



STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT JUNE 2024

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
AFL-E	Australian Football League England
CFA	Cheshire Football Association
CFS	County Facilities Strategy
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
EMJFL	East Manchester Junior Football League
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Management Association
GMAL	Greater Manchester Amateur League
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LMS	Last Man Stands
LFFP	Local Football Facilities Plan
MFA	Manchester Football Association
MRJFL	Manchester Respect Junior Football League
MYSL	Manchester Youth Super League
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NLS	National League System
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
SMBC	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
SMJFL	Stockport Metropolitan Junior Football League
U	Under
WNLS	Women's National League System

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned to undertake a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC). This will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting relevant provision within the local authority area.

This report, known as the Assessment Report, presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in the area. It is delivered in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance, which details five stages for the developing the study:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision.
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy.
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date.

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D covered in the proceeding strategy document and Stage E ongoing once the work has been approved. The lifespan of a PPS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is kept up to date. As part of the Stage E process, the PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off.

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the Strategy is being developed

The PPS will replace the existing study in Stockport, which was completed in 2019 and is now considered to be at the end of its lifespan given how much has changed since its adoption.

The Council is required to make the best use of land and property in its ownership, in terms of both meeting the needs of the Borough and ensuring financial value. An up-to-date PPS will therefore provide evidence as to whether sport and recreational needs are being met effectively in different parts of the Borough and inform future decisions on how the Council's property estate is managed.

The PPS will also provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields facilities to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch facilities requirements. From a planning perspective, this will help inform and justify emerging Local Plan policies and assist in the determination of planning applications.

The new Stockport Local Plan will set out the Council's policies for the use and development of land in the Borough. It is part of the wider suite of documents that comprise the Stockport Development Plan, which is made up of several statutory documents including Stockport's Proposals Map and the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals & Waste Development Plan. The Local Plan will also play a major role in the determination of individual planning applications and in other decisions taken under the Town and Country Planning Acts. Stockport does not form part of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document, which is a long-term plan for nine of the Greater Manchester authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside Trafford and Wigan).

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From a non-planning perspective, the PPS is key in order to inform how future direction on aims and objectives for sports delivery, including the identification of projects which can draw in investment and funding and help to understand future pressures relating to the management and maintenance of facilities.

The Council (in partnership with Life Leisure) has a duty of care to support the voluntary sport sector in Stockport. In a recent sports club survey, all 62 responding clubs stated that funding was their main concern and the most important factor in their ability to increase participation and improve the quality of their facilities.

In full, the Council's aims of the PPS are:

- ✦ To provide a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs for playing pitches.
- ✦ To provide a robust and comprehensive evidence base to enable the Council to develop planning policies as part of the future Local Plan, sufficient to withstand scrutiny at an Examination in Public.
- ✦ To provide a robust mechanism to enable the Council to ensure that the value of the recreational spaces is afforded due weight in plan making and development management decision making processes.
- ✦ To provide information to enable the Council to justify collecting S106 developer contributions.
- ✦ To provide information to assist performance management, Best Value reviews and asset management.
- ✦ To provide information to underpin:
 - ✦ The protection, enhancement and improvement of the existing pitch stock.
 - ✦ Improvements in community access to educational and non-local authority pitches.
 - ✦ The development and creation of new pitches to meet identified deficiencies.
- ✦ To enable an estimate of additional growth needed/spare capacity for each pitch sport taking into account different growth scenarios to ensure the adequate provision of new pitches in relation to new housing developments.
- ✦ To provide a framework for delivering government policies for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement and healthy living.
- ✦ To provide good-quality information and evidence of need for funding bids for new and improved provision.
- ✦ To provide the context for sports development of pitch sports which aims to develop the range of opportunities available.

As part of the PPS informing local planning policy, there is a need for it to conform with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of this is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with Paragraph 102 stating that “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.”

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Paragraph 103 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- b) 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
- c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Paragraphs 105, 106, and 107 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and playing pitches.

Management arrangements

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

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective. Its role is also to support, check and challenge the work of the project team. The Steering Group comprises representatives from the Council (including officers from Active Stockport, Neighbourhoods, Education, Planning and Transport), Life Leisure, Sport England and the relevant national governing bodies of sport (NGBs).

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue to meet once the PPS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ◆ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value of the PPS.
- ◆ Ensure implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- ◆ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the study and ensure that the PPS is kept up-to-date.

Scope

The PPS encompasses all relevant facilities regardless of ownership and management. The following are included within the scope:

- ◆ Football pitches
- ◆ Rugby union pitches
- ◆ Cricket squares
- ◆ Hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- ◆ Lacrosse
- ◆ Other grass pitch sports (i.e., rounders and Australian rules football)

A bespoke section for third generation turf (3G) pitches is also included within the scope. This is relevant to several sports, predominately football but also rugby union and lacrosse. It is separated out from other sections due to this multi-sport nature.

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Study area

The study area comprises of the full local authority area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for Stockport as a whole. This entails splitting the Council's administrative area into seven committee areas that were also used for the previous study (although there have been some boundary changes).

The areas are detailed in the following table and shown in Figure 1.1.

Table 1.1: Summary of PPS analysis areas

Analysis (committee) area	Ward
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Bramhall North, Bramhall South & Woodford, Cheadle Hulme South
Cheadle	Cheadle East & Cheadle Hulme North, Cheadle West & Gatley, Heald Green
Heatons & Reddish	Heatons North, Heatons South, Reddish North, Reddish South
Marple	Marple North, Marple South & High Lane
Stepping Hill	Hazel Grove, Norbury & Woodsmoor, Offerton
Stockport Central	Brinnington & Stockport Central, Davenport & Cale Green, Edgeley, Manor
Werneth	Bredbury & Woodley, Bredbury Green & Romiley

Figure 1.1: Map of Stockport and its analysis areas



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Cross boundary issues will also be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand, recognising, for example, that people travel to and make use of strategic facilities irrespective of administrative boundaries.

1.3: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision (Stage B)

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in Stockport is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This has been achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

Quantity

Where known, all playing pitch facilities are included within the PPS, irrespective of ownership, management and use.

Sites have been initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data and booking information. For each site, the following details are recorded in the project database:

- ✦ Site name, address (including postcode) and location.
- ✦ Ownership and management type.
- ✦ Security of tenure.
- ✦ Community availability.
- ✦ Total number, type and quality of provision.
- ✦ Usage levels.

Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2021 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order':

- ✦ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which, together with any run-off area, is of 0.2 hectares or more, and which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ✦ **Playing field** – the whole of a site that encompasses at least one playing pitch.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, the PPS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha. The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible, this report aims to capture all of the playing pitches within Stockport; however, there may be instances that have led to omissions, such as unused school sites where access was not possible (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included within the study where provision is known to exist from other sources e.g., affiliation data or club/league consultation). Where provision has not been recorded within the report, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so. Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

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Accessibility

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

- ✦ **Community use** – facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams/members/individuals (depending on the sport).
- ✦ **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used externally; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire or particularly poor quality.
- ✦ **No community use** - facilities which are, as a matter of policy or practice, unavailable for external hire. This includes professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team of the host club.
- ✦ **Disused playing field** – any sites where outdoor sports facilities were once provided but are no longer in place, yet they remain undeveloped and could therefore be brought back into use.

The lawful use of a disused playing field is still that of a playing field until such time as it is developed for a non-pitch sport use or its use is formally changed through the planning system. There is no positive obligation, under planning law, for a playing field to be actively used as such.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the assessment but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use is put against each site.

Disused sites provide the opportunity to help address deficiencies in pitch sport if brought back into use or replaced in a more sustainable location to meet need. These sites will be assessed to establish whether they are surplus to meet an identified need in the area in which they are situated within this PPS, should be retained and protected for future use or could be replaced in accordance with Sport England's Playing Field Policy and paragraph 103 of the NPPF.

In addition to above, there are some existing playing field sites which may be able to or have previously accommodated more pitches than are presently marked. Where known, these will be identified through the PPS. There may also be sites which are no longer prepared and used for formal sport but serve another function, such as a public open space or park. These sites should not be considered disused as they continue to operate as part of the green infrastructure typology and remain playing field, which could be brought back into use with marked out playing pitches and have the potential to contribute to supply.

Quality

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

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The quality of all provision identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed as part of a PPS, regardless of ownership, management and availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each pitch/facility. These ratings are then used to help estimate the capacity (aligned to NGB guidance) to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the PPS refers to playing facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to facilities with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces and that are free from vandalism and litter. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking. The age of the facilities can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

Standard quality refers to playing provision that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and the provision of toilets, although some level of improvement/ modernisation may be required.

Poor quality refers to playing provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage, whilst for ancillary facilities it may relate to changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, the site assessments for sports played in the winter (i.e., football, rugby union, lacrosse and hockey) are conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer (i.e., cricket, rounders and Aussie rules) have assessments carried out between July and August.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality as well as the Council and relevant NGBs. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect this (thus establishing an "agreed quality rating").

Furthermore, technical assessments have also been provided, where undertaken, such as those carried out by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA), which now provides technical assessments across football, rugby union and cricket (known as PitchPower reports). PitchPower reports, where carried out, have informed the quality assessments for the PPS to ensure the findings align (unless there is a clear reason for a differential e.g., recent improvements/deterioration).

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Gather demand information and views

Current demand

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e., recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. To that end, demand for provision in Stockport tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play
- ◀ Unofficial use

Current and future demand for provision is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section (unless no such demand has been identified).

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the competition. In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of playing pitch facilities (and ancillary provision) was available.

Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice. This therefore includes Stockport-based demand that travels outside of the authority to access provision (exported demand), as well as demand from nearby authorities that travel into the area (imported demand). This can often be linked to capacity and/or quality issues within an authority, although in Stockport some leagues and competitions operate a central venue system that necessitates displacement without this being seen as a problem.

A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues from each sport (as identified by the Council and the relevant NGBs), thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and further interrogation of key issues. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including schools and further/higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools, colleges and universities and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. Using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for the relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth.

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Team generation rates are used to provide an indication as to how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group). This ratio can then be applied to predicted participation, population and housing growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.

Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

- Recent trends in the participation.
- The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- Feedback from clubs on plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- Any local and NGB specific sports development targets e.g., women's and girls' activity.

All future demand projections across the PPS for Stockport cover the period up until 2040, in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan.

1.4: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Stage C)

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Stockport and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

Understanding the situation at individual sites

Qualitative ratings are linked to a capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions provision could accommodate. Each pitch is then said to have potential spare capacity, be at capacity, or be overplayed – as follows:

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

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use. One team accessing one whole pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week based on them playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to their home pitch every two weeks).

As a guide, the NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union and hockey have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football, rugby union, per day for hockey and per season for cricket and is further detailed in the table below.

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Table 1.1: Capacity of playing pitches in match equivalent sessions

Sport	Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
Rugby union	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
Rugby union	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
Rugby union	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Cricket	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

More detailed sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report. There is, however, no capacity guidance for 3G pitches, with availability and usage instead determined by a programme/hours-led approach.

Develop the current and future picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a Council-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e., the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity or whether there is a shortfall of capacity.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity), or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used until they are improved, or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Conversely, where a shortfall of capacity is identified, this does not necessarily mean there is a need for increased provision via new facilities. Instead, it may be possible for deficits to be overcome through better utilising the existing stock, such as through quality improvements or through improving community access.

Once current capacity has been determined, future capacity can then also be calculated via incorporating the future demand that has been identified as well as any unmet, latent and exported demand.

Identify the key findings and issues

The Assessment Report, which is this document, is drafted and presented on a sport-by-sport basis, with data analysis undertaken on both a Council-wide and sub-area basis. This focuses on reporting research findings, consultation, site audit information and data analysis supported by detailed GIS mapping. It is agreed and 'signed off' prior to moving on to the strategy and action plan development stages.

Each included section (from Part 2 onwards) summarises the local administration of the included playing pitch facilities. Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken.

1.5: Develop the strategy (Stage D)

The Strategy follows the production of this Assessment Report, once it has been finalised and signed off by the Steering Group. It will feature:

- ◆ Headline findings.
- ◆ An overall vision and associated aims for the PPS.
- ◆ Sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios.
- ◆ Strategic recommendations.
- ◆ A site-by-site and area-by-area Action Plan.
- ◆ Housing growth scenarios.

Additionally, it will provide detail as to how to deliver the PPS and keep it robust and up to date (Stage E).

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation's responsible for the development of football in Stockport are Cheshire FA (CFA) and Manchester FA (MFA). Both are also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees and delivering national football schemes.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation (FF), which is a charity, linked to and funded by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England), that helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding. It is committed to improving the experience of playing football for everyone involved in the game. The FF also acts on behalf of The FA as the strategic NGB for football in supporting development of the PPS.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches, where formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to this.

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)	Recommended pitch size including runoff (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64	106 x 70
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55	97 x 61
	U13s-U14s	82 x 50	88 x 56
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46	79 x 52
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37	61 x 43
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27	43 x 33

Part 3 of this report captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches), which is the FA's preferred artificial surface type for football.

Stockport Local Football Facility Plan

To support the delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which was completed (in 2018). This involved the creation of a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for every local authority across the Country, with each plan unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (the FA, Premier League, DCMS and the Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

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Each LFFP is informed by PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game as well as including strategic priorities for investment across small-sided football (including recreational and indoor activity). The LFFP also incorporated consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities. This included those which may be key partners with regards to using football for behavioural change, plus groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls', disability and walking football.

The LFFP for Stockport was produced in 2020. As it is a 'live' document it should be updated following the completion of this study as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. An LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

Consultation

In addition to face to face and video consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all football clubs playing in Stockport, distributed via Cheshire and Manchester FA. A 73% team response rate has been achieved, with this including the following clubs identified as being particularly key:

- ✦ Cheadle & Gatley Junior FC
- ✦ Elite FC
- ✦ Marple Athletic FC
- ✦ Mountfield Rovers FC
- ✦ Reddish North End FC
- ✦ Reddish Villa Juniors FC
- ✦ Reddish Vulcans Junior FC
- ✦ Richmond Rovers FC
- ✦ Spurley Hey FC

In addition, key leagues have also been consulted, including the Stockport Metropolitan Junior Football League, the Manchester Youth Super League (MYSL) and the Cheshire Girls League.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 157 grass football pitches within Stockport across 90 sites, with 119 pitches across 64 sites identified as being available for community use. All 38 unavailable pitches are located at either education sites or professional sporting venues for Stockport County FC.

Most available pitches in the Borough are in the Cheadle Analysis Area (27 pitches - 23% of available pitches), followed by the both the Stepping Hill and Stockport Central analysis areas (19 pitches - 16% of available pitches). The Werneth Analysis Area has the least number of pitches with seven (6% of available pitches).

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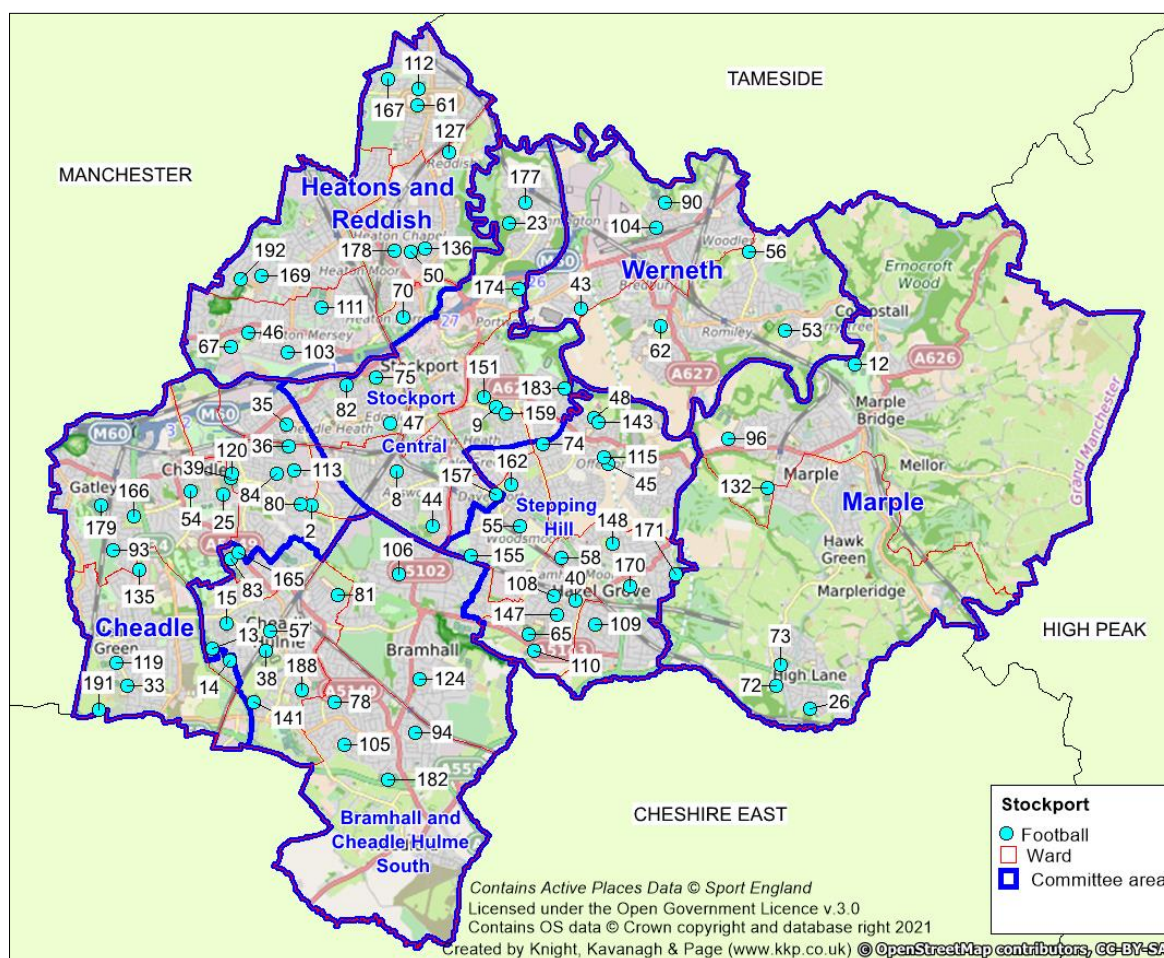
Table 2.2: Summary of grass football pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	10	7	-	-	18
Cheadle	8	14	2	1	2	27
Heatons & Reddish	6	8	2	-	-	15
Marple	5	4	2	-	2	13
Stepping Hill	8	8	2	-	1	19
Stockport Central	2	11	2	2	2	19
Werneth	1	6	-	-	-	7
Total	31	61	17	3	7	119

As seen in the table above, most available pitches across Stockport (61 pitches - 51%) are youth 11v11 size, whilst the fewest are mini 7v7 size (three pitches – 3%). There are a low number of pitches for mini football as the large majority of this activity takes place on 3G provision.

Figure 2.1 below identifies the location of all grass football pitches across Stockport. Please refer to Table 2.22 for a key to the map.

Figure 2.1: Grass football pitches in Stockport by community use availability



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Disused playing fields with football pitches

There are no disused playing fields in Stockport. However, the following sites are no longer formally marked for football, despite pitches previously being provided:

- ✦ Abney Hall Park
- ✦ Bowerfold Open Space
- ✦ Linney Road
- ✦ Sandringham Road Playing Fields
- ✦ Stockport Grammar School Playing Fields
- ✦ Woodbank Park

These sites are still accessed by the public as open space, which is why they are not considered to be disused.

Sandringham Road Playing Fields previously had provision marked onsite with space to accommodate up to two adult pitches. The pitches were last formally marked and used in 2019.

Linney Road previously accommodated one youth 11v11 and one mini 5v5 pitch. However, the pitches are no longer marked, although the mini 5v5 pitch still has posts installed for recreational play. Pitch markings last present *circa* 2013.

Abney Hall Park has previously been marked out with one youth 11v11 pitch. It has not been maintained or marked for competitive football since 2016.

Similarly, Bowerfold Open Space has in recent years accommodated a youth 11v11 pitch. The pitch was last marked and used for football since 2017.

One adult and two youth 11v11 pitches were previously marked at Woodbank Park. The pitches have not been marked or maintained for competitive football since *circa* 2009. The site, however, remains active for sport via an athletic track.

The Stockport Grammar School Playing Fields site, which is an off-site playing field on Dialstone Lane, has recently had Storey Homes launch public consultation for the redevelopment of the site for 112 homes. The site has lay reportedly lay disused for around seven years, with no formal football pitches provided since 2017 (Google Earth imagery also supports this).

Future developments

Spurley Hey FC reports that in the coming years it wishes to develop an additional adult pitch on its site at Warth Meadow Playing Fields. This pitch would need to be developed within the wooded area, to the west of the current pitches. There would also need to be dedicated work to level and maintain this area in order to bring it up to a usable quality for football.

Cheadle College has had a hybrid planning application (DC/089265) approved, with community use agreement requirements, which will see the development of a new campus on a segment of its current playing field land and the demolition of its existing facilities. The plans include the creation of replacement playing land, where the current campus is located, to replace that which is proposed to be lost, as well as the creation of up to 32 dwellings. Within this, the application includes the creation of a mini 7v7 pitch.

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Management and security of tenure

Clubs are generally considered to have secure tenure where they have freehold, leasehold or formally secured use of their site/s (for example, through a community use agreement) for the next three or more years. Tenure of sites in Stockport is generally secure, i.e., through freehold, long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years through formal rent agreement.

Of the 63 community available sites, 36 are managed by the Council (57%), 13 are managed inhouse by sports clubs (21%), 11 are managed by education operators (17%), whilst Life Leisure, a community organisation and a commercial management company manage one site each (2%).

All community available sites which are classified as having unsecure tenure are located at schools. This is due to schools, academies and universities being able to state their own policies, therefore making them more likely to restrict levels of community use, unless they have access arrangements secured via planning condition. This can be implemented, as an example, if they have had a sports development at their site/s.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Stockport has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), PitchPower reports (see below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

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

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use in Stockport, in total nine pitches (8%) are rated as good quality, 48 as standard quality (40%) and 62 as poor quality (52%). This therefore represents a high proportion of poor quality pitches compared to what would be expected.

Table 2.3: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	4	13	14
Youth 11v11	2	18	41
Youth 9v9	1	11	5
Mini 7v7	-	2	1
Mini 5v5	2	4	1
Total	9	48	62

Poor quality pitches are identified at the following sites:

- Adswood Park
- Bakery Bridge
- Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields
- Brinnington Park

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- ✦ Brookfield Recreation Ground
- ✦ Cheadle Town Football Club (Park Road Stadium)
- ✦ Chester Road Playing Fields
- ✦ Daisyfields Recreation Ground
- ✦ Davenport Playing Fields
- ✦ Gotherhage Lane Playing Fields
- ✦ Grange Park Road Playing Fields
- ✦ Great Moor Park
- ✦ Gren Lane Recreation Ground
- ✦ Harrogate Road
- ✦ Heaton Mersey Bowl
- ✦ High Lane Park
- ✦ Hollywood Park
- ✦ Lavington Avenue Playing Fields
- ✦ Life Leisure Stockport Village
- ✦ Lumb Lane Recreation Ground
- ✦ Mill Lane Recreation Ground
- ✦ Norbury Playing Fields
- ✦ Oakhurst Drive Recreation Ground
- ✦ Offerton Hall Recreation Ground
- ✦ Outwood Road Recreation Ground
- ✦ Park Road Playing Fields
- ✦ Priestnall Sports Field
- ✦ RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields
- ✦ St John's Wood Playing Field
- ✦ St Thomas Recreation Ground
- ✦ The Mike Doyle Centre
- ✦ Torkington Park
- ✦ Woodford Recreation Ground
- ✦ Woodlands Park
- ✦ Woods Lane Sports Ground

In the main, these pitches show significant signs of wear and tear, with many also having waterlogging problems. The large majority are operated by the Council.

In contrast, the good quality pitches are located at:

- ✦ Cheadle Heath Sports Club
- ✦ Cheadle Town Football Club (Park Road Stadium)
- ✦ High Lane Cricket Club
- ✦ North Reddish Park
- ✦ Warth Meadow Playing Fields

At, Cheadle Town Football Club (Park Road Stadium), the good quality pitch is the stadia adult pitch at the site. The accompanying youth 11v11 pitch is assessed as poor quality.

Specific comments relating to the pitch conditions at individual sites are detailed in the table below. These are either taken from club consultation or from site assessments.

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Table 2.4: Summary of pitch quality comments from consultation

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Comments
13	Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields	Cheadle Royals FC	In previous years, the pitches have had fencing surrounding the pitches. This has now been removed and has resulted in more unofficial use of the pitches, including vandalism.
33	Cheadle & Gatley Junior Football Club	Cheadle & Gatley JFC	The Club reports that the site is boggy, and after heavy rain can often become unplayable. Whilst the ground does not hold much surface water, the ground becomes saturated and this can lead to matches to be cancelled.
50	Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields	AFC Stockport	The pitches onsite drain poorly, with areas often waterlogged. This has led the pitches to become uneven. It should also be noted that the goalmouths have not been filled or any form of maintenance to them for several years, with this resulting in large puddles if there is any type of rain.
167	The Mike Doyle Centre	Reddish North End FC	The youth 11v11 pitch sits between housing, a 3G pitch and a wooded area. The Club suggests that because of this, the drainage on the pitch is extremely poor, with very little activity taking place as a result.
174	Warth Meadow Playing Fields	Spurley Hey FC	Spurley Hey FC aspires to progress to play in the National League System. Its pitch is of good quality; however, the site would require work to enable it to meet Ground Grading requirements. Sports lighting and hard standing area is required as a minimum.
191	Nixon Arena	Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Pitch has drainage issues which causes it to be unplayable at points during the season. However, the Club is currently in conversations with football partners to install purpose-built drainage.

Lastly, in previous years, the pitches at Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields have had fencing surrounding the pitches. This has now been removed and has resulted in more unofficial use of the pitches, including vandalism.

Pitch improvement

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the FA's PitchPower web app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to partner rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

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The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are also required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of any grant funding application for FF grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (detailed later in this section).

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments within the PPS guidance, instead being able to be undertaken within a 10-month period, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: September - October, November – March or April – June. Organisations are advised to carry out two assessments a year, preferably with at least one in the November – March window.

As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.

The PitchPower assessments use a five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS Guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

Table 2.5: Agreed equivalent PPS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS Rating	PPPOS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	
High	

In addition to PitchPower, the FA has a general pitch improvement strategy, in partnership with the GMA. As part of this, it has a Pitch Advisory Service that can be utilised by eligible organisations (e.g., clubs, league, parish/town councils, schools and community/charitable organisations) with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice and practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. This is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise local authority-maintained sites.

Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF). As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the GMA (formerly Institute of Groundsmanship).

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The GPMF can be accessed by grassroots football clubs, leagues and other eligible organisations with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a PitchPower site assessment and subsequent Grass Pitch Assessment Report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

Following a report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Once a PitchPower Grass Pitch Assessment Report has been produced for the site, eligible organisations can then apply for grant funding support through the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 good quality grass pitches by 2030. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' then clubs can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

All applicants must have landowner permission (or be the free/lease holder) and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs (excluding pitches used for National League System play), leagues, County FAs, community organisations and charities. In 2023 the fund was also opened up to education organisations and town/parish councils as eligible applicants. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, eligible organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have permission of the landowner via service level agreement.

There are currently eight sites which are receiving GPMF support in Stockport:

- ❖ Spurley Hey FC – Warth Meadow Playing Fields
- ❖ Richmond Rovers – Norbury Playing Field
- ❖ Reddish North End – North Reddish Park
- ❖ High Lane FC – High Lane Cricket Club
- ❖ Cheadle Heath Nomads – Cheadle Heath Sports Club
- ❖ Cheadle Town FC – Cheadle Town Football Club (Park Road Stadium)
- ❖ Stoconians FC – Hillcrest Playing Fields
- ❖ Mellor FC – RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields

Stockport Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

The 2020 LFFP for Stockport identifies key sites considered a priority to improve, with these selected based on the rationale of identifying sites that are the poorest in quality and that are the best utilised, or that have the greatest potential for increased utilisation following quality enhancements through information gathered and information from the previous Stockport PPS. This means that it takes reference from the PPS, although it does not itself form an evidence base for the Council.

Emphasis within the LFFP is on sites with three or more pitches, although scope exists for the inclusion of smaller sites if they are deemed to be strategically important. The following 12 site specific projects were identified:

- ❖ Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields
- ❖ Brinnington Park
- ❖ Davenport Playing Fields
- ❖ Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields
- ❖ Gotherage Lane Playing Fields
- ❖ Lavington Avenue Playing Fields

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- ◀ Marple Hall School
- ◀ Torkington Park
- ◀ William Scholes Playing Fields
- ◀ Woodbank Park
- ◀ Woodford Recreation Ground
- ◀ Woods Lane Sports Ground

In the PPS, most pitches at these sites have been assessed as poor or standard quality. Whilst most of these will therefore still require improvement, given that the LFFP is a live document, there will be a need to update this list based on the findings of this study. As such, the validity of the sites and the effect of improving them will be tested as a scenario within the subsequent Strategy document.

Ancillary facilities

The quality of ancillary facilities across Stockport has been rated via a combination of site visits and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing. The table below identifies the findings for football sites that are actively utilised for football across Stockport.

