



**HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**FINAL STRATEGY**

**OCTOBER 2009**

**Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration**

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# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy for Harlow District Council (HDC). Building upon the preceding Assessment Report and Vision Paper, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing grass pitches and ancillary facilities between 2009 and 2021.

### 1.1: Vision

The proposed vision for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities (including ancillary facilities) in Harlow is that:

*'By 2021 Harlow will have an appropriate range of playing pitch facilities across the Area, which offer increased opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in both formal and informal sport and physical activity, thereby contributing to a higher quality of life.'*

### 1.2: Structure

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage within the Area. It provides:

- ◆ A strategic framework for improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock in the Area.
- ◆ A strategic vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitch facilities (including ancillary facilities) in Harlow.
- ◆ Robust evidence to support work on the Harlow Local Development Framework.
- ◆ An Area-wide sport-by-sport action plan.
- ◆ A site-specific action plan (where action is deemed necessary to maintain or improve quality).

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for the Area, which should be implemented from 2009 to 2021. It should be recognised that the strategy and action plan is outlined to provide a framework and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, partnerships and possible sources of external funding have been identified. There is a need to build key partnerships with schools, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited (except in terms of Section 106 contributions). This document provides clarity about the way forward, and allows the Council to focus on key issues that it can directly influence and achieve.

The site-by-site action plan provides recommended actions for each site, based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

### **1.3: Strategic framework for playing pitch facility improvements**

The following targets within this Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and evaluation. They reflect key areas to be addressed over its lifetime. However, implementation must be considered in the context of financial implications and the need for some proposals to meet planning considerations.

### **1.4: National context**

The provision of an accessible range of community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England.

#### ***Sport England Strategy***

Sport England has recently clarified its primary role; to grow, sustain and excel participation in community sport. Its ambition is to get more people playing and enjoying sport and to help those with talent get to the very top. It seeks to achieve this through working closely with national governing bodies of sport and building strong partnerships with local authorities.

The strategy commits Sport England to deliver on a series of demanding targets by 2012/13:

- ◆ One million people doing more sport.
- ◆ A 25% reduction in the number of 16-18 year olds who drop out of five key sports.
- ◆ Improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports.
- ◆ A measurable increase in people's satisfaction with their experience.
- ◆ A major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people.

#### ***Active People Survey***

The need for a range of informal facilities, alongside the formal pitches, is highlighted through the Active People results for Harlow. The figures show that over one-fifth (21.3%) of the population in Harlow regularly take part in sport and active recreation. This is in line with both the regional (21.2%) and national (21.3%) averages.

Under a quarter (23.9%) of the adult population in Harlow are members of a club where they take part in sport (this is a significant decline from previous membership levels). This is slightly below the average for the region (24.7%) and only slightly lower than the national figures. However, it emphasises that over three-quarters of the adult population do not engage in sport independently.

The Active People results indicate that over five in ten (51.8%) adults in Harlow are fairly or very satisfied with the sports provision in their local area. This is below the regional (68.2%) and national (66.7%) averages and has fallen significantly from Active People 1 survey results.

### ***Game Plan***

Game Plan is the Government's strategy for sport and physical activity through to 2020. It was published in December 2002 and presents a vision for England to become the most active and successful sporting nation in the world. It sets an ambitious target of encouraging 70% of the UK's population to lead an active life by 2020 and for Sport England to increase participation 1% year on year.

A key premise of Game Plan is that participation levels need to be raised for the whole population, but that interventions should focus upon economically disadvantaged groups and within those, especially on young people, women and older people. For young people, a linked aim is to develop 'physical literacy' (i.e., ability across a range of skills). It also identifies the relevance and the importance of locally available facilities.

### ***Playing to Win***

'Playing to Win' is the Government's plan to get more people taking up sport simply for the love of sport; to expand the pool of talented English sportsmen and women; and to break records, win medals and win tournaments for this country.

The vision is to give more people of all ages the opportunity to participate in high quality competitive sport. To deliver this vision, there is a need to develop an integrated and sustainable sporting system which will nurture and develop sporting talent, underpinned by a high quality club and competition structure.

## PART 2: SUMMARY OF ISSUES FROM ASSESSMENT REPORT

This section summarises the key issues identified in the Assessment Report.

### 2.1: Football

- ✦ There are 69 grass pitches in the District; most of which are provided on local authority sites. These pitches accommodate 159 teams.
- ✦ Two sites, Goldings and Ryehill Road, are rated as poor quality. The vast majority of pitches, however, are rated as average or good quality.
- ✦ Consultation suggests that although the pitches are improving, and that HDC has undertaken significant drainage work, there is still work to be done on the overall maintenance regimes to ensure that pitch improvements remain effective, particularly during the season.
- ✦ Three sites, including Bush Fair, Staple Tye and The Link, are played beyond their capacity and a further two sites are at capacity. In the main, this is due to the popularity and good quality of the sites.
- ✦ Senior club membership has generally remained constant over the last five years and it is not anticipated that there will be any significant growth in the near future.
- ✦ Junior club membership across the District is generally in a state of flux.
- ✦ Nine clubs have expressed latent demand, which equates to an additional requirement of six senior pitches, 3.5 junior pitches and 0.5 mini pitches.
- ✦ Club consultation indicates that changing facilities across the District are generally poor quality. This is further evidence by KKP's site visits which note poor quality ancillary facilities many of which are heavily vandalised and outdated.
- ✦ The levels of latent demand in Harlow are unusually high given that there is spare capacity at a number of sites. Consultation and analysis suggests that these levels of latent demand are manifest as a result of the lack of high quality facilities across the District. Clubs which do not have access to high quality pitches accompanied by changing facilities of a good standard consequently express latent demand. There is a need for HDC to address this issue to reduce the levels of latent demand and to accommodate the predicted increases in teams by 2021.
- ✦ There is an anticipated future surplus of 19.8 senior pitches but a deficit of 13.2 junior and 6.2 mini pitches. The anticipated surplus of senior pitches should be considered in the contribution towards addressing the deficit of junior and mini pitches.

The issues of supply and demand for football are more complex than for any other sport. This is due to the high numbers of teams playing in competitive league structures at grassroots level, the majority of which use local authority maintained pitches. The Assessment Report has established the current levels of supply and demand across the District and identified, through the Playing Pitch Methodology calculations, current and future levels of supply and demand. The Strategy goes on to provide guidance on the potential of sites to increase provision, alleviate pressure on other sites and contribute to future demand etc. This will be achieved by either improving the quality of the pitches to increase their weekly carrying capacity and/or making greater use of sites that are not currently in use for competitive purposes.

In order to maintain the quality of pitches across the Area in the future, it is imperative that pitches can be 'rested'. Therefore a strategic reserve should be built into the supply and demand analysis. Latent demand, which has been expressed by clubs throughout consultation, is taken into account in the analysis of future demand for facilities.



# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches in Harlow

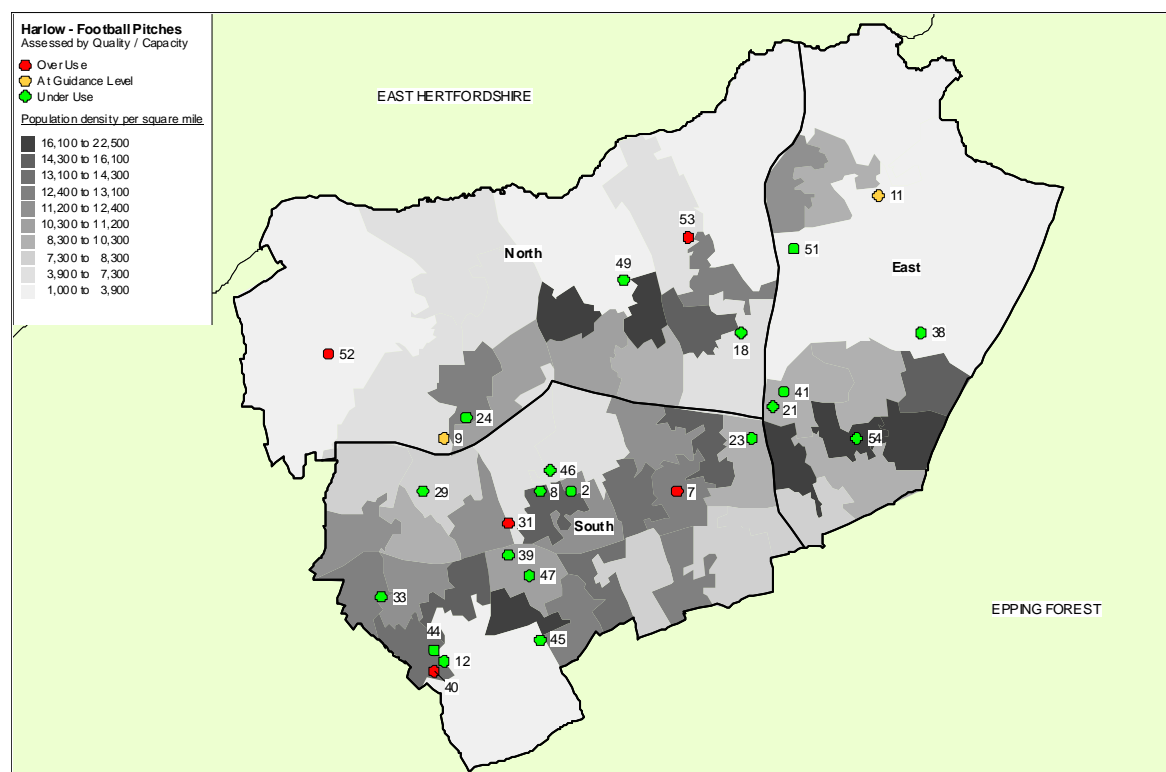


Table 2.1: Key to map of football pitches in Harlow

Site name	KKP ref.	Analysis Area	Community Use	Senior	Junior	Mini
BARN MEAD	2	South	Yes	3		
BARROWS FARM	52	North	Yes	1		
BRICK COTTAGES	54	East	Yes	1		
BURNT MILL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL	49	North	Yes	2		
BUSH FAIR	7	South	Yes	2		
BUSH FAIR D	8	South	Yes		1	
CHURCH LANGLEY	38	East	Yes	4		4
COLLINS MEADOW	9	North	Yes	1		
FAIRWAYS	44	South	Yes	3		
GILDEN WAY	11	East	Yes	2		
GLAXO SMITHKLINE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB	12	South	Yes	4		4
GOLDINGS	39	South	Yes	1		
LADYSHOT	18	North	Yes	2		
MARK HALL SPORTS CENTRE	51	East	Yes	2	5	

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

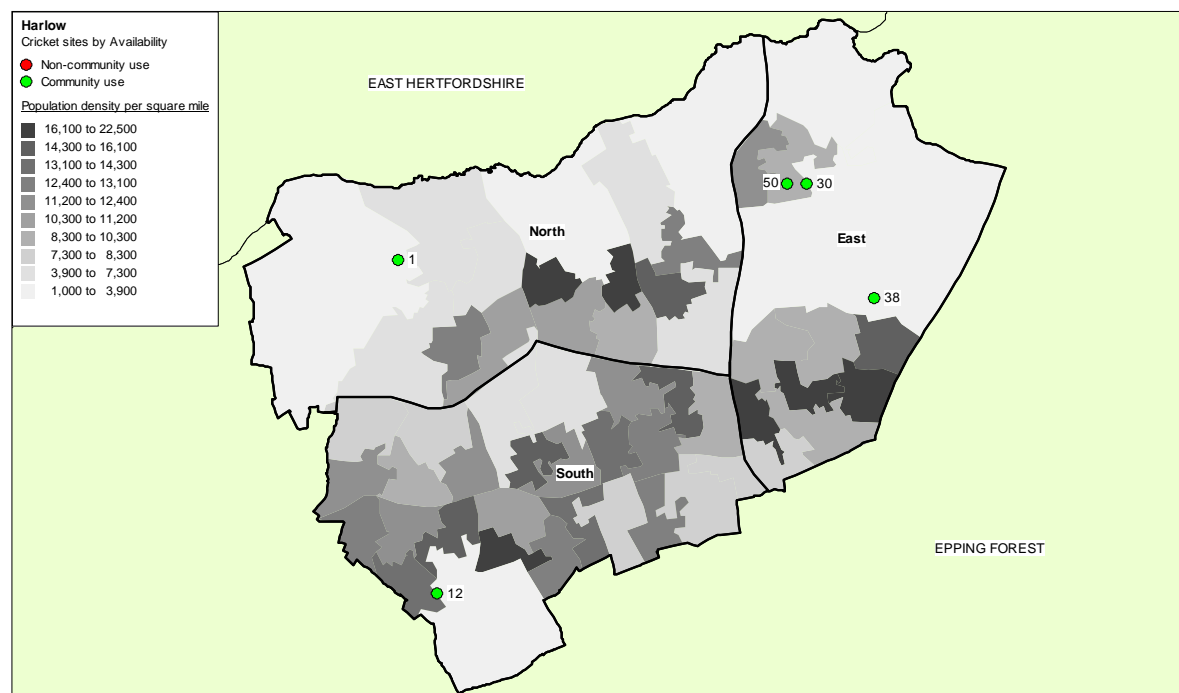
Site name	KKP ref.	Analysis Area	Community Use	Senior	Junior	Mini
MAYPOLE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB	21	East	Yes	3		
NICHOLLS FIELD	23	South	Yes	3		
NORTHBROOKS	24	North	Yes	2		
PASSMORES SCHOOL	46	South	Yes	4		
RECTORY FIELD	29	South	Yes	1		
RYEHILL ROAD	45	South	Yes	1		
STAPLE TYE	31	South	Yes	1		
STEWARDS SCHOOL	47	South	Yes	2		
SUMNERS LEISURE CENTRE	33	South	Yes			4
TANYS DELL SCHOOL	53	North	Yes	1		
THE LINK	40	South	Yes	2		
UNITED GLASS	41	East	Yes	3		

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## 2.2: Cricket

- There are six cricket pitches in Harlow owned and managed by a variety of bodies including HDC and the Marigolds Trust. These pitches accommodate 14 senior men's teams and eight junior boy's teams.
- No senior women's and junior girl's teams play competitive cricket in the District.
- There are two designated focus clubs in the District; these are focal points for the development of club cricket.
- Latent demand for cricket pitches has been identified in Harlow.
- Participation in junior boy's cricket is high compared to national averages. Whilst participation in men's cricket falls just below the national average.
- Overall, the quality of cricket pitches in Harlow is good. The majority of cricket is played at private sites or leased sites where grounds staff carry out maintenance work.
- The limited availability of changing facilities is the main issue affecting clubs in the District. Harlow CC and Harlow Town CC both report that the limited number of rooms available in their current pavilions is limiting junior development as well as women's and girl's cricket as there is no segregated changing.

Figure 2.2: Location of cricket pitch sites in Harlow



## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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*Table 2.2: Key to map of cricket pitches in Harlow*

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	Senior	Junior
ASH TREE FIELD	1	North	Yes	2	
CHURCH LANGLEY	38	East	Yes	1	
GLAXO SMITHKLINE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB	12	South	Yes	1	
HARLOW CRICKET CLUB	50	East	Yes	1	
SPICERS FIELD PLAYING FIELD	30	East	Yes	1	

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## 2.3: Rugby

- There are seven senior rugby pitches in Harlow.
- Harlow Rugby Club is the only rugby union club in the District. It fields 18 teams from mini's to senior's, and has one women's team.
- There are insufficient pitches to meet current demand levels at the Club. The pitches at Rams Gorse (Harlow Rugby Club) are significantly overplayed.
- The playing pitch methodology (PPM) calculations show a future undersupply of junior and mini rugby pitches across the District. However, this deficit can be covered by the surplus of senior pitches, as the majority of juniors are playing on senior pitches.
- Consultation indicates that Harlow Rugby Club hope to be re-located at a new site in the District by 2011. The level of overplay at their current site reinforces the need for this move, as the Club continues to grow and is unable to accommodate demand.

Figure 2.3 Location of rugby pitches in Harlow

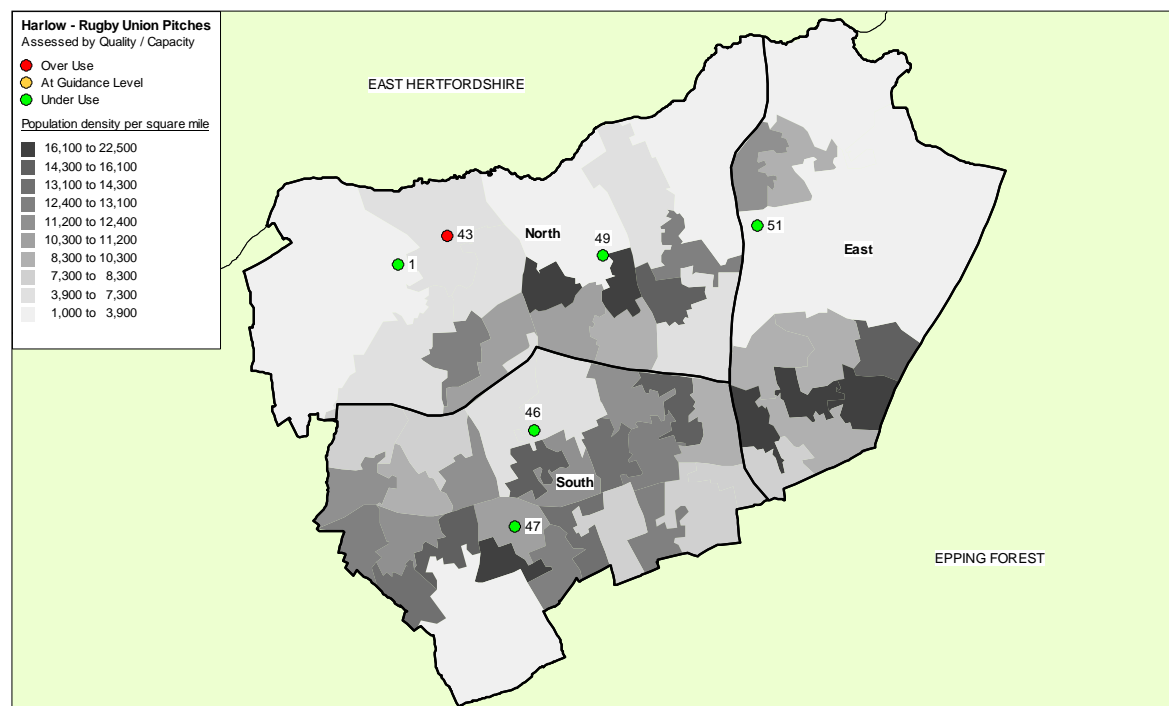


Table 2.3: Key to map of rugby pitches in Harlow

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	Senior	Junior	Mini
ASH TREE FIELD	1	North	Yes	1		
BURNT MILL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL	49	North	Yes	1		
MARK HALL SPORTS CENTRE	51	East	Yes	1		
PASSMORES SCHOOL	46	South	Yes	1		
RAMS GORSE	43	North	Yes	2		
STEWARDS SCHOOL	47	South	Yes	1		

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## 2.4: Hockey

- Harlow Hockey Club is the only hockey club in the District. It fields five senior teams and is keen to develop junior teams.
- There is one sand based STP suitable for hockey in the District. This is located at Passmores School. The second STP at Mark Hall School is unsuitable for hockey as it is a rubber crumb pitch.
- The Club comments that the quality of the STP at Passmores School is deteriorating due to overplay and unofficial use.
- Consultation highlights that demand for the STP at Passmores School outstrips supply.

Figure 2.4: Location of STPs in Harlow

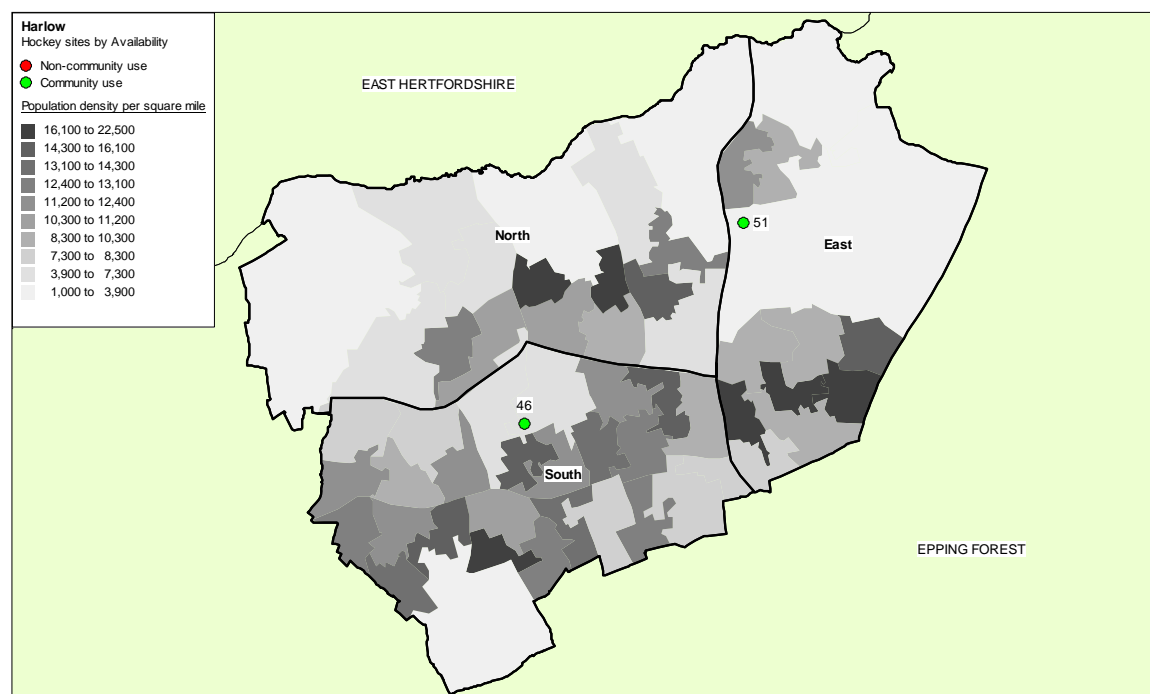


Table 2.4: Key to hockey sites in Harlow

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	KKP ref	ATP
MARK HALL SPORTS CENTRE	51	East	Yes	51	1
PASSMORES SCHOOL	46	South	Yes	46	1

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### 2.5: Baseball

- Harlow Green Sox Baseball Club is the only baseball club in the District.
- The Club has a baseball diamond at Northbrooks through Barclays Spaces for Sport Funding.
- The Club comments that there is a need to upgrade the ancillary facilities at the site.

The following table provides a summary of the surpluses and deficiencies of pitches across the Area.

Analysis area	Football			Cricket	Rugby union			Hockey
	Sf	Jf	Mf		SRu	JRu	MRu	
East	7.0	-2.5	-3.5	-1.5	1.0	0	0	4.0
North	2.5	-2.5	0	-0.5	2.0	-2.5	-3.5	0
South	10.5	-8.0	-2.5	0	2.0	0	0	-6.0
<b>HARLOW</b>	20.0	-13.0	-6.0	0	5.0	-2.5	-3.5	-2.0

### PART 3: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

#### 3.1: Introduction

The following section provides a framework for HDC and its partners to maintain and improve the playing pitch facilities across the Harlow Area. The overall vision in Harlow is to achieve an increase in sport and physical activity in line with regional and national targets and aspirations. In order to achieve this it is vital that the Strategy, emerging from the Assessment Report, provides all stakeholders in the Area with an opportunity to deal with the issues inside a clear, yet achievable, framework.

#### 3.2: Vision

The proposed vision for playing pitches (including ancillary facilities) in Harlow is that:

*'By 2021 Harlow will have an appropriate range of playing pitch facilities across the District which offer increased opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in both formal and informal sport and physical activity, thereby contributing to a higher quality of life.'*

This vision draws upon that of Harlow's Community Strategy for a 'great Harlow' and is key to Harlow Renaissance's work – 'Harlow See something Different'.

#### 3.3: Strategic objectives

##### **OBJECTIVE 1**

**In order to achieve an increase in participation in sport and physical activity partners will work to improve the quality of facilities across the Area.**

It is vital that local clubs and organisations have access to the best facilities possible, both to accommodate current levels of participation and to stimulate new activity. These facilities must meet the minimum specification requirements set out by governing bodies of sport, leagues/competitions as well as (as far as possible) meet the aspirations of sports clubs in the Area.

In Harlow, there are a significant number of sites which are not served by changing facilities. These sites, in effect, can be considered poor quality. Furthermore there are also some key sites that have poor quality facilities. The lack of (or poor) quality facilities is not conducive to retaining existing players nor attracting new participants. Consultation suggests that it is one of the primary reasons limiting participation, as many clubs identify latent demand.

