



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT UPDATED JUNE 2019

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS.....	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY.....	2
PART 2: FOOTBALL	21
PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS).....	60
PART 4: CRICKET	73
PART 5: RUGBY UNION.....	100
PART 6: HOCKEY	124
PART 7: LACROSSE.....	143
APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT.....	147

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CC	Cricket Club
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CSP	County Sports Partnership
CASC	Community Amateur Sports Club
CCB	Cheshire Cricket Board Ltd
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
ESAR	Everybody Sport and Recreation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
HS2	High Speed Two
IOG	Institute of Groundmanship
IMS	International Match Standard
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non-turf Pitch
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PIP	Pitch Improvement Programme
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PF	Playing Field
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
SADPD	Site Allocations and Development Policies Document
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This is an update to the Cheshire East Playing Pitch Strategy, Assessment Report (originally completed in January 2017). It was originally prepared and updated by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) and commissioned by the Council.

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the original PPS. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the work being signed off, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) will consider it to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document and kept up to date, its lifespan can be extended. This update therefore extends the lifespan of the PPS to 2022.

A combination of desk-based research as well as high level consultation with the Council, Sport England and NGBs was carried out in order to update the supply and demand data whilst validating and adding new context to reflect key changes since the initial data was recorded. Unless stated otherwise, where consultation is referred to in relation to other stakeholders (e.g. clubs and leagues), this applies to the consultation that took place across 2016 and 2017 for the original study.

The original project began as an in-house collaborative project involving the Council's spatial planning, parks and green spaces and leisure development teams. During its preparation, in line with the Council's move towards establishing alternative delivery vehicles, the parks and green spaces service became part of the company ANSA in 2014, whereas the leisure development team became part of Everybody Sport and Recreation (ESAR). ANSA is a new company established to provide a range of environmental services; ESAR is a charitable trust established to deliver leisure services in partnership with the Council.

In July 2014, ESAR was commissioned by Cheshire East Council to draw together the work already completed into an Assessment Report in order to set out the strategic direction and local priorities for facilities used for cricket, football, hockey, lacrosse and rugby. KKP then took over the work, presenting a refresh and update of the supply and demand assessment and completing the proceeding Strategy and Action Plan.

Both the original PPS and this update present a supply and demand analysis of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS. The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a PPS, separated into five distinct sections:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D covered in the strategy document and Stage E ongoing.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the PPS is being developed (updated)

An up-to-date PPS provides the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting the provision of outdoor sports facilities and to support sports development objectives.

The primary purpose of the PPS is to provide a strategic framework that ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents within the Cheshire East area. The Strategy is produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provides robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision throughout Cheshire East.

The production of the PPS also supports the following areas, as identified as imperative to the project:

Corporate and strategic

- ◀ It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. During times of change for local authorities, a playing pitch strategy will provide direction and set priorities for pitch sports.
- ◀ It provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities, a playing pitch strategy can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants. Current funding examples include the Sport England Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery.
- ◀ It helps deliver government policies for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement, and healthy living.
- ◀ It helps demonstrate the value of leisure services during times of increasing scrutiny of non-statutory services.
- ◀ It helps the Best Value process through:
 - ◀ Consultation with pitch-based sports clubs, providers and organised leagues in Cheshire East
 - ◀ Consultation with regional officers from national governing bodies to gain a strategic perspective of sport delivery and growth
 - ◀ Challenges current systems for sports pitch ownership, management and maintenance
 - ◀ Comparison with other local authorities through various benchmarks
 - ◀ Competition, for example, for pitch and associated facility management/maintenance contracts.

Planning

- ◀ It provides a basis for establishing new pitch requirements arising from new housing developments or improvements to existing where demand can be satisfied by increasing capacity
- ◀ It is one of the best tools for the protection of pitches threatened by development.
- ◀ It links closely with work being undertaken on open spaces to provide a holistic approach to open space improvement and protection.
- ◀ It provides for an integrated approach towards land use planning and playing pitch provision through the Council's emerging Local Plan Strategy and through decisions on individual planning applications.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Operational

- ◀ It can help improve current asset management, which should result in a more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ◀ It highlights locations where 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 available for use. This includes information about both pitches and sports teams / user groups.
- ◀ It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams / community needs.

Meeting Sport England PPS Requirements

PPS requirements set out by Sport England include:

- ◀ To support the improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.
- ◀ Sports development programmes and changes in how the sports are played.
- ◀ The need to provide evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision.
- ◀ The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- ◀ The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
- ◀ Potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programmes e.g. for educational sites.
- ◀ To review budgetary pressures and ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
- ◀ To develop a priority list of deliverable projects that will help to meet any current deficiencies provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
- ◀ To prioritise internal capital and revenue investment.
- ◀ To provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 97 and 98 discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraphs 99 and 100 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Cheshire East Council – Local Plan (adopted 2017)

The Local Plan Strategy is the first part of the Council's Local Plan and sets out the overall planning framework for the Borough between 2010 and 2030 including for the provision of at least 36,000 additional homes. The policies that most specifically relate to playing pitches and leisure and recreation facilities are Policies SC1 (Leisure and Recreation), SC2 (Outdoor Sports Facilities) and Policy SE6 (Green Infrastructure). These policies are set out below.

Further detailed policies relating to sport and recreation are expected be added to the Local Plan through its second part, the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD). The first draft SADPD consultation took place between September and October 2018, which the Report of Consultation since produced.

Policy SC1 – Leisure and Recreation

In order to provide appropriate leisure and recreational facilities for the communities of Cheshire East, the Council will:

- ◀ Seek to protect and enhance existing leisure and recreation facilities, unless they are proven surplus to requirements or unless improved alternative provision, of similar or better quality, is to be made.
- ◀ Support and promote the provision of better leisure, community and recreation facilities, where there is a need for such facilities, the proposed facilities are of a type and scale appropriate to the size of the settlement, are accessible and support the objectives of the Local Plan Strategy. The Council will do this by:
 - ◀ Encouraging facilities that serve the Borough as a whole, and facilities that attract large numbers of people, to be located, where possible, within or adjoining Crewe or Macclesfield town centres.
 - ◀ Requiring facilities serving key service centres to be located in or adjacent to their town centre or highly accessible locations.
 - ◀ Requiring facilities intended to serve the everyday needs of a community or neighbourhood to be in or adjacent to the centres of local service centres or other settlements.
 - ◀ Encouraging the development of shared service centres that combine public services, health and community functions in modern accessible buildings.
- ◀ Supporting proposals for facilities that would not be appropriate to be located in or adjacent to centres, provided they are highly accessible by a choice of transport, do not harm the character, amenity, or biodiversity value of the area, and satisfy a range of other criteria. The proposal is a facility that:
 - ◀ Supports a business use;
 - ◀ Is appropriate in an employment area; or
 - ◀ Supports an outdoor sports facility, education or related community / visitor facility; or
 - ◀ Supports the visitor economy and is based on local cultural or existing visitor attractions.
- ◀ Work with agencies, services and businesses responsible for providing facilities to make sure that the needs and demands of communities are met.
- ◀ Make sure that appropriate developments contribute, through land assembly and financial contributions, to new or improved facilities where development will increase demand and / or there is a recognised shortage of local leisure, community and recreation facilities.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Policy SC2 – Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities

In order to provide appropriate indoor and outdoor sports facilities for the communities of Cheshire East, the Council will:

- ◀ Protect existing indoor and outdoor sports facilities, unless:
 - ◀ They are proven to be surplus to need (as identified in an adopted and up to date needs assessment); or
 - ◀ Improved alternative provision (a full quantity and quality replacement to accord with paragraph 74 of the NPPF and Sport England policy) will be created in a location well related to the functional requirements of the relocated use and its existing and future users.
 - ◀ The proposal would not result in the loss of an area important for its amenity or contribution to the character of the area in general.
- ◀ Support new indoor and outdoor sports facilities where:
 - ◀ They are readily accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.
 - ◀ The proposed facilities are of a type and scale appropriate to the size of the settlement.
 - ◀ They are listed in an action plan in any emerging or subsequently adopted Playing Pitch Strategy or Indoor Sports Strategy, subject to the criteria in the policy.
- ◀ Make sure that major residential developments contribute, through land assembly and financial contributions, to new or improved sports facilities where development will increase demand and/or there is a recognised shortage.

Policy SE 6 Green Infrastructure:

Cheshire East aims to deliver a good quality, and accessible network of green spaces for people to enjoy, providing for healthy recreation and biodiversity and continuing to provide a range of social, economic and health benefits. This will be done by:

Linking the various assets of Cheshire East's unique landscape – its upland fringes, Cheshire Plain, lowland heath, parkland estates, rivers, canals and watercourses, valleys and cloughs, meres and mosses, trees and woodland and wildlife habitats and its distinctive towns and villages and their urban fringe.

- ◀ This network of Green Infrastructure assets should be safeguarded, retained and enhanced through the development of green networks/wedges and corridors.
- ◀ Areas identified as having a shortage or opportunities for the provision of Green Infrastructure should be a particular focus for enhancement.
- ◀ Any development should contribute to the creation of a good quality, integrated and accessible multi-functional network of green spaces.
- ◀ Safeguarding Green Infrastructure assets to make sure that:
 - ◀ Development does not compromise their integrity or potential value;
 - ◀ Developer contributions are secured wherever appropriate in order to improve their quality, use and multi-functionality; and
 - ◀ Opportunities to add to the Green Infrastructure network are maximised through partnership working.
- ◀ Working with partners, to support the potential of Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets to contribute to the aims of the wider green infrastructure. The Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets⁷¹ identified in Cheshire East are:
 - ◀ Weaver, Bollin, Dane and Wheelock river corridors including cloughs and floodplains
 - ◀ Macclesfield, Shropshire Union (including the Llangollen and Middlewich branches) and Trent and Mersey canals

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Meres and Mosses Nature Improvement Area and Local Nature Improvement Areas
- ◀ Heritage town parks and open spaces of historic and cultural importance
- ◀ Public Rights of Way, cycle routes and greenways
- ◀ Country Parks and estate parklands
- ◀ Peak Park Fringe
- ◀ The Cloud, Congleton Edge and Mow Cop upland fringe
- ◀ Sandstone Ridge
- ◀ The ecological network of habitats identified in Policy SE3
- ◀ Strengthening the contribution that sport and playing fields, open space and recreation facilities make to Cheshire East's Green Infrastructure network by requiring all development to:
 - ◀ Protect and enhance existing open spaces and sport and recreation facilities;⁷²
 - ◀ Encourage multiple use and improvements to their quality;
 - ◀ Provide adequate open space (as outlined in Table 13.1);
 - ◀ Contribute to the provision of outdoor sports facilities in line with Policy SC2;
 - ◀ Create or add to the networks of multi-functional Green Infrastructure;
 - ◀ Secure new provision to help address identified shortages in existing open space provision, both in quantity, quality and accessibility;
 - ◀ Locate open space facilities in appropriate locations, preferably within developments; and
 - ◀ Promote linkages between new development and surrounding recreational networks, communities and facilities.

Strategic Green Infrastructure assets are those assets that either provide or could provide wider Green Infrastructure benefits.

Active Cheshire

Active Cheshire is a strategic commissioner of sport and physical activity in Cheshire and Warrington. It works with a wide range of health, sport, education, environment, transport and business partners to find new ways of enabling people to get active on a regular basis. It invests in understanding local people and the market, ensuring that its annual investment of £500k is targeted to deliver the greatest sustainable impact of more people, more active, more often.

Active Cheshire aims to inspire greater collaboration and coordination between partners to tackle physical inactivity locally. It aims to encourage a change in behaviour of local citizens, enabling physical activity to become part of their everyday habit.

Further, Active Cheshire has developed a strategy "Count me in" to get more people, more active more often by 2017. This strategy is developed with the aim to make sport and physical activity enjoyable and accessible for all abilities within Cheshire and Warrington.

The underlying theme is to focus on individual needs, rather than categorising and responding to the vast spectrum of impairments in the same way. By 2017, sub-regional partners will target resources to deliver a three-point plan in direct response to the needs of those with impairments.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Target outcomes:

- ◀ 10,000 more people, more active, more often = happier, healthier citizens.
- ◀ Greater range of activities that are easier to access for individuals.
- ◀ More confident, competent coaches and volunteers, adding to the experience.
- ◀ Increase in use of personal budgets to fund sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Increased awareness of the needs of individuals with impairments.

Neighbourhood Planning in Cheshire East

Neighbourhood planning allows communities, led by their Town and Parish Councils, to shape the development and growth of their local areas. This includes through the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans containing local planning policies that become part of the statutory development plan if supported through a local referendum. They can identify how and where new development should take place including what infrastructure should be provided and where this is aligned with the overall strategic needs and priorities of the wider area.

There is considerable neighbourhood planning activity in Cheshire East. At the time this report was prepared there were 51 active neighbourhood planning groups. In total, 21 plans in Cheshire East have been 'made', with a further eight in progress.

The Council is very keen to support neighbourhood planning and continues to provide advice and guidance to local groups. This includes understanding the relationship between emerging Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan. It is hoped that the PPS will provide a useful source of evidence to support policies and proposals within Neighbourhood Plans. Clearly, planning decisions will have to take proper account of the policies and proposals in both the Local and Neighbourhood Plan, the latter probably adding more locally-specific policy. For example, through their Neighbourhood Plans, local communities may want to recognise the need to protect and enhance specific facilities and/or allocate land for new or improved facilities, where such requirements are justified by appropriate evidence.