Table 2.6: Summary of ancillary facility quality at active football sites in Stockport

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
2	Adswood Park	Cheadle	Poor
8	Bakery Bridge	Stockport Central	Poor
12	Brabyns Park	Marple	Poor
13	Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Standard
14	Bradshaw Hall Old Playing Field	Cheadle	Poor
23	Brinnington Park	Stockport Central	Poor
25	Brookfield Recreation Ground	Cheadle	N/A
33	Cheadle & Gatley Junior Football Club	Cheadle	Good
36	Cheadle Heath Sports Club	Cheadle	Standard
38	Cheadle Hulme School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Good
39	Cheadle Town Football Club (Park Road Stadium)	Cheadle	Standard
40	Chester Road Playing Fields	Stepping Hill	N/A
43	Daisyfields Recreation Ground	Werneth	Poor
44	Davenport Playing Fields	Stockport Central	Poor
46	Didsbury Road Primary School	Heatons & Reddish	N/A
50	Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields	Heatons & Reddish	Poor
53	Gotherage Lane Playing Fields	Werneth	N/A
54	Grange Park Road Playing Fields	Cheadle	N/A

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
55	Great Moor Park	Stepping Hill	Standard
58	Green Lane Recreation Ground	Stepping Hill	N/A
61	Harrogate Road	Heatons & Reddish	N/A
62	Harrytown Catholic High School	Werneth	Poor
65	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	Stepping Hill	Standard
67	Heaton Mersey Bowl	Heatons & Reddish	N/A
70	Heaton Norris Park	Heatons & Reddish	Poor
72	High Lane Cricket Club	Marple	Good
73	High Lane Park	Marple	Standard
74	Hillcrest Playing Fields	Stepping Hill	N/A
75	Hollywood Park	Stockport Central	N/A
78	Hursthead Junior School	Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South	Standard
83	Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Laurus)	Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South	Standard
84	Lavington Avenue Playing Fields	Cheadle	N/A
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	Good
94	Lumb Lane Recreation Ground	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	N/A
96	Marple Hall School	Marple	Standard
104	Mill Lane Recreation Ground	Werneth	N/A
108	Norbury Cricket and Lacrosse Club	Stepping Hill	Poor
110	Norbury Playing Field	Stepping Hill	Standard
112	North Reddish Park	Heatons & Reddish	Good
113	Oakhurst Drive Recreation Ground	Cheadle	N/A
115	Offerton Hall Recreation Ground	Stepping Hill	Poor
119	Outwood Road Recreation Ground	Cheadle	Standard
120	Park Road Playing Fields	Cheadle	N/A
127	Reddish Vale Technology College	Heatons and Reddish	Standard
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple	Standard
135	South Manchester Sports Club	Cheadle	Standard
136	South Reddish Park	Heatons & Reddish	Poor
141	St James Catholic High School (Cheadle)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Poor
143	St John's Wood Playing Field	Stepping Hill	Standard
151	St Thomas Recreation Ground	Stockport Central	Poor
155	Stockport Georgians AFC	Stepping Hill	Standard
159	Stockport Lads Club	Stockport Central	Standard
162	Stockport School	Stepping Hill	Standard
165	The Cheadle College	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Good
166	The Kingsway School (Foxland Campus)	Cheadle	Poor
167	The Mike Doyle Centre	Heatons & Reddish	Good
170	Torkington Park	Stepping Hill	Poor
174	Warth Meadow Playing Fields	Stockport Central	Poor
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	Cheadle	Good
182	Woodford Recreation Ground	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Poor
183	Woodlands Park	Stockport Central	N/A

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
188	Woods Lane Sports Ground	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Poor
191	Nixon Arena	Cheadle	N/A
192	Priestnall Sports Field	Heatons & Reddish	N/A

Of the 64 sites that are actively used for community football, eight (13%) are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, 18 (28%) by standard quality ancillary facilities and 20 (31%) by poor quality ancillary facilities. The remaining 18 sites (28%) are not serviced by onsite clubhouse/changing room provision.

Of the 36 Council managed sites 15 (42%) have poor quality ancillary provision, whilst 14 (39%) aren't serviced by any onsite clubhouse/changing room provision.

Richmond Rovers FC reports that over the coming years, it is looking to improve and potentially replace its existing changing rooms onsite at Norbury Playing Field. The current building is a converted container. If the Club is to replace this, it would look to develop a more traditional pavilion/changing block.

Spurley Hey FC aspires to redevelop its changing block at Warth Meadow Playing Fields. It reports that the current facility is outdated and that a redevelopment would enable to Club to modernise and improve the offer, potentially including an improved kitchen facility.

Cheadle Town FC reports that its clubhouse at Cheadle Town Football Club (Park Road Stadium) is in need of improvement. Although it has the required facilities, it is outdated and needs work to modernise and improve its ability to better cater for the level of football which is currently played onsite (Step 5). In addition, car parking can be an issue onsite, especially on matchdays.

FC Torkington reports that the current changing block is not fit for purpose at Torkington Park. It suggests that the showers and changing rooms are in an extremely poor state and need work immediately in order to be used.

AFC Stockport suggests that the changing block at Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields is in poor quality and requires some work to improve. The main issue that the Club highlights is that the changing rooms and toilets are very rarely cleaned.

Local Football Facility Plan

As with grass pitch improvements, the 2020 LFFP for Stockport identifies sites considered as priority sites for clubhouse and changing facility improvements, although there may again be a need to amend and/or add to this list based on the findings of this study. It recommends that the following nine sites should be a priority for ancillary refurbishment/replacement:

- ✦ Davenport Playing Fields
- ✦ Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields
- ✦ Gotherage Lane Playing Fields
- ✦ Lavington Avenue Playing Fields
- ✦ St Thomas Recreation Ground
- ✦ Torkington Park
- ✦ Woodbank Park
- ✦ Woodford Recreation Ground
- ✦ Woods Lane Sports Ground

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Access and travel

The table below summarises how accessible community available football pitch sites are in Stockport through different types of transport (e.g., walking, cycling, public transport).

Table 2.7: Summary of access and travel facilities at sites

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Cycle storage facilities	Car park	Pedestrian access	Bus stops nearby?
2	Adswood Park	Cheadle	-	✓	✓	✓
8	Bakery Bridge	Stockport Central	-	✓	✓	✓
12	Brabyns Park	Marple	-	✓	✓	✓
13	Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	✓	✓	-
14	Bradshaw Hall Old Playing Field	Cheadle	-	-	✓	-
23	Brinnington Park	Stockport Central	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Brookfield Recreation Ground	Cheadle	-	✓	✓	-
33	Cheadle & Gatley Junior Football Club	Cheadle	-	✓	✓	✓
36	Cheadle Heath Sports Club	Cheadle	-	✓	✓	-
38	Cheadle Hulme School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Cheadle Town Football Club (Park Road Stadium)	Cheadle	-	✓	✓	-
40	Chester Road Playing Fields	Stepping Hill	-	-	✓	✓
43	Daisyfields Recreation Ground	Werneth	-	-	✓	✓
44	Davenport Playing Fields	Stockport Central	-	✓	✓	✓
46	Didsbury Road Primary School	Heatons & Reddish	✓	✓	✓	✓
50	Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields	Heatons & Reddish	-	-	✓	-
53	Gotherage Lane Playing Fields	Werneth	-	-	✓	✓
54	Grange Park Road Playing Fields	Cheadle	-	✓	✓	✓
55	Great Moor Park	Stepping Hill	-	-	✓	✓
58	Green Lane Recreation Ground	Stepping Hill	-	✓	✓	✓
61	Harrogate Road	Heatons & Reddish	-	✓	✓	✓

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Cycle storage facilities	Car park	Pedestrian access	Bus stops nearby?
62	Harrytown Catholic High School	Werneth	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	Stepping Hill	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Heaton Mersey Bowl	Heatons & Reddish	-	-	✓	✓
70	Heaton Norris Park	Heatons & Reddish	-	-	✓	✓
72	High Lane Cricket Club	Marple	-	✓	✓	✓
73	High Lane Park	Marple	-	✓	✓	✓
74	Hillcrest Playing Fields	Stepping Hill	-	-	✓	✓
75	Hollywood Park	Stockport Central	-	-	✓	✓
78	Hursthead Junior School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	✓	✓	✓	-
83	Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Laurus)	Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South	✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Lavington Avenue Playing Fields	Cheadle	-	✓	✓	✓
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	✓	✓	✓	-
94	Lumb Lane Recreation Ground	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	-	✓	-
96	Marple Hall School	Marple	✓	✓	✓	✓
104	Mill Lane Recreation Ground	Werneth	-	-	✓	-
108	Norbury Cricket and Lacrosse Club	Stepping Hill	-	✓	✓	-
110	Norbury Playing Field	Stepping Hill	-	-	✓	✓
112	North Reddish Park	Heatons & Reddish	✓	✓	✓	✓
113	Oakhurst Drive Recreation Ground	Cheadle	-	✓	✓	-
115	Offerton Hall Recreation Ground	Stepping Hill	-	-	✓	✓
119	Outwood Road Recreation Ground	Cheadle	-	✓	✓	✓
120	Park Road Playing Fields	Cheadle	-	-	✓	-
127	Reddish Vale Technology College	Heatons and Reddish	✓	✓	✓	✓
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple	-	✓	✓	-
135	South Manchester Sports Club	Cheadle	✓	✓	✓	✓

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Cycle storage facilities	Car park	Pedestrian access	Bus stops nearby?
136	South Reddish Park	Heatons & Reddish	-	-	✓	✓
141	St James Catholic High School (Cheadle)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	✓	✓	✓	✓
143	St John's Wood Playing Field	Stepping Hill	-	✓	✓	-
151	St Thomas Recreation Ground	Stockport Central	✓	✓	✓	✓
155	Stockport Georgians AFC	Stepping Hill	-	✓	✓	✓
159	Stockport Lads Club	Stockport Central	-	✓	✓	✓
162	Stockport School	Stepping Hill	✓	✓	✓	✓
165	The Cheadle College	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	✓	✓	✓	✓
166	The Kingsway School (Foxland Campus)	Cheadle	✓	✓	✓	✓
167	The Mike Doyle Centre	Heatons & Reddish	✓	✓	✓	✓
170	Torkington Park	Stepping Hill	-	✓	✓	✓
174	Warth Meadow Playing Fields	Stockport Central	-	✓	✓	-
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	Cheadle	✓	✓	✓	-
182	Woodford Recreation Ground	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	✓	✓	✓
183	Woodlands Park	Stockport Central	-	✓	✓	✓
188	Woods Lane Sports Ground	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	✓	✓	-
191	Nixon Arena	Cheadle	-	✓	✓	-
192	Priestnall Sports Field	Heatons & Reddish	-	-	✓	-

As seen, all sites as would be expected have pedestrian access, whilst most also have some form of car parking. The biggest absence at most sites is a lack of cycling storage facilities, especially away from educational sites.

2.3: Demand

A total of 640 teams from 88 affiliated clubs are identified as currently playing matches in Stockport. As a breakdown, this equates to 102 adult teams, 175 youth 11v11 teams, 95 youth 9v9 teams, 135 mini 7v7 teams and 133 mini 5v5 teams.

A breakdown of the numbers is shown in the following table. The figures discount high levels of exported demand, which is further explained later on in this section of the report.

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Table 2.8: Summary of football demand in Stockport

Age group	No. of teams
Adult Men's (18-45)	91
Adult Women's (18-45)	11
Youth Boys (12-17)	140
Youth Girls (12-17)	35
Youth Boys (10-11)	61
Youth Girls (10-11)	34
Mini Mixed (8-9)	135
Mini Mixed (6-7)	133
Total	640

Football in the Borough is played predominately in the Cheadle Analysis Area with a total of 126 teams, closely followed by the Werneth Analysis Area with 124 teams. The Marple Analysis Area has the fewest number of teams with 35. This is further summarised in the following table.

Table 2.9: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of teams					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	3	31	17	14	13	78
Cheadle	24	30	26	27	19	126
Heaton & Reddish	17	31	10	19	31	108
Marple	7	18	6	4	-	35
Stepping Hill	24	29	10	11	11	85
Stockport Central	18	20	5	10	31	84
Werneth	9	16	21	50	28	124
Total	102	175	95	135	133	640

Included within the above figures are teams from Richmond Rovers FC, which has recently expanded following a merger with Poynton Juniors FC and 8by8 FC. The Club now fields a total of 98 teams across sites in both Cheshire East and Stockport local authorities.

Although this section of the report focuses on grass pitches, it must be referenced that most teams in Stockport (57%) access 3G pitches for matches, predominantly due to the use of central venues across Greater Manchester for football up to U11 age. Of the 640 teams, 10 adult men's, four adult women's, 77 youth boys, 34 youth girls and 241 mini teams access 3G pitches for competitive match play, which is a considerable proportion (51% of teams), particularly when compared to most local authorities.

Participation trends

Since the previous study was completed in 2019, the total number of teams currently playing in Stockport has increased significantly from 570 teams to 640 teams (12% increase), as summarised in the following table (please note this does not include exported demand).

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Table 2.10: Summary of teams playing in Stockport by analysis area compared to 2019

Analysis area	No. of teams					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
2019						
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	7	12	8	10	14	51
Cheadle	20	21	16	15	18	90
Heatons & Reddish	26	51	33	41	36	187
Marple	12	9	5	4	5	35
Stepping Hill	20	18	6	13	12	69
Stockport Central	26	4	4	4	3	41
Werneth	17	28	23	12	17	97
Total	128	143	95	99	105	570
2024						
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	3	31	17	14	13	78
Cheadle	24	30	26	27	19	126
Heatons & Reddish	17	31	10	19	31	108
Marple	7	18	6	4	-	35
Stepping Hill	24	29	10	11	11	85
Stockport Central	18	20	5	10	31	84
Werneth	9	16	21	50	28	124
Total	102	175	95	135	133	640
Percentage change	20%	22%	0	36%	27%	12%

As seen, despite an overall decline in adult football, which is also reflected nationally, there has been an increase in youth 11v11, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 formats (youth 9v9 participation has remained the same).

Furthermore, the total number of teams based in Stockport (incorporating exported demand) has also increased significantly, with growth from 648 teams to 876 (35.1%). This also means that a higher proportion of teams are now displaced (13% in 2019 compared to 26% currently).

Table 2.11: Comparison of teams based in Stockport (2019 v 2024)

Year	No. of teams					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
2019	134	163	108	122	121	648
2020	103	218	165	198	195	876
Percentage change	23%	34%	53%	62%	61%	35%

In addition, there has been a particular increase in women's and girls' football, with this representing a 110% increase since 2019. This is shown in the table below.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 2.12: Summary of female teams by analysis area compared to 2019 PPS

Analysis area	No. of women's and girls' teams			
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Total
2019				
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	1	1	2
Cheadle	2	2	2	6
Heatons & Reddish	1	-	-	1
Marple	-	4	8	12
Stepping Hill	2	4	6	12
Stockport Central	1	1	1	3
Werneth	1	1	-	2
Total	7	13	18	38
2024				
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	6	6	12
Cheadle	1	8	18	27
Heatons & Reddish	4	6	-	10
Marple	1	3	5	9
Stepping Hill	2	5	5	12
Stockport Central	-	3	-	3
Werneth	3	4	-	7
Total	11	35	34	80
Percentage change	57%	169%	89%	110%

Central venue leagues

In Stockport, The Stockport Metropolitan Junior Football League (SMJFL), Cheshire Girls Football League (CGFL), Manchester Respect Junior Football League (MRJFL), East Manchester Junior Football League (EMJFL) and the Manchester Youth Super League (MYSL) all operate on a central venue basis, with almost all matches taking place at one or more sites with 3G pitches.

The SMJFL runs across five central venues up to and including U11, whilst the MRJFL operates across three central venues for the same age groups. The CGFL runs across three central venues up to U12. The MYSL operates across 11 sites up to and including U12, whereas the EMJFL runs across 17 central venues. Across the four leagues, seven of the sites accessed are within Stockport, with the remaining located within neighbouring authorities such as Manchester and Tameside.

Table 2.13: Summary of 3G central venues used by leagues operating in Stockport

League	Age groups	Venue	Local authority
SMJFL	U7 & U8	Life Leisure Brinnington Park	Stockport
SMJFL	U7 & U9	Powerleague (Stockport)	Stockport
SMJFL	U9 & U10	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Stockport
SMJFL	U11	Stockport Academy	Stockport
SMJFL	U11	St Paul's Catholic High School	Manchester
CGFL	U9 & U10	Marple Hall High School	Stockport
CGFL	U10 & U11	Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Cheadle)	Stockport
CGFL	U12	Seashell Trust Centre	Stockport
MRJFL	U7	Burnage Rugby Club	Stockport

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League	Age groups	Venue	Local authority
MRJFL	U8 & U9	University of Manchester (Armitage Sports Centre)	Manchester
MRJFL	U10 & U11	Manchester Metropolitan University (Platt Lane Sports Complex)	Manchester
MYSL	U7	Burnage Academy for Boys	Manchester
MYSL	U7, U8	Fives Trafford	Trafford
MYSL	U9	St Annes Academy	Rochdale
MYSL	U9 & U10	Hough End Leisure Centre	Manchester
MYSL	U9, U11 & U12	Manchester Communications Academy	Manchester
MYSL	U10	St Matthews RC High School	Manchester
MYSL	U10	South Manchester Sports Club	Stockport
MYSL	U11	Co-Op Academy Failsworth	Oldham
MYSL	U11	The Mike Doyle Centre	Stockport
MYSL	U11	Life Leisure Brinnington Park	Stockport
MYSL	U11 & U12	East Manchester Academy	Manchester
EMJFL	U7 & U8	Tameside Stadium	Tameside
EMJFL	U7 & U8	Martinfields	Tameside
EMJFL	U9	Droylsden Academy	Tameside
EMJFL	U9, U10 & U12	Ten Acres Lane Sports Complex	Manchester
EMJFL	U9 & U12	The Mike Doyle Centre	Stockport
EMJFL	U9	Broadhurst Park Stadium	Manchester
EMJFL	U10 & U12	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester
EMJFL	U11	Hough End Leisure Centre	Manchester
EMJFL	U11	Hyde United Stadium	Tameside
EMJFL	U11	Hopwood Hall	Rochdale
EMJFL	U11	Dean Trust Ardwick Academy	Manchester
EMJFL	U11	Richmond Academy	Oldham
EMJFL	U11	Greenhill Academy	Oldham
EMJFL	U11 & U12	MEA Central	Manchester
EMJFL	U11 & U12	Belle Vue Sports Village	Manchester
EMJFL	U11 & U12	Oasis Academy	Oldham
EMJFL	U11 & U12	Astley Sports Village	Tameside

National League System

The National League System (NLS) is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the Football League (from the National League at Step 1) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the system than at the top. The NLS has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the steps, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation¹ requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Stadium Accreditation assesses grounds from Grade 1 to 7, which aligns with Step 1 clubs down to Step 6 clubs making the transition from Regional Feeder League. Please refer to the FA website² for the full specifications for each.

¹ <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme>

² <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In Stockport, Stockport County FC sits above the NLS, playing in the third tier of the professional football pyramid in the EFL League One (following promotion in the 2023/2024 season). The Club plays at Edgeley Park Stadium (Stockport County FC) whilst training outside the Borough at Carrington Training Centre (Trafford). It shares the site with Sale Sharks RUFC.

There are three teams in Stockport which compete in the NLS, with these fielded by Cheadle Town, Cheadle Heath Nomads and Stockport Town football clubs. A summary of this demand is provided in the following table.

Table 2.14: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure

Team	League	Level
Cheadle Town FC	North West Counties Football League Premier Division	Step 5
Cheadle Heath Nomads FC	North West Counties Football League Division One South	Step 6
Stockport Town FC	North West Counties Football League Division One South	Step 6

The general principle for clubs in the NLS is that they must achieve the appropriate Stadium Accreditation grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard. It is also important to note that from a Stadium Accreditation perspective, the jump from a Regional Feeder League to Step 6 is significant and that as a minimum, sites require a pitch with sports lighting and hardstanding areas for fans, turnstiles for fan entry. As this also requires compliance by March 31st, such aspects need to be in place before a club intends to apply for promotion.

All clubs in Stockport are currently able to meet their league requirements; however, as referenced previously, Spurley Hey FC aspires to rise up the football pyramid system and into the NLP. Its site would require work on to enable this to happen.

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System (WNLS) similar to the adult men's which provides structure to the women's game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each Tier requiring differing Stadium Accreditation requirements.

Although women's clubs still require to meet ground requirements set out by the FA these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Tier 3 and four of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

There are currently two teams in Stockport which are part of the WNLS, as seen in the table below.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 2.15: Summary of teams playing within the women's football pyramid structure

Team	League	Level
Stockport County Ladies FC	FA Women's National League Division One North	Tier 4
Cheadle Town Stingers WFC	North West Women's Regional Football League Premier Division	Tier 5

Women's and girls' demand

There are currently 13 women's teams and 90 dedicated girls' teams playing football in Stockport, of which, 23 are mini soccer teams playing in practice as all girls' teams. This represents 16% of all demand across Stockport.

Women's and girls' teams typically play locally in the Manchester Women's Flexi-League, Greater Manchester Women's Football League, Cheshire Girls Football League, South Manchester Girls League, Cheshire Women's & Youth Football League and the North West Women's Regional Football League. Key clubs and organisations presently fielding female teams include Reddish North End, Stockport Vikings, Stockport County Ladies, Richmond Rovers, Cheadle & Gatley, Marple Athletic and Queensgate football clubs.

The FA currently has a drive to increase women's and girls' participation as part of its Inspiring Positive Change Strategy. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities become suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

Latent/unmet demand

The EMJFL, CGFL, SMJFL and MYSL all identify unmet demand. Whilst none of the leagues operate a waiting list as such, they report that they cannot currently accept additional teams into the existing structures without increased access to facilities, with all stating that they require additional central venue locations to grow. All leagues state that they have sufficient interest from teams to be able to fully utilise more 11v11 3G pitches on Saturday and Sunday mornings. These teams may be playing in other leagues elsewhere in the region in the meantime, or some clubs may be looking to establish new teams directly into the leagues which they cannot presently accommodate.

Away from the leagues, no other clubs in Stockport identify any latent or unmet demand, although this may be a consequence of leagues being at capacity. That being said, no clubs suggest that waiting lists are in place, and no clubs specifically report incidences of operating with squad numbers over recommended guidelines at any age group.

Exported/imported demand

At youth and mini age groups, several leagues operate on a central venue basis which accounts for a high level of exported demand from Stockport. However, this also applies vice versa for teams based in neighbouring authorities such as Tameside and Manchester, with many playing at central venues inside of the Borough. Once progressed through the age groups, youth and mini teams at Stockport-based clubs will require pitches within Stockport (i.e., from U13 onwards).

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

According to affiliation data from 2023/24 season, there are 255 Stockport based teams playing matches at venues outside of the Borough. Of the 255 teams, 203 of these are playing outside of Stockport to access 3G pitch central venues due to the league they play in. Whilst 52 teams export demand outside of the Borough which do not play in central venue leagues, of these, 13 are accessing grass pitches and the remaining 39 access 3G pitches. None of these teams report any issues with their current arrangements.

Table 2.16: Summary of exported match play demand playing in other local authorities

Club	Team	Number of Teams	Venue	Local authority	Grass / 3G pitch
Barns Athletic FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	Styal Sports & Social Club	Cheshire East	Grass
Cheadle & Gatley Junior FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Oasis Academy	Oldham	3G
Cheadle & Gatley Junior FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Hough End Leisure Centre	Manchester	3G
Cheadle & Gatley Junior FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Dean Trust Ardwick School	Manchester	3G
Cheadle & Gatley Junior FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	2	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Cheadle & Gatley Junior FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	University Of Manchester (Armitage Sports Centre)	Manchester	3G
Cheadle & Gatley Junior FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	4	Old Bedians Sports Centre	Manchester	Grass
Cheadle Town Juniors FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	2	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Cheadle Town Juniors FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	3	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Cheadle Town Juniors FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Cheadle Town Juniors FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	University Of Manchester (Armitage Sports Centre)	Manchester	3G
Cheadle Town Juniors FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	1	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Cheadle Town Juniors FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	3	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Chorley FC Manchester	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	Manchester Communication Academy	Manchester	3G
Chorley FC Manchester	Mini 7v7 Mixed	2	Droylsden Academy	Tameside	3G
Chorley FC Manchester	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Chorley FC Manchester	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Elite FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	2	Droylsden Academy	Tameside	3G
Elite FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Manchester Communication Academy	Manchester	3G

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Club	Team	Number of Teams	Venue	Local authority	Grass / 3G pitch
Elite FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Elite FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	2	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Elite FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	1	Manchester Communication Academy	Manchester	3G
Elite FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	5	Fives Trafford	Trafford	3G
Elite FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	2	Manchester Communication Academy	Manchester	3G
Elite FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	1	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Futtymania FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	2	University Of Manchester (Armitage Sports Centre)	Manchester	3G
Futtymania FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	University Of Manchester (Armitage Sports Centre)	Manchester	3G
Great Moor County JFC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	East Manchester Academy	Manchester	3G
Great Moor County JFC	Youth 9v9 Boys	2	Astley Sports Village	Tameside	3G
Great Moor County JFC	Youth 9v9 Boys	2	Droylsden Academy	Tameside	3G
Grove Athletic FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Hazel Grove United FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	3	Belle Vue Sports Village (National Basketball Performance Centre)	Manchester	3G
Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	2	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Heatons Junior Football Club FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	3	Levenshulme High School	Manchester	3G
Hillgate FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	St Pauls Catholic High School	Manchester	3G
Juno United FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	4	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Club	Team	Number of Teams	Venue	Local authority	Grass / 3G pitch
Juno United FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	5	Belle Vue Sports Village (National Basketball Performance Centre)	Manchester	3G
Juno United FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	4	Manchester Metropolitan University (Platt Lane Sports Complex)	Manchester	3G
Juno United FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	3	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Juno United FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	4	Manchester Metropolitan University (Platt Lane Sports Complex)	Manchester	3G
Juno United FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	3	Dean Trust Ardwick School	Manchester	3G
Juno United FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	4	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Juno United FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	St Pauls Catholic High School	Manchester	3G
Marple Athletic JFC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	4	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Marple Athletic JFC	Youth 9v9 Boys	2	Astley Sports Village	Tameside	3G
Marple Athletic JFC	Youth 9v9 Boys	4	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Marple Athletic JFC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	6	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Marple Athletic JFC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	3	Droylsden Academy	Tameside	3G
Mountfield Rovers FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	4	Manchester Communication Academy	Manchester	3G
Mountfield Rovers FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	5	Fives Trafford	Trafford	3G
Mountfield Rovers FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	3	St Annes Academy	Rochdale	3G
Offerton Park FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	St Pauls Catholic High School	Manchester	3G
Reddish North End FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	3	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Reddish North End FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	St Pauls Catholic High School	Manchester	3G
Reddish North End FC	Youth 11v11 Girls	1	St Pauls Catholic High School	Manchester	3G
Reddish North End FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	3	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Reddish North End FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	Droylsden Academy	Tameside	3G

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Club	Team	Number of Teams	Venue	Local authority	Grass / 3G pitch
Reddish North End FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Reddish North End FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	1	Partington Sports Village	Tameside	3G
Reddish North End FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	Wythenshawe Sports Ground	Manchester	Grass
Reddish North End FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	4	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Reddish Villa Juniors FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	6	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Reddish Villa Juniors FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	4	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Reddish Villa Juniors FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	6	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Reddish Villa Juniors FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	5	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Reddish Vulcans Junior FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	2	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Reddish Vulcans Junior FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Reddish Vulcans Junior FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	3	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Reddish Vulcans Junior FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	Burnage Academy For Boys	Manchester	3G
Reddish Vulcans Junior FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	9	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Reddish Vulcans Junior FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	3	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Rose Hill JFC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	Cedar Mount Academy	Manchester	3G
Rose Hill JFC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	Manchester Metropolitan University (Platt Lane Sports Complex)	Manchester	3G
Rose Hill JFC	Youth 9v9 Boys	6	University Of Manchester (Armitage Sports Centre)	Manchester	3G
Rose Hill JFC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	2	Cedar Mount Academy	Manchester	3G
Signal Athletic JFC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	Droylsden Academy	Tameside	3G
Signal Athletic JFC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Astley Sports Village	Tameside	3G
Signal Athletic JFC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	4	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Signal Athletic JFC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	3	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Club	Team	Number of Teams	Venue	Local authority	Grass / 3G pitch
South Manchester Sports Club FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	University Of Manchester (Armitage Sports Centre)	Manchester	3G
Spurley Hey FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	2	St Pauls Catholic High School	Manchester	3G
Spurley Hey FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Spurley Hey FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	2	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Spurley Hey FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	2	Ten Acres Lane Sports Complex	Manchester	3G
Stepping Hill FC	Adult Mens	1	Wythenshawe Sports Ground	Manchester	Grass
Stockport Cosmos JFC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	Ten Acres Lane Sports Complex	Manchester	3G
Stockport Cosmos JFC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Belle Vue Sports Village (National Basketball Performance Centre)	Manchester	3G
Stockport Cosmos JFC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Stockport Dynamos Juniors FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	3	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Stockport Dynamos Juniors FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	1	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Stockport Dynamos Juniors FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	1	Fives Trafford	Trafford	3G
Stockport Dynamos Juniors FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	3	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Stockport GMF FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	Manchester Communication Academy	Manchester	3G
Stockport GMF FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Manchester Communication Academy	Manchester	3G
Stockport GMF FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Co-Op Academy Failsworth	Oldham	3G
Stockport GMF FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	1	Burnage Academy For Boys	Manchester	3G
Stockport GMF FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	Fives Trafford	Trafford	3G
Stockport Titans FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	2	Fives Trafford	Trafford	3G
Stockport Vikings Football Club FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	Droylsden Academy	Tameside	3G

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Club	Team	Number of Teams	Venue	Local authority	Grass / 3G pitch
Stockport Vikings Football Club FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Stockport Vikings Football Club FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	Manchester Communication Academy	Manchester	3G
Stockport Vikings Football Club FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Stockport Vikings Football Club FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Stockport Vikings Football Club FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	5	Parrs Wood High School: A Specialist Arts And Technology College	Manchester	Grass
Stockport Vikings Football Club FC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	1	Parrs Wood High School: A Specialist Arts And Technology College	Manchester	Grass
UK Sports FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Glossopdale Community College (Hadfield Site)	High Peak	3G
UK Sports FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	Burnage Academy For Boys	Manchester	3G
UK Sports FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	Co-Op Academy Failsworth	Oldham	3G
UK Sports FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Co-Op Academy Failsworth	Oldham	3G
UK Sports FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Chapel Leisure Centre	High Peak	3G
UK Sports FC	Youth 9v9 Boys	1	Glossopdale Community College (Hadfield Site)	High Peak	3G
UK Sports FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	Glossopdale Community College (Hadfield Site)	High Peak	3G
UK Sports FC	Youth 11v11 Boys	1	Chapel Leisure Centre	High Peak	3G
UK Sports FC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	Fives Trafford	Trafford	3G
Woodley Albion JFC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	2	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Woodley Albion JFC	Youth 11v11 Boys	2	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Woodley Albion JFC	Mini 5v5 Mixed	4	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Woodley Albion JFC	Mini 7v7 Mixed	1	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Of the 52 teams which export demand outside of the Borough and do not play in central venue leagues, 13 of these are accessing grass pitches and the remaining 39 access 3G pitches. None of these teams report any issues with their current arrangements.

With the majority of demand exporting to sites in Manchester and Tameside, it should be noted that this has a significant impact on the development of Manchester and Tameside-based clubs as many consequentially are not able to access pitches/facilities within their own authority.

It should also be noted that Stockport County FC exports its training demand to Carrington Training Centre (Trafford) via a facility shared with Sale Sharks RUFC. As set out in greater detail in Part 3 of this report, it has an aspiration to relocate this activity to within Stockport.

In addition, as previously mentioned, Richmond Rovers FC also fields demand outside of Stockport, in Cheshire East. However, this has not been factored into the above figures as the Club is based in both authorities following the recent merger and therefore is not considered to be exported due to any issues in Stockport.

It should also be noted that there is known imported demand for 19 teams into Stockport. As seen in the table below. There is also likely more which play within central venue leagues in the Borough, on an ad hoc basis, which have not been included in the overall demand on pitches within Stockport.