Due to local authority budget constraints, it is clear that, across the life of this strategy, not all of those sites currently without changing facilities can be upgraded to have suitable changing facilities. Furthermore in some locations the provision of changing accommodation is not economic or efficient. It is therefore important to prioritise those sites which, by upgrading the changing facilities, will have the greatest impact on the largest number (and variety) of teams. The following sites should therefore be considered short-term priorities for partners to upgrade the changing facilities:



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Table 3.1: Short-term priority sites for changing facilities

Site	No. of pitches	Current changing provision	No. of teams	Comments	Rationale for prioritisation
Barn Mead	3	Very poor (20%)	4	The facilities are large and can accommodate three teams. There is a separate officials room. However, the building is very antiquated and afflicted by graffiti.	The facilities are extensive. However, they are antiquated.
Bush Fair	2	Poor (37%)	11	The changing accommodation is very small and would require four teams to change in relays.	Site is used extensively but the changing facilities are too small to accommodate four teams.
Bush Fair D	1	Very poor (24%)	1	The facilities are quite secluded and there is evidence of vandalism.	Facilities could be used in tandem with Bush Fair.
Ladyshot	2	Poor (32%)	3	The changing facilities are currently in a period of uncertainty and require renovation.	Consultation highlights that there is potential to encourage more clubs to move to this site.
Nicholls Field	3	Average (46%)	5	The facilities are poorly located on the site and vandalised.	The site is used to deliver the Harlow Kickz project and is regarded as a strategic site for the delivery of football based initiatives.
Northbrooks	2	Poor (32%)	4	The changing accommodation appears to have been painted recently inside. However there is evidence of vandalism to the building.	The site is used by a number of football teams and is also shared with the Harlow Green Sox Baseball Club.

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Site	No. of pitches	Current changing provision	No. of teams	Comments	Rationale for prioritisation
Church Langley	8	Very poor (20%)	25	The changing accommodation across two portacabins is considered to be inadequate for the level of play which takes place at the playing fields.	Site is used by both senior and junior teams. Langley Colts FC (Charter Standard) field girls and boys teams. There is a need to accommodate both senior and junior and boys and girls football concurrently.
<b>Total 18</b>		<b>Total 48</b>			

### Overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitch stock in the Area, it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing pitch quality and allocating a weekly match limit to each. The following table highlights sites which are currently played beyond capacity.

*Table 3.2: Overplayed pitches*

Site	Weekly overplay of matches	Analysis
Bush Fair	1.5 matches	The pitches are rated as good quality. There is no additional capacity at this site due to current overplay.
Staple Tye	0.5 matches	The pitches are rated as good quality. There is no additional capacity at this site due to current overplay.
The Link	9.5 matches	The pitches are rated as good quality. There is no additional capacity at this site due to current overplay.

These sites will be considered in the context of the wider availability of playing pitches across the Area.

## OBJECTIVE 2

In order to drive/achieve an increase in participation in sport and physical activity partners will ensure that there are sufficient facilities to meet both current and future demand.

### ***Demand***

The Assessment Report identified a certain level of latent demand. This amounts to:

- ✦ 6 senior football pitches.
- ✦ 3.5 junior pitches.
- ✦ 0.5 mini pitches.

This is a significant level of latent demand. Although it appears that there is sufficient capacity in the current pitch stock to accommodate this demand, there are a significant number of single pitch sites across the Area, often only accommodating one club. This means that such sites are, in effect, 'closed' to other teams in need of pitches. Furthermore, there is a strong tendency for clubs to move to sites which offer high quality facilities. Understandably these sites are often overplayed and have limited availability. Partners should strive to replicate these popular sites across the Area.

In addition to this expressed latent demand, national changes in sport participation and proposed housing growth in the Area should be recognised and factored into future facilities planning. Assuming such initiatives are successful, these will obviously impact on the future need for certain types of sports facilities. Such development work therefore represents latent demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e. it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur. The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities.

*Table 3.3: Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends*

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Sustain participation in adult football.	Invest in the improvement of 'key centres' to improve ancillary facilities (see site by site action plan).
	Support the development of Charter Standard clubs.	An increase in junior participation, which will increase the need for mini/junior pitches and segregated changing facilities where necessary.
Cricket	Two clubs have achieved Focus Club accreditation (i.e. Clubmark). This is likely to increase the number of junior teams.	An increase in midweek (junior) matches. This is not likely to require additional pitches, but will require more efficient timetabling of matches by individual clubs.
Rugby union	Rugby is likely to become a strong sport in the Area delivered through Harlow Rugby Club.	Emerging school/club links will result in increased junior participation within clubs, which will increase the demand placed on the current pitch stock.

Partners should rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the assessment above through the implementation of improvements to the current pitch stock and ancillary facilities.

The Playing Pitch Model used in the Assessment Report highlights an anticipated future surplus of senior football pitches. Whilst these predictions should be treated with caution and not used in isolation they are in line with issues highlighted in the report. However, this type of surplus is important to the overall levels of provision in the Area in the context of using adult pitches to accommodate junior and mini-play as multifunctional pitches. Furthermore surplus pitches allow partners to rest pitches to protect pitch quality in the long term.

### ***Housing policy***

East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy May 2008) requires the provision of 16,000 dwellings up to 2021 for the "Harlow Area", specific growth locations not identified save for urban extensions to the north, east and on a smaller scale to the south and west. No figures are given as to the number in the adjacent authorities of Epping Forest or East Hertfordshire District Councils. A Green Belt review is to be undertaken to accommodate urban extensions. The review to the north should provide for an eventual development of at least 10,000 dwellings and possibly significantly more. The three councils are working jointly on technical studies to enable a coordinated approach to the their Local Development Framework Core Strategies.

The aim of the Strategy is to identify the facility needs, which can then be used to negotiate with developers and secure future section 106 agreements. These agreements will deal directly with the issues (including deficiencies) identified in the assessment report.

### ***Synthetic turf pitches (STPs)***

In Harlow, like any local authority area, STPs are an integral part of the overall pitch stock and a community resource which are often in high demand. Currently, the sole full size sand-based STP in Harlow Area is located at Passmores and is not readily available to hire by all sections of the community. It is mainly used by Harlow Hockey Club and for training purposes. There is also a third generation ATP at Mark Hall School.

#### **OBJECTIVE 3**

**Partners will adopt a strategic management approach to all facilities in the Area to achieve the necessary increase in quality and quantity of provision.**

Consultation has highlighted a number of key sites. These are the sites which are considered to be the most popular. They need to be high quality in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week. Partners should extend this provision model to recognise the supply and demand issues identified throughout the Assessment Report (i.e. current levels of overplay) and the investment necessary to improve all sites in the Area based on current levels of usage. The identification of sites is based on strategic importance in an Area-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play). In addition, there are a number of sites which have been identified as accommodating both senior and junior matches, sometimes concurrently. Not only could

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such sites require a mixture of mini, junior and senior pitches, but they also require split-level ancillary facilities, in order to maximise their usage at all times.

## ***Tiered model approach criteria***

To recognise supply and demand issues identified within the assessment (i.e. current levels of overplay) and the investment necessary to improve key site quality it is recommend that a tiered approach to pitch management is adopted. Identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in an Area-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play in the Area).

*Table 3.1: Tiered model approach criteria*

<b>Tier A1 sites</b>	<b>Tier A2 sites</b>	<b>Tier B1 sites</b>	<b>Tier B2 sites</b>	<b>Tier C (education) sites</b>
Strategically placed in the Harlow Area context.	Strategically placed in the local and/or Harlow Area context.	Strategically placed in the local context.	Strategically placed in the local context.	Strategically placed in the local context.
Generally accommodates more than five pitches.	Generally accommodates more than four pitches.	Generally accommodates more than two pitches.	Generally single pitch sites.	Generally accommodates more than one pitch.
Generally serves multi-sports.	Generally single sport provision, but most have a dedicated junior/mini site.	Generally single sport provision.	Generally single sport provision.	Formal school use agreement in place or being worked towards.
Provides excellent pitch quality and pitches can usually accommodate up to 4 matches per week.	Provides excellent pitch quality and pitches can usually accommodate up to 4 matches per week.	Provides good quality pitch provision and pitches can accommodate up to 3 matches per week.	Provides good quality pitch provision and pitches can accommodate up to 3 matches per week.	Provides a good quality pitch provision and pitches can accommodate 2 matches per week.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms to serve the number of pitches.	Adequate changing to accommodate both senior and junior teams concurrently.	Maintenance can be either by the club or remain with the local authority.	—	Capital receipt will be ring-fenced and re-invested to improve local sports facilities.

**Tier A sites** are sites identified as having Harlow Area-wide significance. They are often multi-pitch sites, frequently catering for more than one type of sport and regularly (on, say, a weekly basis) catering for a high level of play. They should be maintained to a high standard, although in some instances improvements to pitch quality will relieve pressure on other pitches across the Area and increase the overall capacity and adequacy of the

pitch stock. It is, therefore, anticipated that a significant amount of the annual maintenance budget should be spent on such sites.

**Tier A2 (junior/mini sites)** recognise the growing emphasis on dedicated football venues catering solely for junior (especially mini-soccer) matches. Conditions recommended for junior football are becoming more stringent as the issue of child protection becomes more prominent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. At present, there are no dedicated grass mini-soccer sites in the Area.

**Tier B1 sites** are smaller, cater for demand at analysis area level and are vital to accommodate participation. Generally, tier 'B1' sites have the potential to become 'A' sites but require higher levels of initial investment, more ongoing maintenance, and some pitch infrastructure work.

**Tier B2 sites** are also smaller sites. They cater for demand at analysis area level and are vital to accommodate participation. However, they are more appropriate for clubs to take on a long-term lease to assist with the process of securing external funding. Tier B1 sites should be given a higher priority for investment than B2 sites.

**Tier C sites** are education owned and have the potential to be used by the community for competitive matches under the auspices of community use agreements. They have the potential to add to the pitch stock and relieve pressure at a local level.

### **Pricing**

It is proposed that partners adopt a pricing policy that rewards (i.e., via discounting) junior clubs that achieve an appropriate quality mark (e.g., Clubmark, Charter Standard). This would only apply to those that take a season-long lease on a pitch and to the new tier 'A' mini/junior sites, which will be located strategically throughout the Area. It fits entirely with the national processes seeking to provide additional benefits to clubs that achieve such status.

### **OBJECTIVE 4**

To achieve an increase in participation in sport and physical activity via enhanced provision of playing pitch facilities within the Area, utilising planning obligations associated with new housing development to enhance sport pitch provision (subject to identified need).

Partners, led by HDC, should ensure that Section 106 funds are directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitch facilities.

It is important that this strategy informs policies and emerging supplementary planning documents by setting out the Council approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development (local standards are provided in appendix A). The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions for the provision of appropriate facilities and their long term maintenance. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes on the pitches. A number of management objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ✦ Continue to ensure that where sites are lost, through development or closure, that facilities of the same or improved standard are provided to meet the continued needs of residents.
- ✦ Where pitches are lost due to redevelopment, re-provision or a contribution for investment should be sought for elsewhere as appropriate.
- ✦ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to a Section 106 Agreement. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement must be completed specifying the amount and timing of sums to be paid.
- ✦ A 'central pot' for developer contributions across the Harlow Area should be established to put towards playing pitch facility provision and maintenance.
- ✦ Where new pitches are provided, changing rooms should be located on site.

The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme presents Harlow with an opportunity to provide a new range of shared sports facilities to meet both the current and future needs of the area. It will be important for all BSF sites to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use. In the assessment process, Sport England's Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) is used to assess whether there is a sufficient supply of pitches at peak times in the future.

The proposals in this document, therefore, need to be examined against these issues:

- ✦ BSF presents an opportunity to deal with some of the issues outlined in the Assessment Report. However, it is not the only solution and should only be seen as one part of the strategic approach to the future provision of outdoor sports facilities in the Area.
- ✦ The analysis provides a clear indication of the future pitch requirements in Harlow and provides a basis for partners, led by HDC, to negotiate with developers delivering the BSF programme.

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### ***Calculating Section 106 contributions***

The requirement for outdoor sports provision should be based upon the number of persons generated from the net increase in dwellings in the proposed scheme, using the average household occupancy rate of 2.32 persons per dwelling as derived from the Census 2001. On this basis 1,000 persons at 2.32 persons per household represents 431 dwellings.

The first stage is to calculate the total number of persons in the development (dwellings in the development multiplied by 2.32 (persons per dwelling)). For example, 500 dwellings at 2.32 persons per household represent 1,160 persons.

The next stage is to calculate the hectareage required for the development. This is calculated by multiplying total persons in the development by the target local standard for the analysis area where the development is taking place and dividing the total by 1,000. For example, 1,160 persons multiplied by 1.13 (example standard) and divided by 1,000 equals 1.31 hectares required.

Based on the figure that a senior football pitch (including run off) is 0.89 hectares, this would equate to a need of 1.5 senior football pitches for example.

In addition to the standards calculations, the deficiencies and surpluses in provision identified within the PPM should also be taken into account, in terms of identifying where (by analysis area) provision is required. Please refer to the relevant pages within the sport by sport sections at the beginning of this report.

### ***Calculation:***

Number of dwellings x 2.32	x	Local standard	=	(x 1000)	=	Hectares required for the proposed development
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### **OBJECTIVE 5**

Maximise community access to all sport and recreation facilities in the Area.

Due to the nature of facility ownership in the Area, the Council cannot unilaterally implement strategic improvements to the majority of the pitch stock.

### **Schools**

Secondary schools have an important role in a playing pitch strategy. It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established dual use sites, community access to outdoor sports facilities is limited. The assessment report identified several issues relating to the use of school facilities:

- ✦ Community use is limited and often based on informal agreements between individual schools and clubs.
- ✦ There is no strategic guidance as to which clubs are allocated the use of playing pitch facilities (i.e. in accordance with a strategic need).
- ✦ School facilities are, in general, unattractive to community clubs (e.g., because of the lack of ancillary facilities).
- ✦ There are no identified standard community use agreements between clubs and schools for outdoor pitches.

It is recommended that a working group, led by a partner from the education sector (i.e. through the School Sports Partnership or Harlow Education Consortium) is established to implement the strategic direction in relation to the increased use of school facilities. This should incorporate the following representation:

- ✦ Sports development officers.
- ✦ Partnership development manager(s).
- ✦ PE/Education officers.
- ✦ Individual school representative.

Broadly speaking, its role should be to:

- ✦ To better understand current community use, practices and issues by 'auditing' schools.
- ✦ Identify and pilot one school/club formal community use agreement with a view to rolling out the model across the Area.
- ✦ Ensure that funding to improve the quality of the facilities is identified and secured.
- ✦ As part of any agreement secure a management arrangement for community access, which does not rely on existing school staff structures.
- ✦ Ensure that pitch provision at schools meets the needs of the local community and contributes towards overcoming deficiencies in the area (as identified in the assessment above).

### 3.4: Sport specific objectives

#### ***Football***

- ✦ As a priority, consolidate existing playing commitments, with clubs gaining regular access to facilities that meet current demand.
- ✦ Improve the quality of the ancillary facilities. All sites with three or more pitches to be well drained and have access to appropriate quality changing facilities to cater for league requirements.
- ✦ Where there will be over-supply of pitches in the future, consider using senior pitches to accommodate junior and mini pitches.
- ✦ Where appropriate, develop lease arrangements with clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development. This could include varying levels of shared management between the club and the local authority. Development and management criteria need to be established in order to maintain the viability and financial security of these sites.
- ✦ As a priority, apply a high level of maintenance to key sites throughout the playing season.
- ✦ Develop training facilities to ameliorate pressures on key pitch sites and training facilities, whilst addressing the current deficit.

#### ***Women and girls' football***

- ✦ Invest in central venue sites able to accommodate anticipated growth in girls' football.
- ✦ Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms to accommodate segregated changing.

#### ***Junior boys' football***

- ✦ Improve the quality and capacity of existing pitch stock.
- ✦ Meet likely future deficiencies in junior pitches by utilising pitch provision at school sites.

#### ***Mini football***

- ✦ Meet likely future deficiencies in mini pitches by utilising senior pitch in areas of over supply.
- ✦ Identify and invest in a central venue site which is able to accommodate anticipated growth in mini football. Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms to accommodate segregated changing.
- ✦ Encourage greater usage of primary school sites to cater for mini-soccer demand.

#### ***Cricket***

- ✦ Support existing clubs to maintain and develop their ancillary facilities to further meet local needs.
- ✦ Ensure that any facilities developed facilitate opportunities for senior women's and junior girl's competitive cricket.
- ✦ Work with clubs to ensure that unofficial access to sites is prevented.

### ***Rugby union***

- ◀ As a priority, support Harlow Rugby Club's relocation.
- ◀ Encourage and support development of junior girls' and womens' rugby.

### ***Hockey***

- ◀ As a priority ensure that Harlow Hockey Club has access to a sand based STP within the District.
- ◀ Work with the Club to provide equality of access alongside football training.

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### PART 4: ACTION PLAN 2009-2021

The Action Plan has been created to be undertaken over a ten-year timescale. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. It is not feasible to include all sites with identified development issues in the Strategy and Action Plan. Only sites, which meet the criteria listed above have, therefore, been included.

Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

#### 4.1: Football

##### *Action plan*

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
1	Sites without changing facilities do not meet local league requirements, which state that competing clubs must have access to changing provision.	All grade B1 sites (i.e. those without a changing facility, or with poor quality changing facilities) should be working towards becoming upgraded to grade A2 standard at a minimum, and therefore have access to a changing facility.	All football sites in the Area meet league regulations for competitive play.	Local clubs, HDC, Essex County FA (ECFA), local leagues	Football Foundation, ECFA, Barclays Spaces for Sports	S

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
2	Overall deficit of 13.2 junior pitches and 6.2 mini pitches in the District. In practice, all of this play is accommodated on senior pitches, but it emphasises the need for additional (dedicated) junior and mini pitches.	Mini-soccer/junior; support the creation of at least one strategically located site in the Area to become junior and or mini football venues. These sites are highlighted in the site-by-site section.	Appropriate quality and quantity of provision for junior and mini-soccer football.	Local clubs, HDC, Essex County FA (ECFA), local leagues	Football Foundation, ECFA.	M
3	The current pricing system does not prioritise good quality, development-minded clubs.	Offer an incentivised pitch pricing policy to reward junior clubs that have achieved the FA Charter Standard accreditation and encourage other clubs to strive for similar standards.	Recognised quality clubs which support junior development (indicated by the Charter Standard accreditation) have priority access to a sufficient number of good quality pitches.	Local clubs, HDC, Essex County FA (ECFA), local leagues		S
4	Good quality sites in Harlow are not currently played to capacity, whilst others are overplayed.	Work with local pitch providers to ensure that the bookings procedure is sufficiently flexible so that teams are strategically directed to sites with capacity in accordance with the recommendations set out in this strategy document.  Work with leagues to identify possibilities for pitch rationalisation.	A strategic approach to the allocation of matches to pitches to ensure none are played over capacity, and that suitable sites are not underplayed.	Local clubs, HDC, local leagues		M

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
5	Limited community use of school facilities and formal community use agreements.	Ensure that adequate resources and procedures are put in place to facilitate the community use of school pitches, particularly for junior and mini football, to alleviate overplay on other sites (as identified in this strategy document).	Community use of school facilities in a strategic manner to enhance the quality and protect the quality of the Area's overall pitch stock.	Local clubs, HDC, SSP, local leagues		L
6	Consultation with clubs highlights that maintenance regimes throughout the season are limited.	Work with clubs and Kier Harlow to establish minimum maintenance requirements throughout the season.	Good quality pitches throughout the season.	Local Clubs, HDC, Kier Harlow, local leagues	-	L
7	There is a shortage of accessible STPs in the Area and clubs cannot access appropriate facilities	Work with local partners to increase the supply of STPs in the Area.	Accessible STPs in the District available for football training during the week and for mini-soccer matches during the weekend.	Local clubs, HDC, Essex County FA (ECFA), local leagues	Football Foundation, ECFA.	L

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### 4.2: Cricket

#### *Action plan*

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
1	Harlow CC and Harlow Town CC have insufficient changing accommodation to support the current number of teams and women's and girl's cricket.	Support Harlow CC and Harlow Town CC to upgrade their pavilions to accommodate more changing facilities.	Increased levels of women's and girl's participation.	Local clubs, HDC, Essex County Cricket Board (ECCB)	EECB	M
2	The quality of cricket pitches at private sites is good.	Ensure clubs are supported to continue this maintenance.	Long-term quality of cricket pitches is maintained.	Local clubs, HDC, Essex County Cricket Board (ECCB)	EECB	S

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### 4.3: Rugby union

#### *Action plan*

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
1	Plans are afoot for Harlow Rugby Club to relocate to support the continued growth of the Club.	Support Harlow Rugby Club in realising its plans.	A high quality rugby facility for the Area.	Harlow Rugby Club, HDC, RFU	RFU	M
2	Junior participation is the focus for development work for Harlow Rugby Club. The Club has an established programme which it hopes to extend as part of its relocation.	-	Sustained demand for juniors to play rugby in a club environment.	Harlow Rugby Club, HDC, RFU	-	M



## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### 4.4: Hockey

#### *Action plan*

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
1	Harlow Hockey Club has access to the pitch at Passmores School. This access must be secured.	Ensure that the Club have a long term home facility in Harlow.	The Club is firmly established in Harlow.	HHC, HDC	England Hockey	S
2	Limited levels of junior development.	Assess the feasibility of supporting Harlow Hockey Club to develop a strong junior section.	A good quality hockey club in the District with significant participation in schools.	HHC, HDC	England Hockey	L

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### 4.5: Site specific action plan

#### Football

Site name	Current capacity	Current issues	Recommended actions	Outcome	Proposed tier	Priority
Barn Mead		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site has three senior football pitches, all of which are good quality.</li> <li>The poor quality of changing accommodation and the limited availability of car parking are the main issues at the site.</li> </ul>	Site should be prioritised for redeveloped changing facilities.	Improved overall quality of the site to cater for both senior and junior football which will therefore be capable of absorbing some of the latent demand by FC Flare for example.	B1	M
Bush Fair		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site has poor quality changing facilities and limited availability of car parking.</li> <li>Consultation highlights dog foul as a problem.</li> </ul>	Upgrade the current changing facilities to accommodate peak time match usage.  Work with Tye Green Bowling Club to develop car parking (owned by HDC) at the Club to provide additional parking for Bush Fair Playing Fields.	Improved overall quality of the site to cater for both junior and senior football.	B1	M
Bush Fair D		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site has one junior football pitch.</li> <li>Site has very poor quality changing facilities.</li> </ul>	Provide new shared facilities servicing Bush Fair and Bush Fair D.	Improved overall quality of the site to cater for junior football.	B2	M

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site name	Current capacity	Current issues	Recommended actions	Outcome	Proposed tier	Priority
Collins Meadow		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site is rated as average quality despite consultation highlighting that this is one of the best quality pitches in the District.</li> <li>This rating largely reflects the lack of changing accommodation.</li> </ul>	Consider the site for the provision of changing facilities.	Improved overall quality of the site.	B2	L
Gilden Way		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This rating largely reflects the lack of changing accommodation, although the site is played to capacity.</li> </ul>	Work with Langley Colts FC and Marquis Sports Youth FC developing changing accommodation at the site.	Good quality pitch site with changing accommodation.	B1	M
Glaxo Smithkline Sports & Social Club		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is currently no community use of these pitches. However, there is significant capacity.</li> </ul>	Partners should engage in discussions with GSK to identify potential use of these pitches. Consultation suggests that there is potential for the site to link with Sumners to create a large area of playing fields.	Increased provision, particularly of mini-pitches with potential for the pitches to be adopted by a/several specific club(s) through a lease arrangement.	A2	L
Ladyshot		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site is currently underutilized.</li> </ul>	HDC should support a local partner in delivering the improvements to the site.	A high quality site which offers a range of ancillary facilities and may divert some of the pressure from other key sites.	B1	S

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site name	Current capacity	Current issues	Recommended actions	Outcome	Proposed tier	Priority
Maypole Sports and Social Club		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site has spare capacity. Consultation indicates that this is likely to be due to the aspiration to retain high quality pitches.</li> <li>The site is designated as employment land within the local plan and these pitches will be replaced at New Hall (Gilden Way).</li> </ul>	Partners should work with the club to gain increased community access.	Multi pitch site which is accessible to the community.	B1	S
Nicholls Field		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation has identified that the changing accommodation at the site is poor quality and heavily vandalised.</li> <li>The pitches are poorly maintained during the season.</li> </ul>	Upgrade and redevelop the current changing facilities and work in partnership with local clubs to develop and incorporate a fitness facility to accommodate more peak time usage. Consider the potential to increase the number of car parking spaces at the site.	High quality site which can accommodate a number of teams. Recommend the site is used for senior football.	A2	S
Northbrooks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation has identified that the changing accommodation at the site is poor quality.</li> <li>There is capacity at the site for more play.</li> </ul>	Site should be considered for prioritization and upgrade the changing facilities to encourage increased use of the site.	High quality pitch site which offers high quality changing accommodation for football and baseball clubs.	A1	M