Everybody Sport and Recreation

ESAR is an independent non-profit distributing organisation with charitable status (Registered Charity No. 1156084), responsible for delivering leisure services in partnership with Cheshire East Council. It is the lead operator for the Cheshire East area. Key services include:

- ◀ 15 leisure facilities including the new Holmes Chapel Community Centre and Crewe Lifestyle Centre
- ◀ Everybody Fitness membership scheme and Learn to Swim scheme
- ◀ Everybody Options concessionary discount programme
- ◀ Leisure development service including key programmes such as: Talented Athlete Support Scheme, Volunteer Programme, Club & Coach Development, Bikeability and more
- ◀ Everybody Academy – specialist leisure training provider delivering a range of training and development opportunities including volunteering, apprenticeships and work placements
- ◀ Taste for Life Catering – onsite café's in local Everybody leisure centres in Cheshire East, business and event catering as well as children's party catering

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Everybody Healthy – a range of health and wellbeing programmes and initiatives to support people in our communities

The aim of ESAR is to provide ‘Leisure for Life’ by:

- ◀ Changing lives through healthy recreation
- ◀ Growing an ethical and sustainable business
- ◀ Providing a great customer experience
- ◀ Developing our people to be the best
- ◀ Building strong communities and effective partnership

Management arrangements

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

Further to this, the Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting as well as checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England and NGBs.

It is important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPS has been updated for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPS.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the PPS’s recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPS.
- ◀ Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

Agreed scope

The following types of playing pitches were agreed by the steering group for inclusion in the Assessment and Strategy:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)
- ◀ Lacrosse pitches

Please note that rugby league pitches have not been included as there is no recorded provision within Cheshire East and no existing demand.

The study area

Cheshire East is a unitary Authority with a population of 370,100 and an area of 116,638 hectares. In addition to Cheshire West and Chester Council on the west, Cheshire East is bounded by the Manchester conurbation to the north and east, Warrington to the north-west and Staffordshire and Shropshire to the south.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

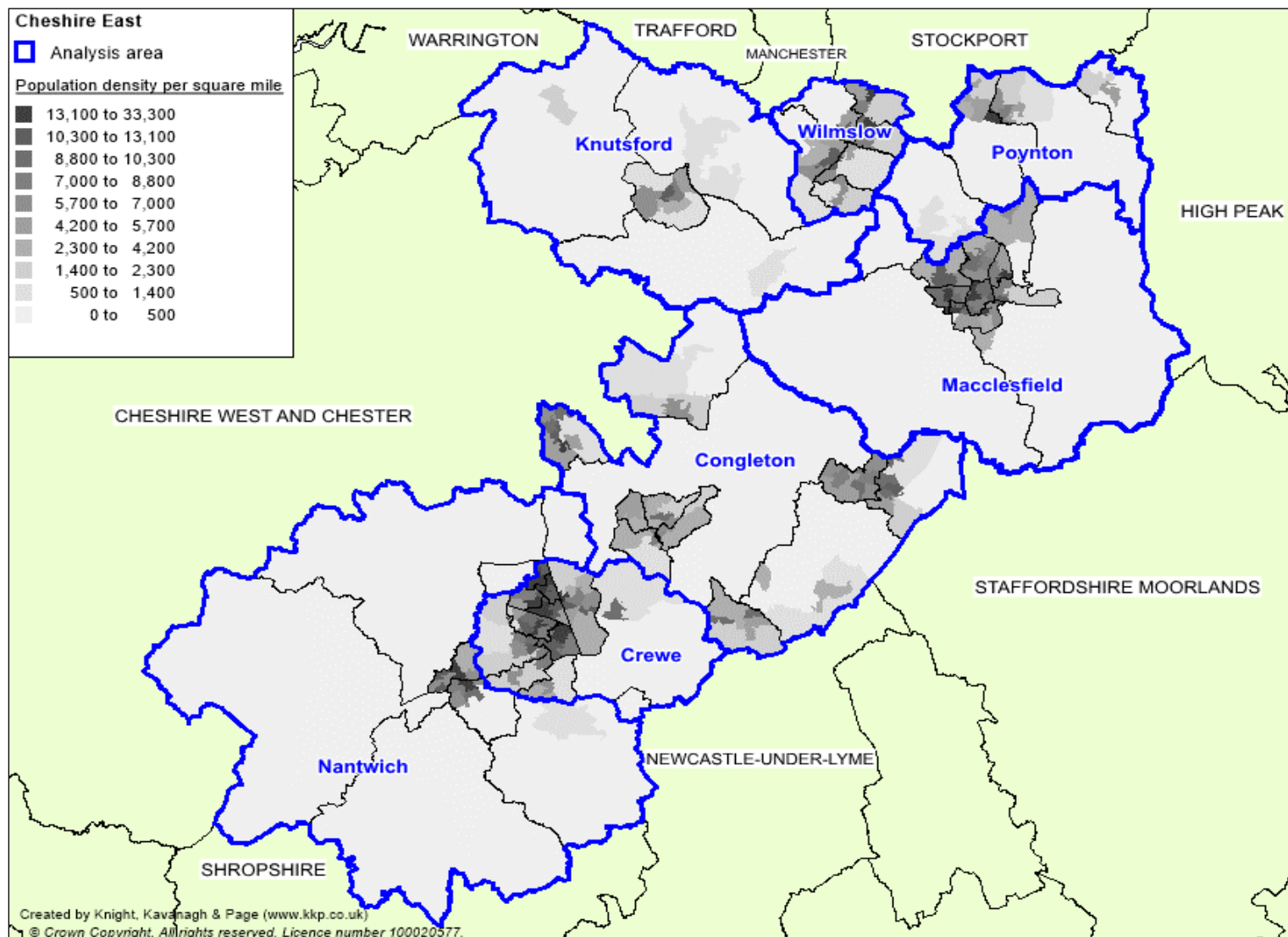
Cheshire East contains the major towns of Crewe, Macclesfield, Congleton and the commuter town of Wilmslow (population above 20,000). There are also a number of other significant centres of population (over 10,000) in Sandbach, Poynton, Nantwich, Middlewich, Knutsford and Alsager.

The PPS covers the borough boundary area of Cheshire East; however, the data gathered has been presented in such a way as to be further analysed by smaller analysis areas. There are also a number of sports teams from outside the specified area that use pitches within Cheshire East and sports teams from inside Cheshire East that use facilities outside of the Borough. This cross-boundary movement has been taken into consideration when updating this document.

For the purpose of this analysis, Cheshire East has been broken down into seven analysis areas; Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Knutsford, Nantwich, Poynton and Wilmslow. They are the same as the Borough's local area partnerships and are illustrated overleaf.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

It is essential that a PPS is based on the most accurate and up-to-date information available for the supply of and demand for playing pitches. This section provides details about how this information has been gathered in Cheshire East.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.¹

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

It should be noted that the reference to five years within the Order is purely in relation to whether Sport England should be consulted in a statutory capacity. The fact that a playing field may not have been marked out for pitch sport in the last five years does not mean that it is no longer a playing field. That remains its lawful planning use whether marked out or not.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field is the whole of a site with at least one pitch of 0.2ha or more, this PPS takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side, such as mini 5v5 football pitches. This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible the Assessment Report aims to capture all of the pitches within Cheshire East; however, there may be instances, for example on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Quantity

Where known, all playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database, with the Council and NGBs supportive of this process by checking and updating the initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues. For each site, the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied as an electronic file):

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of pitches

¹ www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Accessibility

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

- ◀ **Available for community use and used** - pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or use by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** – pitches that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed sites’.
- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago (these fall outside of Sport England’s statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site. NB: This refers to pitches in community use and not lapsed/disused sites.

Quality

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

It is not just the quality of the pitch itself that has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the pitch and ancillary facilities will determine whether a pitch is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

The quality of all pitches identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual pitches and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch. These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments across 2015 and 2016 (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), partners and local stakeholders were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this. Where quality is known to have changed since the non-technical assessments, or where maintenance regimes have significantly altered, quality ratings have again been adjusted.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Gather demand information and views

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

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

In addition, unmet and displaced demand for provision is also identified on a sport-by-sport basis. Unmet demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of pitches (and ancillary facilities) was available; displaced demand refers to teams that are generated from residents of the area but due to any number of factors do not currently play within the area.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information in 2016 about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport, with face-to-face consultation carried out with key stakeholders from each sport. This allowed for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

For data analysis purposes, an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face-to-face consultation. Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face-to-face consultation. Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face-to-face interviews.

The response rates of the 2016 consultation was as follows:

Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs	124	77	62%	Face-to-face, online survey
Football teams	557	485	87%	
Cricket clubs	35	24	69%	Online survey
Rugby union clubs	7	7	100%	Face-to-face, online survey
Rugby league clubs	-	-	-	-
Hockey clubs	8	8	100%	Online survey; telephone
Universities	1	1	100%	Face-to-face
Colleges	3	3	100%	Face-to-face
Secondary schools	21	19	91%	Face-to face
Primary schools	125	91	73%	Online survey; telephone

Some follow-up consultation was carried out with selected clubs as part of the update. These were clubs identified as experiencing the most changes since the original PPS, or where recent key issues or development plans have become evident.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using population projections and proposed housing growth an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

Population growth

The resident population in Cheshire East is recorded as 378,846 (based on ONS 2017 mid-year estimates). By 2030 (in line with the Local Plan), it is projected to increase to 392,289 (ONS 2017-based projections 2017-2030).

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for playing pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area.

Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases to the ONS population increases in each analysis area (to 2030). This figure is then applied to the team generation rates and is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

Other information sources used to help identify future demand include:

- ◀ Recent trends in the participation in playing pitch sports.
- ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate in pitch sports.
- ◀ Feedback from pitch sports clubs on their plans to develop additional teams.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. increase in participation).

Where clubs expressed future demand when consulted in 2016, this has remained as future demand unless it is known through NGB consultation and data to have been achieved or to no longer be an aspiration.

Housing growth

There is an overall housing requirement identified in the Cheshire East Local Plan for at least 36,000 new homes and proposals to achieve 31,400 additional jobs (2010-2030). The Council is planning positively to support growth in line with national planning policy.

The Local Plan also seeks to ensure that the right mix of new homes is provided to meet the needs of a growing workforce and support both current and future employers. This is set within the demographic context that Cheshire East will have a 65% increase in the population aged 65 and above and a 134% increase in the population aged 85 and above, over the Plan period.

The Local Plan Strategy plays a central role in achieving job growth in the Borough and the infrastructure and housing that are needed to support it. There is a need to provide for a wide range of employment opportunities, including highly skilled jobs, jobs that retain young people and attract new employees to live and work locally, limiting travel congestion. Therefore, much of the new housing provision will need to attract people, particularly younger people, who do or can work in the sort of local, high-skill jobs that will help the Council achieve its aspirations for economic and social wellbeing.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Using housing allocation figures (2010-2030), indicative population growth can be determined. These figures are not population projections, but simply an approximate indication of what future population growth may be at a local level. The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 1.61 per dwelling. This is taken from the fact that the Local Plan Housing Development Study² projects population growth of 58,100 and identifies a need for 36,000 dwellings (implying an average increase of 58,100/36,000, or 1.61 people per dwelling). In reality, population growth per dwelling will vary from site to site, depending on factors such as household formation rates, migration patterns and the type of dwellings being built. There is, however, insufficient data to quantify these variations at such a local geographical level. Therefore, the population figures should be treated with considerable caution.

The breakdown of the required 36,000 new homes by settlement can be seen in the table below.

Table 1.1: Housing growth by settlement

Settlement	Number of new homes	Indicative population growth
Alsager	2,000	3,200
Congleton	4,150	6,700
Crewe	7,700	12,400
Handforth	2,200	3,500
Knutsford	950	1,500
Macclesfield	4,250	6,800
Middlewich	1,950	3,100
Nantwich	2,050	3,300
Poynton	650	1,000
Sandbach	2,750	3,400
Wilmslow	900	1,400
Local Service Centres	3,500	5,600
Other Settlements and Rural areas (inc Alderley Park)	2,950	4,700
Cheshire East	36,000	56,600

NB: Please note that in some settlements, allocations exceed Local Plan targets.

Since the start of the Local Plan period (2010), there have been 9,556 housing completions (to March 2018). This means that a further 26,444 new homes are required to meet the Local Plan target, with 21,881 commitments already in place. Should these commitments go ahead, the remaining target is 4,563 new homes.

High speed Two

High Speed Two (HS2) is a new high speed railway proposed by the Government to connect major cities in Britain. It will be built in phases. Phase One of the HS2 network will run from London to the West Midlands, with a connection to the West Coast Main Line near Lichfield and will start operating in 2026. Phase Two will extend HS2 to the North of England with trains running to Manchester via Crewe and to Leeds via the East Midlands and South Yorkshire. Connections to the East Coast and West Coast Main Lines would enable HS2 services to travel onwards on the existing rail network. A connection to the Midland Mainline would also provide HS2 services to Sheffield city centre.

² Cheshire East Housing Development Study, ORS, June 2015. Local Plan Examination Library Reference PS E033: <http://cheshireeast-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/cs/library>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Phase 2a which will run from the West Midlands and is due to start running in 2027, one year after the opening of Phase One. This is six years earlier than originally planned. In July 2017, HS2 Ltd deposited a hybrid Bill to Parliament to seek powers for the construction and operation of Phase 2a. The High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Act is expected to receive Royal Assent in 2019.