Table 2.17: Summary of imported match play demand playing in Stockport

Club	Team	Number of Teams	Venue
Bollington United FC	Mini 7v7	1	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village
Bollington United FC	Mini 7v7	1	Seashell Trust Centre
Bollington United FC	Youth 9v9	2	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village
Bollington United FC	Mini 5v5	1	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village
Hattersley FC	Mini 5v5	1	Life Leisure Brinnington Park
Macclesfield Town Ladies FC	Youth 9v9	2	Seashell Trust Centre
Stalybridge Celtic Junior FC	Mini 7v7	2	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village
Tytherington Juniors FC	Mini 7v7	2	Seashell Trust Centre
Tytherington Juniors FC	Youth 9v9	1	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village
Tytherington Juniors FC	Youth 9v9	2	Seashell Trust Centre
Tytherington Juniors FC	Mini 7v7	2	Seashell Trust Centre
Tytherington Juniors FC	Youth 11v11	1	Seashell Trust Centre
Tytherington Juniors FC	Mini 5v5	1	Seashell Trust Centre

Future demand

Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across Stockport.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Participation growth

Of responding clubs, 11 report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide over the next three years, totalling a predicted growth of 26 teams. This is summarised below.

Table 2.18: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Gender	No. of teams	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ³
AFC Stockport	Heatons & Reddish	Men's	1	Adult	0.5
Cheadle & Gatley JFC	Cheadle	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Cheadle & Gatley JFC	Cheadle	Mixed	2	Mini 7v7	1
Cheadle & Gatley JFC	Cheadle	Mixed	2	Mini 5v5	1
Cheadle FC	Cheadle	Men's	1	Adult	0.5
Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Heatons & Reddish	Men's	1	Adult	0.5
Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Heatons & Reddish	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Heatons & Reddish	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Heatons & Reddish	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
High Lane FC	Marple	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
Hillgate FC	Stockport Central	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Hillgate FC	Stockport Central	Boys	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Mellor FC	Marple	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
Mountfield Rovers FC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Mountfield Rovers FC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Boys	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Reddish Vulcans FC	Heatons & Reddish	Boys	2	Youth 11v11	1
Rose Hill JFC	Marple	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Rose Hill JFC	Marple	Boys	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Stockport Vikings FC	Heatons and Reddish	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
Stockport Vikings FC	Heatons and Reddish	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Stockport Vikings FC	Heatons and Reddish	Girls	2	Youth 9v9	1
Stockport Vikings FC	Heatons and Reddish	Girls	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
-	-	Totals	26	-	13

³ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The total future demand expressed by clubs amounts to nine match equivalent sessions per week (as two teams equates to one match equivalent session playing on a home and away basis). Broken down by pitch type, three match equivalent sessions per week are identified on adult pitches, four match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches, 3.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches, one match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches and one match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.

The future demand identified from clubs is relatively low considered against the level of existing demand. As such, other club-based scenarios will also be identified in the subsequent strategy document, including a continuation of recent participation growth trends (i.e., using recent increases as a benchmark for future demand).

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2040 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth. This is through using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers. Team generation rates have then been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference, the total current population in Stockport is 296,472 will increase to 313,803 by 2040. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.19: Borough-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population – rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions per week ⁴
Adult Men's (16-45)	1:438	6.84	6	3
Adult Women's (16-45)	1:4,060	0.76	0	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	1:48	9.53	9	4.5
Youth Girls (12-15)	1:209	1.99	2	1
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:29	7.89	7	3.5
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:109	1.99	2	1
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:38	11.81	11	5.5
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:37	11.52	11	5.5

As seen, there is predicted growth of six adult men's, nine youth 11v11 boys, two youth 11v11 girls, seven youth 9v9 boys, two youth 9v9 girls, 11 mini 7v7 and 11 mini 5v5 teams across Stockport as a whole.

However, when applying the growth on an analysis area level, it reduces the increases to a prediction of three adult, five youth 11v11 boys, five youth 9v9 boys, one youth 9v9 girls, nine mini 7v7 and nine mini 5v5 team. This is due to the fact that the total number of predicted teams across Stockport dissipates due the nature of authority - when looking at individual analysis areas, the same number of full teams are not predicted.

⁴ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 2.20: Summary of future teams by analysis area (to 2040)

Age group	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Cheadle	Heatons & Reddish	Marple	Stepping Hill	Stockport Central	Werneth
Senior Men (18-45)	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
Senior Women (18-45)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Boys (12-17)	1	1	2	0	1	0	0
Youth Girls (12-17)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
Youth Girls (10-11)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	1	1	2	1	0	1	3
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	1	1	3	0	0	2	2
Total teams	4	6	8	1	2	5	6

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that some aims and initiatives are likely to result in participation increasing to a greater level than what is projected through population growth. For example, the FA has a current focus on growing women's and girls' demand that will likely see a greater number of female teams than what is currently predicted.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. As such, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational.

Taking only population growth into consideration, a total requirement for 1.5 match equivalent session per week is identified on adult pitches, 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches, three match equivalent session per week on youth 9v9 pitches, 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches and 4.5 match equivalent session on mini 5v5 pitches.

Notwithstanding the above, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are also realised. This is because, based on recent trends, the level of increases identified is considered to be realistic (whereas it might not be in other areas that have not experienced such growth levels).

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

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

Table 2.22 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

Match equivalent sessions per week

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

Education sites

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

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

Table 2.22 shows community usage of available pitches. Where not overplayed because of community use, school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.

For school sites which are available for community use but that currently do not have any external hirers, one match equivalent session per week, per pitch has been accredited to indicate use for curricular and extracurricular activity as opposed to them being completely unused.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

As mentioned earlier, all education sites are classified as having unsecure tenure as no schools, through consultation, report having a community use agreement in place.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Stockport, peak time is considered to be Sunday mornings for adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9, whereas it is Saturday mornings for mini 7v7 pitches and mini 5v5 pitches. Peak time is based on when the majority of teams are playing matches.

On occasion, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed, or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than the overall spare capacity that exists. This is because most or all of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period. Where this is the case, given that peak time usage should not be utilised over and above overall capacity, adjustments have been made.

A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

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

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecured tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.

The table below identifies the way capacity balance is represented in Table 2.22.

Table 2.21: Capacity balance examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	With a dash, this indicates that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it were to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	Not highlighted but with a value, this indicates that the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, capacity has been discounted. This may be due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.
1	Highlighted in red with a number denotes that the pitches are overplayed and have no spare capacity across the week. This includes at peak time, despite any availability at peak time which may exist.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 2.22: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Availability for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁵	Carrying capacity ⁶	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
2	Adswood Park	6010361	SK8 2JF	Cheadle	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
8	Bakery Bridge	6010326	SK3 8LQ	Stockport Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
8	Bakery Bridge	6010326	SK3 8LQ	Stockport Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.
9	Banks Lane Junior School	6018996	SK1 4PR	Stockport Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
12	Brabyns Park	6010306	SK6 5LB	Marple	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
12	Brabyns Park	6010306	SK6 5LB	Marple	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	3	2	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.
12	Brabyns Park	6010306	SK6 5LB	Marple	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
13	Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields	6010279	SK8 6SS	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Poor	4	3	1	-	Pitches are overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.
14	Bradshaw Hall Old Playing Field	30007754	SK8 6SP	Cheadle	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
15	Bradshaw Hall Primary School	6017827	SK8 6AN	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
23	Brinnington Park	6010251	SK5 8BG	Stockport Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
25	Brookfield Recreation Ground	6010394	SK8 1EX	Cheadle	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
26	Brookside Primary School	6018767	SK6 8DB	Marple	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
33	Cheadle & Gatley Junior Football Club	30003562	SK8 3LW	Cheadle	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Standard	4	8	4	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
33	Cheadle & Gatley Junior Football Club	30003562	SK8 3LW	Cheadle	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	6.5	4	2.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
33	Cheadle & Gatley Junior Football Club	30003562	SK8 3LW	Cheadle	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.

⁵ Match equivalent sessions per week

⁶ Match equivalent sessions per week, based on pitch quality - the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Availability for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁵	Carrying capacity ⁶	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
35	Cheadle Heath Primary School	6018167	SK3 0RJ	Cheadle	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
36	Cheadle Heath Sports Club	6009117	SK8 2ET	Cheadle	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity is discounted to protect Step pitch quality.
36	Cheadle Heath Sports Club	6009117	SK8 2ET	Cheadle	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	1	4	3	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
38	Cheadle Hulme School	1200668	SK8 6EF	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
38	Cheadle Hulme School	1200668	SK8 6EF	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
39	Cheadle Town Football Club (Park Road Stadium)	6005575	SK8 2AN	Cheadle	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity is discounted to protect Step pitch quality.
39	Cheadle Town Football Club (Park Road Stadium)	6005575	SK8 2AN	Cheadle	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
40	Chester Road Playing Fields	6010275	SK7 5PF	Stepping Hill	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
43	Daisyfields Recreation Ground	6010384	SK6 2EX	Werneth	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
44	Davenport Playing Fields	6010281	SK3 8UG	Stockport Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
44	Davenport Playing Fields	6010281	SK3 8UG	Stockport Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.
44	Davenport Playing Fields	6010281	SK3 8UG	Stockport Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
45	Dial Park Primary School	6018951	SK2 5LB	Stepping Hill	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
46	Didsbury Road Primary School	6018946	SK4 3HB	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
46	Didsbury Road Primary School	6018946	SK4 3HB	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
47	Edgeley Park Stadium (Stockport County Football Club)	30003463	SK3 9DD	Stockport Central	No	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use. Professional Stadium pitch for Stockport County FC.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Availability for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁵	Carrying capacity ⁶	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
48	Fairway Primary School	1040947	SK2 5DR	Stepping Hill	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
50	Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields	6010319	SK5 7PS	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
50	Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields	6010319	SK5 7PS	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
50	Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields	6010319	SK5 7PS	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
53	Gotherage Lane Playing Fields	6010330	SK6 4HD	Werneth	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
54	Grange Park Road Playing Fields	6010375	SK8 1HQ	Cheadle	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
55	Great Moor Park	1040953	SK2 7JN	Stepping Hill	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
56	Greave Primary School	6018856	SK6 1HR	Werneth	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
57	Green Bank Preparatory School	30005040	SK8 6HU	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
58	Green Lane Recreation Ground	6017853	SK7 4EB	Stepping Hill	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
58	Green Lane Recreation Ground	6017853	SK7 4EB	Stepping Hill	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
61	Harrogate Road	6010216	SK5 6EX	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	7	2	5	-	Pitches are overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per week.
62	Harrytown Catholic High School	1200685	SK6 3BU	Werneth	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	2	4	2	2	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
65	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	1002607	SK7 5JX	Stepping Hill	Yes	Education Trust	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
65	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	1002607	SK7 5JX	Stepping Hill	Yes	Education Trust	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	6	4	2	-	Pitches are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week.
67	Heaton Mersey Bowl	6010343	SK4 3QT	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
70	Heaton Norris Park	6010228	SK4 1JA	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Availability for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁵	Carrying capacity ⁶	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
72	High Lane Cricket Club	30009130	SK6 8AU	Marple	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Good	0	12	12	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
72	High Lane Cricket Club	30009130	SK6 8AU	Marple	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	1	4	3	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
73	High Lane Park	6010395	SK6 8AB	Marple	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
74	Hillcrest Playing Fields	30003072	SK2 5SE	Stepping Hill	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
75	Hollywood Park	6010455	SK3 0BN	Stockport Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
78	Hursthead Junior School	6018979	SK8 7PZ	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
80	Ladybridge Primary School	6006147	SK8 2JF	Cheadle	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
81	Lane End Primary School	1040671	SK8 7AL	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
82	Lark Hill Primary School	1040962	SK3 9PH	Stockport Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	2	4	2	2	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
83	Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Laurus)	30008213	SK8 5GB	Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
84	Lavington Avenue Playing Fields	6010261	SK8 2JB	Cheadle	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Poor	1.5	3	1.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	1045501	SK6 1QX	Werneth	Yes	Life Leisure	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
93	Lum Head Primary School	30007682	SK8 4RR	Cheadle	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
94	Lumb Lane Recreation Ground	30006578	SK7 1LR	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
94	Lumb Lane Recreation Ground	30006578	SK7 1LR	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Availability for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁵	Carrying capacity ⁶	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
96	Marple Hall School	1103405	SK6 6LB	Marple	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult		2	Standard	2	4	2	0.5	Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
96	Marple Hall School	1103405	SK6 6LB	Marple	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
103	Mersey Vale Primary School	1040955	SK4 2BZ	Heatons & Reddish	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
104	Mill Lane Recreation Ground	6010372	SK6 1QJ	Werneth	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
105	Moss Hey Primary School	6006845	SK7 1DS	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
106	Nevill Road Junior School	1040645	SK7 3ET	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	2	8	6	2	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
108	Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club	1208110	SK7 5PJ	Stepping Hill	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	3	2	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.
109	Norbury Hall Primary School	6019097	SK7 6LE	Stepping Hill	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Standard	3	12	9	3	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
110	Norbury Playing Field	30006872	SK7 5JY	Stepping Hill	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
111	Norris Bank Primary School	1040956	SK4 2NF	Heatons & Reddish	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
112	North Reddish Park	6010227	SK5 6ET	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
112	North Reddish Park	6010227	SK5 6ET	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	2.5	4	1.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
113	Oakhurst Drive Recreation Ground	6010342	SK8 2HQ	Cheadle	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
113	Oakhurst Drive Recreation Ground	6010342	SK8 2HQ	Cheadle	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
115	Offerton Hall Recreation Ground	30006870	SK2 5LB	Stepping Hill	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	0.5	Pitch is played to capacity.
119	Outwood Road Recreation Ground	6010431	SK8 3JL	Cheadle	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Availability for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁵	Carrying capacity ⁶	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
119	Outwood Road Recreation Ground	6010431	SK8 3JL	Cheadle	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
120	Park Road Playing Fields	6010323	SK8 2AR	Cheadle	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
124	Pownall Green Primary School	6019038	SK7 2EB	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
124	Pownall Green Primary School	6019038	SK7 2EB	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
127	Reddish Vale Technology College	1200926	SK5 7HD	Heatons and Reddish	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	1208079	SK6 7RE	Marple	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
135	South Manchester Sports Club	30003105	SK8 4RZ	Cheadle	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
136	South Reddish Park	6010344	SK5 7LN	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
141	St James Catholic High School (Cheadle)	1200664	SK8 6PZ	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
143	St John's Wood Playing Field	1040957	SK2 5ED	Stepping Hill	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
147	St Peters Catholic Primary School	30003368	SK7 5PL	Stepping Hill	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity. Pitch is unavailable for community use.
148	St Simon's Catholic Primary School	6019090	SK7 4LH	Stepping Hill	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
151	St Thomas Recreation Ground	6010262	SK1 4LP	Stockport Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
151	St Thomas Recreation Ground	6010262	SK1 4LP	Stockport Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Standard	5	6	1	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
155	Stockport Georgians AFC	30009675	SK2 7DT	Stepping Hill	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	3	2	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Availability for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁵	Carrying capacity ⁶	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
157	Stockport Grammar School	1200729	SK2 7AF	Stockport Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Good	2	12	8	2	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
157	Stockport Grammar School	1200729	SK2 7AF	Stockport Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	4	Good	4	16	12	4	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
157	Stockport Grammar School	1200729	SK2 7AF	Stockport Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	1	16	15	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
159	Stockport Lads Club	30006869	SK1 4NT	Stockport Central	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Standard	0	8	8	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
159	Stockport Lads Club	30006869	SK1 4NT	Stockport Central	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0	8	8	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
159	Stockport Lads Club	30006869	SK1 4NT	Stockport Central	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
162	Stockport School	1008339	SK2 6BW	Stepping Hill	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
162	Stockport School	1008339	SK2 6BW	Stepping Hill	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
165	The Cheadle College	1200616	SK8 5HA	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
165	The Cheadle College	1200616	SK8 5HA	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
166	The Kingsway School (Foxland Campus)	1002601	SK8 4QX	Cheadle	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
167	The Mike Doyle Centre	30002707	SK5 6JT	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
169	Tithe Barn Primary School	1040964	SK4 3NG	Heatons & Reddish	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
170	Torkington Park	6010362	SK7 4RQ	Stepping Hill	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Poor	5.5	3	2.5	-	Pitches are overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
170	Torkington Park	6010362	SK7 4RQ	Stepping Hill	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
171	Torkington Primary School	30005563	SK7 6NR	Stepping Hill	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	2	4	2	2	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
174	Warth Meadow Playing Fields	1041866	SK6 2BH	Stockport Central	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	1	3	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
174	Warth Meadow Playing Fields	1041866	SK6 2BH	Stockport Central	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	3	2	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.
177	Westmorland Primary School	1040647	SK5 8HH	Stockport Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Availability for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁵	Carrying capacity ⁶	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
178	Whitehill Primary School	1040960	SK4 1PB	Heatons & Reddish	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	1011388	SK8 4LT	Cheadle	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	5	2	3	-	Pitch is overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week.
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	1011388	SK8 4LT	Cheadle	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	1011388	SK8 4LT	Cheadle	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
182	Woodford Recreation Ground	6010398	SK7 1JA	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	5	2	3	-	Pitches are overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week.
182	Woodford Recreation Ground	6010398	SK7 1JA	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
183	Woodlands Park	6010410	SK2 5AP	Stockport Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
188	Woods Lane Sports Ground	6010478	SK8 7LB	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	0	2	2	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
191	Nixon Arena	30010922	SK8 3PE	Cheadle	Yes	Commercial Management	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
192	Priestnall Sports Field	-	SK4 3PS	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	0	2	2	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.

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Actual spare capacity

Actual spare capacity totals 10 match equivalent sessions per week across 13 pitches in Stockport. This has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type below.

Table 2.23: Summary of actual spare capacity on grass football pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cheadle	-	0.5	-	-	-	0.5
Heatons & Reddish	0.5	-	1	-	-	1.5
Marple	0.5	-	1	-	2	3.5
Stepping Hill	-	-	-	-	-	0
Stockport Central	1	-	0.5	1	2	4.5
Werneth	-	-	-	-	-	0
Stockport	2	0.5	2.5	1	4	10

Most actual spare capacity is identified on mini 5v5 pitches, although there is some level of spare capacity across all pitch types.

By analysis area, most actual spare capacity is in the Stockport Central Analysis Area, followed by the Marple Analysis Area. There is none in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South, Stepping Hill and Werneth analysis areas.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In total, 34 pitches across 25 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 37 match equivalent sessions per week in Stockport.

Table 2.24: Summary of overplay of grass football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
8	Bakery Bridge	Stockport Central	Youth 11v11	1	1
12	Brabyns Park	Marple	Youth 11v11	1	1
13	Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Youth 11v11	3	1
33	Cheadle & Gatley Junior Football Club	Cheadle	Mini 7v7	1	2.5
39	Cheadle Town Football Club (Park Road Stadium)	Cheadle	Youth 11v11	1	1.5
40	Chester Road Playing Fields	Stepping Hill	Youth 11v11	1	0.5
44	Davenport Playing Fields	Stockport Central	Youth 11v11	1	1

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
50	Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields	Heatons & Reddish	Adult	1	1.5
50	Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields	Heatons & Reddish	Youth 11v11	1	0.5
61	Harrogate Road	Heatons & Reddish	Youth 11v11	2	5
65	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	Stepping Hill	Youth 11v11	2	2
74	Hillcrest Playing Fields	Stepping Hill	Adult	1	0.5
75	Hollywood Park	Stockport Central	Youth 11v11	1	1.5
94	Lumb Lane Recreation Ground	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Youth 9v9	1	0.5
96	Marple Hall School	Marple	Youth 11v11	1	1.5
108	Norbury Cricket and Lacrosse Club	Stepping Hill	Youth 11v11	1	1
110	Norbury Playing Field	Stepping Hill	Youth 11v11	1	1.5
113	Oakhurst Drive Recreation Ground	Cheadle	Adult	1	0.5
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple	Adult	1	0.5
143	St John's Wood Playing Field	Stepping Hill	Youth 11v11	1	0.5
155	Stockport Georgians AFC	Stepping Hill	Adult	1	1
167	The Mike Doyle Centre	Heatons & Reddish	Youth 11v11	1	0.5
170	Torkington Park	Stepping Hill	Adult	3	2.5
174	Warth Meadow Playing Fields	Stockport Central	Youth 11v11	1	1
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	Cheadle	Adult	1	3
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	Cheadle	Youth 11v11	1	0.5
182	Woodford Recreation Ground	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Youth 11v11	2	3
-	-	-	Total	34	37

The most overplay is situated in the Stepping Hill Analysis Area (nine match equivalent sessions per week), followed by the Cheadle Analysis Area (eight match equivalent sessions per week).

By pitch type, overplay is mostly on youth 11v11 pitches (24.5 match equivalent sessions per week) with some on adult pitches (9.5 match equivalent sessions per week). There is also marginal overplay on youth 9v9 pitches (0.5 match equivalent sessions per week) and mini 7v7 pitches (2.5 match equivalent sessions per week). There is none on mini 5v5 pitches.

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Most overplay is generated from high levels of demand across standard and poor quality pitches. However, it should be noted that most overplayed pitches are only marginally overplayed.

Harrogate Road has the most amount of overplay with five match equivalent sessions per week. This is due to a high level of demand across the two youth 11v11 pitches.

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on team generation rates which are driven by population increases.

Adult pitches

At present, across adult pitches in Stockport, four pitches at three sites have actual spare capacity equalling two match equivalent sessions per week, whilst overplay is identified on nine adult pitches across seven sites.

Table 2.25: Supply and demand position for adult pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	-	0	-	0
Cheadle	-	3.5	3.5	0.5	4
Heatons & Reddish	0.5	1.5	1	-	1
Marple	0.5	0.5	0	-	0
Stepping Hill	-	4	4	0.5	4.5
Stockport Central	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Werneth	-	-	0	-	0
Stockport	2	9.5	7.5	1.5	9

Overall in the Stockport there is a shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week to accommodate current adult demand, with shortfalls present in the Cheadle, Heatons & Reddish and Stepping Hill analysis areas. Marginal spare capacity exists in the Stockport Central Analysis Area.

When accounting for future demand through population growth, three additional teams are expected to be generated, leading to an overall future shortfall of nine match equivalent sessions per week. The same analysis areas contribute to this.

Youth 11v11 pitches

Across youth 11v11 pitches in Stockport, one pitch at one site has actual spare capacity equalling 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Overplay significantly outweighs this, totalling 24.5 match equivalent sessions per week on 23 pitches across 15 sites.

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Table 2.26: Supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	4	4	0.5	4.5
Cheadle	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	2
Heatons & Reddish	-	6	6	1	7
Marple	-	2.5	2.5	-	2.5
Stepping Hill	-	5.5	5.5	0.5	6
Stockport Central	-	4.5	4.5	-	4.5
Werneth	-	-	0	-	0
Stockport	0.5	24.5	24	2.5	26.5

For youth 11v11 pitches, there is an overall shortfall in Stockport amounting to 24 match equivalent sessions per week to accommodate current demand. This is evident in all analysis areas other than Werneth.

When accounting for future demand through population growth, five additional teams are expected to be generated, leading to a future shortfall of 26.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Youth 9v9 pitches

At present, across youth 9v9 pitches in the Stockport, three pitches at three sites have actual spare capacity equalling 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Overplay is then identified on one youth 9v9 pitch.

Table 2.27: Supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
Cheadle	-	-	0	1	1
Heatons & Reddish	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Marple	1	-	1	-	1
Stepping Hill	-	-	0	-	0
Stockport Central	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	0
Werneth	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
Stockport	2.5	0.5	2	3	1

There is a currently sufficient capacity for youth 9v9 demand, with overall spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions per week. However, a small shortfall is evident in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Analysis Area.

When accounting for future demand through population growth, six additional teams are expected to be generated. This would see spare capacity removed and a small overall shortfall established. However, it should be noted a large amount of youth 9v9 football is played across central venues on 3G pitches, meaning the future demand identified is likely to not impact on grass provision (providing sufficient 3G capacity exists).

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Mini 7v7 pitches

For mini 7v7 pitches in Stockport, one pitch across one site has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent sessions per week, whilst there is also one pitch at one site within the Borough which has overplay.

Table 2.28: Supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
Cheadle	-	2.5	2.5	0.5	3
Heatons & Reddish	-	-	0	1	1
Marple	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
Stepping Hill	-	-	0	-	0
Stockport Central	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Werneth	-	-	0	1.5	1.5
Stockport	1	2.5	1.5	4.5	6

Based on the above, there is a shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week to accommodate current demand. This can be attributed to the Cheadle Analysis Area. The Stockport Central Analysis Area provides some localised spare capacity.

When accounting for future demand through population growth, nine additional teams are expected to be generated, leading to a future shortfall of six match equivalent sessions per week. However, as with youth 9v9 football, this is more likely to utilise 3G provision (if sufficient capacity exists).

Mini 5v5 pitches

At present, across mini 5v5 pitches in the Borough, there is actual spare capacity of four match equivalent session per week. There is no overplay on mini 5v5 pitches in Stockport.

Table 2.29: Supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
Cheadle	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
Heatons & Reddish	-	-	0	1.5	1.5
Marple	2	-	2	-	2
Stepping Hill	-	-	0	-	0
Stockport Central	2	-	2	1	1
Werneth	-	-	0	1	1
Stockport	4	0	4	4.5	0.5

There is a currently sufficient capacity for mini 5v5 pitches, with four match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week identified. This is due to the Marple, Stockport Central analysis areas, with none experiencing a shortfall. However, this is due to all local leagues using 3G central venues for matches, rather than due to a lack of mini 5v5 demand.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

When accounting for future demand through population growth, nine additional teams are expected to be generated. This would see spare capacity removed and lead to a future shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week, although it is more likely to utilise 3G provision (if sufficient capacity exists).

2.6: Conclusion

In conclusion, at a Borough-wide level, there are current shortfalls across adult, youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches, whilst capacity is sufficient across youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches. However, future growth could lead to shortfalls on all pitch types, notwithstanding that growth for youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches is more likely to be accommodated away from grass provision.

Table 2.30: Summary of supply and demand analysis in match equivalent sessions

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Adult	2	9.5	7.5	1.5	9
Youth 11v11	0.5	24.5	24	2.5	26.5
Youth 9v9	2.5	0.5	2	3	1
Mini 7v7	1	2.5	1.5	4.5	6
Mini 5v5	4	0	4	4.5	0.5

Whilst it is noted that future shortfalls may not be as bad for some formats of play due to the use of 3G pitches, this is only on the basis that 3G provision provides enough capacity for the growth. As is detailed in Part 3, this is not currently the case, with 3G pitch shortfalls also existing. In addition, the situation would be considerably worse if the current level of exported demand had to return to the Borough.

In addition, whilst 3G provision could assist in meeting requirements for youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 play, the largest shortfalls are evident for youth 11v11 and adult football, where the scope for a 3G solution is more limited (as multiple matches cannot be played at once). Grass pitches and grass pitch quality therefore also remains key.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Football – supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity totals 10 match equivalent sessions per week across 13 pitches in Stockport, whilst 34 pitches across 25 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 37 match equivalent sessions per week in Stockport.
- There are current shortfalls across adult, youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches, whilst capacity is sufficient across youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- When factoring in future demand, shortfalls would become present on all pitch types, although growth for youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches is more likely to be accommodated away from grass provision.

Football – supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 157 grass football pitches within Stockport across 90 sites, with 119 pitches across 64 sites identified as being available for community use.
- Football pitches were also previously identified across six sites, although these remain in use as public open space.
- Tenure of football sites in Stockport is generally secure, although not at most school sites.
- Of the pitches that are available for community use, nine pitches (8%) are rated as good quality, 48 as standard quality (40%) and 62 as poor quality (52%).
- Eight sites are receiving GPMF support.
- Of the 64 sites that are actively used for community football, eight (13%) are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, 18 (28%) by standard quality ancillary facilities and 20 (31%) by poor quality ancillary facilities.
- There are 18 sites (28%) not serviced by onsite clubhouse/changing room provision.

Football – demand summary

- There are 640 teams from across 88 affiliated clubs playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Stockport, with this consisting of 91 adult men's, 11 adult women's, 201 youth boys', 69 youth girls' and 268 mini teams.
- Since the previous study (2019), the total number of teams playing in Stockport has increased significantly from 570 teams to 640 teams (12% increase), whilst those based in Stockport (including exported demand) has increased from 648 teams to 876 (35.1%).
- Three clubs play within the men's NLS and have to adhere to ground grading requirement, whilst two clubs play within the female national league pyramid.
- High levels of exported and imported demand is identified, primarily due to use of central venues by leagues both inside and outside of Stockport.
- There are 255 Stockport based teams playing matches at venues outside of the Borough, with 203 of these utilising central venues due to the league that they play in. Whilst 19 teams currently import into Stockport.
- The EMJFL, CGFL, SMJFL and MYSL identify unmet demand.
- Future demand from population growth projects an increase of three adult, five youth 11v11 boys, five youth 9v9 boys, one youth 9v9 girls, nine mini 7v7 and nine mini 5v5 team.
- Of responding clubs, 26 report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide.

PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA 3G Pitch Register. As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby union, more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for the sport. The artificial surface standards identified allows contact training and matches to be played on surfaces that meet the required standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to meet its Performance Standard. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Whilst much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, World Rugby certified 3G pitches are subject to passing an additional RFL performance standard test to be able to meet rugby league requirements.

Other sports that are suitable to be accommodated on 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse. Many test contractors offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity.

EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

3.2: Supply

The recommended dimensions for a full size 3G pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included. These dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adults, youth 11v11 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches e.g., the marking out of two youth 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered e.g., a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch.

Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPS for any new 3G artificial grass pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

For the purposes of this report, please note that 3G pitches are separated into two categories, with these being 11v11 pitches and smaller sized pitches. The 11v11 pitches include all those considered to be full size as per the definition above, as well as some marginally undersized ones that can still accommodate 11v11 football (anything larger than 91 x 55 metres). Nationally, many are slightly smaller than full size due to being converted from sand-based provision. Smaller sized pitches are all those that do not meet the required dimensions for any form of 11v11 football.

The table below summarises all 3G pitch provision in Stockport by size and analysis area including those that are not available for community use. In total, there are 10 11v11 size and 31 smaller sized 3G pitches identified, although one 11v11 size and two smaller sized pitches are unavailable for community use.

All unavailable pitches are located at educational sites, with these being Aquinas College, Our Lady's Catholic Primary School and St Thomas C of E Primary School. The smaller sized pitches at Our Lady's Catholic Primary School and St Thomas C of E Primary School do not have sports lighting.

There are also three permanently indoor smaller sized pitches in Stockport, with one located at Pro Football Arena Cheadle Hulme and two at Life Leisure Houldsworth Village. These are included within the figures below.

Table 3.1: Number of small size and 11v11 size 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	11v11 size available for community use	11v11 size unavailable for community use	Smaller sized available for community use	Smaller sized unavailable for community use
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	3	-	-	-
Cheadle	1	-	3	-
Heatons & Reddish	1	-	14	-
Marple	1	-	-	-
Stepping Hill	1	1	-	-
Stockport Central	-	-	3	2
Werneth	2	-	9	-
Total	9	1	29	2

The majority of the analysis areas provide at least one 11v11 size pitch, with the only exception being the Stockport Central Analysis Area. Most provision is located in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Analysis Area with three pitches, whilst the Werneth Analysis Area provides two. The only 11v11 size pitch that is not available for community use is located in the Stepping Hill Analysis Area at Aquinas College.

