



# **CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

## **ASSESSMENT REPORT OCTOBER 2022**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance
ASAN	All Saints Action Network
BAFA	British American Football Association
BC	Bowls Club
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
BSUK	Baseball Softball United Kingdom
CFA	County Football Association
CONGU	Council of National Golf Unions
COWC	City of Wolverhampton Council
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facilities Plan
Lms	Last Man Stands
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
SCB	Staffordshire Cricket Board
T20	Twenty20
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

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### PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned by the Black Country authorities of Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall, together with the Black Country Consortium, to assess playing pitch and outdoor sport facility needs across the individual local authority areas. The output is provision of four separate needs assessments and strategies across the aforementioned authorities as well as one additional overarching framework.

This is the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) Assessment Report for Wolverhampton. It presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) (for "non-pitch" sports). The PPS Guidance details a 13-stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (1, 2 & 3)
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (4 & 5)
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (6, 7 & 8)
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy (9 & 10)
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (11, 12 & 13)

Stages A to C are detailed in this report, with stage D covered in the succeeding strategy document and Stage E ongoing once the work has been adopted. The lifespan of a PPOSS 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 PPOSS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off. Such a review will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up during its development.

#### 1.1: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

##### *Why the strategy is being developed*

The PPOSS for Wolverhampton will replace the existing study, which is now considered to be out of date having been originally completed in 2015 (and updated in 2018).

A key driver for undertaking the Study across the four authorities was to support the preparation of a joint Black Country Plan and to provide an important evidence base for its development. The intention was for this to replace the Black Country Core Strategy, which was adopted in 2011; however, separate local plans are now to be produced by the four local authorities instead.

Notwithstanding the above, the joint framework will still enable the four authorities to ensure that each PPOSS is carried out to same degree of detail and quality and for the reports to identify compatible outcomes across the sub-region. It will also help the authorities identify areas of deficits and surpluses in provision as well as helping to identify and capitalise on cross-boundary opportunities.

Each will identify current levels of provision across each authority and will compare this with current and likely future levels of demand. The primary purpose is therefore to provide a strategic framework that can ensure that the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities can meet the local and community needs of existing and future residents. As such, it will provide the evidence required to help protect provision and will ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future requirements.

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The strategies will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future sporting provision throughout the Black Country. One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), updated in 2021, is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Paragraph 98 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraph 99 discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. Paragraph 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sports facilities.

### ***Management arrangements***

A project team from the Council, as well as the other relevant councils, has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available so that project stages and milestones are delivered on time. In addition, a strong and effective steering group has and will continue to lead the PPOSS during its development and will be responsible for the delivery of its recommendations and actions. The membership of this group is balanced and representative of the different parties and key drivers behind the work; it is made up of representatives from the councils, Active Black Country, Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

The steering group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective and for supporting and checking and challenging the work of the project team. It will be important for the steering group to continue once the PPOSS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ◀ Be a champion for provision in the area and promote the importance of the PPOSS.
- ◀ Support implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the study.
- ◀ Ensure that the work is kept up to date and refreshed when necessary.

### ***Agreed scope***

A wide range of playing pitch and outdoor sports and associated facilities have been agreed for inclusion in the PPOSS in Wolverhampton and across all four Black Country authorities. In full, the study covers:

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ◀ Athletics                          | ◀ Bowls  |
| ◀ Cricket                            | ◀ Cycling                                      |
| ◀ Football (including 3G pitches)    | ◀ Golf   |
| ◀ Hockey (sand/water based AGPs)     | ◀ Netball                                      |
| ◀ Rugby union (including 3G pitches) | ◀ Rugby league (including 3G pitches)          |
| ◀ Tennis                             | ◀ Water sports (e.g. sailing and water skiing) |

In addition, other grass pitch sports are included where identified as having a presence. This can include, but is not limited to, sports such as American football, baseball/softball, Gaelic football and lacrosse.

Sport England’s PPS guidance applies to football, rugby union, rugby league, cricket and hockey, as well as any other grass pitch sports, whereas the ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are “non-pitch”).



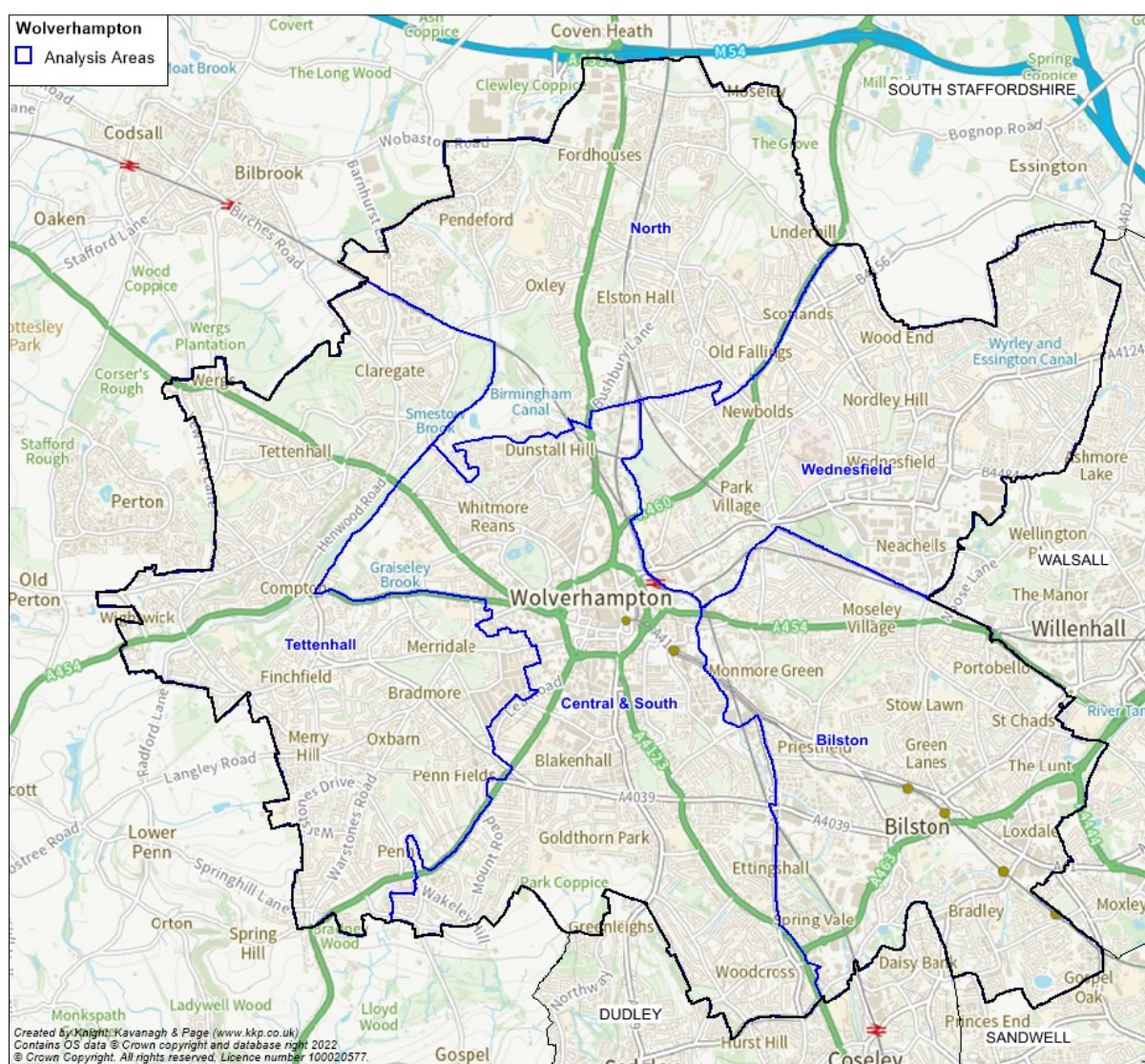
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## Study area

The study area for the Wolverhampton PPOSS is the City of Wolverhampton Council boundary area. Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas have been used to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of supply and demand at a local level. For this purpose, Wolverhampton is split into the following five areas:

- ◆ Bilston
- ◆ Central & South
- ◆ North
- ◆ Tettenhall
- ◆ Wednesfield

Figure 1.1: Analysis areas



NB: A number of sites that fall just outside of the Wolverhampton boundary have also been included in the analysis as they are considered to be key sites that form part of the supply that services Wolverhampton residents. Such inclusion also allows for cross boundary issues to be further highlighted and the potential for co-ordinated working with neighbouring authorities. This is explored within the sport-by-sport sections of this report.

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

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

#### ***Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision***

Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field; these are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'<sup>1</sup>:

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

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, this PPOSS 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 and relevant outdoor sport facilities within Wolverhampton; 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.

#### ***Quantity***

Where known, all playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting the process by checking and updating this initial data as well as supplying their own. This was also verified against club and league information supplied through consultation and any affiliation processes.

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

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<sup>1</sup>. [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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### *Accessibility*

Not all facilities offer the same level of access to the community and the ownership and accessibility of provision also influences actual availability for demand. As such, 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, 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** – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either (often being unmarked). Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as lapsed sites.
- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago. These fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 99 of the NPPF; Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty as to whether a facility will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and any provision adjudged not be available for this length of time is considered to be “unsecure” (as opposed to “secure”).

### *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.

It is not just the quality of the pitches themselves which have an effect on capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the playing provision and the ancillary facilities will determine whether sites are able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

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

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect this i.e. an “agreed quality rating”.



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### ***Gather demand information and views***

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

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play

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.

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 pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league. In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available. Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call due to Covid-19 restrictions) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues (as identified by the Steering Group) from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.

As key providers and users of the sports facilities, educational establishments have also been consulted. This involved face-to-face meetings with secondary schools and colleges and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

### ***Future demand***

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. Using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections (2019 Mid Year Estimates) 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.

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 is then applied to predicted population 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 or attract additional members.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets.

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In line with the previously proposed Black Country Plan, future demand projections across the PPOSS cover the period up until 2039. However, it must be noted that separate local plans are now to be produced, with Wolverhampton's proposed to cover the period to 2040.

### 1.3: Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

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

#### *Understand 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 a pitch could accommodate. This is then compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows, to identify:

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

As a guide, the NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league 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 and rugby league, per day for hockey and per season for cricket.

*Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches*

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a floodlit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit hard court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

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### ***Develop the current picture of provision***

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a Borough-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand. This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity on provision or whether there is a shortfall.

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. Often, spare capacity is discounted due to site specific issues such as those relating to quality, availability and security of tenure.

### ***Identify the key findings and issues***

By completing the aforementioned steps, it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision. This report therefore seeks to identify and present such key information on a sport-by-sport basis prior to the development of the Strategy and Action Plan.

Each included sport has its own section within this Assessment Report, detailing key findings and featuring a supply and demand analysis. In addition, a separate 3G pitch section is also included to take into account the variety of sports that can utilise such provision (e.g. football, rugby union and rugby league).

### ***Develop the future picture of provision (scenario testing)***

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, latent, exported and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. As such, most of the scenario testing generally occurs in the Strategy report that succeeds this document and therefore does not form part of the Assessment Report.

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### PART 2: FOOTBALL

#### 2.1: Introduction

Birmingham and Staffordshire County FAs are the primary organisations responsible for the development of football in Wolverhampton. These 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, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation, which is a charity, linked to the Premier League, the FA, and the Government, 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.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football. There is a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, in addition to training needs, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

For grass football pitches, 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)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55
	U13s-U14s	82 x 50
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27

#### **Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)**

To support in delivery of the FA National Games Strategy, the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which has now been completed. As part of this, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) has been produced for every local authority across England, with each plan being 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 and Department for Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS)) and is delivered through the Football Foundation to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP builds upon PPOSS 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 incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities.

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This includes 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' football, disability football and futsal.

The LFFP is a 'live' document that can be updated following the completion of a PPOSS, if required, 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 funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

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 PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPOSS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The LFFP for Wolverhampton was produced in 2018 and identifies numerous priority projects for investment. These are discussed in greater detail in both this section and Part 3 of the report.

### **Consultation**

Consultation requests were sent to all football clubs based in Wolverhampton via Birmingham FA and Staffordshire FA. In total, a team response rate of 42% has been achieved. The responsive clubs are detailed below:

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ◆ AFC Wulfrunians           | ◆ Penn Colts FC                |
| ◆ Ashmore FC                | ◆ Penn Warriors FC             |
| ◆ Bilston Town FC           | ◆ Pilot FC                     |
| ◆ Bridge Tavern FC          | ◆ St John United FC            |
| ◆ Castlecroft ECT FC        | ◆ T.T Elite FC                 |
| ◆ Dynamo 50 FC              | ◆ Wednesfield FC               |
| ◆ Essington AFC             | ◆ Wolverhampton Olympic FC     |
| ◆ Fordhouses Juniors FC     | ◆ Wolverhampton Sports GNST FC |
| ◆ Liddar Sports FC          | ◆ WV United FC                 |
| ◆ New Park Village (NPV) FC |                                |
| ◆ Old Wulfrunians FC        |                                |

In terms of the large clubs which were unresponsive, these are as follows; Bilbrook FC, Creswell Wanderers FC and Wolverhampton Wanderers FC. To help aid responses, Birmingham FA incentivised clubs to respond with vouchers for football kit and boots. The survey was distributed multiple times and non-responsive clubs were chased via telephone by the Club Development Officer as well as by KKP where details were available online.

### **2.2: Supply**

The audit identifies a total of 203 grass football pitches within Wolverhampton across 107 sites, with 137 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 58 sites. Most of the unavailable pitches are located at school sites.



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The distribution of the community available pitches is shown in the following table. As can be seen, they are well spread across Wolverhampton, with the Tettenhall Analysis Area containing the most (34) and the Bilston Analysis Area containing the least (19). Adult pitches are the most common (63), whilst mini 5v5 pitches are the least (5).

In addition, six pitches across two sites (Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club and CKW Stadium) are included within the audit which are outside Wolverhampton. This is due to them being located just outside of the boundary, in South Staffordshire, whilst servicing Wolverhampton-based demand. They are as key to Wolverhampton as pitches within the City.

*Table 2.2: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community*

Analysis area	No. of pitches available for community use					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Bilston	7	2	4	6		19
Central & South	7	5	2	5	1	20
North	14	1	12	2	3	32
Tettenhall	18	8	6	1	1	34
Wednesfield	15	6	4	1	-	26
Outside	3	1		2		6
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>137</b>

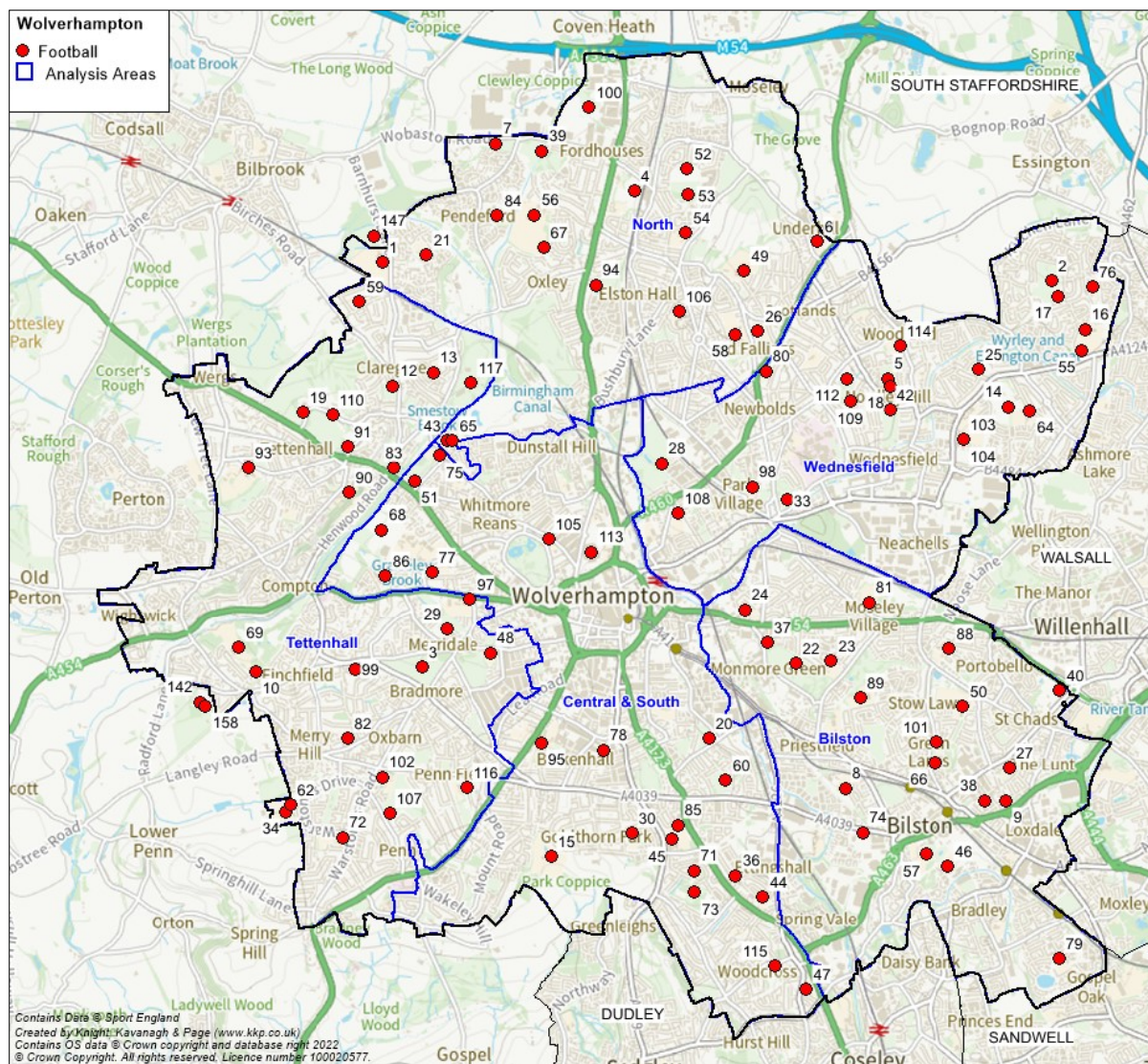
There being more adult pitches across Wolverhampton is reflective of high demand for this format of play. However, youth 11v11 demand is actually higher, meaning that the low supply of youth 11v11 pitches does not correlate. This leads to many youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, which, whilst sometimes preferable for clubs, is not ideal for players at U13-U16 level and is not in line with the FA Youth Review.

It is worth noting that compared to the reported supply in the 2018 PPS refresh, whilst the overall number of pitches has remained constant, the number of community available pitches has decreased from 161 to 137, with a significant reduction in the number of adult pitches from 90 to 64. This is however due to school sites not allowing as much community access as they did previously.

Figure 2.1 below identifies the location of all football pitches in Wolverhampton, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, please see Table 2.15.

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Figure 2.1: Location of grass football pitches in Wolverhampton



## Lapsed/disused provision

There are three lapsed playing field sites identified in Wolverhampton. The first is located at the site of the former Northcote School on Northwood Park Road (WV10 8ER). The School closed in 2014, was demolished in 2018 and formerly accommodated one adult pitch. It now has permission granted for the development of 178 dwellings with funding agreed for the Council to improve the pitches at Bee Lane as mitigation for the loss of this playing field. The second lapsed site is the former St Luke's Junior School Playing Fields to rear of houses in Goldthorn Road/Grange Road (to south of the Royal School site). This has become lapsed since the school closed and compensation for its loss was provided at the new St Luke's Primary School, Blakenhall. The final lapsed site which needs mentioning is John Harpers Playing Fields on Hawkswell Drive.

In addition to this, there are two disused sites, the first of which is the City of Wolverhampton College playing fields adjacent to St Peters Collegiate Academy (WV3 9DU). The second disused site is Goodrich (now Collins), Stafford Road which has a stadia pitch as well as a training pitch.

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### Security of tenure

The table below details the management of football sites in Wolverhampton. As seen, the main operators are the Council and educational establishments. Additionally, there are two pitches that are managed privately or commercially.

Table 2.3: Football pitch sites by management type

Club	Number of sites		
	Council	Education	Other
9	30	65	2

With schools being the most common provider of pitches, it is worth noting that they are also the least likely to offer community use. In total, 46 educational providers do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches, with reasons for not allowing access varying. The most common example is that the schools want to protect pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes due to existing quality issues, whilst other reasons include staffing issues, health and safety issues and a perceived lack of profitability. However, of these 46 unavailable to the community, it is worth noting that 34 are primary schools. These sites often have smaller playing fields and therefore the reason why they are unavailable is their unsuitability to provide adequate pitches for users.

Moreover, some schools that do provide community access do so without providing security of tenure, meaning that they can stop the external use at any point devoid of any warning. This applies to 16 additional schools, some of which provide a multitude of pitches such as Colton Hills Community School, Ormiston NEW Academy and Ormiston SWB Academy. To prevent future issues, it is recommended that users enter into community use agreements with the schools that they access, where possible.

Away from schools, tenure is generally considered to be secure, including at Council sites where it is assumed that pitches will continue to be offered as part of the Council's commitment to providing sports and leisure facilities.

Two clubs are known to have lease arrangements in place, with these being Bilston Town and Wednesfield football clubs, whilst others have ownership such as AFC Wulfrunians.

Wolverhampton Olympic FC shares its primary home venue with Wolverhampton CC via an annual rental agreement. However, it reports that it would ideally like to permanently move to the adjacent site, Danescourt, which is where some of its teams play. As a result, discussions have reportedly taken place over this relocation with the site owner (Chris Jewkes Fitness Centre). The main reason for this aspiration is due to the football and cricket pitches overmarking each other, which causes issues when the seasons overlap at both the start and end of each campaign. Furthermore, the Club wants to expand its provision, which is not possible with the cricket square in place.

In addition to the clubs with lease agreements already in place, NPV FC is due to be taking on an asset transfer of Wolverhampton United Football Club (the site is currently disused).

Having security of tenure is crucial for clubs/organisations, especially those that will be seeking significant investment and external funding from partners such as the Football Foundation.



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### Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Wolverhampton has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard, and poor. The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments are: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%).

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 can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use in Wolverhampton. Most are considered to be standard quality, with 65 assessed as this, although there is also a large quantity assessed as poor (57). Only 15 pitches are assessed as good.

Table 2.4: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
6	28	30	8	27	16	1	10	11

Most of the poor-quality pitches are located at council sites. Such provision often receives limited amounts of dedicated maintenance due to budgetary restraints and can be open access which can lead to further damage from unofficial use. The following community available sites accommodate at least one poor quality pitch:

- ◀ Bee Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Bellamy Lane Playing Fields
- ◀ Bilbrook Junior Football Club
- ◀ Claregate Park
- ◀ Colton Hills Community School
- ◀ Danescourt
- ◀ Dixon Street Playing Field
- ◀ Fowlers Playing Fields
- ◀ Heath Town Park
- ◀ Highfields School
- ◀ King George V Playing Fields
- ◀ Newbridge Playing Fields
- ◀ Smestow School
- ◀ Springvale Park
- ◀ St. Edmund's Catholic Academy
- ◀ The Royal Wolverhampton School
- ◀ Wednesfield High Academy
- ◀ Windsor Avenue Playing Fields
- ◀ Wodensfield Primary School
- ◀ Wolverhampton Cricket Club
- ◀ WV Active Aldersley

Where poor quality is identified, a basic level of maintenance and drainage issues are the most common factors. Conversely, where better quality is identified, a better maintenance regime is often cited, as is investment by the Football Foundation.

Where quality issues are prevalent, it is recommended that sites engage with the Football Foundation's PitchPower app (see below).

The good quality pitches identified in Wolverhampton are at Ormiston NEW Academy and Barnhurst Lane Football Pitches. There are also good pitches at Sir Jack Hayward Training Centre and at the Molineux Stadium, however, both are unavailable for wider community use. All use is reserved for the professional club, Wolverhampton Wanderers FC.

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Of clubs that responded to consultation, only 14% report that quality has worsened over the last 12 months, whilst 29% report that quality has improved (57% report no change). The most common issue cited by clubs reporting a deterioration is a lack of maintenance, followed by the impact of unofficial use.

For a full breakdown of the quality ratings at each site, see Table 2.12. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

### *Local Football Facility Plan*

The LFFP for Wolverhampton 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. Emphasis 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.

One site in the LFFP was identified for pitch improvements in Wolverhampton; Windsor Avenue Playing Fields.

This site is identified as being poor quality in the PPOSS, however, there are many more sites within the PPOSS which are also poor quality, and also accommodate high levels of demand, and should be considered for future inclusion within the LFFP.

### *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 Football Foundation's PitchPower 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 discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

Linked to this, the FA has a general pitch improvement strategy, in partnership with the GMA. As part of this, it has a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by clubs 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.

The Football Foundation and the FA have also recently developed a new Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF) that allows clubs and sports organisations to apply for funding for maintenance assistance, consumables and/or equipment. Whilst local authorities are currently ineligible applicants through this fund, clubs, leagues and/or charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

Funding is awarded over a ten-year period for up to 66% of the total cost required to bring the pitches up to an appropriate standard, following a site assessment. The level of funding then decreases year on year, with the expectation that clubs are able to take on the works independently by the end of the term. This fund was initially available until the end of March 2020, although it has since been extended indefinitely due to ongoing circumstances surrounding Covid-19.



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### **Overmarked pitches**

Overmarking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini pitches may be marked onto senior pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches.

This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch.

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, but it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

Additionally, it can be common for football pitches to be marked onto or overlapping cricket outfields, which, as previously mentioned, is the case at Wolverhampton Cricket Club as well as at Springvale Sports Club. This creates availability issues at multi-sport sites as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing, and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played.

The table below highlights all sites containing over marked pitches in Wolverhampton.

*Table 2.5: Sites containing over marked pitches*

Site ID	Site	Comments
7	Bilbrook Junior Football Club	Adult pitch is overmarked by a youth 9v9 pitch.
36	Hilton Road Playing Fields	A youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch overmark each other.
50	Moseley Park School Sports Centre	Both the youth 11v11 and the youth 9v9 are overmarked by an athletics track.
69	Smestow School	All pitches: two youth 11v11 and a youth 9v9 are overmarked by an athletics track.
74	Springvale Sports	Both the youth 11v11 and the 9v9 pitch overmark the cricket square.
97	The Wolverhampton Grammar School	The two adult pitches are overmarked by athletics track and a senior and a junior cricket square.
103	Wednesfield High Academy	All pitches: youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 are overmarked by an athletics track.
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	All pitches: Adult, and two youth 9v9 are overmarked by senior cricket squares.

### **Ancillary facilities**

As with pitches, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing football sites across Wolverhampton has been assessed based on identifying good, standard and poor quality provision. Ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking and boundary fencing.

Changing rooms in Wolverhampton are a particular issue at numerous sites, with many being serviced by facilities that are poor quality, basic, and that do not provide sufficient space in relation to the number of pitches on site.

As an example of the above, Fowlers Park has changing facilities that have been closed by the Council for the foreseeable future and can therefore no longer be accessed. Similarly, sites such as Heath Town Park and Dixon Street Playing Field are without purposeful provision.

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Furthermore, it is identified that there are seven sites in Wolverhampton which contain adult pitches but do not contain changing facilities (which is still the case in 2022), and, as such, cannot be used to accommodate competitive adult football matches. League requirements for adult football stipulates that there has to be changing facilities on site to accommodate competitive fixtures. The sites fitting this criterion are:

- ❖ Bee lane Playing Field (one adult pitch)
- ❖ Dixon Street Playing Fields (one adult pitch)
- ❖ Heath Town Park (one adult pitch)
- ❖ Northwood Park (two adult pitches)
- ❖ Springvale Park (one adult pitch)
- ❖ Tettenhall Upper Green (one adult pitch)

Fowlers Playing Field, Cottage Ground and Wolverhampton United Football Club all have provision that needs upgrading, especially given the volume of demand that is received at the sites. A lease for the Wolverhampton United FC ground has recently been granted to New Park Village (NPV) FC.

The changing facilities and the social space at Bilston Town Football Club are also considered to be poor quality, predominately due to the age of the provision. The Club reports that it has aspiration to develop the facilities but has no financing in place.

Conversely, some sites are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, including Bantock Park and Barnhurst Lane Football Pitches, where new pavilions have recently been provided.

#### *Local Football Facility Plan*

As with grass pitch improvements, the LFFP for Wolverhampton 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 four sites should be a priority for refurbishment/ replacement:

- ❖ All Saints Action Network (ASAN)
- ❖ Ashmore Park Community Hub
- ❖ WV Active Aldersley (Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation)
- ❖ Windsor Avenue Playing Fields

Whilst most of these sites will still require improvement, as with the grass pitch projects, there may be a need to amend and/or add to this list based on the findings of the PPOSS.

#### ***Football pyramid demand***

The football pyramid consists of a hierarchal format with the highest tier being the Premier League (Tier 1), the leagues below are professional reaching to League 2. These are governed by the Premier League or the English Football League (EFL). Below this, sits the National League (Tier 5/Step 1). This league in recent years (2020) has been recognised as professional alongside the tier below (Tier 6/Step 2). All leagues below this are recognised as semi-professional or amateur.

The National League comprises seven steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

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Clubs within the step system (tier 5 and below) must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA<sup>2</sup>. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirements for Step 1 clubs.

Wolverhampton Wanderers FC men's first team is the highest performing team in Wolverhampton, playing in the professional system (Premier League) and therefore above the non-league pyramid. Below this, there are then three clubs that play within the football pyramid, as shown in the table below.

*Table 2.6: Football pyramid clubs/teams in Wolverhampton*

Team	League	Level
AFC Wulfrunians	Midlands Football League, Premier Division	Step 5
Wolverhampton Casuals FC	Midlands Football League, Premier Division	Step 5
Bilston Town FC	Midlands Football League, Division One	Step 6

In addition to the clubs within the pyramid, there are five clubs that play in regional feeder leagues (Bilbrook, Old Wulfrunians, Warstones Wanderers, Willenhall Town, and Wolverhampton Sporting Community football clubs). These play in leagues that were formerly recognised as Step 7 within the structure, but this has changed in recent years. Clubs competing in regional feeder leagues still have some ground grading requirements but generally require investment to bring grounds up to an adequate standard for Step 6 football in the event of a promotion.

#### **Women's National League System**

There is also a Women's National League System like the adult men's football pyramid, providing structure to the women's game. Although women's clubs are still required 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. Steps 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to steps 3 and 4 of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same.

*Table 2.7: Summary of ground grading for women's football*

Level	League	Grading category
Tier 1	FA Women's Super League	Step S1
Tier 2	FA Women's Championship	Step S2
Tier 3	FA Women's National League Premier Division (Northern and Southern)	Step W1
Tier 4	FA Women's National League Division 1 North / Midlands / South East / South West	Step W2
Tier 5	Regional Premier Division	Step W3
Tier 6	Regional Division One	-
Tier 7	County Leagues	-

Locally, there are three clubs in Wolverhampton competing within the Women's system, including Wolverhampton Wanderers Women's FC (Tier 3), which plays at the CKW Stadium (AFC Wulfrunians).

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

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There are also Creswell Wanderers Ladies FC and City of Wolverhampton College Ladies FC, which both compete in the Staffordshire Girls and Ladies League (Tier 7). There are no specific ground grading requirements required for this level of play.

#### 2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, 253 teams from within 87 clubs are identified as playing within Wolverhampton. This consists of 86 adult, 112 youth and 55 mini teams and includes six adult women's teams as well as eight youth girls' teams.

The most prominent playing format is adult football (86 teams), whereas the least common is mini 5v5 football (21 teams). The largest number of teams are found in the North Analysis Area (66 teams), despite the Tettenhall Analysis Area supplying more pitches. The area with the least demand is the Central & South Analysis Area (38 teams).

In addition, three teams are identified as playing on sites included outside of Wolverhampton. These are from AFC Wulfrunians FC and Old Wulfrunians FC.

It is also worth noting that the reported team numbers have grown significantly since those reported in the 2018 PPS refresh, they have risen from 178 to 253 overall, with growth seen in all age groups and in all sub areas.

