (%)</i>	<i>Unused</i>	<i>Unused (%)</i>
Ashford Sports Club	24 hours	60.0%	16 hours	40.0%	0 hours	0.0%
St. Paul's Catholic College	23.5 hours	58.8%	10 hours	25.0%	6.5 hours	16.2%
Staines & Laleham Sports Assoc.	28 hours	70.0%	12 hours	30.0%	0 hours	0.0%

8.4.3 Hockey pitch quality

The qualitative analysis of pitches in Spelthorne involved visits to all hockey pitches, to undertake the sport-specific non-technical visual inspections produced by England Hockey for Sport England's *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* (2013). The assessment generates an overall 'score' for each pitch by evaluating the condition of the playing surface, fencing, floodlighting, disability access and changing provision. The scores for each hockey pitch in Spelthorne are as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>
Ashford Sports Club	Good	Good
St. Paul's Catholic College	Standard	Good
Staines & Laleham Sports Assoc.	Good	Standard

8.4.4 Pitch maintenance

The maintenance of pitches suitable for hockey use in the borough is organised by the managers of each facility.

8.4.5 Ownership, management and security of access

This is summarised in the table below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of access</i>
Ashford Sports Club	Ashford Sports Club	Ashford (Short Lane) Sports	Secured
St. Paul's Catholic College	St. Paul's Catholic College	St. Paul's Catholic College	Unsecured
Staines & Laleham Sp. Assoc.	Staines & Laleham Sp. Assoc.	Staines & Laleham Sp. Assoc.	Secured

8.4.6 The views of stakeholders on pitch supply and demand

England Hockey: Consultation with England Hockey's Facilities Relationship Manager for the region raised the following issues:

- **Hockey World Cup:** The Hockey World Cup was held in 2018 and provided an enhanced profile for the game.
- **Local clubs:** There are three strong local clubs:
 - Ashford HC and Staines HC have their own pitches, although both clubs share their sites with, respectively, cricket and youth football and football, cricket and archery.
 - Sunbury and Walton Hawks HC uses the pitch at St. Paul's Catholic College.
- **Youth hockey:** There has been good recent growth in youth hockey. A new junior programme called 'Hockey Heroes' is to be launched in 2019 focussing on a new six-week introductory hockey programme delivered by clubs.
- **Adult hockey:** Although the number of adult players has increased, team numbers have generally remained static because availability issues mean that more players are required to sustain each team.

- **Walking hockey:** Walking Hockey is being introduced.
- **Unmet demand:** There is no known unmet demand for hockey in the borough.

Hockey clubs:

- **Ashford Hockey Club:** The key comments were as follows:
 - ‘The original sand-based artificial pitch [at Ashford Sports Club] was laid in 1998 and replaced with a sand-dressed one in 2012. We will be looking to relay it in two to four years-time. We refurbished the floodlights in 2017/8, so we are not looking to replace those for a while’.
 - ‘The Club has a sinking fund of over £15,000 towards the pitch surface re-lay and Ashford (Short Lane) Sports (who manage the site on behalf of Ashford Sports Club who own the site and facilities) also has a sinking fund. The Club also continually reviews sources of possible future grant sources in readiness for the next re-lay’.
- **Staines Hockey Club:** The key comments were as follows:
 - ‘We can currently meet all hockey demand at our pitch, but our junior section in particular is growing and to support this, we will need additional training hours. Ultimately the juniors will transition into adult hockey, increasing adult team numbers’.
 - ‘We have aspirations for a new clubhouse, entrance improvements and new dugouts plus the relocation of the existing pitch. We resurfaced the pitch in 2016, but it will need to be resurfaced in five to seven years’ time’.
 - ‘We also need to install a sound barrier at our own expense because of newly built houses in the vicinity of our pitch’.
- **Sunbury and Walton Hawks HC:** The Club confirmed that the pitch it hires from St. Paul’s Catholic College meets all its needs and it has no current unmet demand.