The route from Crewe to Manchester is part of Phase 2b. On 9 March 2018, the Secretary of State for Transport confirmed the Government's support for the Crewe Hub vision, reflecting the Council's ambition for there to be 5/7 HS2 trains calling at Crewe per hour. The realisation of the Crewe Hub vision will involve transformative investment in Crewe station and support the Council's ambitions for local investment and growth. The Council believes that investment in HS2 will consolidate Cheshire East as one of the most connected areas in the UK and will support existing businesses, inward investment and job creation in and around Crewe and the wider sub-region. The journey time to London would be reduced by 35 minutes to under an hour.

In 2016, it was also identified that Macclesfield could potentially be served by one HS2 train per hour via Stoke-on-Trent and the Handsacre Junction. The powers for Phase 2b will be sought through a hybrid Bill that is expected to be deposited in Parliament in 2020. Construction of Phase 2b is anticipated to commence in approximately 2023, with operation planned to start around 2033.

Manchester Metropolitan University

It was reported in early December 2018 that a new health science campus will open on the 40-acre Manchester Metropolitan University site in Crewe. The facility, currently used by MMU, will host students undertaking degrees in Biomedical Sciences and Podiatry from September 2019. The stated aim is to reach the site's 5,000 student capacity by 2024 and is expected to support around 500 jobs. On this basis, the site would therefore remain as a university campus site when the current University leaves in 2019.

Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered within Stage B (and subsequent update findings) is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Cheshire East. It focuses on how much use each site could potentially accommodate compared to how much use is currently taking place.

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions³ per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.

This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows, to identify:

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

³ A match equivalent session can be either a match or a training session

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Develop the current picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of temporal demand. Although this may have been identified, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed or the site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This also includes, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future.

Scenario testing occurs in the updated Strategy report and therefore does not form part of the updated Assessment Report.

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing the above steps, it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in Cheshire East. This report seeks to identify and present the updated key findings and issues prior to updating the Strategy.

The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch sports in Cheshire East. Each 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 plan (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.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Cheshire County FA is the primary organisation responsible for the development (and some elements of administration) of football in Cheshire East. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches only. Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches (AGPs). In the future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Local Football Facility Plan

To support in delivery of the National Football Facilities Strategy, the FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently under-represented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all future facility investments will be identified via LFFPs.

Each LFFP will focus on four key aspects:

- ◀ 3G pitches
- ◀ Grass pitches
- ◀ Changing room clubhouses/pavilions
- ◀ Small-sided football facilities

The LFFP for Cheshire East was produced in 2018 and identifies 28 priority projects for investment. As an investment portfolio, the LFFP is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. The PPS did, however, provide the evidence base for its production and this update will therefore take account of the included projects.

Consultation

In addition to face-to-face consultation with key football clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all clubs playing in Cheshire East during the 2016/2017 season. Contact details were provided by Cheshire County FA and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email. Response was received by 77 clubs (including face-to-face meetings), which equates to a club response rate of 62% and a team response rate of 87%. The following key clubs were met with for a face-to-face consultation:

- ◀ Alsager Town FC
- ◀ Club AZ
- ◀ Crewe FC

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Egerton FC
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC
- ◀ Middlewich Town FC
- ◀ Nantwich Town FC
- ◀ Richmond Rovers FC
- ◀ Vale Juniors FC

In addition, the following leagues servicing Cheshire East were also consulted:

- ◀ Alexandra Soccer League
- ◀ Cheshire Football League
- ◀ Cheshire Veterans League
- ◀ South Cheshire Youth League

As part of the update, new consultation took place with a select number of clubs identified by Cheshire FA. These were either clubs that have experienced significant changes since the original PPS was completed or are key clubs that did not respond to consultation previously. The clubs were:

- ◀ Cheshire Blades FC
- ◀ Crewe FC
- ◀ Egerton FC
- ◀ Sandbach United FC
- ◀ Wilmslow Sports Community FC

The results of such consultation are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies 334 grass football pitches within Cheshire East across 190 sites. Of the pitches, 251 are available, at some level, for community use across 134 sites, as presented in the table below. The large majority of unavailable pitches are located within schools.

Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

Analysis area	Available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Congleton	21	16	12	17	5	71
Crewe	18	9	-	5	2	34
Knutsford	10	4	4	8	1	27
Macclesfield	11	6	12	13	6	48
Nantwich	12	3	5	2	6	28
Poynton	7	1	4	4	3	19
Wilmslow	8	1	3	9	3	24
Cheshire East	87	40	40	58	26	251

When compared to the PPS data collected in 2016/2017, there are three more pitches in existence now and six more that are available for community use. Nevertheless, there has been a decrease in the number of mini 5v5 pitches and a decrease in Congleton and Wilmslow.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Notwithstanding the above, Congleton (71 pitches) still contains substantially more provision when compared to the other analysis areas, whilst Poynton (19 pitches) still contains the least.

There remains a large number of adult pitches (87) identified when compared to other pitch sizes, which reflects that the majority of teams use adult pitches. It should be noted, however, that nationally many youth 11v11 teams are playing on adult pitches, which may be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than through preference.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17s and U18s can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for each format of play and age group can be seen in the table below.

Table 2.2: Recommended pitch sizes

Format	Age group	Recommended pitch size (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55
	U13s-U14s	82 x 50
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27

There are a large number of youth 11v11 pitches in Cheshire East when compared to other local authorities, however, there are 61 youth 11v11 (u13s-u16s) teams regularly using adult pitches. The following sites contain adult pitches that are used by youth 11v11 teams:

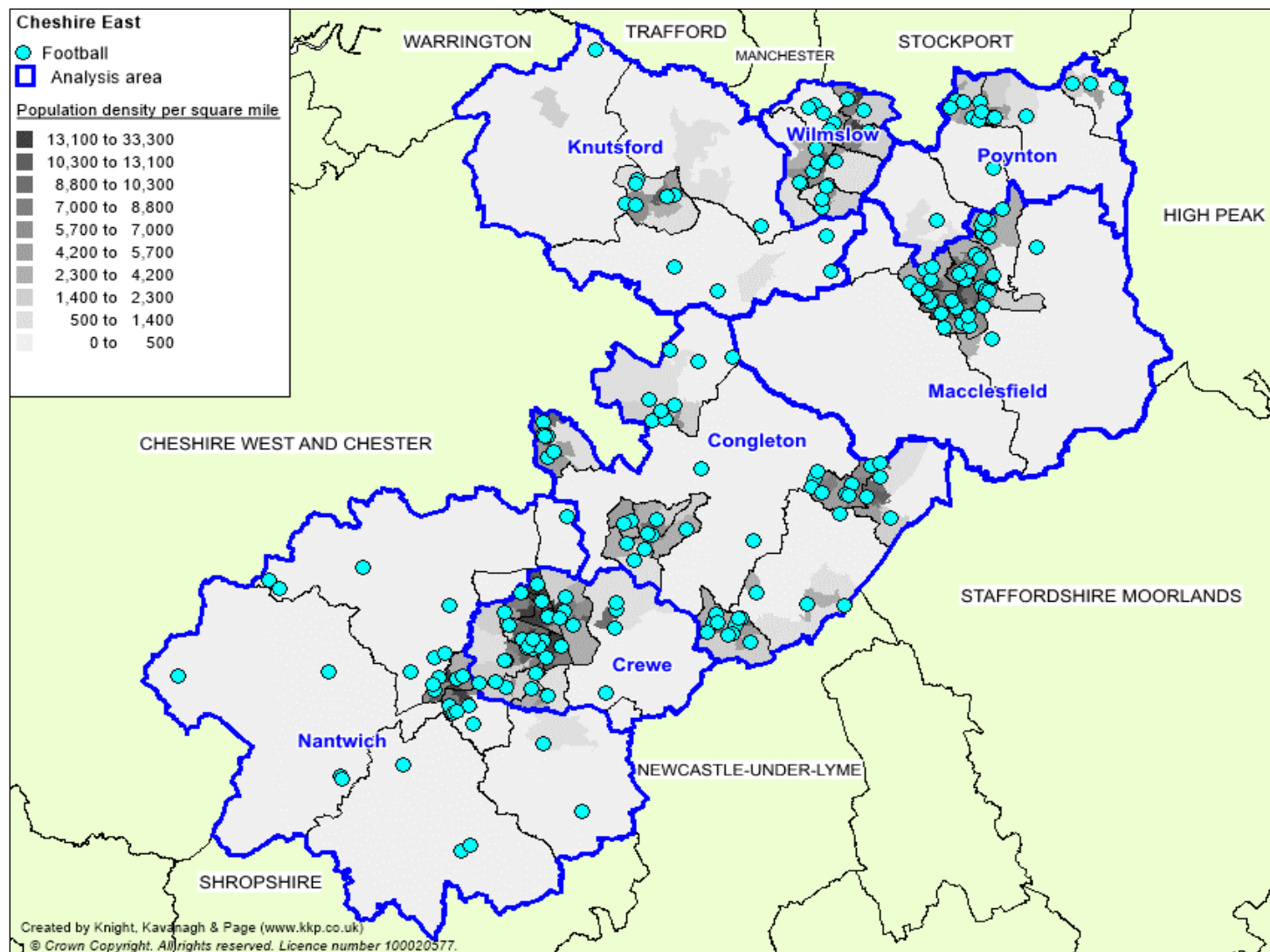
- ◀ Alsager Leisure Centre
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Cranage Playing Fields
- ◀ Deva Close
- ◀ King George V Playing Fields
- ◀ Mary Dendy Playing Fields
- ◀ Mount Vernon
- ◀ Willaston White Star Football Club
- ◀ Barony Sports Complex
- ◀ Carnival Field
- ◀ Congleton Road
- ◀ Eric Swan Sports Ground
- ◀ Jim Evison Playing Fields
- ◀ Lacey Green Pavilion
- ◀ Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)
- ◀ Sandbach Community Football Centre

Of the above Carnival Field, Cranage Playing Fields, Deva Close, King George V Playing Fields and Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School) are used solely by youth 11v11 teams. These sites can therefore provide a starting point to increase youth 11v11 provision as no adult teams would be adversely affected by a pitch re-configuration, although there may be a need to retain adult pitches should shortfalls be identified.

Figure 2.1 overleaf identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Cheshire East. For a key to the map, see Table 2.13.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Cheshire East



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future provision

The King's School is due to move to its new campus during the summer of 2020 following the sale of both its Westminster Road and Fence Avenue sites for housing. Both sites being lost contain two football pitches and whilst these will not be re-provided on a like-for-like basis, some youth pitches will be made available at Alderley Road. Despite a net loss of playing field space, Sport England had no objection to the development as alternative sports provision will be provided that is of sufficient benefit to sport to outweigh the loss of playing field (15/4286M).

Grass football pitches are to be provided to replace existing provision as part of the development of the former Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) site in addition to a full size, floodlit 3G pitch and changing rooms. Work is currently on going and the grass pitches are due to be complete in Summer 2020. The site will be known as the Alsager Sports Hub.

A proposed housing development at the Crown Estates site in Knutsford (land North of Northwich Road) consisting of 190 dwellings, includes the provision of a grass youth 11v11 football pitch. This has outline planning permission (17/3853M).

A grass adult pitch have been included as part of outline plans to create a Garden Village in Handforth, with the provision co-located with a primary school and village hall. A supplementary planning document has gone out to consultation and the proposal is currently awaiting planning permission.

Egerton Youth Club has planning permission to develop five adult pitches on land adjacent to its current site; however, the land owner has recently been granted outline planning permission for the site for a residential led scheme (making the land unavailable for playing pitches (18/3672M)). As of March 2019, the Club and Tatton Estates are finalising an agreement whereby Tatton Estates will provide a financial compensation package in return for a lease held by the Club for the parcel of land.

Poynton Sports Club is in the process of securing nearby land that will be used to relocate all on-site provision, including the football pitches. This is, however, dependent on securing planning permission and the sale of its existing site. In addition, it must also be noted that both the existing site and the alternative location are allocated sites in the SADPD.##

The development of Alderley Park will see the creation of an adult pitch and a youth 9v9 pitch. The site currently hosts an unused adult pitch, which was operated by Astra Zeneca. The new provision will be managed by ESAR and will be available to the community.

Lapsed sites

Four sites are classed as lapsed for football purposes. These previously had pitches marked out but that has not been the case for more than five years:

- ◀ Bisto Football Club (CW10 0HD)
- ◀ Cranage Hall (CW4 8EY)
- ◀ Crewe Hall (CW1 6UZ)
- ◀ Goddard Street (CW1 3BD)

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

All of the above have the potential to be re-provided, if required, as none of them have been built on or replaced by alternative provision, although Goddard Street has been the subject of numerous development proposals. That said, both Cranage Hall and Crewe Hall remain in use for other open space purposes albeit not for playing pitch purposes.

Disused sites

There are nine sites that contained football pitches at some point in the previous five years but no longer do so.

These are as follows:

- ◀ Brooke Dean Community College (SK9 3QN)
- ◀ Brook House Playing Field (CW2 6NA)
- ◀ Cedar Avenue (ST7 2QP)
- ◀ Hazelbadge Road Playing Field (SK12 1HE)
- ◀ Peover Playing Fields (WA16 8TU)
- ◀ Portland Drive (ST7 3BS)
- ◀ St John's Road (CW12 2AU)
- ◀ Wheelock Playing Field (CW11 4RD)
- ◀ Wybunbury Recreation Ground (CW5 7SD)

As with lapsed sites, all of the above have the potential to be re-provided as none of them have been built on or replaced by alternative provision. The LFFP for Cheshire East recommends that Wheelock Playing Field should be developed for small-sided recreational football.