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site name	Current capacity	Current issues	Recommended actions	Outcome	Proposed tier	Priority
Rectory Field		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation has identified the site accommodation to be poor quality. However, this is not backed up by site visit information.</li> <li>Users comment that dog fouling is a problem at the site.</li> </ul>	As a single pitch site, HDC may wish to consider leasing the site.	High quality pitch site to cater for junior football.	B2	L
Staple Tye		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site is currently overplayed by 0.5 matches per week.</li> <li>There is a need to protect the playing surface from damage caused by unofficial access.</li> </ul>	As a single pitch site, HDC may wish to consider leasing the site to GPCA FC.	High quality facilities, pitches are not overplayed which preserves the long term quality. Secure the long term future of a local club.	B2	L
Sumners Leisure Centre		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site is currently used for mini-soccer following agreement by the Harlow and District Football League.</li> <li>Consultation suggests that there is demand to make this a long term future arrangement.</li> </ul>	The site should be considered for development as a centre for mini-soccer.	High quality dedicated central venue facility for mini-soccer.	A2	M

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site name	Current capacity	Current issues	Recommended actions	Outcome	Proposed tier	Priority
Church Langley		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changing facilities at the site are insufficient to accommodate the number of teams wishing to play at it.</li> <li>SEHYSA is keen to finalise the lease on the site to enable the organisation to secure football foundation funding in the future.</li> </ul>	Work with SEHYSA to develop the site at Church Langley and support the organisation in securing Football Foundation funding.	Multi sport site which supports a range of teams across the Area.	A2	S
Goldings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation suggests that the lack of changing accommodation at the site discourages use.</li> </ul>	The site should be kept in strategic reserve and kept in use as a summer training pitch.	Strategic reserve site for summer training.	B2	L
The Link		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regarded as one of the best sites in the Area the site is significantly overplayed.</li> </ul>	Work in partnership with Fairways to alleviate some of the overplay.	The Link continues to offer high quality playing pitches alongside redeveloped training facilities.	B1	L
United Glass		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Users comment that dog foul is a problem at the site.</li> <li>The site is designated as employment land within the local plan and these pitches will be replaced at New Hall (Gilden Way).</li> </ul>	Prioritise the site for greater enforcement of dog fouling laws.	Access to safe, high quality facilities.	B1	M

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site name	Current capacity	Current issues	Recommended actions	Outcome	Proposed tier	Priority
Fairways		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demand for improvements to the ancillary facilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Support Fairways in delivering high quality training facilities i.e. putting a new surface on the current MUGA and developing new changing accommodation. This may help to absorb some of the overplay at the site by mini and junior teams.</p> <p>Consider potential relationships with The Link.</p>	High quality site to support absorb some of the overplay from The Link.	B1	L
Ryehill Road		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation suggests that the lack of changing accommodation at the site discourages use.</li> </ul>	The site should be kept in strategic reserve and kept in use as a summer training pitch.	Strategic reserve site for summer training.	B2	L
Passmores School		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation indicates that clubs do not have access to changing facilities within the School which affects further use of the site.</li> </ul>	New facilities developed for the School at Brays Grove should recognise the need to provide changing facilities for community use of the site. These facilities should have the capability to be used as a standalone entity.	High quality school facility which offers community use.	B1	M
Stewards Schools		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although the pitches are rated as good quality, consultation suggests that the pitches could not sustain extensive community use.</li> </ul>	Partners should encourage the school to put in place a formal use agreement for continued use of the site.	Good quality facility facilitating the development of both school and club level football and potentially other pitch sports.	B1	M

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site name	Current capacity	Current issues	Recommended actions	Outcome	Proposed tier	Priority
Burnt Mill Comprehensive Schools		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation indicates that there is currently no community use of the site.</li> <li>• The school limits community use to protect the quality of the pitches which it believes could not sustain regular play.</li> <li>• The school has been granted planning permission to develop two, floodlit, 7-a-side synthetic turf pitches at the site.</li> </ul>	Work with the school to identify demand for this facility. In conjunction with the findings of the assessment report and strategy consider if this site should be pursued as a venue for synthetic pitches.	High quality school facility which offers facilities community use.	B1	M
Mark Hall Sports Centre		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite extensive use of the 3G pitch there is limited use of the grass pitches. Although this has largely been due to the incorrect laying of the pitches which has made them unplayable.</li> </ul>	Work with the school to develop the site further as a venue for junior football.	Multi pitch flagship site for junior football which offers both synthetic and grass playing surfaces for competitive games and training. The facilities are used to capacity.	A2	M



## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site name	Current capacity	Current issues	Recommended actions	Outcome	Proposed tier	Priority
Tanys Dell		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality of pitches is rated as average; therefore have a limited weekly carrying capacity.</li> <li>The site is overplayed on a weekly basis.</li> </ul>	<p>Overplay should be redirected to another primary school site which can accommodate junior football. Partners should work with primary schools in the District, through Harlow Education Consortium, to identify potential sites to accommodate junior play.</p> <p>Upgrade the pitches quality of the site increase the weekly carrying capacity.</p>	Good quality site which is not overplayed.	C	M
Brick Cottages		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site is leased to Matching United which maintains the pitch to a good quality.</li> </ul>	Continue to support the Club to make improvements as necessary.	Continuing support for local club through ensuring security of tenure of quality of facilities.	B2	S

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### *Cricket*

Site name	Current issues	Recommended actions	Outcome
Ash Tree Field	Changing accommodation at the site is currently insufficient to accommodate women's' and girls' cricket There is demand to fence the training nets at the site to limit vandalism. Car parking at the site is limited.	Work with Harlow Town CC to identify possible sources of funding to deliver the projects highlighted.	High quality multi pitch cricket site which can support junior development and women's' and girls' cricket.
Glaxo Smithkline Sports and Social Club	KKP is unaware of any competitive play which occurs at the site.	Partners should engage with GSK sports and social club to negotiate access on behalf of local clubs.	The site could absorb some of the local overplay.
Spicers Playing Field	Harlow Cricket Club has identified a need to develop greater protection of the pitch from vandalism.	Consider installing control mechanisms to prevent unofficial use of the site.	Improved quality of the site.
Church Langley	The site is used overcapacity and the quality of the pitches cannot be improved so play should be considered for re-direction to another site as appropriate.	To maintain current quality some play may wish to be re-directed – potentially to Glaxo Smithkline Sports and Social Club.	Improved quality of the site.
Harlow Cricket Club	Changing accommodation is insufficient to accommodate the current demand for play at the site.	Partners should work with Harlow CC to identify possible sources of funding to deliver the projects highlighted.	High quality multi pitch cricket site which can support junior development and women's' and girls' cricket.

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### *Rugby Union*

Site name	Current capacity	Current issues	Recommended actions	Outcome	Proposed tier	Priority
Ash Tree Field		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site is used by Harlow Rugby Club to accommodate training and overplay.</li> </ul>	Continue to provide access for community use.	Site is good quality.	B2	L
Rams Gorse		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site is the home ground of Harlow Rugby Club.</li> <li>The site is insufficient to accommodate the levels of play.</li> </ul>	Support Harlow Rugby Club's relocation.	The Club has access to new facilities are can accommodate the high levels of participation.	B1 (New Site)	M
Pitches at education sites		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pitches are not used for competitive play.</li> </ul>	Continue to encourage community use. Sites offers spare capacity if required.	The Area has access to rugby union pitches. These facilities are likely to be in demand in the future if Harlow Rugby Club extends its programme of development within the schools.	C	S-L

### *Hockey*

Site name	Current issues	Recommended actions	Outcome
Passmores School	<p>The current STP is deteriorating.</p> <p>The School is due to move site to Brays Grove – no final decisions have yet been made about the facilities to be developed there.</p>	Partners should work with the Education Authority to ensure that Harlow Hockey Club retains access to a STP.	Secured long term future of Harlow Hockey Club through ensuring future access to a STP in the Area.

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### ***Baseball***

Site name	Current issues	Recommended actions	Outcome
Northbrooks	The Club comments that the ancillary facilities at the site are poor quality and that there is a lack of security at the site.	Site should be considered for prioritisation for a redeveloped changing facility.	Improved overall quality of the site to cater for baseball and football.

## PART 5: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The following implementation plan outlines a range of projects which partners should work to deliver to realise the recommendations outlined in the playing pitch strategy.

Projects are listed in priority order, but this may require updating and amending periodically subject to local requirements and the availability of funding. It is important to note that the strategy will provide partners with a strategic basis for attracting funding and investment. HDC funding alone cannot currently support/sustain the range of projects identified. Match funding is required from a range of bodies to realise the projects. There is also a need for greater flexibility in planning policy to allow commercial activity within ancillary buildings adjacent to pitches that supports the long term sustainability of pitches and buildings.

### 5.1: Options

Costings provided are based on Sport England guidance. Although the Football Foundation offers up to 90% match funding, this is only available in exceptional circumstances – the closer to 50% the better chance the scheme has of succeeding. However, given the current economic situation at the Football Foundation there is currently a freeze on funding grants over £20,000. This places a significant restriction on the level of match funding which HDC is able to attract to support the capital projects outlined.

#### ***Option 1***

Assuming the freeze is lifted from the Football Foundation funding and that HDC is eligible for match funding, it should be in a position to deliver the following projects as an option one programme of works:

1. Nicholls Field (South): upgrade changing, provide a fitness facility and increase car parking.
2. Barn Mead (South): develop changing facilities, develop car parking.
3. Harlow Town CC (South): upgrade changing accommodation to cater for women's and girl's provision, fence training nets.

#### ***Option 2***

Option 2 assumes a scaled down programme of works assuming that HDC is only able to apply for £20,000 per site. It includes some 'smaller' projects to increase the portfolio of projects and the geographic reach of the funding.

1. Nicholls Field (South): upgrade changing (scaled down programme and remove the fitness facility development).
2. Harlow Town Cricket Club<sup>1</sup> (North): upgrade changing accommodation to cater for women's and girl's provision, fence training nets.
3. Gilden Way (East): develop changing accommodation.
4. Fairways (South): Resurface the MUGA.
5. Tanys Dells Primary School (North): upgrade pitch quality at the site to increase the weekly carrying capacity.

---

<sup>1</sup> HDC should assume that the ECB would match fund.

## Option 3

Option 3 assumes that HDC is not able to attract any funding:

1. Nicholls Field (South): upgrade changing (scaled down programme and remove the fitness facility development).
2. Harlow Town Cricket Club<sup>2</sup> (North): upgrade changing accommodation to cater for women's and girl's provision, fence training nets.
3. Gilden Way (East): develop changing accommodation.

## 5.2: Site specific action plan

The site-by-site action plan highlights the work required and the outline cost of realising a range of projects. It should be noted that there is an expectation that at least

### Capital projects

The first section outlines capital work required to improve pitch facility provision in Harlow.

#### Changing room and related projects

Site name	Priority	Work required	Outline cost (£)	Comment
Nicholls Field	1	Upgrade changing facilities. Providing a fitness facility for local clubs. Increase car parking on site.	565,000 200,000	Scheme subject of Football Foundation submission.
Barn Mead	2	Develop changing facilities . Develop car parking at Tye Green.	565,000	-
Ash Tree Field – Harlow Town Cricket Club	3	Upgrade changing accommodation to cater for women's and girls' provision. Fence training nets.	320,000	-
Bush Fair	4	Develop changing facilities. Develop car parking at the Tye Green Bowling Club.	565,000	Facilities to be shared with Bush Fair D.
Bush Fair D	5	Develop changing facilities.	-	Facilities to be shared with Bush Fair.
Harlow Cricket Club	6	Upgrade changing accommodation.	320,000	-

<sup>2</sup> HDC should assume that the ECB would match fund.

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site name	Priority	Work required	Outline cost (£)	Comment
Tanys Dell	7	Upgrade pitch quality at the site to increase the weekly carrying capacity.	80,000	Higher priority as offers potential to develop community use agreements.
Gilden Way	8	Develop changing facilities.	565,000	-
Northbrooks	9	Upgrade changing provision.	565,000	Changing provision will cater for baseball and football use.
Collins Meadow	10	Develop changing facilities.	320,000	Single pitch site – not a priority for investment.
Fairways	11	Resurface MUGA. Develop new changing accommodation.	40,000 565,000	See also comments on pitch reallocation.
Spicers Playing Field	12	Install control mechanisms to reduce unofficial use of the site	25,000	-

### STPs

The Strategy identifies the need for additional synthetic turf provision in the Harlow Area. It is difficult to be certain about all proposals because plans for school development are not finalised.

Site name	Work required	Outline cost (£)	Comment
Passmores School	Provision of new STP at Brays Grove to replace deteriorating facility at Passmores. Pitch should be sand based to facilitate hockey use and should recognize the need to provide changing facilities for community use of the site. These facilities should have the capability to be used as a standalone entity.	600,000	If pitch cannot be developed at Brays Grove, there remains a need to provide a sand based STP in the Area to secure the future of Harlow Hockey Club.

Site name	Work required	Outline cost (£)	Comment
Burnt Mill Comprehensive School	Work with the school to identify demand for new synthetic pitches. Secure community use for mini soccer development.	-	If pitch(es) cannot be provided at Burnt Mill, there remains a need to provide 3G STP pitches to cater for mini soccer.
Sumners Leisure Centre	Develop a half size (and possibly full size) STP at site to facilitate development of mini soccer.	Half size – 500,000 Full size – 740,000	-

## 5.3: Community use of education sites

A priority is to secure greater community use of school sites to cater for overplay on other sites in the Area, particularly in respect of mini and junior football. The first priority should, therefore, be to identify a suitable site and pilot a school-club formal community use agreement. This model should then be reviewed and rolled out across the Area. Key principles to be incorporated into the agreement (in accordance with issues highlighted in the strategy) are:

- ▶ Ensure that funding to improve the quality of the facilities is identified and secured.
- ▶ As part of any agreement secure a management arrangement for community access, which does not rely on existing school staff structures.
- ▶ Ensure that pitch provision at schools meets the needs of the local community and contributes towards overcoming deficiencies in the area (as identified in the assessment). Where possible, this should be linked to central coordination of bookings.

Priority should be given to working with the following schools:

- ▶ Tanys Dell School.
- ▶ Stewards School.
- ▶ Mark Hall Sports Centre (focusing on developing junior football on site).
- ▶ Passmores School (replacement at Brays Grove former school site).
- ▶ Burnt Mill Comprehensive School.

Community use agreements should also be developed in the context of securing use of facilities such as STPs and rugby provision on school sites.



### 5.4: Community use of other sites

The principle of ensuring greater use of school sites also applies to other sites in the Area. Notably, Glaxo Smithkline Sports & Social Club is an underutilised resource, offering four senior football pitches and a cricket pitch. This is potentially a key site as it offers significant potential to cater for overplay at The Link. Other sites where community use should be sought/protected are:

- ◀ Maypole Sports and Social Club (although this site is designated as employment land within the local plan).
- ◀ Ash Tree Field.

### 5.5: Club led projects

There are a number of club led projects in the Area designed to improve pitch provision. Support should be provided to these projects to facilitate them securing the necessary external funding and permissions. Priority projects which partners should support are:

- ◀ Rams Gorse (Harlow RFC).
- ◀ Ladysot.
- ◀ Church Langley – Work with SEHYSA to develop the site, supporting a Football Foundation application.
- ◀ Brick Cottages (Matching United).

### 5.6: Leasing

Where appropriate, lease arrangements should be developed with clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development. This could include varying levels of shared management between the club and the local authority. Development and management criteria need to be established in order to maintain the viability and financial security of these sites. Potential sites for leasing include:

- ◀ Rectory Field
- ◀ Staple Tye

One site (preferably Rectory Field) should be earmarked as a pilot for leasing. If leasing is successful, the arrangement should be extended to all single pitch sites and, in some cases, multi-pitch sites with heavy use by a single club.

### 5.7: Pitch reallocation

There is scope to improve some sites by simply reallocating use.

Key sites for priority in identifying teams to redirect to other sites are:

- ◀ The Link – redirect some football use to Glaxo Smithkline Sports & Social Club and/or Fairways.
- ◀ Tanys Dell – redirect some junior football use to another site, preferably a school based site.
- ◀ Church Langley – redirect some cricket play to Glaxo Smithkline Sports & Social Club.

There is strong demand for summer training pitches. Two pitches should be kept in strategic reserve and allocated solely for summer training use – this will protect the main pitch sites by allowing them to recover during the summer. These sites are:

- ◀ Goldings.
- ◀ Ryehill Road.

### **5.8: Pitch management**

Pitch quality is affected by issues of dog fouling. A priority for greater enforcement of dog foul laws is United Glass.

### **5.9: Priority actions for non-capital projects**

- ◀ Identify one site and pilot a school-club formal community use agreement (possibly Tanys Dell linked to drainage improvements).
- ◀ Secure use of Glaxo Smithkline site for local clubs, transferring play from The Link.
- ◀ Identify one site and develop a leasing agreement (potential priority – Rectory Field).
- ◀ Reallocate pitches in time for next season in accordance with strategy recommendations.

## PART 6: SETTING PLAYING PITCH STANDARDS

### 6.1: Introduction

Traditionally, the 'Six Acre Standard' (reviewed in 2008) has been used within local plans/unitary development plans to set local standards for outdoor sports provision. This recommends a minimum standard of 1.6 hectares (four acres) per 1,000 people for outdoor sports. Within this, there is to be a specific allocation of at least 1.2 hectares (three acres) of land for pitch sports (as included within this study). The balance (i.e. 0.4 hectares or one acre) is required for non-pitch sports including athletics, tennis and bowls. Local authorities can then use this figure as a benchmark.

However, PPG17 now requires local authorities to undertake detailed local assessments to provide evidence as a basis for developing a local standard, taking into account the quality, capacity and accessibility of outdoor sports facilities as well as quantity.

'Towards A Level Playing Field' does not give definitive instruction on how to calculate local standards for sports pitches but advises that the following needs to be taken into consideration:

- ◀ Only pitches available for community use are to be included in the 'supply' equation.
- ◀ Quality of pitches.
- ◀ Provision of changing facilities.
- ◀ Pitch capacity.
- ◀ Future population estimates.

A qualitative local standard is calculated by adding the hectarage of pitch stock available for community use to the identified shortfall/surplus of pitches (latent and future demand). It also takes into account the amount of inadequate pitches within the existing stock.

It is advised that the qualitative local standards are adopted as part of the LDF and used as supplementary planning guidance in the context of planning applications such as the following:

- ◀ Where applicants propose the removal/relocation of playing pitches, which will affect the amount of provision in a given area.
- ◀ Where developer contributions can be gained to improve the quality of existing facilities and provide new facilities.

Playing pitch standards have been calculated in line with Sport England guidance set out in 'Towards A Level Playing Field'. Within this report local standards or 'local aspirations targets for provision' in hectares per 1,000 population are derived as follows:

Existing provision (within this a recognition of 'poor quality' provision)	+	Additional provision to meet current unmet demand (latent demand identified through consultation)	+	=	Local aspirational target for provision (per 1,000 population - taking into account population projections for 2021)
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### 6.2: Harlow playing pitch standards

The following table summarises the recommended local provision standards for playing fields (including football, cricket, rugby, hockey and baseball) in Harlow. Target standards provide a guideline about how much provision per 1,000 people is needed to strategically serve Harlow until 2021. For full calculations please consult the appendices.

*Table: Playing pitch standards on analysis area basis*

Analysis area	Local standard (hectares per 1,000 population)
East	1.90
North	0.86
South	1.45
<b>HARLOW</b>	<b>1.38</b>

Please refer to the full calculation tables in the appendices.

These figures provide local standards for Harlow on a District-wide basis and also by analysis areas. The playing pitch standard for the North is significantly lower than that of the East and South. The standards provide a benchmark for HDC. They do not indicate surpluses/deficiencies in provision.

It is advised that the target local standards are adopted as part of the LDF and used within supplementary planning guidance in the context of planning applications such as the following:

- ◀ Where applicants propose the removal/relocation of playing pitches, which will affect the amount of provision in a given area.
- ◀ Where developer contributions can be gained to improve the quality of existing facilities and if required provide new facilities.

It is important that all levels of analysis are kept up to date approximately every three years. In line with recommendations in PPG 17: Planning for Open Space Sport & Recreation and that HDC has a current audit and assessment of provision in order to respond appropriately to the needs of the local community.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## APPENDICES

### Local standards calculations tables

ALL ANALYSIS AREAS					
Population (2001 Census) 80,329	Total number of pitches	Pitches available for community use	No. of adequate pitches available for community use	No. of inadequate pitches available for community use	No. of pitches required to meet latent demand
Senior football	51	48	46	2	6.0
Junior football	6	6	6	0	3.5
Mini football	12	12	12	0	0.5
Senior rugby union	7	7	7	0	
Junior rugby union	0	0	0	0	
Mini rugby union	0	0	0	0	
Senior cricket	6	6	6	0	
Junior cricket	0	0	0	0	
Senior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	
Junior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	
ATP	2	2	2	0	
Lacrosse	0	0	0	0	
Baseball	1	1	1	0	
Softball	0	0	0	0	
Rounders	1	1	1	0	
Kabaddi	0	0	0	0	
Total estimated playing pitch space (ha)	103.54	99.34	96.54		
Total estimated pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)	1.29	1.24	1.20		
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha)				2.80	
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha per 1,000)				0.03	
Required additional playing pitch space (ha)					11.42
Required additional pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)					0.14
<b>Playing pitch local standard (ha per 1,000)</b>					<b>1.38</b>

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

<b>East</b>					
Population (2001 Census) 17,750	Total number of pitches	Pitches available for community use	No. of adequate pitches available for community use	No. of inadequate pitches available for community use	No. of pitches required to meet latent demand
Senior football	15	14	14	0	1.0
Junior football	5	5	5	0	
Mini football	4	4	4	0	
Senior rugby union	1	1	1	0	
Junior rugby union	0	0	0	0	
Mini rugby union	0	0	0	0	
Senior cricket	0	0	0	0	
Junior cricket	0	0	0	0	
Senior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	
Junior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	
ATP	0	0	0	0	
Lacrosse	0	0	0	0	
Baseball	3	3	3	0	
Softball	0	0	0	0	
Rounders	0	0	0	0	
Kabaddi	0	0	0	0	
Total estimated playing pitch space (ha)	33.77	32.37	32.37		
Total estimated pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)	1.90	1.82	1.82		
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha)				0.00	
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha per 1,000)				0.00	
Required additional playing pitch space (ha)					1.40
Required additional pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)					0.08
<b>Playing pitch local standard (ha per 1,000)</b>					<b>1.90</b>

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

<b>North</b>					
Population (2001 Census) 23,480	Total number of pitches	Pitches available for community use	No. of adequate pitches available for community use	No. of inadequate pitches available for community use	No. of pitches required to meet latent demand
Senior football	9	7	7	0	
Junior football	0	0	0	0	1.0
Mini football	0	0	0	0	
Senior rugby union	4	4	4	0	
Junior rugby union	0	0	0	0	
Mini rugby union	0	0	0	0	
Senior cricket	0	0	0	0	
Junior cricket	0	0	0	0	
Senior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	
Junior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	
ATP	0	0	0	0	
Lacrosse	0	0	0	0	
Baseball	2	2	2	0	
Softball	0	0	0	0	
Rounders	0	0	0	0	
Kabaddi	0	0	0	0	
Total estimated playing pitch space (ha)	22.10	19.30	19.30		
Total estimated pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)	0.94	0.82	0.82		
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha)				0.00	
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha per 1,000)				0.00	
Required additional playing pitch space (ha)					0.82
Required additional pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)					0.03
<b>Playing pitch local standard (ha per 1,000)</b>					<b>0.86</b>

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

<b>South</b>					
Population (2001 Census) 39,098	Total number of pitches	Pitches available for community use	No. of adequate pitches available for community use	No. of inadequate pitches available for community use	No. of pitches required to meet latent demand
Senior football	27	27	25	2	5.0
Junior football	1	1	1	0	2.5
Mini football	8	8	8	0	0.5
Senior rugby union	2	2	2	0	
Junior rugby union	0	0	0	0	
Mini rugby union	0	0	0	0	
Senior cricket	1	1	1	0	
Junior cricket	0	0	0	0	
Senior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	
Junior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	
ATP	1	1	1	0	
Lacrosse	0	0	0	0	
Baseball	0	0	0	0	
Softball	0	0	0	0	
Rounders	1	1	1	0	
Kabaddi	0	0	0	0	
Total estimated playing pitch space (ha)	47.67	47.67	44.87		
Total estimated pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)	1.22	1.22	1.15		
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha)				2.80	
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha per 1,000)				0.07	
Required additional playing pitch space (ha)					9.20
Required additional pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)					0.24
<b>Playing pitch local standard (ha per 1,000)</b>					<b>1.45</b>





**HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**DRAFT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**NOVEMBER 2008**

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Draft Playing Pitch Assessment report prepared by Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP). It focuses on reporting the findings of the extensive research, consultation, site assessment, data analysis and GIS mapping work to deliver:

- ✦ An analysis of KKP's qualitative site visits.
- ✦ A summary of consultation with a variety of stakeholders, including Harlow District Council (HDC) officers, governing bodies and clubs.
- ✦ Supply and demand analysis using the Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) as outlined in Towards a Level Playing Field.

It will not, at this juncture include any strategic recommendations including provision standards or site recommendations. This will form part of the final report, to deliver a Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan for Harlow. The Strategy and Action Plan will deliver:

- ✦ An evaluation of the current situation in relation to playing pitches including current and future levels of supply and demand following Sport England's approved Playing Pitch Model.
- ✦ A comprehensive strategic framework for the development of playing pitches and ancillary facilities within Harlow that supports the Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document 2007.
- ✦ A costed specification and implementation plan for the Strategy.
- ✦ Supplementary documents such as a football development plan to enable an application for funding to be made to the Football Foundation.