8.5 The implications for hockey in Spelthorne

Analysis of local supply and demand for hockey pitches in Spelthorne indicates the following:

- **Local clubs:** There are three clubs serving Spelthorne providing high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Participation trends:** The number of hockey teams in all age groups in Spelthorne has increased slightly between 2013 and 2019, due to strong growth in the junior age groups offsetting a reduction in adult women’s teams.
- **Imported demand:** Just over 25% of the members of hockey clubs based in Spelthorne live outside the borough.

- **Pitch supply:** There is no immediate evidence of a shortage of hockey pitch supply in the borough, although with relatively heavy football usage of the three artificial grass pitches, there is limited spare capacity at present.
- **Pitch quality:** There are no significant pitch quality issues, although the carpet at Ashford Sports Club is likely to need replacing in the next three years.

8.6 Assessment of current needs

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site and how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during their peak periods.

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are

- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity.
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity.
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use is less than the carrying capacity.

As per England Hockey guidance, pitch capacity is expressed as weekly peak time hours of availability, demand as actual hours of use and the resultant balance is expressed as hours of availability at peak times. The actual used capacity of artificial turf pitches is based upon their hours of use in the peak period supplied by the pitch operators.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Saturday capacity</i>	<i>Saturday demand</i>	<i>Saturday balance</i>	<i>Sunday capacity</i>	<i>Sunday demand</i>	<i>Sunday balance</i>
Ashford Sports Club	Ashford HC Middlesex Hockey Assoc.	6.0	6.0	Balanced	6.0	6.0	Balanced
St. Paul's Catholic College	Sunbury and Walton Hawks HC	6.0	4.5	+1.5	6.0	3.0	+3.0
Staines and Laleham Sports Assoc.	Staines HC	6.0	3.0	+3.0	6.0	3.0	+3.0
TOTALS	-	18.0	13.5	+4.5	18.0	12.0	+6.0

The split between midweek and weekend use at each pitch is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Midweek used hours</i>	<i>% capacity</i>	<i>Saturday used hours</i>	<i>% capacity</i>	<i>Sunday used hours</i>	<i>% capacity</i>
Ashford Sports Club	20.0*	100%	6.0	100.0%	6.0	100%
St. Paul's Catholic College	13.0*	65%	4.5	75.0%	3.0	50%
Staines & Laleham Sp. Assoc	20.0*	100%	3.0	50.0%	3.0	50%
TOTALS	53.0	88.3%	13.5	75.0%	12.0	66.7%

* Includes some football training use

The assessment shows that there is some peak-time spare capacity on Saturdays and Sundays at two of the pitches in the borough. The Ashford Sports Club pitch has no spare capacity partly because of training use by Ashford Town Football Club. However, the football club has active proposals to provide a '3G' football turf pitch at its own site, so once provided this will free up capacity at the Ashford Sports Club AGP. The spare capacity at St. Pauls is both midweek evening and weekends, so could provide some additional pitch time for Ashford HC if needed in the meantime.

8.7 Assessment of future needs

8.7.1 Population growth

Spelthorne Borough Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 116,000 residents in the borough by 2035. This represents a 17.1% increase from the mid-2017 population estimate.

8.7.2 Potential changes in demand

Notwithstanding the data from the 'Active People' survey, which shows a fall in adult participation in the game since 2005, England Hockey's national membership figures show an increase of 13% in the past four years and local club membership has increased in the same period. Projecting needs based on current demand patterns is a reasonable basis for forecasting.

8.7.3 Site-specific pressures

There are no identified site-specific pressures at present.

8.7.4 Potential changes in supply

There are no known proposals to change local hockey pitch supply, although the dimensions of the small-sided pitch at St. James's Boys School will reduce when the proposed sports hall is provided at the site.

8.7.5 Existing spare capacity

There is spare capacity in the peak period on Saturdays and Sundays.