*Table 2.8: Summary of teams currently playing in Wolverhampton*

Analysis area	Adult	No. of teams						Total
		Youth 11v11 Boys	Youth 11v11 Girls	Youth 9v9 Boys	Youth 9v9 Girls	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Bilston	33	5	-	6	-	8	4	56
Central & South	5	18	2	7	1	4	1	38
North	19	20	1	9	1	7	9	66
Outside	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Tettenhall	13	10	2	4	1	11	4	45
Wednesfield	15	14	-	9	-	4	3	45
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>253</b>

#### Participation trends

There has been a considerable growth in football demand in recent years in Wolverhampton, with significantly more teams existing now when compared to previous seasons. This is predominately due to the growth of large clubs such as Penn Colts FC and AFC Wulfrunians, and Bilbrook Juniors FC.

Aligned to the above, just over half (52%) of consulted clubs report a growth in demand over the previous three years, whilst only three clubs report a reduction. These are Penn Warriors FC, Dynamo 50 FC, and St John United FC, which all report that they have lost an adult team. The former relates this to a lack of pitch capacity, whilst the latter two relate it to the impact of Covid-19.

Most clubs reporting an increase in demand have seen increases in the number of mini and junior teams. The reasons for the growth vary, but include a general increase in demand, the impact of initiatives and coaching sessions, increased access to secondary venues, and the acquisition of additional coaches.

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### ***Exported/ imported demand***

Given the fluid cross boundary movement in Wolverhampton with South Staffordshire, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley, there are several Wolverhampton based clubs which play just over the boundary and vice versa. Several clubs play in Wolverhampton despite being based outside the City. This affects clubs such as Wyrley FC and AFC Willenhall which access facilities within the City dependent on availability of provision within Walsall.

Moreover, St John United FC is currently renting the Council owned facility (Bantock Park), which represent imported demand into Wolverhampton. The reason for this is because the Club cannot find any suitable pitch provision in Essington, South Staffordshire, where most of its players are from. It therefore aspires to relocate back to South Staffordshire.

### ***Unmet demand***

No clubs express unmet demand, although some do identify a level of latent demand and are subsequently having to turn players away.

### ***Latent demand***

Several clubs in Wolverhampton report latent demand, stating that they could field more teams if more pitches were available. This applies to the following:

- |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| ◀ AFC Wulfrunians    | ◀ NPV FC                   |
| ◀ Ashmore FC         | ◀ Penn Warriors FC         |
| ◀ Bilston Town FC    | ◀ T.T Elite FC             |
| ◀ Castlecroft ECT FC | ◀ Wednesfield FC           |
| ◀ Essington AFC      | ◀ Wolverhampton Olympic FC |
| ◀ Liddar Sports FC   |                            |

Whilst not all clubs quantify their potential increases, it is significant for those that do. For example, AFC Wulfrunians reports that it could field up to nine additional teams if it had access to a dedicated home venue which can offer a more substantive pitch offer than its current venue at Old Wulfrunians Sports Club. Essington AFC suggests that it could accommodate five more teams with similar reasons stated.

In addition to the requirement for more pitch capacity, some of the clubs also identify that a lack of other facilities also limit activity, including 3G pitches for training, and changing rooms. Wednesfield FC also cites a lack of qualified coaches and volunteers.

### ***Future demand***

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing developments within Wolverhampton.

### ***Population increases***

Team generation rates are used in the following table to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2039)<sup>3</sup> based on population growth. Using this, there is a predicted increase of five adult and 12 youth 11v11 teams. The represents significant growth from population increases alone.

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<sup>3</sup> Data Source: ONS Mid-2019 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex



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Table 2.9: Wolverhampton-wide team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2039)	Predicted future number of teams (2039)	No. of teams that may be generated
Senior Men (18-45)	49,108	73	1:673	52,654	78	5
Senior Women (18-45)	46,967	4	1:1174	49,474	4	0
Youth Boys (12-17)	9,491	71	1:134	10,949	82	11
Youth Girls (12-17)	9,124	8	1:1141	10,516	9	1
Youth Boys (10-11)	3,651	43	1:85	3,665	43	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	3,358	3	1:1119	3,538	3	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	7,485	7	1:1069	7,333	7	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	7,596	15	1:506	7,383	15	0

When broken down by analysis area, the increase in adult and youth 11v11 participation is expected to be split relatively equally. This is summarised below and translates the demand to match equivalent sessions (0.5 match equivalent sessions represents one team, based on teams playing on a home and away basis).

Table 2.10: Summary of future demand through team generation rates by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Bilston	1	0.5	-	-	-	1.5
Central & South	-	1.5	-	-	-	1.5
North	0.5	1.5	-	-	-	2
Tettenhall	0.5	1	-	-	-	1.5
Wednesfield	0.5	1	-	-	-	1.5
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>

### Participation increases

A total of 11 clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide in the future. This equates to a sizeable growth of 33 teams, as seen below.

Table 2.11: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand (teams)	Pitch size	Match equivalents
AFC Wulfrunians	Tettenhall <sup>4</sup>	2	Mini 5v5	1
		2	Youth 9v9	1
		5	Youth 11v11	2.5
Ashmore FC	Wednesfield	1	Adult	0.5
Bilston Town FC	Bilston	1	Adult	0.5
		2	Mini 5v5	1
Castlecroft ECT FC	Wednesfield	1	Adult	0.5
Essington AFC	Wednesfield	2	Mini 5v5	1
		3	Youth 9v9	1.5
Liddar Sports FC	Wednesfield	2	Mini 5v5	1

<sup>4</sup> AFC Wulfrunians FC is based in the Outside Analysis Area. Its junior teams however play within the Tettenhall Analysis Area and future demand for these is therefore attributed to this area catchment.

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Club	Analysis area	Future demand (teams)	Pitch size	Match equivalents
NPV FC	Wednesfield	2	Youth 11v11	1
Penn Warriors FC	North	2	Mini 5v5	1
		1	Mini 7v7	0.5
T.T Elite FC	North	1	Mini 7v7	0.5
		1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Wednesfield FC	Wednesfield	2	Mini 5v5	1
		1	Mini 7v7	0.5
Wolverhampton Olympic FC	Tettenhall	1	Mini 5v5	0.5
		1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Total				16.5

Included within the future demand expressed by clubs is demand for the creation of female teams by AFC Wulfrunians, Bilston Town FC, Essington AFC, and Wolverhampton Olympic FC. Increasing female demand is currently a priority area for the FA.

Related to the above, Wildcats centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, providing opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment. All organisations delivering Wildcats centres receive a £900 start-up grant and 30 branded footballs in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl's participation. Through this, it is likely that the growth in affiliated female demand will exceed that shown through team generation rates and club aspirations, although to what extent is not currently quantifiable.

The total future demand expressed by the clubs amounts to 16.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Most of this is identified in the Wednesfield Analysis Area (seven match equivalent sessions) and on mini 5v5 pitches (three match equivalent sessions). However, some level of future demand is identified on every pitch type and in every analysis area apart from the Central & South Analysis Area, as summarised in the table below.

*Table 2.12: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs*

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Bilston	0.5	-	-	-	1	<b>1.5</b>
Central & South	-	-	-	-	-	<b>0</b>
North	-	-	0.5	1	1	<b>2.5</b>
Tettenhall	-	2.5	1.5	-	1.5	<b>5.5</b>
Wednesfield	1	1	1.5	0.5	3	<b>7</b>
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>16.5</b>

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, future demand from both club aspirations and participation increases are included to calculate the potential future supply and demand of/for grass pitches. However, it must be noted that some of the demand from participation increases could be absorbed by club aspirations.

### **Future Demand Summary**

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only future demand identified through population increases are included due to the large increases expressed by clubs. This demand is considered more aspirational, and it is unlikely that it will all be achieved.

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However, the preceding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if the growth was realised.

### 2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment. 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 are used in Wolverhampton:

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

Table 2.14 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

### Match equivalent sessions

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 pitch usage may, for example, include training sessions and informal use.

### Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches, the current usage of such sites needs to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all, and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP (as this can result in less grass pitch use).

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. As such, where not overplayed as a result of community use, many school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extra-curricular activity.

For school sites which are available for community use, current play has been enlarged on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

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### **Informal use**

Several football pitches in the area are on open access sites such as East Park. As such, these pitches are subject to informal use in the form of, for example, dog walkers, unorganised games of football and exercise groups. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded, and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis.

### **Peak time**

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time, which can differ for each pitch type depending on when leagues operate for each format of play. In Wolverhampton, peak time for all types of football is Sunday AM, based on current demand levels.

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 use on those 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 actual 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 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. Instead, any identified spare capacity should be retained 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 actual spare capacity is represented in Table 2.14.

*Table 2.13: Spare capacity examples*

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.

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Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
-	If the cell has a dash in it, this means that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it was to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.



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Table 2.14: Football grass pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Site capacity	Current play	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
1	Aldersley High School Sports Centre	WV8 1RT	North	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
2	Ashmore Park	WV11 2LT	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	2	2	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
3	Bantock Park	WV3 9BH	Tettenhall	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	2	2	2.5	0.5	0	Overplayed.
4	Bee Lane Playing Field	WV10 6LF	North	Yes-unused	Council	Secure	Adult	-	Poor	1	2	0	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
5	Bellamy Lane Playing Fields	WV11 1LN	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
6	Berrybrook Primary School	WV10 8NZ	North	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
7	Bilbrook Junior Football Club	WV9 5HQ	North	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	4	2	0	Overplayed.
							Adult		Poor	1	1	4	3	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	3	2	0	Overplayed.
							Mini	(7v7)	Poor	2	4	2.5	1.5	0.5	Played to capacity at peak time.
							Mini	(5v5)	Poor	2	4	3.5	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
8	Bilston Church of England Primary School	WV14 0HU	Bilston	Yes	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	8	0.5	7.5	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
9	Bilston Town FC	WV14 7EX	Bilston	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	2.5	0.5	0	Overplayed.
10	Castlecroft Primary School	WV3 8HS	Tettenhall	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
12	Claregate Park	WV6 9PZ	Tettenhall	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	1	0	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
13	Claregate Primary School	WV6 9JU	Tettenhall	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	4	0.5	3.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
14	Colman Avenue Neighbourhood Park	WV11 3RS	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	4	0	4	2	Actual spare capacity.
15	Colton Hills Community School	WV4 5DG	Central & South	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	2	2	2.5	0.5	0	Overplayed.
16	Coppice Performing Arts School	WV11 2QE	Wednesfield	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
17	Corpus Christi Catholic Primary Academy	WV11 2LT	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
18	Cottage Ground (Wednesfield Town FC)	WV11 1ND	Wednesfield	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	2	0	0	At capacity.
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	1	1	1	Minimal spare capacity discounted to protect quality.
19	Danescourt	WV6 9BH	Tettenhall	Yes	Commercial	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
							Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	2	1	1	1	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
20	Dixon Street Playing Field	WV2 2BJ	Central & South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
21	Dovecotes Primary School	WV8 1TX	North	No	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Site capacity	Current play	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
22	East Park	WV1 2BS	Bilston	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	3	6	4.5	1.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity.
23	East Park Academy	WV1 2DS	Bilston	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
24	Eastfield Primary School	WV1 2QY	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
25	Edward The Elder Primary School	WV11 3DB	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
26	Fallings Park Primary School	WV10 8BN	North	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
27	Field View Primary School	WV14 7AE	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
28	Fowlers Playing Fields	WV10 9AW	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	4	4	3.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
29	Gamesfield Green Playing Field	WV3 9RA	Tettenhall	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	0	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
30	Goldthorn Park Primary School	WV4 5ET	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
33	Heath Town Park	WV10 0LU	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	1	4	3	0	Overplayed.
34	Highfields School	WV4 4NT	Tettenhall	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Poor	1	1	7	6	0	Overplayed.
				No						2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
36	Hilton Road Playing Fields	WV4 6DR	Central & South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	2.5	0.5	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Actual Spare Capacity
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	4	2	2	0	Spare capacity discounted due to only having one pitch at 7v7 size.
37	Holy Rosary Catholic Primary Academy	WV1 2BS	Bilston	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	4	0.5	3.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
38	Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School (Bilston)	WV14 7PG	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)	WV9 5HH	North	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	2	4	0.5	3.5	2	Actual spare capacity.
42	King George V Playing Fields (Wednesfield)	WV11 1NQ	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	3	3	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
43	Kingston Centre	WV6 0UA	North	No	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
44	Lanesfield Primary School	WV4 6BZ	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
45	Lawnswood Campus	WV4 6SR	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
46	Loxdale Primary School	WV14 0AU	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
47	Manor Primary School	WV14 9UQ	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
48	Merridale Primary School	WV3 0UP	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
49	Moreton School	WV10 8BY	North	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.

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50	Moseley Park School Sports Centre	WV14 6LU	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
51	Newbridge Playing Fields	WV6 0JX	Central & South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	1	0	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
							Mini	(5v5)	Poor	1	2	0	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
53	Northwood Park	WV10 8EU	North	Yes-unused	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	2	4	0	4	2	Actual spare capacity.
54	Northwood Park Primary School	WV10 8DS	North	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
55	Oak Meadow Primary School	WV11 2QQ	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
56	Ormiston NEW Academy	WV10 6SE	North	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Good	3	9	4	5	3	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(9v9)	Good	4	16	0.5	15.5	4	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	WV14 0QE	Bilston	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	2	4	1	3	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
58	Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy	WV10 8BL	North	Yes	School	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
59	Palmers Cross Primary School	WV6 9DF	Tettenhall	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
60	Former Bilston United Sports Ground	WV2 2DN	Central & South	No	Councill	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
62	Penn Fields School	WV4 4NT	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
64	Perry Hall Primary School	WV11 3RT	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
65	Pine Green Academy	WV6 0UB	North	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
66	Prouds Lane Playing Fields	WV14 6QA	Bilston	No	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
67	Rakegate Primary School	WV10 6US	North	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	4	0.5	3.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
68	Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground	WV3 9BF	Central & South	No	Club	Secure	Adult		Good	3	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Youth	(11v11)	Good	4	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Mini	(7v7)	Good	3	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
69	Smestow School	WV3 8HU	Tettenhall	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	2	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
71	Spring Vale Primary School	WV4 6SD	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
72	Springdale Primary School	WV4 4NJ	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
73	Springvale Park	WV4 6TA	Central & South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	1	0	1	1	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
74	Springvale Sports Club	WV14 0QR	Bilston	Yes-unused	Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	0	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0	2	1	Actual spare capacity.

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75	SS Peter And Paul Catholic Primary Academy & Nursery	WV6 0HR	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
76	St Albans CE Academy (Wolverhampton)	WV11 2PF	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
77	St Judes C Of E Academy	WV6 0DT	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
78	St Lukes C Of E Primary School (Wolverhampton)	WV2 3AE	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
79	St Martin's CE Primary School	WV14 8BS	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
80	St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy	WV10 8PG	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
81	St Matthias School	WV1 2BH	Bilston	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	8	0.5	7.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
82	St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy & Nursery	WV3 7LE	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
83	St Michaels CE Aided Primary School	WV6 9AF	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
84	St Paul's Church of England Aided Primary School	WV9 5NR	North	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
85	St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy	WV4 6AW	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
86	St. Edmund's Catholic Academy	WV3 9DU	Central & South	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Poor	2	2	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(11v11)	Poor	2	2	0.5	1.5	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
88	Stow Heath Primary School	WV13 3TT	Bilston	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
89	Stowlawn Primary School	WV14 6EH	Bilston	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	4	0.5	3.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
90	Tettenhall College	WV6 8QX	Tettenhall	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	4	0.5	3.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
91	Tettenhall Upper Green	WV6 9AX	Tettenhall	Yes-unused	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
93	The King's CE School	WV6 8XG	Tettenhall	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	4	0.5	3.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
94	The Pavilion	WV10 6AJ	North	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	0	1	1	1	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.



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95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	WV3 0EG	Central & South	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Mini	(7v7)	Poor	4	8	0.5	7.5	4	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
97	The Wolverhampton Grammar School	WV3 9RB	Tettenhall	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	2	4	0.5	3.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
98	Trinity Church of England Primary School	WV10 0UB	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
99	Uplands Junior School	WV3 8BA	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
100	UTC Collins Sports Ground	WV10 7EH	North	No	Commercial	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
101	Villiers Primary School	WV14 6PR	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
102	Warstones Primary School	WV4 4LU	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
103	Wednesfield High Academy	WV11 3ES	Wednesfield	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
104	Wednesfield High School Sports Centre	WV11 3ES	Wednesfield	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	4	0.5	3.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
105	West Park Primary School	WV1 4BE	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
106	Whitgreave Primary School	WV10 9JP	North	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
107	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields	WV4 4EP	Tettenhall	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
							Adult		Poor	5	5	2.5	2.5	2.5	Actual spare capacity.
108	Woden Primary School	WV10 0LH	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
109	Wodensfield Primary School	WV11 1PW	Wednesfield	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	WV6 9BJ	Tettenhall	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	1	1.5	0.5	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	2	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
112	Wolverhampton United FC	WV11 1HN	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	2	4	5.5	1.5	0	Overplayed.
113	Wolverhampton Wanderers FC (Molineux Stadium)	WV1 4QR	Central & South	No	Club	Secure	Adult		Good	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
114	Wood End Primary School	WV11 1YQ	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Site capacity	Current play	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
115	Woodcross Park	WV14 9BW	Central & South	Yes-unused	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	0	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
116	Woodfield Primary School	WV4 4AG	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
117	WV Active Aldersley	WV6 9NW	Tettenhall	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	3	3	4.5	1.5	0	Overplayed.
142	Old Wulfrunians Sports & Social Club	WV3 8NA	Outside	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	2	4	0	4	2	Actual spare capacity.
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	8	0	8	2	Actual spare capacity.
147	Barnhurst Lane Football Pitches	WV8 1RT	North	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Good	3	9	4.5	4.5	4.5	Actual spare capacity.
							Youth	(11v11)	Good	1	4	3.5	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
							Youth	(9v9)	Good	3	12	2	10	9	Actual spare capacity.
							Mini	(5v5)	Good	1	6	0.5	5.5	2.5	Actual spare capacity.
158	The CKW Stadium	WV3 8NA	Outside	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.



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### Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Wolverhampton. It totals 40 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 36 pitches at 14 sites.

Table 2.15: Summary of actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (sessions)
14	Colman Avenue Neighbourhood Park	Wednesfield	Youth (9v9)	2	2
22	East Park	Bilston	Adult	3	1.5
29	Gamesfield Green Playing Field	Tettenhall	Youth (11v11)	1	1
36	Hilton Road Playing Fields	Central & South	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses)	North	Adult	2	2
53	Northwood Park	North	Adult	2	2
58	Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy	North	Youth (9v9)	1	1
74	Springvale Sports	Bilston	Youth (11v11)	1	1
			Youth (9v9)	1	1
91	Tettenhall Upper Green	Tettenhall	Adult	1	1
107	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields	Tettenhall	Adult	6	3.5
115	Woodcross Park	Central & South	Youth (11v11)	1	1
142	Old Wulfrunians Sports & Social Club	Outside	Adult	2	2
			Youth (11v11)	1	1
			Mini (7v7)	2	2
147	Barnhurst Lane Football Pitches	North	Adult	3	4.5
			Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
			Youth (9v9)	3	9
			Mini (5v5)	1	2.5
158	The CKW Stadium	Outside	Adult	1	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>36</b>	<b>40</b>

The North Analysis Area provides the largest amount of actual spare capacity, with 21.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas only 1.5 is identified in the Central & South Analysis Area. Furthermore, match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exist on each type, with the most identified on adult pitches (18.5 match equivalent sessions). It is also worth noting that since the 2018 PPS refresh, the actual spare capacity has reduced significantly across adult pitches from 38 to 20 match sessions.

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Table 2.16: Summary of actual spare capacity by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Bilston	1.5	1	1	-	-	3.5
Central & South	-	1	0.5	-	-	1.5
North	8.5	0.5	10	-	2.5	21.5
Outside	3	1	-	2	-	6
Tettenhall	4.5	1	-	-	-	5.5
Wednesfield	-	-	2	-	-	2
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>40</b>

In addition, it must be noted that an additional 13 match equivalent sessions per week of potential spare capacity have also been discounted due to poor quality, which is minimal. However, 48.5 match equivalent sessions per week have been discounted due to unsecure tenure, which is significant.

#### 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 Wolverhampton, 18 pitches across 11 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 23 match equivalent sessions per week. It is worth noting that overplay now seems to be a much more significant issue that it was reported in 2018 PPS refresh. The overplay is summarised in the table below.

Table 2.17: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (sessions)
3	Bantock Park	Tettenhall	Adult	2	0.5
7	Bilbrook Junior Football Club	North	Adult	2	5
			Youth (9v9)	1	2
9	Bilston Town FC	Bilston	Adult	1	0.5
15	Colton Hills Community School	Central & South	Youth (11v11)	2	0.5
33	Heath Town Park	Wednesfield	Adult	1	3
34	Highfields School	Tettenhall	Adult	1	6
36	Hilton Road Playing Fields	Central & South	Adult	1	0.5
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall	Adult	1	0.5
112	Wolverhampton United FC	Wednesfield	Adult	2	1.5
117	WV Active Aldersley	Tettenhall	Adult	3	1.5
147	Barnhurst Lane Football Pitches	North	Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
<b>Total</b>				<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>

In total, there are 19 match equivalent sessions per week of overplay on adult pitches, two on youth 11v11 pitches, two on youth 9v9 pitches and none on either mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. Each analysis area is experiencing some level of overplay, most prominently in the North & Tettenhall analysis areas (8.5 match equivalent sessions combined).

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Table 2.18: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Bilston	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5
Central & South	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	1
North	5	1.5	2	-	-	8.5
Tettenhall	8.5	-	-	-	-	8.5
Wednesfield	4.5	-	-	-	-	4.5
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>

Of the overplayed pitches, 14 are assessed as poor quality, where improvements would relieve issues. Additionally, three are located at education sites, where curricular and extra-curricular use adds to the capacity issues.

Further to the overplayed pitches, it should be noted that four pitches across Wolverhampton are currently played to capacity. Any further use of these, without quality improvements, would result in further overplay developing.

### 2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the current supply and demand balance (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type. The future demand balance is then also calculated based on team generation rates.

#### Adult pitch analysis

Overall, there is currently a shortfall of adult capacity in Wolverhampton, amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week, with shortfalls in the Central & South, Tettenhall and Wednesfield analysis areas.

When accounting for future demand, the overall shortfall increases to four match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.19: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions (per week)				Total
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	
Bilston	1.5	0.5	1	1	-
Central & South	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
North	8.5	5	3.5	0.5	3
Outside	3	-	3	-	3
Tettenhall	4.5	8.5	4	0.5	4.5
Wednesfield	-	4.5	4.5	0.5	5
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>4</b>

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### Youth 11v11 pitch analysis

There is currently spare capacity across Wolverhampton on youth 11v11 pitches totally 2.5 match equivalent sessions. Small shortfalls are identified in the Central & South, North and Wednesfield analysis areas. When accounting for future demand, of 5.5 match equivalent sessions, shortfalls emerge totalling three match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions (per week)				Total
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	
Bilston	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Central & South	1	0.5	0.5	1.5	1
North	0.5	1.5	1	1.5	2.5
Outside	1	-	1	-	1
Tettenhall	1	-	1	1	-
Wednesfield	-	-	-	1	1
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>3</b>

### Youth 9v9 pitch analysis

There is a current sufficient supply of youth 9v9 capacity in Wolverhampton amounting to 11.5 match equivalent sessions per week. No future demand is identified through team generation rates.

Table 2.21: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions (per week)				Total
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	
Bilston	1	-	1	-	1
Central & South	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
North	10	2	8	-	8
Outside	-	-	-	-	-
Tettenhall	-	-	-	-	-
Wednesfield	2	-	2	-	2
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11.5</b>

### Mini 7v7 pitch analysis

Across Wolverhampton, there is a spare capacity on mini 7v7 pitches totalling two match equivalent session per week. This is solely due to spare capacity on the pitches included outside of Wolverhampton, with all analysis areas within the City considered to be at capacity.

No future demand is identified through team generation rates.

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Table 2.22: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions (per week)				Total
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	
Bilston	-	-	-	-	-
Central & South	-	-	-	-	-
North	-	-	-	-	-
Outside	2	-	2	-	2
Tettenhall	-	-	-	-	-
Wednesfield	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	-	<b>2</b>

### Mini 5v5 pitch analysis

Currently, there is overall spare capacity on mini 5v5 pitches in Wolverhampton totalling 2.5 match equivalent session. No future demand is identified through team generation rates.

Table 2.23: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions (per week)				Total
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	
Bilston	-	-	-	-	-
Central & South	-	-	-	-	-
North	2.5	-	2.5	-	2.5
Outside	-	-	-	-	-
Tettenhall	-	-	-	-	-
Wednesfield	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	-	<b>2.5</b>

### Overall supply and demand analysis

Using the supply and demand analysis tables above, it is determined that there is currently a shortfall of adult match equivalent sessions in Wolverhampton and sufficient capacity on youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches, albeit minimal on certain pitch types.

After factoring in future demand, the existing shortfalls are projected to worsen, and a shortfall is set to be created on youth 11v11. This means that there is capacity available, both currently and in the future, on youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 2.24: Summary of supply and demand

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				Total
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	
Adult	17.5	19	1.5	2.5	4
Youth 11v11	4.5	2	2.5	5.5	3
Youth 9v9	13.5	2.5	11.5	-	11.5
Mini 7v7	2	0	2	-	2
Mini 5v5	2.5	0	2.5	-	2.5



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### **Football – grass pitch supply and demand summary**

- Actual spare capacity totals 40 match equivalent sessions per week across football pitches in Wolverhampton, which is a significant amount.
- A total of 18 pitches across 11 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 23 match equivalent sessions per week.
- There is a current shortfall of adult match equivalent sessions, whilst some capacity exists on youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- After factoring in future demand, shortfalls on adult pitches are exacerbated and a shortfall emerges on youth 11v11 pitches. There is a sufficient capacity on the remaining pitch types.

### **Football – supply summary**

- The audit identifies a total of 203 grass football pitches within Wolverhampton across 106 sites, with 137 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 58 sites.
- As a breakdown, there are 63 adult, 23 youth 11v11, 28 youth 9v9, 18 mini 7v7 and five mini 5v5 pitches that are available for community use.
- Lapsed/disused pitches are identified at the former Northcote School, Wolverhampton United Football Club, City of Wolverhampton College playing fields, the former school playing fields to St Lukes Primary School, Goodrich (now Collins) Stafford Road and John Harpers Playing Fields on Hawkswell Drive.
- The Council and schools are the predominant supplier of football pitches.
- There are 65 community available pitches assessed as standard quality, with 57 assessed as poor and just 15 assessed as good.
- Quality of ancillary provision is an issue at sites such as East Park, Fowlers Playing Field, Cottage Ground and Bilston Town Football Club.

### **Football – demand summary**

- Through the audit and assessment, 253 teams from within 87 clubs are identified as playing within Wolverhampton, consisting of 86 adult, 147 youth and 20 mini teams.
- There is a trend of significant growth across Wolverhampton in recent years.
- There are high levels of imported and exported demand, with a large number of teams playing in neighbouring authorities due to the close proximity of the boundary between Wolverhampton, South Staffordshire, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley.
- No clubs report unmet demand in that it has teams that are unable to play due to a lack of pitch provision.
- A total of 11 clubs expresses latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitch capacity was available to them.
- Based on population growth, an increase of five adult and 12 youth teams is projected (to 2039), whilst 11 clubs report aspirations to grow by a combined total of 33 teams.

### **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 pitch register. As such, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the required standard, meaning full contact activity 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. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, meaning World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements, subject to passing an additional RFL performance standard test.

Other sports that are known to use 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse. Many test contractors are able to 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.

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

#### **3.2 Current provision**

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100 x 64 metres (106 x 70 metres including run offs); however, for the purposes of this report, all pitches measuring over 100 x 60 metres (inclusive of run offs) are considered to be full size due to the amount of demand they can accommodate. It is common for such pitches to be slightly undersized, especially when sand-based pitches have been converted as the size requirement for hockey is generally smaller than for football.

As seen in the table below, there are currently four full size 3G pitches within Wolverhampton across the same number of sites. Pitches at City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy are available to the community, whilst pitches at Heath Park School and Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground are unavailable. The former does not let out its provision to protect quality for its students, whereas the latter forms part of a professional training ground for Wolverhampton Wanderers FC.

Further to outdoor full size provision, there is an indoor full size 3G pitch located at Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground and an indoor 9v9 3G pitch at WV Aldersley.

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*Table 3.1: Full size 3G pitches in Wolverhampton*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
11	City Of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus)	Bilston	Yes	Yes	100 x 65
31	Heath Park School	Wednesfield	No	Yes	102 x 62
58	Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy	North	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
68	Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground	Central & South	No	Yes	103 x 66

There is a single pitch located within each of the Bilston, North, Central & South and Wednesfield analysis areas. This means that no full size pitches are provided in the Tettenhall Analysis Area.

In addition to the full size 3G pitches in Wolverhampton, there are also six sites containing eight smaller sized pitches that could theoretically help to accommodate some demand. Five of are available for community use and floodlit (the pitch at Khalsa Academy is neither).

*Table 3.2: Additional supply of 3G pitches in Wolverhampton*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Number of pitches	Size (metres)
16	Coppice Performing Arts School	Wednesfield	Yes	Yes	1	62 x 42
41	Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton	Bilston	No	No	1	45 x 32
56	Ormiston NEW Academy	North	Yes	Yes	1	65 x 33
70	Southside Sports	Central & South	Yes	Yes	3	38 x 18
90	Tettenhall College	Tettenhall	Yes	Yes	1	53 x 33
96	The Way Youth Zone	Central & South	Yes	Yes	1	36 x 18

Nationally, whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller sized provision can be used to host youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are FA approved. Whilst some of the pitches in Wolverhampton are too small to accommodate any form of demand (as minimum area of 37 x 27 metres is required for mini 5v5 football) most are able to accommodate a level of midweek training demand. This is particularly the case at Coppice Performing Arts School, Ormiston NEW Academy and Tettenhall College.

#### **Future provision**

In the LFFP for Wolverhampton, two priority projects are identified; a new full-size, floodlit 3G pitch at Highfields School and the refurbishment of the indoor 9v9 FTP at WV Active Aldersley (Wolverhampton Foundation). The latter proposal has been completed.

Due to growth in football demand since the LFFP was produced, it is likely that 3G requirements have now considerably increased, whilst additional aspirations are now also known. The demand section of this report therefore further explores this and whether amends and/or additions are required to the project list.

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Linked to the LFFP, Highfields School continues to investigate the creation of a 3G pitch. This, however, has not progressed as a consequence of issues with gaining a suitable football user that could assume responsibility for it in terms of managing the provision. It is also yet to gain adequate funding.

Away from the LFFP, Bilston Town FC aspires to convert the surface of its stadia grass pitch to a 3G pitch. The Club has held talks with the City of Wolverhampton Council and Staffordshire FA regarding the possibility of proceeding with this in the hope of being able to train and conduct more matches on site.

Similarly, Wednesfield High Academy is exploring funding opportunities for the conversion of its netball courts to a 3G surface. The current surface is poor with the lines fading and the floodlights not working. However, this is being held back as the School has a lack of investment.

Wolverhampton Olympic FC aspires to install a smaller sized 3G pitch at Danescourt, where an old tennis court lies disused at the back of the facility. The courts share a space with a bowling facility used by Express & Star Bowls Club and has existing floodlights in place.