#### 1.1: The context

The Harlow Gateway Project<sup>1</sup> is an innovative scheme to regenerate the town's leisure facilities by unlocking land to develop housing for local people and improve the quality of sports facilities across the District.

The process of releasing land on the sites of the current sport centre and swimming pool generated £11m in government funding to support the scheme which is creating over 800 new homes, a new football stadium, athletics track and world class community leisure centre as well as regenerating playing pitches around the town.

The Harlow Gateway Partnership consists of Harlow District Council; Harlow and District Sports Trust; English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency; and the Department for Communities and Local Government. In addition, the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), Harlow Town Football Club, Harlow College, Mark Hall Community School, and Science Alive are all supporting the Gateway Project.

The scheme is intended to make a major contribution to the overall regeneration of the town through the provision of new homes for local people and significantly improved facilities and amenities. The Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan forms part of a wider vision to provide Harlow residents with quality sports and leisure opportunities.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.harlowgateway.co.uk/>

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### 1.2: National context

Consideration of the national context is key. The following section outlines planning policy pertaining to the study.

#### ***Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)17***

PPG17 defines outdoor sports facilities as those 'with either natural or artificial surfaces', and includes both public and privately owned facilities. It therefore includes:

- ✦ Sports pitches.
- ✦ Synthetic turf pitches (STPs).
- ✦ School and educational institution playing fields.

PPG17 recognises the value of outdoor sports facilities along with other open spaces in delivering government targets concerned with raising levels of physical activity through:

- ✦ Supporting an urban renaissance.
- ✦ Supporting rural renewal.
- ✦ Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion.
- ✦ (Enhancing) health and well being.
- ✦ Promoting more sustainable development.

#### ***Assessing Needs & Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG 17***

The Companion Guide states that the long term outcomes of a PPG17 study include:

- ✦ Networks of accessible high quality open spaces, sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors and which are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.
- ✦ An appropriate balance between new provision and the enhancement of existing provision.
- ✦ Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and landowners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space, sport and recreation provision.

In order to deliver these outcomes, each local authority needs to identify local needs and opportunities and develop and apply provision standards in a way, which is equitable to both developers and local communities.

The Companion Guide outlines a five-step approach to deliver the aims:

- ✦ Step 1: Identifying local needs.
- ✦ Step 2: Auditing local provision.
- ✦ Step 3: Setting provision standards.
- ✦ Step 4: Applying provision standards.
- ✦ Step 5: Drafting policies.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### ***Towards a Level Playing Field***

The aims and objectives outlined in Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG 17) and the Companion Guide are reiterated in the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Methodology, 'Towards a Level Playing Field' (February 2003).

It should be noted that 'Towards a Level Playing Field' only deals with the assessment of playing pitch provision and does not cover assessments for other outdoor sports facilities. However, the principles and basic methodology can be applied to the assessment of other sports.

Sport England strongly recommends that each local authority has an up to date playing pitch strategy. The benefits of having a playing pitch strategy are identified as follows:

#### *Corporate and strategic*

- ◀ It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision.
- ◀ It provides robust evidence for capital funding for sports pitch improvement (to support applications to agencies such as the Football Foundation, Heritage Lottery Fund, Sport England and the New Opportunities Fund).
- ◀ It helps deliver Government policies.
- ◀ It helps demonstrate the value of leisure services.
- ◀ It helps the Best Value process.
- ◀ It improves understanding of the quality and standard of sports pitches and associated changing (and other ancillary) facilities and the extent to which they encourage and enable more people to take part and enjoy pitch sports.
- ◀ It can assist in bringing specific sites back into active use and as a framework to assess sports club requests for improved sites and facilities.
- ◀ It can guide sports pitch provision and improvements through the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Capital programmes and regeneration schemes.

#### *Planning*

- ◀ It is one of the basic tools for implementing PPG17, particularly in relation to establishing a local standard for sport pitch provision.
- ◀ It allows the presentation of a coherent, up to date assessment and strategy to Sport England in its role as statutory consultee – when the planning authority is faced with development proposals that affect sports pitches.
- ◀ It provides a basis for establishing the requirement for new pitches or improvements to the quality of existing pitch sites that arise from new housing developments and the use of Section 106 Agreements.
- ◀ It is one of the best tools to justify protection of pitches in the face of rising development pressure on pitch sites for alternative uses, particularly with respect to new housing in order to meet regional targets.
- ◀ It provides an important evidence base, which is part of a holistic approach to open space improvement and protection to support the Local Development Framework including local authorities' emerging core strategies. It establishes a policy framework against which to justify existing or new recreation allocations for sports pitches/other leisure activities.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### *Operational*

- ◀ It can result in more efficient use of resources.
- ◀ Quality of provision can be enhanced.

### *Sports development*

- ◀ It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed.
- ◀ It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches.
- ◀ It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand.

The approach and guidance outlined in 'Towards A Level Playing Field' are fully endorsed by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) as the appropriate methodology to provide detailed local assessments of playing pitch requirements and, as such, have been used in this study.

Details of the methodology are outlined later in this document.

### ***Fields in Trust (previously known as the National Playing Fields Association/NPFA)***

Both PPG17 and 'Towards A Level Playing Field' identify the need to develop local standards of provision for playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

Traditionally, the NPFA 'Six Acre Standard' (reviewed in Poole in 2003) has been used. This recommends a minimum standard of 1.6 hectares (four acres) per 1,000 people for outdoor sports. Within this, there is to be a specific allocation of at least 1.2 hectares (three acres) of land for pitch sports. The balance (i.e. 0.4 hectares or one acre) is required for non-pitch sports including athletics, tennis and bowls.

However, PPG17 now requires local authorities to undertake detailed local assessments to provide evidence as a basis for developing a local standard, taking into account the quality, capacity and accessibility of outdoor sports facilities as well as quantity.

'Towards A Level Playing Field' does not give definitive instruction on how to calculate local standards for sports pitches but advises that the following needs to be taken into consideration:

- ◀ Only pitches available for community use are to be included in the 'supply' equation.
- ◀ Quality of pitches.
- ◀ Provision of changing facilities.
- ◀ Pitch capacity.
- ◀ Future population estimates.



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### ***National Game Strategy 2007-2012***

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out the key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game over the next six years.

The main issues facing grassroots football over the next six years have been identified as:

- ◆ Growth and retention (young players).
- ◆ Growth and retention (adult players).
- ◆ Football for All.
- ◆ Raising standards and behaviour.
- ◆ Player development.
- ◆ Running the game.
- ◆ Football work force.
- ◆ Facilities.
- ◆ Partnerships and investment.
- ◆ Promotion.

The National Game Strategy reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on Local Authority sites.

Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities rather than in private members' clubs. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years as priorities have been in other sectors. This has resulted in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built 5-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals, JJB and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of 5-a-side teams in recent years.

### 1.3: Regional context

#### *The East of England Plan*

The East of England Plan is the revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East of England. The review for the East of England is the first region wide RSS review to be completed. It embeds, within the statutory planning system, a sustainable long term vision for development.

Policy SS3 recognises Harlow as a key centre for development and change. In line with delivering this, the plan states that by March 2021 Harlow is to provide 16,000 new dwellings. Key growth areas have been identified in central, north, eastern and southern parts of the District.

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### 1.4: Local context

Harlow has a number of contemporary strategic documents that deal with provision of open space and outdoor sports facilities across the District. These include:

- Community strategies.
- Local area agreements.
- Local plans.
- The structure plan.
- Cultural/leisure strategies.
- Health and protection policy.
- Joint play strategy.
- Public health policy

It is vital that this Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan dovetails with existing strategies to ensure, where possible, that a holistic approach is taken to dealing with the provision of outdoor sports facilities across the District.

#### ***Harlow's Community Strategy: Harlow 2020 Vision 2006/2009***

Through discussions with local people a shared vision for the future of the Town has been developed. The vision for Harlow is a town, which is, "a clean, safe, sustainable and healthy town with good educational prospects for its citizens, a variety of homes and jobs to meet local needs, and a range of sporting, leisure and cultural opportunities contributing to a higher quality of life".

The Strategy enunciates a shared vision expressed in the context of eight themes for a 'great Harlow'; these are:

Theme	Vision
Economic prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Developing a dynamic economic base.</li><li>Continuing to regenerate the town centre.</li><li>Training a flexible and skilled workforce.</li></ul>
Education, learning and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Raising aspirations and achieving local recognition of measurable progress across all phases of learning.</li></ul>
Free time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Coordinating all our facilities and activities, so that everyone can take part in sport and leisure.</li></ul>
Health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reducing the proportion of adults in Harlow who smoke</li><li>Reducing obesity</li><li>Finding new ways of helping people with illness or disability to lead the kind of life they choose.</li></ul>
Homes and neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improving the local neighbourhood street scene and enhancing the green environment.</li></ul>
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Developing and implementing initiatives that help to make Harlow a safe and convenient place to travel around and visit.</li></ul>
Children and Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Developing activities specifically for young people to promote healthy lifestyles, encourage involvement with the local community and positive behaviour.</li></ul>
Community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Preventing and reducing crime.</li></ul>

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The provision of high quality and accessible playing pitches will be important in realising the vision under the themes 'Free time', 'Health and wellbeing', 'Homes and neighbourhoods', 'Children and young people' and 'Community safety'

#### ***The Harlow Local Area Agreement***

Local area agreements (LAAs) are three-year agreements, based on the local sustainable community strategy, setting out the priorities for a local area, as agreed between central government and the local area. The primary objective of LAAs is to deliver genuinely sustainable communities through better outcomes for local people.

In Essex, the LAA is a joint project between the county's thirteen Local Strategic Partnerships. It represents a real agreement between partners and is designed to bring a step-change in the collective effectiveness of the whole public sector in Essex.

Priority six focuses on 'more participation in sports, culture and volunteering for the benefit of the whole community'.

#### ***Harlow Local Plan***

The current Local Plan, which is based on the concepts set out in Sir Frederick Gibberd's Master Plan, replaces the previous Harlow Local Plan that was adopted in 1995. The Local Plan sets out the policies and proposals for future development and land use in Harlow District for the period up to 2011. It provides a detailed basis for determining planning applications and also provides the framework for co-ordinating, directing and promoting development and the use of land, both public and private.

The aims of the plan, for Leisure and Culture, are:

- a) To provide for a wide range of accessible leisure and cultural opportunities;
- b) To include new facilities in appropriate locations;
- c) To develop a continuing appreciation of Harlow's heritage.

The Local Plan sets out four objectives to deliver the aims which are:

- a) To ensure that adequate land and water resources are allocated both for organised sport and for informal recreation.
- b) To give the opportunity to all the people of Harlow to make full and enjoyable use of their leisure time through providing a comprehensive range of social, recreational and cultural development sites.
- c) To have regard to the community's needs for recreational facilities, the current levels of provision and deficiencies, and to resist pressure for the development of open space which conflicts with the wider public interest.
- d) To ensure that wherever possible leisure and recreation facilities are made accessible to everyone including disabled people and those reliant on public transport so to ensure social inclusion.

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### ***Harlow Corporate Plan***

Harlow District Council (HDC) has set out its key priorities for Harlow as follows:

1. Promoting a clean, green, healthy and safe environment.
2. Providing value for money.
3. Developing good citizenship.
4. Regenerating the Town.
5. Tackling housing need
6. Improving Harlow for business.

### ***Social and demographic profile of Harlow***

The following table provides a summary of the key social and demographic trends in Harlow.

Indicator	Comments
Population	<p>Harlow is currently estimated to have a population of 78,100, forecast to rise to around 80,000 people by 2012. The East of England Plan forecasts Harlow approximately doubling in size by 2031.</p> <p>Current figures suggest approximately 48,500 people are of working age (16-64) and account for 62% of the population. The town's 75 and over population is projected to rise by 13% from 2004 to 2017.</p>
Age profile	<p>In 2001, Harlow's population was made up of 16,991 children aged 0-15 (22%), 8,682 young people aged 16-24 (11%) and 11,550 older people aged 65 plus (15%). 47,900 people (62%) were of working age (16-64).</p> <p>Harlow has a greater percentage of children age 0-9, and a particularly higher concentration of adults aged from 25 up to 44 compared to Essex and Great Britain. Harlow has a significantly lower proportion of persons aged 55 to 74, and a lower proportion of elderly persons aged 75+ than National and County comparators.</p>
Deprivation	<p>In Harlow, 0.0% of its population live in areas deemed as being in the bottom 10% of SOAs nationally in 2007, i.e. in the most deprived areas of the country. However, despite this Harlow is a deprived area, with over 75% of its population living within SOAs that are in the top 50% deprived in the Country. The Stewards area in the south of the district lies within the bottom 20% of SOAs nationally.</p>
Active People	<p>The Active People survey provides reliable statistics on participation for all 354 local authorities in England. Harlow has lower rates of performance than the East average in terms of participation and tuition. Rates are, however, higher for club membership than the overall East of England.</p>

### 1.5: Playing pitch strategy methodology

The assessment and analysis in this report are based on Sport England's (SE) playing pitch strategy methodology, 'Towards A Level Playing Field' (2003). This outlines specific criteria for assessing the quantity, quality, capacity and accessibility of playing pitches and ancillary facilities. These criteria and the principles of the assessment have also been applied to other outdoor sports facilities in Harlow. It provides clear guidance on assessment of supply and demand for sports pitches and the types and levels of analysis required in order for the local authority to plan effectively to meet local needs. These include:

- ▶ The Playing Pitch Model (PPM).
- ▶ Team Generation Rates (TGRs).

#### ***Playing Pitch Model (PPM)***

The PPM is a temporal supply and demand analysis and is largely applied as a numerical, model. The model has been used in three ways:

- ▶ To reflect the existing situation using data on existing teams and pitches.
- ▶ To test the adequacy of current provision by manipulating the variables in the model.
- ▶ To predict future requirements for pitches, by incorporating planned pitches and projected changes in population and participation.

An eight-stage process has been followed to produce the PPM:

- Stage 1: Identify teams/team equivalents.
- Stage 2: Calculating home games per team per week.
- Stage 3: Assessing total home games per week.
- Stage 4: Establishing temporal demand for games.
- Stage 5: Defining pitches used/required on each day.
- Stage 6: Establishing pitches available.
- Stage 7: Assessing the findings.
- Stage 8: Identifying policy options and solutions.

Stages one to seven of this process are covered in this report. Stage eight will be covered in the final report.

The 'electronic toolkit', which accompanies 'Towards A Level Playing Field', provides tools for collecting some of the information above.

Team identification has been undertaken via consultation with leagues, local authority officers (pitch booking records), as well as with governing bodies of sport and clubs.

'Team equivalents' refers to use of pitches by groups other than those playing formal matches. This includes school games lessons, club and school training sessions, sports development sessions etc. By including these in the 'demand equation' a more accurate picture is presented. Information from schools and clubs was collected using the electronic toolkit school and club questionnaires.

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Establishing how many pitches are available is largely achieved through site visits. All council playing pitch sites have been visited by KKP. Some of these visits were accompanied by Kier Harlow<sup>2</sup> or HDC officers to ascertain discrete information about specific idiosyncrasies on sites. Audit information for private sites and those owned/leased by voluntary sector clubs, where a visit was not possible, was gathered via:

- ◀ Face to face consultation.
- ◀ Postal questionnaire.
- ◀ Telephone questionnaire.

#### *Pitch quality information*

It should be noted that the club and school questionnaires and the non-technical pitch assessment sheet in the electronic toolkit all have different scales for rating the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities. On this basis, KKP uses the 'non-technical pitch assessment sheet' to assess *all* pitches in order that consistent information is presented.

The pitch assessment sheet is a 'tick box' assessment, which rates various elements of pitch quality with a separate assessment sheet for changing accommodation. It should be noted the pitch assessment also takes into account whether changing rooms and car parking exist on the site. However, the total pitch score is not significantly affected.

This information is scored, converted into a percentage (of the highest score possible) and also into a qualitative rating. The qualitative ratings for pitch quality are:

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

For ease of analysis KKP has combined this into a three-point scale. In this report pitches are rated as:

- ◀ An excellent pitch or good pitch = **good quality**.
- ◀ An average pitch = **adequate quality**.
- ◀ A below average pitch or poor pitch = **poor quality**.

The qualitative ratings for changing accommodation quality are listed as:

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

Copies of the assessment sheets can be found in the appendices.

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<sup>2</sup> Harlow Council entered into a Joint Venture arrangement with Kier Group Plc on the first of February 2007 to revitalize the performance of its Building Maintenance and Environmental Services departments.

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### *Capacity*

KKP has developed a capacity rating for each pitch site i.e. football and rugby based on the quality rating given to pitches on the site and the number of teams currently playing at the site (identified through league handbooks, local authority booking sheets and consultation with clubs). These capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation etc.

Play refers to temporal demand or when the teams play. A figure of 1.0 in this column for instance would be representative of two teams using that pitch on a home and away basis (every other week). This means that that pitch is carrying one game at that time every week.

Calculation of capacity is based on the qualitative ratings. Taking into consideration SE guidelines<sup>1</sup> on capacity the following was concluded:

- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'good' its capacity is specified as two matches per week.
- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'acceptable' its capacity is specified as one match per week.
- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'poor' its capacity is specified as one match every other week.

School pitches have been issued with a different capacity rating. This is due to the fact that they generally experience higher usage through curricular and extra curricular school based use and therefore generally receive higher levels of maintenance. School pitches have thus been identified to have the following capacity ratings:

- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'good' its capacity is specified as four matches per week.
- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'acceptable' its capacity is specified as two matches per week.
- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'poor' its capacity is specified as one match per week.

A colour coded *rating* is then given by comparing the above information:

- ◀ Red - the pitch is being used over capacity.
- ◀ Amber - the pitch is played to capacity.
- ◀ Green - the pitch is being used under capacity.

Where it is indicated that the level of provision is 'sufficient', this indicates that none of the pitches in the area (for the particular sports), are rated as poor quality and/or played 'over capacity', nor has any latent demand been identified by users. This is not to say that improvements to sites are not required. Conversely, where an insufficient level of provision is identified this is because one or more sites/pitches have been rated as poor quality and/or are being over-played and/or latent demand has been expressed.

Following consultation with league secretaries it is noted that U15, U16 and U17 teams play on senior sized football pitches. The capacity rating does not take into account this type of play i.e. juniors playing on senior pitches. Where a large number of junior/mini teams play on a site, particularly if they are playing on senior pitches this can result in those pitches being overplayed on the capacity rating. Many grounds are able to withstand more matches being played on by junior/mini teams than senior teams.

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<sup>1</sup> Sport England – 'Towards A Level Playing Field'



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A number of provisos need to be taken into account as there may be discrepancies between the SE visual rating and the consultation comments. For instance, schools may have been rated as poor via the SE rating and acceptable/good through consultation. This may arise as the SE quality assessment increases rating if changing accommodation is available. A number of schools do not make changing accommodation available for community use.

#### *Team Generation Rates (TGRs)*

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team based on current population and participation. TGRs for each pitch sport and each age group have been calculated. These have been used with the PPM for modelling purposes, e.g., by looking at population projections, future TGRs can be estimated. These have been entered into the PPM to predict, where possible, whether current supply would meet future demand.

#### *Consultation*

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. These were generally as follows:

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Method of consultation</b>
Local authority officers	Face to face interview
League/county association representatives	Face to face/ telephone interview
Football clubs	Face to face, postal questionnaire, telephone interview Club consultation evening
Cricket/rugby/hockey/baseball club(s)	Face to face interview
Secondary schools	Face to face interview
Primary and junior schools	Postal questionnaire
Regional governing body officers	Face to face, telephone interview

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face-to-face consultation. Issues identified by football clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews.

### 1.6: Sports specific summaries

The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch sports in the Harlow District.

It provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and, the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plans (where they exist). Local league details are provided in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.

KKP has covered all sports for which there is currently organised, structured play on outdoor playing pitches. It is recognised that there are additional outdoor sports that could also be developed on facilities in the Harlow District. The sports covered are as follows:

- ◀ Part 2: Football.
- ◀ Part 3: Cricket.
- ◀ Part 4: Rugby union.
- ◀ Part 5: Hockey.
- ◀ Part 6: Baseball.

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### PART 2: FOOTBALL

#### 2.1: Introduction

The Essex County Football Association (ECFA) is the primary organisation responsible for development (and some elements of administration) of football in the Harlow District. The ECFA Strategy sets out the key priorities and targets for football in Essex for the period of July 2008 to June 2012. The targets within the ECFA Strategy aim to meet local needs whilst reflecting the FA National Game Strategy.

Four strategic goals and three key enablers have been identified by the ECFA, through consultation, which need to be addressed over the next four years:

*Table 2.1: Essex FA Four Year Strategy 2008-2012: Key goals and enablers*

Goal	Vision	Deliverables
Growth and retention	Sustaining and increasing the number of players.	Sustaining 4,821 and creating 258 new teams.
Raising Standards and addressing abusive behaviour	Creating a safe and positive environment.	Sustaining 1,435 and recruiting 523 new referees.
Developing Better Players	Focusing on the 5-11 age group.	A Level 1 coach with every registered youth team.
Running the game effectively	Leading and governing the game.	5% of all youth teams will have The FA Charter Standard Award.
Enablers	Vision	Deliverables
A skilled workforce	Recruiting and developing a highly skilled, diverse, paid and voluntary workforce.	Everyone in roles with children in youth football or working with vulnerable adults to have an enhanced CRB check.
Improved facilities	Improving the access and quality of training and playing facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with priority Local Authorities to develop local plans to incorporate facility projects and football development.</li> <li>Developing facility project funding applications to meet the strategic needs outlined in this document.</li> <li>Working with Building Schools for the Future (BSF) to ensure that new School facilities meet the needs of grassroots football.</li> <li>Lobbying Local Authorities to provide increased maintenance of sites and reduce hiring charges for Charter Standard Clubs.</li> </ul>
Marketing and PR	Clear communications to everyone involved in the game.	75% of County Stakeholders agree that the CFA/FA are leading the game effectively.

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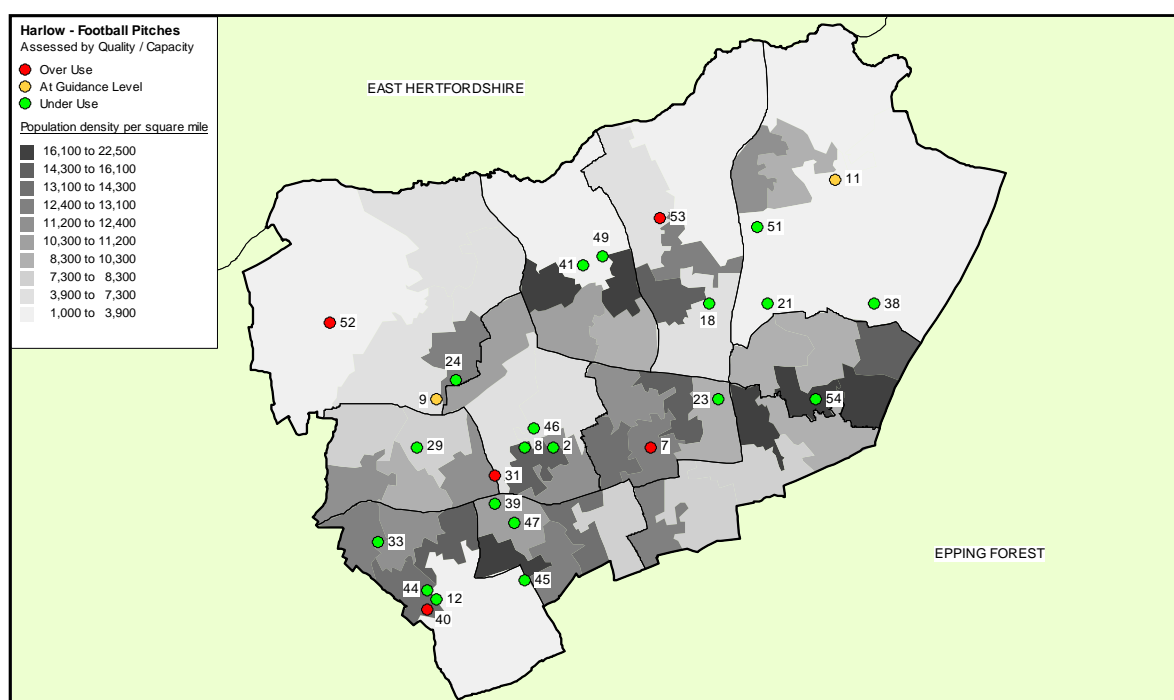
## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

There are two main leagues in the Harlow area providing football from U7's through to open age. The majority of senior teams compete in the Harlow and District Football League (H&DFL) whilst the West Essex and East Hertfordshire Youth League (WEEHYL) provide the main opportunity for junior football. Consultation highlights that the majority of football fixtures take place at the weekends, whilst towards the end of the season a significant number of matches are played during weekday evenings.