In addition, the following sites are known to have previously contained more football pitches than they currently do:

- ◀ Alderley Park
- ◀ Haslington Playing Fields
- ◀ Sutton Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Tytherington High School
- ◀ Wrenbury Recreation Ground

Alderley Park (Club AZ) previously contained a 7v7 pitch but that is no longer the case. A needs assessment report into the development of the site concluded that the pitch should be re-provided elsewhere to a good quality. An adult pitch is still in existence albeit not currently used by the community.

Sutton Lane Playing Field now contains two adult pitches, yet it has provided up to four in previous years. Likewise, Haslington Playing Fields and Wrenbury Recreation Ground now contain just one adult pitch, whereas they all contained two in the past.

Tytherington High School contained an adult pitch on an area of land that is no longer in use due to access and drainage issues.

Informal pitches

There are a number of sites identified that do not have official football pitches marked out but could have the capacity to provide pitches if required. Many of these contain a solitary

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

goalpost or goalposts of an unofficial size but are not marked out or maintained for football use.

They are as follows:

- ◀ Alton Street
- ◀ Brookfield Park
- ◀ Green Street
- ◀ Hassall Road
- ◀ Joey the Swan Playing Fields
- ◀ Lanark Walk
- ◀ Mablins Lane Playing Field
- ◀ McLaren Street

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches in Cheshire East was assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA) and user consultation in 2016/2017 to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Where quality is known to have changed since the non-technical assessments, via consultation with the FA, clubs and the Council, the ratings have been amended accordingly.

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

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than Council parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. The maintenance of council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use. In total, 15 pitches are assessed as good quality, 166 as standard quality and 70 as poor quality.

Table 2.2: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
11	45	31	4	60	16	-	61	23

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The non-technical pitch quality audit shows that the majority of pitches are poor or standard quality, particularly at local authority sites. Poor quality local authority pitches include Back Lane, Barony Sports Complex, Haslington Playing Fields, Jim Evison Playing Fields and Mary Dendy Playing Fields.

All pitches managed by the Council receive a basic level of maintenance, which is undertaken by ANSA and is limited to fortnightly grass cutting, annual seeding and regular aeration. At present, sand-dressing, weed killing and fertilisation does not take place; however, the Council is currently in discussions with the FA in regard to improving its maintenance and machinery stock after site visits were carried out by the FA's regional pitch advisor via its Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP).

Most pitches within schools also receive basic maintenance, which in many cases is sub-contracted to an external company such as Bancroft Amenities or Countrywide. As such, the majority of school pitches are considered to be poor or standard quality, with drainage and overuse being key issues at those considered poor.

Maintenance of pitches at club sites varies. Some clubs, such as Sandbach Community Football Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club, hire dedicated ground staff, whilst others depend on remedial work by volunteers that is often limited by cost and a lack of specialised equipment.

For a full breakdown of quality ratings at each site, please refer to Table 2.9.

The LFFP for Cheshire East identified key sites considered a priority to improve, with these selected based on the rationale of identifying sites that are the poorest in quality and that are the best utilised, or that have the greatest potential for increased utilisation following quality enhancements. Emphasis is on sites with three or more pitches, although scope exists for the inclusion of smaller sites if they are deemed to be strategically important.

The following sites were identified:

- ◀ Back Lane
- ◀ Congleton Road
- ◀ Cumberland Arena (Razzer)
- ◀ Jim Evison Playing Field
- ◀ Macclesfield College
- ◀ Poynton High School
- ◀ Wilmslow High School
- ◀ Barony Sports Complex
- ◀ Cranage Playing Field
- ◀ Deva Close
- ◀ King George V Playing Fields
- ◀ Mary Dendy Playing Field
- ◀ Sutton Lane Playing Field

Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini or youth pitches may be marked onto adult pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch. Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

There are also some football pitches in Cheshire East that are dual use rugby union pitches. This can create availability issues as the rugby union and football seasons run parallel to each other.

Furthermore, numerous pitches are marked onto cricket outfields. This creates availability issues as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still on going and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played. Generally, cricket is given priorities at such sites, meaning football teams either finish their season early or have to relocate to another site.

Table 2.3: Sites containing over marked pitches

Site ID	Site	Comments
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	A youth 11v11 pitch is over marked by youth 9v9 pitch
34	Congleton High School	Two adult pitches over marked by youth 9v9 pitches and two youth 11v11 pitches over marked by mini pitches
44	Egerton Youth Club	Three youth 11v11 pitches both over marked by mini 7v7 pitches
58	Holmes Leisure Centre	An adult pitch is a dual use rugby union pitch
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	A youth 9v9 pitch and a mini 7v7 pitch over mark a cricket outfield
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	An adult pitch that is over marked by a 9v9 pitch
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	An adult pitch and a youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are dual use rugby union pitches
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch
114	Cheshire College South and West	Adult pitch that is also used for American football
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch
129	The Oaks Academy	A youth 9v9 pitch that is over marked by a mini 5v5 pitch
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	Two mini 7v7 pitches over mark the youth 11v11 pitch.
141	Wilmslow High School	An adult pitch and a youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are over marked by two 9v9 pitches
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary	A youth 9v9 pitch that is over marked by a mini 7v7 pitch
248	Jasmine Park	A youth 9v9 pitch that is over marked by two mini 7v7 pitches and a youth 11v11 pitch that is over marked by two mini 5v5 pitches

In addition, some clubs have taken to marking out pitches using cones. This is due to a lack of pitch markings at sites in the locality as well as it enabling clubs to save money on pitch hire costs. Willaston White Star FC uses cones to mark out a 9v9 pitch within its adult pitch at Willaston White Star Football Club, whereas Bollington Juniors FC uses cones to mark out 5v5 pitches at Bollington Cross Playing Field.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Ancillary facilities

The non-technical assessment assesses ancillary facilities servicing pitches. This includes the condition of clubhouses, changing accommodation, toilets, showers, car parking and boundary fencing, amongst other things.

The assessment concluded that 103 community available pitches are not serviced by accessible changing accommodation. The majority of these are found at school sites that do have on-site changing rooms but do not allow for community use of them, although some council sites are also without provision.

Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 17 are serviced by good quality facilities, 64 by standard quality facilities and 67 by poor quality facilities. The majority of changing facilities assessed as good quality are located at sports club sites, such as Sandbach Community Football Centre, although council provision at King George V Playing Fields is also assessed as good quality following relatively recent refurbishment.

In contrast, the facilities at the following sites receive a poor rating:

- ◀ Audlem Playing Fields
- ◀ Bunbury Playing Fields
- ◀ Congleton Road
- ◀ Knutsford Football Club (Manchester Road)
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club
- ◀ Sutton Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Wrenbury Recreation Ground
- ◀ Wood Park
- ◀ Bollington Recreation Ground
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Deva Close
- ◀ Goodwill Hall Playing Fields
- ◀ Mary Dendy Playing Fields
- ◀ Newtown Playing Fields
- ◀ Upcast Lane

Of particular concern are the sites containing adult pitches and either no or poor quality changing facilities, which applies to the majority of the abovementioned sites. This is because the majority of adult football leagues require sides to have access to changing facilities, otherwise, they face expulsion.

Poynton FC reports that the poor condition of the clubhouse at Poynton Sports Club is affecting its growth, especially in relation to female participation. As with adult football, female teams require access to changing facilities and the rooms must be secluded from male changing rooms and with showers and toilets enclosed.

Congleton Rovers FC states that it is working in collaboration with Congleton High School to provide new changing rooms on-site. This is considered especially important following the recent development of a full size 3G pitch and the increased traffic that it has brought to the School.

As with grass pitch improvements, the LFFP for Cheshire East identifies sites considered as priority sites for changing facility improvements. The following are included:

- ◀ Back Lane
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Congleton Road
- ◀ Cranage Playing Field

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Jim Evison Playing Field
- ◀ Macclesfield College
- ◀ Sutton Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Wood Park

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Cheshire East is generally secure, i.e. through a long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. An exception to this is found at schools and academies that state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use. In total, 58 educational providers do not allow community use of some or all of their pitches and this includes schools that have a large number of pitches such as the King's School, the Oaks Academy and Wilmslow High School.

The reasons for not allowing community use vary. The most common example is that the schools want to protect pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes due to existing quality issues. Other reasons include staffing issues, health and safety issues and a lack of profitability.

Moreover, some schools that do provide community availability do so without providing security of tenure, meaning they can stop the external use at any point devoid of any warning. To prevent this happening, it is recommended that club users enter community use agreements with the schools that they access.

Knutsford Town FC is in discussions around entering a long-term lease (30 years) at Manchester Road so that it can begin to fulfil its development plan that includes improving its existing pitch and infrastructure as well as developing additional provision.

In general, no other clubs report major issues with security of tenure; however, some do state a desire to acquire land through an asset transfer and on a long-term lease. This applies to the following:

- ◀ Crewe FC
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC
- ◀ Vale Juniors FC

Crewe FC has explored many different sites and has been in recent discussions regarding King George V Playing Fields, McLaren Street or Cumberland Arena (Razzer), whereas Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC is interested in Cranage Playing Field, which it currently accesses for some of its demand. No specific site has been identified by Vale Juniors FC.

Football pyramid demand

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

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 7 clubs.

In Cheshire East, Crewe Alexandra FC and Macclesfield Town FC are professional clubs that play above the football pyramid. A further 13 clubs play within the football pyramid, as seen in the table overleaf.

Table 2.4: Cheshire East clubs playing within the football pyramid

Step	Clubs
1	-
2	-
3	Nantwich Town FC
4	-
5	Congleton Town FC
6	Alsager Town FC (first); Sandbach United FC
7	Alsager Town FC (reserves); Congleton VR FC; Crewe FC; Egerton FC; Knutsford FC; Middlewich Town FC; Poynton FC; Styal FC; Wilmslow Albion FC

All clubs are currently able to meet their league requirements, although improvements may be needed in some instances for clubs to progress. For example, Crewe FC will be required to install turnstiles and a seated area, which is not possible at its current site (Cumberland Arena) due to it being council owned. This is the principal reason for the Club wanting to acquire its own site.

Egerton FC has enquired about making alterations to its existing full size 3G pitch in order to make it suitable for Step football. Alternatively, the Club aspires to install an additional full size 3G pitch that will replace its existing first team grass pitch.

Sandbach United FC has recently installed an additional stand at Sandbach Community Football Centre to service its main pitch that seats up to 50 people. This goes some way to ensuring that the Club can progress should it achieve promotion (it has recently been promoted from Step 7).

Alsager Town FC aspires to build a new stand at Wood Park that will contain changing rooms, a bar, a kitchen and a social area. The Club previously had plans to move sites but this fell through due to a change of developer.

As mentioned above, Knutsford Town FC has a development plan in place that states an aim to improve, expand and develop its current site, with the primary aim being to meet Step 5 ground grading criteria. Included within this are plans to erect floodlighting and a 100-seater stand as well as plans to improve the changing rooms, build a new clubhouse and storage facilities, provide new dugouts and to extend the car park.

Women's National League system

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System similar to the adult men's which provide structure to the women's game. As seen in the table below this ranges from Step 1 to Step 6 with each step requiring differing ground grading requirements.

Table 2.5: Summary of ground grading for women's football

Level	League	Grading category
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CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Level	League	Grading category
Step 3 and 4	Women's Super League 1	Grade A
Step 3 and 4	Women's Super League 2	Grade B
Step 5	Northern and Southern Women's Premier League	Grade A
Step 6	Women's Combination Leagues	Grade B
Step 7	Women's Regional Leagues – Premier Divisions	Grade C

Although women's clubs still require to meet ground requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Step 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Step 3 and 4 of the men's National League System, however, not exactly the same. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

In 2017, the FA announced plans to restructure the women's league for the highest performers in the football pyramid. The changes were implemented from the start of the 2018/2019 season and saw the top league, FA WSL 1, expand from ten clubs to 14 and the creation of a new national league established at tier two.

In Cheshire East, Crewe Alexandra Ladies FC plays in the FA Women's National League Division 1 North, which is at the fourth step of the women's pyramid. The Club also previously fielded a development squad within the pyramid; however, this team recently folded (2018).

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, 642 teams from within 121 clubs were identified as playing within Cheshire East (2018/2019 affiliation data). This consists of 133 adult men's teams, nine adult women's teams, 283 youth boys' teams, 17 youth girls' teams and 195 mini soccer teams.

Table 2.6: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Cheshire East

Analysis area	No. of teams					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Congleton	44	57	46	21	29	197
Crewe	17	22	23	41	29	132
Knutsford	19	17	12	12	12	72
Macclesfield	15	27	24	13	10	89
Nantwich	22	18	5	3	6	54
Poynton	16	11	7	-	4	38
Wilmslow	8	14	15	16	4	60
Cheshire East	142	168	132	106	94	642

NB: Please note that 2018/2019 FA affiliation data shows that 711 teams are playing in Cheshire East; however, this figure includes some demand that is playing in other local authorities such as Cheshire West and Chester and Stockport. Furthermore, it includes some adult small-sided demand as well as some disability and walking football demand that does not form part of the demand picture in the PPS as these are considered to be different formats of the game.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

It should also be noted that the large number of mini teams playing in Crewe (41 mini 7v7 teams and 29 mini 5v5 teams) can be linked to the Alexandra Soccer League using the Alexandra Soccer Centre as a central venue. This not only results in all Crewe based mini teams using the site, but also mini teams from nearby areas in Nantwich and Congleton as the League is one of the only mini soccer options servicing that part of Cheshire East.