There are no community available smaller sized pitches in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South, Marple or Stepping Hill areas. The Heatons & Reddish Analysis Area hosts most of the small size provision with 14 pitches, with 11 of these being located at Powerleague.

The largest site for community available 3G pitches is Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village (Werneth Analysis Area). This has two 11v11 pitches and nine smaller sized pitches.

Please see the figure below for the location of the 3G pitches currently servicing Stockport. Table 3.2 provides a key to the map.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 3.1: Location of 11v11 3G AGPs in Stockport



STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.2: Summary of all 3G pitches in Stockport

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Active Places Number	Postcode	Size	Community use?	Number of pitches	Sports lighting?	Dimensions (metres)	Year built/refurbished	Certification (expiration)
6	Aquinas College	Stepping Hill	1003903	SK2 6TH	11v11	No	1	Yes	100 x 60	2009	-
11	Pro Football Arena Cheadle Hulme ⁷	Cheadle	30006221	SK8 6PT	Small	Yes	1	Yes	36 x 18	2012	-
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Heatons & Reddish	1040943	SK4 3EA	11v11	Yes	1	Yes	110 x 70	2022	FA (31/05/26) WR (16/09/24)
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Heatons & Reddish	1040943	SK4 3EA	Small	Yes	1	Yes	38 x 20	2009	-
36	Cheadle Heath Sports Club	Cheadle	6009117	SK8 2ET	Small	Yes	1	Yes	48 x 38	2019	-
38	Cheadle Hulme School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1200668	SK8 6EF	11v11	Yes	1	Yes	94 x 57	2016	FA (31/05/26) WR (28/06/25)
41	Club Cheadle Hulme	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1014613	SK8 7JY	11v11	Yes	1	Yes	100 x 70	2018	-
65	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	Stepping Hill	1002607	SK7 5JX	11v11	Yes	1	Yes	100 x 60	2015	-
83	Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Laurus)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	30008213	SK8 5GB	11v11	Yes	1	Yes	105 x 70	2022	FIFA (31/05/26)
86	Life Leisure Brinnington Park	Stockport Central	30007371	SK5 8BG	Small	Yes	1	Yes	68 x 50	2017	-
87	Life Leisure Houldsworth Village ⁸	Heatons & Reddish	1042645	SK5 7AT	Small	Yes	2	Yes	30 x 20	2010	-
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	1045501	SK6 1QX	11v11	Yes	1	Yes	100 x 64	2012	FA (31/05/24)
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	1045501	SK6 1QX	11v11	Yes	1	Yes	97 x 57	2012	FA (31/05/25)
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	1045501	SK6 1QX	Small	Yes	2	Yes	50 x 30	2012	-
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	1045501	SK6 1QX	Small	Yes	2	Yes	50 x 30	2023	-
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	1045501	SK6 1QX	Small	Yes	4	Yes	32 x 18	2012	-
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	1045501	SK6 1QX	Small	Yes	1	Yes	32 x 16	2023	-
96	Marple Hall School	Marple	1103405	SK6 6LB	11v11	Yes	1	Yes	98 x 62	2021	FIFA (31/05/25)
117	Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	Stockport Central	1043882	SK3 9HX	Small	No	1	No	32 x 18	2008	-
123	Powerleague	Heatons & Reddish	1042244	SK4 2AP	Small	Yes	6	Yes	32 x 22	2016	-
123	Powerleague	Heatons & Reddish	1042244	SK4 2AP	Small	Yes	2	Yes	42 x 32	2016	-
134	Seashell Trust Centre	Cheadle	1019061	SK8 6RQ	11v11	Yes	1	Yes	105 x 70	2019	FIFA (31/05/25)
135	South Manchester Sports Club	Cheadle	30003105	SK8 4RZ	Small	Yes	1	Yes	60 x 38	2020	-
144	St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School Reddish	Heatons & Reddish	1044320	SK5 6BG	Small	Yes	1	Yes	72 x 40	2000	-
150	St Thomas C of E Primary School	Stockport Central	1043883	SK1 3PJ	Small	No	1	No	20 x 15	2005	-
153	Stockport Academy	Stockport Central	1038717	SK3 0UP	Small	Yes	1	Yes	80 x 46	2009	-
153	Stockport Academy	Stockport Central	1038717	SK3 0UP	Small	Yes	1	Yes	50 x 28	2020	-
167	The Mike Doyle Centre	Heatons & Reddish	30002707	SK5 6JT	Small	Yes	1	Yes	80 x 50	2016	-
167	The Mike Doyle Centre	Heatons & Reddish	30002707	SK5 6JT	Small	Yes	1	Yes	36 x 18	2016	-

⁷ Indoor

⁸ Indoor

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Potential future provision

Planning permission (DC/089000) has been granted for the refurbishment of the hockey suitable AGP at Reddish Vale Technology College to a 3G surface, with this including the replacement of associated sports lighting. This will also include extending the length of the provision from 91 to 100 metres to meet FA recommended dimensions, the key rationale being to provide two youth 9v9 size pitches for the Cheshire Girls League. It will also be used by two partner clubs, with these being Reddish North FC and Stockport Vikings FC, whilst no hockey demand will be impacted upon. The project is to be funded via the FF and is due for completion ahead of the 2024/2025 season. However, it should also be noted that Sport England states that it was not consulted on the application, and it is unclear as to whether it meets its policy requirements.

Full planning permission has also been granted (DC/089162) for the creation of a 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch at Stockport School, with a FF funding application now under assessment (due in April 2024). The decision was approved in December 2023 and outlines that the provision requires a community use agreement, FIFA and WR registration and operating hours of 08:00-22:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00-18:00 Saturday to Sunday. The FF also indicates that the proposed pitch will have a partner football club (Spurley Hey FC), whilst Stockport RUFC will also have secured usage through signing a three year service level agreement.

Elsewhere, other aspirations also exist to establish new 3G pitch provision, as discovered through consultation. However, none of these are as yet at planning application stage and it is unclear if they would be viable and/or planning policy compliant, meaning uncertainty exists as to their deliverability. Each is outlined in greater detail below and relate to:

- ✦ Bramhall School
- ✦ Cheadle & Gatley Junior Football Club
- ✦ Offerton Leisure Centre
- ✦ Peel Moat Leisure Centre
- ✦ Priestnall School
- ✦ St Annes Roman Catholic High School
- ✦ Stockport County FC (training ground)
- ✦ Stockport Rugby Club
- ✦ Stockport School
- ✦ The Heatons Sports Club
- ✦ The Kingsway School – Foxland Campus
- ✦ The Mike Doyle Centre
- ✦ Woodbank Park Athletics Track

Potential projects at Offerton Leisure Centre, The Kingsway School and Woodbank Park Athletics Track are all included in the existing LFFP, although no progress has been made in relation to these since its production.

Stockport RUFC has submitted a hybrid planning application (DC/089037) for the creation of its own World Rugby compliant 3G pitch (97 x 61 metres) with sports lighting as well as an extension to its ancillary provision. This development would be funded through the sale of playing field land which contains the site's third pitch, with this then developed for residential housing. The Club indicates that its current training pitch would be replaced by the 3G, whilst its first and second pitch will remain in situ. An 11v11 football pitch is also proposed to be marked out on the 3G pitch. However, Sport England has a standing objection in relation to the proposal.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

At Peel Moat Leisure Centre, planning permission (DC/086979) was granted in July 2023 to cover the existing disused 11v11 size sand-based AGP with top soil to provide a usable turfed public open space, contrary to a Sport England objection. The disused provision previously formed part of the sporting provision at the site, which closed in 2010 and has since been demolished. Now, several football clubs have expressed a desire to bring it back into use as a 3G facility, whilst it should also be noted that as part of the planning process, Sport England objected to the proposal as it did not meet its playing fields policy and Paragraph 103 of the NPPF.

The FF understands that Stockport County FC has ambitions to create a dedicated training facility within Stockport. Its plans involve the potential to develop up to three 11v11 3G pitches that would be to some degree be available for community use. It is, however, worth noting that no formal plans have been submitted.

The Laurus Trust, which manages and operates a portfolio of educational sites in Stockport and across Greater Manchester, aspires to convert the small size hockey suitable AGP at Priestnall School to a 3G surface. The pitch is rated as poor quality having not been refurbished since 2003 and is currently not used by hockey clubs. It has, however, previously been used by Heaton Moor Junior HC, although EH does not report an issue with its potential conversion.

Similarly, St Annes Roman Catholic High School aspires to convert its small sized (100x45) hockey suitable AGP to a 3G surface, although it reports any such development would also need to include the establishment of accompanying sports lighting. Bramhall School also expresses an interest in developing a 11v11 3G pitch on its site, but this would be in addition to its current size hockey suitable AGP rather than via a conversion. It is in discussions with Mountfield Rovers FC regarding the development as a potential anchor club.

Cheadle & Gatley Junior FC reports aspirations to create a smaller sized 3G pitch at its main home site and it is in initial conversations with Cheshire FA regarding the potential development. Likewise, Reddish North End FC reports a desire to create a 11v11 size 3G pitch at The Mike Doyle Centre to accompany the two smaller sized pitches it already has. This is to provide additional match play and training capacity, although due to size limitations, any such development would need to replace the current youth 11v11 grass pitch.

Finally, Heaton Moor RUFC wants to convert its current training pitch at The Heaton Sports Club to a 3G surface.

FA Pitch Register

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours. To remain accredited, pitches must be re-assessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the NLS (steps 1-6).

For pitches used by affiliated grassroots football clubs (below regional feeder level) and clubs in the Women's NLS (Tier 3), the minimum requirement of testing is the FA Register Test. However, matches played at Step 1 to 6 of the Men's NLS must follow more stringent testing, with this including a minimum pitch size of 100 x 64 metres, a run-off area of between 1.83 metres (Step 2-6) and 2.25 metres (Step 1), a consistent playing surface shade of green and line markings must be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football.

As for 3G pitches used in the Women's Football Pyramid; at Tier 1, matches are not permitted to be played on a 3G pitch, whilst existing 3G pitches at Tier 2 must be accredited to the FIFA Recommended Quality performance standard.

In Stockport, seven of the 11v11 3G pitches are either FA or FIFA certified. These are at the following sites:

- ◀ Burnage Rugby Football Club
- ◀ Cheadle Hulme School
- ◀ Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Laurus)
- ◀ Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village x2
- ◀ Marple Hall School
- ◀ Seashell Trust

This means that the 11v11 size pitches at Aquinas College, Club Cheadle Hulme and Hazel Grove Sports Centre are not registered.

World Rugby compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces can replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby or contact training must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

There are two World Rugby compliant 11v11 size pitches in Stockport, with these located at Burnage Rugby Football Club and Cheadle Hulme School.

The 3G pitch at Burnage Rugby Football Club is used for training and competitive demand by Burnage RUFC in addition to some football usage (e.g., via the Manchester Respect League), whilst the pitch at Cheadle Hulme School is used to meet various curricular and extra-curricular activities including rugby union sessions. The School also indicates that the pitch is hired out to football, rugby union and lacrosse community clubs, although it does not provide specific user details.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In addition, as set out above, the planned pitch at Stockport School is to be World Rugby compliant for training activity.

Management

The table below summarises the management of all 11v11 3G pitches across Stockport. A total of six are managed by a trust; the pitches at Club Cheadle Hulme, Hazel Grove Sports Centre and Laurus Cheadle Hulme are part of The Laurus Trust, whilst provision at Seashell Trust Centre is operated by the Seashell Trust and Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village is operated by Life Leisure. However, it is also worth referencing that the pitches at Club Cheadle Hulme (Cheadle Hulme Sixth Form), Hazel Grove Sports Centre (Hazel Grove High School), Laurus Cheadle Hulme and Seashell Trust Centre (Royal College Manchester) are also dual use educational sites.

The remaining pitches are managed by schools (at Aquinas College, Cheadle Hulme School and Marple Hall School) or the associated sports club (at Burnage Rugby Football Club).

Table 3.3: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch management

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management
6	Aquinas College	Stepping Hill	Education
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Heatons & Reddish	Sports club
38	Cheadle Hulme School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Education
41	Club Cheadle Hulme	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Trust
65	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	Stepping Hill	Trust
83	Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Laurus)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Trust
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	Trust
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	Trust
96	Marple Hall School	Marple	Education
134	Seashell Trust Centre	Cheadle	Trust

In regard to the community available smaller sized provision, a total of nine pitches are managed commercially, five through sports clubs, two by an educational provider and 12 via Life Leisure. All unavailable pitches are at schools.

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this, the availability at each site with a 11v11 size pitch is summarised in the table below, based on there being a potential of 18 hours of peak time availability during midweek and 16 hours at weekend.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.4: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch opening hours in Stockport

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Post code	Availability	Midweek opening hours in the peak period (hours)	Weekend opening hours in the peak period (hours)
6	Aquinas College	Stepping Hill	SK2 6TH	Not available for community use.	-	-
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Heatons & Reddish	SK4 3EA	Everyday 09:00-22:00	18	16
38	Cheadle Hulme School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	SK8 6EF	Monday to Friday 18:00-21:00 Saturday 12:00-16:00 Sunday 08:30-16:00	13	12
41	Club Cheadle Hulme	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	SK8 7JY	Monday to Friday 17:00-21:00 Saturday to Sunday 09:00-17:00	18	16
65	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	Stepping Hill	SK7 5JX	Monday to Thursday 17:00-22:00 Friday 17:00-21:00 Saturday 09:00-17:00 Sunday 09:00-22:00	18	16
83	Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Laurus)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	SK8 5GB	Monday to Friday 17:00-21:00 Saturday to Sunday 09:00-17:00	18	16
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	SK6 1QX	Monday to Friday 09:00-21:00 Saturday to Sunday 09:00-17:00	18	16
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	SK6 1QX	Monday to Friday 09:00-21:00 Saturday to Sunday 09:00-17:00	18	16
96	Marple Hall School	Marple	SK6 6LB	Monday to Friday 18:00-21:00 Saturday to Sunday 09:00-21:00	18	16
134	Seashell Trust Centre	Cheadle	SK8 6RQ	Monday to Friday 15:00-22:00 Saturday to Sunday 09:00-17:00	18	16

As seen, all community available pitches are widely accessible both midweek and at the weekend, other than the pitch at Cheadle Hulme School. It is not available before 18:00 midweek nor on Saturday mornings in order to provide capacity for curricular and extra-curricular demand.

Both pitches at Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village are fully available for community users during the peak time periods in the evenings during the week despite being fully utilised by Stockport College 09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday. This is also the case for provision at Club Cheadle Hulme (Cheadle Hulme Sixth Form), Hazel Grove Sports Centre (Hazel Grove High School) and Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Cheadle).

In addition, the availability of the smaller sized 3G pitches can be seen via the following table, again linked to peak period identified by the FPM. Availability is still good for the most part, although more limitations are in place at sites such as Stockport Academy and St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School Reddish.

Table 3.5: Summary of smaller size 3G pitch opening hours in Stockport

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Post code	Availability	Midweek opening hours in the peak period (hours)	Weekend opening hours in the peak period (hours)
11	Pro Football Arena Cheadle Hulme	Cheadle	SK8 6PT	Everyday 10:00 to 22:00	18	16
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Heatons & Reddish	SK4 3EA	Everyday 09:00 to 22:00	18	16
36	Cheadle Heath Sports Club	Cheadle	SK8 2ET	Everyday 09:00 to 21:00	18	16
86	Life Leisure Brinnington Park	Stockport Central	SK5 8BG	Monday to Friday 07:00 to 21:00 Saturday to Sunday 09:00 to 15:00	18	14
87	Life Leisure Houldsworth Village	Heatons & Reddish	SK5 7AT	Monday to Friday 07:00 to 22:00 Saturday to Sunday 08:00 to 17:00	18	16
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	SK6 1QX	Monday to Friday 09:00 to 21:00 Saturday to Sunday 09:00 to 17:00	18	16
117	Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	Stockport Central	SK3 9HX	Not available for community use (no sports lighting).	-	-
123	Powerleague (Stockport)	Heatons & Reddish	SK4 2AP	Everyday 09:00 to 22:00	18	16

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Post code	Availability	Midweek opening hours in the peak period (hours)	Weekend opening hours in the peak period (hours)
135	South Manchester Sports Club	Cheadle	SK8 4RZ	Monday to Friday 16:00 to 21:00 Saturday to Sunday 09:00 to 14:00	18	10
144	St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School Reddish	Heatons & Reddish	SK5 6BG	Monday to Friday 17:00 to 21:00 Saturday to Sunday unavailable	18	-
150	St Thomas C of E Primary School	Stockport Central	SK1 3PJ	Not available for community use (no sports lighting).	-	-
153	Stockport Academy	Stockport Central	SK3 0UP	Monday to Friday 17:00 to 21:00 Saturday 08:00 to 12:00 Sunday unavailable	18	3
167	The Mike Doyle Centre	Heatons & Reddish	SK5 6JT	Everyday 09:00 to 22:00	18	16

Quality

It is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that pitch replacement funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

For the 11v11 size 3G pitches in Stockport, there are four good quality pitches and five standard quality pitches, with only one poor quality pitch. This is further summarised site by site in the following table.

Table 3.6: Age and quality of 11v11 3G pitches in Stockport

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality	Cycle storage facilities	Car park	Pedestrian access	Bus stops nearby?
6	Aquinas College	Stepping Hill	1	2009	Poor	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Heatons & Reddish	1	2022	Good	-	✓	✓	✓
38	Cheadle Hulme School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	2016	Standard	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Club Cheadle Hulme	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	2018	Standard	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	Stepping Hill	1	2015	Standard	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Laurus)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	2022	Good	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	1	2012	Standard	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	1	2012	Standard	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Marple Hall School	Marple	1	2021	Good	✓	✓	✓	✓
134	Seashell Trust Centre	Cheadle	1	2019	Good	✓	✓	✓	✓

Despite being over their recommended lifespan, the pitches at Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village are assessed as standard quality as they have had high levels of maintenance carried out by the operator. This being said, the pitches will still need resurfacing in the near future to ensure their longevity.

The only 11v11 size pitch which is rated as poor quality is at Aquinas College which is not currently available for community use. The pitch has not been refurbished since 2009 and is beyond its recommended lifespan.

In addition, several of the smaller size pitches have also exceeded a 10-year lifespan. This relates to pitches at the following sites:

- ✦ Burnage Rugby Football Club
- ✦ Life Leisure Houldsworth Village
- ✦ Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village
- ✦ Our Lady's Catholic Primary School
- ✦ Pro Football Arena Cheadle Hulme
- ✦ St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School
- ✦ St Thomas C of E Primary School

Access and travel

Table 3.6 above also summarises how accessible the 3G pitch sites are in Stockport through different types of transport (e.g., walking, cycling, public transport). As seen, each pitch provides for the full range of methods, other than Burnage Rugby Football Club which is only without cycling storage provision.

The good level of access is likely to be a consequence of most pitches being located at school sites.

Ancillary facilities

No significant issues have been identified regarding the ancillary facilities servicing the 3G pitches across Stockport, although as many are located at school sites, the provision is principally for meeting school requirements, rather than being developed for community use. Nevertheless, this is not considered to be a major issue given that most use is for training and recreational football, with users therefore tending to show up ready to play rather than relying on good access to changing rooms.

3.3: Demand

The 3G pitches currently servicing Stockport are broadly reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This applies not only to midweek capacity but also to weekend capacity on account of seven of the 11v11 size pitches being FA approved to host competitive matches. In total, 366 affiliated teams are registered as using the provision for regular match play, which is a considerable number, although not all out Stockport-based due to the level of imported demand received.

Any spare capacity that remains on the provision is often at times deemed unfavourable by clubs such as on midweek evenings between 17:00 and 18:00, which is difficult to arrange logistically, or on Mondays and Fridays, which are deemed too close to competitive fixtures. Also, any capacity remaining at the weekend is generally outside of peak time for match play such as on Sunday afternoons.

Currently, it is considered that most of the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, but some rugby union and lacrosse activity has been identified as well. This is because there are two World Rugby compliant pitches in Stockport, with one located at a rugby union club site (Burnage Rugby Football Club).

Some walking football activity is also taking place across the supply, particularly via Kingsmaid Walking Football Club. It operates Over 50's, 60's and 70's teams (men's) and utilises Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village for some activity. Stockport County FC's Community Trust also runs walking football sessions.

Demand is further detailed on a site-by-site basis in the table overleaf, with current usage compared against peak time availability for each 11v11 3G pitch. For this, the hours of availability have been aligned to available booking slots. This means that they have been multiplied by four for midweek capacity based on most pitches being divided into quarters for training demand, with capacity then considered to exist if at least a quarter of a pitch is currently unused for at least a one-hour slot. Weekend availability is unaltered as full pitch hire is more likely to be required i.e., for adult and youth 11v11 match play.

Information surrounding key users, for both midweek and weekend, has also been included where known through pitch booking details and consultation.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.7: Summary of 11v11 size 3G pitch demand site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Midweek availability in the peak period (booking slot hours)	Midweek usage (booking slot hours)	Weekend availability in the peak period (booking slot hours)	Weekend usage (booking slot hours)	Key users' midweek	Key users' weekend	Comments
6	Aquinas College	-	-	-	-	Aquinas College	-	Unavailable for community use.
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	72	Unknown	16	Unknown	Burnage RUFC training demand FC Bluestar / Reddish Vulcans FC / Stockport Vikings FC	Burnage RUFC training and competitive demand FC Bluestar / Reddish Vulcans FC / Stockport Vikings FC / Wythenshawe Celtic FC / Manchester Respect League	Exact booking information was not made available.
38	Cheadle Hulme School	52	49	12	10	Cheadle Hulme School Leisure football leagues, lacrosse, football and rugby union (Sale Sharks RLFC / Wilmslow RUFC and Manchester RUFC)	Cheadle Hulme School External football fixtures	Three slots remain during midweek and two at the weekend.
41	Club Cheadle Hulme	72	68	16	13	Cheadle Hulme Sixth Form Queensgate FC / Inter Cheadle FC	Cheshire Girls League (Stockport Division) / Queensgate FC / Inter Cheadle FC	Four slots remain during midweek and three at the weekend
65	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	72	72	16	14	Hazel Grove High School Football training demand: Bramhall North Juniors FC / Richmond JFC / Hazel Grove United JFC	External football fixtures: Richmond JFC / RTB Development / Chorley FC Manchester / Hazel Grove United JFC	Two slots remain at the weekends.
83	Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Laurus)	72	68	16	15	The Cheadle College Football training demand	External football fixtures	Four slots remain during midweek and one at the weekend
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	72	72	16	14	Stockport College Football training demand: Stockport County Academy / Stockport Town FC / Great Moore FC / JFC Phoenix/ Woodhey FC / AFC Stockport / Stockport County Ladies FC / Signol Athletic / Rose Hill Rovers FC Walking football	External football fixtures: Stockport Academy / Stockport Town FC / TSC / Stockport County Ladies FC / Heaton Mersey Vipers FC / Elite FC / Kingsmaid FC / Reddish North End FC / TSC United FC / Wythenshawe Wanderers FC Leisure League	Two slots remain at the weekends.
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	72	68	16	14	Stockport College Football training demand: Marple Athletic FC / Marple FC / Great Moore FC / AFC Stockport / Spurley Hey FC / TSC / Stockport County FC / Signol Athletic / Woodhey Albion FC	External football fixtures: Stockport County / Stockport County Ladies / Signol FC / Marple Athletic FC	Four slots remain during midweek and two at weekends.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Midweek availability in the peak period (booking slot hours)	Midweek usage (booking slot hours)	Weekend availability in the peak period (booking slot hours)	Weekend usage (booking slot hours)	Key users' midweek	Key users' weekend	Comments
96	Marple Hall School	72	58	16	15	Marple Hall School Football training demand: Rose Hill Rovers FC / Mellor FC / Marple Athletic JFC / Spurley Hey FC / County Community Trust Mellor Lacrosse Club Leisure Leagues	External football fixtures: Marple Athletic JFC / Rose Hill Rovers FC / Stockport Georgians FC / Ashton United FC / Stockport Girls Football League / Cheshire Girls League (Stockport Division)	14 slots remain during midweek, although this is predominately at more undesirable times such as 17:00-18:00 and/or on Fridays. Only one slot remains at the weekend.
134	Seashell Trust Centre	72	72	16	14	Royal College Manchester Football training demand: Cheadle & Gatley FC / Elite FC	External football fixtures: Cheshire Girls League (Stockport Division) / Cheadle & Gatley FC / Elite FC / FC Bluestar / Ashton Pumas FC / Stockport Vikings FC	Two slots remain at the weekends.

Demand relating to smaller size pitches is not included within the above as insufficient data has been made available to inform this study. Furthermore, the supply, for the most part, is not as capable of accommodating sufficient levels of training and match play demand. However, it is known that the following sites with small size provision are extensively used at the weekend as central venues:

- ▶ Burnange Rugby Club
- ▶ Life Leisure Brinnington Park
- ▶ Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village
- ▶ Powerleague
- ▶ South Manchester Sports Club
- ▶ Stockport Academy
- ▶ The Mike Doyle Centre

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Exported demand

As mentioned in greater detail in Part 2 Football, there are substantial levels of exported demand accessing 3G pitches for competitive match play. This is due to several central venue leagues operating in surrounding local authorities for both mini and youth football formats (in addition to central venues existing within Stockport).

In total, there are 255 Stockport based teams playing outside of the Borough and using central venues, of which 203 use 3G pitches in other local authorities for match play. Furthermore, there are an additional 39 teams using 3G pitches in surrounding authorities that do not participate in central venue leagues, with these instead booked directly by the clubs themselves for home and away format fixtures. However, consultation findings indicate that due to the geography of the area and the use of the central venue leagues, there are no specific issues with current arrangements for any affected club.

In regard to training demand, there is marginal evidence of clubs using 3G provision in surrounding authorities such as Manchester (particularly in the Wythenshawe area, namely St Paul's High School and Manchester Enterprise Academy). That being said, no community clubs identify that this as problematic as the venues they access are generally within suitable travelling distances.

The only instance of training demand aspiring to return into Stockport is from professional club Stockport County FC which currently uses Carrington Training Centre (in Trafford). As mentioned previously, the Club aspires to develop a dedicated training centre within Stockport including the potential creation of three 11v11 size 3G pitches.

Imported demand

Similar to exported demand, there is evidence of both competitive and training demand entering into Stockport from neighbouring authorities, particularly through the use of central venues such as Life Leisure Brinnington Park, Powerleague (Stockport), Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village, Stockport Academy, Burnage Rugby Club, South Manchester Sports Club and The Mike Doyle Centre. At present there is known import demand of 19 teams into the Borough, which all access 3G pitches.

Unmet/latent demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at sports lit facilities, with 3G provision preferred by the FA and most clubs.

In Stockport, 64% of football clubs that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents a relatively high proportion of unmet demand, although it is similar to many other local authorities both regionally and nationally. Most of the clubs are currently training on 3G pitches but do not have capacity for all of their teams, or do not have access at preferred times, with this stated as an issue particularly at Hazel Grove Sports Centre, Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village and Seashell Trust Centre.

Additionally, the EMJFL, SMJFL and MYSL identify unmet demand. Whilst they do not operate a waiting list as such, they cannot accept additional teams into their existing structures without increased access to facilities, in that they require additional central venue locations to grow the leagues. All state that they have sufficient interest from teams to be able to fully utilise more 11v11 3G pitches on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

A degree of unmet demand for rugby union is also identified by Stockport RUFC and Heaton Moor RUFC, with both aspiring to access 3G provision to alleviate overplay.

No unmet demand for any other sports is identified.

Future demand

As set out in Part 2 of this report, there is an anticipated increase of 32 football teams by 2040 based on population projections. If this growth was realised, and if all additional teams wanted to train on 3G provision, it could potentially increase the number of 3G pitches required. This will be factored into the supply and demand analysis below.

Away from football, there is also anticipated growth of five rugby union teams. It is likely that a partial amount of this demand will require access to World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision for training/competitive demand, although this is likely to be more marginal and therefore less likely to increase the overall need for 3G pitches (above and beyond current requirements).

Football and rugby union clubs also have aspirations to grow their demand, although this is not currently factored into calculations as it is considered to be more theoretical. It will, however, be considered as a scenario within the proceeding Strategy document.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets on account of being able to support intensive use and use during inclement weather. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training; however, they are increasingly being used for competition, which the FA wholly supports.

Training demand

To quantify the 3G shortfall for football, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity built in for other forms of demand). It also has an aspiration for all teams to train once per week on a 3G pitch, although it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based pitches to ensure the sustainability of them.

For the model, in addition to 11v11 pitches being included, some smaller sized pitches can also be incorporated as nationally many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones. To calculate their contribution, a pitch large enough to cater for youth matches (but not adult) is considered to be the equivalent of half a 11v11 size pitch (0.5 pitches⁹), whilst a pitch that is large enough for mini matches (but not youth or adult) is the equivalent of quarter of a 11v11 size pitch (0.25 pitches¹⁰). Any pitch smaller than this is discounted as they are too small to accommodate purposeful training activity (although it is recognised that they can meet wider community needs), as are any pitches that are unavailable for community use.

⁹ Between 73m x 46m and 82m x 50m

¹⁰ Between 37m x 27m and 55m x 37m

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In contrast to the above, some 11v11 size pitches are not considered to provided full capacity for football due to existing usage limitations. This includes the pitch at Burnage Rugby Football Club as it is used for non-football purposes, thus limiting how much football activity can be accommodated.

The contribution each pitch makes towards the modelling is summarised in the table below. This then informs the proceeding modelling tables.