*Table 2.2: Summary of football pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area*

	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini-soccer
Number of pitches available for community use	48	6	12					
Number of adequate pitches available for community use	46	6	12					
Number of inadequate pitches available for community use	2	0	0					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>36</b>

*Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches available for community use*



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Figure 2.1 indicates that there is generally an even distribution of football pitches across the District. Areas with high population density are generally well served with football pitches, for example Harlow Town and Great Parndon.

*Table 2.3: Key to map of football pitches*

Site name	KKP ref	Community Use	Total senior	Total junior	Total mini
Barn Mead	2	Yes	3		
Barrows Farm	52	No	1		
Brick Cottages	54	Yes	1		
Burnt Mill Comprehensive School	49	Yes	2		
Bush Fair	7	Yes	2		
Bush Fair D	8	Yes		1	
Church Langley	38	Yes	4		4
Collins Meadow	9	Yes	1		
Fairways	44	Yes	3		
Gilden Way	11	Yes	2		
Glaxo Smithkline Sports & Social Club	12	Yes	4		4
Goldings	39	Yes	1		
Ladyshot	18	Yes	2		
Mark Hall Sports Centre	51	Yes	2	5	
Maypole Sports and Social Club	21	Yes	3		
Nicholls Field	23	Yes	3		
Northbrooks	24	Yes	2		
Passmores School	46	Yes	4		
Rectory Field	29	Yes	1		
Ryehill Road	45	Yes	1		
Staple Tye	31	Yes	1		
Stewards School	47	Yes	2		
Sumners Leisure Centre	33	Yes			4
Tanys Dell School	53	Yes	1		
The Link	40	Yes	2		
United Glass	41	Yes	3		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>51</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>

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### 2.2: Development

Consultation and research undertaken by the ECFA, as part of the development of their Strategy, reveals some important considerations which should be reflected upon in the context of the Harlow Playing Pitch Strategy.

Current conversion rates show reasonable participation levels. However, anecdotal evidence, collated as part of the Essex FA's consultation programme, suggests that participation in the area is dropping at all levels each year. For example:

- ✦ None of the male conversion rates reach the regional average, with both mini soccer and youth being below the national average.
- ✦ Male adult football sits above the national average but below the regional average.
- ✦ In contrast, female youth participation is strong.

Charter Standard levels in Harlow are considered to be acceptable, 36.5% of youth and mini soccer teams playing within a Charter Standard club. Development work focuses around the three large junior clubs:

- ✦ Harlow Town FC.
- ✦ Langley Colts FC.
- ✦ Mark Hall FC.

Langley Colts FC has the capacity to develop in to a Community Club as do Mark Hall. It is important that these clubs are linked with adult clubs to ensure the sustainability of adult football. Mini soccer is concentrated within a small number of clubs and teams. The FA believes this needs to be addressed as a priority to secure the future of the youth leagues that operate in the District. Consultation undertaken by ECFA and KKP highlights there is demand to establish a central venue mini soccer league in Harlow. There is currently only one division of mini soccer, which makes the League vulnerable to migration to neighbouring areas to seek a higher level of competition.

The percentage of teams showing a significant decline at under 16 level is significant. This is a year before the majority of Essex shows a decline and is almost certainly, in part, due to the collapse of the local league's older divisions. Teams at under 15 level participate in the Royston Crow League which involves significant travelling distances. It is evident that teams are folding and there is an immediate need to look at local football for under 16s. ECFA suggest that this could take the form of a midweek league, run at Mark Hall or Burnt Mill School. The popularity of the two local futsal leagues, which are at capacity, suggests there is demand at this age group for a mid-week league. ECFA indicate that this would be a popular method by which to stimulate junior football and there are aspirations to develop a third league in the District.

### ***Kickz Project<sup>3</sup> Harlow***

Kickz involves professional football clubs, taking constructive activity onto targeted local estates with high instances of anti-social behaviour (ASB). The Club and delivery partners

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<sup>3</sup> The Kickz project is a partnership that was initially formed between the Premier League, The Football Association, The Football League, the Football Foundation, the Metropolitan Police Service, and the Metropolitan Police Authority to create a youth social inclusion project. This national project is now backed by many agencies

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provide three sessions per week for 48 weeks of the year. The key focus is the long term development opportunities for young people outwith football in isolation.

The Kickz Project is due to commence in Harlow in January 2009. Plans are in place to utilise the changing accommodation and association facilities at Nicholls Field. The facilities at the site are somewhat neglected during the week. The changing block has been heavily vandalised and consultation suggests that anti-social behaviour is an issue at the site. Consultation indicates that the Kickz Project will encourage the site to be viewed positively.

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### 2.3: Key issues for football

This section provides a summary of the key issues concerning football in Harlow. The summaries are based on:

- ✦ KKP qualitative site visits.
- ✦ Supply and demand analysis using the Playing Pitch Methodology as outlined in Towards a Level Playing Field.
- ✦ Consultation with a variety of stakeholders, including the governing body and clubs.

It will not, at this juncture include any strategic recommendations. The Strategy and Action Plan will develop plans for the future.

#### ***Management and maintenance***

Kier Harlow holds the maintenance contract for local authority sites in Harlow. Consultation acknowledges that although this is a positive improvement in terms of the frequency of cutting and marking, which has generally resulted in pitches being maintained to a good standard, there remain issues with the on-going specialist maintenance of the pitches.

Council pitches are booked through H&DFL. Demand is identified for development of specific sites for mini, junior and senior football, as it is not always considered to be appropriate to have senior football running alongside junior football for example.

The Great Parndon Community Association (GPCA) is also an important pitch provider across the District and does indeed manage some of the most popular facilities across Harlow including; Sumners, The Link and Staple Tye.

#### ***Pitch quality***

The assessment of pitches in Harlow identifies two senior pitches that are considered to be poor quality. This is Goldings and Ryehill Road, which score poorly due to the lack of markings, posts and sockets. Furthermore these sites are not in use for competitive play. In comparison, two senior pitches are scored as adequate quality (Collins Meadow and GSK Sports and Social Club). The remaining 44 senior pitches are scored as good quality<sup>4</sup>.

Privately owned sites such as The Link and Fairways are considered to be good quality in comparison to council owned sites. This is often because private grounds employ specialist maintenance regimes such as at Fairways where a groundsman oversees pitch quality. These sites are very popular across Harlow and there is a long waiting list at both sites. Consultation also notes that the Great Parndon Community Association (GPCA) undertake extensive maintenance of the pitches throughout the season.

Consultation suggests that the quality of playing pitches in Harlow is generally good and has improved through recent investment by HDC and external funding gained by private clubs. For example, a number of pitches have recently been improved through drainage works at Barn Mead and Nicholls Field. However, the clay base upon which many of

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<sup>4</sup> KKP site visits took place in September. There is recognition that pitch quality deteriorates throughout the season due to overplay and the decline in weather conditions.



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Harlow's playing pitches are based on a recurring issue which drainage improvements alone cannot ameliorate. To some extent there is a natural occurrence of standing water due to the geography of the District. Rouge Lyon FC, Langley Colts Youth FC, Potter Street FC, all playing at Church Langley, report match cancellations due to waterlogged pitches. There is also need for drainage work to be undertaken on the pitches at Northbrooks, Gilden Way, The Link<sup>5</sup> and Bush Fair.

Users report that these developments have improved the quality of the pitches. However, the on-going maintenance of the pitches by Kier Harlow throughout the season remains an issue. Clubs express concerns that the maintenance regimes are insufficient and note particularly the lack of regard for the specialist maintenance of football pitches including seeding, holotining, rolling and worming. This exacerbates problems with pitch quality including worn goal mouths, ruts within the playing surface and uneven surfaces.

There is also a need to rotate and rest pitches to ensure their long term sustainability. This particularly applies on HDC owned pitch sites, which users note can become unplayable from November to February resulting in pitches becoming overplayed at the end of the season. However, users note that in recent years the season has increasingly finished on time which is a positive transition and suggests that the improvements to pitches has facilitated this.

There is a District wide problem with unofficial access to HDC playing pitches. Many consultees comment that horses churn up the playing surface, making it dangerous for players and officials due to rutting. Although Kier Harlow responds to reports of rutting on the playing surface they are not always fully remedied through filling and rolling. Consultation also suggests that due to their open aspect the pitches are used for unofficial games.

#### *Football Foundation Goalpost Safety Scheme*

The Goalpost Safety Scheme (GSS) aims to replace goals, which fail to meet the British Standards (BS8462) requirements. Applicants must match-fund the application at the level of 50%. Clubs and local authorities have accessed a number of replacement goals through funding from the Football Foundation, which is assumed to have replaced any unsafe goals in the Area.

#### ***Demand***

For the 07/08 season, 158 teams operated in Harlow of which 73 were adult teams, 53 were youth teams, 32 mini-soccer teams and 10 small sided teams. Consultation with ECFA suggests that rates of participation in adult male and youth female football in Harlow are generally above the England average whilst rates for adult female, youth male and mini soccer are below the England average. This season the figures have increased to 159 teams.

Senior football is strong in the District and is, on the whole, delivered by the Harlow and District Football League (H&DFL). There is not anticipated to be any significant growth in the adult league. Indeed an analysis of club membership levels identifies that senior membership has generally remained static over the last five years (58%). Consultation

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<sup>5</sup> Although the pitches are good quality and further significant drainage work has been undertaken, consultation with users highlights that further drainage work would increase the capacity of the pitches at this site.

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suggests that the cost of participating is becoming too great for some clubs and is, to some extent, limiting growth. The League commenced with 59 teams across six divisions for the 08/09 season. However, three teams have already withdrawn from the League because of cost implications. A further 17% of clubs surveyed report that the number of teams has decreased in the previous five years and cite cost as a major factor.

Harlow's pitches are regarded as being expensive in comparison to other local authorities (see accessibility). However, the following teams have all experienced an increase in the number of teams;

- ✦ Brookside Athletic FC (senior),
- ✦ GPCA FC (senior),
- ✦ New Hall Rangers FC (juniors),
- ✦ Maiden FC (senior and junior),
- ✦ Langley Colts FC (junior),
- ✦ Sumners Youth FC (junior),
- ✦ Rouge Lyon (senior),
- ✦ FC Clark (senior)
- ✦ Maypole Athletic FC (senior)

Where this is across the senior section, it is mainly because a reserve team has been developed and in the instance of junior sections a new age group has been introduced. Harberts FC and Ridsen Woods FC are the largest clubs in the District and host three or more teams. Consultation with the H&DFL suggests that they provide opportunity for 1,500 players across the District. This league alone supports 2% of the population of Harlow. This figure is likely to increase significantly when taking into account players across junior leagues such as the West Essex and Herts Youth League.

ECFA is keen to bridge the gap between junior and senior football. There is a need to increase work undertaken across the 15-17 age group in order to improve the retention of players who make the transition across to senior football. The ECFA hopes to work with local structure to develop a 'stepping-stone' league for the 09/10 season.

There has been a recent decline in junior football (13% between 07/08 and 06/07 seasons) due to difficulties in securing the administration and structure of the League. Consultation suggests that this situation is now improving and that junior football is increasing again after a period of decline. However, Harlow remains, for the FA, a priority area for developing football because of the recent decline in the junior game. Six clubs in the District have Charter Standard, including Kiln Rangers Youth, Langley Colts, Mark Hall Youth and Ridsen Woods, whilst Harlow Town is recognised as a Community Club. Consultation suggests that these clubs have worked hard to develop school-club links and as a consequence are growing at a faster rate than others. Harlow Sports Club and Saturn Youth FC are currently working towards Charter Standard. The junior league hope to significantly increase their pitch requirement over the next few years. The League has suggested that sites that could be used to develop junior football include Northbrooks and Bush Fair.

Consultation suggests that participation in mini-soccer is generally poor. Consultation indicates that this may be due, in part, to the lack of specific mini-soccer pitches in the District. Through consultation, it has been identified that Sumners would be a suitable location at which to develop mini-soccer. The site is being used during the season 08/09

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for mini-soccer only and consultation suggests there is demand to focus mini-soccer at one site. Sumners offers the benefit of available indoor space and changing facilities. However, teams generation rates (TGRs) suggest that participation is high.

#### *Latent demand*

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded were access to a sufficient number of pitches available. Consultation reveals that a number of clubs currently consider themselves to have latent demand, which they cannot meet due to lack of access to good quality facilities. These are:

*Table 2.4: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs*

Club	Site	Latent demand	Pitch requirement
FC Flare	Barn Mead	1 senior team 1 junior team	1 senior pitch 0.5 junior pitch
Maypole Sports FC	Maypole Sports Club	1 senior team	1 senior pitch
Archers Dart FC	Passmores School	1 senior team	1 senior pitch
Broadley Common FC	Nicholls Field	1 senior team 1 junior team	1 senior pitch 0.5 junior pitch
Maypole Athletic FC	Maypole Sports Club	1 senior team 1 junior team	1 senior pitch 0.5 junior pitch
St Germaine FC	Passmores School	2 senior teams (one ladies)	1 senior pitch
Maypole Colts	Maypole Sports Club	1 mini team	0.5 mini pitch
Old Town Athletic FC	United Glass	2 junior teams	1 junior pitch
GPCA FC	Staple Tye	1 junior team	1 junior pitch
			<b>6 senior pitches</b> <b>3.5 junior pitches</b> <b>0.5 mini pitches</b>

These levels of latent demand will be taken into account later in this section and assessed against current levels of play and overplay. In addition, a number of clubs also identified a need for more, good quality, ancillary facilities to allow them to develop more teams. This is considered as part of the consultation findings relating to ancillary facilities.

The high levels of latent demand outlined above suggest a conflict between the actual number of pitches and the levels of demand. Clubs perceive that some pitch sites are poor quality and therefore do not recognise them as available pitch space. Improving the quality of pitch sites per se will be important in reducing the levels of latent demand.

The levels of latent demand are unusually high given that there is spare capacity at a number of sites. These levels of latent demand are as a result of lack of high quality facilities across the District which offer a high quality playing surface accompanied by access to good quality changing facilities. Clubs that do not have access to such facilities

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consequently express latent demand. The lack of latent demand at sites such as The Link and Fairways is indicative of this issue.

However, consultation with football clubs indicates that the quantity of pitches in Harlow is generally sufficient to accommodate current levels of demand. H&DFL, for example, is not currently renting its full allocation of pitches, suggesting that there is no apparent shortage. However, the most popular sites in the District, such as The Link and Fairways (both private sites) operate waiting lists. Consultation suggests that once clubs have secured a slot at either of these sites they are reluctant to leave due to the high quality of the playing pitches.

#### **Accessibility**

As highlighted earlier in the report there are a significant number of clubs that consider the local authority pitches to be poor value for money, particularly in relation to the level of maintenance that is undertaken throughout the season. Generally, the football pitches in Harlow are more expensive to hire than in neighbouring local authorities. The cost of approximately £780 for a season's hire equates to around £52 per pitch per weekend (based on a season of 15 home games). The following table summarises hire cost in neighbouring areas:

*Table 2.5: Summary of local authority charges*

Local authority	Average cost per game
Dacorum	£48
Broxbourne	£65
East Hertfordshire	£46
Harlow	£52
Watford	£41
Welwyn	£48

#### **Ancillary facilities**

##### *Changing accommodation*

Consultation suggests that there is an increasing need for investment in pitch ancillary facilities that are not keeping pace of improvements in pitch quality. When prompted to note specific comments or observations regarding facility provision, almost 50% of respondents commented on poor quality changing facilities across the District. Clubs identify that a lack of good quality changing sites across the District is a concern in terms of attracting junior players and retaining adult players.

Site visits also confirm that changing accommodation is heavily vandalised and is generally in poor condition. Improving the security of changing facilities is a key issue for many clubs. Consultation suggests there is a need to investigate alternative uses during the week to help address problems with vandalism. For example, both H&DFL and Harlow Boxing Club have identified potential to expand the scope of facilities at Nicholls Field. Consultation with both stakeholders indicates that the indoor accommodation available within the changing block could be developed as a gym area, which could be used by the football and boxing community as complementary users and facilities.

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The following table indicates those sites where current changing provision is rated as poor or very poor. It also indicates the number of teams currently playing competitive matches on the sites. A comprehensive account of all changing accommodation can be found in the study database.

*Table 2.6: Summary of sites where current changing provision is rated as poor or very poor*

Site	No. of pitches	Current changing provision	No. of teams in league competitions	Comments
Barn Mead	3	Very poor (20%)	4	The facilities are large and can accommodate three teams. There is a separate officials room. However the building is very antiquated and heavily graffitied.
Bush Fair	2	Poor (37%)	11	The changing accommodation is very small and would require four teams to change in relays.
Bush Fair D	1	Very poor (24%)	1	The facilities are quite secluded and there is evidence of vandalism.
Ladyshot	2	Poor (32%)	3	The changing facilities are currently being developed by Harlow Town FC.
Northbrooks	2	Poor (32%)	4	The changing accommodation appears to have been painted recently inside. However there is evidence of vandalism to the building.
Church Langley	8	Very poor (20%)	25	The changing accommodation across two portacabins is considered to be inadequate for the level of play which takes place at the playing fields.
<b>Total 18</b>			<b>Total 48</b>	

There are 48 teams playing on pitches in Harlow that only have access to very poor or poor changing accommodation. As identified in the table above Church Langley and Bush Fair accommodate the greatest number of teams.

There are also a number of sites across the District which do not have access to changing accommodation and are therefore not used for competitive play. Site assessments indicate that the following sites which are used as only as practice areas and are now open space areas which are not marked;

- ◀ Paddock Mead
- ◀ Long Ley
- ◀ Radburn Playing Field
- ◀ The Stow
- ◀ Tithelands
- ◀ Water Lane Playing Field

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In addition to latent demand for pitches, latent demand exists which cannot be satisfied due to poor quality, and lack of, changing facilities at a number of sites.

*Table 2.7: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs (ancillary facilities)*

Club	Site	Requirement	Impact
FC Flare	Barn Meade	Better quality changing facilities.	More young people involved.
Archers Dart FC	Passmores School	Access to changing facilities.	More adult participation.
Broadley Common	Nicholls Field	Better quality changing facilities.	Supporting participation.
St Germaine	Passmores School	Access to changing facilities including showers.	Development of a ladies team.
Potter Street	Church Langley	Access to better quality changing facilities.	Supporting high levels of youth and adult participation.
Kiln Rangers FC	Gilden Way	Access to changing facilities, toilet facilities and car parking.	More youth participation.
Apex Youth FC	Rectory Field	Access to changing facilities and toilets.	More youth participation.

Whilst Harlow based leagues recognise these issues, and thus do not place unfulfillable requests upon clubs for access to a high quality of changing facilities, clubs which progress to leagues beyond Harlow increasingly comment that the changing facilities in the District are limiting progression of clubs into higher level leagues.

#### *Car parking*

Car parking is an issue across many sites in Harlow. The limited availability of spaces at sites forces players and spectators to park in surrounding residential streets. There is demand for, (particularly as the sites identified are used, and may continue to be developed, for junior football) and potential to extend, car parking on sites including:

- ◀ Bush Fair
- ◀ Barn Mead
- ◀ Collins Meadow
- ◀ Gilden Way (currently this offers no parking and is located on a road where the national speed limit is in force. This is an issue given that the site is used extensively for junior football).
- ◀ Northbrooks
- ◀ Nicholls Field

Sites that are used for mini and junior football in particular suffer from a lack of access to parking. Consideration of Sumners as a site for mini soccer would require further investigation of the parking issues.

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### *Training facilities*

Consultation highlights that training facilities across the District are difficult to access as they are already used to capacity, particularly the facility at Mark Hall, which is used by junior teams for training during the winter period. Consultation with the ECFA suggests that Harlow is currently underprovided for by one Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP)<sup>6</sup>. Users also identify demand for another ATP in the District to offer training facilities and also provide options for league play for mini football. Demand for a new additional facility would be significantly increased if the Passmores STP is not retained or replaced when the school closes (upon relocation to the Brays Grove site).

As part of consultation work for its Strategy, the ECFA undertook research to establish the current level of artificial pitch provision in the County. Using various tools a list of sites was produced that are currently in use and open to the community and have floodlights. The table below summarises the current position for Harlow:

*Table 2.8: Summary of current provision of ATPs*

Local Authority	Population	Teams	Floodlit community ATPs	Current deficit
Harlow	78,768	152	2	1.38

This analysis demonstrates a current deficit of 1.38 ATPs. Furthermore this calculation does not account for population growth over the coming four years which is likely to increase the deficit and result in a greater need for facilities. The FA regards BSF as an opportunity to work with local authorities to provide additional ATPs in priority areas. This type of partnership may be considered in the re-developments of the Brays Grove site for Passmores School.

Clubs training at The Link use a hardcourt surface at the site. This is considered to be unacceptable. However, clubs use this facility due to the lack of floodlit training facilities across the District.

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<sup>6</sup> FA guidelines indicate that there is a need for one ATP per 45 teams. This equates to an additional need of at least one additional ATP in Harlow based on current levels of demand.



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### 2.4: Summary of site consultation

This section collates issues raised during consultation with regard to provision of football pitches across Harlow. It is not a comprehensive list of sites and only covers those raised during consultation.

*Table 2.9: Summary of site consultation*

Site	Comments
Barn Mead	The pitches are acknowledged as being high quality. However, consultation highlights that the lack of car parking is an issue at the site and means that the site is underutilised. Although the changing accommodation at the site is extensive, the condition of these facilities is poor.
Bush Fair	Consultation suggests that this site has potential to be developed as a site for junior football, particularly given that there is parking available to the front of Tye Green Bowling Club.
Church Langley	<p>Langley Colts FC, Potter Street FC and Rouge Lyon FC use Church Langley Playing Fields, which has four senior football pitches and four mini pitches. Currently there are not enough pitches to accommodate the clubs' levels of demand. Langley Colts FC, for example, is currently forced to use pitches at Gilden Way.</p> <p>The poor quality changing accommodation and lack of car parking space are issues at this site. SEYSHA are keen to develop more car parking and have estimated cost of improving the parking at approximately £20,000.</p> <p>Consultation suggest that SEYSHA, as a strategic management group, has a strong case for improving the facilities because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church Langley is the homeground of Potter Street FC. The Club has teams in The Essex Olympian League; a league that requires fenced pitches and improved changing accommodation.</li> <li>• Concerns have been expressed that without development of changing accommodation and associated facilities such as a club room, users will become frustrated and cease using the pitch facilities. There is an increasing urgency for SEYSHA to secure a lease on the site to enable the Clubs to progress Football Foundation bids to improve the site.</li> </ul>
Collins Meadow	Consultation has highlighted that a portacabin, currently located at The Stow, which is no longer used for competitive play, is due to be moved to Collins Meadow. Although Collins Meadow is regarded to offer one of the best playing surfaces in the District there are no changing facilities currently available.
Fairways	<p>Consultation highlights that this is one of the most popular site across the District due to the quality of the playing pitches. There is a floodlit hardcourt area (formerly tennis courts), which is used for training. Consultation suggests that there is demand for this facility to be converted to offer a synthetic surface.</p> <p>There is demand to increase the number of changing rooms for teams and officials. Consultation suggests that the current arrangement is insufficient for the eight teams that play at the site. The site is also used frequently by Ridsen Woods Youth FC.</p>



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Site	Comments
GSK	The playing pitches at GSK have no formal play assigned to them. Consultation suggests that they are currently underused. Given their proximity to the Sumners playing pitches, it has been suggested that there is potential to incorporate them into a development for mini-soccer.
Ladysnot	The Site is being developed by Harlow Town FC as a training facility.
Nicholls Field	This is recognised as a key site for football within Harlow. However, the changing accommodation at the site suffers vandalism which is, in part, due to the lack of alternative use of the site during the week. Consultation has highlighted potential for Harlow Boxing Club to relocate to this site, in new premises, which would offer mid-week surveillance for the facilities.
Northbrooks	Northbrooks is currently used for football and baseball. The baseball club has expressed aspirations to develop the changing accommodation at the site and to create a clubhouse facility at the site.
Sumners	Consultation suggests that there is potential for this site to become a hub site for mini-soccer. The facility offers a three-court sports hall which could be developed as an indoor training facility. There are shower facilities at the site which, although in adequate condition, are used very little. Consultation suggests that there is an opportunity to accommodate more mini football pitches at the site beyond the current four pitches which would enable the site to become a true hub site for mini football.
The Link	Consultation suggests that the Link is currently the most popular facility across the District. There are four pitches at the site, changing accommodation of adequate quality and a large area for parking which can accommodate up to 100 vehicles.

The potential of these sites will be considered in the Strategy and Action Plan and in the context of any identified deficiencies identified in this assessment report.

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#### 2.5: Provision of football pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

This section presents the current pitch stock available for football in Harlow. It illustrates the:

- Number of pitches rated as Good (G), Average (A) and Poor (P) on each site.
- Type of pitch(es) on the site (senior, junior, mini).

The column entitled 'matches per week' is split into three sections – play, capacity and rating:

- The current level of play per week (0.5 for each match played at the site, assuming half of matches will be played 'away').
- The capacity of the pitches on each site.
- The rating of the pitches, which indicates if pitches are played under capacity (green), played at capacity (amber) or played over-capacity (red).