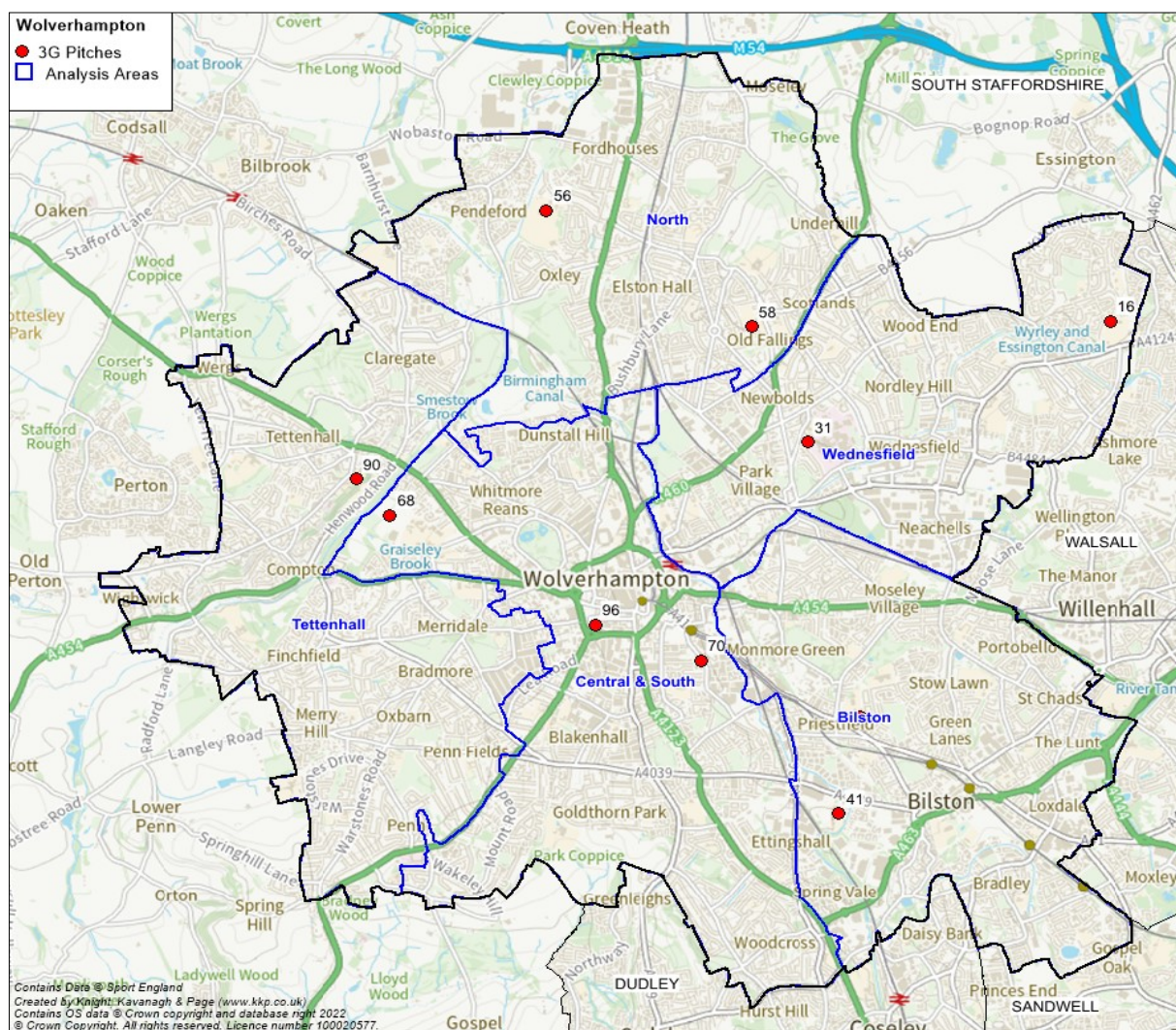
Lastly, NPV Football Development has an aspiration to develop a 3G pitch (size yet to be determined) at the former Wolverhampton United FC site which it is expected to gain on an asset transfer from the City Council.

The map below identifies the location of 3G pitches currently servicing Wolverhampton, regardless of size.



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Figure 3.1: Location of 3G pitches in Wolverhampton



## FA/FIFA approved pitches

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <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. 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 football pyramid (steps 1-6).



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In Wolverhampton, the full size 3G pitches at City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy are currently FIFA/FA approved and can therefore host competitive matches. Likewise, the indoor 9v9 3G pitch at WV Aldersley is also on the register. In addition, the smaller sized pitch at The Way Youth Zone is FA approved and could therefore accommodate competitive mini football matches.

The full-size pitch that is not currently accredited is provided at Heath Park School.

### ***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 must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

There is no full-size World Rugby compliant 3G pitch within Wolverhampton. Therefore, none of the pitches can be used to accommodate rugby training activity and match play.

### ***Management***

The pitches at City of Wolverhampton College, Heath Park School and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy are operated by their respective education providers, whilst Wolverhampton Wanderers FC owns and manages the 3G pitch at Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground.

The majority of the smaller size pitches are also operated by educational establishments, with the only exceptions being the pitches at Southside Sports and The Way Youth Zone. Both of these are charitable enterprises.

### ***Availability***

The table below summarises the availability for community use at sites in Wolverhampton providing full size 3G pitches. Two pitches are readily available for community access throughout peak periods, whereas the pitches at Heath Park School and Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground provide no availability.

The peak period is based on Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM), which 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).

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*Table 3.3: Summary of availability of full size 3G pitches*

Site ID	Site	Availability	Hours available in the peak period (and overall)
11	City of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus)	Reserved for curricular use until 17:00 then available to the community from 17:30-22:30 during the week. It is not open for usage on Saturdays or Sundays.	15.5 (25)
31	Heath Park School	Unavailable to the community. Used for curricular use until 17:00 Monday to Friday.	-
58	Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy	Reserved for curricular use until 16:30. Available to the community from 17:00-21:00 during the week and from 09:00-16:00 during weekends.	32 (38)
68	Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground	Unavailable to the community. Used for Wolverhampton FC use from 09:00 until 18:00 every day.	-

The picture is similar for the smaller sized pitches, with non-school pitches available throughout each day and school-based pitches having good availability outside of curricular times (except for those unavailable for community use). Only the pitch at Khalsa Academy is unavailable.

*Table 3.4: Summary of smaller sized 3G pitch availability*

Site ID	Site	Availability	Hours available in the peak period (and overall)
16	Coppice Performing Arts School	Reserved for curricular use until 17:00 then available to the community from 17:00-21:00 during the week and from 09:00-21:00 at weekends.	34 (44)
41	Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton	Unavailable for community use. Used for curricular use from 08:45-16:30 Monday to Friday.	-
56	Ormiston NEW Academy	Reserved for curricular use until 18:00 then available to the community from 18:00-22:00 during the week and from 08:00-16:00 at weekends.	28 (36)
70	Southside Sports	Available every day from 09:00-21:30.	34 (84)
90	Tettenhall College	Reserved for curricular use Monday to Friday but available to the community from 09:00-18:00 on Saturday and Sunday.	16 (18)
96	The Way Youth Zone	Available Monday to Friday from 16:00-22:00.	18 (30)

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### Quality

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

For the PPOSS, each 3G pitch has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard, or poor following site assessments.

This rating is most commonly linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, as well as surrounding hard areas and maintenance that is undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

The following table indicates when each full size 3G pitch was installed or last resurfaced in Wolverhampton together with an agreed quality rating following non-technical assessments and user and provider consultation.

*Table 3.5: Summary of quality of the full size 3G pitches*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality
11	City of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus)	Bilston	2010	Standard
31	Heath Park School	Wednesfield	2016	Good
58	Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy	North	2015	Good
68	Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground	Central & South	2014	Good

As seen, three of the four pitches have been installed or resurfaced in the last seven years and are considered to be in good condition, whilst the pitch at City of Wolverhampton College has exceeded its recommended lifespan and should therefore be prioritised for future refurbishment. It is assessed as standard quality.

Of the smaller size pitches, the pitches at Coppice Performing Arts School (2009) and Ormiston NEW Academy (1999) have both exceeded their recommended lifespans. The remaining are within their lifespan, with no significant issues identified.

### Ancillary facilities

All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate and no major issues have been discovered via site assessments or through consultation.

### 3.3: Demand

The available 3G pitches currently servicing Wolverhampton are 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 floodlighting). This applies not only to midweek capacity but also to weekend capacity on account of all the community available full size pitches being FA approved to host competitive matches.

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Currently, it is considered that all community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, with no other sporting usage identified. The large majority of capacity is being taken up by clubs for training and match play purposes, although there is also a strong presence of recreational football activity taking place (i.e., via unaffiliated groups).

Across the Country, there are often small-sided commercial leagues operating on 3G provision. In Wolverhampton, Soccer Sixes operates at Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy on Monday evenings.

### ***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***

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

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every England Accredited Club through a partnership agreement. As such, it has established a model to calculate the required number of pitches to meet demand, with one full size pitch being required to service every 38 teams within a local authority. This is based on peak time access being Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings (Mondays and Fridays are discounted as it is considered that teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match, and it also allows for other forms of access such as for commercial leagues and recreational play).

For the model, in addition to full size pitches being included, some smaller size pitches are also incorporated as many are suitable for accommodating training demand, three pitches are included in this methodology, which are; Coppice School, Ormiston NEW Academy and Tettenhall College. 0.25 of a pitch has been attributed for each of these in the supply analysis to account for demand each pitch accommodates within their respective analysis areas.

On this basis the current level of supply equates to two full size pitches at the City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chads Catholic Academy as well as the three aforementioned small sided pitches. This totals a current supply of 2.75 full size pitches.

The full size pitches at Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground and Heath Park School are also discounted from the modelling due to being unavailable for community use. However, whilst future access is always going to be unlikely at Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground, it could be explored at Heath Park as it is unusual for school-based pitches not to be made available.

Using the above, with 253 teams currently playing in Wolverhampton, there is a calculated need for 6.75 full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 6.65). As such, with 2.75 full size pitch equivalents currently provided (including smaller size provision but discounting those unavailable for community use), a shortfall of four full size pitches is identified. This is a larger shortfall than that identified in Wolverhampton's LFFP, and larger than the 2018 PPS refresh which reported a shortfall of 1-2 3G's, evidencing its need to be updated.

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Table 3.6: Current demand for 3G pitches in Wolverhampton (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G requirement <sup>5</sup>	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
251	6.75	2.75	4

When considering future demand for an additional 16 teams (based on population increases), there is demand for seven full size pitches, which means a future shortfall of 5.25 pitches.

Table 3.7: Future demand for 3G pitches in Wolverhampton (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement <sup>6</sup>	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
267	7	2.75	4.25

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 needs exist across Wolverhampton, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

Table 3.8: Current demand for 3G pitches in Wolverhampton by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement <sup>7</sup>	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Bilston	57	1.5	1	0.5
Central & South	38	1	0	1
North	66	1.75	1.25	0.5
Tettenhall	45	1	0.25	0.75
Wednesfield	45	1	0.25	0.75
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>6.25</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>3.5</b>

As seen, a shortfall of one full size pitch is identified in the Central & South Analysis Area. Both the Tettenhall and Wednesfield analysis area have a shortfall of 0.75 full size pitch equivalents each and both the Bilston and North analysis areas have a shortfall of 0.5 full size pitch equivalents each.

When accounting for future demand, there is an overall shortfall of 4.75 full size 3G pitches. Increases in demand are aligned to the North, Tettenhall and Wednesfield analysis areas.

Table 3.9: Future demand for 3G pitches in Wolverhampton by analysis area

Analysis area	Future number of teams	3G requirement <sup>8</sup>	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
Bilston	60	1.5	1	0.5
Central & South	41	1	0	1
North	70	2	1.25	0.75
Tettenhall	48	1.5	0.25	1.25
Wednesfield	48	1.5	0.25	1.25
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>4.5</b>

<sup>5</sup> Rounded to the nearest 0.25

<sup>6</sup> Rounded to the nearest 0.25

<sup>7</sup> Rounded to the nearest 0.25

<sup>8</sup> Rounded to the nearest 0.25



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### *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, alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is appropriately accredited, floodlit, and available for community use during the peak period.

Two existing community available pitches in Wolverhampton are FA approved to host competitive fixtures and there is relatively high demand for the provision, with 43 teams currently accessing a 3G facility as their home pitch and with each accredited pitch being in use for this purpose. This is 43 teams that would otherwise be using grass pitches, adding to capacity and quality issues, or alternatively they would not exist at all due to having nowhere suitable to play.

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 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. This will be further explored in the proceeding strategy document via a range of scenarios for transferring play.

The use of 3G provision 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.

### ***Other sports***

No other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches in Wolverhampton (outside of some school activity). Furthermore, with limited rugby union and rugby league demand identified in the City, and with limited presence of other relevant sports (e.g., American football and lacrosse), no demand for access has been uncovered.

### **3.4: Supply and demand analysis**

There is limited spare capacity on the present supply of 3G pitches when teams require access for training purposes, leading to several clubs reporting a need for increased provision. With the FA model suggesting that there is a current and future shortfall of at least four full size 3G, priority should therefore be placed on the creation of new provision. To that end, precedence should be given to areas with identified shortfalls. It is worth noting that this shortfall would be theoretically reduced if access could be gained at Heath Park School in the Wednesfield Analysis Area.

Meeting the 3G pitch shortfall for training will also help alleviate grass pitch shortfalls and quality issues identified in Part 2 of this report, providing that the transfer of play is pursued as and when more pitches are established. Potential options for the creation of new provision will therefore be explored in the proceeding strategy document.

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## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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In addition, it is important to sustain the current pitch stock to ensure that the existing shortfalls are not exacerbated. In that regard, providers should be encouraged to put sinking funds in place, and it is also recommended that all new and existing pitches undergo FA testing every three years to remain or become FA approved. This is particularly key in relation to the standard quality pitch at City of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus) given that it has reached the end of its lifespan.

### **3G – supply and demand summary**

- ▶ Priority should be placed on the creation of new 3G pitches to meet the identified shortfalls for football training demand.
- ▶ Meeting the 3G pitch shortfall for training will also help alleviate grass pitch shortfalls and quality issues, providing that the transfer of play is pursued as and when more pitches are established.
- ▶ In addition, it is important to sustain the current pitch stock to ensure that the existing shortfalls are not exacerbated.

### **3G – supply summary**

- ▶ There are four full size 3G pitches in Wolverhampton, of which all are floodlit.
- ▶ Two are available to the community at City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy and two are not at Heath Park School and Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground.
- ▶ There are also eight smaller sized 3G pitches across six sites, all of which are floodlit and available for community use apart from a pitch at Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton, which is neither.
- ▶ Bilston Town FC, NPV Football Development and Highfields School all have aspirations to develop 3G pitches, whilst Wolverhampton Olympic FC has plans to convert a disused tennis court into a smaller sized 3G AGP.
- ▶ The full size 3G pitches at City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic School are currently FIFA/FA approved and can therefore host competitive matches, as is the smaller sized pitch at The Way Youth Zone.
- ▶ The full size pitch at Heath Park School is not accredited and though it is good quality it will not be available for competitive match play unless it undergoes accreditation. This is the same for the pitch at the Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground.
- ▶ None of the pitches are World Rugby compliant, although there is no current known use for this purpose in the City.
- ▶ The pitch at the City of Wolverhampton College is at the end of its lifespan, as are the smaller sized pitches Coppice Performing Arts School and Ormiston NEW Academy will also require resurfacing.
- ▶ All remaining pitches are assessed as good quality.

### **3G – demand summary**

- ▶ The existing 3G provision is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, with all current community activity being football-based.
- ▶ With 251 football teams currently playing in Wolverhampton, there is a calculated shortfall of 3.5 full size 3G pitches to meet training needs (when analysed by analysis area)
- ▶ When accounting for future demand for an additional 16 teams (based on population increases), the shortfall increases to 4.5 pitches.
- ▶ There are currently 43 football teams using the 3G pitch stock for matches; whilst the number needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training, maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.
- ▶ No demand has been identified from other sports for access to 3G provision.

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### PART 4: CRICKET

#### 4.1: Introduction

The Staffordshire Cricket Board (SCB) is the main governing and representative body for Cricket within Wolverhampton. 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 City. It is currently working with the ECB on delivering its Strategy, "Inspiring Generations", which has been live since 2020.

For adult cricket in Wolverhampton 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, although some matches are also played on Sunday mornings.

#### Consultation

In total, eight cricket clubs are identified as playing within Wolverhampton. All eight have responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 100%. A full breakdown is provided in the table below.

*Table 4.1: Cricket club response rate*

Club name	Club response?
Fordhouses CC	Yes
Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC	Yes
Penn CC	Yes
Springhill CC	Yes
Springvale CC	Yes
Whitmore Reans CC	Yes
Wightwick & Finchfield CC	Yes
Wolverhampton CC	Yes

#### 4.2: Supply

In total, 13 grass cricket squares are identified in Wolverhampton across nine unique sites. Of these, 11 squares are available for community use across eight sites. The two unavailable squares are located at Wolverhampton Grammar School. In addition, there are three squares outside of Wolverhampton that require inclusion due to their proximity to the boundary and the demand catered for. These are located at Old Wulfrunians Sports & Social Club, Springhill Cricket Club and Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club. All of these are based South Staffordshire but are sited close to the Wolverhampton boundary.

*Table 4.2: Summary of grass wicket squares available for community use*

Analysis area	Number of Squares
Bilston	1
Central & South	2
North	2
Tettenhall	6
Wednesfield	-
Outside	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

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In terms of the distribution of the provision, the Tettenhall Analysis Area provides the largest number of squares, with six, whilst the Wednesfield Analysis Area has no community available squares.

### ***Non-turf pitches***

There are non-turf pitches (NTPs) accompanying five grass wickets squares. These are at the following sites:

- ◀ Claregate Park
- ◀ Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)
- ◀ Newbridge Playing Fields
- ◀ Penn Cricket Club
- ◀ Wolverhampton Cricket Club

In addition, there are 15 standalone NTPs currently provided across as many sites. These are located at the following locations:

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ◀ Colton Hills Community School  | ◀ Coppice Performing Arts School  |
| ◀ East Park                      | ◀ Fowlers Park                    |
| ◀ Gamesfield Green Playing Field | ◀ Goodyear Neighbourhood Park     |
| ◀ Highfields Secondary School    | ◀ King George V Playing Field     |
| ◀ Ormiston SWB Academy           | ◀ Phoenix Park                    |
| ◀ Royal Wolverhampton School     | ◀ St Peters Collegiate School     |
| ◀ Wednesfield High Academy       | ◀ Wolverhampton Girls High School |
| ◀ Wolverhampton Grammar School   |                                   |

Of the above, six were provided in 2018 through a joint scheme between the ECB and the Council. This applies to the wickets at Claregate Park, East Park, Fowlers Playing Fields, Goodyear Neighbourhood Park, King George V Playing Fields and Newbridge Playing Fields.

Of the standalone NTPs, nine are available for community use. Unavailable provision is located at Colton Hills Community School, Coppice Performing Arts School, St Peters Collegiate School, Wednesfield High Academy and Wolverhampton Girls High School.

NTPs, particularly when located at club sites, aid with training and practice and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs are frequently used for junior matches across the Country. In Wolverhampton, two clubs; Springvale and Whitmore Reans, use NTP's for match play. For the former this is for its U14 team and for the latter this is for both its senior men's teams.

### ***Disused and lapsed provision***

Playing field sites which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

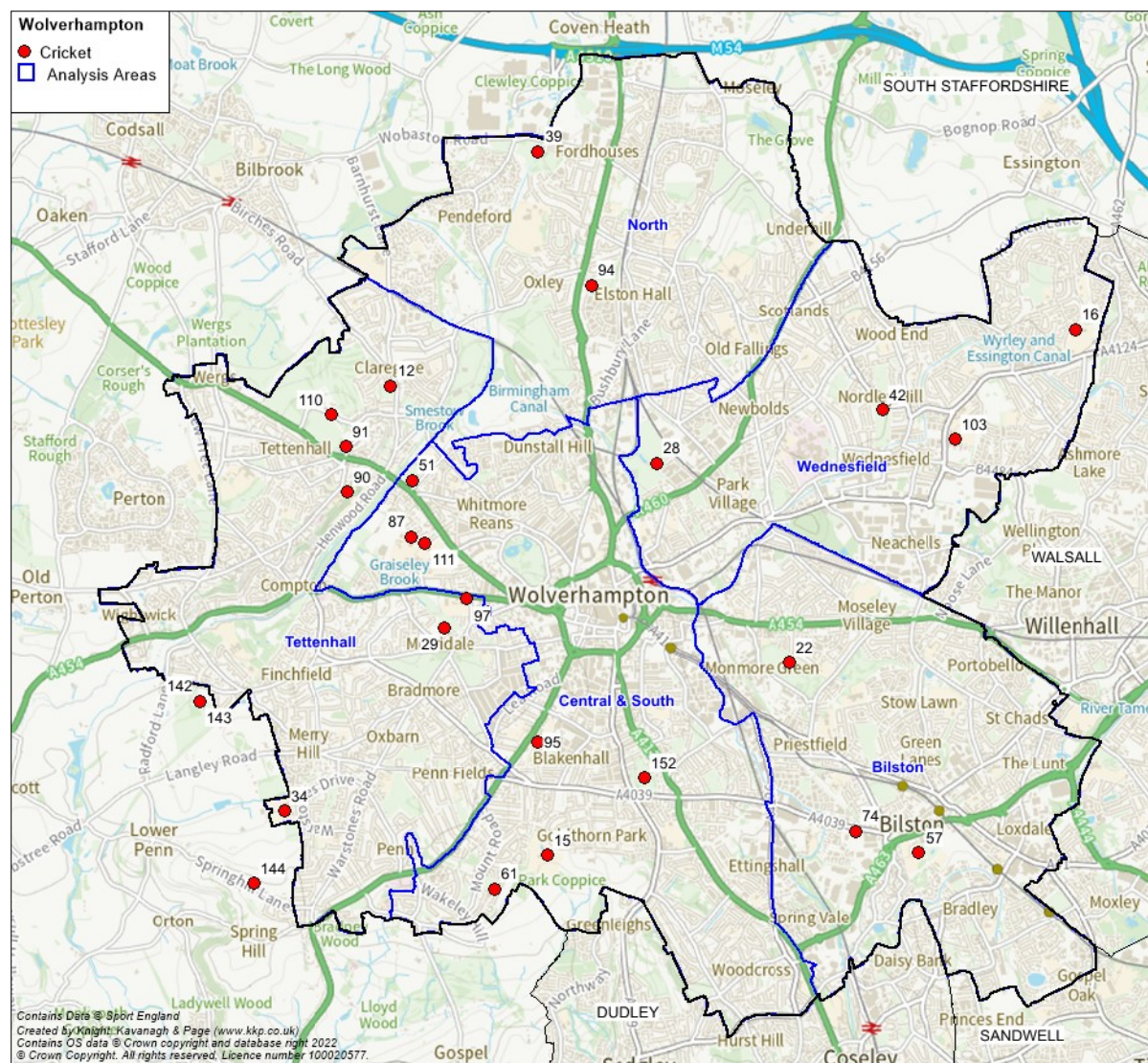
There are no disused sites identified in Wolverhampton which contained cricket pitches. However, there is one which is lapsed. This is the Rolls Royce Sports Ground on Spring Road.

The map below shows the location of all cricket squares currently servicing Wolverhampton. For a key to the map, see Table 4.3.



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Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches within Wolverhampton





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Table 4.3: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
						Grass	Non-turf
12	Claregate Park	WV6 9PZ	Tettenhall	Yes	1	7	1
15	Colton Hills Community School	WV4 5DG	Central & South	No	-	-	1
16	Coppice Performing Arts School	WV11 2QE	Wednesfield	No	-	-	1
22	East Park	WV1 2BS	Bilston	Yes	-	-	1
28	Fowlers Playing Fields	WV10 9AW	Wednesfield	Yes	-	-	1
29	Gamesfield Green Playing Field	WV3 9RA	Tettenhall	Yes	-	-	1
34	Highfields School	WV4 4NT	Tettenhall	Yes	-	-	1
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)	WV9 5HH	North	Yes	2	11	1
						8	1
42	King George V Playing Fields (Wednesfield)	WV11 1NQ	Wednesfield	Yes	-	-	1
51	Newbridge Playing Fields	WV6 0JX	Central & South	Yes	1	11	1
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	WV14 0QE	Bilston	Yes	-	-	1
61	Penn Cricket Club	WV4 5RS	Central & South	Yes	1	11	1
74	Springvale Sports	WV14 0QR	Bilston	Yes	1	11	-
87	St. Peter's Collegiate School	WV3 9DU	Central & South	No	-	-	1
90	Tettenhall College	WV6 8QX	Tettenhall	Yes	2	12	-
						10	-
91	Tettenhall Upper Green	WV6 9AX	Tettenhall	Yes	1	8	-
94	The Pavilion	WV10 6AJ	North	Yes	-	-	1
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	WV3 0EG	Central & South	Yes	-	-	1
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	WV3 9RB	Tettenhall	No	2	12	-
						8	1
103	Wednesfield High Academy	WV11 3ES	Wednesfield	No	-	-	1

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
						Grass	Non-turf
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	WV6 9BJ	Tettenhall	Yes	2	19	1
						11	1
111	Wolverhampton Girls' High School	WV6 0BY	Central & South	No	-	-	1
140	Goodyear Neighbourhood Park	WV10 6DB	North	Yes	-	-	1
142	Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club	WV3 8NA	Outside	Yes	1	12	-
143	Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club	WV3 8NA	Outside	Yes	1	12	-
144	Springhill Cricket Club	WV4 4TJ	Outside	Yes	1	8	-
152	Phoenix Park	WV2 3JU	Central & South	Yes	-	-	1

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### **Management and security of tenure**

All clubs in Wolverhampton have secure tenure, provided through a mixture of freehold, lease arrangements and rental agreements. A breakdown of club's tenure positions is identified in the table below.

Note that where rental agreements are in place with the Council, tenure is considered secure as it is expected that the provision will be provided over the lifespan of the PPOSS.

*Table 4.4: Summary of security of tenure for clubs*

Club	Primary site	Agreement
Fordhouses CC	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground	Leased until 2111
Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC	Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club	Freehold
Penn CC	Penn Cricket Club	Leased until 2039
Springhill CC	Springhill Cricket Club	Freehold
Springvale CC, Staffs	Springvale Sports	Leased until 2046
Whitmore Reans CC	Newbridge Playing Fields	Yearly rental from the Council.
Wightwick & Finchfield CC	Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club	Freehold
Wolverhampton CC	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Freehold

Penn CC states that its existing lease runs to 2039 from the Council. However, it aspires to re-negotiate this for a longer term period to offer longer term security and to allow it to be able to apply for grant funding in the future (many funding pots require lease arrangements longer than 25 years).

Wightwick & Finchfield CC are one of the clubs known to have freehold of their respected site. The Club did participate in consultations and confirmed that it has freehold of its site. As such, tenure is considered to be secure.

The agreements for the remaining leased sites are also secure, with Springvale CC having 25 years left on its lease from the Mid Counties Co-Op and Fordhouses CC having 90 years remaining on its 99-year lease from the Council.

In addition to the primary venues used by the clubs, Wolverhampton CC also uses Tettenhall College as a secondary venue. This is via an unsecure rental agreement. Likewise, Penn CC uses Gamesfield Green Playing Fields as its secondary venue. This site is owned by the local authority therefore tenure is regarded to be secure.

### **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

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%). For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

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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 players.

The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares in Wolverhampton found five to be of good quality, seven to be of standard quality and one assessed as poor. The site-by-site breakdown of this is shown in the following table.

*Table 4.5: Quality ratings for community available grass wicket squares (site-by-site)*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Square quality
12	Claregate Park	Tettenhall	Poor
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses CC)	North	Good
			Good
51	Newbridge Playing Fields	Central & South	Standard
61	Penn Cricket Club	Central & South	Good
74	Springvale Sports	Bilston	Standard
90	Tettenhall College	Tettenhall	Standard
			Standard
91	Tettenhall Upper Green	Tettenhall	Standard
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall	Good
			Good
142	Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club	Outside	Standard
143	Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club	Outside	Standard

There is one poor quality natural turf square identified in Wolverhampton located at Claregate Park. The non-technical audit found that there was little evidence of preparation work on the wickets and that it has ultimately not been prepared for competitive play this season. It is unlikely this square will be prepared for further play in the future, with the newly installed NTP now anticipated to take all formats of recreational demand on the site.

Of the squares assessed as standard quality, there are concerns in relation to Newbridge Playing Fields from Whitmore Reans CC due to the level of cricket demand accommodated. Drainage is also an issue, with waterlogging issues reportedly occurring on the outfield and square.

On the other hand, Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club's grass wicket square was identified as standard, the Club has indicated through consultation that this has improved and it now classes it as good quality. The reason for this change is down to the Club claiming that they have hired a professional groundsman. As a result, the square gets a higher standard of maintenance as well as this being more frequent.

Despite being assessed as good quality, Fordhouses CC, Penn CC and Wolverhampton CC all report issues at their sites with dogs/foxes walking and fouling on their sites. This results in officials and players having to do a pitch inspection before play to ensure that the provision is clean and safe.

No other significant problems are raised by clubs, with the majority indicating that quality has improved over recent years.

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This applies to Springvale, Wolverhampton and Fordhouses cricket clubs, whilst only Whitmore Reans CC implies that quality has worsened (Penn, Springhill and Old Wulfrunians cricket clubs report no change). Whitmore Reans CC attributes the deterioration to a combination of limited maintenance (from CWC), whereas clubs reporting an improvement generally point to improved maintenance regimes as a key factor.

To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the required standards, which are benchmarked by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA).

Clubs can contact the SCB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports (comprehensive, mini, or verbal) that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

*Table 4.6: Performance Quality Standard ratings*

Quality rating	Details
Premier (High)	Where the surface is intended for Premier League play, with those within the top quartile capable of holding minor county and 1st class one day matches. May include some of the better schools and university pitches
Club (Standard)	A Club pitch suitable for league, school, and junior cricket
Basic	An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket and where the surface is designed and maintained within tight financial limitations such as local authorities
Unsuitable	This is where the surface is deemed unfit or unsafe for play

Of the standalone NTPs available to the community, the wickets at both Colton Hills Community School and Coppice Performing Arts School are poor quality. The remaining facilities are either standard or good quality; those provided in 2018 are all good quality.

#### **Ancillary facilities**

All clubs in Wolverhampton have access to changing room facilities at their home ground, although quality varies. However, all provision is regarded as fit for purpose, with six clubs rating their facilities as good quality and two rating theirs as standard.

Notwithstanding the above, Springvale CC previously stated, that it required an expansion to its social space and the changing rooms at Springvale Sports. Linked to this, it wanted to improve its compliance to accommodate disability cricket as at the time provision available to the Club was dated. The Club has been playing its home matches at either Elford or Penn CC whilst its home ground was redeveloped. It currently has a brand-new square and recently completed improved changing/ social space.

The provision servicing Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC is also dated and in need of modernisation.



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### *Training facilities*

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. In Wolverhampton, of the clubs that responded to consultation, only Springvale, Penn and Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall cricket clubs report no demand for new, improved, or additional training facilities.

Whitmore Reans CC states that there is a need for permanent practice nets as well as a mobile cage at its site, whilst, similarly, Wolverhampton CC reports a requirement for an extra mobile cage and an artificial wicket.

Fordhouses CC aspires to refurbish its existing outdoor practice nets at Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground, whereas Springhill CC wants to install practice nets in order for it to be able to train more effectively.

Moreover, it is worth noting that there are community lanes available at Ward Street Park and Peace Green. These are predominately for use by the local community and Peace Green is managed by local community organisations. Clubs could also apply to use these facilities if they needed to, so long as they offer support to the local community and continue to feedback to local groups.

In addition to the above, whilst falling out of the scope of this study, Wolverhampton CC and Fordhouses CC report a further need for greater access to indoor training facilities, with Whitmore Reans CC also reporting that it struggles to access facilities for winter training. It is quite clear from this information that accessing indoor facilities is an issue, with availability being limited and quality being poor. This is often a problem across the Country, with many clubs unable to access facilities at desired times due to capacity being taken up by block bookings that are given priority through accessing the provision year-round.

### **4.3: Demand**

There are eight clubs in Wolverhampton which collectively provide 29 senior men's, three senior women's and 29 junior teams. Of these eight clubs, Wolverhampton CC has the high level of participation, operating 17 teams, whilst Whitmore Reans CC and Springvale provide just two teams each.

Included within the clubs are Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC, Wightwick & Finchfield CC and Springhill CC, despite them accessing squares outside of Wolverhampton. They have been incorporated due to the proximity of their sites to the border and the level of Wolverhampton based demand that is being catered for. As a reminder, these clubs are based in South Staffordshire. However, the nearest analysis area to Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC and Wightwick & Finchfield CC is Tettenhall. Likewise, the nearest analysis area to Springhill CC is Central & South.