Table 3.8: Contribution of 3G pitches in meeting training requirements

Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	11v11 size adult pitch equivalents
11v11 size				
Aquinas College	Stepping Hill	100 x 60	Unavailable for community use	-
Burnage Rugby Football Club	Heatons & Reddish	110 x 70	Predominately used for rugby union by the host rugby club, reducing availability for football but with some capacity available.	0.5
Cheadle Hulme School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	94 x 57	11v11 size pitch with some rugby union and lacrosse usage reducing availability for football.	0.5
Club Cheadle Hulme	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	100 x 70	11v11 size pitch fully available to the community	1
Hazel Grove Sports Centre	Stepping Hill	100 x 60	11v11 size pitch fully available to the community	1
Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Laurus)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	105 x 70	11v11 size pitch fully available to the community	1
Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	100 x 64	11v11 size pitch fully available to the community	1
Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	97 x 57	11v11 size pitch fully available to the community	1
Marple Hall School	Marple	98 x 62	11v11 size pitch but with some lacrosse activity reducing availability for football.	0.75
Seashell Trust Centre	Cheadle	105 x 70	11v11 size pitch fully available to the community	1
Smaller sized				
Pro Football Arena Cheadle Hulme	Cheadle	36 x 18	Too small to accommodate training demand	-
Burnage Rugby Football Club	Heatons & Reddish	38 x 20	Used for football activity but too small to accommodate training demand	-

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	11v11 size adult pitch equivalents
Cheadle Heath Sports Club	Cheadle	48 x 38	Large enough to accommodate mini football	0.25
Life Leisure Brinnington Park	Stockport Central	68 x 50	Large enough to accommodate mini football	0.25
Life Leisure Houldsworth Village	Heatons & Reddish	30 x 20	Too small to accommodate training demand	-
Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	50 x 30	Large enough to accommodate mini football	0.25
Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	50 x 30	Large enough to accommodate mini football	0.25
Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	32 x 18	Too small to accommodate training demand	-
Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	Werneth	32 x 16	Too small to accommodate training demand	-
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	Stockport Central	32 x 18	Unavailable for community use	-
Powerleague	Heatons & Reddish	32 x 22	Used for leisure leagues with little capacity for training demand	-
Powerleague	Heatons & Reddish	42 x 32	Used for leisure leagues with little capacity for training demand	-
South Manchester Sports Club	Cheadle	60 x 38	Large enough to accommodate mini football	0.25
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School Reddish	Heatons & Reddish	72 x 40	Large enough to accommodate youth football	0.5
St Thomas C of E Primary School	Stockport Central	20 x 15	Unavailable for community use	-
Stockport Academy	Stockport Central	80 x 46	Large enough to accommodate youth football	0.75
Stockport Academy	Stockport Central	50 x 28	Large enough to accommodate mini football	0.25
The Mike Doyle Centre	Heatons & Reddish	80 x 50	Large enough to accommodate youth football	0.75
The Mike Doyle Centre	Heatons & Reddish	36 x 18	Too small to accommodate training demand	-
-	-	-	Total	11.25

No clubs currently report using any of the pitches for training that have been discounted in the table above, further evidencing their unsuitability for this purpose.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Based on the above modelling and 876 affiliated teams currently being based in Stockport, there is a theoretical need for 23 11v11 3G pitches (rounded down from 23.05). As there are currently 11.25 pitch equivalents provided, this means that there is a potential need for over 11.75 additional 11v11 3G pitches to meet all current training demand. This is a significant shortfall.

Table 3.9: Current demand for 3G pitches in Stockport (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
876	23	11.25	11.75

When considering future demand for an additional 32 teams (based on growth identified in Part 2 of this report), there is potential demand for 23.75 11v11 size pitches overall (rounded up from 23.89), which means a theoretical future shortfall of 12.5 pitches.

Table 3.10: Future demand for 3G pitches in Stockport (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size adult 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
908	23.75	11.25	12.5

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. This not only identifies where the potential needs exist across Stockport, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision. The figures also include exported competitive demand as these teams would prefer to train within their own local authority and analysis area.

Table 3.11: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	118	3	2.5	0.5
Cheadle	156	4	1.5	2.5
Heatons & Reddish	184	4.75	1.75	3
Marple	67	1.75	0.75	1
Stepping Hill	96	2.5	1	1.5
Stockport Central	120	3.25	1.25	2
Werneth	135	3.5	2.5	1

This shows an overall shortfall of 11.5 11v11 3G pitch equivalents, aligning to the shortfall across Stockport as a whole. It also identifies that there are specific shortfalls in all analysis areas.

The role of sand/water-based pitches

The above section assumes that all football teams should train on 3G pitches. However, in practice, there is a practical need for a proportion of football and other sporting activity to be retained on hockey suitable AGPs in order to maintain the financial and commercial viability of such provision.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In Stockport, the pitch at Bramhall High School is extremely well used for hockey with no other known usage, meaning football activity will have no impact upon the provision. In contrast, the pitches at Cheadle Hulme School and Werneth School accommodate no community hockey demand and have relatively high football demand, meaning that these pitches would be more likely to become unsustainable without such access. This could make them suitable for conversion, although curricular and extra-curricular hockey needs also need to be considered.

For further information, please see Part 7: Hockey.

Match play demand

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative or supplement to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is FA approved, sports lit and available for community use during the peak period.

In Stockport, seven 11v11 3G pitches are FA/FIFA approved to host competitive matches and 366 affiliated teams are registered as using the provision for regular match play. Whilst this is a considerable number, given the large supply of 3G pitches provided and the number that are not certified, there are significant opportunities for this to be further increased.

Moreover, as the number of 3G pitches increases in line with meeting training demand shortfalls, so should the number of teams utilising the provision for matches, which in turn should further relieve grass pitches of use. As such, whilst the number of 3G pitches needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training (as they would not be sustainable without midweek usage), maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.

The use of 3G pitches for matches also emphasises the importance of maintaining good quality pitches. Should pitches become poor quality, they will likely lose accreditation to accommodate fixtures. This will then result in all teams using the provision needing to transfer to grass pitches, adding to their usage, reducing their capacity and further diminishing their quality.

Rugby union

For rugby union, there is evidence to warrant the creation of additional World Rugby compliant 3G pitches given the grass pitch shortfalls evident in Part 5 of this report. This is the case both overall and at sites such as Grove Park (Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South), The Heatons Sports Club (Heatons & Reddish), RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields (Marple), Stockport Rugby Club (Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South) and Priestnall Sports Field (Heatons & Reddish). However, other solutions to alleviate these deficits may also be possible. As such, the role of 3G pitches in reducing the identified deficits will be further explored in the proceeding Strategy document alongside consideration of other means.

Other sports

Some lacrosse demand is identified as accessing the 3G pitches at Cheadle Hulme School and Marple Hall School, as outlined in Part 7 of this report. Such access should continue to be protected, particularly given that it is relatively minimal and that it generally does not impact on football usage of the provision. Furthermore, no future demand is identified from the relevant clubs, suggesting that the level of access required is unlikely to increase.

Furthermore, as referenced previously, walking football activity is also identified. There is, however, no known usage of 3G pitch provision for any other affiliated sports.

3.5: Conclusion

For football, there is a current shortfall of 3G pitches in Stockport to meet requirements, as identified through the large levels of demand evidenced and with only minimal amounts of spare capacity remaining on the current supply of pitches. The proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will identify areas and sites that should be prioritised for provision moving forward, taking into account existing proposals but recognising that not all aspirations can be supported.

For rugby union, an increase in suitable 3G pitches may provide a solution to the identified overplay of grass pitches, although this needs to be considered against grass pitch solutions to fully determine requirements. This will also be explored in the subsequent Strategy document.

For other sports, there is also clear demand for lacrosse to have continued access to 3G provision and this should therefore be ensured.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

3G – supply and demand summary

- ▶ Based on current demand, there is a clear shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training requirements, with this being relatively significant and in most analysis areas.
- ▶ Although not the only possible solution, there is also evidence that could warrant the creation of additional World Rugby compliant 3G provision given the grass pitch shortfalls evident as this could be a solution to alleviating the deficits.
- ▶ For other sports, lacrosse activity on 3G pitch provision also needs to be protected.

3G – supply summary

- ▶ In total, there are 10 11v11 size and 31 smaller sized 3G pitches identified in Stockport, although one 11v11 size and two smaller sized pitches are unavailable for community use.
- ▶ All unavailable pitches are located at educational sites, with these being Aquinas College, Our Lady's Catholic Primary School and St Thomas C of E Primary School.
- ▶ All of the 11v11 size pitches are serviced by sports lighting (two smaller sized are not).
- ▶ Planning permission has been granted for the development of 11v11 3G pitches at Stockport School and Reddish Vale Technology College.
- ▶ The Stockport LFFP has four outstanding projects for the creation of new 11v11 3G pitches, whilst aspirations also exist across several other sites.
- ▶ Seven of the 11v11 3G pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register, whilst three are not.
- ▶ There are currently two World Rugby compliant 3G pitches, located at Burnage Rugby Football Club and Cheadle Hulme School.
- ▶ For the 11v11 3G pitches, there are four good quality pitches, five standard quality pitches and one poor quality pitch identified (at Aquinas College).
- ▶ Ten of the smaller sized 3G pitches have also exceeded their recommended lifespan.

3G – demand summary

- ▶ The 3G pitches currently servicing Stockport are broadly reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months.
- ▶ The capacity issues apply not only to midweek training capacity but also to weekend capacity, with 336 affiliated football teams currently registered as using the 3G provision in Stockport for regular match play.
- ▶ Currently, it is considered that most of the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, but some rugby union and lacrosse activity has been identified as well.
- ▶ In total, 203 teams are exporting match play demand outside of Stockport to access 3G provision, although this is primarily due to the use of central venues and is not considered to be an issue.
- ▶ There are 19 teams that import demand into the Borough, all accessing 3G pitches.
- ▶ Unmet demand is expressed in Stockport, with 64% of responding football clubs stating that additional 3G pitches are required to meet or better cater for their training requirements.
- ▶ A degree of unmet demand for rugby union is also identified by Stockport RUFC and Heaton Moor RUFC, with both aspiring to access 3G provision to alleviate overplay.
- ▶ If future demand from population projections (and/or club aspirations) is realised, this will further increase 3G requirements for football and rugby union.

PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

The Cheshire Cricket Board (CCB) is the main governing and representative body for cricket in Stockport. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the Borough. It is currently working with the ECB on delivering its Strategy, 'Inspiring Generations', which has been live since 2020.

For adult cricket in Stockport there are three main offerings; Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket. The youth league structure tends to be club based matches which are played mid-week and Sunday mornings.

County Facilities Strategy (CFS)

In 2022, to build upon the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, the ECB started the process of producing County Facilities Strategies (CFS), with one to be produced by each individual county cricket board that is unique to its geographical area as well as being diverse in its representation. The CFS for Cheshire was approved by the ECB in 2023 and will now be reviewed by the CCB on an annual basis.

The CFS is a 'long-term' plan with county boards ensuring the Strategy provides a ten-year view of facility needs. Like a PPS, it involves engagement with key stakeholders (clubs, leagues, county sports partnerships, county pitch advisors & Sport England etc) during its development. Furthermore, the CFS utilises up-to-date PPS findings, where a study is in place, as a 'high-quality' evidence base.

The CFS looks at a range of facilities which support cricket across the region, with the ECB setting out guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered throughout its development:

Types of facility

- ◀ "Traditional" outdoor facilities
 - ◀ Pitches and Outfields
 - ◀ Pavilions
 - ◀ Practice
- ◀ "Non-traditional" facilities
 - ◀ Multi Use Games Areas
 - ◀ Tapeball/softball spaces
 - ◀ Courts or cages
- ◀ Indoor facilities
 - ◀ Practice (multi use halls)
 - ◀ Performance (cricket specific)
 - ◀ Matchplay (6 or 8 a side)

Each CFS is to be used to shape investment decisions and priorities, particularly with how each county cricket board will use the devolved budget within the County Grants Fund and prioritise larger scale strategic projects.

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Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the CFS is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

Consultation

In total, 19 affiliated cricket clubs are identified as playing within Stockport. Of these, all clubs responded to consultation requests resulting in a response rate of 100%. This is further seen in the table below.

Table 4.1: Cricket club response rate

Club name	Club response
Bramhall CC	Yes
Bredbury St Marks CC	Yes
Cheadle CC	Yes
Cheadle Hulme CC	Yes
Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge CC	Yes
Hawk Green CC	Yes
Hazel Grove CC	Yes
Heaton Mersey CC	Yes
Heaton Mersey Village CC	Yes
High Lane CC	Yes
Marple CC	Yes
Mellor CC	Yes
Offerton CC	Yes
Romiley CC	Yes
Stockport CC	Yes
Stockport Georgians CC	Yes
Stockport Trinity CC	Yes
Woodford CC	Yes
Woodley CC	Yes

It should be noted that since the previous study, Compstall CC and Marple CC are working to merge to form one club. It will operate as Marple CC.

4.2: Supply

In total, there are 27 grass wicket squares in Stockport, of which 24 are available for community use.

There are six community available squares in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme Analysis Area whilst the Marple Analysis Area has five available squares. The Stockport Analysis Area has the least amount of community available provision with just one square.

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Table 4.2: Summary of grass wicket squares and community availability

Analysis area	No. of community available squares	No. of unavailable squares
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	6	2
Cheadle	3	-
Heatons & Reddish	2	-
Marple	5	-
Stepping Hill	3	-
Stockport Central	1	1
Werneth	4	-
Total	24	3

Disused squares

Bredbury St Mark Cricket Club (Hillside Road, Werneth) is currently being developed for housing, with the site previously providing one cricket square. The Club has recently relocated to its new site at Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane, Werneth).

Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club located in the Stepping Hill Analysis Area, previously provided one cricket square onsite. The site was identified as disused in the previous PPS (2019). There are no known clubs currently using the site. This site is now marked and used for football.

Non-turf pitches

A total of 14 non-turf pitches (NTPs) are identified in Stockport. Of these, seven NTPs support existing grass wicket squares, with all others being standalone NTPs. Of the stock, 10 are available to the community.

Table 4.3: Summary of non-turf pitch locations

Site ID	Site name	Community use	Analysis area	Position
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	Yes	Werneth	Square
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Yes	Cheadle	Square
64	Hazel Grove Cricket Club	Yes	Stepping Hill	Square
68	Heaton Mersey Sports Club	Yes	Heatons & Reddish	Square
85	Bramhall High School	Yes	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Standalone
96	Marple Hall School	No	Marple	Standalone
100	Marple Sports Club	Yes	Marple	Square
128	Romiley Cricket Club	Yes	Werneth	Square
157	Stockport Grammar School	No	Stockport Central	Standalone
157	Stockport Grammar School	No	Stockport Central	Standalone
158	Stockport Grammar School Playing Fields	No	Stepping Hill	Standalone
166	The Kingsway School	Yes	Cheadle	Standalone
182	Woodford Recreation Ground	Yes	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Standalone

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Site ID	Site name	Community use	Analysis area	Position
184	Woodley Cricket Club	Yes	Werneth	Square

Five new NTPs have been installed at Marple Hall School, The Kingsway School and Bramhall High School, Woodford Recreation Ground and Heaton Mersey Sports Club under GMA agreements. However, the NTP located at Marple Hall School is currently poor quality due to installation issues which is preventing use due to safety concerns. The ECB is handling the remedial work required to improve the NTP to good quality and available for community use.

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs are also frequently used for junior matches, which in turn can help reduce excessive use of grass wickets.

The map overleaf shows the location of all cricket squares currently servicing Stockport. For a key to the map see Table 4.4

Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches in Stockport



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Table 4.4: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets
16	Bramhall Cricket Club	SK7 1PQ	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	1	20	-
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	SK6 2EZ	Werneth	Yes	1	7	-
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	SK6 2EZ	Werneth	Yes	1	3	1
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	SK8 1LA	Cheadle	Yes	1	16	1
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club	SK8 5BL	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	1	13	-
38	Cheadle Hulme School	SK8 6EF	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	1	9	-
38	Cheadle Hulme School	SK8 6EF	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	1	7	-
42	Compstall Cricket Club	SK6 5DY	Marple	Yes	1	8	-
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	SK8 7NB	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	1	15	-
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	SK8 7NB	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	1	5	-
63	Hawk Green Cricket Club	SK6 7HQ	Marple	Yes	1	14	-
64	Hazel Grove Cricket Club	SK7 5PD	Stepping Hill	Yes	1	12	1
68	Heaton Mersey Sports Club	SK4 3AW	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	1	5	1
69	The Heatons Sports Club	SK4 2NF	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	1	16	-
72	High Lane Cricket Club	SK6 8AU	Marple	Yes	1	13	-
85	Bramhall High School	SK7 2JT	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	1	-	1
96	Marple Hall School	SK6 6LB	Marple	No	1	-	1
100	Marple Sports Club	SK6 6ND	Marple	Yes	1	17	1
102	Mellor Sports Club	SK6 5PN	Marple	Yes	1	12	-
128	Romiley Cricket Club	SK6 4GA	Werneth	Yes	1	17	1
154	Stockport Cricket Club	SK3 8HD	Stockport Central	Yes	1	18	-
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	SK2 7DT	Stepping Hill	Yes	1	18	-

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets
157	Stockport Grammar School	SK2 7AF	Stockport Central	No	1	9	-
157	Stockport Grammar School	SK2 7AF	Stockport Central	No	1	-	1
157	Stockport Grammar School	SK2 7AF	Stockport Central	No	1	-	1
158	Stockport Grammar School Playing Fields	SK2 7LQ	Stepping Hill	No	1	-	1
163	Stockport Trinity Cricket Club	SK7 3BE	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	1	12	-
166	The Kingsway School	SK8 4QX	Cheadle	Yes	1	-	1
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	SK8 4LT	Cheadle	Yes	1	8	-
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	SK8 4LT	Cheadle	Yes	1	9	-
181	Woodford Cricket Club	SK7 1PW	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	1	14	-
182	Woodford Recreation Ground	SK7 1JA	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	1	-	1
184	Woodley Cricket Club	SK6 1JW	Werneth	Yes	1	10	1
190	Offerton Cricket Club	SK2 5AP	Stepping Hill	Yes	1	14	-

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Management and security of tenure

Within Stockport, all cricket clubs either own or lease their home grounds, with 15 clubs owning their sites and four clubs leasing their grounds. The arrangement for each club is shown in the following table.

Table 4.5: Summary of security of tenure for clubs

Site ID	Home ground	Club	Agreement	Tenure
16	Bramhall Cricket Club	Bramhall CC	Freehold	Secure
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	Bredbury St Marks CC	Freehold	Secure
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Cheadle CC	Freehold	Secure
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge CC	100 year lease from Ivy Church.	Secure
42	Compstall Cricket Club	Marple CC	Freehold	Secure
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Cheadle Hulme CC	Freehold	Secure
63	Hawk Green Cricket Club	Hawk Green CC	Freehold	Secure
64	Hazel Grove Cricket Club	Hazel Grove CC	20 year lease from the Methodist Church.	Secure
68	Heaton Mersey Sports Club	Heaton Mersey Village CC	Freehold	Secure
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heaton Mersey CC	Freehold	Secure
72	High Lane Cricket Club	High Lane CC	Freehold	Secure
100	Marple Sports Club	Marple CC	Freehold	Secure
102	Mellor Sports Club	Mellor CC	Freehold	Secure
128	Romiley Cricket Club	Romiley CC	Freehold	Secure
154	Stockport Cricket Club	Stockport CC	Freehold	Secure
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	Stockport Georgians CC	Freehold	Secure
163	Stockport Trinity Cricket Club	Stockport Trinity CC	10 year lease from the Methodist Church.	Secure
181	Woodford Cricket Club	Woodford CC	Freehold	Secure
184	Woodley Cricket Club	Woodley CC	Previous lease from the executors of the estate has expired.	Unsecure
190	Offerton Cricket Club	Offerton CC	Freehold	Secure

The lease for Woodley Cricket Club has expired, meaning that it has unsecure tenure. The Club is in the process of negotiating a renewal with the private landowner to establish another seven years.

All other clubs are considered to have secure tenure of their respective home grounds.

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Pitch quality

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

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to nearby players.

The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares in Stockport found 17 (71%) to be good quality and seven (29%) to be of standard quality. None are assessed as poor. This can be seen site-by-site in the table below.

Table 4.6: Quality ratings for community available grass wicket squares (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
16	Bramhall Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	Good
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	Werneth	2	Standard
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Cheadle	1	Good
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports and Social Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	Good
42	Compstall Cricket Club	Marple	1	Standard
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	Good
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	Standard
63	Hawk Green Cricket Club	Marple	1	Good
64	Hazel Grove Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	1	Good
68	Heaton Mersey Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	1	Good
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	1	Good
72	High Lane Cricket Club	Marple	1	Good
100	Marple Sports Club	Marple	1	Good
102	Mellor Sports Club	Marple	1	Good
128	Romiley Cricket Club	Werneth	1	Good
154	Stockport Cricket Club	Stockport Central	1	Good
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	1	Good
163	Stockport Trinity Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	Good
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	Cheadle	2	Standard
181	Woodford Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	Standard
184	Woodley Cricket Club	Werneth	1	Good
190	Offerton Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	1	Good

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As seen, the standard quality grass wicket cricket squares are located at Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane), Compstall Cricket Club, Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme), William Scholes Playing Fields and Woodford Cricket Club.

Bredbury St Marks CC reports issues with motorbikes accessing its home ground, which causes damage to the outfield. In addition, the site is relatively new following re-location and it is known to take a few years of use to properly 'bed in' a cricket square. Future improvements are therefore considered likely.

Elsewhere, Heaton Mersey CC aspires to add additional wickets to its square at The Heatons Sports Club. It reports that this would enable additional space for training and junior cricket matches. In addition, the Club is looking to level out the outfield at the site as it currently suggests that parts of it are uneven. Through this process, it also plans to install additional drainage.

Despite its good quality, Heaton Mersey Village CC highlights that it currently has issues with its outfield holding water during bouts of heavy rain at Heaton Mersey Sports Club. This has led certain areas of the outfield to become uneven. The Club plans to undertake work on the outfield to level and install drainage.

Due to high levels of demand at Bramhall Cricket Club, the Club is currently looking into the installing two hybrid wickets on the square. These hybrid wickets would add additional capacity to the site.

Marple CC reports that in recent years it has had an increase in vandalism at Marple Sports Club, with this requiring a number of repairs to its square. It currently has plans to secure its site to protect against this and to support maintaining the square to a good quality.

In addition to the above, the following clubs also identify issues with vandalism and unauthorised access at their respective sites:

- ◀ Bramhall CC
- ◀ Cheadle Hulme CC
- ◀ Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge CC
- ◀ Offerton CC
- ◀ Stockport CC
- ◀ Woodley CC

No other issues with pitch quality have been highlighted from consultation.

PitchPower Assessment - Cricket

Launched in 2020 for football and re-launched in 2022 with functionality for cricket and rugby union pitches, PitchPower is a digital self-assessment tool that allows reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors. The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

The functionality of the app for cricket is set to be trialled in 2023 and live in 2024, meaning it has not been factored into the aforementioned quality scores. It is also unknown how the PitchPower assessments will be implemented into the PPS process moving forward, although it is likely they will supersede non-technical assessments as they are more comprehensive and can provide detailed strategic recommendations on how facilities can be improved.

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As a result, quality scores for cricket and recommendations within the PPS Strategy & Action Plan should be reviewed and updated as part of the Stage E process to reflect new technical assessments evidence and information when available.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire, spectator facilities and boundary fencing. Provision of high quality ancillary facilities is a key aspect of the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, to meet the expectations of the core participation base as well as key growth markets such as women and girls, south Asian and BAME communities and All Stars and Dynamos cricket (detailed later in the section).

Notwithstanding the above, the extent of ancillary facilities required for cricket differs between times of play. For example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas this is often not required for junior and short format senior matches, where the need is more for access to suitable changing and/or toilet facilities.

The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in Stockport determines that 10 (48%) are accompanied by good quality provision and 11 squares (52%) are accompanied by standard quality provision. No squares are accompanied by poor quality supporting ancillary provision. Clubs playing at privately managed or sports club sites are generally better served than those playing at community managed provision.

Table 4.7: Ancillary facility quality (at community available sites with natural turf squares)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Quality
16	Bramhall Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	Good
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	Werneth	2	Good
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Cheadle	1	Good
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	Good
42	Compstall Cricket Club	Marple	1	Standard
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	2	Standard
63	Hawk Green Cricket Club	Marple	1	Good
64	Hazel Grove Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	1	Standard
68	Heaton Mersey Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	1	Standard
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	1	Good
72	High Lane Cricket Club	Marple	1	Good
100	Marple Sports Club	Marple	1	Good
102	Mellor Sports Club	Marple	1	Good
128	Romiley Cricket Club	Werneth	1	Good
154	Stockport Cricket Club	Stockport Central	1	Standard
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	1	Standard

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Quality
163	Stockport Trinity Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	Standard
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	Cheadle	2	Standard
181	Woodford Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	Standard
184	Woodley Cricket Club	Werneth	1	Standard
190	Offerton Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	1	Standard

High Lane CC reports that over the coming years it has plans on increasing its women's and girl's demand. In order to support this, it plans to improve its ancillary facilities to better accommodate female usage.

Stockport Georgians CC is looking to increase its offering through additional pitch space and facilities to meet its current and future growth in demand.

No other specific issues were identified by clubs. However, all clubs with standard quality facilities note that they will continue to look at improving facilities over the coming years.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs access both indoor and outdoor provision before the season commences. During the cricket season, outdoor training provision supplies most of the use.

Of the 22 community available sites in Stockport, 16 sites have dedicated fixed net provision, as summarised in the following table.

Table 4.8: Summary of current fixed net training facilities

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Training facility	Quality
16	Bramhall Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	4 x lane facility	Good
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	Werneth	2 x lane facility	Good
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Cheadle	2 x lane facility	Standard
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	2 x lane facility	Standard
38	Cheadle Hulme School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	4 x lane facility	Good
42	Compstall Cricket Club	Marple	2 x lane facility	Standard
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	3 x lane facility	Good
63	Hawk Green Cricket Club	Marple	3 x lane facility	Good
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	4 x lane facility	Good
72	High Lane Cricket Club	Marple	3 x lane facility	Good
100	Marple Sports Club	Marple	2 x lane facility	Good

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Training facility	Quality
128	Romiley Cricket Club	Werneth	2 x lane facility	Good
154	Stockport Cricket Club	Stockport Central	2 x lane facility	Standard
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	2 x lane facility	Standard
163	Stockport Trinity Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	2 x lane facility	Poor
181	Woodford Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	2 x lane facility	Good

The facilities at Stockport Trinity Cricket Club are considered to be poor quality due to the age of the provision and damage to it. All remaining training provision is good or standard quality.

The sites which do not provide fixed net training facilities are located at:

- ✦ Hazel Grove Cricket Club
- ✦ Heaton Mersey Sports Club
- ✦ Mellor Sports Club
- ✦ Offerton Cricket Club
- ✦ William Scholes laying Fields
- ✦ Woodford Recreation Ground
- ✦ Woodley Cricket Club

Mellor CC reports that it has plans to develop a two lane fixed net facility in the coming years to support its growing demand at Mellor Sports Club. In addition, Stockport Georgians CC reports plans to develop its net facilities in the near future (it currently has two).

No other clubs report specific projects or plans for additional facilities, although the following identify a need for increased or improved facilities to support their training demand:

- ✦ Bredbury St Marks CC
- ✦ Cheadle CC
- ✦ Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge CC
- ✦ Hazel Grove CC
- ✦ Heaton Mersey Village CC
- ✦ Marple CC
- ✦ Offerton CC
- ✦ Stockport CC
- ✦ Stockport Trinity CC
- ✦ Woodley CC

In addition, several clubs also identify a requirement for additional indoor practice facilities to support training demand over winter months. Whilst this falls outside of the remit of this study, the importance of appropriate indoor provision is key for cricket participation and can help relieve use of outdoor provision. The clubs expressing issues with indoor provision are:

- ✦ Bramhall CC
- ✦ Cheadle Hulme CC
- ✦ Hazel Grove CC
- ✦ Marple CC
- ✦ Offerton CC
- ✦ Stockport Georgians CC

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Access and travel

The table below summarises how accessible cricket club sites are in Stockport through different types of transport (e.g., walking, cycling, public transport).

Table 4.9: Summary of access and travel facilities at club sites

Site ID	Site	Club/organisation	Cycle storage facilities	Car park	Pedestrian access	Bus stops nearby?
16	Bramhall Cricket Club	Bramhall CC	-	✓	✓	✓
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	Bredbury St Marks CC	-	✓	✓	-
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Cheadle CC	-	✓	✓	✓
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge CC	-	✓	✓	✓
42	Compstall Cricket Club	Marple CC	-	-	✓	✓
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Cheadle Hulme CC	✓	✓	✓	-
63	Hawk Green Cricket Club	Hawk Green CC	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Hazel Grove Cricket Club	Hazel Grove CC	-	✓	✓	✓
68	Heaton Mersey Sports Club	Heaton Mersey Village CC	✓	✓	✓	-
69	The Heaton Sports Club	Heaton Mersey CC	-	✓	✓	✓
72	High Lane Cricket Club	High Lane CC	-	✓	✓	✓
100	Marple Sports Club	Marple CC	-	✓	✓	✓
102	Mellor Sports Club	Mellor CC	-	✓	✓	✓
128	Romiley Cricket Club	Romiley CC	-	✓	✓	✓
154	Stockport Cricket Club	Stockport CC	-	✓	✓	✓
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	Stockport Georgians CC	-	✓	✓	✓
163	Stockport Trinity Cricket Club	Stockport Trinity CC	-	✓	✓	✓
181	Woodford Cricket Club	Woodford CC	-	✓	✓	✓
184	Woodley Cricket Club	Woodley CC	-	✓	✓	✓
190	Offerton Cricket Club	Offerton CC	-	✓	✓	-

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As seen, all sites as would be expected have pedestrian access, whilst most also have some form of car parking (only Compstall Cricket Club does not) and a bus stop nearby (only Offerton Cricket Club, Heaton Mersey Sports Club, Grove Park and Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club do not).

Conversely, only three sites have bike storage facilities (Grove Park, Hawk Green Cricket Club and Heaton Mersey Sports Club).

4.3: Demand

Most clubs in Stockport are large clubs consisting of several senior teams and junior teams at various age groups. In total, there are 19 clubs generating 81 senior men's, 13 senior women's, 108 junior boys' teams and 15 junior girls' teams.

Table 4.10: Summary of teams by club

Club	Analysis area	No. of senior men's teams	No. of senior women's teams	No. of junior boys' teams	No. of junior girls' teams
Bramhall Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	6	-	8	-
Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club	Werneth	7	1	7	-
Cheadle Cricket Club	Cheadle	4	1	7	-
Cheadle Hulme Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	5	-	4	2
Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	3	1	4	-
Hawk Green Cricket Club	Marple	3	1	3	-
Hazel Grove Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	5	1	4	1
Heaton Mersey Cricket Club	Heatons & Reddish	5	-	16	2
Heaton Mersey Village Cricket Club	Heatons & Reddish	1	-	-	-
High Lane Cricket Club	Marple	5	-	3	-
Marple Cricket Club	Marple	7	-	4	2
Mellor Cricket Club	Marple	1	-	7	-
Offerton Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	3	1	4	-
Romiley Cricket Club	Werneth	3	1	8	-
Stockport Cricket Club	Stockport Central	4	1	7	2
Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	7	3	9	4
Stockport Trinity Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	3	1	8	-
Woodford Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	3	-	2	2
Woodley Cricket Club	Werneth	6	1	3	-
-	Total	81	13	108	15

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The biggest club is Heaton Mersey Cricket Club with 23 teams (five senior men's teams, 16 junior boys' teams and two junior girls teams). Heaton Mersey Village Cricket Club is the only club to field just one team.

Most teams in Stockport play in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Analysis Area which accommodates 52 teams (24%), followed by the Stepping Hill Analysis Area with 42 teams (19%). The least number of teams are in the Cheadle Analysis Area, providing 12 teams (6%).

Table 4.11: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	20	2	26	4
Cheadle	4	1	7	-
Heatons & Reddish	6	-	16	2
Marple	16	1	17	2
Stepping Hill	15	5	17	5
Stockport Central	4	1	7	2
Werneth	16	3	18	-
Total	81	13	108	15

Participation trends

As seen in the table below, there has been an increase of 40 teams in Stockport since the 2019 PPS. This results in a 23% increase overall, reflecting a substantial growth in recent years.