The South Cheshire Youth League also uses a central venue system, but for youth 9v9 football rather than mini soccer. The most prominent sites used for this are Sandbach Community Football Centre and Cumberland Arena. Both the Alexandra Soccer League and the South Cheshire Youth League access 3G pitches and the use of 3G pitches for match play is particularly prominent in Cheshire East. In total, 122 teams currently play home matches on 3G pitches, which is a considerably high number when compared to other local authorities. For more information, see Part 3 of this report.

Poynton services the fewest number of teams (38 teams). The majority of teams play in Congleton (197 teams), which coincides with it containing the largest number of pitches although there are also high levels of demand in Crewe (132 teams). The most prevalent playing format is youth 11v11 football (168 teams); the least is mini 5v5 football (94 teams).

Participation trends

When compared to PPS data collated in 2016/2017, there are 85 more teams currently participating in Cheshire East, representing a significant increase, with each format of play experiencing a growth in demand. There are 11 more adult teams now than there were two seasons ago, which goes against a national trend of adult participation declining, four more youth 11v11 teams, 24 more youth 9v9 teams, six more mini 7v7 teams and 40 more mini 5v5 teams.

When studied on an analysis area basis, Congleton has seen an increase of 57 teams, Knutsford of nine teams, Macclesfield of 14 teams, Nantwich of 15 teams and Poynton of one team. In contrast, both Crewe and Wilmslow have actually seen an overall reduction in their number of teams, by three and eight teams respectively, although this is not necessarily due to teams folding but rather because of them moving to play elsewhere.

Increasing female participation is currently a key aim for the FA and it therefore reflects well on Cheshire East that the number of female teams has increased by ten since 2016/2017, from 16 to 26. There is now one more adult female team and nine more youth girls' teams.

The recent growth is a trend that has continued since 2013, when there were only 498 teams playing within Cheshire East. That said, the number of clubs then (129) has decreased (to 121), which correlates to many one team, adult only clubs folding whilst large clubs that service numerous mini and youth teams, such as Egerton, Crewe, Sandbach United and Holmes Chapel Hurricanes football clubs, have prospered and grown substantially.

Exported demand

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of Cheshire East, despite being registered to the local authority. This is normally because pitch requirements cannot be met.

Alsager Town FC has an u16s youth boys' team displaced. This is fielded at Kidsgrove Athletic Football Club in Stoke-on-Trent as there is no youth 11v11 provision at its home site (Wood Park) and no capacity on its adult pitch. The Club states that it would return to Cheshire East if possible.

Crewe Alexandra Ladies FC exports two of its teams to the Gordon Banks Sports Centre in Newcastle-under-Lyme. This is because it requires a good quality pitch for the level of football that the teams play, with it being deemed that no such available provision exists in closer proximity.

Poynton Sports Club exports some of its junior teams outside of Cheshire East to Curzon Ashton in Manchester.

In addition to the above, ten Cheshire East based clubs have youth girls' teams playing in the Cheshire Girls' League, which uses a central venue at Moss Farm in Northwich for all of its fixtures. These clubs are:

- ◀ Cheshire Blades FC
- ◀ Egerton FC
- ◀ Macclesfield Ladies FC
- ◀ Middlewich Town FC
- ◀ Vale Juniors FC
- ◀ Crewe FC
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC
- ◀ Middlewich Centurions FC
- ◀ Sandbach United FC
- ◀ Wilmslow Town FC

Similarly, Poynton, Wilmslow Sports and Alderley United football clubs have mini teams that play in Trafford, as per the central venue requirements of the Timperley and District Junior Football League. None of these clubs express a requirement for the demand to return to Cheshire East, although that could be due to the lack of an alternative league system.

All remaining exported demand is through choice rather than necessity. For example, Richmond Rovers FC is based on the Cheshire East border to Stockport, where the Club leases and accesses a site some of its mini and youth teams as well as using Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league. No clubs report this as being the case in Cheshire East.

Latent demand

During the 2016/2017 consultation process, five clubs identified that if more pitches were available at their home ground or in the local area they could develop more teams in the future (latent demand). These figures have now been re-visited and amends have been made where initial demand is known to have been realised.

Table 2.7: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club	Analysis area	Latent demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁴
Knutsford FC	Knutsford	2 x Youth	(11v11)	0.5
			(9v9)	0.5
Alsager Town FC	Congleton	2 x Youth	(9v9)	1
Nantwich Pumas FC	Nantwich	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Middlewich Town FC	Congleton	1 x Youth 2 x Mini	(9v9)	0.5
			(5v5)	1

⁴ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club	Analysis area	Latent demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions
Sandbach United FC	Congleton	2 x Youth	(9v9)	1
		2 x Mini	(7v7)	0.5
			(5v5)	0.5

All latent demand is expressed in either Congleton, Knutsford or Nantwich and the majority is for 9v9 pitches. Latent demand for 9v9 football tends to be high in most local authorities; it is the most recent format of play and therefore pitches can be sparse, with providers also reporting difficulties in attaining correctly sized goalposts.

No latent demand is expressed in relation to adult pitches.

In total, latent demand quantified by clubs equates to six match equivalent sessions, as seen in the table below.

Table 2.8: Latent demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Congleton	-	-	2.5	0.5	1.5	4.5
Crewe	-	-	-	-	-	0
Knutsford	-	0.5	0.5	-	-	1
Macclesfield	-	-	-	-	-	0
Nantwich	-	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
Poynton	-	-	-	-	-	0
Wilmslow	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cheshire East	0	0.5	3.5	0.5	1.5	6

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways. Through participation increases, using population forecasts and additional demand generated from housing growth. The latter is assessed via a range of scenarios contained within the Strategy document, with the former two detailed below.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (to 2030) based on population growth. It is predicted that there will be a possible increase of 15 youth 11v11 boys' teams and one youth 11v11 girls' team. No increases within the other formats of play are forecast.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.9: Team generation rates (2030)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population ⁵
Senior Mens (16-45)	60,629	133	1:456	59,380	130.3	0.0
Senior Women (16-45)	61,896	9	1:6877	60,034	8.7	0.0
Youth Boys (12-15)	8,408	159	1:53	9,203	174.0	15.0
Youth Girls (12-15)	8,066	9	1:896	8,728	9.7	1.0
Youth Boys (10-11)	4,538	124	1:37	4,503	123.1	0.0
Youth Girls (10-11)	4,265	8	1:533	4,283	8.0	0.0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	8,867	106	1:84	8,544	102.1	0.0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	8,593	94	1:91	8,327	91.1	0.0

The table below identifies the breakdown of the predicted growth in youth 11v11 demand when team generation rates are studied on an analysis area basis.

Table 2.10: Future demand from team generation rates by analysis area

Analysis area	Additional youth 11v11 teams generated from the increased population ⁶
Congleton	4
Crewe	2
Knutsford	2
Macclesfield	3
Nantwich	2
Poynton	1
Wilmslow	1
Cheshire East	16

As seen, each analysis area is projected to have some element of growth within this format of the game.

Whilst no other formats of play have sufficient population growth to indicate an increase in demand, it must be stated that team generation rates are based exclusively on future population forecasts and do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, they cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as club development plans, NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus on developing female participation within Cheshire and nationally which is likely to lead to more women's and girls' teams in the future.

⁵ Rounded to the nearest whole number

⁶ Rounded to the nearest whole number.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Participation increases

During the 2016/2017 consultation process, a number of clubs reported aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. These figures have now been re-visited and amends have been made where initial demand is known to have been realised, as well as incorporating some additional demand from consultation that took place for this update.

Please note that latent demand highlighted previously has been discounted from these calculations as it is presumed to be absorbed in future growth.

Table 2.11: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁷
AFC Prestbury	Macclesfield	1 x Adult		0.5
Alderley United FC	Wilmslow	2 x Youth	(11v11)	1
Bollington United Junior FC	Macclesfield	2 x Mini	(5v5)	1
Bunbury Youth FC	Nantwich	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Cheshire Blades FC	Crewe	2 x Youth	(11v11)	0.5
			(9v9)	0.5
		2 x Mini	(7v7)	0.5
			(5v5)	0.5
Cheshire Phoenix FC	Wilmslow	2 x Mini	(5v5)	1
Congleton Rovers FC	Congleton	1 x Adult		0.5
		5 x Youth	(11v11)	1.5
			(9v9)	1
		3 x Mini	(7v7)	0.5
(5v5)	1			
Crewe Cavaliers FC	Crewe	1 x Mini	(5v5)	0.5
Egerton FC	Knutsford	4 x Mini	(5v5)	2
Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC	Congleton	1 x Mini	(5v5)	0.5
Macc Vets FC	Macclesfield	1 x Adult		0.5
Nantwich Pumas Junior FC	Nantwich	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Park Royal FC	Congleton	2 x Mini	(7v7)	0.5
			(5v5)	0.5
Sandbach Curshaws FC	Congleton	1 x Youth	(11v11)	0.5
Wilmslow Town FC	Wilmslow	2 x Mini	(7v7)	1
Wistaston Athletic FC	Crewe	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5

In total, future demand is expressed by 16 clubs and amounts to 35 additional teams, which equates to 17.5 match equivalent sessions. The majority of this is identified in Congleton and on mini 5v5 pitches, although each pitch type has some expressed future demand.

Table 2.12: Future demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	

⁷ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Congleton	0.5	2	1	1	2	6.5
Crewe	-	0.5	1	0.5	1	3
Knutsford	-	-	-	-	2	2
Macclesfield	1	-	-	-	1	2
Nantwich	-	-	1	-	-	1
Poynton	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilmslow	-	1	-	1	1	3
Cheshire East	1.5	3.5	3	2.5	7	17.5

There is no quantified future demand in Poynton.

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

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

Table 2.13 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

Education sites

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

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity,

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking.

For Cheshire East, current play at primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and independent schools has been enlarged on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

Informal use

Where information is known, informal and unofficial use of pitches has been factored into current play. This is especially the case at high-traffic open access sites such as King George V Playing Fields, Back Lane and Barony Sports Complex, which are heavily used, particularly during the summer for club training purposes. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime and through retaining some spare capacity to protect quality.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Cheshire East, peak time is considered to be Sunday AM for all formats of play as this is when the majority of teams access each pitch type.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.13: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure ⁸	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁹ (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	4	2	2	0	Overplayed
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed
7	Ash Grove Academy	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
10	Audlem Playing Fields	Nantwich	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
11	Back Lane	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	4	2	2	0	Overplayed
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Poor	2	3	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	0.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
12	Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Poor	2.5	3	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
13	Beech Hall School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
14	Beechwood Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure
15	Black Firs County Primary	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
16	Bollington Cross (Atax)	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time
					Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	3	8	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time
17	Bollington Cross Playing Field	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time
19	Booth Street Stadium (Congleton Town Football Club)	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	1	Retain actual spare capacity due to level of football
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Yes	Standard	4	6	2	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
24	Buglawton Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0	No spare capacity at peak time
26	Calveley School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure
27	Carnival Field	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
30	Chorley Hall	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity
32	Alderley Park	Knutsford	Private	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure

⁸ Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in Council, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure.

⁹ Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	School	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	4	4	0	0	Played to capacity
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	6	5	1	0	Overplayed
					Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Standard	5	4	1	0	Overplayed
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	4	8	4	0	No spare capacity at peak time
					Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	4.5	8	4	0	No spare capacity at peak time
35	Congleton Road	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0.5	Actual spare capacity
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
36	Cranage Playing Fields	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time
					Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
37	Cranberry Academy	Congleton	School	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	No	Standard	2	8	-	-	Unavailable for community use
39	Cumberland Arena	Crewe	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2	3	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity
41	Deva Close	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
					Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Poynton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0	No spare capacity at peak time
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Poor	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
					Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Poor	4	4	0	0	Played to capacity
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
					Youth	(11v11)	3	Yes	Standard	10	6	4	0	Overplayed
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	6.5	2	4.5	0	Overplayed
					Mini	(7v7)	6	Yes	Standard	22.5	16	6.5	0	Overplayed
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	No	Poor	1	1	-	-	Unavailable for community use
47	Forge Fields	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
48	Goodwill Hall Playing Fields, Faddiley	Nantwich	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Congleton	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
52	Haslington Playing Fields	Crewe	Parish	Secure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
55	Hermitage Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	4.5	4	0.5	0	Overplayed
					Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
59	Holmes Chapel Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
60	Hungerford Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Poor	5.5	3	2.5	0	Overplayed
					Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Poor	5	2	3	0	Overplayed
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	0	4	4	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
62	Bunbury Playing Field	Nantwich	Parish	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	0	No spare capacity at peak time
64	King George Playing Field	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	3	1	2	0	Overplayed
65	King George V Playing Fields	Crewe	Council	Secure	Adult		4	Yes	Standard	1	8	7	3	Actual spare capacity
66	Knutsford Academy (upper)	Knutsford	School	Secure	Adult		2	Yes-unused	Poor	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
69	Lacey Green Pavilion	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
70	Lacey Green Primary Academy	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	5.5	8	2.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
71	Legends Health and Leisure Centre	Crewe	Private	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	1.5	Actual spare capacity
72	Lindow Community Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
73	Lower Park Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	8	6	2	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Adult		3	Yes-unused	Standard	3	6	3	3	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
77	Knutsford Football Club (Manchester Road)	Knutsford	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Retain actual spare capacity due to level of football
79	Marlborough Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
80	Mary Dendy Playing Fields	Knutsford	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Poor	2	3	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	4	4	0	0	Played to capacity
84	Middlewich Town Football Club	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2	3	1	1	Retain actual spare capacity due to level of football
85	Barnaby Playing Fields	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0	Overplayed
86	Milton Park	Congleton	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
88	Moss Rose Stadium (Macclesfield Town Football Club)	Macclesfield	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	No	Good	0.5	3	-	-	Unavailable for community use
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0.5	Retain actual spare capacity due to level of football
93	Newtown Playing Field	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
94	Nuffield Fitness and Wellbeing Centre (Radbroke Hall)	Knutsford	Private	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
95	Oakwood Farm	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time
96	Offley Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
98	Peover Superior Endowed Primary School	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
99	Pikemere School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure
102	Poynton High School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	No	Poor	1	1	-	-	Unavailable for community use
					Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Poor	2	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
					Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Poor	1	1	-	-	Unavailable for community use