*Table 4.7: Summary of teams by club*

Club	Analysis area	No. of teams		
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior
Fordhouses CC	North	4	-	6
Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC	Outside	4	-	4
Penn CC	Central & South	3	-	-
Springhill CC	Outside	5	-	-
Springvale CC	Bilston	2	-	-
Whitmore Reans CC	Central & South	2	-	-

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Club	Analysis area	No. of teams		
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior
Wightwick & Finchfield CC	Outside	4	1	9
Wolverhampton CC	Tettenhall	5	2	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>

As seen in the table below, most teams are based in the Tettenhall Analysis Area (22 teams), whereas none are based in the Wednesfield Analysis Area (with no squares provided). In total, 19 of the teams are catered for by the clubs that fall outside of Wolverhampton.

*Table 4.8: Summary of teams by analysis area*

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams		
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Bilston	2	-	-
Central & South	5	-	-
North	4	-	6
Tettenhall	5	2	10
Wednesfield	-	-	-
Outside	13	1	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>

#### **Participation trends**

Two clubs; Whitmore Reans and Springhill cricket clubs, report that demand has increased over the previous three years in relation to their senior teams, with each adding an additional team to their ranks. In contrast, Fordhouses CC reports a decline in senior participation, with it now fielding one team fewer. Similarly, Wightwick & Finchfield has also seen a decline of one senior and two junior teams due to the impacts of Covid. Though it feels it can recover these teams in the 2022 season.

Springvale, Penn and Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall cricket clubs report no changes in demand, whilst Wolverhampton CC reports an increase in junior demand.

Where there has been growth, most clubs attribute this to the success of initiatives such as All Stars Cricket, which has increased junior participation, and Softball Cricket, which has increased female participation. Other factors include an increased online presence and advertising.

#### **Latent demand**

No latent demand has been expressed during consultation. That is, no clubs report that teams are unable to play due to a lack of facilities.

#### **Imported demand**

There are no identified teams importing demand into Wolverhampton to access cricket facilities.

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### ***Exported demand***

Other than Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC and Wightwick & Finchfield CC, both of which are included within this study, there are no identified teams exporting demand outside of Wolverhampton to access cricket facilities.

### ***Additional activity***

The ECB is currently running a number of initiatives across the Country which results in additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfield, making squares unusable for matches during these periods. This can mean no availability on one or two nights a week. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfield, making squares unusable during these periods.

### ***All Stars Cricket***

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, cricket clubs 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 5–8-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.

As of 2021, Fordhouses CC, Old Wulfrunians CC, Wolverhampton, Penn CC and Springhill CC operate successful All Star sessions. Wightwick and Finchfield began operating these sessions in 2019 but has since stopped following a reduction in interest in the programme.

### ***Dynamos Cricket***

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos Cricket 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 and will develop the pathway to retain juniors who progress.

Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamo's seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified softball 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 also aimed to launch in 2020 (pre-Covid-19).

In Wolverhampton, Fordhouses and Springhill cricket clubs are signed up to deliver Dynamo's, with 37 participants registered across the clubs.

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### *Softball Cricket*

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

Wolverhampton CC is the only identified club taking part in the women's softball activities in Wolverhampton.

### *Chance to Shine*

Chance to Shine is a national charity that aims to give all children the opportunity to play, learn and develop through cricket. It believes that cricket can help to develop the personal, social, and physical skills of the 500,000 children that are worked with every year.

It works in schools to provide children with their first experience of cricket, whilst it has also developed Chance to Shine Street. This is a format of the sport played with a tapeball, targeting children and young adults in inner-city areas and with matches lasting just 20-minutes.

SCB operates one Chance to Shine session per week in Wolverhampton at Worcester Street.

### *Last Man Stands*

Last Man Stands (LMS) was founded in 2005, in London. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours, and is generally played on NTPs. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the 'Last Man Stands' on his own. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and is increasing in popularity.

LMS in Wolverhampton is a popular midweek offer and is the primary home of the Wolverhampton Social League, with fixtures generally played on non-turf wickets throughout the cricket season. The League normally consists of over six teams, making it clear that the recreational offer for cricket in Wolverhampton is regular and has growth opportunities.

### ***Future demand***

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy & Action Plan that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development plans within Wolverhampton.

### *Population forecasts*

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2039) based on population growth. Using this, it is predicted that there will be a growth of two senior men's and two junior teams (as seen in the table below).

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Table 4.10: Team generation rates based on population growth (2039)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (18-55)	66,545	29	1:2377	71,689	30	1
Senior Women's (18-55)	64,769	2	1:32308	68,106	2	0
Junior (7-18)	39,788	27	1:20224	43,162	28	1

When applied on an analysis area basis, the growth does not equate to a whole team in any of the analysis areas. As such, the overall predicted growth estimated across Wolverhampton may not be realised. It is more likely that additional population growth will join existing, established teams.

Although no women and girls' teams are predicted to be created via population growth alone, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of female cricket in Wolverhampton is likely as it is currently a national priority to increase women's and girls' participation. It is therefore important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies to increase the number of teams in some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would ordinarily suggest. This also applies to a likely growth in junior cricket, linked to the abovementioned All Stars and Dynamo's initiatives.

In addition, the ECB's five-year media rights deal, from 2020-2024, includes a continuation of its relationship with Sky Sports. This now extends beyond broadcasting and acts as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and a commitment to increase participation and engagement. This could therefore see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPS, meaning the impact should be reviewed over coming years.

### Participation increases

Of the responding clubs, six indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation. This amounts to a total predicted growth of 14 teams, equating to five senior men's, two senior women's and seven junior teams.

Table 4.11: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
Fordhouses CC	North	1	-	1
Penn CC	Central & South	1	-	1
Springhill CC	Outside	-	1	1
Springvale CC	Bilston	1	-	1
Whitmore Reans CC	Central & South	1	1	2
Wolverhampton CC	Tettenhall	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>



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### *Future demand summary*

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only future demand identified through participation increases are included due to the large increases expressed by clubs. This demand is considered more aspirational, and it is unlikely that it will all be achieved. However, the preceding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if the growth was realised.

### **Peak time demand**

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Wolverhampton is Saturday, although a good proportion of teams are also fielded on a Sunday including senior women's teams. As such, both require consideration.

For junior cricket, peak time is midweek albeit some Sunday cricket is also recorded.

### **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 square 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 therefore presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive match equivalent sessions per season per square that is available and that currently takes place.

For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per grass 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.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, or where the level of play was not made clear, an 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.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

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 of this 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.

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Please note that NTPs have been discounted from the analysis by means of not distorting the findings. This is because NTP usage is only recorded for one team in the City (which has been accounted for in the below table) meaning none are being used more than their recommended capacity, which is 60 match equivalent sessions per season (0 match equivalent sessions when poor quality). With no NTPs being overused, this translates to overall actual spare capacity for junior play, where the provision is more commonly used and where matches can be played on a variety of days. However, this is not considered to be actual spare capacity for senior cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage.

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Table 4.12: Capacity analysis of community available grass cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club users	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Saturday)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Sunday)	Potential spare capacity for junior cricket? (Midweek)
12	Claregate Park	Tettenhall	-	1	Poor	7	28	-	-	No	No	No
16	Coppice Performing Arts School	Wednesfield	-	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	East Park	Bilston	-	1	Good	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Fowlers Playing Fields	Wednesfield	-	1	Good	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Gamesfield Green Playing Field	Tettenhall	-	1	Good	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	Highfields School	Tettenhall	-	1	Standard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground	North	Fordhouses CC	2	Good	11	55	43	12	No	Yes	Yes
						8	40	45	5	No	No	No
42	King George V Playing Fields (Wednesfield)	Wednesfield	-	1	Good	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	Newbridge Playing Fields	Central & South	Whitmore Reans CC	1	Standard	11	44	22	22	No	Yes	Yes
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	Bilston	-	1	Standard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
61	Penn Cricket Club	Central & South	Penn CC	1	Good	11	55	15	40	No	Yes	Yes
74	Springvale Sports	Bilston	Springvale CC	1	Standard	11	44	22	22	No	Yes	Yes
90	Tettenhall College	Tettenhall	Wolverhampton CC	2	Standard	12	48	11	37	Yes	Yes	Yes
						10	40	11	29	Yes	Yes	Yes
91	Tettenhall Upper Green	Tettenhall	Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC	1	Standard	8	32	22	10	No	No	Yes
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Tettenhall	-	2	Standard	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
					Standard	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
103	Wednesfield High Academy	Wednesfield	-	1	Standard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall	Wolverhampton CC	2	Good	19	80	56	24	No	Yes	No
						11	70	56	14	No	No	No
111	Wolverhampton Girls' High School	Central & South	-	1	Standard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
140	Goodyear Neighbourhood Park	North	-	1	Good	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
142	Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club	Outside	Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC	1	Standard	12	48	52	4	No	No	No
143	Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club	Outside	Wightwick & Finchfield CC	1	Standard	12	48	76	28	No	No	No
144	Springhill Cricket Club	Outside	Springhill CC	1	Standard	8	32	44	12	No	No	No
152	Phoenix Park	Central & South	-	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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### Actual spare capacity

Although a large amount of spare capacity is identified, it is not as simple as to aggregate this into a general oversupply of cricket squares. Despite nine squares displaying some form of spare capacity, only the two squares at Tettenhall College offer spare capacity for further use.

Table 4.13: Summary of actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated
90	Tettenhall College	Tettenhall	2	66	3

All remaining squares are used to capacity on Saturdays, either because two teams are already assigned to them as a home venue or because the level of spare capacity is insufficient to accommodate an additional team without overplay being created or exacerbated (at least 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are required).

In total, actual spare capacity on a Saturday equates to a total of 66 match equivalent sessions per season, all of which is in the Tettenhall Analysis Area.

Table 4.14: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Bilston	-
Central & South	-
North	-
Tettenhall	66
Wednesfield	-
Outside	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>

For Sunday cricket, actual spare capacity is provided across seven sites.

Table 4.15: Summary of actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground	North	1	12	1
51	Newbridge Playing Fields	Central & South	1	22	1
61	Penn Cricket Club	Central & South	1	40	2
74	Springvale Sports	Bilston	1	22	1
90	Tettenhall College	Tettenhall	2	66	4
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall	1	24	2

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This amounts to total actual spare capacity of 186 match equivalent sessions and is evident in the Bilston, Central & South, North and Tettenhall analysis areas.

*Table 4.16: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area*

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Bilston	22
Central & South	62
North	12
Tettenhall	90
Wednesfield	-
Outside	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>

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

For junior midweek cricket, seven squares have actual spare capacity.

*Table 4.17: Summary of actual spare capacity for junior cricket by site*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground	North	1	12	2
51	Newbridge Playing Fields	Central & South	1	22	3
61	Penn Cricket Club	Central & South	1	40	6
74	Springvale Sports	Bilston	1	22	3
90	Tettenhall College	Tettenhall	2	66	6
91	Tettenhall Upper Green	Tettenhall	1	10	1

This totals 172 match equivalent sessions and is also found in the Bilston, Central & South, North and Tettenhall analysis areas.

*Table 4.18: Actual spare capacity for junior cricket by analysis area*

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Bilston	22
Central & South	62
North	12
Tettenhall	76
Wednesfield	-
Outside	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>



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The reason for midweek capacity being higher than the capacity for Saturday cricket is because fixtures can be split across numerous days, meaning more than two home teams can be assigned to a square. In addition, junior teams can utilise NTPs where they are provided. It is therefore only clubs with a significant junior membership base that struggle for capacity, such as Fordhouses, Wightwick & Finchfield and Wolverhampton cricket clubs.

### *Actual spare capacity analysis*

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that spare capacity across Saturday, Sunday and midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising the spare capacity across different days may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity 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.

### **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. On this basis, four sites in Wolverhampton are overplayed by a total of 49 match equivalent sessions, as seen in the table below.

*Table 4.19: Summary of overplay*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground	North	5
142	Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club	Outside	4
143	Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club	Outside	28
144	Springhill Cricket Club	Outside	12
<b>Total</b>			<b>49</b>

As evidenced, all three sites included outside of Wolverhampton are overplayed. Inside Wolverhampton, only the square at Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground is overplayed. The highest level of overplay is seen at Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club.

No overplay is evident in the Bilston, Central & South, Tettenhall and Wednesfield Analysis Areas.

*Table 4.20: Summary of overplay by analysis area*

Analysis area	Overplay (sessions per season)
Bilston	-
Central & South	-
North	5
Tettenhall	-
Wednesfield	-
Outside	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>

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Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a reduction in play is recommended on overplayed squares to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

### 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 men's teams, eight for senior women's teams and between four and eight matches for junior teams, depending on age), although note that no future demand is identified through population increases for either senior or junior cricket. Club aspirations will be explored in the proceeding PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan.

#### **Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Saturday)**

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.

*Table 4.21: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday)*

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Bilston	-	-	-	-	-
Central & South	-	-	-	-	-
North	-	5	5	-	5
Tettenhall	24	-	24	-	24
Wednesfield	-	-	-	-	-
Outside	-	44	44	-	44
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25</b>

As seen in the table above, there is an overall shortfall of cricket squares for Saturday cricket amounting to 25 match equivalent sessions per season. Current shortfalls are identified in the North Analysis Area and at the sites outside of Wolverhampton. Note that no future demand is identified through population changes (team generation rates).

#### **Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Sunday)**

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.

The existing picture, as shown in the table below, is that sufficient capacity exists to accommodate existing demand, although a shortfall is identified at the sites outside of Wolverhampton. Note that no future demand is identified through population changes (team generation rates).

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Table 4.22: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Sunday)

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Bilston	12	-	12	-	12
Central & South	36	-	36	-	36
North	12	5	7	-	7
Tettenhall	48	-	48	-	48
Wednesfield	-	-	-	-	-
Outside	-	44	44	-	44
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>59</b>	-	<b>59</b>

### 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 six (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 Dynamo's Cricket.

Note that no future demand is identified through population changes (team generation rates).

Table 4.23: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for junior cricket

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Bilston	18	-	18	-	18
Central & South	54	-	54	-	54
North	12	5	7	-	7
Tettenhall	46	-	84	-	84
Wednesfield	-	-	-	-	-
Outside	-	44	44	-	44
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>81</b>	-	<b>81</b>

There is currently a sufficient capacity of provision to accommodate the existing level of junior demand, notwithstanding the identified overplay at the sites outside of Wolverhampton.

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### **Cricket – supply and demand summary**

- There is both a current and future shortfall of provision to accommodate Saturday cricket.
- Overall spare capacity exists in relation to Sunday and midweek cricket, although shortfalls exist at the sites included that are outside of Wolverhampton.

### **Cricket – supply summary**

- In total, there are 13 grass cricket squares in Wolverhampton, with 11 available for community use (unavailable provision is located at Wolverhampton Grammar School).
- In addition, squares outside of Wolverhampton at Old Wulfrunians Sports & Social Club, Springhill Cricket Club and Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club are included due to their close proximity to the Wolverhampton boundary.
- There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at five sites and there are standalone NTPs at 15.
- All clubs have secure tenure arrangements.
- The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares identifies five as good quality, seven as standard quality and one as poor quality (at Claregate Park).
- Springvale CC previously had an aspiration to expand its social space and its changing rooms, the Club has been playing home matches at Elford and Penn CC whilst its home venue was being renovated. Though work has not been fully complete it is much improved.
- Whilst the provision servicing Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC requires modernisation.
- Four clubs report a demand for new, improved, or additional training facilities (Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton, Fordhouses and Springhill cricket clubs).

### **Cricket – demand summary**

- There are eight clubs in Wolverhampton which collectively provide 29 senior men's, three senior women's and 29 junior teams (including Old Wulfrunians, Springhill and Wightwick & Finchfield cricket clubs).
- Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton and Springhill cricket clubs report that demand has increased over the previous three years, whilst Fordhouses CC reports a decline in senior participation.
- Similarly, Wightwick & Finchfield has also seen a decline of one senior and two junior teams due to the impacts of Covid. Though it feels it can recover these teams in the 2022 season.
- Fordhouses, Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall, Wightwick & Finchfield and Wolverhampton cricket clubs in Wolverhampton form part of the All-Stars initiative, whilst three clubs (Wolverhampton, Fordhouses and Springhill cricket clubs) are running Dynamo's sessions.
- One club takes part in women's softball activities (Wolverhampton CC).
- In addition to affiliated activity, Chance to Shine Street activity and Last Mans Stands operate weekly sessions in Wolverhampton.
- Future demand for one senior men's and one junior teams is predicted via population growth (although this is not expected to be realised when reviewed on an analysis area by analysis area basis), whilst six clubs indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation, equating to five senior men's, two senior women's and seven junior teams.

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### 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. As part of this, club developers and a team of community rugby coaches deliver programmes in schools and clubs across Wolverhampton.

The RFU governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as the Touch Union 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.

#### *Disused and lapsed provision*

Playing field sites which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

There are no disused or lapsed sites identified in Wolverhampton which contained rugby pitches.

#### *Consultation*

No affiliated rugby union clubs are identified as playing within Wolverhampton. However, Wolverhampton RUFC, whilst based in South Staffordshire, sits just adjacent to the Wolverhampton boundary. Due to this and its player base predominately comprising of residents of Wolverhampton, it has been included within this report.

The Club was consulted via telephone to inform this report.

#### 5.2: Supply

There is a total of 11 rugby union pitches identified in Wolverhampton. This consists of six senior, two junior and two mini pitches and includes provision at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, situated in South Staffordshire. The Club has the bulk of provision with a total of seven pitches located at the site, with the remaining pitches located at education sites across the City.

As a breakdown, the Tettenhall Analysis Area has two senior pitches, and both the Central & South and Wednesfield analysis areas have one pitch. Comparatively, both the Bilston and North analysis areas contain no rugby union provision.

The Outside Analysis Area has three senior pitches, two junior pitches and two mini pitches, all of which are located at Wolverhampton RUFC.

*Table 5.1: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use.*

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. of mini pitches
Bilston	-	-	
Central and South	-	1	
North	-	-	



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Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. of mini pitches
Outside	3	2	2
Tettenhall	2	-	
Wednesfield	1	-	
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches, with recommended dimensions shown in the table below. However, nationally, it is common for junior and mini matches to be played on senior pitches via the use of cones, particularly at sites used by clubs. Nevertheless, this does not apply to the pitches located at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, which has dedicated junior and mini pitches on site.

Table 5.2: Pitch dimensions

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) <sup>9</sup>
U7	Mini	20 x 12
U8	Mini	45 x 22
U9	Mini	60 x 30
U10	Mini	60 x 35
U11	Mini	60 x 43
U12	Mini	60 x 43
U13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70 <sup>10</sup>

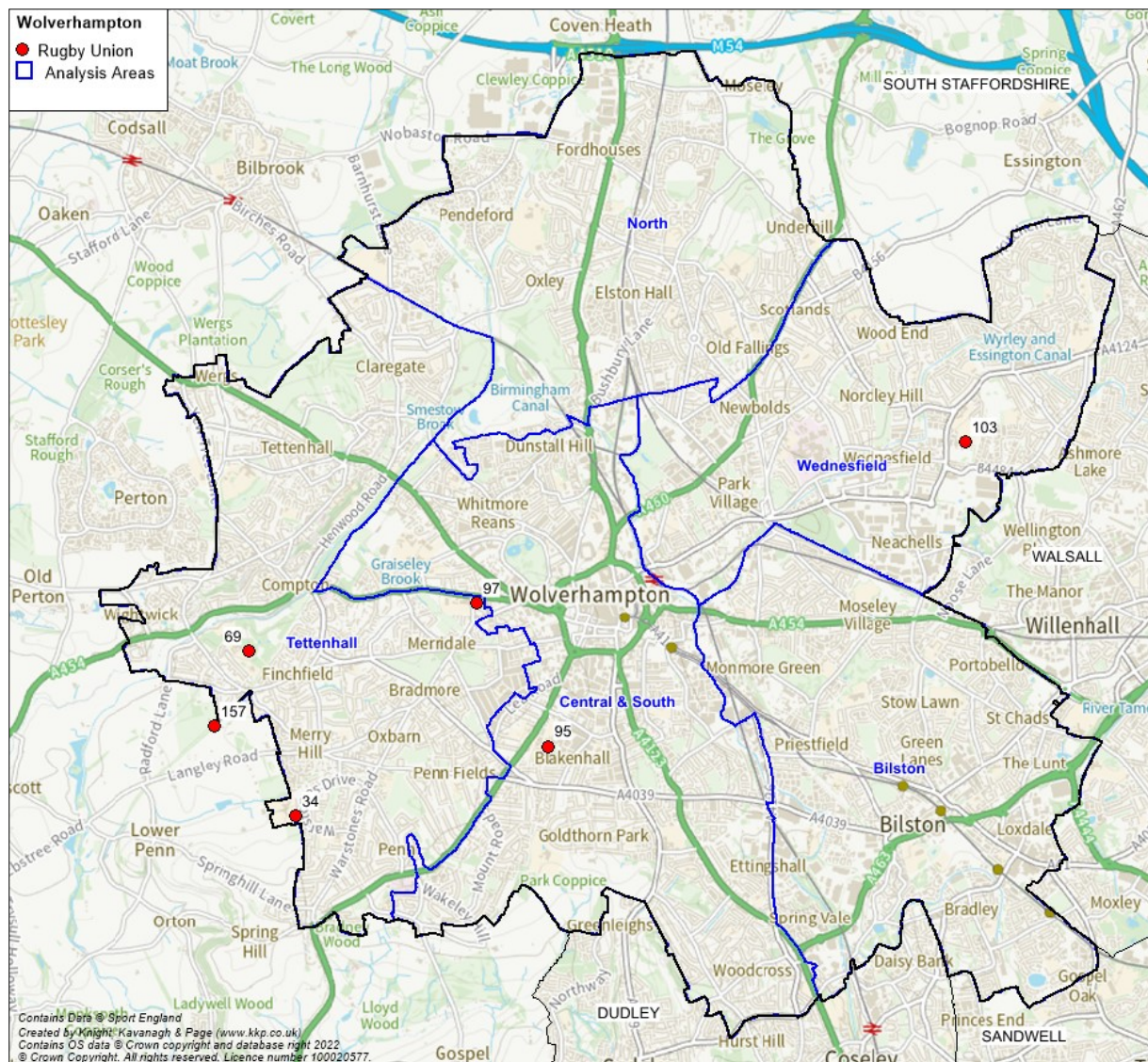
Figure 5.1 highlights all rugby union pitches currently within Wolverhampton, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 5.3.

<sup>9</sup> Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

<sup>10</sup> Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.

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Figure 5.3: Location of rugby union pitches within Wolverhampton



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### Security of tenure

Wolverhampton RUFC has freehold of its pitches and ancillary provision. Its tenure position is therefore secure.

The remaining provision at education sites in the City is unsecure, which is due to no formal community use agreements being in place to secure access to potential users. However, no community demand currently exists, meaning that this does not represent an issue.

### Future provision

No future proposals or aspirations are in place relating to provision within Wolverhampton, including any from Wolverhampton RUFC.

### Pitch quality

The quality of rugby pitches across Wolverhampton has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by RFU) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor.

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements: the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated. The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

*Table 5.3: Definition of maintenance categories*

Category	Definition
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

*Table 5.4: Definition of drainage categories*

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

*Table 5.5: 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

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The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the last five years.

In terms of pitch quality, all provision outside of that provided at Wolverhampton RUFC is poor quality. This is due to basic maintenance regimes at education sites which do not meet the technical criteria to achieve an M1 score.

The good and standard quality pitches are based at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, with the Club offering an intensive maintenance regime via outsourcing to DW Shotton Landscapes Ltd. The company provides weed-killing, seeding and verti-draining on every pitch at the site on a yearly basis. It also levelled the then sloping training area in 2021.

The senior pitches at the site have a drainage score of D2, which is result of the Club having pipe drainage installed. In the case of the junior and mini pitches on site, which have a D1 rating, the Club plans to install pipe drainage following an RFU grant received during 2021. This project is scheduled to start in April 2022 and upon completion shall improve the capacity of the provision.

*Table 5.6: Quality of pitches available for community use*

Senior pitches			Junior pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
1	2	3	-	-	3	-	-	2

See Table 5.8 overleaf for the agreed quality ratings for each of the pitches.

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Table 5.7: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Tenure	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
34	Highfields School	Tettenhall	No	Unsecure	1	1 Senior	No	M0/D0	Poor
69	Smestow School	Tettenhall	Yes	Unsecure	1	1 Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor
95	Royal Wolverhampton Junior School	Central and South	Yes	Unsecure	1	1 Junior	No	M0/D1	Poor
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Tettenhall	Yes	Unsecure	1	1 Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor
103	Wednesfield High Academy	Wednesfield	Yes	Unsecure	1	1 Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor
157	Wolverhampton Rugby Club	OUTSIDE	Yes	Secure	7	1 Senior	No	M2/D1	Good
						2 Senior	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
						2 Junior	No	M1/D0	Poor
						2 Mini	No	M1/D0	Poor



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### ***Ancillary facilities***

As there is no community rugby union demand within Wolverhampton, there is no specific ancillary facility requirements in the City. Therefore, pitches only need to be serviced by changing facilities to adequately accommodate curricular use.

In the case of Wolverhampton RUFC, the Club has aspirations to relocate its kitchen and to extend it by six metres.

In 2015, the Club invested £215,000 to upgrade its changing rooms. The on-site clubhouse now features six RFU spec changing rooms all with integrated showers and toilets, as well as a dedicated referee changing room and a new boiler. The site also features a large bar and function room which is let out to the public.

### **5.3: Demand**

As mentioned previously, no affiliated rugby union demand is located in Wolverhampton. However, as Wolverhampton RUFC traditionally draws a large proportion of its player base from Wolverhampton, the Club is considered in the section below.

### ***Competitive play***

Wolverhampton RUFC draws players from Wolverhampton and sits just outside the border. The Club currently consists of three senior men's, one senior women's, 12 junior boys and one colt's team.

*Table 5.8: Summary of demand*

Club	Local Authority	No. of rugby union teams				
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini mixed
Wolverhampton RUFC	South Staffordshire	3	1	7	0	6
Total		3	1	7	0	6

### ***Training***

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 floodlighting.

With no club-based pitches in Wolverhampton, none of the provision is floodlit, meaning none would be suitable for training demand if such demand existed.

Elsewhere, Wolverhampton RUFC utilises its home site for training demand. The Club has a dedicated floodlit training area which it utilises, with incandescent floodlights for the training space installed 15 years ago. It is considering upgrading these.

Training for the Club takes place on both the floodlit training area as well as the second and third team pitches at the site every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 19:00 to 21:00. Both the second and third team pitches are serviced by LED floodlights that were installed in 2010.

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In total, midweek training demand equates to five match equivalent sessions per week. This derives from three senior teams training twice (Tuesdays and Thursdays), a senior ladies team training on Wednesday evenings and four of its seven junior teams also training on Wednesdays.

### *Exported/imported demand*

As Wolverhampton RUFC is technically located within South Staffordshire, Wolverhampton exports all of its demand. However, this is not considered to be an issue due to the close proximity of its site.

### *Future demand*

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. In addition, the succeeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing developments within Wolverhampton.

### *Population forecasts*

Team generation rates are used as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. However, as there is no current rugby union demand in Wolverhampton, no teams are expected to be generated through population growth alone.

*Table 5.9: Team generation rates (2039)*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (19-45)	47,596	3	15865	50,861	3.2	0
Senior Womens (19-45)	45,605	1	45605	47,762	1.0	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	9,380	7	1340	10,929	8.2	1
Junior Girls (13-18)	8,758	0	0	10,462	0.0	0
Mini Mixed (7-12)	21,650	6	3608	5,257	1.5	0

As seen, team generation rates forecast to potential growth of one additional junior boys' team.

### *Participation increases*

Based on consultation feedback, Wolverhampton RUFC aspires to develop an additional senior men's team and a dedicated junior girls' team.

*Table 5.10: Future demand expressed by clubs*

Club	Local Authority	No. of rugby union teams				
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini mixed
Wolverhampton RUFC	South Staffordshire	1	-	-	1	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

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### *Future demand summary*

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only future demand identified through participation increases are included (meaning the growth of a singular junior boys team). This demand is considered more aspirational, and it may not be achieved. However, the preceding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if the growth was realised.

### **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 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 (except for where mini pitches are provided and known to be used as standard practice).
- ✦ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v 15 and use a full pitch.
- ✦ Mini teams (U6-U12) play on half of a senior pitch, meaning two matches and four teams can be accommodated at any one time; this means that play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.
- ✦ For senior and youth teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away).
- ✦ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ✦ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ✦ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ✦ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ✦ Unless known otherwise, capacity on school pitches is limited due to internal usage.
- ✦ Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate. Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and the club survey. This guide should only be used as a very general measure of potential pitch capacity and does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

*Table 5.11: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments*

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

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Table 5.12. Rugby union pitches and level of community use

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Play (sessions per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
34	Highfields School	Tettenhall	1	Senior	Poor M0/D0	No	0.5	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
69	Smestow School	Tettenhall	1	Senior	Poor M0/D0	No	0.5	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
95	Royal Wolverhampton Junior School	Central & South	1	Junior	Poor M0/D0	No	0.5	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Tettenhall	1	Senior	Poor M0/D0	No	0.5	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
103	Wednesfield High Academy	Wednesfield	1	Senior	Poor M0/D0	No	0.5	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
157	Wolverhampton Rugby Club	Outside	2	Senior	M1/D1	Yes	4	2	2	The second team pitch is used for three two-hour training sessions per week, one senior ladies training session and one second team fixture, giving a capacity rating of 2 MES of overplay.
							4.5	2	2.5	The third team pitch is used for three two-hour training sessions per week and one junior training session, as well as one third team and one women's team fixture, giving a total capacity rating of 2 MES of overplay.
			1	Junior	M2/D1	No	1.5	3	1.5	The pitch is used for first team fixtures and some colts/junior demand on Sundays and therefore has a capacity rating of 1.5.
			2		M1/D1	No	1.5	2	0.5	The first junior pitch is used by the U13's, 14's and 15's for fixtures, giving a capacity rating of 0.5.
							1.5	2	0.5	The second junior pitch is used by the U16's, 17's and Colts for fixtures, giving a capacity rating of 0.5.
			2	Mini	M1/D1	No	1.5	2	0.5	The first mini pitch is used by the U7's, 8's and 9's for fixtures, giving a capacity rating of 0.5
							1.5	2	0.5	The second mini pitch is used by the U10's, 11's and 12's for fixtures, giving a capacity rating of 0.5

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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 four rugby union pitches in Wolverhampton at education sites that are unused by clubs despite being reported as available. Whilst these may theoretically provide some spare capacity, all pitches in question are deemed to be of a poor quality and therefore do not offer any level of spare capacity due to exiting curricular use utilising all capacity.

In the case of Wolverhampton Rugby Club, only one pitch has potential spare capacity, with this being the first team pitch at the site. This is being retained to ensure a high-quality pitch for the level of demand received.

*Table 5.13: Spare capacity summary*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Potential capacity	Actual spare capacity	Comments
157	Wolverhampton Rugby Club	Outside	1.5	1.5	Site has spare capacity for 1.5 MES on the first team pitch.

For mini and junior 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.

Given the above, it is generally assumed that no pitches used by mini or junior teams have significant actual spare capacity for an increase in demand (over and above what actual spare capacity has been identified for senior play). However, it is acknowledged that some capacity does exist during weekends when the pitches are not in use.

### Overplay

Two pitches at Wolverhampton Rugby Club are overplayed by a total of 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This takes place on the second and third team pitch at the site, largely as a result of midweek training taking place due to the presence of floodlighting.

*Table 5.14: Overplay summary*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
157	Wolverhampton Rugby Club	Outside	Senior	2	4.5

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### 5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay in each of the analysis areas for rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week.

The position of actual spare capacity and overplay for all five of the analysis areas across Wolverhampton is that there is no spare capacity or overplay. This is due to all sites located within the City not providing any actual spare capacity and no demand being identified.