Calculation of *capacity* is based on the qualitative ratings. Taking into consideration SE guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

If a pitch is rated as 'good' its capacity is specified as 1.5 matches per week.	
If a pitch is rated as 'acceptable' its capacity is specified as one match per week.	
If a pitch is rated as 'poor' its capacity is specified as one match every other week.	

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Table 2.10: Football provision and level of community use

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Site owner	Comm use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
					G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
2	BARN MEAD	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes	3									2.0	6.0		Consultation highlights that changing accommodation at the site is unacceptable.
7	BUSH FAIR	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes	2									5.5	4.0		Users comment that dog foul is a problem at the site.
8	BUSH FAIR D	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes				1						0.5	2.0		The site assessment scores the changing accommodation as very poor.
9	COLLINS MEADOW	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes		1								1.0	1.0		The site is played to capacity. There is demand for a portacabin to be transferred from the Stow, which is no longer used, to facilitate further use of Collins Meadow. Consultation highlights that this is regarded as the best pitch in the District but that the lack of changing facilities deters use.
11	GILDEN WAY	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes	2									4.0	4.0		The site is played to capacity. There are no changing facilities currently servicing the pitches at this site.
12	GLAXO SMITHKLINE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB	Harlow	Industry (for employees)	Yes	3	1					4			-	15.0		There is no community use of these pitches. However, there is significant capacity for community use at this site which HDC should investigate.

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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Site owner	Comm use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
					G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
18	LADYSHOT	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes	2									1.5	4.0		Users comment that the drainage on the site has improved the quality of Ladyshot. Consultees suggest that there is a perception that the facilities will improve through Harlow Town FC management.
21	MAYPOLE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB	Harlow	Sports Club	Yes	3									3.0	6.0		Site assessments score the pitches as good quality. Although there is spare capacity this may due to aspirations to retain the high quality.
23	NICHOLLS FIELD	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes	3									2.5	6.0		Consultation highlights that drainage has improved the quality of the pitches. However, users comment that the pitches are not well maintained during the season and litter is a problem at the site. The changing accommodation is also heavily vandalised.
24	NORTHBROOKS	Harlow	Sports Club	Yes	2									2.0	4.0		The site assessment scores the pitches as good quality. However, the changing accommodation is poor. Consultation suggests that this is why the pitch is not used to capacity. The site could accommodate a further 2.0 matches per week.

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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Site owner	Comm use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
					G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
29	RECTORY FIELD	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes	1									1.0	2.0		Consultation suggests that the changing accommodation at the site is unacceptable. Users also comment that dog foul is an issue at the site.
31	STAPLE TYE	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes	1									2.5	2.0		The site is overplayed by 0.5 matches each week. Users comment that the pitch surface has been damaged by car fires and motorbike wheels.
33	SUMNERS LEISURE CENTRE	Harlow	Community Organisation	Yes							4			5.0	8.0		The site has recently been re-configured for mini-soccer and there is some capacity to increase usage.
38	CHURCH LANGLEY	Harlow	Community Organisation	Yes	4						4			10.5	16.0		Changing facilities at the site are insufficient to accommodate the large number of teams which play at the site. SEYSHA are keen to finalise the lease on the site to enable the organisation to apply for funding to improve the site.
39	GOLDINGS	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes			1							-	0.5		Consultation suggests that the lack of changing accommodation deters potential use. Site assessments indicate that the pitch is poor quality and is only marked for summer training.

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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Site owner	Comm use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
					G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
40	THE LINK	Harlow	Community Organisation	Yes	2									13.5	4.0		There is significant overplay of 9.5 matches at the site. However, consultation reveals that this is one of the most popular sites in the District and offers high quality facilities which offer good value for money.
41	UNITED GLASS	Harlow	Industry Sports Club	Yes	3									5.5	6.0		Users comment that dog foul is a problem at the site. Post and sockets are regarded as being in poor condition.
44	FAIRWAYS	Harlow	Community Organisation	Yes	3									4.0	6.0		There is demand for changing accommodation at the site to be improved. Alemite Athletic FC comment that facilities would require improvement if the team is promoted and would need to include an officials rooms and roped off pitches.
45	RYEHILL ROAD	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes			1							-	1.0		Consultation suggests that the lack of changing accommodation at the site deters potential use. Site assessments indicate that the pitch is poor quality and is only marked for summer training.

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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Site owner	Comm use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
					G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
46	PASSMORES SCHOOL	Harlow	School	Yes	4									2.5	16.0		Consultation indicates that clubs do not have access to changing facilities within the School. This is affecting further usage of the site.
47	STEWARDS SCHOOL	Harlow	School	Yes	2									-	4.0		The school limits community use of the pitches in order to protect the quality of the pitches which it believes would not sustain regular play.
49	BURNT MILL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL	Harlow	School	Yes	2									-	8.0		There is currently no use of the site. The school limits community use of the pitches in order to protect the quality of the pitches which it believes would not sustain regular play.
51	MARK HALL SPORTS CENTRE	Harlow	School	Yes	2			5						6.5	28.0		The site is a popular venue for junior football. However, there is capacity for more matches to be played on the grass pitches at the site.
53	TANYS DELL SCHOOL	Harlow	School	Yes		1								2.5	2.0		The site is overplayed by 0.5 matches.
54	BRICK COTTAGES	Harlow	Sports Club	Yes	1									1.0	2.0		The site is leased to Matching United who maintain the pitch to a good quality and keep play to a minimum to protect its quality.

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#### 2.6: 'Shortfall, adequacy and requirement'

##### *Summary of current demand*

The table below summarises the sites in each area that are currently being played beyond their capacity. The capacity of the site is calculated by applying a carrying capacity (i.e. matches per week) that should be played on the pitch based on its current quality.

*Table 2.11: Summary of pitch overplay by analysis area*

KKP ref	Site	Analysis area	Weekly overplay of matches
7	Bush Fair	Harlow	1.5 matches
31	Staple Tye	Harlow	0.5 matches
40	The Link	Harlow	9.5 matches
Total			11.5 matches

##### *Sites over capacity*

In total, there is overplay of 11.5 matches per week on the pitches in Harlow. However, this overplay occurs on a small number of the most popular pitches. The Link is significantly overplayed. The site is used by some 27 teams ranging from senior football to mini football of which there are no dedicated mini pitches. Site assessments scored the pitches as good quality (80%). The main issue is that because the site offers value for money in terms of pitch quality and changing facilities it is very popular and consequently overplayed. Bush Fair and Staple Tye also offer good quality pitches scoring 79% and 70% respectively. Bush Fair accommodates a significant proportion of Harlow Town's mini football whilst the multiple number of teams from GPCA FC and Parndon Royals FC account for the overplay at Staple Tye.

##### *Sites at capacity*

Additionally, the pitches at Collins Meadow and Gilden Way are played at capacity. The pitch at Collins Meadow is considered to have the best playing surface in the District and is consequently popular with a number of teams despite the current lack of changing facilities. However, as noted previously there are plans to resolve this. The pitches at Gilden Way are used to accommodate teams from Langley Colts FC, which cannot be accommodated at their Church Langley homeground.

##### *Sites under capacity*

A number of sites are not currently played to capacity. Where possible, it is recommended that overplay (as indicated above) is directed to these sites. Such recommendations will be included in the Strategy and Action Plan document and will be site specific.



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## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

### **Summary of future/latent demand**

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded were access to a sufficient number of pitches available. Consultation reveals that several clubs currently consider themselves to have latent demand, which they cannot meet due to lack of access to good quality facilities.

The table below summaries the latent demand which has emerged from consultation.

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

Club	Site	Latent demand	Pitch requirement
FC Flare	Barn Meade	1 senior team 1 junior team	1 senior pitch 0.5 junior pitch
Maypole Sports FC	Maypole Sports Club	1 senior team	1 senior pitch
Archers Dart FC	Passmores School	1 senior team	1 senior pitch
Broadley Common FC	Nicholls Field	1 senior team 1 junior team	1 senior pitch 0.5 junior pitch
Maypole Athletic FC	Maypole Sports Club	1 senior team 1 junior team	1 senior pitch 0.5 junior pitch
St Germaine FC	Passmores School	2 senior teams (one ladies)	1 senior pitch
Maypole Colts	Maypole Sports Club	1 mini team	0.5 mini pitch
Old Town Athletic FC	United Glass	2 junior teams	1 junior pitch
GPCA FC	Staple Tye	1 junior team	1 junior pitch
Eppadldo	United Glass	1 senior team	1 senior pitch
			<b>7 senior pitches</b> <b>3.5 junior pitches</b> <b>0.5 mini pitches</b>

This level of additional demand is assessed against current levels of overplay. As referenced previously the high levels of latent demand outlined above suggest a conflict between the actual number of pitches and the levels of demand.

A number of clubs based at Maypole Sports and Social Club report latent demand. This suggests that there is insufficient capacity at the site to accommodate demand. However, the pitch is not recorded as having overplay.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

### Football Team Generation Rates (TGRs)

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables a comparison of participation to be made where similar studies have been undertaken. TGRs can help to target sports development activities in particular areas where participation may be low.

The following current TGRs (based on current population figures) are calculated based on current supply and demand.

Table 2.13: Football TGRs

<b>HARLOW</b>					
<b>FOOTBALL TEAMS</b>	Senior (16-45) Mens	Senior (16-45) Womens	Junior (10-15) Boys	Junior (10-15) Girls	Mini-soccer (6-9) Mixed
	66	3	49	5	36
<b>POPULATION 2001 Census</b>	16-45 Men	16-45 Women	10-15 Boys	10-15 Girls	6-9 Mixed
	17,070	14,276	3,142	3,158	4,182
<b>TGRs</b>	Senior (16-45) Mens	Senior (16-45) Womens	Junior (10-15) Boys	Junior (10-15) Girls	Mini-soccer (6-9) Mixed
	<b>1:259</b>	<b>1:4,759</b>	<b>1:64</b>	<b>1:632</b>	<b>1:116</b>
<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>1:452</b>	<b>1:19,647</b>	<b>1:195</b>	<b>1:4,038</b>	<b>1:431</b>

Relative to national averages, participation rates are high. Harlow has higher levels of senior football participation for both men and women. Women's participation rate is significantly higher than the national average. Junior participation for boys and girls is also generally high across the District. Furthermore mini-soccer is higher than the national average, which is indicative of the league structure in place in the District to deliver competitive play.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

### **Future TGRs (2021)**

By taking into account potential increases in participation and applying TGRs to the projected population for 2021, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated in the future, and therefore the expected demand on the facilities. The first step is to apply the current TGRs (above) to the projected population for 2021 (this is projected to be an increase of 2.8% - taken from ONS website) to calculate the additional number of teams to be generated.

*Table 2.14: Future Football TGRs*

<b>HARLOW</b>					
<b>FOOTBALL TEAMS</b>	Senior (16-45) Mens	Senior (16-45) Womens	Junior (10-15) Boys	Junior (10-15) Girls	Mini-soccer (6-9) Mixed
	1.8	0.1	1.5	0.1	1.1
<b>POPULATION 2021</b>	16-45 Men	16-45 Women	10-15 Boys	10-15 Girls	6-9 Mixed
	17,548	14,676	3,230	3,246	4,299
<b>TGRs</b>	Senior (16-45) Mens	Senior (16-45) Womens	Junior (10-15) Boys	Junior (10-15) Girls	Mini-soccer (6-9) Mixed
	<b>1:259</b>	<b>1:4,759</b>	<b>1:64</b>	<b>1:632</b>	<b>1:116</b>

Future TGRs highlight continued growth in senior mens, junior boys and mini-soccer. It is anticipated that there will be an extra 4.6 teams across the District over the next 13 years. This equates to the need for a further three pitches to accommodate this growth.

### **Playing Pitch Model (PPM)**

Sport England's PPM is used to assess whether supply of pitches will be sufficient at peak times in the future (up to 2021). The future TGRs recommended above are applied to the PPM to forecast the future shortfall of pitches, assuming the supply of pitches and capacity of pitches does not alter over this time. A summary of surpluses and deficiencies is shown below and takes account of the additional teams estimated to require pitches if TGR targets are achieved.

*Table 2.15: Future PPM summary*

	<b>Football</b>		
	<b>Senior pitches</b>	<b>Junior pitches</b>	<b>Mini football</b>
HARLOW	19.8	-13.2	-6.2

It should be noted that these surplus/deficit predications should be treated with caution and should not be used in isolation, but rather put within the context of other findings and issues highlighted in the report.

There is anticipated to be a surplus of senior pitches in Harlow, but a deficit of junior football pitches. The deficit of junior pitches can be equated for in the surplus of senior

## **HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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pitches, as the majority of juniors will be playing on senior sized pitches<sup>7</sup>. The surplus of senior pitches may also go some way towards meeting demand/deficit of mini pitches.

In addition, although there is a projected surplus of senior pitches, the PPM calculation only calculates a quantitative supply/demand and does not take into account the actual availability of pitches.

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<sup>7</sup> A number of Harlow's pitches are senior size but have junior goals, for example, Rectory Fields and Gilden Way.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### Football summary

- ◀ There are 69 grass pitches in the District; most provided on local authority sites. These pitches accommodate 159 teams.
- ◀ Two sites, Goldings and Ryehill Road, are rated as poor quality. The vast majority of pitches are rated as average or good quality.
- ◀ Consultation suggests that although the pitches are improving, and that HDC has undertaken significant drainage work, there is still work to be done on the overall maintenance regimes to ensure that pitch improvements remain effective, particularly during the season.
- ◀ Three sites, including Bush Fair, Staple Tye and The Link, are played beyond their capacity and a further two sites are at capacity. In the main this is due to the popularity and good quality of the sites and the fact that mini teams are not playing on dedicated pitches.
- ◀ Senior club membership has generally remained constant over the last five years and it is not anticipated that there will be any significant growth in the future.
- ◀ Junior club membership across the District is generally in a state of flux.
- ◀ Nine clubs have expressed latent demand, which equates to an additional requirement of 6 senior, 3.5 junior pitches and 0.5 mini pitches.
- ◀ Club consultation indicates that changing facilities across the District are generally poor quality. This is further evidence by KKP's site visits which note poor quality facilities which are heavily vandalised and outdated.
- ◀ The levels of latent demand in Harlow are unusually high given that there is spare capacity at a number of sites. Consultation and analysis suggests that these levels of latent demand are as a result of lack of high quality facilities across the District. Clubs which do not have access to high quality pitches accompanied by changing facilities of a good standard consequently express latent demand. There is a need for HDC to address this issue to reduce the levels of latent demand and to accommodate the predicted increases in teams by 2021.
- ◀ There is an anticipated future surplus of senior pitches but a deficit of junior and mini pitches. The anticipated surplus of senior pitches should be considered in the contribution towards addressing the deficit of junior and mini pitches.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

### PART 3: CRICKET

#### 3.1: Introduction

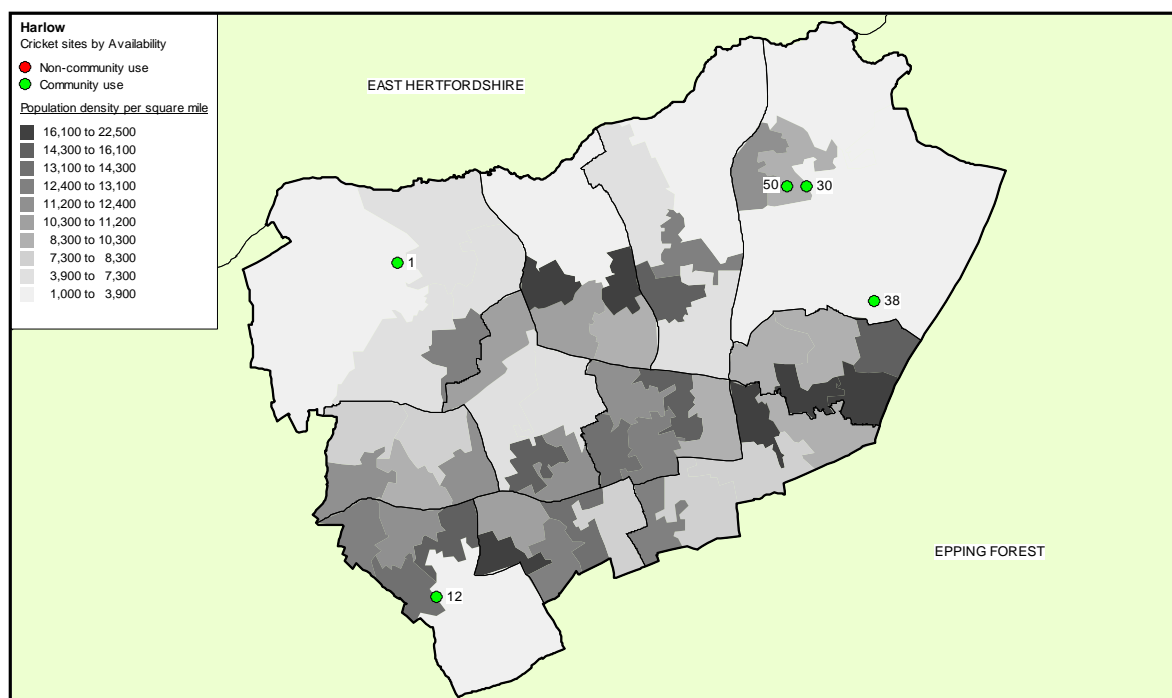
The Essex County Cricket Board (ECCB) is responsible for the development and governance of cricket in Harlow. A number of leagues service the Harlow District. These include the Shepherd and Neame Essex League, The Herts and Essex Cricket League and the West Essex District Cricket League. The West Essex District Cricket Board is the main provider of junior league cricket servicing the Harlow District. Traditionally, the majority of senior league cricket is played on a Saturday afternoon and junior cricket is predominantly played on a Sunday morning with training occurring mid week.

The ownership of cricket pitches is split between local authority owned pitches and those which are privately owned by playing field trusts such as the Marigold Trust.

Table 3.1: Summary of pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area

	No. of available pitches			No. of teams			
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior mens	Senior womens	Junior boys	Junior girls
Harlow	6	-	-	14	-	8	-
<b>HARLOW TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>

Figure 3.1: Location of cricket pitches



# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 3.2: Key to map of cricket pitches

Site name	KKP ref	Community use	Cricket pitches
ASH TREE FIELD	1	Yes	2
CHURCH LANGLEY	38	Yes	1
GLAXO SMITHKLINE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB	12	Yes	1
HARLOW CRICKET CLUB	50	Yes	1
SPICERS FIELD PLAYING FIELD	30	Yes	1

### 3.2: Development

Consultation suggests that the number of cricket pitches is insufficient to meet the current levels of demand. Harlow Town CC and Harlow CC both express latent demand for an additional cricket pitch respectively to accommodate a girl's team (Harlow Town CC) and a senior and junior teams (Harlow CC).

#### *Junior development*

Focus clubs have been identified strategically by the ECCB as those committed to long-term junior development. This includes the adoption of a development plan (for the purposes of the development of the sport and facilities) and achieving (or working towards) Clubmark accreditation. In working towards these principles, clubs receive support (both technical and financial) from the ECCB. There are two *focus clubs* which have been identified in the Harlow District (at which club members are thought to primarily be residents of Harlow):

- ◀ Harlow Cricket Club.
- ◀ Harlow Town Cricket Club.

There is a high level of junior participation at clubs in the District; a large proportion field more than one junior team. Continued increases in club membership (particularly junior members) could have a significant impact on access to and (ultimately) the quality of pitches.

#### *School-club links*

The ECCB encourages links between clubs and schools through the development of Kwik Cricket festivals. However, links tend to be “driven” by individual clubs, and are almost invariably underpinned by active club members. Harlow CC and Harlow Town CC both link with local schools. Harlow Town CC deliver the Harlow School's Cricket Competition. However, they noted that although the competition is growing and extending beyond school years eight and nine, the Club is struggling with the capacity to deliver this due to the lack of changing accommodation at Marigolds.

There are no grass wickets present across schools in the District. The ECCB recognise the need to support school facility developments and this has been highlighted as a key priority in the context of facility development for the Harlow District. Access to club facilities in the interim is thus important in terms of junior development of the sport.

# **HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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### ***Club development***

Harlow Cricket Club and Harlow Town Cricket Club are considered to be strong and well established clubs, fielding a combined eight senior teams and eight junior teams. Harlow Cricket Club play at Marigolds and Spicers Field whilst Harlow Town Cricket Club are based at Ash Tree Fields. Consultation indicates that both clubs share plans to develop junior boys teams.

### ***Women's' and girls' cricket***

There has not been any women's or girl's teams identified in Harlow. This is, in some part, indicative of the limitations of changing facilities at sites in the District which is not conducive to the development of this area of the sport. The current facilities are not attractive, nor is there the capacity to accommodate this demand.

### **3.3: Key issues for cricket**

#### ***Demand***

Consultation and analysis of supply/demand suggests that the number of cricket pitches in the District is insufficient to meet levels of demand. Latent demand is identified by Harlow CC and Harlow Town CC. Latent demand is examined later in this section.

#### ***Pitch quality***

Playing pitch provision is rated as good quality by site visits. Consultation also suggests that the quality of pitches is good or adequate. Both Harlow CC and Harlow Town CC have invested significant resource into improving the quality of their playing pitches through employing a professional groundsman.

Harlow CC play at a privately owned site, 'Marigolds' and 'Spicers Field' which is owned by the Council. The Club therefore maintains their own facilities through a groundsman. Public Rights Of Way run through the pitch at Spicers Field, consequently the ground is prone to litter and dog foul and is regarded as less even than the pitch at Marigolds. Harlow Town CC play at Ash Tree Fields, which is owned by the Council and leased to the Club, like Spicers Field, the site is open and accessible. This creates difficulties in terms of controlling unofficial access and despite the pitches being located down a steep slope from Elizabeth Way there are frequent incidents of horses and traps entering onto the field of play and using the ground to exercise horses. This causes significant damage to the playing surface and puts players at risk of injury. Consultation with the Club has identified need for low level fencing along the boundary with Elizabeth Way.

#### ***Changing facilities***

Harlow CC and Harlow Town CC both comment that they have outgrown their changing facilities. Both clubs have only two and three rooms available respectively. The lack of changing facilities is considered to be limiting the development of both clubs in terms of developing junior, women's and girl's teams. Harlow Town CC, in particular, cite aspirations to develop girl's cricket but are currently unable to progress these plans because of the limitations of changing facilities in the pavilion at Ash Tree Fields.



## **HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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Achievement of the ECB's Clubmark accreditation is important in the context of facility development. The ECB will only support projects which are for the benefit of junior development. Recognition that Harlow CC and Harlow Town CC have high quality junior development programmes may help both clubs to secure funding in the future.

#### ***Training nets***

Access to training nets is important. Harlow Town CC currently have access to three outdoor nets. The Club has expressed the need to fence these facilities with a cage to protect them from vandalism. Making good damage caused by instances of vandalism such as ripping of the carpets is costly to the Club and causes unnecessary cancellation of training.

#### ***Indoor training facilities***

Consultation with ECCB suggests that there is a need for an indoor centre to TS3<sup>8</sup> standard in Harlow, this would support cricket activity at Harlow CC and Harlow Town CC and a need for a quality centre to support the development of District trials and District squad coaching. Although the new Herts and Essex Centre may be a suitable venue, the clubs comment that the travel distances prohibit use and use is further restricted as the facility is used by clubs across the County and hence is often fully booked.

#### ***Car parking***

The facilities for car parking are also limited at both Harlow CC and Harlow Town CC. Harlow Town CC, located on a slightly larger footprint has expressed demand to develop parking facilities at the site. Whilst there is also demand for better parking facilities at Marigolds (Harlow Town CC) there is recognition of the limited availability of land to develop parking.

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<sup>8</sup> Indoor Sports Halls with Cricket Provision  
<http://static.ecb.co.uk/files/ecb-non-pitch-ts3-doc-hi-22-02-08-1335.pdf>

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

#### 3.4: Provision of cricket pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

It is not possible to determine the capacity of cricket pitches because the number of matches that can be played on a particular pitch varies considerably. This is primarily due to the length of matches, which cannot always be determined.

Table 3.3: Cricket provision and level of community use

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Site owner	Community use	Cricket pitches	Matches					Peak use
						Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Other	
1	ASH TREE FIELD	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes	2	2.5	-	-	2.5	-	125%
12	GLAXO SMITHKLINE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB	Harlow	Industry (for employees)	Yes	1	-	-	-	-	-	
30	SPICERS FIELD PLAYING FIELD	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes	1	0.5	-	-	1.5	-	150%
38	CHURCH LANGLEY	Harlow	Community Organisation	Yes	1	2.0	-	-	-	-	200%
50	HARLOW CRICKET CLUB	Harlow	Trust	Yes	1	-	1.5	-	-	-	150%

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

### 3.5: 'Shortfall, adequacy and requirement '

#### *Summary of current demand*

The table below summarises the sites in each area that are currently being played beyond their capacity. The capacity of the site is calculated by applying a carrying capacity (i.e. matches per week) that should be played on the pitch based on its current quality.

*Table 3.4: Summary of pitch overplay*

KKP ref	Site	Weekly overplay of matches
1	Ash Tree Field	25%
30	Spicers Field	50%
38	Church Langley	100%
50	Harlow CC	50%
		<b>225%</b>

#### *Sites under capacity*

The pitch at Glaxo Smithkline Sports & Social Club is not currently played to capacity. Where possible, it is recommended that overplay (as indicated above) is directed to these sites. Such recommendations will be included in the Strategy and Action Plan document and will be site specific.