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	2	2	1	0	Overplayed
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	College	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	4	3	1	0	Overplayed
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	School	Secure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	2	Actual spare capacity
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		5	Yes	Good	14	15	1	1	Actual spare capacity
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Good	7.5	6	1.5	0	Overplayed
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Good	3	4	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	No	Standard	1	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
					Youth	(11v11)	1	No	Standard	1	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
111	Shavington Academy	Crewe	School	Secure	Adult		2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	4	2	2	Actual spare capacity
					Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Crewe	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
					Youth	(11v11)	3	Yes-unused	Poor	3	3	0	0	Played to capacity
114	Cheshire College South and West	Crewe	College	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2	3	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity
118	St John's Wood Academy	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
					Youth	(11v11)	1	No	Standard	1	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
120	Styal Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity
121	Sutton Lane Playing Field	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
122	Terra Nova School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	8	6	2	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
123	The Berkeley Academy	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	Wilmslow	Club	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Standard	1	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
					Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
125	The Kings School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Standard	2	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
127	The Kings School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Standard	2	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
128	The Macclesfield Academy / Macclesfield College	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed
129	The Oaks Academy	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
					Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Poor	2	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
					Mini	(5v5)	2	No	Poor	2	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	Crewe	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	4	2	2	0	Overplayed
					Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	5	8	3	0	No spare capacity at peak time
132	Tytherington Pitches	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
133	Upcast Lane	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0	No spare capacity at peak time
134	Victoria Park	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
136	Weston Playing Field	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
138	Whirley Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
139	Willaston White Star Football Club	Crewe	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
140	Wilmslow Grange Primary and Nursery School	Wilmslow	School	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Adult		2	No	Standard	2	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
					Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Standard	2	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
					Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Standard	2	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	Crewe	Community	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
145	Wood Park	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity
146	Wood Park (Alsager Town Football Club)	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1	3	2	1	Retain actual spare capacity due to level of football
147	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	Nantwich	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
149	Wistaston Church Lane Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
					Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
150	Crewe Alexandra Football Club	Crewe	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	No	Good	0.5	3	-	-	Unavailable for community use
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	School	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Poor	2	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
163	Reaseheath Training Complex (Crewe Alex)	Nantwich	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	No	Good	0	6	-	-	Unavailable for community use
					Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Good	0	8	-	-	Unavailable for community use
					Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Good	0	8	-	-	Unavailable for community use
164	Acton Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
165	Adlington Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
166	Alderley Edge Community Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
167	Alsager Highfields Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
168	Ashdene Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
169	Astbury St Mary's CE Primary	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
170	Audlem St James CE Primary	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
171	Bickerton Holy Trinity Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	2	4	2	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure
172	Bollinbrook Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
173	Bollington St John's Primary	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
174	Brereton Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
175	Bridgemere Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
176	Broken Cross Community School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure
177	Bunbury Aldersey Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
178	Christ the King Primary	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0	Overplayed
179	Cledford Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
180	Daven Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
181	Dean Oaks Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
182	Disley Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
183	Elworth Hall Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
184	Elworth Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	No	Standard	2	8	-	-	Unavailable for community use
185	Excalibur Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
186	Goostrey Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
187	Haslington Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
188	Havannah Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
189	Highfields Community Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
190	Hollinhey Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
191	Hurdsfield Community Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
192	Ivy Bank Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Poor	1	1	-	-	Unavailable for community use
193	Leighton Academy	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	No	Standard	2	8	-	-	Unavailable for community use
194	Little Bollington Primary	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
195	Lostock Hall Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
196	Mablins Lane Community Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
197	Manor Park Primary School	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	2	4	2	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure
198	Marfields Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3	8	5	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
199	Middlewich Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3	8	5	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
200	Millfields Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
201	Monks Coppenhall Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
202	Mossley CE Primary	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
203	Nether Alderley Primary School	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure
204	Pear Tree Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
205	Pebble Brook Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
206	Puss Bank Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
207	Rainow Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
208	Rode Heath Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
209	Sandbach Community Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
210	Scholar Green Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
211	Shavington Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
212	Smallwood Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
213	Sound and District Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	0	Overplayed
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed
215	St Anne's Catholic Primary	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
216	St Anne's Fulshaw Primary	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
217	St Benedict's Catholic Primary	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
218	St Gabriel's Catholic Primary	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Poor	1	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
219	St John's Primary School (Sandbach)	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
220	St Mary's Primary School (Congleton)	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
221	St Mary's Primary School (Crewe)	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
222	St Mary's Primary School (Middlewich)	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
223	St Michael's Community Academy	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
224	St Odwald's Worleston Primary	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
225	St Paul's Catholic Primary	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
226	Stapeley Broad Lane Primary	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
227	Styal Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure
228	The Dingle Primary	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
229	The Quinta Academy	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
230	Upton Priory Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
231	Vernon Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	4	2	2	0	Overplayed
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	2	4	0	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
232	Vine Tree Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
					Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
233	Warmingham Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
234	Weaver Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
235	Weston Village Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
236	Wheelock Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
237	Willaston Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
238	Wistaston Green Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	-	Unavailable for community use
239	Woodcocks Well CE Primary	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Poor	1	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
240	Worth Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	8	6	2	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
241	Wrenbury Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Standard	1	2	-	-	Unavailable for community use
242	Wybunbury Delves Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
245	Cumberland Arena (Razzer)	Crewe	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
247	Prestbury Playing Fields	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
248	Jasmine Park	Macclesfield	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	4	2	2	0	Overplayed
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	1	8	7	1	Actual spare capacity
					Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	1	8	7	1	Actual spare capacity
249	Mount Vernon	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	2	1	1	0	Played to capacity
250	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
251	Dean Valley Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted; unsecure tenure
252	Gawsworth Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
253	Hurdsfield Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
254	Ilford Playing Fields	Knutsford	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Spare capacity

To determine 'actual spare capacity', each site with 'potential capacity identified in Table 2.13 has been reviewed. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criterion has consequently been discounted.

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

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality.

Unless tenure is considered secure through the operator, school sites that are currently available for community use but unused are also not considered to have actual spare capacity as the full availability of these pitches cannot be determined. Further consultation with the providers is therefore recommended to fully understand community use aspects, i.e. are the pitches available during peak time, are they available throughout the playing season and are they affordable.

Given the above, 43 pitches across 22 sites are considered to contain some level of actual spare capacity equating to 24.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.14: Summary of actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
12	Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
27	Carnival Field	Wilmslow	Adult	1	0.5
30	Chorley Hall	Wilmslow	Youth (9v9)	1	1
35	Congleton Road	Macclesfield	Adult	2	0.5
			Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
			Mini (7v7)	1	0.5
39	Cumberland Arena	Crewe	Adult	1	0.5
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Poynton	Adult	2	0.5
			Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
47	Forge Fields	Congleton	Adult	1	0.5
48	Goodwill Hall Playing Fields, Faddiley	Nantwich	Adult	1	0.5
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Congleton	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
62	Bunbury Playing Field	Nantwich	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
			Mini (5v5)	1	0.5
65	King George V Playing Fields	Crewe	Adult	4	3
71	Legends Health and Leisure Centre	Crewe	Adult	2	1.5

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
86	Milton Park	Congleton	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	Adult	1	1
			Youth (11v11)	2	2
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Congleton	Adult	5	1
111	Shavington Academy	Crewe	Adult	2	2
			Youth (11v11)	1	1
			Mini (7v7)	1	0.5
114	Cheshire College South and West	Crewe	Adult	1	0.5
120	Styal Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Adult	1	1
132	Tytherington Pitches	Macclesfield	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
			Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	Crewe	Adult	1	0.5
145	Wood Park	Congleton	Adult	1	0.5
248	Jasmine Park	Macclesfield	Mini (5v5)	2	1

Below, actual spare capacity has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type.

Table 2.15: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Congleton	2	2	-	-	-
Crewe	9	3	-	0.5	-
Knutsford	-	-	-	-	-
Macclesfield	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	1
Nantwich	0.5	-	1	-	0.5
Poynton	0.5	-	0.5	-	-
Wilmslow	1.5	-	1	-	-
Cheshire East	14	4.5	3.5	1	1.5

Each pitch type contains some level of actual spare capacity, although the majority is found on adult pitches (14 match equivalent sessions). The least is identified on mini 7v7 pitches (one match equivalent session) and mini 5v5 pitches (1.5 match equivalent sessions).

Crewe contains the most actual spare capacity when studying the analysis areas (12.5 match equivalent sessions), whilst no actual spare capacity is identified in Knutsford. Congleton has four match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity, followed by Macclesfield with 3.5 match equivalent sessions and both Nantwich and Wilmslow with two match equivalent sessions. Poynton contains one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity.

Furthermore, there are 22 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity discounted (aggregated from all pitch types) due to quality, the majority of which is identified on adult

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

pitches. An improvement in quality at these sites will therefore create more actual spare capacity.

Additionally, 51 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure. This could be made available for the community should secured community use be made available i.e. through a robust community use agreement.

When compared to 2016/2017 findings, actual spare capacity has increased by four match equivalent sessions and is identified on one additional site, although it has reduced in Congleton and in relation to youth 9v9 pitches.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain, which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches.

In Cheshire East, 46 pitches are overplayed across 30 sites by 51.5 match equivalent sessions. Of these, 16 pitches are assessed as poor quality, accounting for 19 match equivalent sessions. An improvement in quality at these sites will therefore result in a reduction of overplay.

Table 2.16: Overplay on pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Youth (11v11)	2	2
			Youth (9v9)	1	1.5
11	Back Lane	Congleton	Adult	2	2
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	Youth (11v11)	2	1
			Youth (9v9)	2	1
41	Deva Close	Poynton	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
			Youth (9v9)	1	1
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	Adult	1	1
			Youth (11v11)	3	4
			Youth (9v9)	1	4.5
			Mini (7v7)	6	6.5
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Adult	2	0.5
			Youth (11v11)	1	1
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Adult	3	2.5
			Youth (9v9)	2	3
62	Bunbury Playing Field	Nantwich	Adult	1	0.5
64	King George Playing Field	Macclesfield	Adult	1	2
85	Barnaby Playing Fields	Poynton	Adult	1	0.5
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton	Adult	1	1
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	Adult	1	1
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Congleton	Youth (11v11)	2	1.5
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	Crewe	Adult	1	2
			Youth (11v11)	1	1.5

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
139	Willaston White Star Football Club	Crewe	Adult	1	1
178	Christ the King Primary	Macclesfield	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary	Macclesfield	Youth (9v9)	1	1.5
			Mini (7v7)	1	1.5
231	Vernon Primary School	Poynton	Youth (11v11)	1	2
248	Jasmine Park	Macclesfield	Youth (11v11)	1	2
249	Mount Vernon	Poynton	Adult	1	1

Several of the overplayed pitches are at educational sites, where the main reason for overplay is a culmination of curriculum PE use, extra-curricular use including school fixtures and any additional overuse by the community. Moreover, some of the overplayed pitches are over marked by other pitch types, which intensifies the usage and either causes the overplay or makes it significantly worse (e.g. the Peacock Sports Ground and Egerton Youth Club).

The majority of overplay occurs on youth 11v11 pitches (15.5) although a high level of overplay is also present on adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches. No overplay is evident on mini 5v5 pitches.

More overplay occurs in Knutsford than any other analysis area (16 match equivalent sessions); the least amount occurs in Nantwich (1.5 match equivalent sessions).

Table 2.17: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Congleton	2.5	5.5	2.5	-	-
Crewe	3	1.5	-	-	-
Knutsford	1	4	4.5	6.5	-
Macclesfield	2	2	2	1.5	-
Nantwich	1.5	-	-	-	-
Poynton	1.5	2.5	1	-	-
Wilmslow	2.5	-	3	-	-
Cheshire East	14	15.5	13	8	0

When compared to 2016/2017 findings, overplay has increased by nine match equivalent sessions and is now identified on four additional sites. It has significantly increased in relation to mini 7v7 and youth 9v9 mini pitches and in Congleton and Knutsford, whilst a reduction is evident in Crewe and on mini 5v5 pitches.

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and any exported demand) and future demand in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Exported demand includes only the teams that express an aspiration to play within Cheshire East; future demand is based on team generation rates, which are driven by population increases, as well as club development plans and expressed latent demand.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.18: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁰	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Congleton	2	2.5	-	0.5	-	0.5	1
Crewe	9	3	-	6	-	-	6
Knutsford	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Macclesfield	0.5	2	-	1.5	-	1	2.5
Nantwich	0.5	1.5	-	1	-	-	1
Poynton	0.5	2.5	-	2	-	-	2
Wilmslow	1.5	2.5	-	1	-	-	1
Cheshire East	14	15	0	1	0	1.5	2.5

A minimal shortfall is currently evident on adult pitches amounting to one match equivalent session despite spare capacity in Crewe, with shortfalls existing in Congleton, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Nantwich, Poynton and Wilmslow. When accounting for future demand, there is an overall shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions, although spare capacity remains in Crewe.