For Wolverhampton Rugby Club, there is spare capacity for 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week on the first team pitch on site. However, the remaining two pitches are overplayed by a total of 4.5 match equivalent sessions. Therefore, overall, the site has a shortfall of three match equivalent sessions per week, largely down to midweek training pressures.

Future demand equates to one junior team from team generation rates. This exacerbates shortfalls by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.

*Table 5.15: Supply and demand analysis of senior grass rugby union pitches*

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current demand	Future demand	Future total
Bilston	-	-	-	-	-
Central and South	-	-	-	-	-
North	-	-	-	-	-
Outside	1.5	4.5	3	0.5	3.5
Tettenhall	-	-	-	-	-
Wednesfield	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>

Based on the above, the broad position is that there is an insufficient supply of provision for rugby union to accommodate Wolverhampton RUFC.



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### **Rugby union supply and demand summary**

- ▶ Overplay of 4.5 match equivalent sessions is identified at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, although one pitch has actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ▶ For the five school sites located within Wolverhampton, whilst no demand exists, they are not considered to provide any actual spare capacity due to poor quality.
- ▶ Wolverhampton Rugby Club also has actual spare capacity of 1.5 MES, caused by one of the senior pitches being used for first team fixtures only.
- ▶ Wolverhampton Rugby Club has a current shortfall of three match equivalent sessions per week, largely down to midweek training pressures.
- ▶ When factoring in future demand, the shortfall increases to 3.5 match equivalent sessions.

### **Rugby union supply summary**

- ▶ There are four school sites containing a total of three senior pitches and one junior rugby pitch within Wolverhampton, all of which, are available for community use.
- ▶ Each of the five pitches within Wolverhampton across as many sites have been assessed as poor quality.
- ▶ Wolverhampton RUFC has security of tenure outside of the City, through freehold ownership of its site. The site consists of three senior pitches, two junior and two mini. The first team pitch is good quality, the remaining two standard quality and the remaining junior and mini pitches poor quality.

### **Rugby union demand summary**

- ▶ No affiliated rugby union demand is located in Wolverhampton.
- ▶ Wolverhampton RUFC are based just over the border, in South Staffordshire, but are considered to be a Wolverhampton club.
- ▶ In total, Wolverhampton RUFC field three senior men's, one senior women's, seven junior boys', and six mini teams.
- ▶ The Club trains on its dedicated training area, as well as on two of its senior pitches that are floodlit.
- ▶ Future demand is expressed by Wolverhampton RUFC for a fourth senior men's team as well as a junior girls' team.
- ▶ Team generation rates forecast the growth of an additional junior boys' team.

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### PART 6: RUGBY LEAGUE

#### 6.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in England. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the UK.

Most community club rugby league is played throughout the summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is considered as a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training is also required throughout the winter months.

Senior rugby league is played on a field measuring 100 x 68 metres. The preferred pitch size for U7s, U8s and U9s is 60 x 40 metres, whereas for U10s and U11s it is 80 x 30 metres, with U12s and above generally playing on senior pitches. Teams from U7s to U11s are known as primary teams, with teams from U12s to U18s known as junior teams.

#### *Disused and lapsed provision*

Playing field sites which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

There are no disused or lapsed sites identified in Wolverhampton which contained rugby league pitches.

#### 6.2: Supply

There are no rugby league pitches in Wolverhampton.

The area was formerly home to Wolverhampton RLFC, which formed in 2010 through a merger of the then existing Wolverhampton Warlords RLFC and Wolverhampton Wizards RLFC. However, this club has recently folded due to issues with regularly fielding teams and through lack of volunteers to support administration and coaching. The club did not have a formal rugby pitch, instead it used one of Wolverhampton RUFC's senior pitches during the summer season.

#### 6.3: Demand

No current demand has been identified for rugby league in Wolverhampton following the loss of Wolverhampton RLFC. In effect, any residual need will now be likely to travel to form part of clubs based in neighbouring authorities. The nearest known clubs locally are Bromsgrove Bulldogs RLFC and Telford Raiders RLFC.

#### *Future demand*

The Rugby League World Cup (RLWC) will take place in England during 2022 following postponement in 2021 due to Covid-19. In total, there will be 61 matches played across venues in Bolton, Coventry, Doncaster, Hull, Kirklees, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Preston, Sheffield, St Helens, Tees Valley, Trafford, Warrington, Wigan & Leigh and York.

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Following the World Cup, the RFL plans to identify opportunities for investment and facility development through the Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme. This comprises of three key strands; volunteers, facilities and community engagement and will look to use the tournament as a catalyst to develop the game.

Locally, Telford Raiders RLFC (based in Telford) has been awarded a grant of £6,314 to contribute towards kit and equipment to create new junior teams in the West Birmingham area, specifically in Telford, Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton. This may therefore result in increased interest in the City.

### 6.4: Supply and demand analysis

As no demand has been identified within Wolverhampton, there is no need at this time for any provision to be established. Instead, the focus should be placed on ensuring that any demand that does exist can be accommodated within clubs outside of the City.

Should any aspirations come forward in the future for the reformation of Wolverhampton RLFC (or an alternative club), this may need to be revisited.

#### **Rugby league – supply and demand summary**

- ▶ As no demand has been identified within Wolverhampton, there is no need at this time for any provision to be established.
- ▶ Focus should be placed on ensuring that any demand that does exist can be accommodated within clubs outside of the Borough.
- ▶ Should any aspirations come forward in the future for the reformation of Wolverhampton RLFC (or an alternative club), this may need to be revisited.

#### **Rugby league – supply summary**

- ▶ There are no rugby league pitches in Wolverhampton.
- ▶ The closest provision is provided in Bromsgrove.

#### **Rugby league – demand summary**

- ▶ No current demand has been identified for rugby league in Wolverhampton.
- ▶ The area was formerly home to Wolverhampton RLFC; however, this club has recently folded.
- ▶ Locally, Telford Raiders RLFC has been awarded a grant of £6,314 to contribute towards kit and equipment to create new junior teams, with Wolverhampton being one focus area.

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### PART 7: HOCKEY

#### 7.1: Introduction

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 3G pitches, 40mm pitches may be suitable at introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. England Hockey's (EH) Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as seen below.

*Table 7.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey*

Category	Surface	Playing Level	Playing Level
England Hockey Category 1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	<b>Essential</b> International Hockey - Training and matches	<b>Desirable</b> Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards England
England Hockey Category 2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	<b>Desirable</b> All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey
England Hockey Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> All adult and junior club training and league Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
England Hockey Category 4	All 3G surfaces	<b>Essential</b> None	<b>Desirable</b> Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

In addition to the above pitch types, EH reports that it 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 2<sup>11</sup>, is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it will be a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

For senior teams, a full-size pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run-off areas, which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596&sectionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

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EH's preference is for four-metre side and five-metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres, though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek and also requires access to a pitch with floodlights.

### Consultation

There are four affiliated hockey clubs identified as playing within Wolverhampton. These are; Finchfield HC, Old Wulfrunians HC, Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC and Dudley Ladies HC, all of which successfully responded to consultation resulting in a 100% response rate.

*Table 7.2: Summary of Hockey club response rate*

Club name	Club response?
Finchfield HC	Yes
Old Wulfrunians HC	Yes
Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC	Yes
Dudley Ladies HC	Yes

### 7.2: Supply

The audit identifies five hockey suitable AGPs within Wolverhampton across five sites (two are located at WV Active Aldersley), all of which are floodlit and available for community use. Tettenhall is the Analysis Area featuring the most AGPs, with three (60% of the overall supply), whilst both the Bilston and Central and South analysis areas have one AGP each.

In the case of both the North and Wednesfield analysis areas, there is no identified full size supply.

*Table 7.3: Summary of full-size hockey suitable AGPs*

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit ?	Size (metres)
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	WV14 0QE	Bilston	Yes	Yes	91 x 55
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	WV3 0EG	Central & South	Yes	Yes	90 x 60
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	WV3 9RB	Tettenhall	Yes	Yes	102 x 58
117	WV Active Aldersley	WV6 9NW	Tettenhall	Yes	Yes	102 x 63
					Yes	102 x 63

### Smaller size provision

In addition to the full size AGPs, there is also one smaller size pitch provided in Wolverhampton, at Colton Hills Community School. This is available to the community, however, only in favourable conditions as the pitch is unplayable during inclement weather spells. It is serviced by floodlights and is most commonly used for football as opposed to hockey, likely due to the smaller, 39m x 24m dimensions.



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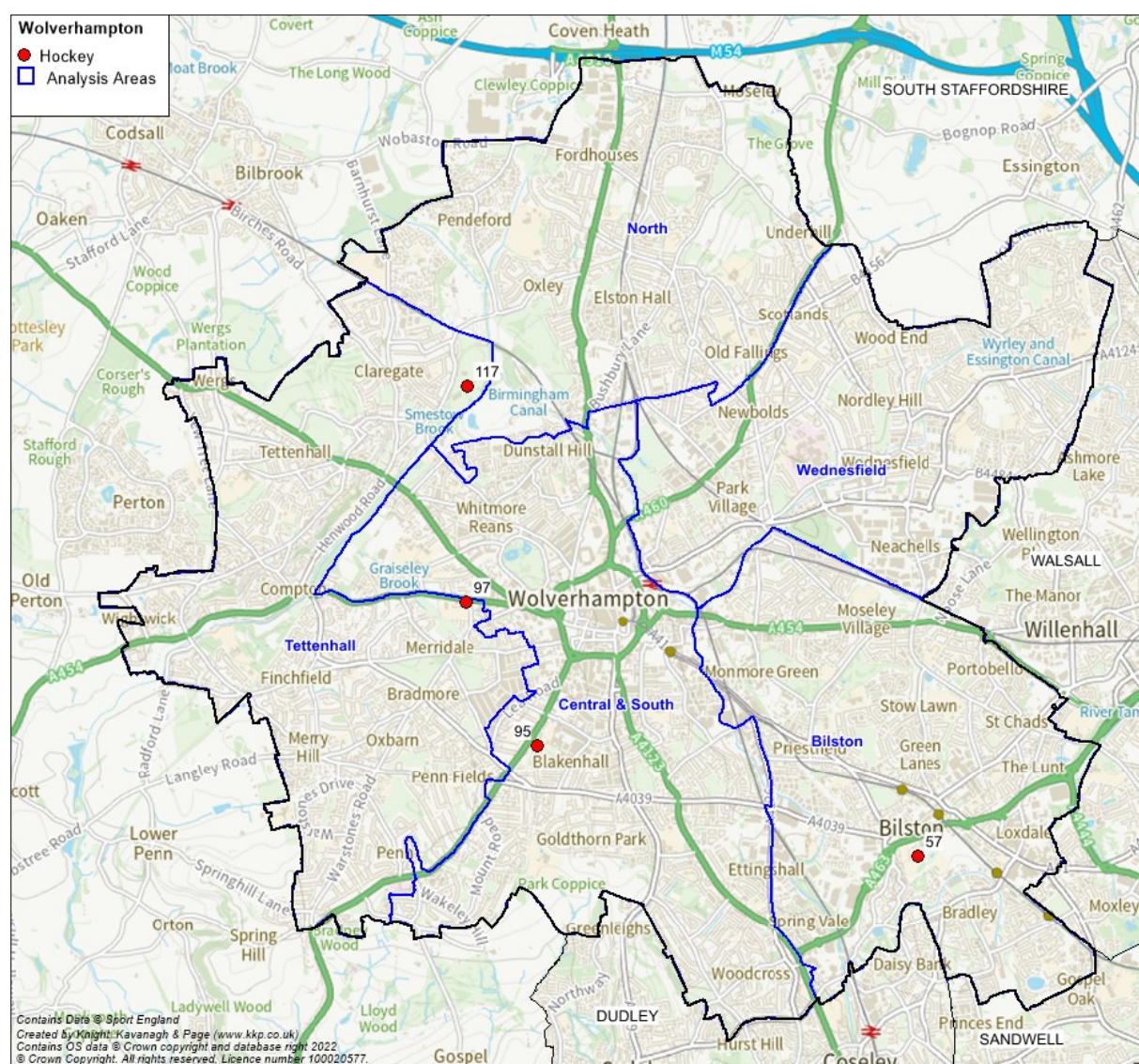
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Given the size of the pitch deeming it too small to accommodate any purposeful hockey demand, it is discounted in the forthcoming analysis.

Table 7.4: Smaller size AGPs in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Surface	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
15	Colton Hills Community School	Central & South	Yes	Sand filled	Yes	39 x 24

Figure 7.1: Location of full size hockey AGPs





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### ***Future supply***

Consultation with all four Wolverhampton based hockey clubs within the area failed to identify any cases of sites or clubs intending to develop any further hockey provision.

EH indicates concerns about the lack of hockey-suitable facilities within Wolverhampton and the three accompanying Black Country Authorities. As such, it is currently searching for a site where new suitable hockey provision can be provided to secure the long term future of clubs in the region.

### ***Management and ownership***

The pitch at Ormiston SWB Academy is under the Ormiston Academy Trust ownership and is managed by the school during curricular hours and by the WV Active Bilston-Bert Williams Leisure Centre for out of school hours. Similarly, the WV Active Aldersley pitch is under ownership of WV Active Aldersley and forms one of the three BC academy centres servicing the Black Country community.

The pitches located at the Royal Wolverhampton School and Wolverhampton Grammar School are both managed in house by the schools.

### ***Security of tenure***

Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC, which currently plays at WV Active Aldersley, accesses the provision on a yearly rental basis. The Club has been located at this site for over ten years and hope to remain here for the foreseeable future, although this is without a long-term guarantee (unsecure tenure).

Finchfield HC is based at the Royal Wolverhampton School for both training and fixtures. The Club has a free rental agreement in place having provided financial support in the re-surfacing of the pitch on site in 2019. This agreement is in place until the pitch development has been reimbursed.

Similarly, Old Wulfrunians HC is based at Wolverhampton Grammar School, which it shares good relations with having provided financial support for the re-surfacing of the facility in 2016. This pitch development support has provided the Club with a long-term agreement for the site.

Dudley Ladies HC utilises the pitch at Ormiston SWB Academy, following the loss of the Club's previous pitch located at the Dell Stadium in Dudley. This means that it is a Dudley Club importing demand into Wolverhampton due to a lack of facilities within its home authority. It rents the pitch on a weekly basis and is therefore without security of tenure.

### ***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).

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Table 7.5: AGP opening hours

Site ID	Site	Availability	Hours available in the peak period (and overall)
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	Reserved for curricular use until 17:00 then available to the community under WV Active Bilston-Bert Williams Leisure Centre management from 17:00-22:00 during the week and from 09:00-17:00 at weekends.	34 (41)
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	Reserved for curricular use until 17:00 then available to the community from 17:00-22:00 during the week and from 08:30-22:00 at weekends.	34 (38.5)
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Reserved for curricular use until 18:00 then available to the community from 18:00-22:00 during the week and from 08:00-16:00 at weekends.	27 (38)
117	WV Active Aldersley	Available and open to the general public weekdays from 09:00-22:00 and on weekends the site is open from 09:00 to 17:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 until 16:00 on Sundays.	33 (80)
117	WV Active Aldersley	Available and open to the general public weekdays from 09:00-22:00 and on weekends the site is open from 09:00 to 17:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 until 16:00 on Sundays.	33 (80)

Based on these opening times, all pitches, with the exception of Wolverhampton Grammar School are available for the full 34 hours per week in the peak window. Wolverhampton Grammar School is open 27 hours per week in the peak window (due to not being available until 18:00 midweek).

### Quality

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

In Wolverhampton, two of the full size pitches are assessed as good quality and three are standard quality.

As it stands, all pitches are within their recommended lifespans. Based on a technical report (produced by Notts Sport) for both pitches at WV Aldersley, it is determined that each has a minimum of four years left prior to a resurface being needed to be considered.

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*Table 7.6: Summary of full-size AGP quality*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	Bilston	2013	Standard
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	Central and South	2004/ 2019	Good
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Tettenhall	1996/ 2016	Good
117	WV Active Aldersley	Tettenhall	1994/2013	Standard
		Tettenhall	1994/2013	Standard

### **Ancillary provision**

Changing facilities at Ormiston SWB Academy have been flagged as an issue for Dudley Ladies HC as it does not have access to the on-site changing rooms for Saturday fixtures, meaning only external portable toilets are available.

No other issues regarding changing rooms were highlighted during consultations.

### **7.3: Demand**

There are four affiliated hockey clubs across Wolverhampton, each of which has varying scales of members and number of teams. A summary of hockey demand can be found below in Table 7.6.

In total, the four hockey clubs collectively provide 24 teams which, as a breakdown, totals 16 senior men's, six senior women's and two junior teams. Three of the clubs are large clubs with a variety of teams, whilst Dudley Ladies HC fields just one senior side.

*Table 7.7: Summary of demand*

Name of Club	No. of competitive teams			No. of members
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior	
Dudley Ladies HC	-	1	-	54
Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC	4	4	1	205
Finchfield HC	6	1	1	146
Old Wulfrunians HC	6	-	-	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>505</b>

### **Dudley Ladies HC**

Dudley Ladies HC fields one senior women's team, consisting of 15 senior members and one junior member. The Club previously had as many as three teams playing at The Dell Stadium; however, this reduced to one team when the Club relocated due to the conversion of the 3G pitch.

The Club now plays and trains at Ormiston SWB Academy, in Wolverhampton, as it reports a distinct lack of available facilities across its home borough. The Club accesses a third of the pitch for a training slot every Wednesday due to having to balance football demand in the area. The AGP does not feature a net divider or divide pads, meaning the Club lays down cones to cordon themselves away from football users.

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The changing and toilet facilities are also closed on Saturdays, meaning it can only access portable toilets on matchdays. The Club fears that it is at risk of folding completely and has previously trialled combining with other local clubs, but this has not been successful.

#### ***Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC***

Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC represents the largest club within the City, with four senior men's, four senior ladies teams and one junior team. However, the Club reports a recent loss of its fifth ladies team, caused by a lack of demand. It also delivers junior sessions every Sunday for which it has circa 50 members in attendance.

The Club report that it has issues with utilisation of both pitches at WV Aldersley due to quality concerns on the sand filled pitch and as such has relocated a proportion of its demand at Ormiston SWB Academy. However, this is not evidenced by the technical report produced by Notts Sport.

#### ***Finchfield Hockey Club***

Finchfield HC uses The Royal Wolverhampton School for fixtures and training, for which it pays no fee due to having provided financial support in the schools resurfacing of the sand dressed AGP in 2019.

The Club has access to the site on Saturdays as lead bookers and train on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which it states is ample for its training needs.

#### ***Old Wulfrunians HC***

Old Wulfrunians HC uses Wolverhampton Grammar School for its training and fixtures. The Club has a two-hour training slot every Tuesday which must conclude before 21:00 due to a curfew on the floodlights. Consultation identifies that both the pitch and changing room quality offered at Wolverhampton Grammar School is of a good quality; however, the School does not open to the general public on Sundays, which forces the Club to use The Royal Wolverhampton School as a secondary venue.

#### ***Imported/exported demand***

As already discussed, Dudley Ladies HC import demand from Dudley into Wolverhampton due to the lack of facilities available within the borough. The Club lost its facility in 2016 after the Dell Stadium was converted into a 3G surface. Previously the Club tried a merger with a Club based in Bilston; however this failed to work.

#### ***Latent demand***

Whilst no formal latent demand is identified by the clubs, it is generally considered that those based at a single site can recruit new members more effectively. Therefore, it is likely that Finchfield HC and Wolverhampton and Tettenhall HC are in the strongest positions to increase membership, as the remaining two clubs are either scattered across several venues or are based outside of their home authority, in the case of Dudley Ladies HC.

#### ***Future demand***

Dudley Ladies HC has no plans to increase its membership, instead focusing on retaining the single senior women's team that it currently fields and ensuring that it remains viable.

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Conversely, the remaining three clubs all aspire to increase demand in the future, although none quantify this.

In addition to the above, growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, regional and local leagues, 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.

### ***EH initiatives***

There are several initiatives supported by EH that operate across the Country, including:

- ◀ Back to Hockey
- ◀ Hockey Heroes
- ◀ Walking Hockey

When ran, these initiatives add to the demand picture for hockey and are likely to result in future growth within the affiliated clubs. Only Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC currently deliver Back to Hockey sessions, which take place before its weekly training sessions. No clubs referred to delivering Hockey Heroes but Walking Hockey sessions are delivered at WV Aldersley.

### ***Peak time demand***

For matches, senior hockey activity typically takes place on a Saturday, whereas junior activity generally occurs on a Sunday. For training, peak time is midweek evenings, although preference is generally given for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

### **Usage**

The pitch at Ormiston SWB Academy is used for both hockey and football purposes, with Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC taking the primary booking slot on Saturday from 10:00 till 15:00, giving the Club time for three games if required. Following this, Dudley Ladies HC has a two-hour Saturday slot for its fixtures.

The pitches at both The Royal Wolverhampton School and Wolverhampton Grammar School are both also used extensively for football purposes, in addition to hockey demand.

The two pitches available at WV Active Aldersley have a measured approach to balancing hockey and football usage by having the sand filled AGP predominantly used for football during the week, whilst the sand dressed AGP is more hockey focused. However, that's not to say that there is not an opportunity for an increased level of competitive hockey use on the sand filled pitch for local teams.

A pitch-by-pitch summary of usage is provided overleaf.

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Table 7.8: Capacity Review

Site ID	Site name	Pitch quality	Availability in the peak period (hours) <sup>12</sup>	% of hockey usage	% of other usage (e.g. football)	Comments	Capacity for hockey
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	Standard	34	25% 3 hours 30 mins	75%	Used by Dudley Ladies HC where it accesses one third of the pitch for an hour and a half every Wednesday for training. The remaining two thirds of the pitch the Club share with football use, which the site is predominantly used for during midweek. For fixtures the Club is allocated two hours on a Saturday afternoon, giving time for one fixture to take place.  Also currently used by Wolverhampton Hockey club as an overspill site.	<b>Spare capacity</b> for Saturday six additional teams per week (or three matches in peak period) No midweek capacity for further hockey use.
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	Good	31	19% 8 hr hockey usage	81%	Used by Finchfield HC where it has two training sessions, once on a Tuesday and once on a Thursday. The Club state this is ample for its needs. The Club has seven senior teams which equates to 3.5 match equivalent sessions in addition to its two training sessions midweek. Therefore, the site is operating at capacity for hockey.	<b>Spare capacity</b> for one additional Saturday senior team (0.5 matches in the peak period). Minimal availability for midweek training for remaining community clubs.
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Good	34	21% 7 hr hockey usage	79%	Used by Old Wulfrunians HC who have a two-hour training slot every Tuesday. The Club has six senior men's teams within its remit, which equates to three match equivalent sessions.	<b>Spare capacity</b> for two additional Saturday senior team (one match in peak period). No midweek capacity for further hockey use.
117	WV Active Aldersley (sand dressed)	Standard	34	30% 6 hours 30 mins	70%	The pitch is used by Wolverhampton Hockey Club for fixtures and training. The Club train Wednesday evenings from 19:00-21:00 and the eight teams within the club access the pitch on Saturdays for fixtures from 10:00 till 15:00. This gives the pitch six match equivalent sessions.	<b>No spare capacity</b> for matches or training
117	WV Active Aldersley (sand filled)	Standard	34	0%	Unknown	Predominately used for recreational football, however, has scope for further hockey use. Local clubs perceive quality of the pitch as unsuitable for competitive use, however, based on a technical report produced by Notts Sport, this is not the case.	<b>Spare capacity</b> for four additional Saturday senior. Likely to be small amount of capacity for midweek hockey use when balanced against football programming. .

<sup>12</sup> Based on data from Sport England's Active Places



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### 7.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is suggested that a floodlit pitch is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' pitch).

In Wolverhampton there are 22 senior teams which require access to a AGP on Saturdays to compete in league competitions. As such, based on a single pitch being able to accommodate four matches in the peak period (the demand of eight teams), there is a theoretical need for full access to three full size pitches (rounded up from 2.75).

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 pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time) and because there are also fewer junior teams provided for all clubs in Wolverhampton than senior teams. Therefore, a sufficient stock of pitches for senior hockey would also be considered sufficient for junior demand.

In terms of the existing supply, there are five pitches which can accommodate demand, which could suggest a potential oversupply of pitches. Four of the five pitches are in active use, and capacity does not exist to consolidate this onto fewer pitches, especially due to the presence of football demand. For the unused pitch (the sand filled at WV Aldersley) there is scope for increased use. This does not translate to the pitch being surplus to requirements as it should be considered as a strategic reserve for an increase in hockey demand, both for local Wolverhampton based clubs, but also those in the wider Black Country locality.

### **Conclusion**

There is a need for all the existing pitches to be protected for hockey in Wolverhampton. This is evidenced through existing competitive play as well as unquantified latent and future demand from clubs that may need to maximise use to existing provision, including access to the currently unused pitch at WV Aldersley.

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### **Hockey supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Current supply of AGPs within Wolverhampton can accommodate the existing demand for hockey within the City.
- ◀ There is a need for all of the existing pitches to be protected for hockey in Wolverhampton.

### **Hockey supply summary**

- ◀ There are five full size hockey suitable AGPs in Wolverhampton, provided at Ormiston SWB Academy, The Royal Wolverhampton School, Wolverhampton Grammar School and WV Active Aldersley (x2).
- ◀ All five pitches are floodlit and available to the community.
- ◀ There is one smaller size pitches, at Colton Hills Community School which is not large enough to accommodate some form of hockey demand.
- ◀ All pitches are good or standard quality.

### **Hockey demand summary**

- ◀ There are four affiliated hockey clubs identified as playing within Wolverhampton (Dudley Ladies, Wolverhampton, Finchfield and Old Wulfrunians hockey clubs).
- ◀ These four hockey clubs provide 24 teams, consisting of 16 senior men's, six senior women's and two junior teams.
- ◀ Dudley Ladies HC previously accessed The Dell Stadium, in Dudley, before its conversion to 3G in 2016 (imported demand).
- ◀ All clubs express future demand, although this is not quantified.
- ◀ Walking Hockey takes place at WV Aldersley.
- ◀ A large proportion of usage for the hockey suitable AGPs in Wolverhampton is from other activities, most notably in terms of football, whether that be through formal training or via informal social use.

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### PART 8: TENNIS

#### 8.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Wolverhampton. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target several national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

#### **Consultation**

There are six tennis clubs in Wolverhampton, of which five responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 83%. The unresponsive clubs are Linden Lea and Woodfield Sports and Social tennis clubs, with a full breakdown provided in the table below.

*Table 8.1: Tennis club response rate*

Club name	Club response?
Albert TC	Yes
Hanbury TC	Yes
Linden Lea TC	No
Tettenhall TC	Yes
Wolverhampton TC	Yes
Woodfield Sports and Social TC	No

#### **Disused and lapsed provision**

Playing court sites which have previously accommodated formal court provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing court which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

There are two lapsed courts located on Danescourt Rd (WV6 9BQ) these are owned by a private fitness company.

#### 8.2: Supply

There are 125 tennis courts identified in Wolverhampton across 28 sites. Of the courts, 74 are categorised as being available for community use at 17 sites compared to 51 that are unavailable at 12 sites.

The Tettenhall Analysis Area contains the highest number of available courts (30), whereas the Bilston and Wednesfield Analysis Areas provides the fewest (four).

*Table 8.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area*

Analysis area	Courts available for community use	Courts unavailable for community use
Bilston	6	4
Central & South	25	23
North	9	10
Tettenhall	30	10
Wednesfield	4	4
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>51</b>

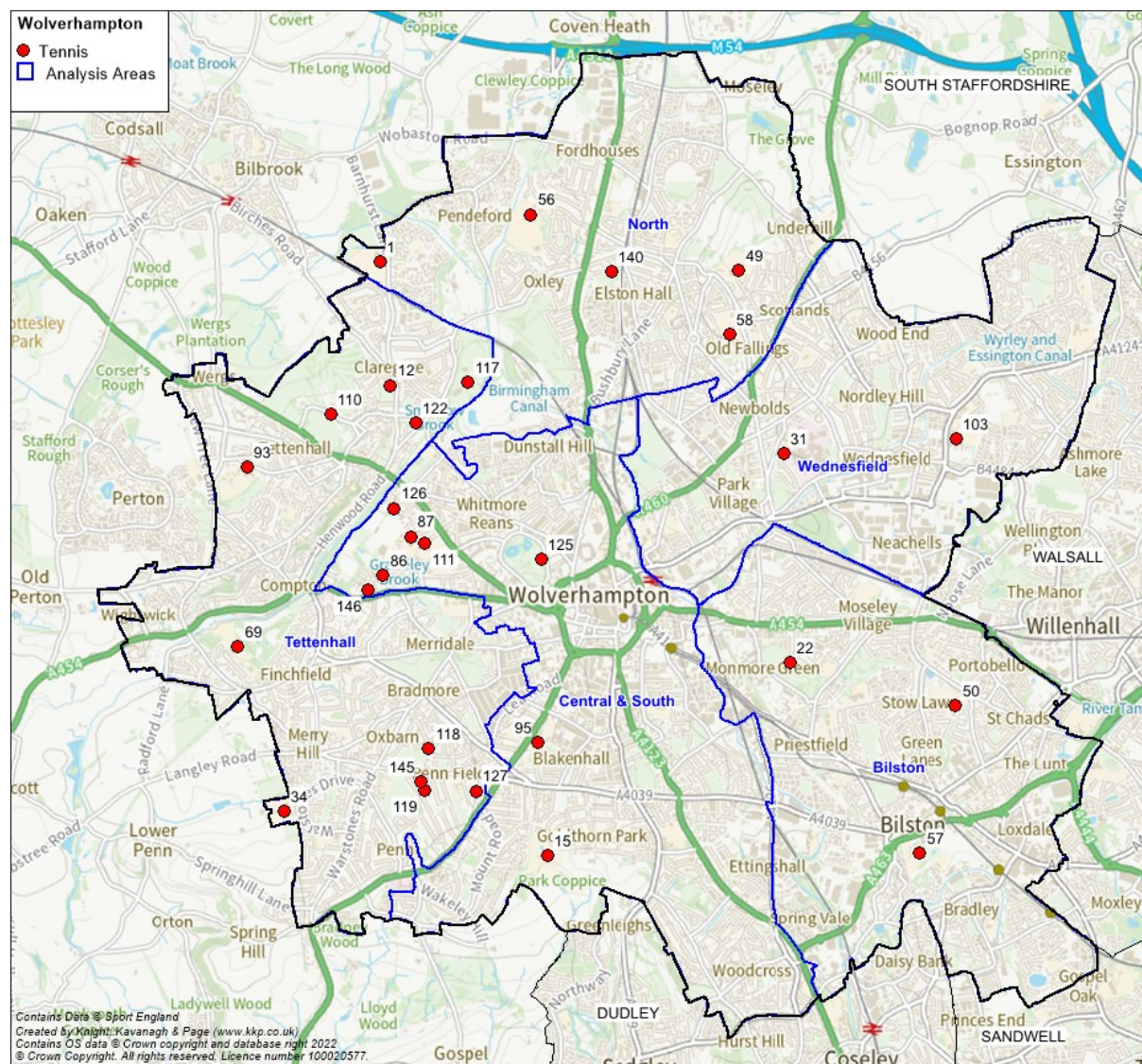
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Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both). All unavailable courts in Wolverhampton are located at education sites.

Figure 8.1 shows the location of the courts servicing Wolverhampton, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 8.3.