#### *Summary of future/latent demand*

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded were access to a sufficient number of pitches available. Consultation reveals that a number of clubs currently consider themselves to have latent demand, which they cannot meet due to lack of access to good quality facilities. The table below summaries the latent demand which has emerged from consultation.

*Table 3.5: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs*

Club	Site	Latent demand	Pitch requirement
Harlow CC	Marigolds & Spicers Field	1 senior team	1 senior pitch
		1 junior team	0.5 junior pitch
Harlow Town CC	As Tree Fields	1 junior girls team	0.5 junior pitch
			<b>1 senior pitch</b>
			<b>1 junior pitch</b>

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

### **Cricket team generation rates (TGRs)**

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

The following current TGRs have been calculated for the District. Where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams operate at that age group, for cricket, in the District. This is the case in Harlow for women's' and girl's' cricket.

*Table 3.6: Cricket TGRs*

<b>HARLOW</b>				
<b>CRICKET TEAMS</b>	Senior (18-55) Mens	Senior (18-55) Womens	Junior (11-17) Boys	Junior (11-17) Girls
	14	0	8	0
<b>POPULATION 2001 Census</b>	18-55 Men	18-55 Women	11-17 Boys	11-17 Girls
	20,743	18,017	3,588	3,615
<b>TGRs</b>	Senior (18-55) Mens	Senior (18-55) Womens	Junior (11-17) Boys	Junior (11-17) Girls
	<b>1:1,482</b>	-	<b>1:449</b>	-
<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>1:1,415</b>	<b>1:54,815</b>	<b>1:1,480</b>	<b>1:21,052</b>

Participation rates for senior men's cricket is just below the national average. However, the participation rate for junior cricket is considerably above the national average and is indicative of Harlow CC and Harlow Town CC's commitment to developing junior cricket. Furthermore the West Essex District Cricket Board provides a good structure for junior teams to feed into.

As noted earlier, no senior women or junior girl's teams currently participate in competitive cricket in Harlow. However, given relatively good TGRs for junior boy's cricket, there may be potential to increase junior girls' participation in competitive play in the future.

### **Future TGRs (2021)**

By taking into account potential increases in participation and applying TGRs to the projected population for 2021, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated in the future, and therefore the expected demand on the facilities. The first step is to apply the current TGRs (above) to the projected population for 2021 (this is projected to be an increase of 2.8% - taken from ONS website) to calculate the additional number of teams to be generated.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 3.7: Future Cricket TGRs

HARLOW				
CRICKET TEAMS	Senior (18-55) Mens	Senior (18-55) Womens	Junior (11-17) Boys	Junior (11-17) Girls
	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.0
POPULATION 2021	18-55 Men	18-55 Women	11-17 Boys	11-17 Girls
	21,324	18,521	3,689	3,717
TGRs	Senior (18-55) Mens	Senior (18-55) Womens	Junior (11-17) Boys	Junior (11-17) Girls
	<b>1:1,482</b>	-	<b>1:449</b>	-

Future TGRs highlight continued growth in senior mens and junior boys cricket. It is anticipated that there will be an additional 0.6 teams across the District over the next 13 years. This equates to the need for a further pitch to accommodate this growth.

### Playing Pitch Model (PPM)

Sport England's PPM is used to assess whether supply of pitches will be sufficient at peak times in the future (up to 2021). The future TGRs recommended above are applied to the PPM model to forecast the future shortfall of pitches, assuming the supply of pitches and capacity of pitches does not alter over this time. A summary of surpluses and deficiencies is shown below and takes account of the additional teams estimated to require pitches if TGR targets are achieved.

Table 3.8: Future PPM summary

AREA	Cricket pitches
HARLOW	-1.1

It should be noted that these surplus/deficit predications should be treated with caution and should not be used in isolation, but rather put within the context of other findings and issues highlighted in the report.

There is anticipated to be a slight undersupply of cricket pitches across Harlow, to some extent these figures are exaggerated as the calculation does not fully take into account the number of matches which can be accommodated per day. It is difficult to provide an average match length and it often differs significantly between senior and junior matches. In Harlow senior matches take place on Saturdays. The junior teams then play on Sundays. The PPM calculation do not fully take account of the reduced over competitions which juniors may play in hence the calculation of a slight undersupply.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### Cricket summary

- ◀ There are six cricket pitches in Harlow owned and managed by a variety of bodies including Harlow District Council and the Marigolds Trust. These pitches accommodate 14 senior men's teams and eight junior boy's teams.
- ◀ No senior women's and junior girl's teams play competitive cricket in Harlow.
- ◀ There are two designated focus clubs in the District; these are a focal point for the development of club cricket.
- ◀ Latent demand for cricket pitches has been identified in Harlow.
- ◀ Participation in junior boy's cricket is high compared to national averages. Whilst participation in men's cricket falls just below the national average.
- ◀ Overall, the quality of cricket pitches Harlow is good. The majority of cricket is played at private sites or leased sites where grounds staff carry out maintenance work.
- ◀ The limited availability of changing facilities is the main issue affecting clubs in the District. Harlow CC and Harlow Town CC both report that the limited number of rooms available in their current pavilions is limiting junior development, particularly for women's and girl's cricket as there is no segregated changing.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

### PART 4: RUGBY

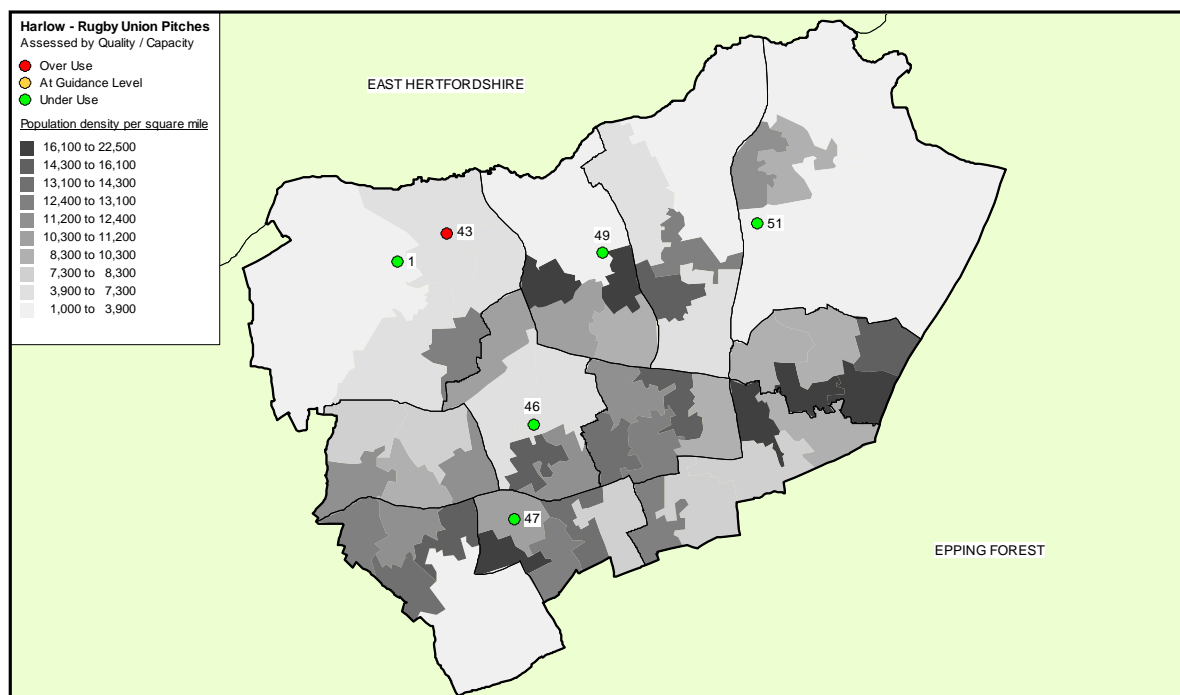
#### 4.1: Introduction

Harlow Rugby Club is the only club in the District to provide opportunities to participate in rugby union. It fields 17 teams from mini's at under 7 to seniors and ladies teams playing at Rams Gorse. It has over 350 playing members and a further 150 social members.

*Table 4.1: Summary of rugby union pitches available for community use and teams*

	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini-soccer
Harlow	7	-	-	4	1	5	-	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>

*Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches available for community use*



# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 4.2: Key to rugby union pitches location map

Site name	KKP reference	Community Use	Senior	Junior	Mini
ASH TREE FIELD	1	Yes	1		
BURNT MILL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL	49	Yes	1		
MARK HALL SPORTS CENTRE	51	Yes	1		
PASSMORES SCHOOL	46	Yes	1		
RAMS GORSE	43	Yes	2		
STEWARDS SCHOOL	47	Yes	1		

### 4.2: Development

The Club comments that its mini section is growing with six teams at mini level from under 7s to under 12s. Each team has a squad of up to 20 members. The mini section does not compete in any leagues. However they train and play friendly matches on Sunday mornings. There are five teams at junior level playing from under 13s to under 17s. Each team may have a squad of up to 25 players, although this has stabilised over recent years. The Club hope to enter junior teams into the Essex Junior League for the 09/10 season.

The senior section of the club remains constant with four teams. The first team competes in the English Clubs Championship, London & South East whilst the second, third and fourth teams compete in the Greene King Essex Merit Table. There is one ladies team which is increasing in popularity and has doubled the number of fixtures which it plays in over the last season.

The Club is working towards Seal of Approval (Clubmark) accreditation which recognises high quality junior clubs. The accreditation programme is a method of examining, maintaining and improving provision in youth sections in rugby clubs. Its aim is to recognise the effort and achievement of clubs that reach, maintain and improve the standard of a club committed to the provision of quality rugby union experiences for young players. As a result of its extensive junior section, Harlow Rugby Club has made a commitment to working towards Seal of Approval status.

The Club is also committed to supporting the wider development of rugby union throughout the District through the network of schools. The Club has established a Schools Development Team which is delivered by two club members on a part time basis. The Club hopes to expand this in the future through establishing a full time post. The Club is currently working with 11 schools and is committed to delivering a five year programme to these schools. It hopes this will generate more members.

School tag festivals are hosted by the Club during the season across approximately two weeks. The Club also supports County development and Rams Gorse is used for up to five days for County development matches.

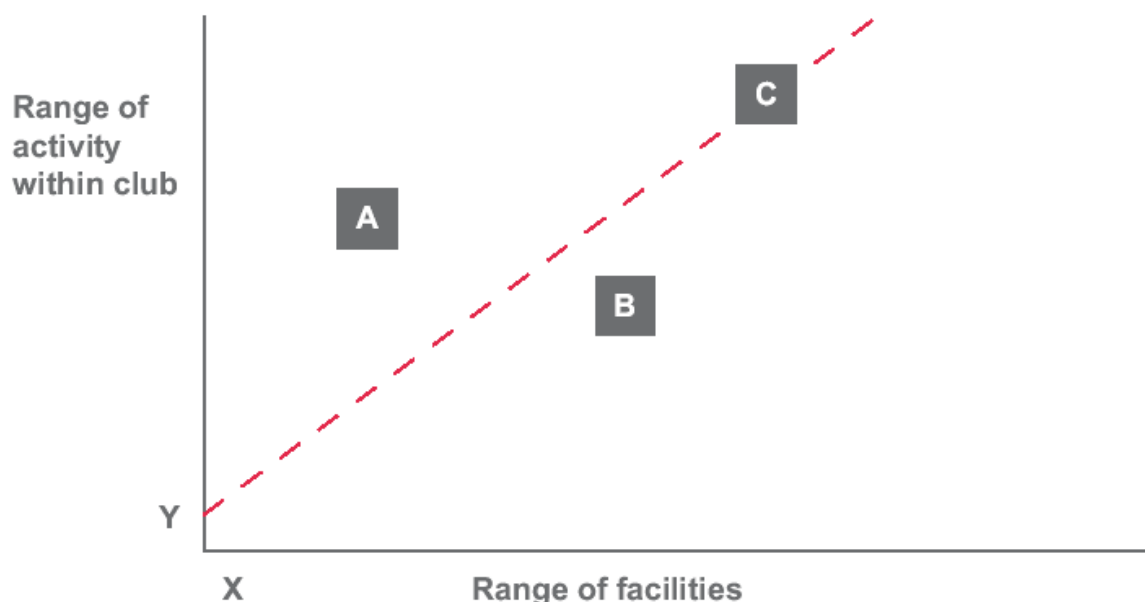


### 4.3: Key issues for rugby

#### ***Demand***

Harlow Rugby Club currently has access to two pitches at this site and one training pitch at Rams Gorse. Consultation with the Club confirms that plans are afoot to relocate its home ground to a site at Latton Farm. With up to 400 players using the pitches each week the Club has quite simply outgrown its current facility. To supplement its own facilities, it also hires a HDC owned pitch at Ash Tree Field. Peak demand for pitches occurs on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

*Figure 4.2: The RFU Activity v Facility Continuum*



The figure above, taken from the RFU National Facilities Strategy 2002-2007<sup>9</sup>, outlines the relationship between activity levels at a venue (Y axis) and the facilities required to sustain that activity (X axis). Therefore the range of facilities will be driven by the activities that take place e.g. 'if we do Y then we need X'. The red line indicates where facilities meet the needs of the activity. If a club seeks investment to increase/improve their facilities, then the level of activity must take place above the red line; anything below the line must first utilise 'undercapacity' and doesn't require facility investment. Harlow Rugby Club may be considered to be Club 'A' which has a good range of rugby activity which exceeds the level of facilities required to sustain it and thus requires either programming improvements or investment in its facilities.

The Club comments that staying at its current facility is not an option. The clubhouse requires ever more work to keep it in a serviceable condition and whilst the Club are able to carry out piece-meal improvements to increase its longevity, it is not a cost-effective venture in the long-term, nor is it conducive to the development of the sport. The Club

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.rfu.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/RFUHome.Community\\_Detail/storyID/5589/storytypeID/28/](http://www.rfu.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/RFUHome.Community_Detail/storyID/5589/storytypeID/28/)

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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estimates that to upgrade the clubhouse to an acceptable standard would cost in the region of £800,000.

#### ***Homeground re-location***

Proposals for a new facility at Latton Farm include four pitches, in addition to a new clubhouse and a suite of changing rooms and parking for up to 160 cars. The new clubhouse, 1800 square metres in size, will be built into the bank of the site and offer a range of facilities. The changing rooms will be built to Sport England/RFU guidelines and offer flexible changing facilities for mens, ladies, juniors and mini's.

The four pitches are made up of an artificial turf pitch in line with the International Rugby Board guidelines and a further three grass pitches. One grass pitch will be floodlit and a further two pitches will be used for training. The Club intends to use the artificial turf pitch for first teams matches. However, the Club also hopes to build relationships with the football community and suggest that the pitch could be used for 5-a-side football.

It is the intention that the Club will fund the move through the sale of the site for housing development. Given the current economic climate this is not necessarily secure. English Partnerships<sup>10</sup> have been heavily involved with the proposals and have sought to ensure that the Club's plans for Latton Farm are in-keeping with the natural surroundings.

The Club realistically, hopes to be in its new facilities by 2011 and will be driven by establishing the pitches to provide time to bed in. The Club comments that the option will remain to train at Rams Gorse until full relocation occurs. The agreement with Kier Harlow also contains a trust fund for the Club to use as a future development fund.

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<sup>10</sup> English Partnership's will lease the land from the Council on a 125 year rolling lease which is guaranteed for 375 years.

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

#### 4.4 Provision of rugby union pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

Table 4.3: Rugby union provision and level of community use

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Site owner	Comm use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week		
					G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating
1	ASH TREE FIELD	Harlow	Local Authority	Yes	1									-	2.0	
43	RAMS GORSE	Harlow	Sports club	Yes	2									8.5	4.0	
46	PASSMORES SCHOOL	Harlow	School	Yes	1									-	4.0	
47	STEWARDS SCHOOL	Harlow	School	Yes	1									-	2.0	
49	BURNT MILL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL	Harlow	School	Yes	1									-	4.0	
51	MARK HALL SPORTS CENTRE	Harlow	School	Yes	1									-	4.0	

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

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### 4.5 'Shortfall, adequacy and requirement '

#### *Summary of current demand*

The table below summarises the sites in each area that are currently being played beyond their capacity. Site capacity is calculated by applying a carrying capacity (i.e. matches per week) that should be played on the pitch based on its current quality.

*Table 4.4: Summary of pitch overplay by analysis area*

Site	Analysis area	Weekly overplay of matches
Rams Gorse	Harlow	4.5 matches
		<b>4.5 matches</b>

#### *Summary of future/latent demand*

No quantified latent demand has been expressed for rugby union pitches in Harlow.

#### *Rugby union Team Generation Rates (TGRs)*

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables participation comparisons to be made between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken. The following current TGRs have been calculated on a District basis. Where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams for/at that age group, for rugby, have a home base location in the District.

*Table 4.5: Rugby union TGRs*

HARLOW					
RUGBY UNION TEAMS	Senior (18-45) Mens	Senior (18-45) Womens	Junior (13-17) Boys	Junior (16-17) Girls	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
	4	1	5	0	7
POPULATION 2001 Census	18-45 Men	18-45 Women	13-17 Boys	16-17 Girls	8-12 Mixed
	16,093	13,286	2,527	977	5,280
TGRs	Senior (18-45) Mens	Senior (18-45) Womens	Junior (13-17) Boys	Junior (16-17) Girls	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
	<b>1:4,023</b>	<b>1:13,286</b>	<b>1:505</b>	-	<b>1:754</b>
NATIONAL AVERAGE	<b>1:7,032</b>	<b>1:43,770</b>	<b>1:2,105</b>	<b>1:19,524</b>	-

TGRs for rugby union in Harlow are good compared to national averages, particularly at junior boys level which Harlow Rugby Club have worked to develop. It is likely that no latent demand expressed is due to high participation rates.

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There is currently no participation recorded for junior girl's; this is a possible area for development in the future. However, this is the case across the country and not just an issue for Harlow in isolation.

#### **Future TGRs (2021)**

By taking into account potential increases in participation and applying TGRs to the projected population for 2021, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated in the future, and therefore the expected demand on the facilities. The first step is to apply the current TGRs (above) to the projected population for 2021 (this is projected to be an increase of 2.8% - taken from ONS website) to calculate the additional number of teams to be generated.

*Table 4.6: Future rugby union TGRs*

<b>HARLOW</b>					
<b>RUGBY UNION TEAMS</b>	Senior (18-45) Mens	Senior (18-45) Womens	Junior (13-17) Boys	Junior (16-17) Girls	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
<b>POPULATION 2021</b>	18-45 Men	18-45 Women	13-17 Boys	16-17 Girls	8-12 Mixed
	16,544	13,658	2,598	1,005	5,428
<b>TGRs</b>	Senior (18-45) Mens	Senior (18-45) Womens	Junior (13-17) Boys	Junior (16-17) Girls	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
	<b>1:4,023</b>	<b>1:13,286</b>	<b>1:505</b>		<b>1:754</b>

Future TGRs highlight continued low level growth in senior men's and junior boy's rugby union. Mini-rugby also shows a slight increase in participation. It is anticipated that there will be an additional 0.4 teams across the District over the next 13 years. This equates to the need for a further pitch to accommodate this growth. The anticipated redevelopment of Harlow Rugby Club on a new site in the District should satisfy the predicted growth.

#### **Playing Pitch Model (PPM)**

Sport England's PPM is used to assess whether supply of pitches will be sufficient at peak times in the future (up to 2021). The future TGRs recommended above are applied to the PPM model to forecast the future shortfall of pitches, assuming the supply of pitches and capacity of pitches does not alter over this time. A summary of surpluses and deficiencies is shown below and takes account of the additional teams estimated to require pitches if TGR targets are achieved.

*Table 4.7: Future PPM summary*

	<b>Rugby</b>		
	<b>Senior pitches</b>	<b>Junior pitches</b>	<b>Mini football</b>
HARLOW	5.0	-2.5	-3.5

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It should be noted that these surplus/deficit predications should be treated with caution and should not be used in isolation, but rather put within the context of other findings and issues highlighted in the report.

There is anticipated to be a surplus of senior pitches in Harlow, but a deficit of junior and mini rugby pitches. The deficit of junior and mini pitches can be equated for in the surplus of senior pitches, as the majority of juniors will be playing on senior sized pitches. The surplus of senior pitches may also go some way towards meeting demand/deficit of mini pitches. Taking this into account, the demand/deficit for pitches is likely to be offset by the surplus of senior pitches.

In addition, although there is a projected surplus of senior pitches, the PPM calculation only calculates a quantitative supply/demand and does not take into account the actual availability of pitches.

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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#### **Rugby summary**

- ◀ There are seven senior rugby pitches in Harlow.
- ◀ Harlow Rugby Club is the only rugby union club in the District. It fields 18 teams from mini's to senior's, including one women's team.
- ◀ There are insufficient pitches to meet current demand levels. The pitches at Rams Gorse (Harlow Rugby Club) are significantly overplayed.
- ◀ The PPM calculations show a future undersupply of junior and mini rugby pitches across the District. However, this deficit can be covered by the surplus of senior pitches, as the majority of juniors are playing on senior pitches.
- ◀ Consultation indicates that Harlow Rugby Club hope to be re-located in a new site at Latton Fields by 2011. The level of overplay at their current site reinforces the need for this move as the Club continues to grow and is simply unable to accommodate demand.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

### PART 5: HOCKEY

#### 5.1: Introduction

Governance of the sport is devolved by England Hockey (EH) at a regional and local level to regional and county associations.

Harlow Hockey Club is the only club in the District to provide opportunities to participate in hockey. It fields five teams including three men's teams, playing in the East Men's League and two ladies teams which compete in the Essex Women's Hockey League. The Club is based at Passmores School and uses the Clubhouse.

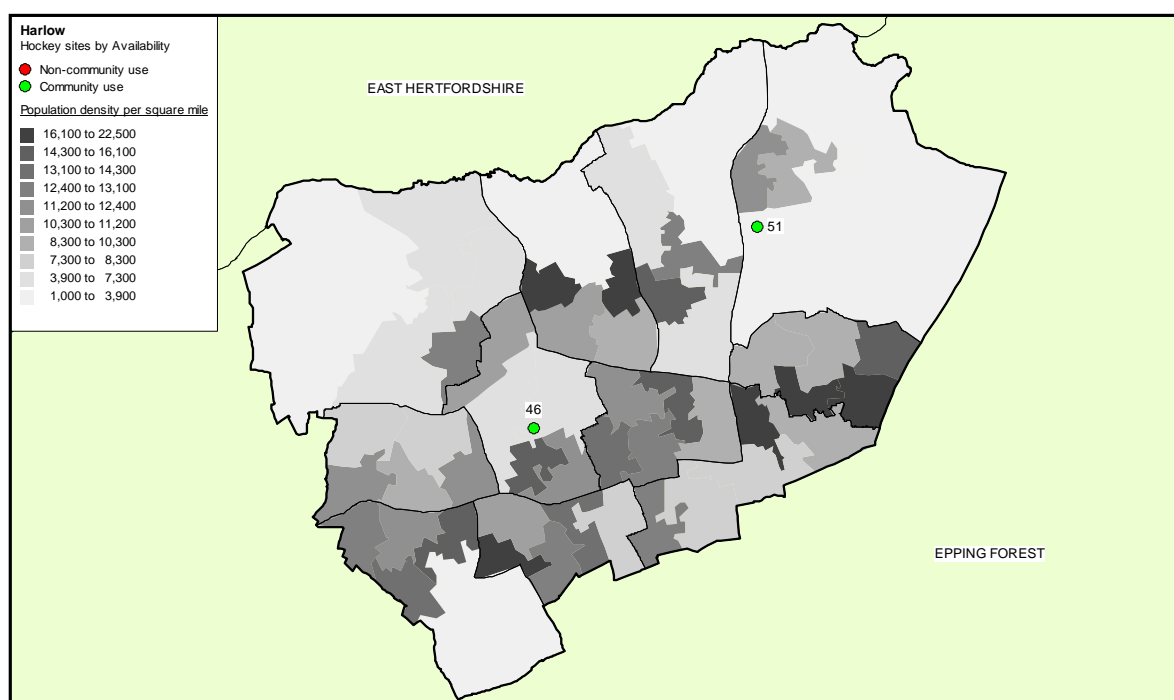
#### Current provision

There is one, full sized, sand based, synthetic turf pitches (STPs), suitable to play competitive hockey in Harlow. The STP at Mark Hall Community School and Sports College is rubber crumb and therefore unsuitable for training and competitive hockey.

Table 5.1: Summary of hockey pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area

	No. of available pitches			No. of teams			
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior mens	Senior womens	Junior boys	Junior girls
Harlow	2	-	-	3	2	-	-
<b>HARLOW TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Figure 5.1: Location of hockey pitches available for community use





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Table 5.2: Key to hockey pitches map

Site name	KKP reference	Community use	ATP
MARK HALL SPORTS CENTRE	51	Yes	1
PASSMORES SCHOOL	46	Yes	1

#### 5.2: Development

Harlow Hockey Club currently has 120 members. The number of teams in the Club has remained static. However, the Club has aspirations to develop a structure for junior teams to feed into leagues. In future, the Club believes there is demand for a 7-a-side team and a team at U12s.