Table 4.12: Summary of participation growth since 2019

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			Total
	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	
2019				
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	16	1	30	47
Cheadle	10	-	9	19
Heatons & Reddish	-	-	-	-
Marple	12	2	20	34
Stepping Hill	6	1	18	25
Stockport Central	6	-	11	17
Werneth	13	1	21	35
Total	63	5	109	177
2040				
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	20	2	30	52
Cheadle	4	1	7	12
Heatons & Reddish	6	-	18	24
Marple	16	1	19	36
Stepping Hill	15	5	22	42
Stockport Central	4	1	9	14
Werneth	16	3	18	37
Total	81	13	123	217
Percentage change	29%	160%	13%	23%

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The most significant increase in demand has been for senior women with an additional eight teams (160% increase). However, both senior men's and juniors have also seen an increase of 18 and 14 teams, respectively.

Unmet/latent demand

Consultation with cricket clubs did not highlight any latent or unmet demand in Stockport. That is to say that no clubs believe that a lack of provision or access is preventing teams from being fielded.

Imported/exported demand

Through consultation, no demand was identified as being exported outside of Stockport. However, six clubs are known to be importing demand from Manchester to William Scholes Playing Fields. These are:

- ✦ Kashmir CC
- ✦ Knight Riders CC
- ✦ Manchester Rangers CC
- ✦ Northern Challengers CC
- ✦ Olympic MSJ Combined CC
- ✦ We Stand Together CC

Additional activity

All Stars and Dynamos cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine cricket clubs in Stockport can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ✦ Increase cricket activity for five to eight year olds in the school and club environment.
- ✦ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition.
- ✦ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle.
- ✦ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment.
- ✦ Use fun small sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game.

In addition, a key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos programme for 8-11 year olds which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars Cricket programme for 5-8 year olds and will develop the pathway to retain juniors progressing from All Stars into Dynamos.

Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified soft ball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket. The programme will be strongly linked to The Hundred, a new short format competition which launched in 2021.

There are 14 clubs in Stockport catering for All Stars cricket and nine clubs running Dynamos cricket. This is summarised in the table below.

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Table 4.13: Summary of Stockport All Stars and Dynamos participation

Site ID	Site	Club/organisation	All Stars	2023 sign ups	Dynamos	2023 sign ups
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	Bredbury St Marks CC	✓	45	✓	10
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Cheadle CC	✓	40	-	0
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports and Social Club	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge CC	✓	80	✓	40
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Cheadle Hulme CC	✓	96	-	0
63	Hawk Green Cricket Club	Hawk Green CC	✓	42	-	0
64	Hazel Grove Cricket Club	Hazel Grove CC	✓	25	✓	30
72	High Lane Cricket Club	High Lane CC	✓	30	✓	20
100	Marple Sports Club	Marple CC	✓	70	-	0
154	Stockport Cricket Club	Stockport CC	✓	15	✓	12
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	Stockport Georgians CC	✓	50	✓	40
163	Stockport Trinity Cricket Club	Stockport Trinity CC	✓	18	-	0
181	Woodford Cricket Club	Woodford CC	✓	24	✓	16
184	Woodley Cricket Club	Woodley CC	✓	16	✓	18
190	Offerton Cricket Club	Offerton CC	✓	10	✓	15
-	-	Total	-	561	-	201

It should be noted that All Stars and Dynamos cricket generally takes place on the cricket outfields rather than the actual squares. Although this does not impact the carrying capacity of the square, it does influence the accessibility of the squares as whilst the outfield is in use the main square cannot be used to accommodate fixtures. Therefore, this may limit the potential spare capacity whilst these activities are taking place, generally on midweek evenings or Sunday mornings.

Softball cricket

Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and with limited rules. Sessions are played on the outfield and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

In Stockport, 11 clubs report to be operating women's & girls' softball sections. This also takes place on the outfield of squares.

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Cheshire County Cricket (National Counties, women's and age groups)

Cheshire County Cricket runs a number of teams, with its First XI being a member of the National Counties set up. It also runs a full county boys age group section and a women's and county girls age group section as well as a senior's section. The First XI plays in three competitive National Counties competitions across 3-day, 1-day and T20 cricket.

The boy's county age group section includes teams within each age group from U12-U18 level, in addition to development teams in the U11, U13 and U15 age groups and a men's Second XI which helps bridge the gap from U18 to First XI cricket. The women's and county girls age group section includes a women's First XI and age group teams at U18, U15, U13 and U11 level, with development teams at u12 and u15 age groups.

All teams play both friendly and competitive fixtures on a yearly basis within the National Counties and ECB cricket programmes, utilising facilities and squares across the County for fixtures and training. The following sites within Stockport are accessed:

- ◆ Bramhall Cricket Club
- ◆ Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club
- ◆ Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Cricket Club
- ◆ Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)
- ◆ Compstall Cricket Club
- ◆ Hawk Green Cricket Club
- ◆ Hazel Grove Cricket Club
- ◆ Heaton Mersey Cricket Club
- ◆ High Lane Cricket Club
- ◆ Marple Cricket Club
- ◆ Romiley Cricket Club
- ◆ Stockport Cricket Club
- ◆ Stockport Georgians Cricket Club
- ◆ Woodford Cricket Club

Greater Manchester Amateur League

The Greater Manchester Amateur League (GMAL) operates a four divisional structure consisting of approximately 20 teams. Several clubs operate two teams and fixtures are played on Sunday afternoons in a 40-over per side format.

The League reports that fixtures in Division One of the structure must be played on grass wickets but all other divisions can play on NTPs. The League highlights that a number its participants are based in Manchester, although most sites accessed for fixtures fall outside of the City.

Within Stockport, provision is currently accessed at William Scholes Playing Fields. It should be noted that the clubs using this site, as referenced previously, import their demand from Manchester (Kashmir, Knight Riders, Olympic MSJ Combined, Manchester Rangers and We Stand Together cricket clubs).

T25 Wednesday & T35 Sunday League

The T25 Wednesday and T35 Sunday League run across Greater Manchester. In Stockport, one club (Northern Challengers CC) is exporting demand into Stockport from Manchester to compete in this league. The Club is currently accessing provision at William Scholes Playing Field on Wednesday evenings.

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Future demand

Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across Stockport.

Population forecasts

Based on population projections to 2040 for Stockport (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand as per each authorities Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass cricket pitches that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference total current population in Stockport is 296,472 will increase to 313,803 by 2040. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.14: Authority-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Peak time for population	Average games for age group	No. of match equivalent sessions per season ¹¹
Men (18-55yrs)	1:814	4.79	4	Saturday	12	48
Women (18-55yrs)	1:5,351	0.76	0	Sunday	8	0
Boys (7-18yrs)	1:198	6.72	6	Midweek	5	30
Girls (7-18yrs)	1:1,408	0.88	0	Midweek	5	0

As seen in the above, there are 10 additional teams expected to be generated by population growth alone for Stockport. This equates to four men's teams and six junior boys' teams. When team generation rates are applied on an analysis area level, the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South, Marple, Stepping Hill and Werneth analysis areas all have one men's and one junior boys teams generated, whilst the Heaton & Reddish Analysis Area is expected to generate one junior boys' team. This totals four senior men's and five junior boys' teams and therefore differs by one junior boys team when compared to the figures for Stockport as a whole.

These figures will be applied to the supply and demand analysis later in this section.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies in place to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would suggest. For example, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of women and girl's participation in cricket in Stockport is likely as it is currently a national priority. This also applies to potential increased growth in junior cricket, linked to the abovementioned All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

¹¹ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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In addition, the ECB's media rights deal includes a continuation of its relationship with Sky Sports, up to 2028. This now extends beyond broadcasting and is a partnership which will secure significant investment and a commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. This could therefore boost demand to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPS, meaning the impact should be reviewed over coming years.

Furthermore, the demand identified is based solely upon current levels of formal demand from community-based cricket clubs and does not capture informal or recreational activity.

Participation increases

Of the responding clubs in Stockport, seven clubs quantify aspirations to increase levels of participation over the next three years. This equates to a total predicted growth of four senior men's teams, six senior women's teams, four junior boys' teams and five junior girls' teams.

Table 4.15: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls
Cheadle Hulme CC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	2	1	-
Hawk Green CC	Marple	-	-	1	-
Heaton Mersey CC	Heatons & Reddish	1	-	1	1
Heaton Mersey Village CC	Heatons & Reddish	1	-	-	-
High Lane CC	Marple	-	1	-	1
Marple CC	Marple	-	1	-	1
Stockport Georgians CC	Stepping Hill	1	2	1	2
-	Total	4	6	4	5

Future demand summary

Population increases will be taken through into the supply and demand analysis later on within this section of the report. This is due to participation increases being seen as more aspirational, although these increases will instead be explored in a scenario in the preceding Strategy & Action Plan document.

4.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per pitch per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.

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The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, the assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.

To help calculate spare capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality grass wicket should be able to take five (senior) matches per season.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

Please note that NTPs have been discounted from the table overleaf. No NTPs are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season; therefore, all NTPs are considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket as peak time is midweek, whereby non-turf wickets are more commonly used and matches can be played on a variety of days.

The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets potentially used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to a boundary, especially for senior matches. The idea is to showcase what the capacity is or could be if best practice is followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior men's cricket in Stockport is Saturday afternoon's, with a high amount of cricket also apparent on Sunday afternoon's. For senior women's cricket, peak time demand is Sunday afternoon's and for junior cricket, peak time is midweek albeit some Sunday morning cricket is also recorded.

Spare capacity

The table below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 4:17 in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and Midweek).

Table 4.16: Spare capacity examples

Potential spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
No	Means the pitch is played to capacity within this peak period and therefore cannot accommodate any further demand.
Yes	Not highlighted, it means there is spare capacity to accommodate further demand within this designated peak period; however, this is discounted due to the pitch already being in full use at the time, played to capacity or being overplayed (so it should not accommodate any additional demand).
Yes	Highlighted in green, it means there is actual available spare capacity within this peak period which can be utilised.

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Table 4.17: Capacity analysis of grass cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community availability	Users	Security of tenure	No. of squares	Pitch quality	Type of wicket	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Current use (match equivalent sessions)	Capacity balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential spare capacity/availability for Saturday cricket	Potential spare capacity/availability for Sunday cricket	Potential spare capacity/availability for midweek cricket
16	Bramhall Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Bramhall CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	15	75	54	21	No	No	Yes
16	Bramhall Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Bramhall CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	5	25	39	14	No	No	No
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	Werneth	Yes	Bredbury St Marks CC	Secure	1	Standard	Senior	7	28	60	32	No	No	No
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	Werneth	Yes	Bredbury St Marks CC	Secure	1	Standard	Junior	3	12	11	1	No	No	No
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Cheadle	Yes	Cheadle CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	12	60	59	1	No	No	No
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Cheadle	Yes	Cheadle CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	4	20	29	9	No	No	No
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	10	50	37	13	No	Yes	Yes
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	3	15	13	2	No	No	No
38	Cheadle Hulme School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	-	Unsecure	1	Good	Junior	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
38	Cheadle Hulme School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	-	Unsecure	1	Good	Junior	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
42	Compstall Cricket Club	Marple	Yes	Marple CC	Secure	1	Standard	Senior	6	24	11	13	Yes	Yes	Yes
42	Compstall Cricket Club	Marple	Yes	Marple CC	Secure	1	Standard	Junior	2	8	-	8	No	No	Yes
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Cheadle Hulme CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	13	65	42	23	No	No	Yes
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Cheadle Hulme CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	2	10	20	15	No	No	No
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Cheadle Hulme CC	Secure	1	Standard	Senior	4	16	16	0	No	No	No
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Cheadle Hulme CC	Secure	1	Standard	Junior	1	4	10	6	No	No	No
63	Hawk Green Cricket Club	Marple	Yes	Hawk Green CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	11	55	40	15	No	Yes	Yes

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community availability	Users	Security of tenure	No. of squares	Pitch quality	Type of wicket	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Current use (match equivalent sessions)	Capacity balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential spare capacity/availability for Saturday cricket	Potential spare capacity/availability for Sunday cricket	Potential spare capacity/availability for midweek cricket
63	Hawk Green Cricket Club	Marple	Yes	Hawk Green CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	3	15	9	6	No	No	Yes
64	Hazel Grove Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	Yes	Hazel Grove CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	10	50	42	8	No	No	Yes
64	Hazel Grove Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	Yes	Hazel Grove CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	2	10	11	1	No	No	No
68	Heaton Mersey Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Heaton Mersey Village CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	5	25	11	14	Yes	Yes	Yes
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Heaton Mersey CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	12	60	65	5	No	No	No
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Heaton Mersey CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	4	20	52	32	No	No	No
72	High Lane Cricket Club	Marple	Yes	High Lane CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	11	55	40	15	No	Yes	Yes
72	High Lane Cricket Club	Marple	Yes	High Lane CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	2	10	11	1	No	No	No
100	Marple Sports Club	Marple	Yes	Marple CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	13	65	58	7	No	No	No
100	Marple Sports Club	Marple	Yes	Marple CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	4	20	18	2	No	No	No
102	Mellor Sports Club	Marple	Yes	Mellor CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	9	45	23	22	Yes	Yes	Yes
102	Mellor Sports Club	Marple	Yes	Mellor CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	3	15	30	15	No	No	No
128	Romiley Cricket Club	Werneth	Yes	Romiley CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	11	55	31	24	No	No	Yes
128	Romiley Cricket Club	Werneth	Yes	Romiley CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	6	30	36	6	No	No	No
154	Stockport Cricket Club	Stockport Central	Yes	Stockport CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	14	70	46	24	No	No	Yes
154	Stockport Cricket Club	Stockport Central	Yes	Stockport CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	4	20	33	13	No	No	No
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	Yes	Stockport Georgians CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	12	60	93	33	No	No	No
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	Yes	Stockport Georgians CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	6	30	51	21	No	No	No
157	Stockport Grammar School	Stockport Central	No	-	Unsecure	1	Good	Junior	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
163	Stockport Trinity Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Stockport Trinity CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	10	50	43	7	No	No	Yes
163	Stockport Trinity Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Stockport Trinity CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	2	10	27	17	No	No	No
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	Cheadle	Yes	-	Secure	1	Standard	Senior	8	32	30	2	No	No	No
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	Cheadle	Yes	-	Secure	1	Standard	Senior	9	36	17	19	Yes	No	Yes
181	Woodford Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Woodford CC	Secure	1	Standard	Senior	12	48	35	13	No	Yes	Yes

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community availability	Users	Security of tenure	No. of squares	Pitch quality	Type of wicket	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Current use (match equivalent sessions)	Capacity balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential spare capacity/availability for Saturday cricket	Potential spare capacity/availability for Sunday cricket	Potential spare capacity/availability for midweek cricket
181	Woodford Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Woodford CC	Secure	1	Standard	Junior	2	8	17	9	No	No	No
184	Woodley Cricket Club	Werneth	Yes	Woodley CC	Unsecure	1	Good	Senior	8	40	60	20	No	No	No
184	Woodley Cricket Club	Werneth	Yes	Woodley CC	Unsecure	1	Good	Junior	2	10	9	1	No	No	No
190	Offerton Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	Yes	Offerton CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	12	60	33	27	No	Yes	Yes
190	Offerton Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	Yes	Offerton CC	Secure	1	Good	Junior	2	10	9	1	No	No	No

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Actual spare capacity

A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage during a particular peak period. Using the capacity analysis, this section considers the level of actual spare capacity available for each playing format.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that the actual spare capacity on Saturdays, Sundays and during midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising it across different days may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per season theoretically has capacity for one additional senior team and two additional junior teams; however, it does not have capacity for both. As such, this needs to be taken into consideration on a site-by-site basis as and when demand grows.

Taking the above into consideration there are four squares across four sites in Stockport that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand.

Table 4.18: Summary of actual spare capacity for Saturday cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams in the peak period (match equivalent sessions)
42	Compstall Cricket Club	13	1	12
68	Heaton Mersey Sports Club	14	1	12
102	Mellor Sports Club	22	1	12
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	19	1	12

The total of actual spare capacity on Saturday equates to 48 match equivalent sessions with most of this being located in the Marple Analysis Area

Table 4.19: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per season)
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-
Cheadle	12
Heatons & Reddish	12
Marple	24
Stepping Hill	-
Stockport Central	-
Werneth	-
Stockport	48

Sunday cricket

Similar to Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is not already used by two teams at this time, has secure tenure and is not over, at, or close to capacity. Taking this into consideration, there are ten squares across eight sites in Stockport that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.20: Summary of actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams in the peak period (match equivalent sessions)
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club	13	1	12
42	Compstall Cricket Club	13	1	12
63	Hawk Green Cricket Club	15	1	12
68	Heaton Mersey Sports Club	14	1	12
72	High Lane Cricket Club	15	1	12
102	Mellor Sports Club	22	2	24
181	Woodford Cricket Club	13	1	12
190	Offerton Cricket Club	27	2	24

Total actual spare capacity on a Sunday equates to 120 match equivalent sessions per season. The Marple Analysis Area has the most actual spare capacity totalling 60 match equivalent sessions a season.

Table 4.21: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	24
Cheadle	-
Heatons & Reddish	12
Marple	60
Stepping Hill	24
Stockport Central	-
Werneth	-
Stockport	120

Sunday capacity provides capacity for additional senior men's demand to be accommodated outside of the peak period whilst still being able to play within a competitive format. Moreover, it provides peak time availability for senior women's cricket (both hardball and softball) and for some junior demand.

Junior cricket (midweek)

For midweek cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams. Moreover, the presence of junior wickets at certain sites, as well as NTPs, provide further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for midweek cricket, it must have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have more than four match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is the average number of matches an additional junior team would play. However, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars and Dynamos).

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Taking the above into consideration there are nine squares across nine sites in Stockport that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand during midweek.

Table 4.22: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams in the peak period (match equivalent sessions)
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club	13	2	10
42	Compstall Cricket Club (Senior wickets)	13	2	10
42	Compstall Cricket Club (Junior wickets)	8	1	5
63	Hawk Green Cricket Club (Senior wickets)	15	2	10
63	Hawk Green Cricket Club (Junior wickets)	6	1	5
64	Hazel Grove Cricket Club	8	1	5
68	Heaton Mersey Sports Club	14	2	10
72	High Lane Cricket Club	15	2	10
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	36	4	20
181	Woodford Cricket Club	13	2	10
190	Offerton Cricket Club	27	2	10

The total of actual spare capacity midweek equates to 105 match equivalent sessions with most of this being located in the Marple Analysis Area with 40 match equivalent session a season.

Table 4.23: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	20
Cheadle	20
Heatons & Reddish	10
Marple	40
Stepping Hill	15
Stockport Central	-
Werneth	-
Stockport	105

Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square. In Stockport, 15 squares are overplayed across 14 sites equating to 249 match equivalent sessions a season.

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Table 4.24: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Type of wicket	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
16	Bramhall Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Junior	14
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	Werneth	Senior	32
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Cheadle	Junior	9
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Junior	15
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Junior	6
64	Hazel Grove Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	Junior	1
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	Senior	5
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	Junior	32
72	High Lane Cricket Club	Marple	Junior	1
102	Mellor Sports Club	Marple	Junior	15
128	Romiley Cricket Club	Werneth	Junior	6
154	Stockport Cricket Club	Stockport Central	Junior	13
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	Senior	33
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	Stepping Hill	Junior	21
163	Stockport Trinity Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Junior	17
181	Woodford Cricket Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Junior	9
184	Woodley Cricket Club	Werneth	Senior	20

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. This section therefore looks at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and identified future demand. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for senior teams and between four and eight matches for junior teams, depending on age).

Saturday supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday). For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified above to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per square that is available). The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.25: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday) in match equivalent sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	-	0	12	12
Cheadle	12	-	12	-	12
Heatons & Reddish	12	5	7	-	7
Marple	24	-	24	12	12
Stepping Hill	-	33	33	12	45
Stockport Central	-	-	0	-	0
Werneth	-	52	52	12	64
Stockport	48	90	42	48	90

As seen in the table above, there is a current shortfall of grass wicket squares in Stockport on Saturday's amounting to 42 match equivalent sessions per season. After considering future demand derived from population growth, the shortfall worsens equating to 90 match equivalent sessions a season.

Current shortfalls are evident in the Stepping Hill and Werneth analysis areas, whilst a future shortfall is also predicted in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme Analysis Area.

Sunday cricket supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams.

Table 4.26: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for Sunday cricket in match equivalent sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	24	-	24	12	12
Cheadle	-	-	0	-	0
Heatons & Reddish	12	5	7	-	7
Marple	60	-	60	12	48
Stepping Hill	24	33	9	12	21
Stockport Central	-	-	0	-	0
Werneth	-	52	52	12	64
Stockport	120	90	30	48	18

As seen in the table above, there is a current overall spare capacity of grass wicket squares in Stockport on Sunday's amounting to 30 match equivalent sessions per season. However, after considering future demand derived from population growth, a shortfall is created equating to 18 match equivalent sessions a season.

Current and future shortfalls are evident in the Stepping Hill and Werneth analysis areas, whilst all remaining analysis areas have either current and future spare capacity or are being played to capacity.

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Junior cricket supply and demand analysis (midweek)

For the junior supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams), multiplied by five (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because junior demand at peak time is not limited to one day, although some capacity should be reserved for activity such as All Stars and Dynamos.

Table 4.27: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for midweek cricket in match equivalent sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	20	61	41	5	46
Cheadle	20	9	11	-	11
Heatons & Reddish	10	37	27	5	32
Marple	40	16	24	5	19
Stepping Hill	15	55	40	5	45
Stockport Central	-	13	13	-	18
Werneth	-	58	58	5	63
Stockport	105	249	144	25	169

As seen in the table above, there is a current shortfall of grass wicket squares in Stockport for midweek cricket amounting to 144 match equivalent sessions per season. After considering future demand derived from population growth, the shortfall worsens to 174 match equivalent sessions a season.

Five of the seven analysis areas have both a current and future shortfall identified. Only the Cheadle and Marple analysis areas have spare capacity.

4.6: Conclusion

Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket in Stockport on Saturdays and midweek, whereas spare capacity existing on Sundays. However, when future demand is accounted for, shortfalls for Saturday and midweek cricket are further exacerbated and a shortfall is found on Sundays equating to 18 match equivalent sessions a season.

Table 4.28: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares summary in match equivalent sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	48	90	42	48	90
Sunday	120	90	30	48	18
Midweek	105	249	144	25	169

Based on this, there is a clear inadequate supply of cricket provision to meet demand in Stockport.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Cricket – supply and demand summary

- Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket in Stockport on Saturday's and midweek.
- When future demand is accounted for, shortfalls for Saturday and midweek cricket are further exacerbated and a shortfall is found on Sundays equating to 18 match equivalent sessions a season.
- There is a clear inadequate supply of cricket provision to meet demand in Stockport.

Cricket – supply summary

- In total, there are 27 grass wicket squares in Stockport, with 24 available for community use.
- A total of 14 non-turf pitches (NTPs) are identified, with seven supporting existing grass wicket squares and the others being standalone NTPs.
- All clubs either own or lease their home grounds, with 15 clubs owning their sites and four clubs leasing their grounds.
- Woodley CC is considered to have unsecure tenure as its lease agreement has come to an end (it is negotiating a renewal).
- The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares found 17 (71%) to be good quality and seven (29%) to be of standard quality (none are assessed as poor).
- The standard quality grass wicket cricket squares are located at Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club - Dark Lane (x2), Compstall Cricket Club, Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme), William Scholes Playing Fields (x2) and Woodford Cricket Club.
- The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites determines that 10 (48%) are accompanied by good quality provision and 11 squares (52%) are accompanied by standard quality provision (none are poor).
- Of the 22 community available sites, 16 have dedicated fixed net provision, of which ten are good quality, five are standard quality and one is poor (at Stockport Trinity Cricket Club)
- All sites have pedestrian access, whilst most also have some form of car parking and a bus stop nearby; however, only three sites have bike storage facilities.

Cricket – demand summary

- In Stockport, there are 19 clubs generating 81 senior men's, 13 senior women's, 108 junior boys' teams and 15 junior girls' teams.
- The biggest club is Heaton Mersey Cricket Club with 23 teams (five senior men's teams, 16 junior boys teams and two junior girls teams).
- There has been an increase of 40 teams since the 2019 PPS, resulting in a 23% increase overall.
- There is currently no unmet or latent demand identified.
- Six clubs import demand from Manchester, whilst no demand is exported.
- There are 14 clubs in Stockport catering for All Stars cricket and nine clubs running Dynamos.
- 11 clubs report to be operating women's & girls' softball sections.
- There are ten additional teams expected to be generated by population growth alone, with this equating to four men's teams and six junior boys' teams.
- Seven clubs quantify aspirations to increase levels of participation, totalling predicted growth of four senior men's teams, six senior women's teams, four junior boys' teams and five junior girls' teams.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. It governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as the O2 Touch programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

For traditional rugby union, there are generally three playing formats, based on the age of the players involved. These are now known as age grade mixed rugby (previously mini), age grade boys/girls rugby (previously junior) and senior rugby.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are five rugby union clubs in Stockport. All of these have responded to consultation requests, with this equating to a response rate of 100%.

Table 5.1: Summary of rugby club consultation

Club	Responded?
Burnage RUFC	Yes
Heaton Moor RUFC	Yes
Manchester RUFC	Yes
Marple RUFC	Yes
Stockport RUFC	Yes

5.2: Supply

Within Stockport, there are 22 grass rugby union pitches identified across 11 unique sites, with 15 pitches available for community use across six sites. The pitches that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites (Bramhall High School, Cheadle Hulme School, Marple Hall School, Stockport Grammar School and The Kingsway School (Foxland Campus)).

Of the available pitches, 13 are senior and two are age grade. The majority are identified in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Analysis Area (seven), whilst none are located in the Cheadle, Stepping Hill, Stockport Central and Werneth analysis areas.

Table 5.2: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. senior pitches	No. of age grade pitches
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	6	1
Cheadle	-	-
Heatons & Reddish	5	-
Marple	2	1
Stepping Hill	-	-
Stockport Central	-	-
Werneth	-	-
Stockport	13	2

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The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches that are serviced by goalposts. However, there are some additional marked spaces that are used, without goalposts, particularly for age grade rugby. It is also common for age grade matches to be played on senior pitches via the use of cones, particularly at sites used by clubs. This is the case across club sites in Stockport, even at sites with standalone age grade pitches.

Recommended pitch dimensions for all formats of play are shown in the table below.

Table 5.3: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ¹²
U7	Age grade mixed	20 x 12
U8	Age grade mixed	45 x 22
U9	Age grade mixed	60 x 30
U10	Age grade mixed	60 x 35
U11	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U12	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U13	Age grade boys/girls	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U15	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U16	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U17	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U18	Colts	100 x 70
Senior	Senior	100 x 70

In addition to the grass provision, there are two full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Stockport that are in use for rugby union. These are at Cheadle Hulme School and Burnage Rugby Football Club and are detailed later on in this section of the report as well as in Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

Figure 5.1 overleaf shows the location of all rugby union pitches currently servicing Stockport. For a key to the map, see Table 5.10.

¹² Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

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Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Stockport



Disused provision

Overall, there is one disused rugby union pitches identified in Stockport. This pitch is located adjacent to South Park and Grove Park (Manchester RUFC). The pitch lies disused, with the posts dismantled on the site. The site has not been maintained since *circa* 2018.

Future developments

Stockport RUFC has submitted a hybrid planning application (DC/089037) for the creation of its own World Rugby compliant full size 3G pitch with sports lighting as well as an extension to its ancillary provision. This development would be funded through the sale of playing field land which contains the site's third pitch, with this then developed for residential housing. The Club indicates that its current training pitch would be replaced by the 3G, whilst its first and second pitch will remain in situ. An 11v11 football pitch is also proposed to be marked out on the 3G pitch. However, Sport England has objected to this.

In addition, Heaton Moor RUFC wants to convert its current training pitch at The Heaton Sports Club to a World Rugby compliant 3G surface. This, however, remains aspirational at this stage.

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Management and security of tenure

Security of tenure is strong for clubs based in Stockport, with each club owning freehold of its primary home ground. In addition, Heaton Moor RUFC rents use of a secondary site at Priestnall Sports Field from the Council. This is also considered to be secure.

Table 5.5: Ownership/management arrangements for rugby clubs in Stockport

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club users	Arrangement	Tenure
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Heatons & Reddish	Burnage RUFC	Freehold	Secure
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Manchester RUFC	Freehold	Secure
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	Heaton Moor RUFC	Freehold	Secure
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple	Marple RUFC	Freehold	Secure
161	Stockport Rugby Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Stockport RUFC	Freehold	Secure
192	Priestnall Sports Field	Heatons and Reddish	Heaton Moor RUFC	Rent from the Council	Secure

Away from clubs, none of the unused school sites provide security of tenure for access to their rugby provision, although this is not an issue as present as no demand is received.

Pitch quality

The assessment of rugby union pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. For maintenance, each pitch is given a maintenance rating of M0, M1 or M2, based on the regime that is usually undertaken, with the definitions of these shown in the table below.

Table 5.6: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Minimal or no maintenance is undertaken
M1	Regular maintenance is undertaken that extends beyond a basic regime
M2	A sophisticated, regular and dedicated maintenance regime is undertaken

For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch. This is based on whether the drainage is adequate and considers the presence of an operational system. The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5-metre centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1-metre centres in the last five years.

Table 5.7: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Drainage is natural but inadequate
D1	Drainage is natural and adequate
D2	A pipe drainage system is installed (at 5-metre centres and within the last eight years)
D3	A pipe and slit drainage system is installed (at 1-metre centres in the last five years)

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An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated on a scale of good, standard and poor as shown below.

Table 5.8: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the community available pitches in Stockport, eight are assessed as standard quality and seven are assessed as poor quality. None are good quality.

Table 5.9: Quality of pitches available for community use

Senior pitches			Age grade pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
-	8	5	-	-	2

All unavailable pitches are also assessed as standard or poor quality. A pitch-by-pitch breakdown can be seen in the table overleaf.