*Figure 8.1: Location of tennis courts in Wolverhampton*





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Table 8.3: Tennis courts in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Court quality
1	Aldersley High School Sports Centre	WV8 1RT	North	School	No	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
						2	Yes	Macadam	
12	Claregate Park	WV6 9PZ	Tettenhall	Council	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Poor
15	Colton Hills Community School	WV4 5DG	Central & South	School	No	8	No	Macadam	Standard
22	East Park	WV1 2BS	Bilston	Council	Yes	5	No	Clay	Poor
31	Heath Park School	WV11 1RD	Wednesfield	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Standard
34	Highfields School	WV4 4NT	Tettenhall	School	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
49	Moreton School	WV10 8BY	North	School	No	6	Yes	Macadam	Poor
50	Moseley Park School Sports Centre	WV14 6LU	Bilston	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Standard
56	Ormiston NEW Academy	WV10 6SE	North	School	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	WV14 0QE	Bilston	School	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Good
58	Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy	WV10 8BL	North	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
69	Smestow School	WV3 8HU	Tettenhall	School	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Standard
86	St. Edmund's Catholic Academy	WV3 9DU	Central & South	School	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
87	St. Peter's Collegiate School	WV3 9DU	Central & South	School	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Standard
					No	4	No	Macadam	
93	The King's CE School	WV6 8XG	Tettenhall	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Good
						3	No	Macadam	Standard
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	WV3 0EG	Central & South	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Standard
103	Wednesfield High Academy	WV11 3ES	Wednesfield	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	WV6 9BJ	Tettenhall	Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
111	Wolverhampton Girls' High School	WV6 0BY	Central & South	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Good
117	WV Active Aldersley	WV6 9NW	Tettenhall	Council	Yes	6	Yes	Macadam	Good
118	Bradmore Recreation Ground	WV3 7EN	Tettenhall	Council	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Poor
119	Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club	WV4 4BW	Tettenhall	Club	Yes	2	No	Artificial turf	Good

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Court quality
122	The Albert Lawn Tennis Club	WV6 9NA	Tettenhall	Club	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
						2	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
125	West Park	WV1 4QA	Central & South	Council	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Poor
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	WV6 0LH	Central & South	Club	Yes	5	Yes	Macadam	Good
						3	Yes	Clay	Poor
						1	No	Artificial turf	Good
						3	No	Grass	Good
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	WV4 4AF	Tettenhall	Club	Yes	4	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
140	Goodyear Neighbourhood Park	WV10 6DB	North	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
146	Linden Lea Tennis Club	WV3 9DU	Central & South	Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good



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### Indoor courts

In addition to its outdoor court stock, there are three indoor courts provided at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club. Although these fall out of the scope of this study, consideration must be given the provision given the added capacity benefits they provide.

### Management and security of tenure

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Wolverhampton. Most are operated by schools, although only 27 (34%) of these are available for community use, with local authority operated courts more accessible.

Table 8.4: Tennis courts by management type

Community use?	Number of courts			
	Club	Council	Education	Other
Available	25	27	25	-
Unavailable	-	-	48	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>-</b>

The table below outlines what the position of each of the tennis clubs in Wolverhampton.

Table 8.5: Clubs home venue and tenure position

Site ID	Site	Club	Tenure position
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall TC	Long term lease from Wolverhampton CC
119	Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club	Hanbury TC	Freehold
122	The Albert Lawn Tennis Club	Albert TC	Freehold
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	Wolverhampton TC	Freehold
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	Woodfield Sports and Social TC	Unknown
146	Linden Lea Tennis Club	Linden Lea TC	Unknown

Woodfield Sports & Social and Linden Lea tennis clubs have been unresponsive to consultation requests, therefore it is unknown what their tenure position is.

### Court type

Most outdoor tennis courts in Wolverhampton have a macadam surface, with 106 (83%). The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

Grass courts, whilst much sought after by players, are becoming increasingly rare across the Country, in part due to them requiring higher levels of maintenance and being able to accommodate less usage. They are generally reserved for summer use, with bad weather at other times of the year making them unusable.

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### ***Floodlighting***

Floodlit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that floodlights allow for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In Wolverhampton, 57 of the 125 tennis courts are serviced by floodlights, representing 47% of the provision. This is a relatively high amount when compared to other local authorities nationally.

The floodlit courts are located at:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ◀ Aldersley High School Sports Centre   | ◀ Wednesfield High Academy                |
| ◀ Highfields School                     | ◀ The Albert Lawn Tennis Club             |
| ◀ Linden Lea Tennis Club                | ◀ Wolverhampton Cricket Club              |
| ◀ Moreton School                        | ◀ Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club |
| ◀ Ormiston NEW Academy                  | ◀ Woodfield Social & Sports Club          |
| ◀ Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy | ◀ WV Active Aldersley                     |
| ◀ St. Edmund's Catholic Academy         |   |

Of the floodlit courts, 41 are available for community use. The 16 that are unavailable are at Aldersley High School Sports Centre (four), Highfields School (three), Moreton School (six) and St. Edmund's Catholic Academy (three).

A lack of floodlighting at many of the school sites presents a key reason as to why many of the courts are unavailable for community use. Many of the providers state that making them available for lettings would not be financially viable as usage would be limited, although the LTA does offer solutions to help overcome this including initiatives such as Clubspark and Gate Access (detailed further on). Just over half (53%) of non-floodlit courts are accessible to the community compared to 73% of floodlit courts.

Access to floodlit courts is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for more usage of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members. To that end, it must be noted that seven of the eight clubs have access to floodlit courts, although for Hanbury TC and Wolverhampton LTC only some of their courts are floodlit rather than all.

### ***Over markings***

Tennis courts, particularly within schools, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football courts. Courts which are over marked tend to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

In Wolverhampton, 49 courts are overmarked by netball/basketball provision, with the majority of these located at school sites where curriculum activity makes this necessary. For more information, see Part 9 of this report.

### ***Quality***

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering).

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

Of the courts in Wolverhampton, 48 are assessed as good quality, 51 as standard quality and 26 as poor quality. Most good quality courts are available for community use, with only 12 out of the 51 unavailable, which is like poor quality courts, where 20 of the 26 are available for community use. In contrast, fewer than half of the standard quality courts are accessible (16 of 51).

*Table 8.6: Quality of community available tennis courts*

Community use?	Quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	36	16	20
Unavailable	12	35	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>26</b>

The courts assessed as poor quality are located at the following sites:

- ◀ Bradmore Recreation Ground
- ◀ Claregate Park
- ◀ East Park
- ◀ Moreton School
- ◀ West Park
- ◀ Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club

Issues recorded during site assessments include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel. In addition, maintenance is also considered to be basic and infrequent at most of the sites, which leads to further deterioration in quality.

Four of the sites containing poor quality courts are operated by the Council (at Claregate Park, East Park, Bradmore Recreation Ground and West Park). Improving such courts is currently a national priority for the LTA, with a focus on suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so. This is especially the case if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities and floodlighting, whereby a sustainable tennis programme could be supported. It is noted that park facilities in Wolverhampton close at dusk, and therefore, floodlighting surfaces at these relevant sites would not provide a benefit to users.

Of particular concern are the poor quality courts at Bradmore Recreation Ground and Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club given that the sites are used by clubs. However, it must be noted that only the clay courts at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club are assessed as poor, with the remaining court types rated as good quality.

### ***Ancillary provision***

Wolverhampton TC states that its provision is in poor condition. It therefore has plans to improve its clubhouse, with a focus on making it accessible for disabled users.

All remaining clubs are serviced by adequate provision, although it is noted that modernisation is required at Wolverhampton Cricket Club for Tettenhall TC.

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For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic, although good quality ancillary facilities are provided at WV Active Aldersley, Ormiston NEW Academy and Ormiston SWB Academy. Whilst most of the other sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used.

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of such provision would be to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

### 8.3: Demand

It is reported that demand for tennis provision during the Covid-19 pandemic has increased compared to prior levels when court restrictions have not been in place (potentially linked to tennis being one of the first sports to be allowed to resume). This should therefore be monitored moving forward to ensure that any growth can be accommodated for if the increases are sustained.

#### ***Competitive tennis***

There are six tennis clubs in Wolverhampton which, where known, collectively cater for 1,359 members. It is, however, not clear what the membership figures are at Linden Lea TC and Woodfield Sports and Social Club due to these clubs not responding to consultation requests.

Across the responsive clubs, there are currently 995 senior and 364 junior members. Within this, Wolverhampton TC is a particularly large club, catering for 1,000 members. The Club having access to indoor provision will be a key factor for this.

*Table 8.7: Summary of tennis club demand*

Club	No. of members	
	Senior	Junior
Albert LTC	110	114
Hanbury LTC	25	10
Tettenhall TC	60	40
Wolverhampton LTC	800	200
Linden Lea TC	Unknown	Unknown
Woodfield Sports & Social TC	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Total</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>364</b>

#### ***Participation trends***

Both Hanbury TC and Tettenhall TC report that their demand has increased at the junior level over recent years. The former attributes this to increased support received from local stakeholders, whilst the latter states that its 10% increase is due to the introduction of a family membership package.

In contrast, Albert TC reports that its senior membership has decreased in recent years, although this partially offset by a slight increase in its junior membership. It attributes the loss of members to a lack of demand and its growth in demand to a new junior coach being employed. They have implemented a better programme with various coaching sessions and initiatives being held.

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All remaining responsive clubs state that both senior and junior membership has remained static.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low-quality facilities were addressed. As such, there is a potential opportunity in Wolverhampton for the Council and other providers to address such barriers, whilst also bettering understanding of court usage.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 3,933 people within Wolverhampton, which is a comparably low figure; by way of comparison 5,375 people are identified in Dudley, 4,852 in Sandwell and 4,180 in Walsall.

In relation to clubs, Wolverhampton LTC reports unmet demand in that it believes that it would be able to accommodate more junior members if it had a greater number of courts. An increase in its number of courts would allow more coaching sessions to be run along with additional matches being played (the Club states that it would be able to put together two additional junior teams if capacity was not limited).

No other clubs report any latent or unmet demand.

### ***Future demand***

Three out of the four respondent clubs report future growth aspirations, with total future demand amounting to 230 potential additional members (160 senior and 70 junior). The majority of this is identify by Wolverhampton LTC (with hopes to grow by 200 members).

*Table 8.8: Summary of future tennis club demand*

Club	Future demand (members)	
	Senior	Junior
Albert LTC	-	-
Hanbury LTC	-	-
Tettenhall TC	10	20
Wolverhampton LTC	150	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>70</b>

### ***Informal tennis***

It is considered that all local authority courts available for community use in Wolverhampton have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not always recorded due to the open access nature of many sites.

Most of the current use is assumed to take place throughout the summer months although it is also accepted that many courts are accessed unofficially for activities unrelated to tennis.

The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities to grow the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access, which are further detailed below.

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In Wolverhampton, these products are currently utilised at Wolverhampton Cricket Club, WV Active Aldersley, Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club, Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club and Woodfield Social & Sports Club.

In addition, Bradmore Recreation Ground is also being considered for implementation. It is not currently in place at any sites operated by the Council.

In relation to education providers, three (Ormiston NEW Academy, Ormiston SWB Academy and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy) report regular demand from the community for tennis. It is believed by many that a lack of demand overall for education providers could be a direct result of quality issues and/or a lack of floodlighting, as well as other courts being available for free. This results in the community being less likely to pay a hire charge for their provision.

### *ClubSpark – Improving the booking process*

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ✦ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ✦ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- ✦ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ✦ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package
- ✦ Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ✦ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- ✦ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ✦ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

### *RALLY*

Rally is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Rally provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.



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### *Gate Access*

The LTA has developed two gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four-digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

### ***Additional demand***

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which result in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

### *Local Tennis Leagues*

Recreational Tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are available to all aged 18 years and above and are run by an organisation called Local Tennis Leagues, which affiliates to the LTA.

Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

In Wolverhampton, a league is in operation, with primary venues considered to be Bradmore Recreation Ground, Claregate Playing Fields, East Park and West Park. In addition, venues in Walsall and Sandwell are also utilised.

### *LTA Youth Start*

This is a six-week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

### *Tennis for Free*

Tennis for Free is a community sports charity that works in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly coaching sessions for all ages and abilities in local communities across the UK, especially those in low-income areas.

Tennis for Free offers a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support. Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the charity have recently launched 'Tennis for Free Lite', available to clubs that wish to open their doors to non-members.

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Through its offer, Tennis for Free aims to:

- ◆ Reinvigorate under-used public facilities
- ◆ Make tennis a sport for all
- ◆ Make tennis more financially accessible in the UK
- ◆ Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local communities through tennis

### *LTA Big Tennis Weekend*

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts three dedicated weekends a year (in May, July and September) that are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow-on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

### *Mini tennis*

Although, no dedicated mini tennis courts have been identified in Wolverhampton, mini tennis can provide children with opportunities to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age.

Designed for children aged between 4-10, mini tennis utilises smaller courts, nets, and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques. The game is split out into three levels, with the LTA stating that each stage there are key aims and goals:

- ◆ Red (Stage 3): 4-8 year olds – serve, rally and score
- ◆ Orange (Stage 2): 8-9 year olds – develop a rounded game
- ◆ Green (Stage 1): 10 year olds – put skills to the test

### *Paddle tennis*

Paddle tennis (also referred to as Padel) is a form of tennis that is easy to play, fun and sociable. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve underhand and the walls are used as part of the game, with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

One of the fastest growing sports across continental Europe, it has gained increasing popularity over recent years, particularly in Spain with over six million people currently playing. As of 2021, there are around 6,000 active paddle tennis players across Great Britain, with 107 courts provided at 52 clubs. This is predicted to grow substantially in future years.

There are currently no paddle tennis courts in Wolverhampton. The nearest are located in Walsall at the Streetly Academy and in Birmingham at Sutton Coldfield Tennis Club.

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#### 8.4: Supply and demand analysis

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate 40 members whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. In addition, indoor courts can accommodate 200 members, which is relevant to Wolverhampton TC. Using these figures, the table below analyses whether or not courts currently in use by clubs are sufficient to meet current and future demand.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that the capacity figures are just used as a guide. In reality, many clubs operating above recommended capacity limits will not see this as an issue and will be able to function without a problem.

Table 8.9: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Club users	Current demand (members)	Future demand (members)	No of courts	Floodlit?	Capacity (members)	Current capacity balance	Future capacity balance
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall TC	100	30	3	Yes	180	80	50
119	Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club	Hanbury TC	35	-	2	No	80	45	45
122	The Albert Lawn Tennis Club	Albert TC	224	-	6	Yes	360	136	136
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	Wolverhampton TC	1,000	200	5	Yes	300	240	40
					3	Yes	180		
					1	No	40		
					3	No	120		
					3 <sup>13</sup>	Yes	600		
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	Woodfield Sports and Social TC	Unknown	Unknown	4	Yes	240	Unknown	Unknown
146	Linden Lea Tennis Club	Linden Lea TC	Unknown	Unknown	3	Yes	180	Unknown	Unknown

<sup>13</sup> Capacity added through the provision of indoor courts

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Wolverhampton TC seemingly has sufficient capacity for growth at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, consideration must be given to its expressed latent and unmet demand. If a substantial level of its membership base has demand for access to its outdoor courts during summer months, which is likely to be the case, it is understandable that it faces issues.

It is uncertain what the capacity picture is for Woodfield Sports & Social and Linden Lea tennis clubs due to them not responding to consultation requests. As such, further exploration is required. Woodfield Sports & Social TC has capacity for 240 members at Woodfield Sports and Social Club, and Linden Lea TC has capacity for 180 members at Linden Lea Tennis Club.

As no non-club courts are identified as having any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving quality to an adequate standard for promoting and increasing informal play, particularly at publicly available sites accommodating multiple courts and adequate ancillary facilities. Linked to this, increased utilisation of LTA schemes at suitable sites should be considered, as should the establishment of the other various initiatives, supported by the NGB.

#### **Tennis– supply and demand summary**

- ◆ All clubs are operating within sustainable LTA guidelines.
- ◆ As no non-club courts are identified as have any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites hosting multiple courts.

#### **Tennis – supply summary**

- ◆ There are 125 tennis courts identified in Wolverhampton across 28 sites. Of the courts, 74 are categorised as being available for community use at 17 sites compared to 51 that are unavailable at 12 sites.
- ◆ Most courts are operated by schools, although only 34% of these are available for community use.
- ◆ The majority of courts have a macadam surface, with 106 being of this type.
- ◆ Of the courts, 51 are assessed as good quality, 51 as standard quality and 26 as poor quality.

#### **◆ Tennis – demand summary**

- ◆ There are six tennis clubs in Wolverhampton, with Wolverhampton TC being a particularly large club.
- ◆ Wolverhampton TC expresses high levels of latent and unmet demand due to a lack of court capacity, at peak times.
- ◆ Future demand is expressed by three clubs and amounts to 230 additional members (170 senior and 60 junior).
- ◆ Clubspark is utilised at numerous sites in Wolverhampton, although not at any sites operated by the Council

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### PART 9: NETBALL

#### 9.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided and in use by the netball community than there are indoor. Nationally, England Netball reports that the challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility and a lack of floodlighting can also be problematic.

#### **Consultation**

Information to inform this section of the report was primarily obtained through discussions with England Netball.

#### **Disused and lapsed provision**

Playing court sites which have previously accommodated formal court provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing court which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

There are no disused or lapsed sites identified in Wolverhampton which contained netball courts.

#### 9.2: Supply

There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across Wolverhampton, with 69 identified across 19 sites. However, of these, only 35 courts at ten sites are available for community use and most of these are without floodlighting which can limit usage during winter months. All of the courts that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites, primarily within high schools.

Most community available courts are located in the Tettenhall Analysis Area (16), with 10 in the North Analysis Area, four in the Central & South Analysis Area, three in Wednesfield Analysis Area and the remaining two are in the Bilston Analysis Area.

*Table 9.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area*

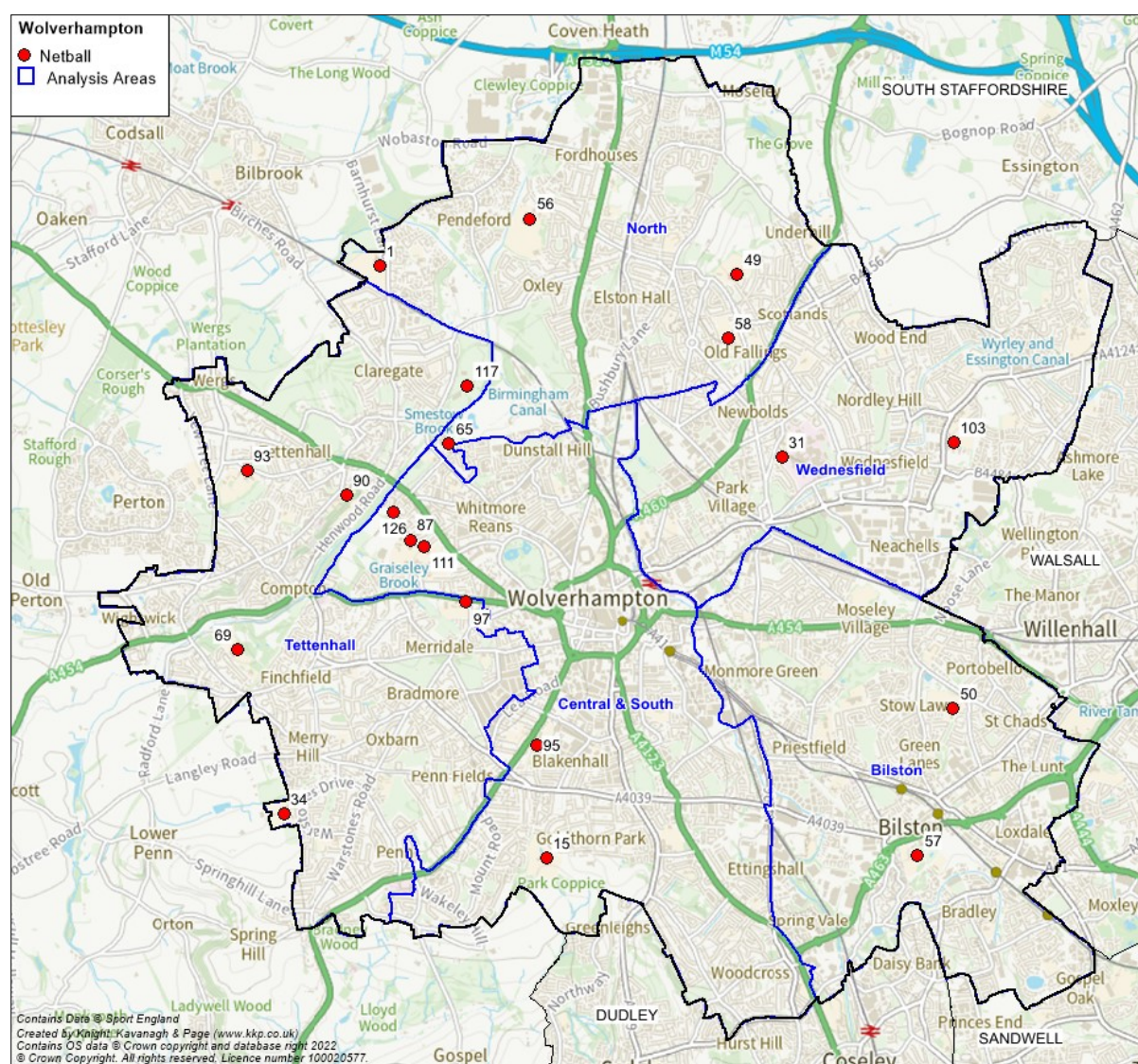
Analysis area	Number of courts available	Number of courts unavailable
Bilston	2	2
Central & South	4	16
North	10	7
Tettenhall	16	6
Wednesfield	3	3
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>

For a site-by-site breakdown of the courts supplied across Wolverhampton, please refer to Table 9.2 and Figure 9.1 overleaf.



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Figure 9.1: Location of netball courts in Wolverhampton





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Table 9.2: Netball courts in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit ?	Court type	Court quality
1	Aldersley High School Sports Centre	WV8 1RT	North	School	No	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
						2	Yes	Macadam	
15	Colton Hills Community School	WV4 5DG	Central & South	School	No	8	No	Macadam	Standard
31	Heath Park School	WV11 1RD	Wednesfield	School	No	3	No	Macadam	Standard
34	Highfields School	WV4 4NT	Tettenhall	School	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
49	Moreton School	WV10 8BY	North	School	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Poor
50	Moseley Park School Sports Centre	WV14 6LU	Bilston	School	No	2	No	Macadam	Standard
56	Ormiston NEW Academy	WV10 6SE	North	School	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	WV14 0QE	Bilston	School	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
58	Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy	WV10 8BL	North	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
65	Pine Green Academy	WV6 0UB	North	School	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Standard
69	Smestow School	WV3 8HU	Tettenhall	School	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Standard
87	St. Peter's Collegiate School	WV3 9DU	Central & South	School	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Standard
					No	3	No	Macadam	
90	Tettenhall College	WV6 8QX	Tettenhall	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
93	The King's Church of England School	WV6 8XG	Tettenhall	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Good
						2	No	Macadam	Standard
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	WV3 0EG	Central & South	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Standard
103	Wednesfield High Academy	WV11 3ES	Wednesfield	School	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
111	Wolverhampton Girls' High School	WV6 0BY	Central & South	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Good
117	WV Active Aldersley	WV6 9NW	Tettenhall	Council	Yes	6	Yes	Macadam	Good
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	WV6 0LH	Central & South	Club	Yes	1	No	Artificial turf	Good

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### ***Management***

All but seven outdoor netball courts in Wolverhampton are operated by schools. The remaining courts are operated by the Council at WV Active Aldersley and by Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club.

### ***Court type***

Most outdoor netball courts in Wolverhampton have a macadam surface, with 68 being of this type and 34 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

The remaining court has an artificial surface, with this provided at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club. As with macadam courts, the estimated lifespan of an artificial court is ten years.

### ***Floodlighting***

Despite 69 outdoor netball courts being provided in Wolverhampton, only 29 are serviced by floodlighting. These are provided at Aldersley High School Sports Centre, Highfields School, Moreton School, Ormiston NEW Academy, Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy, Tettenhall College, Wednesfield High Academy and WV Active Aldersley.

A lack of floodlighting on netball courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database (updated in April 2020) identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are floodlit throughout the Country (38%). As such, a higher ratio is found in Wolverhampton, where 41% of courts are serviced.

### ***Over markings***

Netball courts, particularly at school sites, are often overmarked, predominately by tennis courts but also on occasion by basketball and/or football courts. Provision such as this tends to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as potentially causing capacity issues when there is external netball demand.

In Wolverhampton, 63 netball courts are over marked, with only eight being standalone courts. These standalone courts are provided at Pine Green Academy and Tettenhall College

### ***Quality***

The quality of netball courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard, or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering).

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

Of the courts in Wolverhampton, 20 are assessed as good quality, 48 as standard quality and three as poor quality. Of the community available courts, 15 are rated as good quality, with 20 being standard and none being poor.

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Table 9.3: Quality of courts

Community use	Quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	15	20	-
Unavailable	5	28	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>3</b>

The poor-quality courts that are not available for community use are located at Moreton School, where the surface is worn and the line markings have badly faded.

Wednesfield High Academy is exploring funding opportunities for the conversion of its netball courts to a 3G surface. The current surface is standard quality (based on the KKP audit) however, with the line markings are fading and floodlights not working. However, this is being held back as the School has a lack of capital to proceed with this development.

The good quality court which is not available for community access is provided at The King's Church of England School, whereas those available for community use are located at Ormiston NEW Academy, Ormiston SWB Academy, Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy, WV Active Aldersley and Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club.

### **Ancillary provision**

Club users claim ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for netball and are generally located within main school buildings or are provided to predominately service sports halls and/or grass pitches. As such, access can be limited even at sites that allow for community use.

### **9.3: Demand**

Demand for outdoor netball tends to come in two forms; league and club-based netball that consists of matches and training, and the various netball-based initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball.

#### **League and club demand**

The Wolverhampton City Netball League operates in Wolverhampton, with all matches played a central venue at WV Active Aldersley, which has six courts. The League currently operates with five leagues and accommodates 52 teams, with matches being played every Thursday.

It is suggested that the majority of the teams playing in the League will draw players from Wolverhampton, although the level of data required to interrogate this is not available.

#### **Back to Netball**

Back to Netball is a scheme put into place by England Netball in 2010, with participation increasing ever since. Sessions are running weekly by qualified coaches across England with the aim of re-introducing female players over the age of 16 to the sport.

In Wolverhampton, numerous Back to Netball sessions have been run, mainly at WV Active Aldersley.

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### ***Walking Netball***

Walking Netball is a lower version of the sport, designed so that anyone can play regardless of age or fitness level. It can give those who are isolated an outlet, provide an activity for those who do not deem themselves fit enough and offer a stepping-stone for those looking for a pathway back into traditional netball.

Walking Netball sessions are hosted across the Black Country and the wider West Midlands region by Netball West Midlands. In Wolverhampton, there are no active sessions being held, with the nearest being held in Walsall at Manor Farm Community Centre.

### ***Netball Now***

Netball Now is a simple, straight forward way to play netball. It is not a competition led by rules or scores but rather a simple session where players can play a variety of positions and even have a go at umpiring.

No Netball Now sessions are in operation in Wolverhampton.

### ***Bee Netball***

A new initiative by England Netball, Bee Netball a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play, and teamwork. Each session is managed by an England Netball accredited coach. Although there are currently no sessions operating in Wolverhampton, it is still in its infancy so one may be established in the near future.

### ***Exported/imported demand***

No exported or imported demand is identified. All netball demand in Wolverhampton that wants to play within a league structure will likely stay within Wolverhampton to form part of the Wolverhampton Netball League.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 671 people within Wolverhampton, which is a relatively minimal amount and is lower than that identified in the remaining three Black Country authorities.

### ***Future demand***

It is hoped by England Netball that there will be an increase in the number of its initiatives held in Wolverhampton and the demand for them. However, this is reliant on volunteers hosting and organising the sessions.

## **9.4: Supply and demand analysis**

Whilst there is a large quantity of netball courts provided in Wolverhampton, the majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand due to a variety of factors including poor quality, a lack of floodlighting and no community use being allowed. However, all demand is seemingly being catered for through use of WV Active Aldersley by the Wolverhampton City Netball League and by Back to Netball sessions, with no additional demand identified.

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As the courts at WV Active Aldersley are good quality, supply is considered to be sufficient to meet demand. Priority should therefore be placed on protecting the provision for continued and long-term netball use. The site also has an indoor sports hall offer to complement outdoor provision.

To potentially further increase netball demand, focus should also be placed on supporting the various initiatives that are championed by England Netball and ensuring such programmes have suitable provision from which to be run. As part of this, priority should be placed on improving the quality of the existing stock, particularly where quality is poor and where curricular and extra-curricular needs are high. Where courts are over marked, this could be carried out in conjunction with improving tennis court quality.

#### **Netball – supply and demand summary**

- ▶ The supply of netball courts in Wolverhampton is considered to be sufficient to meet demand.
- ▶ Priority should be placed on protecting the provision at WV Active Aldersley for continued and long-term netball use.
- ▶ There also remains a need to ensure programmes provided by England Netball have suitable provision from which to be run and that curricular and extra-curricular needs are being met.

#### **Netball – supply summary**

- ▶ There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across Wolverhampton, with 69 identified across 19 sites; however, only 35 courts at 10 sites are available for community use.
- ▶ All but seven outdoor netball courts in Wolverhampton are operated by a school (the remaining courts are operated by the Council at WV Active Aldersley and by a club Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club).
- ▶ Most outdoor netball courts have a macadam surface, with 68 being of this type (the remaining one court has an artificial surface).
- ▶ A total of 63 netball courts are over marked, with the only standalone courts provided at Pine Green Academy and Tettenhall College.
- ▶ Only 29 of the courts are serviced by floodlighting, although this represents a high percentage than the national rate.
- ▶ 20 courts are assessed as good quality, 48 as standard quality and three as poor quality; of the community available courts, 15 are rated as good quality, with 20 being standard and none being poor.

#### **Netball – demand summary**

- ▶ The Wolverhampton Netball League uses WV Active Aldersley as a central venue for all matches.
- ▶ The Club currently caters for 52 teams within five divisions.
- ▶ Back to Netball sessions have been run, mainly at WV Active Aldersley.
- ▶ No other initiatives are identified within the City.

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### PART 10: BOWLS

#### 10.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in Wolverhampton is played on crown greens, with a typical season running in the Summer from May until September. The British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) is the NGB with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport.

Flat green bowls is another version of bowls played in England, governed separately by Bowls England. However, this is played predominately in the South and therefore has no presence in Wolverhampton.

#### Consultation

There are 17 bowls clubs identified as currently using outdoor bowling greens in Wolverhampton. Of these, nine responded to consultation requests, equating to a response rate of 53%.

*Table 10.1: Summary of consultation*

Name of club	Responded?
44 Club BC	No
Ashmore Park BC	Yes
Bilston Town BC	No
Bradmore BC	Yes
ECC BC	No
Express & Star BC	Yes
Fordhouses BC	No
Pavilion BC	Yes
Penn BC	Yes
Pennfields BC	Yes
Springvale BC	Yes
Stile BC	Yes
Wednesfield Cons BC	Yes
West Park Bowling BC	No
Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC	No
Willenhall Nordley BC	No
Woodfield Social BC	No

#### 10.2: Supply

There are currently 22 crown green bowling greens in Wolverhampton provided across 18 sites (two are provided at Ashmore Park, Springvale Sports, Woodfield Social & Sports Club and Pennfields BC). In addition, there is one green outside of Wolverhampton that requires inclusion due to its proximity to the boundary. This is located at Nordley Liberals.

All of the greens are available for community use. As seen in the table overleaf, the Tettenhall analysis areas contain the largest number of greens (six), whilst the Bilston Analysis Area contains the fewest (two).