#### 5.3: Key issues for hockey

##### *Pitch quality*

Hockey is played on synthetic turf pitches (STPs). At present, EH does not sanction the use of third generation turf ('3G') pitches for hockey matches. The Club is based at Passmores School which is the only STP suitable for hockey in the District. The Club were instrumental in helping the School to attract Lottery Funding to realise the project.

The Club believes that the quality of the STP is deteriorating because it is used excessively for football training which can damage the surface, particularly when bladed boots are used on the pitch. Consultation also highlights that unofficial use of the pitch is a problem, as the gates are not secured during the evening. The Club comments that equipment has also been damaged and vandalised. However, the pitch is almost nine years old and is therefore due to be re-carpeted as the normal lifespan for an STP carpet is approximately ten years. Last season the Club was forced to cancel two consecutive weekends of matches as a result of damage caused to the pitch through vandalism. As the pitch quality deteriorates the pitch becomes unplayable through ball lift caused by damage to the surface.

The Club is heavily restricted to use of this facility given that it is the only STP in the District which is suitable for Hockey. If this facility was no longer available the Club would be forced to travel to Bishop Stortford College approximately 20 miles away. This would further compound the long distances which the Club travels as a result of its membership in the East League. The Club is concerned about the planned closure of the Passmores School site and the implications which this has on access to facilities both in the long term and, should the facility be replaced at the Brays Grove site, the interim implications also.

##### *Demand*

As referenced in the football section, the demand for STPs in Harlow exceeds supply. This is particularly the case on weekday evenings with clubs requiring floodlit facilities to train.

***Ancillary facilities***

The Club does not have access to ancillary facilities at Passmores High School and thus shares facilities with Harlow Town CC, whose pavilion is hired. The Club suggests that access to ancillary facilities on site would encourage more players to participate.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

### 5.4 'Shortfall, adequacy and requirement '

#### *Summary of current demand*

The table below summarises the sites in each area that are currently being played beyond their capacity. Site capacity is calculated by applying a carrying capacity (i.e. matches per week) that should be played on the pitch based on its current quality.

*Table 5.3: Summary of pitch overplay by analysis area*

Site	Analysis area	Weekly overplay of matches
Passmores School	Harlow	50%
		<b>50%</b>

#### *Summary of future/latent demand*

No quantified latent demand has been expressed for hockey pitches in Harlow.

#### *Hockey Team Generation Rates (TGRs)*

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables participation comparisons to be made between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken. The following current TGRs have been calculated on a District basis due to the limited quantity of hockey played. Where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams for/at that age group, for hockey, have a home base location in that District.

*Table 5.4: Hockey TGRs*

HARLOW				
HOCKEY TEAMS	Senior (16-45) Mens	Senior (16-45) Womens	Junior (11-15) Boys	Junior (11-15) Girls
	3	2	0	0
POPULATION 2001 Census	16-45 Men	16-45 Women	11-15 Boys	11-15 Girls
	17,070	14,276	2,611	2,625
TGRs	Senior (16-45) Mens	Senior (16-45) Womens	Junior (11-15) Boys	Junior (11-15) Girls
	<b>1:5,690</b>	<b>1:7,138</b>		

There is currently no participation in hockey at junior boy's or girl's level in Harlow; this is a possible area for development in the future.

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Table 5.5: Future hockey TGRs

<b>HARLOW</b>				
<b>HOCKEY TEAMS</b>	Senior (16-45) Mens	Senior (16-45) Womens	Junior (11-15) Boys	Junior (11-15) Girls
	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
<b>POPULATION 2021</b>	16-45 Men	16-45 Women	11-15 Boys	11-15 Girls
	17,548	14,676	2,684	2,699
<b>TGRs</b>	Senior (16-45) Mens	Senior (16-45) Womens	Junior (11-15) Boys	Junior (11-15) Girls
	<b>1:5,690</b>	<b>1:7,138</b>		

Future TGRs highlight continued low level growth in senior men's and women's hockey. It is anticipated that there will be an additional 0.2 teams across the District over the next 13 years.

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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#### **Hockey summary**

- ◀ Harlow Hockey Club is the only hockey club in the District. It fields five senior teams and is keen to develop junior teams.
- ◀ There is just one sand based STP suitable for hockey in the District. This is located at Passmores School. The second STP at Mark Hall School is unsuitable for hockey as it is a rubber crumb pitch
- ◀ The Club comments that the quality of the STP at Passmores School is deteriorating due to overplay and unofficial use.
- ◀ Consultation highlights that demand for the STP at Passmores School outstrips supply.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

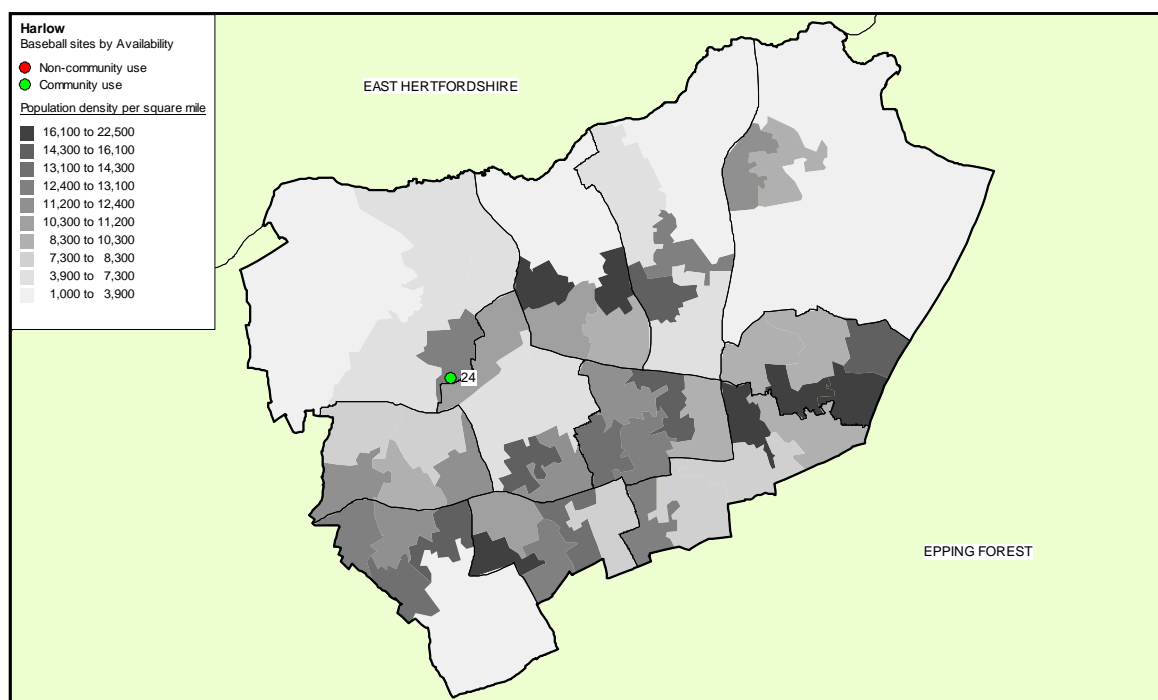
## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

### PART 6: BASEBALL

#### 6.1: Introduction

Harlow Green Sox Baseball Club is the only club in the District to provide opportunities to participate in baseball. The Club has developed a baseball diamond at Northbrooks through funding received from Barclays Spaces for Sport.

*Figure 6.1: Location of baseball pitch available for community use*



#### 6.2: Development

The Club currently fields one team on an ad hoc basis<sup>11</sup>. However, there are over one hundred members and consultation suggest that development of the site at Northbrooks as a base for the Club would allow them to attract significantly more young people. There is demand for three teams. Due to the lack of a meeting and training venue there is a drop off in participation at the end of the season in October. Through developing the site as aforementioned the Club suggests there is a greater opportunity to retain players.

#### 6.3: Key issues for baseball

##### *Pitch quality*

The Club comments that there have been issues with the maintenance of the site. Vandalism has caused damage to the baseball diamond. Consultation has identified a need for fencing to be provided at the site to combat these problems. However, the site is an open recreation ground and cannot therefore be fenced.

<sup>11</sup> Baseball is an emerging sport in the UK.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

Consultation has identified demand to develop use of the current ancillary facilities at Northbrooks. The Club has highlighted potential to develop the current building as a club headquarters which could offer amenities for young people throughout the week. It is suggested that presence during the week may also alleviate problems of vandalism to the pitches and ancillary facilities through the natural surveillance which comes through people regularly being on the site.

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#### **Baseball summary**

- ◀ Harlow Green Sox Baseball Club is the only baseball club in the District. It fields five senior teams and is keen to develop junior teams.
- ◀ The Club has a baseball diamond at Northbrooks through Barclays Spaces for Sport Funding.
- ◀ The Club comments that there is a need to upgrade the ancillary facilities at the site.



### PART 7: EDUCATION PROVISION

#### 7.1: Introduction

The provision of pitches at schools and colleges can make an important contribution to the overall stock of playing pitches within a particular analysis area. It is therefore important to have accurate information about the number, type, quality and availability of pitches within the education sector in Harlow.

The new Education and Inspection Act (2006) came into force this year and amends the existing legislation within the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998, which was originally introduced by the Government requiring all schools to seek approval from the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (Education and Skills since July 2001) for the sale or change of use of their playing fields. Section 77 of the SSFA seeks to protect school playing fields against disposal or change of use by requiring the prior consent of the Secretary of State before disposal or change of use may take place. The School Playing Fields General Disposal and Change of Use Consent (No.3) 2004 order highlights some limited circumstances in which the requisite approval has been delegated to the relevant governing body (i.e. local authority), which can decide whether the disposal or change of use meets the circumstances and criteria set out in the Consent Order<sup>12</sup>.

#### ***School sports partnerships (SSP)***

The SSP programme is part of the national Physical Education (PE) and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP); formerly known as the PESSCL strategy. This is led by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to widen participation, raise standards and improve the quality of PE and school sport.

The objective of the Strategy is to ensure that by 2011 all children are offered at least five hours of sport every week, comprising:

- ✦ At least two hours high quality PE in the curriculum (5-16 year olds)
- ✦ The opportunity for at least a further three hours sport beyond the school day delivered by a range of school, community and club providers (5-19 yr olds)

The Harlow SSP has been operating since 2002. It consists of five secondary schools, 37 primary schools, one all age Special School and Harlow Tertiary College with the hub site based at Mark Hall Community School and Specialist Sports College.

SSPs have set a number of targets to reach by 2010, with individual key performance indicators (KPIs). These are:

- ✦ Increase in participation in high quality PE. The KPI is for 75% of the schools to deliver 90 minutes of high quality curriculum time.
- ✦ Increase in participation in high quality out of school hours learning (OSHL). All schools will offer at least two OSHL opportunities to KS1 pupils.

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<sup>12</sup> Full and detailed guidance can be accessed at <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=11600>

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- ◀ Increase in participation in high quality informal physical activity. This will be achieved by making effective use of playground markings with all secondary schools to offer at least two informal activities.
- ◀ Increase participation in high quality competition and performance, to include the establishment of a calendar of sports events and competitions.
- ◀ Improvement in attitude, behaviour and attendance in PE and sport through the provision of structured activities during break and lunchtimes to discourage incidences of bullying and disruptive behaviour.
- ◀ Increase in attainment and achievement in and through PE, OSHL and sport. This will involve all secondary schools achieving accreditation for delivering the sports leadership level 1 course, and all schools to work towards gaining an accreditation of some sort.
- ◀ Increase in participation in community based sport. This will require the strengthening of school-club links.

In addition to the existing PESSCL strategy work, it also seeks to:

- ◀ Create new sporting opportunities for young people in the FE sector by appointing FE sport co-ordinators, linked to school sport partnerships.
- ◀ Invest more in coaching in schools, FE colleges and community sports networks.
- ◀ Create a national network of competition managers to work with school sport partnerships on inter-school sport.
- ◀ Provide a more attractive range of sporting activity based on what young people say they want.
- ◀ Create a national network; one in each partnership, of multi-sport clubs for young people with disabilities.
- ◀ Establish a National School Sport Week, championed by Dame Kelly Holmes, motivating young people to take part in competitive sport.

### 7.2: Secondary school audit

There are currently five secondary schools in Harlow, all of which have specialist status and include:

- ◀ Burnt Mill School, Specialist College of Performing Arts
- ◀ Mark Hall Community School and Specialist Sports College
- ◀ Passmores School and Technology College
- ◀ St Marks West Essex Catholic School
- ◀ Stewards School, Science Specialist

The Brays Grove School site closed in 2008 due to falling numbers of school aged students in the town. This site is due to be re-developed for Passmores School who will be relocating to the Brays Grove Site.

The breadth and quality of playing pitch facilities varies considerably across the District from the high quality, extensive facilities at Mark Hall to the single pitch at St Mark's School.

In common with many other areas of the country, use of school facilities by the community varies considerably and fall at the discretion of the school management. St Marks, Burnt Mill and Stewards School do not have formal community agreements in place and hence community use of these sites is limited.

All secondary schools and private colleges were visited and facilities assessed. KKP met with either the head of PE or in some cases with either the head and or deputy head of the School.

### 7.3: Key issues

This section summarises the key issues emerging from consultation with the education sector.

#### ***Burnt Mill School, Specialist College of Performing Arts***

Burnt Mill School limits community use of its pitches. Consultation suggests that the pitches are not of adequate quality to accommodate regular community use. However, the school does permit community use when necessary. Site visit assessments suggest that the quality of the pitches is good.

The school has secured planning permission for two, floodlit, 7-a-side pitches to be developed to the rear of the school building on the site of a former redgra pitch, which is no longer in use. The school has commissioned a feasibility study to investigate the costs of developing these facilities. Consultation with the school reveals that they would consider a partnership with a commercial organisation to realise this facility.

#### ***Mark Hall Community School and Specialist Sports College***

The pitches at Mark Hall School are complemented by excellent changing facilities which were developed in 2005 as part of the development of the Sports Centre. There is extensive use of the school's STP (rubber-crumb base) and the site is recognised as a centre for junior football development. To some extent the school's facilities are a victim of their own success and demand for, particularly the STP, outstrips supply. The School works to ensure that there is a focus on junior development and consequently restricts use of the facilities for junior football until 9pm.

There are no longer cricket wickets at the school. However the school has access to outdoor cricket nets. The school comments that Harlow Town CC works closely with schools across the District.

#### ***Passmores School and Technology College***

There is extensive use of the schools floodlit, sand based STP. This is predominantly the homeground of Harlow Hockey Club but is also used regularly for football training and 5-a-side competition. The STP is in approximately its eight year; signs of wear and tear are becoming evident and the surface is increasingly damaged causing dangerous playing conditions and cancellations in the worst conditions. The damage caused to the surface is a combination of studded boots being worn and the gates being left open in the evening which allows unofficial use of the facility.

The schools playing pitches are used by four teams in the H&DFL including; A&A United, Archers Dart, Ashfield Albion and St Germaine. Due to the open aspect of the playing pitches there is some evidence of damage to the surface from unofficial use and the site is littered.

The School is due to move to the site of the former Brays Grove School in 2011. Consultation suggests that plans for the facilities to be developed at this site are not yet finalised. However, consultation suggests that there is demand for the facilities currently available to be replicated at the Brays Grove site.

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#### ***St Marks West Essex Catholic School***

The school is located on a small footprint. There is just one playing pitch marked out at the site. This doubles up as a football and rugby pitch. Consultation with the Head of PE indicates that this is a limitation in terms of the delivery of the curriculum. The school is unable to deliver hockey and although agreements have been made to use the Passmores STP there are cost and safety implications associated with transporting young people to the site.

The school has aspirations to develop an ATP but would not be able to fund the cost of developing such a facility. It has been suggested that there is demand for an ATP facility in this area of the District to accommodate 5-a-side football and training for other clubs.

#### ***Stewards School, Science Specialist***

Consultation with the School suggests that they believe the pitches to be of inadequate quality to permit formal community use. There is occasional use of the site by Riden Woods FC for training purposes. The school has recently refurbished its changing block as part of the re-development of the swimming pool. These facilities also service the playing pitches.

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

### APPENDICES

#### APPENDIX 1: CONSULTEE LIST

The core of this phase of the project revolved around extensive consultation with key individuals, sports clubs, Council officers, HDC officers and agencies working in Harlow. Qualitative in-depth interviews were conducted either face-to-face, telephone or by questionnaire provided by HDC and those uncovered by to KKP during consultation.

Name	Organisation	Designation
Adam Rawlinson	FC Clark	Secretary
Alan Brooking	Harlow Rugby Club	Chairman
Andrew Jordan	Pools Athletic	Secretary
Andrew Pearce	Sumners Youth FC	Secretary
Bob Earll	Kiln Rangers Youth FC	Secretary
Chris Lloyd	St.Germaine FC	Secretary
Chris Purvis	Harlow Council	Leisure and Policy Officer
Chris Whitbread	Old Town Athletic FC	Secretary
Claire Ashley	FC Paringdon Youth	Secretary
Colin Endean	Harlow Council	Planning Officer
Colin Ruggles	Maypole Sports FC	Secretary
Dan Walduck	FC Flare	Secretary
Danielle New	Brookside Athletic	Secretary
Danny Dobbs	Tye Green Indoor Bowling Club	Secretary
Darren Mereday	Cottingham FC	Secretary
Darren Mitchell	Frontiers FC	Secretary
Darren Nelson	Barretts Rangers FC	Secretary
Darren Swift	Pollard FC	Secretary
David Pitcher	Broadley Common	Secretary
Eddie Davis	Maypole Athletic FC	Secretary
Gail Moore	Maiden FC	Secretary
Geoff Holt	West Essex and East Hertfordshire Youth League	Secretary
George Thorp	Potter Street FC	Secretary
George Thorpe	Potter St FC	Secretary
Gino Ostacchini	Langley Colts FC	Secretary
Gino Ostacchini	Langley Colts Youth FC	Secretary
Graham Dowers	Risdenwood FC	Youth Development Officer
Graham Pryke	Essex Cricket Board	Cricket Development Officer
Guy Want	Mark Hall Youth AFC	Secretary
Helen Offord	Harlow Council	Sports Development Officer
Jacqueline Furlong	Apollo Youth	Secretary

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

Name	Organisation	Designation
Jamie Patterson	FC Parkside	Secretary
Janine Pratt	Marquis Sports FC	Secretary
Jason Pite	UG United FC	Secretary
Joe Ferreira	Risden Wood FC	Secretary
Joe Maquire – White	Eastwick Lions FC	Secretary
Joe McGill	Harlow Council	Properties and Facility Manager
John Kitchen	Archers Dart FC	Secretary
John O'Connor	Harlow Education Consortium	Director
Jon Ford	Salvation Army Harlow FC	Secretary
Joy Crouch	Harlow Council	Properties and Facilities team
Julie Nottage	Maypole Colts	Secretary
June Tulloch	Mark Hall School Specialist Sports College	Director of Sport
Karen Bartlett	Great Parndon Community Association and Harlow Youth Action Group Football For All (HYAGFFA)	Secretary
Katie Townsend	Apex Youth FC	Secretary
Keith Miller	Essex FA and Harlow & District Football League	Former referee for Harlow and District Football League
Kevin Bain	Harlow Boxing Club	Chairman
Kieran Whelan	Rouge Lyon FC	Secretary
Kim Berry	Old Townmead FC	Secretary
Kim Lawrence	Harlow and District Football League	Secretary
Leah Groves	Dynamo FC	Secretary
Lisa Toms	Epping Athletic FC	Secretary
Louis Goodwin	Parndon Royals	Secretary
Martyn Tribe	Nazeing Youth	Secretary
Mr Albert Hobdel	Harlow Green Sox Baseball Club /Harlow Neighbourhood Watch	Chairman
Mr Martin	Passmores School	Head of PE
Mr Myatt	Burnt Mill School	Head of PE
Mr Preece	Stewards School	Head of PE
Mr Thurley	St Marks West Essex School	Head of PE
Neil Taylor	Altham Grove	Secretary
Neil Tillotson	Harlow Link	Secretary
Nick Doree	Matching United FC	Secretary
Nick Perchard	Essex Football Association	County Development Manager
Nigel Flegg	Lindsey Street FC	Secretary
Paul Baxter	Harlow Cricket Club	Chairman

## HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

Name	Organisation	Designation
Paul Groves	Harlow & District Football League	Fixtures Secretary
Paul Morrell	Harlow Town Cricket Club	Secretary
PC Jason Hill	Essex Police	Youth Strategy Team
Peter Lucia	Alemite Athletic	Secretary
Ray Matthews	Kier Harlow	Senior Landscape Officer
Richard Mays	Great Parndon C.A. FC	Secretary
Richard Parish	South East Harlow Youth and Sports Association	Secretary
Robbie Nelson	Ashfield Albion FC	Secretary
Robert Johnson	F E L FC	Secretary
Sam King	Eppaldo FC	Secretary
Shirley Devonshire	Skipper Rangers FC	Secretary
Siobhann Cleeve	Harlow Sports Trust	Sports Development Officer
Steve Bees	New Town Rangers	Secretary
Steve Derrick	Athletico UG FC	Secretary
Steve Maxwell	Harlow Hockey Club	Chairman
Stuart Alderson	Harlow Town Cricket Club	Chairman
Stuart Childs	Alemite Athletic Youth	Secretary
Terry Sullivan	New Hall Rangers	Secretary
Vincent Thorne	Saturn XI Y FC	Secretary
Wayne Gibbons	A & A United FC	Secretary



# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

### APPENDIX 2: OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITY PROFORMAS

#### Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Individual Pitch Assessment

KKP Site reference  Site Name

Number of pitches  Pitch ID(s)  Pitch Type

Community Use?

Pitch Issues:

Background information: Number of games played on pitch each season

Number of games cancelled due to unfitness of pitch (excluding frozen pitches)

% of games cancelled per season

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

Element	Rating								Guidance notes	Comments
About the winter pitch/cricket field										
Grass cover - entire pitch / cricket field	>94%		85-94%		70-84%		60-69%		<60%	Where, 90%+ grass cover should be given 'Excellent'; less than 60% should be considered 'very poor'
Length of grass	Excellent		Good		Poor			Very Poor		The ideal length of grass will vary between sports
Size of pitch / cricket field	Yes - fully				No - but adequate			No - not adequate		Does it meet the NGB standard? See pitch sizes tab for dimensions
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully				No - but adequate			No - not adequate		Does it meet the NGB standard? See pitch sizes tab for dimensions
Slope of pitch / cricket outfield (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		Severe	Cricket wickets should be flat.
Evenness of pitch / cricket field	Excellent		Good		Poor			Very Poor		Where field is completely level = 'Excellent'
Problem Areas: Evidence of Dog fouling	None				Yes - some			Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None				Yes - some			Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey
Problem Areas: Evidence of Unofficial use	None				Yes - some			Yes - lots		eg informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey
Problem Areas: Evidence of Damage to surface	None				Yes - some			Yes - lots		eg. golf divots, car-parking on field etc. If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey
Training ; Estimated number of hours per week in season	0		1 to 2 hrs		2 to 4 hrs			4+		Training which takes place on the pitch area
Changing Accomodation										
Changing Accomodation	Yes					No				Is the pitch served by changing facilities
About the equipment/ wicket...										
Winter Sports Only- Goal Posts - quality	Excellent			Good			Poor			Upright, straight, painted , for football, goals are there safe net hooks at both ends. If posts are dismantled after game, or are removable goals, assume Excellent.
Cricket Only - Is the wicket protected when not used	Yes					No				Is the wicket protected when not in use - can be roped off or covered.
Line markings - quality	Excellent			Good			Poor			e.g. Have they been painted recently; are lines straight and clear etc
Training area	Yes				No					eg nets/ goals/ grids off main body of pitch

# HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

### Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Changing Accomodation

KKP Site reference

Site Name:

Changing Accom  
Name

Assessment undertaken by:

Date of Assessment:

Capacity of changing rooms;

(Number of teams that can change at any one time in the facility)

Changing Accomodation 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	Rating										Guidance notes	Comments
About the Changing Accomodation												
Overall Quality	Excellent		Good		Average		Poor		No changing		Perceived quality of changing accommodationDoes it look well maintained, clean, safe etc	
Evidence of vandalism	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots				Damage to pavillion, graffiti, broken glass etc	
Showers	Yes - Good		Yes - OK			Yes -poor			No		Are there showers facilities, what is their quality (if known)	
Toilets	Yes - Good		Yes - OK			Yes -poor			No		Are there toilets - what is their condition (if known)	
Parking	Good			OK				Poor			Is there enough for circa 20 cars, bays marked out etc	
Links to public transort	Good			OK				Poor/non			Is the site close to public transport links, proximity to bus stop, train station, hubs.	
Security	Good			OK				Poor			Does the accomodation look secure - secure doors/windows, evidence of breakins ( may get info from User Surveys)	
Segregated changing	Yes				No				accomodation be used by both male and female teams at same time			