8.7.6 Future hockey pitch needs

The preferred method for modelling future hockey pitch needs is Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator. The model applies Team Generation rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand but provides helpful context for the site-specific supply-demand assessment in section 9.6 above. The results of applying the Calculator for future hockey needs in Spelthorne to 2035 are set out below:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand</i>
Extra peak match equivalent sessions	5.54
Extra training match equivalent sessions	9.15 hours
Extra pitches to meet demand	0.76 pitches
Capital cost of extra pitches	£726,197
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£22,512

8.8 Key findings and issues

8.8.1 What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

- **Local clubs:** There are three clubs serving Spelthorne providing high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Participation trends:** The number of hockey teams in all age groups in Spelthorne has increased slightly between 2013 and 2019, due to strong growth in the junior age groups offsetting a reduction in adult women's teams. Due to the nature of the sport, hockey clubs do not tend to focus on regular teams at a junior level so England Hockey and Sport England recognise growth of junior hockey in players rather than team numbers.
- **Imported demand:** Just over 25% of the members of hockey clubs based in Spelthorne live outside the borough.
- **Pitch supply:** There is no immediate evidence of a shortage of hockey pitch supply in the borough, although with relatively heavy football usage of the three artificial grass pitches, there is limited spare capacity at present.
- **Pitch quality:** There are no significant pitch quality issues, although the carpet at Ashford Sports Club is likely to need replacing in the next three years.

8.8.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **NO** - Not if the unsecured access to the pitch at St. Paul's Catholic College was lost

The pitch at St. Paul's Catholic College is hired by Sunbury and Walton Hawks HC on an annual basis and there is no secured access. Were this usage to be rescinded for any reason, there would be insufficient pitch capacity to meet local needs.

8.8.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **YES**

All pitches are currently of good quality, although the pitch at Ashford Sports Club will need to be surfaced in two to four years' time.

8.8.4 What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

- **Population growth:** The borough's population is projected to increase by 16,900 people by 2035, a 17.1% increase over the 2016 population estimate.

- **Changes in demand:** The projected increase in population will generate six additional teams by 2035.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known threats to local hockey pitch supply, although the dimensions of the small-sided pitch at St. James's Boys School will reduce when the proposed sports hall is provided at the site.
- **Existing spare capacity:** There is collective spare capacity of 10.5 hours per week in the peak period on Saturdays and Sundays (equivalent to 0.88 of an artificial grass pitch).
- **Future needs:** The Playing Pitch Calculator estimates a need for an additional 0.76 artificial grass pitches for hockey by 2035.

8.8.5 Is there enough accessible and secured provision to meet future demand? **YES**

Future demand from Spelthorne can be accommodated using existing spare capacity, with extra demand for 0.76 pitches met by current spare capacity of 0.88 pitches.

8.9 Scenario testing

8.9.1 Introduction

Based upon the key findings and issues identified above, some scenarios examining the effect of securing additional pitch capacity have been rehearsed to identify the optimum approach to addressing needs.

8.9.2 Scenario 1: Relocating football usage to new '3G' football turf pitches

- **Rationale:** At present, a collective 38 hours per week of usage of the three community-accessible artificial grass pitches suitable for use by hockey in the borough is by football clubs. If this use could be transferred to new '3G' football turf pitches, which are more suitable for football use in any event, it would free up significant spare capacity for additional hockey use.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - An additional 38 hours of use per week would provide for all current and future needs in terms of hockey capacity.
 - Wear and tear on the playing surfaces would be less, prolonging the life of the pitches
 - Football could be played on a more suitable surface for the game.
- **Disadvantages:** The only disadvantage of this scenario is that football usage provides valuable income to the pitch providers and the volume of hockey demand is such that not all of the football income would be replaced.

- **Conclusions:** Since football users would prefer to play on '3G' surfaces and there are active proposals to provide more such pitches in the borough, it would be sensible to allow football users to relocate on a phased basis as new '3G' pitches are provided and for the hockey clubs to expand their use of the current artificial grass pitches as this happens.