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Table 10.2: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

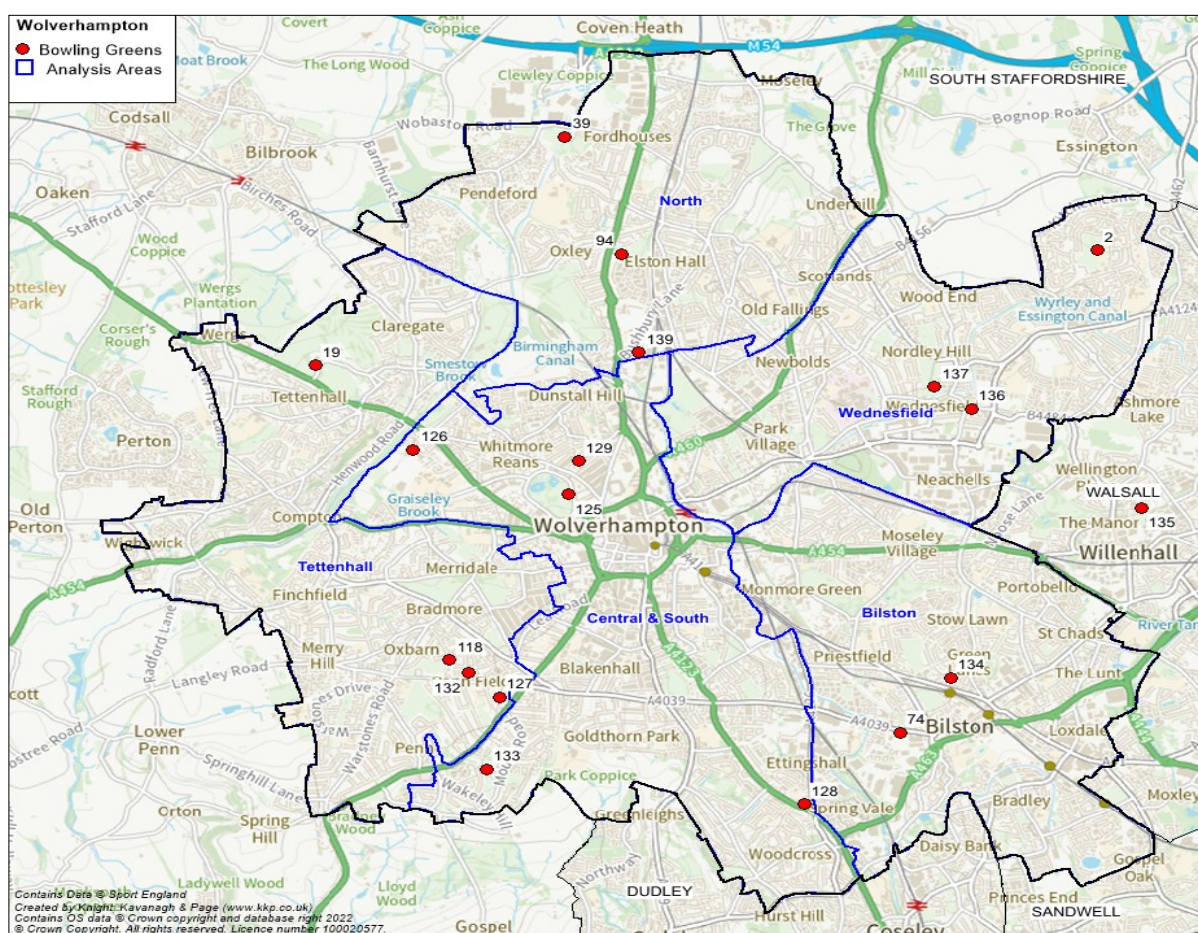
Analysis area	Number of greens
Bilston	3
Central & South	5
North	3
Outside	1
Tettenhall	6
Wednesfield	4
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>22</b>

### Disused provision

A disused bowling green is identified at Newhampton Inn Bowling Club. It is no longer maintained for bowls after the Club that used it folded (Newhampton Inn BC). It has also been reported that the pub on site currently use it as a beer garden and as a result lay out chairs on the green. Likewise, Oaklands BC, Chubb BC and Goodrich (now Collins) Aerospace are disused sites, whilst Rolls Royce Sports Ground, The Summer House PH and Severn Trent are all lapsed. The Summer House has tables and chairs on the grass area and Severn Trent has solar panels on it.

Figure 10.1 below shows the location of all bowling greens currently servicing Wolverhampton. For a key to the map, see Table 10.3.

Figure 10.1: Location of bowling greens in Wolverhampton



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Table 10.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Club user	No. of greens
2	Ashmore Park	WV11 2LT	Wednesfield	Ashmore Park BC	2
19	Danescourt	WV6 9BH	Tettenhall	Express and Star BC	1
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)	WV9 5HH	North	Fordhouses BC	1
74	Springvale Sports	WV14 0QR	Bilston	Springvale BC	2
94	The Pavilion	WV10 6AJ	North	Pavilion CES	1
118	Bradmore Recreation Ground	WV3 7EN	Tettenhall	Bradmore BC	1
125	West Park	WV1 4QA	Central & South	West Park BC	1
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	WV6 0LH	Central & South	-	1
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	WV4 4AF	Tettenhall	Woodfield Social BC	2
128	44 Bowls Club	WV4 6LQ	Central & South	44 Club	1
129	Stile Bowls Club	WV1 4PB	Central & South	Stile BC	1
132	Pennfields Bowls Club	WV3 7LZ	Tettenhall	Pennfields BC	2
133	Penn Bowls Club	WV4 5PY	Central & South	Penn BC	1
134	Bilston Town Bowls Club	WV14 6AU	Bilston	Bilston Town BC	1
135	<i>Nordley Liberals</i>	<i>WV13 1DB</i>	<i>Outside</i>	<i>Willenhall Nordley BC</i>	<i>1</i>
136	Wednesfield Conservative Club	WV11 3PR	Wednesfield	Wednesfield Cons BC	1
137	Wednesfield Park	WV11 1PX	Wednesfield	Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC King	1
139	E.C.C Bowls Club	WV10 9LE	North	ECC BC	1

### Ownership/management

Details around the ownership and management arrangements for clubs which responded to consultation requests are provided in the table below. As seen, three clubs own their greens, two clubs have lease arrangements in place and three clubs rent their greens.

Table 10.4: Ownership/management arrangements for bowling clubs in Wolverhampton

Name of club	Ownership/management details
Ashmore Park BC	The Club rents the greens at Ashmore Park from the Council.
Bradmore BC	The Club rents the green at Bradmore Recreation Ground from the Council, but does not state the length of this agreement.
Express & Star BC	The Club rents the green at Danescourt Road from Chris Jewkes Fitness on an annual basis.
Pavilion CES	The Club owns the green at The Pavilion.
Penn BC	The Club owns the green at Penn BC.
Pennfields BC	The Club was consulted with, however, it did not provide information relating to its ownership.
Springvale BC	The Club lease the green at Springvale Sports from Co-op on a long-term agreement (50 years).
Stile BC	The Club lease the green at Stile Bowls Club from Marston's Brewery for an indeterminate length of time.

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Name of club	Ownership/management details
Wednesfield Cons BC	The Club owns the green at Wednesfield Conservative Club.

### Quality

The quality of bowling greens across Wolverhampton have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◆ Good
- ◆ Standard
- ◆ Poor

For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs of unofficial use. For further detail regarding the site assessment criteria, see Appendix 2.

Overall, 17 greens are assessed as good quality, two are assessed as standard and two are assessed as poor. This is seen site-by-site in the table below.

*Table 10.5: Summary of bowling green quality*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of greens	Quality
2	Ashmore Park	Wednesfield	1	Good
2	Ashmore Park	Wednesfield	1	Poor
19	Danescourt	Tettenhall	1	Good
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)	North	1	Poor
74	Springvale Sports	Bilston	2	Standard
94	The Pavilion	North	1	Good
118	Bradmore Recreation Ground	Tettenhall	1	Good
125	West Park	Central & South	1	Good
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Central & South	1	Good
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	Tettenhall	2	Good
128	44 Bowls Club	Central & South	1	Good
129	Stile Bowls Club	Central & South	1	Standard
132	Pennfields BC	Tettenhall	2	Good
133	Penn BC	Central & South	1	Good
134	Bilston Town BC	Bilston	1	Good
135	Nordley Liberals	Outside	1	Good
136	Wednesfield Conservative Club	Wednesfield	1	Good
137	Wednesfield Park	Wednesfield	1	Good
139	E.C.C Bowls Club	North	1	Good

Three of the eight responsive clubs (Bradmore BC, Express & Star BC and Pavilion CES) report that quality has improved over the last year, whilst Springvale BC and Stile BC report worsening quality. Of those reporting worsening quality; the former states that this is because of a lack of maintenance during the Covid-19 pandemic, whilst the latter states that drainage has become problematic and that bare patches have begun to form.

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Of the clubs reporting improvements, Express & Star BC and Pavilion CES puts it down to increased maintenance (green maintenance scheme) and the acquisition of new maintenance equipment, whilst Bradmore BC attributes it to a lack of use during Covid-19 lockdown periods.

The poor quality green at Ashmore Park is due to it coming out of use in recent times and being redundant. Ashmore Park BC express its demand across one green currently.

### **Ancillary provision**

All clubs are able to access ancillary provision at their home green and the majority are serviced by adequate quality facilities, although the range of facilities and the condition of them varies site-by-site. The more comprehensive facilities tend to be provided at sites that also service other sports and activities.

Only one clubhouse is assessed as poor quality, located at Ashmore Park. This is considered to be extremely dated and is not fit for purpose to service Ashmore Park BC. In addition, Pavilion CES BC is serviced by poor quality toilets at The Pavilion.

Stile BC reports that car parking is problematic at Stile Bowls Club, with not enough spaces provided to accommodate demand.

### **Floodlighting**

In Wolverhampton, 13 greens are serviced by floodlighting at the following sites:

- ◀ Bilston Town Bowls Club
- ◀ The Pavilion
- ◀ E.C.C BC
- ◀ Stile Bowls Club
- ◀ Pennfields Bowls Club (x2)
- ◀ Penn Bowls Club
- ◀ Nordley Liberals
- ◀ Wednesfield Conservative Club
- ◀ Wolverhampton Tennis & Squash Club
- ◀ Woodfield Social & Sports Club (x2)

There are no known reports of aspirations to install further floodlighting at any sites.

Floodlit greens offer opportunities to access provision for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months. However, they are relatively rare across the Country, with the level of floodlit supply in Wolverhampton therefore considered to be comparatively high.

### **10.3: Demand**

There are 17 clubs using bowling facilities in Wolverhampton. Membership details of all clubs were provided by the British Crown Green Bowling Association. Details of the remaining two clubs are unknown. Full known membership equates to a total of 750 members, and this is broken down in the table below.

*Table 10.6: Summary of club membership*

Club name	Members		
	Men	Women	Juniors
Ashmore Park BC	22	2	-
Bradmore BC	19	8	-
Express & Star BC	56	18	-
Pavilion CES BC	65	15	-
Penn BC	60	15	10
Pennfields BC	87	13	1



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Club name	Members		
	Men	Women	Juniors
Springvale BC	46	10	-
Stile BC	29	4	1
44 Club BC	19	11	-
Bilston Town BC	41	3	-
ECC BC	38	6	2
Fordhouses BC	20	3	-
Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC	18	4	-
Wednesfield Conservative BC	29	4	-
Willenhall Nordley BC	57	9	5
West Park BC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Woodfield Social BC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Total</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>19</b>

#### **Participation trends**

Despite a national trend of declining membership, only four of the clubs that responded to consultation report that membership has decreased in recent years, with these being Bradmore, Stile, Springvale, and Wednesfield Conservative bowls clubs. Conversely, Express & Star, Penn, and Pavilion CES bowls clubs all report that participation has increased, with all three attributing this to an increase in advertising.

Notwithstanding the above, overall participation is likely to have decreased on account of numerous additional clubs folding. This applies to Goodyear BC, Oaklands BC, and Chubb BC, all of which have reportedly folded over the last two years.

#### **Latent demand**

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 454 people within Wolverhampton, which is a relatively low number; by way of comparison, 583 people are identified in Dudley, 488 in Walsall and 495 in Sandwell.

All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority actively trying to recruit new members.

#### **Future demand**

Using ONS projections the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2039. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for greens could increase.

From consultation, only Express & Star, Ashmore Park and Wednesfield Conservative Club report an intention to increase their number of members. Future demand for Express & Star BC amounts to five senior and eight junior members, whilst it is six senior members for Ashmore Park BC and six seniors and four juniors for Wednesfield Conservative BC. The above is not to say that the remaining clubs are not looking for new members, but rather that they are focusing on sustaining current playing levels. This will involve recruiting new members to replace those that leave the clubs or that become unable to participate.

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### 10.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

The BCGBA does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand.

Capacity ratings for bowling greens in Wolverhampton are classified as follows:

<b>Within capacity range</b>	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
<b>Outside capacity range</b>	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in Wolverhampton receives, where the information is known. Where no membership information is known, further communication is required with clubs to fully understand their needs and any potential capacity or sustainability issues.

*Table 10.7: Supply and demand balance of bowling greens in Wolverhampton*

Site ID	Site	No. of greens	Club user	Current members	Future demand
2	Ashmore Park	2	Ashmore Park BC	24	30
19	Danescourt	1	Express and Star BC	74	87
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)	1	Fordhouses BC	23	Unknown
74	Springvale Sports	2	Springvale BC	56	56
94	The Pavilion	1	Pavilion CES	80	80
118	Bradmore Recreation Ground	1	Bradmore BC	27	27
125	West Park	1	West Park BC	Unknown	Unknown
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	1	-	Unknown	Unknown
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	1	Woodfield Social BC	Unknown	Unknown
128	44 Bowls Club	1	44 Club	30	Unknown
129	Stile Bowls Club	1	Stile BC	34	34
132	Pennfields BC	2	Pennfields BC	101	101
133	Penn BC	1	Penn BC	85	85
134	Bilston Town Bowls Club	1	Bilston Town BC	44	Unknown
135	Nordley Liberals	1	Willenhall Nordley BC	Unknown	Unknown
136	Wednesfield Conservative Club	1	Wednesfield Cons BC	31	41
137	Wednesfield Park	1	Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC King	22	Unknown



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Site ID	Site	No. of greens	Club user	Current members	Future demand
139	E.C.C Bowls Club	1	ECC BC	46	Unknown

No clubs are operating below the level of membership required to ensure sustainability.

At the other end of the spectrum, Express & Star, Pavilion CES and Pennfields bowls clubs are all currently operating above the recommended capacity threshold. Whilst none of these clubs report any capacity issues, demand requires monitoring to ensure that this remains the case. Pennfields BC also has over 60 members, although this is not an issue as it has access to two greens.

Based on the above, supply is seemingly sufficient to meet demand, especially given that there are numerous unused greens.

### **Bowls – supply and demand summary**

- ▶ No clubs are operating below the level of membership required to ensure sustainability.
- ▶ Express & Star, Pavilion CES and Penn Bowls club are all operating above the recommended capacity threshold; however, none of these report any capacity issues.

### **Bowls – supply summary**

- ▶ There are 22 crown green bowls greens in Wolverhampton provided across 18 sites.
- ▶ There are four disused green at Newhampton Inn Bowling Club, Oaklands BC, Goodrich (now Collins) Aerospace and Chubb BC and there are three lapsed greens at Rolls Royce Sports Ground, The Summer House and Severn Trent.
- ▶ Of clubs which responded to consultation requests, three own their greens, two have lease arrangements in place and three rent their greens.
- ▶ Overall, 17 greens are assessed as good quality, two as standard quality and two as poor quality.
- ▶ Ashmore Park is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.
- ▶ 13 greens are serviced by floodlighting, which is a comparably high number.

### **Bowls – demand summary**

- ▶ There are 17 clubs using bowling greens in Wolverhampton.
- ▶ Where membership is known, from 15 out of the 17s, total membership equates to 750 members.
- ▶ The average membership across the responsive clubs is 56.
- ▶ Despite a national trend of declining membership, only four of the clubs that responded to consultation report that membership has decreased in recent years, although a number of clubs have also folded.
- ▶ Due to a predicted increase in persons aged 65 and over (to 2039), demand is likely to increase for greens over the coming years.
- ▶ Only Express & Star, Ashmore Park and Wednesfield Conservative bowls clubs report future demand to increase membership, with this collectively equating to 17 senior and 14 junior members.
- ▶ All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision and that no potential members are being turned away, suggesting that there is no latent or unmet demand.

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### PART 11: CYCLING

#### 11.1: Introduction

British Cycling is the NGB for all forms of cycling. It oversees six sporting disciplines, with each having a dedicated facility type:

- ◆ Track cycling – velodromes
- ◆ Road cycling – closed road circuits
- ◆ Mountain biking – trails
- ◆ BMX racing – race/pump tracks
- ◆ Cycle speedway – cycle speedway tracks
- ◆ Cyclocross – non-dedicated, non-permanent venues

British Cycling aids in the development of all six formats, helping to safeguard those that wish to participate in a competitive and compelling environment. The popularity of cycling has increased since recent, elite sporting success in the Olympics and Paralympics as well as in other major championships.

#### **Consultation**

Information for cycling was gathered through online research and via consultation with British Cycling.

#### **Disused/lapsed facilities**

Playing track sites which have previously accommodated formal track provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing track which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

Aldersley High School features a lapsed regional standard cycling track and accompanying separate pump track. The site was developed in 2012 and featured a wide variety of jumps including step-ups, doubles, pick-up doubles, triples, two double combinations and a rhythm section as well as a Bensink start gate system.

#### 11.2: Supply

Wolverhampton is home to two cycle speedway tracks, those being located within the grounds of Ashmore Park and East Park.

The site at Ashmore Park has held multiple events spanning across several decades, spanning from the British Riders Championship Final in 1981 and the 2012 World Individual Championships. The site is serviced by floodlighting that was installed in 1990 and is used by Wednesfield Aces.

The cycle speedway track within East Park is 95 metres long, 5.5 metres wide and has a 1 in 12 banking and is used by East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club.

Wolverhampton also features BMX pump tracks at Bilston Pump Park and Hilton Road Playing Fields. Bilston Pump Park is located at Greenway Playing Fields, Bankfield Road, Bilston WV14 0TY and the facility located at Hilton Road Playing Fields is used by Hilton Hall Community Association, who are based on site.

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Finally, the WV Aldersley multisport complex features an asphalt cycling track that sits alongside the 400m athletics track. The site has a 22.5° banking and is used by Wolverhampton Wheelers.

In relation to WV Aldersley, British Cycling 2022 Commonwealth Games Needs Assessment provides a recommendation to investigate options for covering the tracks at Halesowen and Aldersley Velodromes with a simple canopy structure to reduce the impact of bad weather on track conditions and help extend track usage and capacity to meet the competition and training.

There is also a track provided at Aldersley High School which has come out of use due to concerns around the safety of equipment for users. This has not been used for over six years and is currently derelict.

#### ***Cycling routes***

In 2016, the West Midlands Combined Authority proposed a 'Black Country Walking and Cycling Strategy and Implementation Plan' aiming to raise levels of cycling to 5% of all trips by 2023. The project was outlined to address the matter that historically the West Midlands region had fewer people choosing to cycle to work than other metropolitan regions.

The Council is always working with other Black Country councils to develop a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which will add further recommendations for cycling. This has not yet been published but recommendations should be considered as part of Stage E.

#### **11.3: Demand**

##### ***Wednesfield Aces***

Wednesfield Aces was founded in 1962 under the former name of Wednesfield Dragons. The Club utilise the speedway at Ashmore Park for sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sessions are charged at a rate of £2.50 for those with their own bike or £3.50 for bike hire. There are 220 members registered with the Club.

##### ***Wolverhampton Wheelers***

Wolverhampton Wheelers was founded in 1891 and is open to cyclists of all abilities. The Club utilise WV Active Aldersley to cater for several types of cycling such as family rides, youth events, touring, road racing, time trials, mountain biking, track racing and cyclo-cross.

The Club also offers British Cycling's 'Go Ride' scheme aimed at increasing participation in cycling for younger generations. The Club currently caters for 287 members.

##### ***Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club***

Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club was founded in 1938 and currently has 74 members. It takes part in mountain biking sessions throughout Wolverhampton and the surrounding area, hosting sessions for its members on Saturday mornings.

##### ***Fred Williams Cycles***

Fred Williams Cycles is a cycling shop within Wolverhampton that established in 1950 and has since expanded into becoming a dedicated club with 54 members currently registered. It has links with several formats of cycling such as road, mountain biking and cyclo-cross.

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### *East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club*

East Park Wolves were founded in 2006 and trains every Thursday at East Park. It has 113 current members of various abilities. The Club also organises monthly race fixtures.

### *Let Us Play Cycling*

Let us Play is a registered charity that provides support for children with special needs and disabilities. Founded in 2003, the charity now delivers weekly sessions at the WV Active Aldersley centre every Monday from 18:00-19:00. The sessions are available for £2 are available for people aged 5 to 17.

### **HSBC UK Go-Ride**

HSBC UK Go-Ride is a British Cycling's development programme for young people. It offers a fun and safe way to introduce young people to the sport and provides a platform to improve cycling skills. People can get involved through holiday coaching programmes or through their local accredited club which allows them to sample the various disciplines of the sport. Progression is obtainable with Go-Ride Racing, offering competition for riders to transition from school or club coaching to inter club and open regional competitions.

Go-Ride is being implemented in Wolverhampton via East Park Wolves CSC, Wednesfield Aces CSC and the Wolverhampton Wheelers.

### **HSBC UK Breeze**

HSBC UK Breeze is a British Cycling's development programme for women. It offers three categories easy going, steady and challenging to allow women of all abilities to get involved. The programme offers exercise whilst also creating a comfortable environment to meet new people. There are currently no identified sessions taking place in Wolverhampton.

### **Future/latent demand**

All of the clubs within Wolverhampton are open to recruiting new members, especially following the Covid-19 pandemic. There is some expected level of uplift following the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in cycling but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 9,210 people who would like to participate in the sport within Wolverhampton, which is a relatively low amount when compared to neighbouring Black Country authorities.

By means of comparison, latent demand of 12,907 is identified in Dudley, 11,449 is identified in Sandwell and 9,876 in Walsall.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that future and latent demand does not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to participate in sport and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools.

For example, there is a focus by British Cycling on developing youth participation through the HSBC UK Go-Ride or HSBC UK Breeze schemes, which may lead to further increases in demand.

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### 11.4: Supply and demand analysis

Wolverhampton features a high demand for cycling as evidenced by their several, well serviced number of dedicated clubs. Furthermore, the inclusion of two cycle speedway tracks as well as the asphalt facility at WV Active Aldersley emphasises the interest in cycling across the area.

Sites such as WV Active Aldersley and the two cycle speedway tracks should continue to be well maintained to ensure the area is serviced by good quality facilities. Finally, it is imperative that other cycling activity is supported given the on and off-road cycling taking place.

#### **Cycling – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Wolverhampton features a high demand for cycling as evidenced by the several dedicated clubs across the area.
- ◀ Sites such as WV Active Aldersley and the two cycle speedway tracks should continue to be well maintained to ensure the area continues to be serviced by good quality facilities.

#### **Cycling – supply summary**

- ◀ Wolverhampton is serviced by several cycling facilities across the area.
- ◀ There are two cycle speedway tracks located at East Park and Ashmore Park.
- ◀ WV Active Aldersley features an asphalt track with a 22.5° banking
- ◀ Finally, Wolverhampton is also serviced by pump tracks at Bilston Pump Park and Hilton Road Playing Fields.

#### **Cycling – demand summary**

- ◀ There are several local clubs which offer opportunities for recreational and competitive cyclists across the City, with membership relatively high. Clubs such as Wednesfield Aces, Wolverhampton Wheelers, Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club and East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club all represent cycling clubs across Wolverhampton.
- ◀ HSBC Go-Ride is being implemented in Wolverhampton via East Park Wolves CSC, Wednesfield Aces CSC and the Wolverhampton Wheelers as well as School-based delivery.
- ◀ Finally, Let us play cycling sessions are delivered to people with disabilities aged 5 to 19 at WV Active Aldersley.



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### PART 12: ATHLETICS

#### 12.1: Introduction

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of athletics, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities, and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials as well as permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics, which is the development and membership body for athletics and running clubs in England. It has a National Head of Clubs and Participation as well as a team of five club support managers across the Country, with one of these covering activities in Wolverhampton as part of the Midland region.

#### **Consultation**

The following clubs have been consulted via telephone to inform this section of the report; Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club, Brewood & Coven Running and Jolly Joggers Wolverhampton. Additionally, wider consultation also took place with England Athletics.

#### **Disused and lapsed provision**

Playing track sites which have previously accommodated formal track provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing track which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

There are no disused or lapsed sites identified in Wolverhampton which contained athletics tracks.

#### 12.2: Supply

Consultation with England Athletics reveals that, nationally, no new standard 400-metre athletics tracks are planned to be constructed. Focus is instead on the retention of existing 400-metre facilities and the development of new, innovative, entry level facilities such as mini tracks and endurance loops, particularly if they can be provided as part of floodlit, multi-sport developments.

In Wolverhampton, there are two purpose-built athletics tracks. A 400-metre track is provided at WV Active Aldersley with six lanes, a synthetic surface and floodlighting, whilst a 200-metre track is provided at The King's Church of England School. This is neither floodlit nor available for community use.

In addition to this, there is a 400m cinder track which laps around a 3G pitch at Sir Jack Howard Training Centre. This has been out of use for formal athletics used for some time and is now practically unusable for anything other than recreational use.

*Table 12.1: Summary of athletics tracks in Wolverhampton*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Length	Floodlit?	Community use?
93	The King's Church of England School	Tettenhall	200 metres	No	No
117	WV Active Aldersley	Tettenhall	400 metres	Yes	Yes

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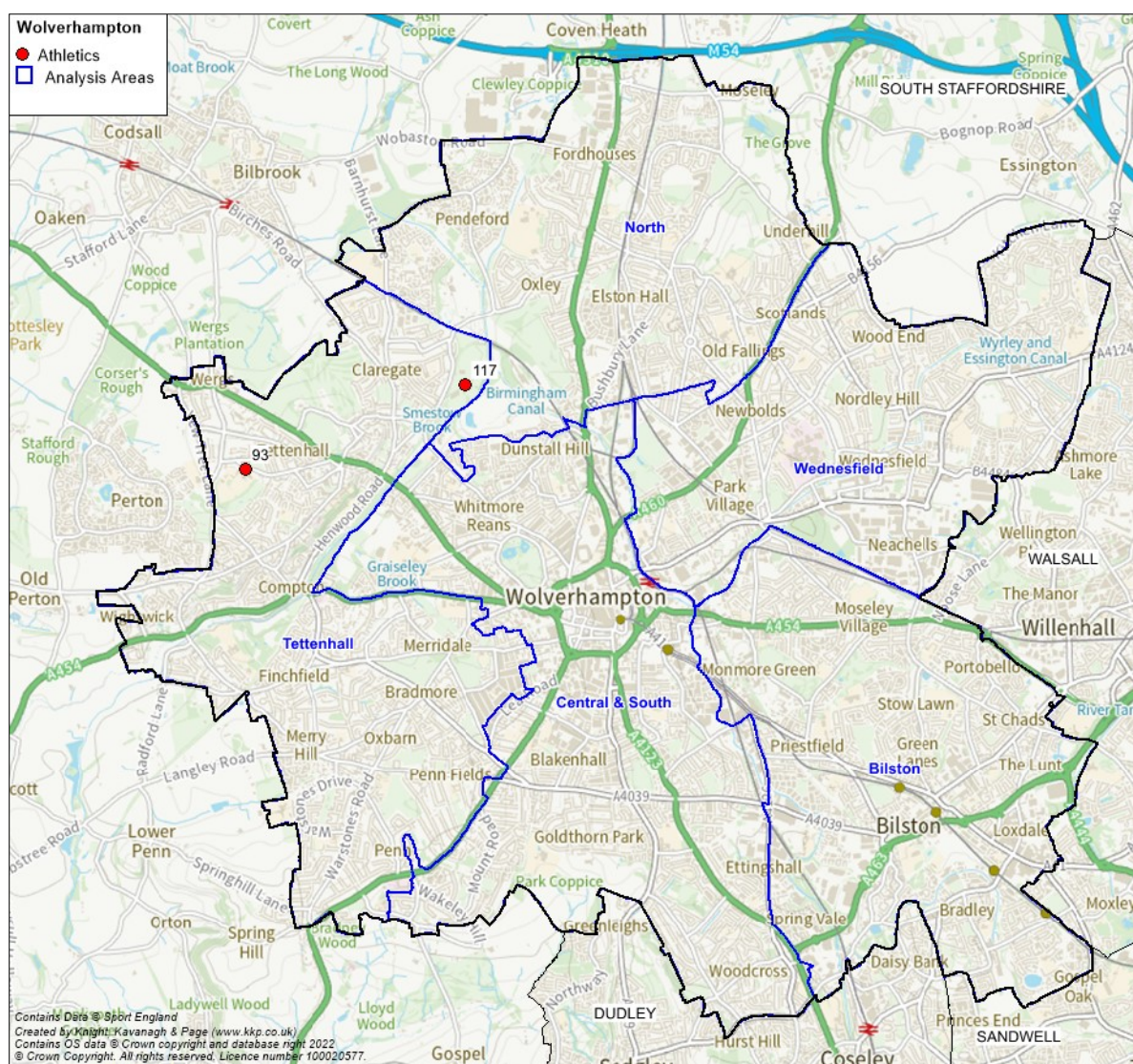
As seen, both facilities are in the Tettenhall Analysis Area. For the specific locations, please see Figure 12.1 overleaf.

## Management

The track at WV Active Aldersley is operated by the Council and is therefore widely available to the community to hire. As part of this, it is used by Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club.

The track at The King's Church of England School is managed by the School and is not available for the community to hire.

Figure 12.1: Location of athletics tracks in Wolverhampton



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### ***Quality***

The track at WV Active Aldersley was refurbished in 2005. The pitch is now in a satisfactory condition for users despite some small wear and tear issues (which are to be expected with its age).

The track at The King's Church of England School was refurbished in 2012, with the non-technical audit of this track also assessing it as standard quality. Whilst it is a newer facility, maintenance is noted as being less regimented.

Key factors impacting upon the quality ratings of athletics tracks include the condition and age of the track surface, the prominence of the line markings and any signs of wear and tear or unofficial use. For the site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

### ***TrackMark***

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

In Wolverhampton, the track at WV Active Aldersley is currently accredited. The track at The King's Church of England School cannot be accredited due to its size and lack of facilities.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

The WV Active Aldersley site is mainly serviced by a leisure centre building which has a public café and good toilet facilities and changing rooms. The athletics track is then serviced by a 500 seater stand for spectators.

Provision at The King's Church of England School is serviced by changing facilities that are provided within the School. These are considered to be inadequate.

## **12.3: Demand**

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

### ***Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club***

Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club caters for both senior and junior members, with current membership equating to 123 senior members (76 male and 47 female) and 116 junior members. The Club notes that this figure has increased over the previous two years despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Club trains and competes in all track and field disciplines as well as road running, cross country, and race walking. The WV Active Aldersley site is hired for sessions every Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 18:30 until 20:30 as well on weekend mornings.



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The Club states that it has a waiting list of potential members, though the Club has not specified the number of individuals on the list. This means that unmet demand is identified due to lack of capacity within the Club's sessions (see further information below).

#### ***Jolly Joggers Wolverhampton***

Jolly Joggers Wolverhampton a couch to 5k jogging group for beginnings looking to improve their mental health. The programme operates a 12 week structure with the aim of improving the mental health of residents. Sessions are based at West Park.

#### ***Heathfield Park Runners***

Heathfield Park Runners is a social group that enjoys running together for fitness and to meet personal targets with the help and support of a group. During the year, it takes part in a few organised events as a team. In addition, on Saturday mornings, the group meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall where most of its sessions use Heath Town Park.

#### ***Sedgley Striders***

Although predominately based in Dudley, the Club's membership is evenly split between Wolverhampton residents and Dudley residents due to its location. It operates from the Beacon Centre and hold sessions every Tuesday and Thursday evening. Each week, three separate routes are available, known as short, middle, and long runs and usually consisting of 3-mile, 5-mile and 7-mile distances. This enables all runners and abilities to be catered for.

#### ***Run Together***

Run Together is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. Its aim is to provide fun, friendly, supportive, and inclusive running opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability and availability. It believes that running is more fun and easier to become part of a lifestyle when shared with others.

In Wolverhampton, Heathfield Park Runners forms part of the programme. A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation in initiatives such as Run Together, meaning this could be further targeted moving forward, especially given the number of other clubs that could be involved.

#### ***Park Run***

Park Run is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 1,063 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Park Run events.

In Wolverhampton, a Park Run event is held each week at West Park. It has been held 374 times, with an average attendance of 247.8 runners. Likewise, it is also held at East Park, where it has been held 27 times and has had an average attendance of 112.7 runners.

For those aged between 4 and 14, junior Park Run events are also available, with one held in Wolverhampton every Sunday at Wednesfield Park. This has been held 228 times and averages 19.6 runners.