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Table 5.10: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Quality score	Quality rating
29	1040943	Burnage Rugby Football Club	SK4 3EA	Heatons & Reddish	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
29	1040943	Burnage Rugby Football Club	SK4 3EA	Heatons & Reddish	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
38	1200668	Cheadle Hulme School	SK8 6EF	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Education	No	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
38	1200668	Cheadle Hulme School	SK8 6EF	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Education	No	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
59	1036178	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	SK8 7NB	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
59	1036178	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	SK8 7NB	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
59	1036178	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	SK8 7NB	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
69	1208073	The Heatons Sports Club	SK4 2NF	Heatons & Reddish	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	Yes	M0 / D1	Poor
69	1208073	The Heatons Sports Club	SK4 2NF	Heatons & Reddish	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	Yes	M0 / D1	Poor
85	1002599	Bramhall High School	SK7 2JT	Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South	Education	No	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
96	1103405	Marple Hall School	SK6 6LB	Marple	Education	No	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
132	1208079	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	SK6 7RE	Marple	Sports Club	Yes	Junior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
132	1208079	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	SK6 7RE	Marple	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
132	1208079	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	SK6 7RE	Marple	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
157	1200729	Stockport Grammar School	SK2 7AF	Stockport Central	School	No	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
157	1200729	Stockport Grammar School	SK2 7AF	Stockport Central	School	No	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
161	1208074	Stockport Rugby Club	SK7 3AN	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Sports Club	Yes	Junior	No	M0 / D0	Poor
161	1208074	Stockport Rugby Club	SK7 3AN	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
161	1208074	Stockport Rugby Club	SK7 3AN	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
161	1208074	Stockport Rugby Club	SK7 3AN	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
166	1002601	The Kingsway School (Foxland Campus)	SK8 4QX	Cheadle	Education	No	Junior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
192	-	Priestnall Sports Field	SK4 3PS	Heatons & Reddish	Council	Yes	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor

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As seen, poor quality pitches are found at the following community available sites:

- ✦ The Heatons Sports Club (x2)
- ✦ RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields (x3)
- ✦ Stockport Rugby Club
- ✦ Priestnall Sports Field

Ancillary facilities

All five clubs have access to changing room provision for home games. The facilities at The Heatons Sports Club are identified as good quality facilities, whilst the provision at Grove Park and Burnage Rugby Football Club is standard quality and at Stockport Rugby Club, RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields are poor quality provision is identified. There is no changing room provision at Priestnall Sports Field.

Table 5.11: Ancillary facilities offered at each rugby club's home ground

Site ID	Site name	Club	Changing room quality
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Burnage RUFC	Standard
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Manchester RUFC	Standard
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heaton Moor RUFC	Good
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple RUFC	Poor
161	Stockport Rugby Union Football Club	Stockport RUFC	Poor
192	Priestnall Sports Field	Heaton Moor RUFC	N/A

At Grove Park, Manchester RUFC aspires to construct a new changing room facility, situated at the top end of the first team pitch. The new facility would provide more appropriate changing rooms for its senior women's and age grade girls' teams.

In addition, at Stockport Rugby Club, as mentioned previously, the Club has submitted a planning application to refurbish its changing rooms and extend its clubhouse as part of the wider 3G pitch development at the site.

Access and travel

The table below summarises how accessible rugby union club sites are in Stockport through different types of transport (e.g., walking, cycling, public transport).

Table 5.12: Summary of access and travel facilities at club sites

Site ID	Site	Club/organisation	Cycle storage facilities	Car park	Pedestrian access	Bus stops nearby?
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Burnage RUFC	-	✓	✓	-
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Manchester RUFC	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heaton Moor RUFC	-	✓	✓	-
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple RUFC	-	✓	✓	✓

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Site ID	Site	Club/organisation	Cycle storage facilities	Car park	Pedestrian access	Bus stops nearby?
161	Stockport Rugby Union Football Club	Stockport RUFC	-	✓	✓	✓
192	Priestnall Sports Field	Heaton Moor RUFC	-	-	✓	-

As seen, all sites as would be expected have pedestrian access, whilst each also have some form of car parking. Conversely, only three of the of the club's home grounds have a bus stop nearby (Burnage Rugby Football Club and The Heatons Sports Club do not), whilst only Grove Park has bike storage facilities.

5.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in Stockport tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

Competitive demand

There are five clubs based in Stockport, collectively providing a total of 80 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of 15 senior men's, two senior women's, 29 age grade boys', four aged grade girls' and 30 mini teams. This is summarised club-by-club in the following table.

Table 5.13: Summary of demand

Club	Analysis area	Number of teams				
		Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed
Burnage RUFC	Heatons & Reddish	3	-	3	-	6
Heaton Moor RUFC	Heatons & Reddish	3	-	7	-	6
Manchester RUFC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	3	1	6	3	6
Marple RUFC	Marple	3	-	6	-	6
Stockport RUFC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	3	1	7	1	6
Total		15	2	29	4	30

All five clubs are relatively large and field several teams at both senior and age grade level. Manchester RUFC is the largest, with 19 teams, whilst Burnage RUFC is the smallest albeit 12 teams are still fielded.

It should be noted that Stockport RUFC also runs an 'All Stars' disability group. This team has to use facilities away from Stockport Rugby Club as the site doesn't currently have appropriate facilities.

Senior women's teams are fielded by both Manchester RUFC and Stockport RUFC, whilst both also have age grade girls' teams. Age grade girls' rugby has recently been re-banded, with four bands now existing at U12, U14, U16 and U18 level, whereas previously only three bands were in place at U13, U15 and U18 level.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Most teams (37) play in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Analysis Area, primarily due to the presence of both Manchester RUFC and Stockport RUFC. Conversely, no teams play in either of the Cheadle, Stepping Hill, Stockport Central and Werneth analysis areas, which aligns to no community available pitches being provided.

Table 5.14: Summary of demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of teams				
	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	6	2	13	4	12
Cheadle	-	-	-	-	-
Heatons & Reddish	6	-	10	-	12
Marple	3	-	6	-	6
Stepping Hill	-	-	-	-	-
Stockport Central	-	-	-	-	-
Werneth	-	-	-	-	-
Stockport	15	2	29	4	30

Participation trends

When comparing current data to the findings of the previous PPS study in 2019, there has been an overall increase in demand amounting to eight teams across the clubs. In total, demand has gone from 72 teams in 2019 to 80 teams in 2024. This equates to an 11% increase.

Table 5.15: Summary of demand compared to 2019 PPS

Club	Analysis area	Number of teams			Total
		Adult	Junior / Colts	Mini / Midi	
2019					
Burnage RUFC	Heatons & Reddish	3	0	8	11
Heaton Moor RUFC	Heatons & Reddish	3	5	6	14
Manchester RUFC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	4	7	6	17
Marple RUFC	Marple	4	4	6	14
Stockport RUFC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	5	5	6	16
	Total	19	21	32	72
2024					
Burnage RUFC	Heatons & Reddish	3	3	6	12
Heaton Moor RUFC	Heatons & Reddish	3	7	6	16
Manchester RUFC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	4	9	6	19
Marple RUFC	Marple	3	6	6	15
Stockport RUFC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	4	8	6	18
	Total	17	33	30	80
	Percentage change	11%	57%	6%	11%

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Despite a small decrease in senior demand, the substantial growth in junior/colts amounts to the overall growth of eight teams. Additionally, each club has seen an increase in demand of between one or two teams.

Training demand

Throughout the Country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of sports lighting.

In Stockport, only two pitches are serviced by permanent sports lighting, with these located at Grove Park and The Heatons Sports Club. In addition, there is a dedicated training pitch at RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields which has temporary/portable lighting.

Burnage RUFC uses its World Rugby compliant 3G pitch for its training and therefore does not require access to grass provision for this purpose.

The activity and training arrangements for each club and the level of this is highlighted in the table below.

Table 5.16: Summary of rugby union club facility use for evening training

Site ID	Site	Club	Training demand	Match equivalent sessions on grass pitches
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Burnage RUFC	The Club utilise a World Compliant 3G pitch at its home ground for all of its training demand.	-
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Manchester RUFC	A dedicated training pitch is used for training, accommodating 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week. In addition, an unposted pitch accommodates some age grade training.	6.5
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heaton Moor RUFC	One match pitch is used for training, accommodating 4.25 match equivalent sessions per week.	4.25
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple RUFC	A dedicated training pitch is used for training, accommodating six match equivalent sessions per week.	6
161	Stockport Rugby Club	Stockport RUFC	Two dedicated training pitches are used for training, accommodating a total of 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	7.5 ¹³
192	Priestnall Sports Field	Heaton Moor RUFC	The pitch at Priestnall Sports Field (satellite ground) is used for some training demand, accommodating 2.25 match equivalent sessions per week.	2.25

¹³ 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week of training demand is derived from Stockport RUFC's age grade mixed teams on a separate pitch.

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Use of artificial pitches

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

As mentioned previously, Burnage Rugby Football Club and Cheadle Hulme School both provide one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Stockport. The former is exclusively used by Burnage RUFC, whereas the pitch at the latter is accessed by Sale Sharks' Developing Player Programme (imported demand) and Wilmslow RUFC (also imported demand), as well as occasionally by Manchester RUFC.

Additional demand

Stockport RUFC fields one senior men's touch rugby team, running sessions on Monday evenings.

Exported/imported demand

Imported demand is identified at Cheadle Hulme School, where Sale Sharks Developing Player Programme and Wilmslow RUFC utilise the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

Conversely, no exported demand out of Stockport is identified.

Unmet/latent demand

No unmet or latent demand is identified from clubs within Stockport. None report any issues with fielding their demand at present.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined through multiple ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that can be used to estimate additional demand for rugby union arising from housing developments across Stockport.

Participation growth

Across Stockport, four clubs report growth aspirations over the next three years, with this collectively amounting to a potential increase of eight teams. The clubs are Burnage RUFC, Heaton Moor RUFC, Stockport RUFC and Manchester RUFC.

Table 5.17: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Number of rugby union teams				
		Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mixed
Burnage RUFC	Heatons & Reddish	-	-	3	-	-
Heaton Moor RUFC	Heatons & Reddish	-	-	-	1	-
Manchester RUFC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	1	-	1	-

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Club	Analysis area	Number of rugby union teams				
		Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mixed
Marple RUFC	Marple	-	-	-	-	-
Stockport RUFC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	-	-	2	-
Total		0	1	3	4	0

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2040 (in line with the Council's Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth. This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions. As seen, growth of one senior men's, two age grade boys and two age grade mixed teams is projected.

Table 5.18: Borough-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions ¹⁴
Men (19-45yrs)	1:3074	0.87	1	0.5
Women (19-45yrs)	1:24107	0.12	-	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:392	1.69	2	1
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:2588	0.23	-	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:759	1.75	2	0.5

Future levels of training demand that will also emanate from this growth, which can also be calculated via using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator. This demand is based upon access to a sports-lit grass pitch equated into match equivalent sessions.

Table 5.19: Future training demand from population growth

Age group	Training demand generated per week by population growth (match equivalent sessions)	Training demand generated per week by population growth (match equivalent sessions) - rounded figure	Hour/s equivalent
Men (19-45yrs)	0.44	-	0
Women (19-45yrs)	0.06	-	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	0.84	1	0.5
Girls (13-18yrs)	0.12	-	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	0.44	-	0

Notwithstanding the above, when broken down by analysis area, the future demand dissipates and no additional teams are predicted to be generated across either of the seven analysis areas. It is instead assumed that any growth will be absorbed into existing teams.

¹⁴ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

However, it should also be referenced team generation rates do not account for specific development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. As such, increased future growth is still considered possible despite population projections indicating that there will only be minimal growth. A growth in women and girls' rugby is thought to be particularly likely given current RFU aspirations and due to the upcoming 2025 Rugby World Cup. This is especially pertinent to Manchester RUFC and Stockport RUFC as both are considered by the RFU to be focus clubs for increased female participation.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. As such, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams in Stockport, it is considered to be Saturday PM, whilst it is Sunday AM for age grade rugby.

5.4: Capacity analysis

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

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby union pitches, the following assumptions are applied to the site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are or could be used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches, with age grade teams playing on overmarked pitches, unless dedicated age grade pitches are known to be instead.
- ◀ From U13s upwards, teams play 15v15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ For senior and age grade boys/girls teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 match equivalent sessions for each match played based on all teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ◀ Age grade mixed teams (U6s-U12s) play on half of a senior pitch, meaning two matches and four teams can be accommodated at any one time.
- ◀ Play per week for age grade mixed teams is set at 0.25 match equivalent sessions for each match played based on teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ◀ Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels (one training session is one match equivalent session).
- ◀ Internal use of school pitches is added to current play, where community availability is offered, as determined on a site-by-site basis depending on levels of activity.
- ◀ Other usage of pitches (e.g., by football teams) is added as match equivalent sessions based on the level and regularity of play.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, based on quality, as set out below.

Table 5.20: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

Please see Table 5.21 overleaf for the site by site capacity analysis.

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Table 5.21: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Stockport

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
29	1040943	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Council	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	2	0.5	-	1.5	Pitch is used by Burnage RUFC for its match demand.
29	1040943	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Council	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	Pitch is used by Burnage RUFC for its match demand.
38	1200668	Cheadle Hulme School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	Education	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
38	1200668	Cheadle Hulme School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	Education	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
59	1036178	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Sports Club	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	Pitch is used by Manchester RUFC for its match demand.
59	1036178	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Sports Club	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	2	-	6.5	4.5	Overplayed through training demand from Manchester RUFC.
59	1036178	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Sports Club	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2	-	0	Pitch is played to capacity due to match demand from Manchester RUFC.
69	1208073	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Sports Club	Senior	Yes	M0 / D1	Poor	1.5	1.5	-	0	Pitch is played to capacity due to match demand from Heaton Moor RUFC.
69	1208073	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Sports Club	Senior	Yes	M0 / D1	Poor	1.5	2	4.25	4.75	Overplayed through match and training demand from Heaton Moor RUFC.
85	1002599	Bramhall High School	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	No	Education	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1.5	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
96	1103405	Marple Hall School	Marple	No	Education	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1.5	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
132	1208079	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple	Yes	Sports Club	Junior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1.5	3	-	1.5	Overplayed through match demand from Marple RUFC.
132	1208079	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple	Yes	Sports Club	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1.5	1.5	-	0	Pitch is played to capacity due to match demand from Marple RUFC.
132	1208079	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple	Yes	Sports Club	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1.5	-	6	4.5	Overplayed through training demand from Marple RUFC.
157	1200729	Stockport Grammar School	Stockport Central	No	School	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
157	1200729	Stockport Grammar School	Stockport Central	No	School	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
161	1208074	Stockport Rugby Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Sports Club	Junior	No	M0 / D0	Poor	0.5	-	1.5	1	Overplayed through training demand from Stockport RUFC.
161	1208074	Stockport Rugby Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Sports Club	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	Pitch is used by Stockport RUFC for its match demand.
161	1208074	Stockport Rugby Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Sports Club	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	Pitch is used by Stockport RUFC for its match demand.
161	1208074	Stockport Rugby Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Sports Club	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	2	-	6	4	Overplayed through training demand from Stockport RUFC.
166	1002601	The Kingsway School (Foxland Campus)	Cheadle	No	Education	Junior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1.5	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
192	N/A	Priestnall Sports Field	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Council	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1.5	-	2.25	0.75	Overplayed through match and training demand from Heaton Moor RUFC.

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Actual spare capacity

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

Furthermore, there are some rugby pitches in Stockport at education sites that are unused by clubs despite being reported as available. Whilst these may theoretically provide some spare capacity, it would not be reasonable to equate this as actual spare capacity as school usage itself is likely to limit what additional activity should take place on the provision. Moreover, the nature of club rugby generally means that clubs are generally unwilling to utilise secondary venues, making community use unlikely.

In addition, any pitches that are used by clubs to capacity at peak time, that are poor quality or that provide unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity. As such, the table below ascertains whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be used to accommodate an increase in play on a site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch basis. This is regarding senior demand.

Table 5.22: Actual spare capacity table (senior demand)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches with spare capacity	Pitch type	Potential spare capacity	Actual spare capacity (peak period)	Comments
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Heatons & Reddish	1	Senior	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	Heatons & Reddish	1	Senior	1	0	Used to capacity at peak time for senior rugby.
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	Senior	1	0	Used to capacity at peak time for senior rugby.
161	Stockport Rugby Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	Senior	1	0	Used to capacity at peak time for senior rugby.
161	Stockport Rugby Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	Senior	1	0	Used to capacity at peak time for senior rugby.

As seen, of the five pitches identified as having potential spare capacity in Stockport, only one of those at Burnage Rugby Football Club is considered to have actual spare capacity for a growth in senior demand. The remainder are all used to capacity on Saturdays. The total amount of actual spare capacity therefore amounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week and is identifiable in the Heatons & Reddish Analysis Area.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

For age grade rugby, ascertaining actual spare capacity can be unclear with regards to the programming of matches as it can vary from week to week. This is because junior and mini sections tend to enter cup competitions or play organised friendly fixtures, with clubs arranging for several of their age groups to play those from another club all at once, either at home or away. Then when fixtures are not scheduled, clubs will generally hold training sessions, which means that clubs may require use of home pitches for consecutive weeks, or not at all for the same time period.

Given the above, it is generally assumed that no pitches used by age grade teams have significant actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. However, it is acknowledged that some capacity does exist during weekends when the pitches are not in use.

Overplay

There are seven pitches across five sites in Stockport that are overplayed by a total of 21 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 5.23: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of overplayed pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	4.5
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	1	4.75
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple	1	1.5
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple	1	4.5
161	Stockport Rugby Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	1
161	Stockport Rugby Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1	4
192	Priestnall Sports Field	Heatons & Reddish	1	0.75

The majority of overplay is evident in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Analysis Area (9.5 match equivalent sessions), followed by the Marple Analysis Area (six match equivalent sessions). The remainder is derived from the Heatons & Reddish Analysis Area (5.5 match equivalent sessions).

Table 5.24: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South	9.5
Cheadle	-
Heatons and Reddish	5.5
Marple	6
Stepping Hill	-
Stockport Central	-
Werneth	-
Stockport	21

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay in each of the analysis areas as well as in Stockport as a whole for rugby union based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on what has been forecast through population growth, although it is only possible to identify this on a Borough-wide basis (as none is predicted on an analysis area basis).

As seen, there is a current shortfall of 20.5 match equivalent sessions per week, with this emanating from a large overplay across the Borough. This therefore represent a significant shortfall. Furthermore, there is a shortfall in each of the analysis areas that cater for demand (Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme, Heatons & Reddish and Marple).

Table 5.25: Current supply and demand analysis in match equivalent sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	9.5	9.5
Cheadle	-	-	0
Heatons & Reddish	0.5	5.5	5
Marple	-	6	6
Stepping Hill	-	-	0
Stockport Central	-	-	0
Werneth	-	-	0
Stockport	0.5	21	20.5

When accounting for future competitive and training demand, the overall shortfall is projected to increase to 23 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 4.26: Future supply and demand analysis in match equivalent sessions per week

Current total	Future competitive demand	Future training demand	Future total
20.5	2	0.5	23

5.6: Conclusion

There is a clear shortfall of rugby union capacity in Stockport and this is evident in each of the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South, Heatons & Reddish and Marple analysis areas. Most clubs also have some level of individual shortfall via overusing their grass pitches.

Where shortfalls are present, these could be alleviated through providing new pitches, although the number required is dependent on the quality they are provided to and whether they can accommodate training needs or not. However, there are also alternatives to reducing the deficits, for example via improving the quality of the existing stock, increasing the presence of sports lighting, increasing the stock of and access to World Rugby compliant 3G pitches and creating new natural grass pitches. These will be further explored in the proceeding strategy document.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Despite five senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity, only one is considered to provide actual spare capacity (at Stockport Rugby Club).
- ◀ There are seven pitches across five sites that are overplayed by a combined 21 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overall, there is a shortfall of 20.5 match equivalent sessions to meet current demand, with this increasing to 23 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

Rugby union – supply summary

- ◀ Within Stockport, there are 22 grass rugby union pitches identified across 11 unique sites, with 15 pitches available for community use across six sites.
- ◀ There are two sites that previously accommodated rugby union pitches but no longer do so (two at Bramhall School and one at Marple Hall School).
- ◀ Stockport RUFC has been submitted a planning application for the creation of a World Rugby compliant full size 3G pitch, although this will result in the loss of its third grass pitch. Sport England have objected to the current plans as it did not meet its policy exceptions.
- ◀ All clubs have security of tenure of their home grounds via freehold.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, eight are assessed as standard quality and seven are assessed as poor quality (none are good quality).
- ◀ Poor quality pitches are provided at The Heatons Sports Club, RSA Wood Lane Playing Field, Stockport Rugby Club and Priestnall Sports Field.
- ◀ Most clubs access good or standard quality ancillary provision, other than Stockport Rugby Club, which has poor quality provision and aspirations for improvement.
- ◀ Manchester RUFC aspires to construct a new changing room facility, situated at the top end of the first team pitch.

Rugby union – demand summary

- ◀ Five rugby union clubs play within Stockport consisting of 80 teams, which as a breakdown equates to 15 senior men's, two senior women's, 29 age grade boys', four age grade girls' and 30 age grade mixed teams.
- ◀ When comparing current data to the findings of the previous PPS study in 2019, there has been an overall increase in demand amounting to eight teams across the clubs (11% growth).
- ◀ Burnage RUFC accesses a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch for all of its training demand, whilst remaining clubs generally use their grass pitches via permanent or portable lighting.
- ◀ Stockport RUFC also fields one senior men's touch rugby team, running sessions on Monday evenings.
- ◀ Imported demand is identified at Cheadle Hulme School, where Sale Sharks Developing Player Programme and Wilmslow RUFC utilise the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ No unmet or latent demand is identified from clubs within Stockport.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict a minimal growth of five teams, whilst five clubs have plans to expand by a total of eight teams.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH).

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable for introductory level hockey, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

Table 6.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Playing Level	
		Essential	Desirable
1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	International hockey (training and matches).	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (performance centres and upwards).
2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (academy centres and upwards).	All adult and junior league hockey; Intermediate or advanced school hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools.
3	Sand filled surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	All adult and junior club training and league hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools; Intermediate or advanced school hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level).
4	All 3G surfaces	No hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

In addition to the above pitch types, EH is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2¹⁵, is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it is a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including at schools, with a dynamic carpet which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

¹⁵ <http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

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For senior teams, a full-size pitch for matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends. England Hockey preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day, providing that it has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek for senior activity and requires access to a pitch and sports lights, whereas many junior teams train on a Sunday as well as during midweek.

Consultation

There are two affiliated hockey clubs emanating from Stockport. However, only one Club has responded to consultation requests, resulting in a 50% response rate.

Table 6.2: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Stockport Bramhall HC	Yes
Heaton Moor Junior HC	No

6.2: Supply

Full size pitches

There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs in Stockport across three sites. These are all serviced by sports lighting and available for community use.

Of the community available pitches, two are located in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Analysis Area (at Cheadle Hulme School and Bramhall High School) and one pitch is located in the Werneth Analysis Area (at Werneth School).

The Cheadle, Marple, Stepping Hill and Stockport Central analysis areas are not serviced by full size hockey provision.

Table 6.3: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Analysis area	Community available pitches	Unavailable pitches
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	2	-
Cheadle	-	-
Heatons & Reddish	-	-
Marple	-	-
Stepping Hill	-	-
Stockport Central	-	-
Werneth	1	-
Total	3	0

The supply of hockey pitches are shown and summarised site-by-site in tables 6.4 and 6.5, overleaf.

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Table 6.4: Ful size hockey suitable AGPs in Stockport

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Size (metres) ¹⁶	Sport lighting?	Community use?	Club hockey use?	School hockey use?
38	1200668	Cheadle Hulme School	SK8 6EF	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	99 x 61	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
85	1002599	Bramhall High School	SK7 2JT	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	100 x 63	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
175	1002600	Werneth School	SK6 3BX	Werneth	100 x 59	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Smaller size pitches

In addition to the full size hockey suitable AGPs identified above, there are also 13 smaller sized sand based pitches in Stockport across 12 sites, with five of these available for community use and four serviced by sports lighting. These are summarised in the following table.

Table 6.5: Smaller size hockey suitable pitches in Stockport

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Sport lighting?	Community use?	Club hockey use?
7	1040646	Arden Primary School	SK6 2EX	Werneth	28 x 19	No	No	No
41	1014613	Club Cheadle Hulme	SK8 7JY	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	74 x 45	No	Yes	No
77	30006497	Hulme Hall Grammar School	SK3 8HA	Stockport Central	46 x 36	No	No	No
79	6006680	Lady Barn House School	SK8 1JE	Cheadle	36 x 46	No	No	No
79	6006680	Lady Barn House School	SK8 1JE	Cheadle	40 x 37	No	No	No
125	1200874	Priestnall School	SK4 3HP	Heatons & Reddish	77 x 50	Yes	Yes	Yes
129	1040945	Romiley Primary School	SK6 4NE	Werneth	29 x 18	No	No	No
130	1040946	Rose Hill Primary School	SK6 6DW	Marple	36 x 30	No	No	No
135	30003105	South Manchester Sports Club	SK8 4RZ	Cheadle	35 x 36	Yes	Yes	No

¹⁶ Including run offs

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Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Sport lighting?	Community use?	Club hockey use?
138	1200673	St Annes Roman Catholic High School	SK4 2QP	Heatons & Reddish	100 x 45	No	Yes	No
141	1200664	St James Catholic High School (Cheadle)	SK8 6PZ	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	79 x 46	Yes	Yes	No
157	1200729	Stockport Grammar School	SK2 7AF	Stockport Central	84 x 59	Yes	No	No
177	1040647	Westmorland Primary School	SK5 8HH	Stockport Central	38 x 17	No	No	No

Although too small to host competitive matches, smaller sized pitches can be used to accommodate some hockey training demand if they are of a large enough size, available to the community and serviced by sports lighting. In Stockport, this has previously been the case at Priestnall School as its pitch was used by Heaton Moor Junior HC for some training activity.

Notwithstanding the above, no other smaller sized hockey pitches in Stockport have been used for community hockey activity and the majority are considered to be unsuitable due to their size, lack of community access and/or lack of sports lighting.

Disused provision

Planning permission (DC/086979) was granted in July 2023 to cover the existing disused full size sand-based AGP at Peel Moat Leisure Centre with top soil to provide a usable turfed public open space. The disused provision previously formed part of the sporting provision at the site, which closed in 2010 and has since been demolished. Now, several football clubs have expressed a desire to bring it back into use as a 3G facility, whilst it should also be noted that as part of the planning process, Sport England objected to the proposal as it did not meet its playing fields policy and Paragraph 103 of the NPPF. EH also reports that mitigation for the loss of this site needs to be agreed.

Potential loss of provision

St Annes Roman Catholic High School aspires to convert its hockey suitable AGP to a 3G surface, although it reports that any such development would need to include the establishment of accompanying sports lighting.

Similarly, The Laurus Trust, which manages and operates a portfolio of educational sites in Stockport, aspires to convert the smaller sized AGP at Priestnall School to a 3G surface. The pitch is rated as poor quality having not been refurbished since 2003. It has, however, previously been accessed by Heaton Moor Junior HC. If this site is changed some form of mitigation will be required.

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Management and security of tenure

Of the full size hockey suitable AGPs in Stockport, two pitches are owned and managed by the education sector and are located at school sites, whilst the remaining pitch at Bramhall High School is managed by Stockport Bramhall HC.

Table 6.6: Summary of management of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Management
38	Cheadle Hulme School	School
85	Bramhall High School	Sports Club
175	Werneth School	School

Stockport Bramhall HC currently uses the pitch at Bramhall High School as its solo venue, with security of tenure provided for this via its management and long term lease of the pitch.

Heaton Moor Junior HC does not currently use provision within Stockport, instead accessing facilities in Manchester. It does this via rental agreements.

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). This provides total peak time amounting to 18 hours during the week and 16 hours at weekends.

Using the peak time modelling, the availability at each site providing a full size pitch in Stockport is summarised in the table below. However, please note that this only refers to overall availability and opening hours, rather than considering current capacity, which is instead accounted for within the demand part of this section. A pitch may theoretically have good availability but may currently be operating at capacity, especially during peak times, based on existing usage levels.

In further summary, the pitch at Bramhall High School is fully available throughout the peak periods, as is the pitch at Werneth School. At Cheadle Hulme, availability exists for 10.5 peak time hours during midweek (it is not available from 17:00-18:30) and 14 peak time hours at weekends (it is not available 16:00-17:00).

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Table 6.7: Availability and usage of community available full size hockey suitable AGPs across Stockport

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Hockey club users	Availability	Midweek availability in the peak period (hours)	Weekend availability in the peak period (hours)
38	Cheadle Hulme School	1	-	Mon to Fri – 18:30 – 21:00 Sat – Unavailable Sun – 8:30 – 16:00	10.5	14
85	Bramhall High School	1	Stockport Bramhall HC	Mon to Fri – 17:00 – 22:00 Weekend – 09:00 - 22:00	18	16
175	Werneth School	1	-	Mon to Fri – 17:00 – 22:00 Weekend – 09:00 - 22:00	18	16

The smaller sized pitches that are available for community use are also available throughout most of the peak periods, including the pitch at Priestnall School. This is relevant given its previous use for community hockey.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that some providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed, leading to many pitches now being outside of their recommended lifespan and, consequently, poor quality.

For the PPS, each pitch has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessments and provider/user consultation. This rating is linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, as well as surrounding hard areas and the maintenance that is undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

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The following table indicates when each full size hockey suitable AGP in Stockport was installed or last resurfaced, together with the quality ratings assigned. As seen, the pitch at Bramhall High School and Werneth School are assessed as standard quality, whilst the pitch at Cheadle Hulme School is poor quality and has far exceeded its recommended lifespan.

Table 6.8: Summary of hockey suitable AGP quality

Site ID	Site Name	Community use?	Date of installation / last resurface	Quality
38	Cheadle Hulme School	Yes	2005	Poor
85	Bramhall High School	Yes	2012	Standard
175	Werneth School	Yes	2017	Standard

In relation to the smaller sized pitches, five are considered to be poor quality, with this including the used provision at Priestnall School. It has not been resurfaced since its installation in 2003. The following are also considered to be poor:

- ◀ Romiley Primary School
- ◀ St Annes Roman Catholic High School
- ◀ St James Catholic High School (Cheadle)
- ◀ Westmorland Primary School

Common issues at these sites include signs of wear and tear, worn line markings, poor grip underfoot and unsafe fencing.

Where pitches are assessed as good or standard quality, sinking funds should still be put into place (where not already provided) to ensure that refurbishment can go ahead if and when required.

Ancillary provision

In Stockport, majority hockey suitable AGP are located at school sites. Access to ancillary facilities at school sites can often be restricted or limited for security reasons, especially where changing rooms are located in the main school building or where there is a lack of staffing to open and manage access. Schools also often have limited budget amongst other competing requirements for investment to make any qualitative improvements to changing provision. Consequently they are often tired, dated and in need of modernisation.

In addition, the changing facilities located at Bramhall High School are currently unavailable following an inspection of Bramhall High School in November 2023. The findings discovered that Reinforced Aerated Autoclave Concrete was found in some parts of the facility. Further design and construction work is therefore to take place over the coming months meaning that the provision will remain closed until this has been carried out. As a result, Stockport Bramhall HC is currently not accessing any changing facilities.

It is imperative that changing room/toilet access is restored to Stockport Bramhall HC as soon as possible. It is expected that this will be re-provided in September 2024.

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Access and travel

The table below summarises how accessible the hockey suitable AGP sites are in Stockport through different types of transport (e.g., walking, cycling, public transport). As seen, all four sites have a car park, pedestrian access, cycle storage facilities and bus stops nearby, with this partly a consequence of being located at school sites.