8.9.3 Scenario 2: Obtaining access to the Bishop Wand School artificial grass pitch

- **Rationale:** Bishop Wand School in Sunbury has a full-sized artificial grass pitch which has no community use at present. Negotiating access to this pitch would provide additional capacity to meet any unmet or surplus demand from the three pitches in the borough that do have community access.
- **Advantages:** The advantage of this scenario is that the pitch already exists and as such this represents a low-cost solution to providing additional capacity.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that:
 - There is no community use of any of the School's pitches at present, so there is no guarantee that access could be achieved.
 - All three clubs in the borough can meet their existing needs at the pitches they currently use and would prefer to focus their activities at their respective main sites.
- **Conclusions:** Whilst this option presents some possibilities for accessing additional pitch capacity, relocating football use from existing artificial grass pitches to new '3G' pitches in the borough (see scenario 1 above) is the preferred course of action.

8.10 Policy recommendations

8.10.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to hockey are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 74, which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;
- The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

The following recommendations are arranged under the main headings of 'protect' and 'enhance'.

8.10.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The Spelthorne PPS comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for hockey in the borough. The PPS has identified a need to increase local hockey pitch capacity and to this extent, it will be important for all current community used hockey pitch sites to be retained. It is therefore recommended that planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the PPS. If proposals to redevelop hockey pitches do come forward, this will only be permissible they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy. This states that 'the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must 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'.

Recommendation 2 - Security of tenure: Only the St. Paul's Catholic College pitch does not have secured community use and it is therefore recommended that Sunbury and Walton Hawks HC use is secured through a formal Community Use Agreement.

8.10.3 Enhance

Recommendation 3 - Maintaining pitch quality: Replacing the pitch surfaces at least once every 10-years is essential to maintain quality. It is therefore recommended that the pitch owners contribute money annually to a sinking fund to cover the costs of resurfacing when they arise.

Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions: It is recommended that the action plan in the Spelthorne PPS be used as the basis for seeking an appropriate level of financial contributions under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of improving hockey pitches to meet the needs of the additional population arising from housing growth by 2035. To facilitate this, smaller projects should be listed as 'relevant infrastructure' under CIL Regulation 123. Larger strategic projects should be exempt from CIL, with funding collected via Section 106 contributions.

8.11 Action Plan

8.11.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the hockey action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for SBC - Spelthorne Borough Council, EH - England Hockey, AHC - Ashford Hockey Club, S&WHHC - Sunbury and Walton Hawks Club and SHC - Staines Hockey Club. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's 'Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2018' (2018).

8.11.2 Key strategic actions

Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved hockey facilities.	SBC	Developers	Determined by Sport England's New Development Calculator	High

8.11.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Ashford Sports Club	Pitch currently used to full capacity in peak and off-peak periods	Move football users to new '3G' pitch provision as it is provided	Ashford Sports Club	AHC	-	High
St. Paul's Catholic College	No security of tenure for S&WHHC	Negotiate Community Use Agreement with St. Paul's Catholic College	S&WHHC	St. Paul's Catholic College	-	Medium
Staines and Laleham Sports Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New clubhouse proposal • Sound barriers required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide new clubhouse • Install sound barriers 	SHC	Staines and Laleham Sports Association	£500,000 for new clubhouse £50,000 for sound barriers	High

9 APPLYING AND REVIEWING THE STRATEGY

9.1 Introduction

This section identifies the applications of the Spelthorne PPS and the mechanisms for reviewing it to ensure that it remains robust and up-to-date.

9.2 Strategy applications

The success of the PPS will be determined by how it is used. While the use of the PPS should be led by Spelthorne Borough Council, its application and delivery should be the responsibility of the project steering group involving other key local stakeholders including Sport England and the governing bodies of the pitch sports. The PPS has a number of applications:

9.2.1 Sports development planning

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Highlight, justify and make the case for sports development activities with particular sports, groups and clubs and in particular areas.
- Identify current and future trends and changes in the demand for individual sports and how they are played.
- Inform the work, strategies and plans of sporting organisations active in the area.
- Advocate the need to work with specific educational establishments to secure community use of their site(s).
- Develop and/or enhance school club links by making the best use of school sites where they have spare capacity and are well located to meet demand.