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### ***Other running events***

Another annual running event that takes place in Wolverhampton is the Wolverhampton Half Marathon & 10K, which is hosted utilising the streets of Wolverhampton. The event is held every September, with all spaces taken up over recent years. However, the 2020 iteration did not take place due to Covid-19.

### ***Couch to 5k***

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in Wolverhampton, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity. Furthermore, it is actively promoted by various running clubs as well as organisations such as Wolverhampton Healthy Minds.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 4,731 people within Wolverhampton, which is a comparatively low figure. For comparison purposes, it is lower than the latent demand totals in Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall.

As referenced earlier, Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club has a waiting list in place for some sessions, namely those catering for junior athletes. This represents latent demand; however, it is not due to a lack of facilities but rather because of a lack of coaches/volunteers.

### ***Future demand***

All clubs consulted with express an aspiration to grow membership, although the majority state that this is difficult to quantify as they will do their utmost to not turn demand away. Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club in particular is keen to grow its demand at junior level.

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In addition, England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Park Run, although again to what extent is difficult to quantify.

### 12.4: Supply and demand analysis

There are two dedicated athletics facilities in Wolverhampton, although only one of the two facilities is being used by the community and with only one club requiring access. As no additional demand has been identified, supply is deemed sufficient, although quality improvements may be required in the near future to ensure participation can continue to be accommodated.

Away from the facilities, priority should also be placed on supporting activities being accommodated by the various running clubs in Wolverhampton and the events that are being held.

#### **Athletics – supply and demand summary**

- ◆ The supply of dedicated athletics facilities is sufficient to meet demand.
- ◆ Priority should be placed on supporting activity being accommodated by the various running clubs in Wolverhampton and the events that are being held.

#### **Athletics – supply summary**

- ◆ There are two purpose-built athletics tracks, a 400-metre track WV Active Aldersley and a 200-metre track at The King's Church of England School.
- ◆ The track at WV Active Aldersley is floodlit and available for community use; the track at The King's Church of England School is neither.
- ◆ Both facilities are assessed as standard quality.

#### **Athletics – demand summary**

- ◆ Four clubs as well as a few programmes have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity in Wolverhampton with only Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club having a requirement for a purpose-built facility.
- ◆ Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club has a waiting list in place for some sessions, although this is due to a lack of coaches rather than a lack of facilities.
- ◆ Park Run is held each week at West Park and East Park, with a junior Park Run held at Wednesfield Park.
- ◆ Annual events in Wolverhampton include the Wolverhampton Half Marathon & 10K.
- ◆ Heathfield Park Runners forms part of the Run Together initiative.
- ◆ Most clubs express an aspiration to grow membership, whilst England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Park Run.



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### PART 13: GOLF

#### 13.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 650,000 members belonging to one of 1,900 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated Heritage Coast sites, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or listed Historic Parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

#### Consultation

This section was informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs within Wolverhampton.

#### 13.2: Supply

There are three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf, as defined in the table below. Facilities such as pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf courses are not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

There are no facilities identified as being disused or lapsed.

*Table 13.1: Definitions of golf facilities*

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

Within Wolverhampton, there are six golf venues that provide facilities conforming with the above definitions, as identified in Table 13.1 and Table 13.2 below.

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Figure 13.1: Location of golf courses in Wolverhampton

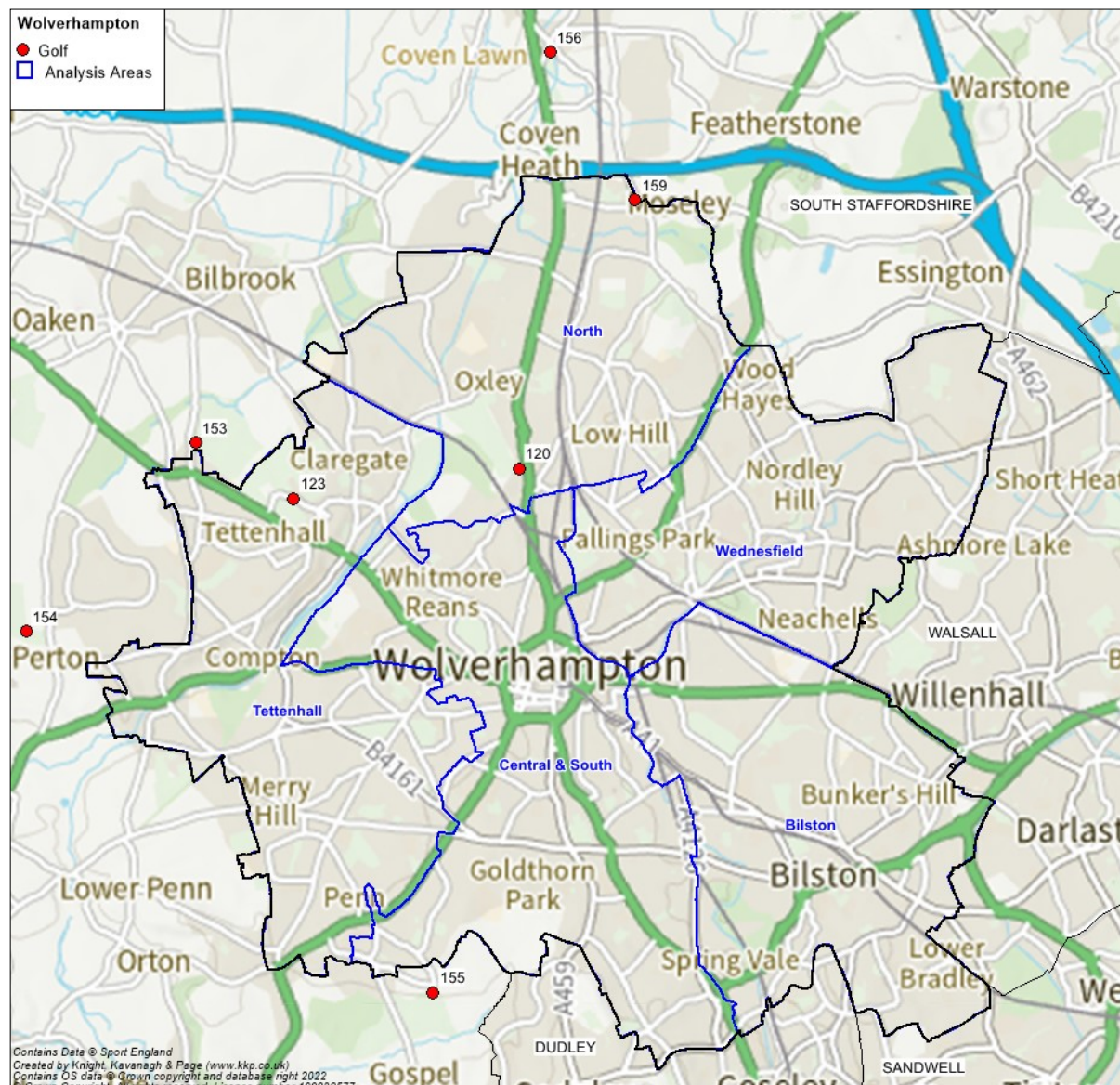


Table 13.2: Golf facilities within Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area
120	Oxley Park Golf Club	WV10 6DE	North
123	South Staffs Golf Club	WV6 9BQ	Tettenhall
153	Wergs Golf Club	WV6 8UA	Outside
159	Greenfield Golf Club	WV10 7JB	North
154	Perton Park Golf Club	WV6 7HL	Outside
155	Penn Golf Club	WV4 5JN	Outside
156	3 Hammers	WV10 7PP	Outside

## Standard hole golf courses

Three of the golf clubs are within Wolverhampton and four are located outside of the City boundary. Five of these provide a standard 18 hole offer, and one a nine hole offer. The site that does not provide a standard hole course is 3 Hammers. These are summarised in the table overleaf.

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Table 13.3: Summary of standard hole provision in Wolverhampton:

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage <sup>14</sup>			Slope rating
120	Oxley Park Golf Club	18	71	6,228	6,057	5,507	113
123	South Staffs Golf Club	18	71	6,512	6,277	5,709	110
153	Wergs Golf Club	18	72	6,949	6,251	4,991	124
154	Perton Park Golf Club	18	73	6,624	6,461	5,526	135
155	Penn Golf Club	18	71	6,453	6,174	5,447	122
159	Greenfield Golf Club	9	58	3,217	-	-	98

Of the five 18 holes courses, South Staffs Golf Club provides the longest offering, although all are in the range of what would be expected from traditional provision. Shorter courses tend to offer some variety that may appeal more so to a defined market that would not feel comfortable playing lengthier provision e.g. beginner and/or casual golfers.

Nationally, many 9-hole courses are shorter than the front or back nine of an 18-hole course, primarily to attract and cater for a different userbase. In Wolverhampton, Greenfield Golf Club provides a nine-hole golf course featuring 18 tees, meaning despite only having nine holes users get 18 unique tee shots. As can be seen the course also only features competition tees and does not provide alternate yardage for mens and women's members.

### Slope ratings

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World. The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113; in Wolverhampton, two courses are considered easier than this (South Staffs Golf Club and Greenfield Golf Club), one is on par (Oxley Park Golf Club) and the remaining three are considered to be more difficult.

### Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game. In the case of Greenfield Golf Course 14 of the 18 holes are par 3 for male members, meaning whilst not being a par 3 course it is only marginally different from this design. In Wolverhampton, 3 Hammers provides an 18-hole Par 3 offering. This lies just outside of the City, in South Staffordshire, but is considered to form part of the supply picture due to its close proximity.

### Driving range bays

In the case of Wolverhampton, South Staffordshire, Wergs and Perton Park golf clubs as well as 3 Hammers are identified as providing driving range bays, which represents a high proportion. There are also examples of other driving ranges within the local area in nearby boroughs, such as at Mark Butler Golf Academy, within Dudley, or at Aldridge Road Driving Range, in Walsall.

<sup>14</sup> White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

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### ***Management and ownership***

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England; members clubs, proprietary clubs and municipal facilities, as summarised in the table below.

*Table 13.4: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities*

<b>Management type</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Members</b>	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.
<b>Proprietary</b>	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.
<b>Municipal</b>	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales. Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment.

In Wolverhampton, there are six members clubs (Oxley Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club, Wergs Golf Club, Perton Park Golf Club, Penn Golf Club and Greenfield Golf Club) and one proprietary facility (3 Hammers). There are therefore no municipal facilities.



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*Table 13.4: Summary of ownership/management in Wolverhampton*

Site ID	Site name	Management type
120	Oxley Park Golf Club	Members
123	South Staffs Golf Club	Members
153	Wergs Golf Club	Members
154	Perton Park Golf Club	Members
155	Penn Golf Club	Members
156	3 Hammers	Proprietary
159	Greenfield Golf Club	Members

### **Pricing**

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past few years, many facilities have altered their pricing structures to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf has positively encouraged this as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, some now offer five and/or six day memberships (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over). In the past, it was common for many clubs to have waiting lists in place for membership, but this has become rare in the present day.

Declining membership also means that there is now a growing number of facilities openly encouraging pay and play visitors, with the number of nomadic golfers on the rise. Whilst this has always been the case at some venues, other, more membership orientated sites were previously reluctant to promote green fee usage as capacity simply did not exist. Now, green fee pricing has generally reduced and discounts are being offered to drive demand, especially outside of peak time hours and to accommodate larger groups. However, this situation is more acute at lower grade clubs than at higher grade clubs, where high quality can enable a provider to maintain a premium price.

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £901.00. In Wolverhampton, Oxley Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club, Perton Golf Club and Penn Golf Club operate above this figure, whilst Wergs Golf Club operates slightly below and Greenfield Golf Club is noticeably below it at £385.

There is no membership scheme in place at 3 Hammers, although a 12-month season ticket can be purchased, which works in a similar way. This is available for £240.00, which is much below the national average but accounts for it being a short Par 3 facility.

Green fees are available at club sites, although access is restricted at South Staffs Golf Club during weekends due to the course being generally reserved for members. Costs range from £7 to £50 per round.

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Table 13.5: Pricing structures at golf facilities within Wolverhampton:

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year)	Green fee (per round) <sup>15</sup>	
				Weekday	Weekend
120	Oxley Park Golf club	£0	£957.00	£25.00	£25.00
123	South Staffs Golf Club	N/A	£1,175.00	£35.00	-
153	Wergs Golf Club	N/A	£895.00	£20.00	£25.00
154	Perton Park Golf Club	N/A	£910.00	£15.00	£20.00
155	Penn Golf Club	£0	£936.00	£40.00	£50.00
156	3 Hammers	-	-	£7.00	£7.00
159	Greenfields Golf Club	£0	£385	-	-

### Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher the joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines.

Quality of the golf courses in Wolverhampton is good across the six sites, with no significant issues identified. All have dedicated green keeping staff which provide frequent and sophisticated maintenance regimes that operate all-year round.

The ancillary facilities are also for the most part good, particularly at South Staffs Golf Club which can accommodate up to 140 people and is suitable for hosting events such as christenings, wedding receptions and corporate events. Golf clubs often need such revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This emanates from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals.

### 13.3: Demand

Around 2004, participation in golf began declining; however, recent signs show that the reduction has not only levelled off but that demand has started to increase, especially following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, both in 2020 and 2021. As one of the first sports to be allowed on both occasions, people have been able to play whilst maintaining social distancing and England Golf has provided very clear guidance as to how this should manifest itself (e.g. by not allowing the flag to be taken out or rakes to be used). Some courses have reported a near doubling of usual demand compared to pre-pandemic levels, highlighting that a significant opportunity now exists to retain increased participation in the long-term.

### Membership

England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 386, which is based on a central national handicap platform.

In Wolverhampton, the table below provides the most recent membership numbers at the golf facilities within the City, based on latest England Golf affiliation data.

<sup>15</sup> Where more than one course is provided, the price displayed is for the larger course.



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Table 13.6: Summary of golf membership within Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	No. of members
120	South Staffs Golf Club	416
123	Oxley Park Golf Club	480
153	Wergs Golf Club	390
154	Perton Park Golf Club	395
155	Penn Golf Club	418
156	3 Hammers	-
159	Greenfield Golf Club	-

### Membership trends

Contrasting with the national trend of increasing membership, figures at South Staffs Golf Club have decreased since 2015, with 40 fewer members now attached to the site. In contrast, Oxley Park Golf Club has seen an increase in demand equating to 66%.

The three remaining clubs have seen membership remain static. Figures for Greenfield Golf Club are unknown.

Table 13.7: Changes in demand since 2015

Site ID	Club name	2015 members	Current members	Change in membership
120	Oxley Park Golf Club	289	480	-66%
123	South Staffs Golf Club	456	416	-8.77%
153	Wergs Golf Club	390	390	-
154	Perton Park Golf Club	395	395	-
155	Penn Golf Club	418	418	-
156	3 Hammers	N/A	N/A	N/A
159	Greenfield Golf Club	-	-	-

### Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has generally increased across England in recent years, usage figures at the sites within Wolverhampton is not known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf. However, it would be expected that demand would be relatively low given that six of the sites are members clubs with a focus on membership.

Pay and play is likely highest at 3 Hammers due to the nature of the provision.

### Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As such, unmet demand in Wolverhampton is considered to be very minimal, with none of the sites having any known capacity concerns.

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### ***Latent demand***

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision.

To that end, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 5,427 people within Wolverhampton.

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e. through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

In addition, England Golf has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility, with the population broken down into nine golfing segments. These segments are defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ◀ Relaxed members
- ◀ Older traditionalists
- ◀ Younger traditionalists
- ◀ Younger fanatics
- ◀ Younger actives
- ◀ Late enthusiasts
- ◀ Occasional time pressed
- ◀ Social couples
- ◀ Casual fun

Across Wolverhampton, Oxley Park Golf Club is identified as having the largest potential demand, with 111,323 people falling within the segments within a 20-minute drive time, whilst South Staffs Golf Club has 48,609 people within the identified radius, which represents the lowest amount.

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from "younger traditionalists" (20,183 people), whilst the lowest is from "casual fun" (15,788 people).

### ***Future demand***

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally from 650,000 to 675,000, representing an increase of 3.85%. If this was extrapolated to the clubs in Wolverhampton, total membership would increase, although relatively minimally.

In reality, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst many other will be open to growing by significantly more than 3.85%. In that regard, England Golf reports that many of the clubs are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and wider range of membership and playing options.

### **13.4: Supply and demand analysis**

With seven golf facilities servicing Wolverhampton, supply is relatively high and there is also seemingly good variety across the sites, with five providing standard-hole courses, four providing driving ranges and one providing a Par 3 course. This means there are facilities at both the high and low end in terms of affordability and an option for most potential users.

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Notwithstanding the above, demand is also seemingly high, with most of the sites operating at a demand level that is closely aligned to the national average. That being said, further exploration is required in relation to membership at Oxley Park Golf Club as it is likely that it did not affiliate to England Golf with the correct data.

With significant latent demand also identified, emphasis should be placed on protecting the facilities that are provided and to maximise usage across the sites to ensure continued sustainability. England Golf can assist in this regard, primarily through a variety of tools that can be used to better understand the local market. There may also be opportunities for some clubs across the area to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate to collectively cater for all types of players.

#### **Golf – supply and demand summary**

- ◆ Supply of golf provision in Wolverhampton is relatively high and well varied.
- ◆ Demand is also seemingly high, with most of the sites operating at a demand level that is closely aligned to the national average.
- ◆ With significant latent demand also identified, emphasis should be placed on protecting the facilities that are provided and to maximise usage across the sites to ensure continued sustainability.

#### **Golf – supply summary**

- ◆ There are currently seven golf sites servicing Wolverhampton (including provision just outside of the City boundary).
- ◆ Five provide a standard 18-hole courses, whilst 3 Hammers provides an 18-hole Par 3 course and Greenfield Golf Course offers a 9-hole course with 18 unique tees.
- ◆ There is a dedicated driving range within Wolverhampton at South Staffordshire GC, there is also provision outside of the authority boundary at, Wergs and Perton Park golf clubs as well as 3 Hammers.
- ◆ Oxley Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club, Perton Golf Club and Penn Golf Club operate above the national average membership pricing figure, whilst Wergs Golf Club operates slightly below it.
- ◆ In terms of quality, it is good across Wolverhampton with no significant issues identified at any of the sites.

#### **Golf – demand summary**

- ◆ All golf clubs with known membership figures are operating above the national average.
- ◆ Pay and play is likely highest at 3 Hammers due to the nature of the provision.
- ◆ England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally by 3.85%, which would represent an increase of members across the clubs, although relatively minimal.
- ◆ England Golf's mapping tool identifies a significant amount of potential demand, with Oxley Park Golf Club shown to have a particularly high population base.

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### PART 14: OUTDOOR WATER SPORTS

Water sports in England are governed by various bodies, including:

- ◆ British Canoe Union
- ◆ British Kite Surfing Association
- ◆ British Rowing
- ◆ British Sub-Aqua Club
- ◆ British Swimming
- ◆ British Water Ski
- ◆ Royal Yachting Association
- ◆ Surfing Great Britain

#### 14.1: Supply

Wolverhampton is home to the following outdoor water sports:

- ◆ Canoeing
- ◆ Boat racing
- ◆ Scuba diving

Canoeing within Wolverhampton takes place on the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, whilst boat racing takes place along the Shropshire Union Canal. Scuba diving occurs regularly at Codsall Leisure Centre (South Staffordshire) which will likely accommodate demand from Wolverhampton residents.

#### 14.2: Demand

The following list of clubs represent the outdoor water sports clubs within Wolverhampton:

- ◆ Wolverhampton Canoe Club
- ◆ Wolverhampton Boat Club
- ◆ Chillington Divers

##### *Wolverhampton Canoe Club*

Wolverhampton Canoe Club utilises Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, a canal running through Wolverhampton, for its sessions. The Club was founded in 1956 and delivers sessions to beginners or experienced canoers.

##### *Wolverhampton Boat Club*

Wolverhampton Boat Club utilises the Shropshire Union Canal for its sessions which take place on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Full membership of the Club is priced at £30 per year with a £40 entrance fee. Associate membership rates are also available at £25 per calendar year with a £10 entrance fee.

##### *Chillington Divers*

Chillington Divers is a club that provides scuba diving and snorkelling instruction. It predominately utilises the indoor 3.3-metre pool at Codsall Leisure Centre in South Staffordshire District for weekly sessions on Tuesday evenings; however, external dive sites are also visited albeit outside of the Wolverhampton area. This includes Dosthill Quarry in Tamworth and Stoney Cove in Leicestershire.

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### 14.3: Supply and demand analysis

Despite not having a large outdoor water sports facility like that provided elsewhere within the Black County, Wolverhampton still features three clubs each participating in different outdoor water sports. Use of the canals and rivers throughout the region enables outdoor water sports to take place despite the landlocked location of the region and continued access to these should be ensured.

#### **Outdoor water sports – supply and demand summary**

- ◆ Despite not having a large outdoor water sports facility like that provided elsewhere within the Black County, Wolverhampton still features three clubs each participating in different outdoor water sports.
- ◆ Continued access to the canals in Wolverhampton should be ensured.

#### **Outdoor water sports – supply summary**

- ◆ Staffordshire and Worcester Canal provides facilities that are compatible with a number of water sports and other water-related activities.
- ◆ Scuba diving also takes place in a location boarding the City; however, this utilises indoor provision.

#### **Outdoor water sports – demand summary**

- ◆ Wolverhampton Canoe Club utilises Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, a canal running through Wolverhampton, for its sessions.
- ◆ Wolverhampton Boat Club utilise the Shropshire Union Canal for their three times a week boating sessions.
- ◆ Chillington Divers partake in scuba diving and snorkelling sessions within Codsall Leisure Centre in South Staffordshire.

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### PART 15: OTHER GRASS PITCH SPORTS

#### 15.1: American football

##### *Introduction*

The British American Football Association (BAFA) is responsible for the governance of the sport which is continuing to grow in popularity in the UK and there are now hundreds of clubs and thousands of players competing regularly across the country.

The American football season in England generally runs from May until August.

Following the Wolverhampton Outlaws folding in the 1990's there are no American football clubs in Wolverhampton. There are, however, existing clubs within neighbouring authorities such as the Black Country Vipers, Sandwell Steelers and the Birmingham Lions.

##### *Supply*

There are no dedicated American football pitches within Wolverhampton and no other sports pitches are used for the sport.

##### *Demand*

There are no American football clubs in Wolverhampton. The City previously hosted Wolverhampton Outlaws; however, the team disbanded a number of years ago.

Within the wider Black Country region, there are American football clubs in Dudley and Sandwell, whilst a club is also present in Birmingham. As such, the region is well supported and it is likely that any isolated demand from Wolverhampton can be catered for outside of the authority.

##### *Supply and demand analysis*

With no dedicated facilities or substantial demand for the sport identified, American football should not be identified as a sport for the Council to prioritise. It is, however, imperative that any demand that does exist is directed to clubs in neighbouring authorities to ensure that it is catered for.

#### 15.2: Baseball/softball

##### *Introduction*

Baseball and softball are both governed by Baseball and Softball UK (BSUK), which is currently aiming to build the number of teams playing regularly throughout the country.

Baseball is played between two teams of nine players, which take turns batting and fielding across nine innings, whilst softball has two varieties: slow-pitch softball and fast-pitch softball. Both sports in England operate from April until September.

##### *Supply*

There is one baseball/softball diamond in the City, located at Colton Hills High School (Academy). This is however marked on a seasonal basis with line marking paint and is not a dedicated pitch for the sport. There are no facilities identified as being disused or lapsed.



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### ***Demand***

Wolverhampton Baseball Club was founded in 2018 and compete in the West Midlands Baseball League, which has grown from three clubs to seven since its inception in 2019. The Club access the pitch at Colton Hills High School for matches and training.

In addition to Wolverhampton Baseball Club, Stourbridge Titans Baseball Club also access the provision at Colton Hills High School despite primarily being based in Dudley. The Club recently relocated to the site due to reportedly being priced out of use of its previous venue, Thorns Leisure Centre (which is in Dudley). It is actively looking for a means to return back to Dudley.

Both clubs only play baseball, meaning there is no softball activity in the City.

### ***Supply and demand analysis***

Given the use of Colton Hill High School and the expanding demand for baseball in the region, the provision requires protection. As such, a community use agreement should be sought to secure long-term access.

### **15.3: Gaelic football**

Britain GAA is the Provincial Council of Gaelic football and hurling outside of Ireland. It is made up of seven regions, with Wolverhampton and the other Black County authorities falling into the Warwickshire region. The playing season runs from May until August.

### ***Consultation***

There is one existing Gaelic football club within Wolverhampton, that being St Mary's Gaelic Football Club. The Club engaged in telephone consultation to inform this section of the report.

### ***Supply***

There are no dedicated Gaelic football pitches provided in Wolverhampton. Aldersley High School is utilised as the primary venue for St Mary's Gaelic Football Club and the Club overmark football pitches for this purpose. However, these are undersized for competitive matches. There are also no facilities identified as being disused or lapsed.

### ***Demand***

Demand from St Mary's Gaelic Football Club equates to one senior team and a small junior section. The senior element of the Club competes at a reasonable standard and has been successful in winning regional competitions over its 70-year history.

Consultation with the Club highlights its desire to expand at both senior and junior level, but it notes that it is held back by the quality of the available facility at Aldersley High School.

### ***Supply and demand analysis***

There is no formal methodology for accessing the capacity requirements of Gaelic football. However, the provision of an over marked and undersized pitch at Aldersley High School is clearly insufficient to meet the demand from St Mary's Gaelic Football. The potential to increase the pitch size at Aldesley High School should be investigated.

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### **Other grass pitch sports – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ There are no existing American football facilities within Wolverhampton and with no demand existing it should not be seen as a priority.
- ◀ The baseball provision at Colton Hills High School requires protection, with an agreement required to secure use for Wolverhampton Baseball Club.
- ◀ The provision of a larger and more permanent Gaelic football offer should be sought due to the undersized nature of the pitch at Aldersley High School.

### **Other grass pitch sports – supply summary**

- ◀ There are no dedicated American football pitches within Wolverhampton.
- ◀ There is one baseball/softball diamond in Wolverhampton, located at Colton Hills (Academy).
- ◀ There are no dedicated Gaelic football pitches provided in the City, with St Mary's Gaelic Football Club utilising an overmarked football pitch at Aldersley High School which is undersized.

### **Other grass pitch sports – demand summary**

- ◀ There is no current American football demand within Wolverhampton following the disbandment of Wolverhampton Outlaws a number of years ago.
- ◀ Wolverhampton Baseball Club uses Colton Hills High School, whereas the site is also used by Stourbridge Titans Baseball Club (imported demand).
- ◀ St Mary's Gaelic Football Club fields a senior men's team and a small junior section, utilising Aldersley High School.

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### APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

#### National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

#### ***Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)***

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◆ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◆ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◆ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◆ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◆ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◆ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◆ A more productive sport sector.
- ◆ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◆ A more responsible sport sector.

#### ***Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021***

Sport and physical activity have a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◆ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◆ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◆ Creating the catalyst for change

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

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**Recover and reinvent:** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

**Connecting communities:** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

**Positive experiences for children and young people:** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

**Connecting with health and wellbeing:** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

**Active environments:** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (2021)**

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.

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.

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### ***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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### ***The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)***

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

### ***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 crickets 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



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### ◀ **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 Strategic Plan (2017-2021)***

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7's offering

### ***The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy***

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes are prioritised:

- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- ◀ Sustainable clubs
- ◀ Environmental Sustainability
- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website [provides further information on:](#)

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the Strategy, detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link:

- ◀ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 - 2017

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### ***Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme***

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of an ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◆ Creating welcoming environments
- ◆ Encouraging participation growth
- ◆ Building community engagement
- ◆ Cultivating further investment

### ***England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters 2013***

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

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

The core objectives are as follows:

- ◆ Grow our Participation
- ◆ Deliver International Success
- ◆ Increase our Visibility
- ◆ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◆ For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

### ***Club participation***

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

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Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

### ***England Hockey Strategy***

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found <http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075&sectionTitle=Facilities+Strategy>.

**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.

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### ***LTA Facilities Investment Strategy – Vision for the 2020 and beyond***

The LTA has developed a programme of action based on seven core strategies. These are:

- ✦ Visibility – Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
- ✦ Innovation – Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
- ✦ Investment – Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
- ✦ Accessibility – Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
- ✦ Engagement – Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers, to attract and maintain more people in the game.
- ✦ Performance – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ✦ Leadership – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.

The LTA Facilities Investment Framework sets out how it intends to deliver the investment to support community accessible tennis facilities. The focus will be on:

- ✦ New and existing indoor tennis centres
- ✦ Park tennis
- ✦ Tennis clubs
- ✦ Schools and other educational establishments

The key principles of the framework are to:

- ✦ Help fund projects through interest free loans.
- ✦ Invest in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ✦ Invest where there is thorough community engagement.
- ✦ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ✦ Targeted investment that is demand-led.
- ✦ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

### ***England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17***

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.

To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ✦ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ✦ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ✦ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.

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- ◆ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◆ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

#### ***England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond***

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

**Vision:** Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- ◆ Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- ◆ Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- ◆ Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

**Mission:** To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

#### ***England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)***

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

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The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims “To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England”.

### **England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)**

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

- ◀ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ◀ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ◀ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ◀ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ◀ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ◀ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ◀ Inspire and educate golf's network of volunteers
- ◀ Increase golf's influence
- ◀ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ◀ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ◀ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ◀ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ◀ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ◀ Develop greater access for disabled people
- ◀ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers



# WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT 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		

# WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT 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	Ideally 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 manager
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 manager
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None		Yes		Immediate action required	eg from normal activities - rubbish, balls and footwear 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 email site manager
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes			No		If "yes" send email site manager
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 12mm wicket/12mm roll 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		

# WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT 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					
<b>GOALPOSTS</b>										
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							
<b>ANCILLARY</b>										
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			
<b>Pitch Maintenance Score</b>										
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0	
<b>Natural (adequate)</b> = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season <b>Natural (inadequate)</b> = 4 or more training match cancellations per season **Based on a <b>pipe drained</b> system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a <b>slit drained</b> system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.										

# WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT 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+					

*Court non-technical assessment (netball and tennis)*

<b>KKPref</b>																			
<b>Site name:</b>																			
<b>Number of courts -</b>		<b>Tennis</b>		<b>Netball</b>		<b>Basketball</b>		<b>Five-a-side</b>											
<b>General Playground or specific sports court area?</b>																			
<b>Court surface</b>							<b>Management</b>								<b>Community Use?</b>				
	Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale							Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School											

Element	Rating						Comments
<b>About the courts</b>							
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 surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Size of courts	Yes - fully		No - but adequate		No - not adequate		
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No - but adequate		No - not adequate		
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor		
<b>Changing Accomodation</b>							
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No				
<b>About the equipment</b>							
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes		No				
Practice wall	Yes		No				

# WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Bowling green non-technical assessment

### Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green

KKPref

Site name:

Number of greens

Flat/crown

Community Use?

**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			Comments
<b>About the greens</b>				
Grass cover	Over 70%	40-69%	less than 40%	
Evenness of surface	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Signs of wear and tear	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots	
Condition of ditches/boardings	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes	No		
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots	
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good	Adequate	Poor	
<b>Ancillary facilities</b>				
Changing Accommodation	Yes	No		
Toilets	Yes	No		
Car parking	Yes	No		
<b>General comments about the site:</b>				



# WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Athletics tracks non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Athletics Tracks									
KKPref									
Site name:									
Track surface		Grass, polymeric, cinder, other specify		Specify If 'Other'					
No. of Lanes		Length of track:		Community Use:					
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each track with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Comments		
About the track facilities									
Damage to the track surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Track edging	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Disabled access	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Floodlighting	Yes		No						
Is the track fenced?	Yes		No						
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump									
	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate landing areas - jumps	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No-but adequate		No-not adequate				
Take off boards	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Landing mats	Yes		No						
Surface of throw ing areas - shot, discuss, hammer	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins - throw s	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Throw ing cages	Yes		No						
Access to toilets									
	Yes		No						
Changing accommodation	Yes		No						
Changing accommodation - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Club room	Yes		No						
Car parking	Good		Adequate		Poor				
General Comments									
						ENTER Athletics	Please make sure there is no filter on in sheet At_db !		