Table 6.9: Summary of access and travel facilities for full size hockey pitch sites

Site ID	Site	Community use?	Cycle storage facilities	Car park	Pedestrian access	Bus stops nearby?
38	Cheadle Hulme School	Yes	✓	✓	✓	✓
85	Bramhall High School	Yes	✓	✓	✓	✓
175	Werneth School	Yes	✓	✓	✓	✓

The pitch at Priestnall School also has a full range of access for the included travel methods.

6.3: Demand

There are two hockey clubs based in Stockport. As identified via EH affiliation data, Stockport Bramhall HC is a large club catering for 12 teams, whilst Heaton Moor Junior HC fields just three junior teams. The clubs therefore collectively provide 15 teams, as summarised by gender and age group in the following table.

Table 6.10: Summary of team numbers

Name of club	Analysis area	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	Other	Total
Stockport Bramhall HC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	3	5	3	1	12
Heaton Moor Junior HC	OUTSIDE	-	-	3	-	3
Total		3	5	6	1	15

Stockport Bramhall HC in total has three senior men's, five senior women's and six junior teams as well as one other team variation (a mixed team). These all play in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Analysis Area at Bramhall High School.

Heaton Moor Junior HC's three teams access provision in Manchester for all activity (see exported demand for further information).

Total membership across the two clubs in Stockport amounts to 279, equating to 40 senior men, 88 senior women and 151 juniors.

Table 6.11: Summary of membership numbers

Name of club	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Junior (under 17)	Total
Heaton Moor Junior HC	1	-	76	77
Stockport Bramhall HC	39	88	75	202

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Name of club	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Junior (under 17)	Total
Total	40	88	151	279

Stockport Bramhall HC caters for the largest demand with 202 members, whilst the remaining 77 members are identified from Heaton Moor Juniors HC.

Participation trends

Overall since the 2019 PPS, there has been a slight decrease in senior teams, with 10 teams reducing to nine (including other team demand), whereas junior teams has decreased by one team. This, however, does not reflect overall membership numbers, which according to EH has likely grown, especially at junior level, despite fewer teams being fielded.

Additional demand

Away from club-based match play and training demand, there are also several initiatives supported by EH that operate across the Country, including:

- ◀ Back to Hockey
- ◀ Flyerz Hockey
- ◀ Hockey Heroes
- ◀ Quicksticks
- ◀ Rush Hockey
- ◀ In2 Hockey
- ◀ Walking Hockey

Where undertaken, these initiatives add to the hockey demand at sites. Each is summarised below.

Back to Hockey

Back to Hockey sessions are fun, social and informal and are aimed at people who either have not played for a number of years or that are looking to play for the first time. They are generally hosted by clubs, with EH providing guidance on how to deliver the programme.

Benefits of clubs being involved with Back to Hockey include:

- ◀ More members
- ◀ More casual players
- ◀ Additional income
- ◀ Extra publicity
- ◀ New volunteers

In Stockport, Stockport Bramhall HC operates Back to Hockey sessions located at its home venue, Bramhall High School.

Flyerz Hockey

Flyerz is the name widely associated with grassroots disability hockey in Great Britain. There are now more than 50 Flyerz sections across England, Wales, and Scotland, providing inclusive hockey for disabled people.

In Stockport, there are currently no Flyerz Hockey sessions.

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Hockey Heroes

Hockey Heroes is a six-week hockey programme aimed at beginners (children aged five to eight) that not only focuses on helping children develop some physical hockey skills such as dribbling, passing and goal scoring, but also places as much emphasis on character development including teamwork, communication, perseverance and respect.

No Hockey Heroes sessions currently operate in Stockport.

In2Hockey

In2Hockey is England Hockey's adapted game format aimed at players 10-14 years old and is played as a 6-a-side game without goalkeepers, or as a 7-a-side game with goalkeepers.

In Stockport, there are no In2Hockey teams currently.

Quicksticks

Quicksticks is designed to introduce young people (aged 7-11) to the game of hockey. It is 4-a-side, can be played on any surface, and uses a larger, lighter and safer ball. It is a fun, fast, safe and exciting game that has been designed so that anyone can deliver the game, regardless of previous hockey experience.

Currently no clubs in Stockport offer dedicated Quicksticks delivery.

Rush hockey

Rush hockey is a new way to play hockey, designed as a small-sided hockey game for adults. It can be played by men and women in mixed or single gender teams, indoors or outdoors and on pitches of varying sizes. Teams are four or five aside and it is played with a standard hockey stick but with unique goals and balls.

No Rush hockey activity is identified in Stockport.

Walking hockey

Increasing in popularity, walking hockey is perfect for players looking for a less physically demanding version of the game but still enjoy showing their skills and being involved in the team and social aspect.

There are currently no walking hockey sessions operating in Stockport. The nearest offering is provided by Alderley Edge HC.

In addition, Stockport Bramhall HC also participate in summer league hockey, with such competition based at Bramhall High School.

Imported/exported demand

As mentioned above, Heaton Moor Juniors HC currently exports all demand into Manchester, accessing a full size pitch at Parrs Wood High School for training on Saturday mornings. It is considered that this is because it is in close proximity to the Heaton & Reddish Analysis Area and is therefore preferable to Stockport-based pitches. It previously used provision at Priestnall School; however, this was only when the pitch at Parrs Wood High School was in need of a resurface, which was completed in 2022.

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For matches, the Club's teams play within the Greater Manchester Junior Hockey League, which uses the Armitage Centre as a central venue on Sunday afternoons.

No imported demand is identified in Stockport.

Latent/unmet demand

No latent or unmet demand for hockey has been identified in Stockport.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities, schools and regional and local leagues as well as developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years, meaning that it does not consider team generation rates to provide an accurate representation of potential growth.

In relation to club aspirations in Stockport, Stockport Bramhall HC does not report of any growth aspirations, whereas Heaton Moor Juniors HC were unresponsive to consultation requests and thus it is unknown if it has any growth plans. However, it is assumed that both Stockport Bramhall HC and Heaton Moor Junior HC are looking to grow as both clubs are still activity looking for members through social media.

6.4: Capacity analysis

When assessing the capacity of hockey pitches, all usage needs to be taken into account. This is because, in addition to hockey activity, there is often heavy football usage of the provision and occasionally other sporting use which can take capacity away from hockey-based demand. An example of this in Stockport is at Cheadle Hulme School, where the pitch is primarily used for both football training demand and lacrosse demand.

The table below details the usage at all sites providing full size hockey suitable pitches in Stockport. It compares availability during peak time against hockey use and other activity as well as taking into consideration any remaining spare capacity. Peak time for senior hockey matches is Saturday, whilst it is Sunday for junior hockey matches. For training, it is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, with Mondays and Fridays generally not considered as teams do not want to train in such close proximity to weekend matches.

Spare capacity is considered to exist for matches if there are currently less than eight teams assigned to a pitch on a Saturday or Sunday (and if the remaining capacity is not being utilised for other purposes). It exists for training if at least a section of a pitch is available for at least an hour during midweek evenings (Tuesday-Thursday).

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Table 6.12: Summary of full size hockey suitable pitch usage

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Availability in the peak period (hours)	% of club hockey usage	% of other club usage (e.g., football)	Hockey club users	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)	Capacity summary
38	Cheadle Hulme School	1	24.5	-	100%	-	No hockey usage, with all midweek access currently undertaken by football and lacrosse.	No club hockey usage, with occasional lacrosse demand. However, the School utilise the pitch all day Saturday for its hockey match demand.	No spare capacity for additional match demand at the weekend. Spare capacity exists for hockey training midweek. However, poor pitch quality means that this should not be utilised.
85	Bramhall High School	1	34	100%	-	Stockport Bramhall HC	Used solely by Stockport Bramhall HC. Training takes place on Mondays 19:00-21:00, Tuesdays 15:00-21:30 and Wednesdays 19:30-21:30. This covers all male, female and junior demand. The School also use the pitch for its hockey demand.	Used solely by Stockport Bramhall HC. Junior sessions are held Sunday mornings 09:30-12:00, whilst senior matches take place on Saturdays 10:30-17:00.	Limited spare capacity during the week for an increase in training demand, with capacity only really existing on Thursdays. No spare capacity for additional match play on Saturdays, although some remains on Sundays.
175	Werneth School	1	34	-	100%	-	No hockey usage, with all midweek access for recreational football and training. The School also use the pitch for its hockey demand.	No hockey usage, and no other weekend community usage is known.	Spare capacity exists for hockey training and at weekends for match play demand if demand existed.

In summary, all community available full size pitches have some level of spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey usage. However, the pitch at Bramhall High School is generally used to capacity on Saturdays which will prevent Stockport Bramhall HC growing without access to another pitch.

The AGPs located at Cheadle Hulme School and Werneth School are well used midweek by football demand; however, some capacity remains for hockey usage, should demand exist. There is no spare capacity for additional match demand at Cheadle Hulme School, as the pitch is unavailable for community use on Saturdays, with the School using the pitch for its hockey demand.

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6.5: Supply and demand analysis

Match play demand

It is suggested that a full size hockey suitable, sports-lit AGP is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one pitch being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP).

Using the above calculation, on the basis that there are three full size hockey suitable pitches in Stockport, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 24 senior teams across the Borough. However, the provision at Cheadle Hulme School should be discounted from this given that it is poor quality and its restricted access on Saturdays. This leaves capacity for 16 senior teams, which is sufficient to accommodate the eight senior teams currently fielded by Stockport Bramhall HC.

For junior hockey matches, the need for pitches is generally less than it is for senior hockey. This is because younger age groups can play on half a full size pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time) and there are also fewer junior teams in Stockport than there are senior teams. As such, supply is also considered to be sufficient, particularly due to the exported nature of Heaton Moor Junior HC.

Training demand

At present, Stockport Bramhall HC has a sufficient level of access for training at Bramhall High School. Furthermore, spare capacity exists for any potential growth in demand.

Heaton Moor Junior HC is also being adequately accommodated outside of Stockport.

6.5: Conclusion

Overall, there is a sufficient quantity of full size hockey suitable pitches to meet current and future demand for hockey in Stockport. To ensure that this remains the case, priority should be first and foremost placed on protecting the pitch at Bramhall High School. Furthermore, access to an additional pitch may be required if the Club was to grow its senior demand due to a lack of remaining capacity on Saturdays at the site.

It is vital that Heaton Moor Junior HC can continue to be adequately accommodated outside of the Borough; it is assumed that access to Parrs Wood High School (Manchester) is its preference so whilst this is not an issue currently, provision within Stockport may be required in the future as it has been in the past.

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Hockey – supply and demand summary

- Overall, there is sufficient quantity of full size hockey suitable AGPs to meet current and future demand for hockey in Stockport.
- For Stockport Bramhall HC, priority should be placed on protecting the pitch at Bramhall High School, although access to an additional pitch may be required if it was to grow its demand.
- It is vital that Heaton Moor Junior HC can continue to be adequately accommodated outside of the Borough.

Hockey – supply summary

- There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs in Stockport, with all being serviced by sports lighting and available for community use.
- There are also 13 smaller size sand-based pitches in Stockport across 12 sites, with five of these available for community use and four serviced by sports lighting.
- The full size pitch at Bramhall High School is currently the only pitch in use for club-based hockey demand, although the smaller sized pitch at Priestnall School has also previously been accessed.
- A disused pitch is identified at Peel Moat Leisure Centre, where planning permission was granted in July 2023 to cover the surface with topsoil; however, Sport England objected to this proposal as it did not meet its playing fields policy and Paragraph 103 of the NPPF.
- Aspirations exist to convert the pitch at Peel Moat Leisure Centre to 3G and Sport England maintains that replacement is required in accordance to planning policy.
- Of the full size pitches, three are owned and managed by the education sector and are located at school sites, whilst one is managed by Stockport Bramhall HC at Bramhall High School.
- The pitch at Bramhall High School and Werneth School are accessed as standard quality, whilst the pitch at Cheadle Hulme School is poor quality and has far exceeded its recommended lifespan.
- In relation to the smaller sized pitches, five are considered to be poor quality, with this including the used provision at Priestnall School.
- Changing provision at Bramhall High School is currently unavailable following an inspection of Bramhall High School, with RAAC found in some parts of the facility. It is imperative that changing room/toilet access is restored to Stockport Bramhall HC as soon as possible. It is expected that this will be re-provided in September 2024.
- All sites have good access arrangements for all relevant modes of travel.

Hockey – demand summary

- There are two hockey clubs based in Stockport.
- Stockport Bramhall HC is a large club catering for 12 teams, whilst Heaton Moor Junior HC fields just three junior teams.
- Total membership across the two clubs in Stockport amounts to 279, equating to 40 senior men, 88 senior women and 151 juniors.
- Since the 2019 PPS, there has been a slight decrease in senior teams, although this does not reflect overall membership numbers, which according to EH has likely grown.
- Stockport Bramhall HC also operates Back to Hockey sessions at its home venue, Bramhall High School.
- Heaton Moor Juniors HC is currently exporting all demand into Manchester via accessing a pitch at Parrs Wood High School for training and through use of a central venue for matches.
- It is unknown if either club has any growth plans, although it is suggested that both Stockport Bramhall HC and Heaton Moor Junior HC aspire to grow.
- All community available pitches have some level of spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey usage, although the pitch at Bramhall High School is generally used to capacity on Saturdays.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 7: LACROSSE

7.1: Introduction

Lacrosse is a contact sport played using a small rubber ball and long-handled stick to catch and hold the lacrosse ball. It is governed nationally by English Lacrosse, which has the role of controlling, promoting, and developing the sport nationally. Competitive matches are played on grass pitches or artificial grass pitches, with fixtures running from September through until April.

Club consultation

There are six clubs located in Stockport. These are:

- ◀ Cheadle Lacrosse Club
- ◀ Cheadle Hulme Lacrosse Club
- ◀ Heaton Mersey Lacrosse Club
- ◀ Mellor Lacrosse Club
- ◀ Norbury Lacrosse Club
- ◀ Stockport Lacrosse Club

Consultation has been undertaken with Norbury Lacrosse Club, whilst information pertaining to the remaining clubs has been informed through online research and consultation with England Lacrosse.

7.2: Supply

There are ten senior grass lacrosse pitches in Stockport located across seven sites, all of which are available for community use. There are two pitches located at Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club, The Heaton's Sports Club and Mellor Sports Club, with one pitch provided at each of Brabyns Park, Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club, Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club and Stockport Cricket Club.

There are no dedicated pitches for junior teams, which instead play on senior pitches that are shortened through temporary line markings or with cones.

Table 7.1: Summary of lacrosse pitches

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of pitches
12	6010306	Brabyns Park	SK6 5LB	Marple	1
32	1208095	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	SK8 1LA	Cheadle	1
37	1208100	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports and Social Club	SK8 5BL	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	2
69	1208073	The Heaton's Sports Club	SK4 2NF	Heaton's and Reddish	2
102	1208054	Mellor Sports Club	SK6 5PN	Marple	2
108	1208110	Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club	SK7 5PJ	Stepping Hill	1
154	1208083	Stockport Cricket Club	SK3 8HD	Stockport Central	1

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In addition, the 3G and sand-based AGPs at Cheadle Hulme School accommodate some lacrosse demand, as do the 3G pitches at Marple Hall School and Hazel Grove Sports Centre predominately in regards to training. This is further captured in the 3G (Part 3) and hockey (Part 6) sections of this report.

Management

Most clubs are located at cricket club or wider sports club sites of which the host club has freehold of the site. The lacrosse clubs then rent access, generally on a seasonal basis.

The only exception to the above is Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club, which is now solely used for lacrosse activity. Norbury CC folded circa 2015 and the site has not been accessed for cricket since.

Pitch quality

Sport England's PPS Guidance does not specifically include lacrosse. However, in line with other included sports, quality has still been determined on a scale of good, standard or poor through site visits.

The following table indicates the quality ratings of the lacrosse pitches in Stockport. As seen, three pitches are assessed as good quality and six pitches are assessed as standard quality. One pitch at Brabyns Park is considered to be poor quality.

Table 7.2: Summary of pitch quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch quality
12	Brabyns Park	Marple	1	Poor
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Cheadle	1	Good
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports and Social Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	2	Standard
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons and Reddish	2	Standard
102	Mellor Sports Club	Marple	2	Good
108	Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club	Stepping Hill	1	Standard
154	Stockport Cricket Club	Stockport Central	1	Standard

The good quality pitches are located at Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club and Mellor Sports Club.

Ancillary facilities

The audit of ancillary facilities at lacrosse sites in Stockport determines that five pitches (50%) are accompanied by good quality provision, three pitches (30%) by standard quality provision and two pitches (20%) by poor quality provision. Brabyns Park and Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club are the only sites with a poor quality facilities.

Table 7.3: Changing room quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Quality
12	Brabyns Park	Marple	1	Poor
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Cheadle	1	Good

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Quality
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports and Social Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	2	Good
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons and Reddish	2	Standard
102	Mellor Sports Club	Marple	2	Good
108	Norbury Cricket and Lacrosse Club	Stepping Hill	1	Poor
154	Stockport Cricket Club	Stockport Central	1	Standard

7.3: Demand

Club demand

All lacrosse clubs in Stockport are large clubs consisting of several senior teams and junior teams at various age groups. In total, there are six clubs generating 20 senior men's, four senior women's, 27 junior boys' teams and 21 junior girls' teams.

Table 7.4: Summary of teams

Club name	Analysis area	No. of teams			
		Senior men's (19-45)	Senior women's (19-45)	Junior boys' (10-18)	Junior girls' (10-18)
Cheadle Lacrosse Club	Cheadle	4	-	5	3
Cheadle Hulme Lacrosse Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	3	1	6	1
Mellor Lacrosse Club	Marple	3	1	5	5
Norbury Lacrosse Club	Stepping Hill	3	-	3	3
Stockport Lacrosse Club	Stockport Central	4	1	3	4
Heaton Mersey Lacrosse Club	Heatons and Reddish	3	1	5	5
Total	-	20	4	27	21

The largest club's are Mellor Lacrosse Club and Heaton Mersey Lacrosse Club with 15 teams each, whilst the smallest is Norbury Lacrosse Club with nine teams. As a result, most teams are fielded in the Marple and Heatons & Reddish analysis areas whilst the fewest are fielded in the Stepping Hill Analysis Area.

Participation trends

Overall, since the previous PPS in 2019, there has been an increase of 10 teams, with demand growing from 62 to 72 in 2024. Demand for senior men's and junior boys and girls have all increased, whilst the number of senior women's teams have marginally decreased from four to three teams.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Imported/exported demand

Whilst Norbury Lacrosse Club predominately plays at Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club in Stockport, it has also recently begun to access Disley Amalgamated Sports Club in Cheshire East. It uses its pitch for one or two matches a week. An existing relationship exists with the site as Stopfordians Lacrosse Club was based there prior to merging with Norbury Lacrosse Club and transferring all demand.

No other imported or exported demand from clubs is identified. However, given the nature of lacrosse, the number of clubs in Stockport and the lack of clubs in some neighbouring authorities, it is recognised that many clubs will be catering for some members from outside of the Borough.

Latent/unmet and future demand

Given that most clubs did not respond to consultation requests, levels of latent, unmet and future demand are unknown. Whilst Norbury Lacrosse Club does not express anything, that is not to say that the other four clubs do not.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

Although English Lacrosse does not provide a set guidance for determining the capacity of lacrosse pitches, it is considered that a similar formula to that of other grass pitch sports should be used. As such, a good quality grass pitch is deemed able to accommodate three match equivalent sessions per week, whilst a standard quality pitch can accommodate two matches and a poor quality pitch can accommodate one match.

Using the above, Table 7.5 below explores current usage at each site to determine whether the existing provision is sufficient to meet demand. This is based on the following:

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

Table 7.5: Capacity analysis of lacrosse pitches (in match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Capacity rating	Current usage	Capacity balance
12	Brabyns Park	Marple	1	1	1	0
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Cheadle	1	3	6	3
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports and Social Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	2	4	5.5	1.5
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons and Reddish	2	4	7	3
102	Mellor Sports Club	Marple	2	6	6	0
108	Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club	Stepping Hill	1	2	3.5	1.5
154	Stockport Cricket Club	Stockport Central	1	2	6	4

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

As seen, most lacrosse pitches located in Stockport are overplayed, with this being a consequence of the high levels of demand at each club. The total overplay amounts to 13 match equivalent sessions.

The pitches showing the most significant overplay are located at Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club (three match equivalent sessions), The Heatons Sports Club (three match equivalent sessions) and Stockport Cricket Club (four match equivalent sessions). These are used by Cheadle Lacrosse Club, Heaton Mersey Lacrosse Club and Stockport Lacrosse Club, respectively.

7.5: Conclusion

Overall, there is currently an insufficient supply of lacrosse pitches to meet demand in Stockport. Furthermore, as most clubs did not to consultation requests, it is unknown if clubs have aspirations to grow further, which if they do could worsen the current capacity balance of pitches.

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ All lacrosse pitches located in Stockport at overplayed, with total overplay amounting to 13 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is currently an insufficient supply of lacrosse pitches to meet demand in Stockport.

Supply summary

- ◀ There are ten senior grass lacrosse pitches in Stockport located across seven sites, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ There are no dedicated pitches for junior teams, which instead play on senior pitches that are shortened through temporary line markings or with cones.
- ◀ Of the pitches, three are assessed as good quality and six as standard quality and one of poor quality.
- ◀ Brabyns Park and Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club are the only sites with a poor quality ancillary provision.

Demand summary

- ◀ In total, there are six clubs generating 20 senior men's, four senior women's, 27 junior boys' teams and 21 junior girls' teams.
- ◀ All clubs are large clubs fielding several senior and junior teams.
- ◀ Overall, since the previous PPS in 2019, there has been an increase of 10 teams, with demand growing from 62 to 72 in 2024.
- ◀ Whilst Norbury Lacrosse Club predominately plays at Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club in Stockport, it has also recently begun to access Disley Amalgamated Sports Club in Cheshire East (exported demand).
- ◀ No future, latent or unmet demand has been identified in Stockport; however, this is relatively unknown as most clubs did not respond to consultation requests.

PART 8: OTHER GRASS PITCH SPORTS

8.1: Australian rules football

Introduction

The Australian Football League England (AFL-E) is the governing body for Australian rules football in England, better known as Aussie Rules. Affiliated clubs sit within league structures, with regional competitions held throughout the country and at universities.

The objective of winning an Aussie Rules match is to score a greater number of points than your opposing team within the allotted 80-minute timeframe. Points are accumulated in a variety of scenarios; six points are awarded when the ball is kicked between two goal posts, one point is given when the ball is kicked between a goal post and one of the behind posts, and a point can also be won by carrying the ball over the scoring line.

Consultation

There is one team identified as playing Aussie Rules within Stockport, known as the Manchester Mosquitoes. Attempts to consult with the Club have been made; however, there has been no response.

Supply

A rugby union pitch at Burnage Rugby Club is used to accommodate Manchester Mosquitoes. It trains at the site on Thursday evenings and accesses it for matches on Saturday afternoons.

The quality of pitch at Burnage Rugby Club is assessed as standard quality with no significant issues identified.

Demand

Manchester Mosquitoes was formed in 2006 and fields one team which is a senior men's teams. It trains on Thursday evenings and competes in the AFL-E Central & Northern League. This means fixtures are played against teams in Nottingham, Huddersfield and Wolverhampton.

Supply and demand analysis

In isolation, the pitch used for Aussie Rules at Burnage Rugby Club is sufficient to accommodate the demand expressed by Manchester Mosquitoes given it only fields one team. However, it must also be noted that it is predominantly used for rugby union, and whilst the seasons do not clash, the dual nature of provision is likely to be impacting on post-season remedial work. More information will therefore be known once the rugby union supply and demand assessment is complete (winter 2023/24).

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

8.2: Rounders

Introduction

Rounders England is the governing body for the sport of rounders in England. Its key role is to co-ordinate a development network, working through local delivery partners that provide a pathway and opportunities for aspiring players to progress to whatever level of play is right for them. In addition, it provides information about the game, runs coaching and umpiring courses, tournaments, sell resources, and promotes the sport at all levels.

The mission of Rounders England is to 'Connect People through Rounders' and get more people from any background playing rounders, more often.

Supply

There are currently 30 rounders diamonds identified across 12 sites in Stockport. All of these are located within school sites in the Borough and are considered unavailable for community use.

Table 8.1: Summary of rounders diamonds

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Community use?	No. of pitches
4	All Saints Church of England Primary School	SL4 1ND	No	2
17	Bredbury Green Primary School	SK6 3DG	No	2
35	Cheadle Heath Primary School	SK3 0RJ	No	1
62	Harrytown Catholic High School	SK6 3BU	No	3
125	Priestnall School	SK4 3HP	No	2
126	Queensgate Primary School	SK7 1NE	No	1
148	St Simon's Catholic Primary School	SK7 4LH	No	1
153	Stockport Academy	SK3 0UP	No	2
157	Stockport Grammar School	SK2 7AF	No	5
162	Stockport School	SK2 6BW	No	4
166	The Kingsway School (Foxland Campus)	SK8 4QX	No	6
169	Tithe Barn Primary School	SK4 3NG	No	1

Demand

No formal rounders club demand currently exists in Stockport; however, there is one rounders club in the neighbouring authority of Manchester (Chorlton Rounders Club). There is also a local league based in Greater Manchester (Bury Rounders League).

In Stockport, all present demand is considered to be school based.

Supply and demand analysis

As there are no rounders clubs in Stockport, it is considered that no community facilities are currently required. All demand from within Stockport is likely to travel to neighbouring authorities to access competitive rounders leagues.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Other grass pitch sports – Supply and demand summary

- ◀ In isolation, the pitch used for Aussie Rules at Burnage Rugby Club is sufficient to accommodate the demand expressed by Manchester Mosquitoes; however, it is predominantly used for rugby union and post-season remedial work may therefore be impacted.
- ◀ As there are no rounders clubs in Stockport it is considered no community facilities are currently required.

Other grass pitch sports – Supply summary

- ◀ A rugby union pitch at Burnage Rugby Club is used to accommodate Aussie rules demand from Manchester Mosquitoes
- ◀ There are currently 30 rounders diamonds identified across 12 sites in Stockport, although none are known to be available for community and they are all located at schools.

Other grass pitch sports – Demand summary

- ◀ There is one team identified as playing Aussie Rules within Stockport, with this known as the Manchester Mosquitoes; it fields one senior men's team.
- ◀ No formal rounders club demand currently exists in Stockport; however, a significant number of clubs are identified in neighbouring Manchester.

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
 - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
 - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
 - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
 - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
 - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
 - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
 - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

Tackling inequalities

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

National Planning Policy Framework (2023)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◆ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◆ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◆ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ✦ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ✦ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ✦ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls' football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ✦ **Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ✦ **Refurbish existing stock** to maintain current provision, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ✦ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Local Football Facility plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The FA: Time for Change Strategy (2020-24)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in January 2021 which aims to 'unite the game and inspire the nation'. It will do this in two ways, by 'changing the game to maximise its impact' and by 'serving the game to deliver football for all'.

To achieve this, the strategy will focus on six Game Changer objectives, to change the fabric of the game and tackle long-term issues, to make the largest possible impact in the years ahead:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Service > two million through a transformed media platform
- ◀ Ensure equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Delivery of 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free of discrimination

These are underpinned by eight Serve objectives, ensuring maintenance of brilliant business-as-usual services to support the growing and evolving needs of the game:

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ **Grow and nurture the core**
 - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
 - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
 - ◀ Invest in club facilities
 - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
 - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ **Inspire through elite teams**
 - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
 - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
 - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
 - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ **Make cricket accessible**
 - ◀ Broaden cricket's appeal through the New Competition
 - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
 - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
 - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
 - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
 - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
 - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
 - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
 - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
 - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
 - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
 - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ **Support our communities**
 - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
 - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
 - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
 - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Game Objectives:

- ▶ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ▶ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ▶ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ▶ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

Driving Objectives:

- ▶ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ▶ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ▶ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- ▶ Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#). Please note it is currently being updated.

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:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

2. 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. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

- 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.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference:				Site Name:					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s):					
Number of football pitches on site:				Pitch size:	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)				
Availability				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?					
				If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues					
Weather at time of visit & date of visit									
Pitch Issues:									
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments	
Playing surface									
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%		Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch		
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No		See size chart below for recommended dimensions		
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe				
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short		Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less		
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage				
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)								Section total	
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No				
Seeded	Yes, as required		Not known		No				
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times		Once/ twice		No				
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
								Section total	
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.									
PITCH SCORE				0.0%	RATING		Poor		

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Cricket non-technical assessment

Element	Rating				Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
About the cricket outfield						
Grass coverage	Good		Acceptable		Poor	<80% falls below the ECB basic standard
Length of grass	Good		Acceptable		Poor	Usually 12mm - 25mm
Evenness	Even				Uneven	Ball should run without deviation or ramp
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None		Yes		Immediate action required	May also wish to refer to water marking. If yes, refer to water marking/site message
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None		Yes		Immediate action required	eg informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to water marking. If yes, refer to water marking/site message
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None		Yes		Immediate action required	eg from normal/activities - rubbish, balls and shoes etc may also wish to refer to water marking
Artificial wickets						
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes		No			There should be no trip points
Evenness of wicket	Even		Uneven			There should be no unevenness in surface levels
Stump holes	Yes		No			Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes		No			There should be none
Rips or surface lifting	Yes		No			If "yes" send site message
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes		No			If "yes" send site message
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes		No			
Grass wickets						
Presence of line markings	Yes		No			
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes		No			
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes		No			3mm to match wicket/12mm level of square
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes		No			
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes		No			<80% falls below the ECB basic standard
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound?	Yes		No			
Changing/ Pavilion						
Umpires provision	Yes		No			
Toilets	Yes		No			
Hot/cold water	Yes		No			
Heating	Yes		No			
Condition of building	Good		Acceptable		Requires attention	
NTP						
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes		No			
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even		Uneven			
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes		No			
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes		No			
No rips or surface lifting	Yes		No			
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes		No			
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes		No			
Is the steel frame/posts upright?	Yes		No			
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes		No			
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes		No			
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes		No			
Is appropriate safety/supervisory signage present?	Yes		No			

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Rugby pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union										
Please complete one form per pitch										
Site reference					Site Name					
6 figure grid reference					Pitch ID(s)					
Date of assessment					Pitch size	(Senior, Mini/Midi)				
Number of pitches on site					Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?					
Availability					If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues					
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused										
Weather at time of visit										
General comments/observations										
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)										
Qualitative information (gathered on site)	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments			
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor	>90% = good. <80% = poor				
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)	Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.				
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short	Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm				
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots					
GOALPOSTS										
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No							
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No							
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No							
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No							
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No							
ANCILLARY										
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No							
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No							
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No							
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below										
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never			
Pitch Maintenance Score										
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0	
Natural (adequate) = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season Natural (inadequate) = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.										

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches									
Site reference			Site Name						
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID						
Number of AGPs on site			Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)			
Availability									
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Type of pitch	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)		Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)		Short Pile 3G (40mm)				
	Sand Dressed		Sand Filled		Water based				
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Site comments	
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.		
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes		No						
Are there dug outs?	Yes		No						
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes		No						
Maximum score	93	Scoring:	Poor	<=50	Total Score	0			
			Standard	51-79	Potential Rating	Poor			
			Good	80+					