9.2.2 Planning policy

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Develop new, and review the effectiveness of existing, local planning policy (e.g. Local and Neighbourhood Plans) in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- The implementation of local planning policy to meet the needs of the community in line with the NPPF.

9.2.3 Planning applications

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Inform the development of planning applications which affect existing and/or proposed new sports facilities provision.

- Inform pre-application discussions to ensure any subsequent planning applications maximise their benefit to sport and are developed in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sports clubs and other organisations provide the strategic need for development proposals thereby potentially adding support to their application(s) and saving them resources in developing such evidence.
- The Council to assess planning applications affecting existing and/or proposed new playing pitch provision in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sport England and other parties respond to relevant planning application consultations.

The PPS can also be applied to help the Council to meet other relevant requirements of the NPPF including:

- Taking account of and supporting local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.
- Delivering the social, recreational, cultural facilities and services the community needs.
- Planning positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the framework.
- Working with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being).

9.2.4 Section 106

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Advocate the need for playing pitch provision to be taken into account when the local authority is developing and/or reviewing an approach to Section 106 contributions and the wider benefits of doing so (e.g. improving health and wellbeing).
- Provide prioritised infrastructure requirements for playing pitch provision including deliverable sport, area and site-specific projects with costings (where known).

9.2.5 Funding bids

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base and strategic need to support funding bids by a range of parties to a variety of potential funding sources.
- Inform potential bidders of the likely strategic need for their project.

9.2.6 Facility and asset management

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Ensure a strategic approach is taken to the provision and management of playing pitches.
- Inform the current management, strategies and plans of playing pitch providers.
- Share knowledge of how sites are managed and maintained, the lessons learnt and good practice.
- Highlight the potential of asset transfers and ensure any proposed are beneficial to all parties.
- Provide additional protection for particular sites over and above planning policy, for example through deeds of dedication.
- Resolve issues around security of tenure.

9.2.7 Public health

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Understand how the community currently participates in sport, the need for playing pitches and how this may evolve.
- Raise awareness of and tackle any barriers to people maintaining and increasing their participation.
- Highlight and address any inequalities of access to provision within the study area.
- Provide evidence to help support wider health and well-being initiatives.

9.2.8 Co-ordinating resources and investment

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Raise awareness of the current resources and investment (revenue and capital) going into the management, maintenance and improvement of playing pitch provision.
- Co-ordinate the current and any future resources and investment to ensure the maximum benefit to sport and that value for money is secured.
- Ensure the current and any future resources and investment are complimentary and do not result in their inefficient use.

9.2.9 Capital programmes

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base to justify the protection and investment in playing pitch provision.
- Influence the development and implementation of relevant capital programmes (e.g. school refurbishment and new build programmes).

9.3 Monitoring delivery

A process should be put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered. This monitoring should be led by Spelthorne Borough Council and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery.

9.4 Keeping the strategy robust and up-to-date

Along with ensuring that the PPS is used and applied, a process should be put in place to keep it robust and up to date. This will expand the life of the PPS, providing people with the confidence to continue to both use it and attach significant value and weight to its key findings and issues, along with its recommendations and actions.

Sport England advocates that the PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

The annual review should highlight:

- How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- Any changes to particularly important facilities and/or sites in the area (e.g. the most used or high-quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

9.5 Strategy implementation

To support the delivery of the actions in all the pitch sport-specific chapters, Spelthorne Borough Council in consultation with stakeholders will prepare a short-term action plan identifying priorities and actions for year one of the strategy delivery. The action plans in the PPS provide a long list of prioritised actions, but many will not be applicable, appropriate or manageable to deliver initially. This is the first stage of delivering the PPS and essential that this is undertaken as this initiates the delivery and provides momentum following completion of the work.