Table 2.19: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹¹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Congleton	2	5.5	0.5	4	-	2	6
Crewe	3	1.5	1	0.5	-	0.5	0
Knutsford	-	4	-	4	0.5	-	4.5
Macclesfield	0.5	2	-	2.5	-	-	1.5
Nantwich	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
Poynton	-	2.5	-	2.5	-	-	2.5
Wilmslow	-	-	-	0	-	1	1
Cheshire East	5.5	15.5	1.5	11.5	0.5	3.5	15.5

There is a significant shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches amounting to 11.5 match equivalent sessions currently and 15.5 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand. Current shortfalls are evident in Congleton, Knutsford, Macclesfield and Poynton, with future shortfalls also identified in those analysis areas as well as Wilmslow. Nantwich is at capacity both currently and when accounting for future demand, whereas Crewe currently has minimal spare capacity but is at capacity when incorporating future demand.

In addition, please note that a further 30.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions (61 youth 11v11 teams) are recorded as taking place on adult pitches. As such, there is a clear need for an increase in youth 11v11 provision in order for this play to be transferred on to the correct pitch size without shortfalls being exacerbated. This in turn will also reduce capacity issues on adult pitches.

¹⁰ In match equivalent sessions

¹¹ In match equivalent sessions

CESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹²	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Congleton	-	2.5	-	2.5	2.5	1	6
Crewe	-	-	-	0	-	1	1
Knutsford	-	4.5	-	4.5	0.5	-	5
Macclesfield	1	2	-	1	-	-	1
Nantwich	1	-	-	1	0.5	1	0.5
Poynton	0.5	1	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
Wilmslow	1	3	-	2	-	-	2
Cheshire East	3.5	13	0	9.5	3.5	3	16

The youth 9v9 picture shows that there is a current shortfall amounting to 9.5 match equivalent sessions and a future shortfall amounting to 16 match equivalent sessions. There is also a future shortfall in each analysis area, with only Nantwich displaying current spare capacity.

Table 2.21: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹³	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Congleton	-	-	-	0	0.5	1	1.5
Crewe	0.5	-	-	0.5	-	0.5	0
Knutsford	-	6.5	-	6.5	-	-	6.5
Macclesfield	0.5	1.5	-	1	-	-	1
Nantwich	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
Poynton	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
Wilmslow	-	-	-	0	-	1	1
Cheshire East	1	8	0	7	0.5	2.5	10

There is a current shortfall of seven match equivalent sessions regarding mini 7v7 pitches, which can be mainly attributed to Knutsford and, Egerton Youth Club, with a minimal shortfall also existing in Macclesfield. When accounting for future demand, there is a shortfall of ten match equivalent sessions, with Congleton, Knutsford, Macclesfield and Wilmslow showing a shortfall and the remaining analysis areas at capacity.

¹² In match equivalent sessions

¹³ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.22: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Congleton	-	-	-	0	1.5	2	3.5
Crewe	-	-	-	0	-	1	1
Knutsford	-	-	-	0	-	2	2
Macclesfield	1	-	-	1	-	1	0
Nantwich	0.5	-	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
Poynton	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
Wilmslow	-	-	-	0	-	1	1
Cheshire East	1.5	0	0	1.5	1.5	7	7

There is current spare capacity on mini 5v5 pitches amounting to 1.5 match equivalent session. This can be attributed to Macclesfield and Nantwich, with the remaining analysis areas being at capacity. When studying future demand, there is an overall shortfall of seven match equivalent sessions, with Congleton, Crewe, Knutsford and Wilmslow operating over capacity, although minimal spare capacity remains in Nantwich.

2.6: Conclusions

Using the supply and demand analysis tables for each pitch type, it is determined that there are current shortfalls of adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches and a future shortfall of each pitch type. The biggest shortfalls are for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, with only a minimal shortfall identified for adult pitches.

Table 2.23: Summary of supply and demand balance

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity ¹⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult	14	15	-	1	-	1.5	2.5
Youth 11v11	4.5	15.5	1.5	11.5	0.5	3.5	15.5
Youth 9v9	3.5	13	-	9.5	3.5	3	16
Mini 7v7	1	8	-	7	0.5	2.5	10
Mini 5v5	1.5	-	-	1.5	1.5	7	7

In order to reduce shortfalls, there is a clear need for pitch quality improvements, which will increase pitch capacity. There is also a potential need for access to more pitches, which could be gained, for example, through access to sites currently unavailable for community use (with secure tenure provided). This is, however, dependant on the willingness of the owner/provider to allow for community use. Although often difficult to achieve, such options will be further explored in the Strategy document.

¹⁴ In match equivalent sessions

¹⁵ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

It must also be noted that many teams within Cheshire East access 3G pitches for matches, particularly 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 teams that play in either the South Cheshire Youth League or the Alexandra Soccer League due to the use of central venues. As such, if these teams were to transfer to grass pitches, shortfalls would largely increase on youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 grass pitches.

Alternatively, greater use of 3G pitches would reduce shortfalls on grass pitches, particularly if used to transfer play from overplayed sites and to accommodate expressed future demand. For this to occur, there may be a requirement for an increase in 3G provision. An analysis of the supply and demand for 3G pitches and to what extent they can address deficiencies in football is set out in the next section of this report.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Football – grass pitch summary

- ◀ **There is a current shortfall of adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches, with minimal spare capacity existing and mini 5v5 pitches.**
- ◀ **When accounting for future demand, there is a shortfall of each pitch type.**
- ◀ The audit identifies 334 grass football pitches within Cheshire East across 190 sites, of which, 251 pitches are available, for community use across 134 sites.
- ◀ Grass football pitches are to be provided to replace existing provision as part of the development of the former Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) site in addition to a full size, floodlit 3G pitch and changing rooms.
- ◀ A proposed housing development at the Crown Estates site in Knutsford consisting of 190 dwellings includes the provision of a youth 11v11 football pitch; this has outline planning permission.
- ◀ Egerton Youth Club has planning permission to develop five adult pitches on land adjacent to its current site; however, the land owner has recently been granted outline planning permission for the site for a residential led scheme (making the land unavailable for playing pitches).
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club is in negotiations with a local landowner to purchase nearby land that will be used to relocate all on-site provision, including the football pitches, although this is dependent on securing planning permission and the sale of its existing site (it must also be noted that both the existing site and the alternative location are allocated sites in the SADPD).
- ◀ There are four lapsed and nine disused sites identified.
- ◀ In total, 15 community available pitches are assessed as good quality, 166 as standard quality and 70 as poor quality.
- ◀ The LFFP for Cheshire East identifies 13 key sites for grass pitch improvements.
- ◀ Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 17 are serviced by good quality facilities, 64 by standard quality facilities and 67 by poor quality facilities.
- ◀ Congleton Rovers FC and Poynton FC report a need to improve their clubhouse facilities (at Congleton High School and Poynton Spots Club respectively), whilst the LFFP for Cheshire East identifies eight key sites for improvement.
- ◀ Crewe FC, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC and Vale Juniors FC express an aspiration to acquire their own sites on a long-term lease.
- ◀ In addition to Crewe Alexandra FC and Macclesfield Town FC, which are professional clubs, a further 13 male teams and one female team in Cheshire East play on the football pyramid.
- ◀ In total, 643 teams from within 121 clubs were identified as playing within Cheshire East consisting of 133 adult men's teams, nine adult women's teams, 283 youth boys' teams, nine youth girls' teams and 195 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ When compared to PPS data collated in 2016/2017, there are 85 more teams currently participating in Cheshire East, with each format of play experiencing a growth in demand.
- ◀ Alsager Town FC and Crewe Alexandra Ladies FC as well as Poynton Sports Club express exported demand that would prefer to play within Cheshire East.
- ◀ Five clubs report latent demand amounting to six match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Team generation rates (2030) predict a growth of 16 youth 11v11 teams, whilst future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 35 teams and 17.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ In total, 24.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exists across 22 sites in Cheshire East, with most expressed on adult pitches and in Crewe.
- ◀ Overplays occurs on 46 pitches across 30 sites equating to 51.5 match equivalent sessions.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard (IMS) tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality (previously FIFA One Star), as well as for training purposes.

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

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

Table 3.1: 3G type and sport suitability

Surface	Sport	Comments
Rubber crumb	Rugby	Long pile surface (60mm) that is compliant to World Rugby regulation 22 and/or RFL Community Standard
Rubber crumb	Football	Performance standard to meet FIFA Quality after FIFA or IMS testing with the preferred surface medium pile (55-60mm)
Rubber crumb	Hockey	Short pile surface (40mm) for lower level hockey only

3.2: Current provision

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100 x 64 metres (106 x 70 metres including run offs); however, for the purposes of this report, all pitches measuring over 100 x 60 metres (inclusive of run offs) are considered to be full size due to the amount of demand they can accommodate.

There are 12 full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East that fully comply with the above specification, consisting of five pitches in Congleton, three in Nantwich, two in Crewe and one in both Knutsford and Macclesfield. There are no full size 3G pitches in either Poynton or Wilmslow.

All full size 3G pitches are floodlit and the majority are available to the community, with the only exception being Reaseheath Training Complex as access is reserved solely for use by Crewe Alexandra FC.

For a full breakdown of the pitches, please refer to the table overleaf.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 3.2: Full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	100 x 70
6	Alsager Sports Hub	Congleton	Yes	Yes	106 x 70
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
39	Cumberland Arena	Crewe	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	Yes	Yes	100 x 70
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes	Yes	100 x 70
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)	Congleton	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	105 x 62
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Congleton	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	Nantwich	No	Yes	100 x 60

Please note that the pitch at Alsager Sports Hub is included in the table above; however, it is a new development and not yet in use. Construction has been completed but further work is being carried out as part of the site's wider development. Completion is expected Spring 2019.

In addition, there are also five smaller sized pitches servicing Cheshire East. Such pitches are generally not suitable for adult match play but can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches provided they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with adequate run-off areas.

The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football (including u17s and u18s) is 100 x 64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91 x 55 metres for u16s and u15s and 82 x 50 metres for u14s and u13s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches is 54 x 37 metres and for 5v5 pitches, it is 37 x 27 metres. All pitch sizes should also include a three-metre safety run-off area.

All smaller size pitches within Cheshire East are available to the community and they are all floodlit. Two are located in Crewe and one is located in each of Congleton, Nantwich and Poynton.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G pitches

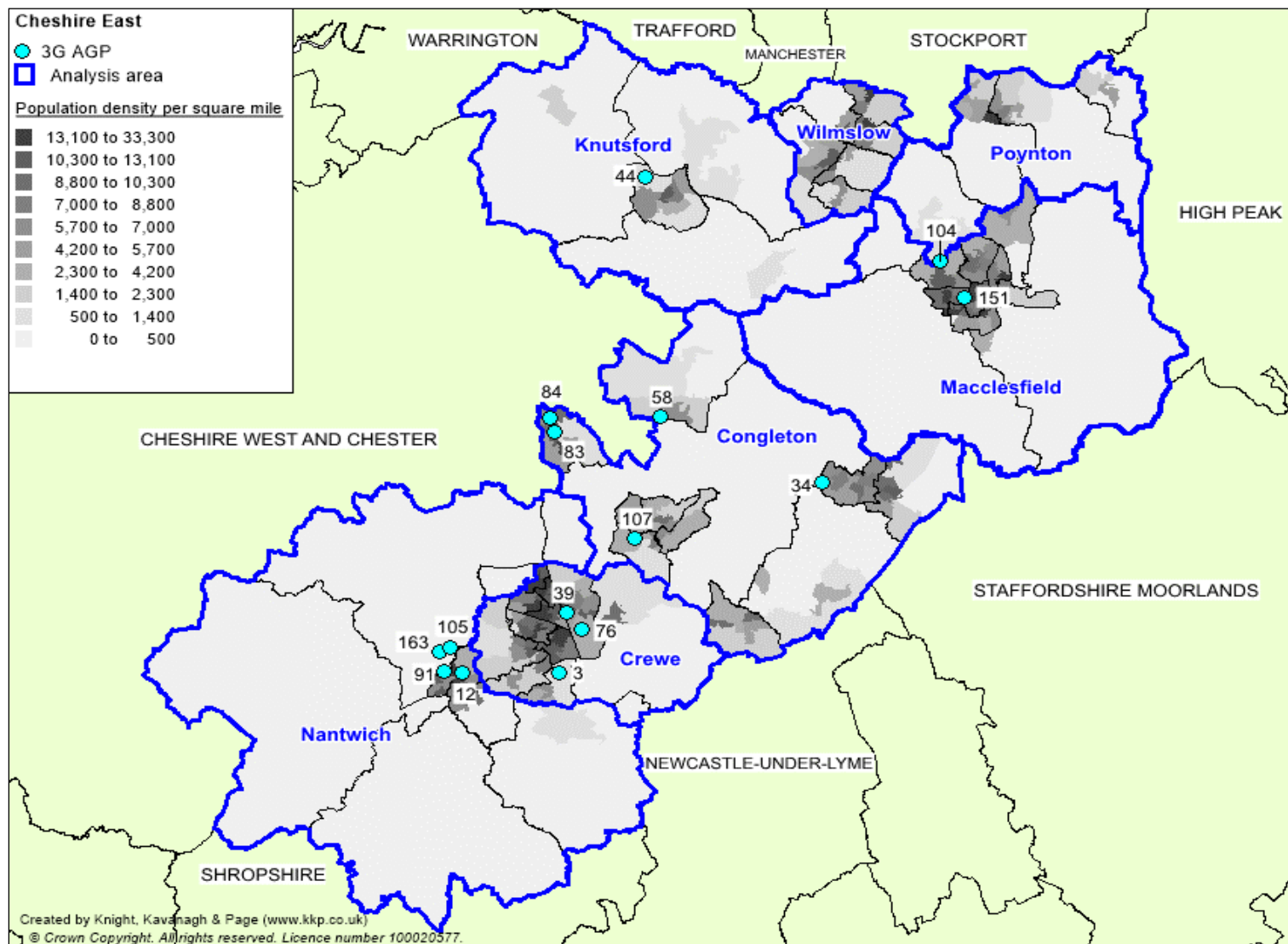
Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	50 x 44
12	Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	40 x 33
76	Manchester Metropolitan University (Cheshire Sports Centre)	Crewe	Yes	Yes	55 x 40
84	Middlewich Town Football Club	Congleton	Yes	Yes	55 x 30
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	65 x 40

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 3.1 overleaf shows the location of all 3G AGPs within Cheshire East, regardless of size.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Cheshire East



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future provision

The LFFP for Cheshire East identifies priority sites for full size 3G pitch development using the shortfalls identified in the existing PPS. The priority list is as follows:

- ◀ Cheshire College South and West
- ◀ Eaton Bank Academy
- ◀ Jim Evison Playing Fields
- ◀ Macclesfield College or Congleton Road
- ◀ Poynton High School
- ◀ Sandbach Community Football Centre
- ◀ Wilmslow High School

Of the above, a planning application has been submitted in relation to developing a full size 3G pitch at Eaton Bank Academy. Vale Juniors FC has been identified as a partner club should this development go ahead. A decision is due from the Football Foundation's funding partners in May 2019.

In addition, the LFFP identifies sites for small-sided 3G development, highlighting both Egerton Youth Club and King George V Playing Fields as potential opportunities. Egerton Youth Club is exploring the possibility of installing an additional full size 3G pitch on site, linking it to a housing development on nearby land. As of March 2019, the Club and Tatton Estates are finalising an agreement whereby Tatton Estates will provide a financial compensation package in return for a lease held by the Club for the parcel of land. The basis for this agreement is that the agreed monies would be utilised by the Club to fund an additional 3G pitch.

Given that the LFFP is a live document informed by an up-to-date PPS, it is recommended that the project list is re-assessed following this update. Given that demand has increased since 2016/2017, it is likely that 3G pitch shortfalls have increased and is determined later in this section of the report.

Outside of the LFFP, a smaller size 3G pitch (suitable for youth 9v9 football) has been included as part of outline plans to create a Garden Village in Handforth, with the provision co-located with a primary school and village hall. A supplementary planning document has gone out to consultation and the proposal is currently awaiting planning permission.

FA/FIFA approved pitches

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

Pitches undergo FIFA testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch (previously FIFA One Star) or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch (previously FIFA Two Star), with pitches commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. This comes after FIFA announced changes to 3G performance in October 2015 following consultation with member associations and licenced laboratories. The changes are part of FIFA's continued ambition to drive up performance standard in the industry and the implications are that all 3G pitches built through the FA framework will be constructed to meet the new criteria.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The changes from FIFA One Star to FIFA Quality will have minimal impact on the current hours of use guidelines, which suggests that One Star pitches place more emphasis on the product's ability to sustain acceptable performance and can typically be used for 60-85 hours per week with a lifespan of 20,000 cycles. In contrast, pitches built to FIFA Quality Pro performance standards are unlikely to provide the hours of use that some FIFA Two Star products have guaranteed in the past (previously 30-40 hours per week with a lifespan of 5,000 cycles). Typically, a FIFA Quality Pro pitch will be able to accommodate only 20-30 hours per week with appropriate maintenance due to strict performance measurements.

Clubs playing in the football pyramid on 3G pitches meeting FIFA One Star or Two Star guidelines will still be expected to certify pitches annually, however, if any pitch replacement takes place the Club will need to meet the new FIFA performance criteria of FIFA Quality/Quality Pro. Pitches below the national league pyramid require FA testing every three years.

The following full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East are currently FIFA or FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive football matches:

- ◀ Alexandra Soccer Centre
- ◀ Alsager Sports Hub
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ◀ Sandbach Community Football Centre
- ◀ All Hallows Catholic College
- ◀ Cumberland Arena
- ◀ Egerton Youth Club
- ◀ Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)

As such, Nantwich Town Football Club, Reaseheath College and Reaseheath Training Complex are not approved. Nantwich Town Football Club was previously certified, but this expired last season, whilst neither Reaseheath College nor Reaseheath Training Complex are adjudged to be in need of testing by the providers. The former is primarily used for rugby whereas the latter is reserved for pro club training activity, with any match play needs transferred to the 3G pitch at Alexandra Soccer Centre.

None of the smaller sized 3G pitches are FIFA or FA approved.

World Rugby compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability. The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA.

Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with the above specification and must be tested every two years to maintain its World Rugby compliance. In Cheshire East, Reaseheath College has undergone World Rugby testing having been installed through RFU funding.

The RFU investment strategy into 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Management

Alexandra Soccer Centre and Reaseheath Training Complex are both managed by Crewe Alexandra FC. Similarly, Egerton Youth Club, Sandbach Community Football Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club are also managed by football clubs (Egerton, Sandbach United and Nantwich Town football clubs respectively).

ESAR manages Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, Cumberland Arena and Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School), whereas Reaseheath College, Congleton High School and All Hallows Catholic College are managed internally.

When work is complete, the 3G pitch at Alsager Sports Hub will be handed over to the Council.

Availability

Availability varies for each pitch throughout the week, with some pitches reserved for curricular use until 17:00 or 18:00 from Monday to Friday and others restricted to external hirers at specific times during the weekend as home matches are being played by the managing club.

Please note that the table below relates to the availability of the pitches and not current capacity or usage levels. This is instead discussed further on in this section of the report.

Table 3.4: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	Available to the community from 10:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, from 09:00 until 19:30 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 22:00 on Sundays
6	Alsager Sports Hub	Congleton	Opening hours are currently unknown as this is a new facility still undergoing some elements of development.
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	Reserved for school use until 17:45 or 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:45 until 21:45 Monday to Thursday, from 18:00 until 21:00 on Fridays and from 09:00 until 13:00 Saturday to Sunday
39	Cumberland Arena	Crewe	Available to the community from 17:00 until 21:30 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday to Sunday
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	Available to the community every day from 09:00 until 22:00 although use is limited if Egerton FC has a home match
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Reserved for school use until 17:00 or 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays, from 18:00 until 22:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 09:00 until 17:30 Saturday to Sunday
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)	Congleton	Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 20:00 Saturday to Sunday

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	Available to the community every day from 09:00 until 22:00 although use is limited if Nantwich Town FC has a home match
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	Reserved for college use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday to Sunday
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Congleton	Available to the community from 09:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 20:00 Saturday to Sunday although use is limited if Sandbach United FC has a home match
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 17:00 Saturday to Sunday
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	Nantwich	Used solely by Crewe Alexandra FC and therefore not available for community use

Quality

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

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

Table 3.5: Age and quality of full size 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	2007	Standard
6	Alsager Sports Hub	Congleton	2019	Good
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	2016	Good
39	Cumberland Arena	Crewe	2017	Good
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	2010	Standard
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	2015	Good
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)	Congleton	2012	Standard
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	2007	Standard
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	2016	Good
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Congleton	2011	Standard
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	2014	Good
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	Nantwich	2013	Good

The 3G pitches at both Alexandra Soccer Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club are over ten years old (having been installed in 2007). Despite the ages, both pitches are currently assessed as standard quality and deemed to be useable but imminent resurfacing is recommended at both venues to prevent further deterioration.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

It is unlikely that Nantwich Town Football Club will achieve FA/FIFA testing for competitive matches without improvements, whilst re-certification at Alexandra Soccer Centre is also unlikely when its current certification period expires.

All remaining pitches are within their lifespan and all are assessed as good or standard quality, with no major issues identified.

Ancillary facilities

All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate and no issues were raised during consultation or via site assessments.

3.3: Demand

The majority of 3G provision currently servicing Cheshire East is reported as operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months. Most of the pitches that are FA approved are also heavily used during weekends for competitive matches.

The only major exceptions to the above are the pitches at Alsager Sports Hub, Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School) and Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre. The former is a new pitch with the full booking system yet to be in place, although a programme of use has been decided with AFC Alsager to be a partner club, whilst the latter two report some spare capacity remaining. It is believed that the rural nature of Middlewich and Holmes Chapel affects the level of demand, with fewer football teams playing in the surrounding areas when compared to other parts of Cheshire East.

All capacity at remaining sites is taken up, not only by sports teams for training and match purposes but also by casual users and small-sided commercial football leagues. For example, Soccer Sixes runs leagues at Cumberland Arena two nights a week (Thursdays and Sundays) as well as one night a week at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Sandbach Community Football Centre (both on Mondays), whilst Powerplay utilises Nantwich Town Football Club, Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School) and Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre for one night a week each. The Alexandra Soccer Centre runs its own leagues on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The pitches can support intensive use and as such are great assets for football use. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly used for competition, especially in Cheshire East, which the FA wholly supports.

Training demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at floodlit facilities.

Of clubs responding to consultation in 2016/2017, 27% reported that they require additional training facilities, of which 81% specifically mention demand for 3G pitches. This is a relatively low figure when compared to other local authorities, though it still suggested a significant amount of unmet demand. Many clubs accessed sand-based pitches or indoor sports halls, whilst others accessed 3G pitches but at undesirable times.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Since 2016/2017, one additional 3G pitch has been developed (at Alsager Sports Hub); however, the number of teams requiring access will have increased given the general growth of the sport identified in Part 2 of this report. As such, it is reasonable to presume that the level of unmet demand is likely to have increased over the last two years.

The FA's long term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. Based on peak time access being on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and based on full size 3G pitches being divided into thirds or quarters for training purposes, it is estimated that 38 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch.

This discounts Mondays and Fridays as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match, and also allows for other forms of access such as for small-sided commercial leagues and recreational play.

Using the above calculation, with 642 teams currently playing in Cheshire East, there is a need for 17 full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 16.8). This is an increase of four pitches when compared to 2016/2017 data. Discounting Reaseheath Training Complex, which is unavailable for community use and Reaseheath College, which prioritises rugby union use, there are presently ten pitches provided. This means a current shortfall of seven full size 3G pitches, although actual demand may be less depending on the utilisation of smaller sized pitches.

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

Local authority	Current number of teams	3G requirement ¹⁶	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Cheshire East	642	17	10	7

When considering future demand for an additional 51 teams (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there is a demand for 18 full size pitches (rounded down from 18.2), which means a future shortfall of eight pitches.

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

Local authority	Future number of teams	3G requirement ¹⁷	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
Cheshire East	693	18	10	8

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. For this, the Congleton Analysis Area has been broken down into its individual towns (Alsager, Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach) given its large size and long drive time distances. Please also note that the 3G requirement is rounded to the nearest whole number.

¹⁶ Rounded to the nearest whole number

¹⁷ Rounded to the nearest whole number

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 3.8: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement ¹⁸	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Alsager	19	1	1	-
Congleton	58	2	1	1
Crewe	132	3	2	1
Holmes Chapel	31	1	1	-
Knutsford	72	2	1	1
Macclesfield	89	2	1	1
Middlewich	13	-	1	-
Nantwich	54	1	1	-
Poynton	38	1	-	1
Sandbach	76	2	1	1
Wilmslow	60	2	-	2
Cheshire East	642	17	10	8

As a breakdown, this equates to a shortfall of two full size 3G pitches in Wilmslow and a shortfall of one in Congleton, Crewe, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Poynton and Sandbach. Alsager, Holmes Chapel and Nantwich are serviced by a sufficient number of pitches, whilst Middlewich is serviced by a full size 3G pitch despite demand not suggesting a need for one.

When factoring in future demand, the overall shortfall increases by one to nine, with the additional pitch being required to service Crewe.

Table 3.9: Future demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Future number of teams	3G requirement ¹⁹	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Alsager	21	1	1	-
Congleton	73	2	1	1
Crewe	140	4	2	2
Holmes Chapel	33	1	1	-
Knutsford	78	2	1	1
Macclesfield	94	2	1	1
Middlewich	14	-	1	-
Nantwich	56	1	1	-
Poynton	39	1	-	1
Sandbach	78	2	1	1
Wilmslow	67	2	-	2
Cheshire East	693	18	10	9

If the above figures are used, additions may be required to the 3G project list featured in Cheshire East's LFFP. The shortfalls in Congleton, Macclesfield, Poynton, Sandbach and Wilmslow will be alleviated by adhering to the LFFP; however, an additional full size pitch requires inclusion in Knutsford to meet both current and future demand, whilst an additional full size pitch requires inclusion in Crewe to meet future demand.

¹⁸ Rounded to the nearest whole number

¹⁹ Rounded to the nearest whole number

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Moving match play to 3G pitches

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

In Cheshire East, as a reminder, nine of the 12 full size 3G pitches have undergone testing and are therefore FA/FIFA approved. Nantwich Town Football Club, Reaseheath Training Complex and Reaseheath College are not FA tested.

A total of 122 teams currently play home matches on 3G pitches in Cheshire East, which is a considerably high number when compared to the majority of other local authorities. Most of these are mini or youth teams competing in either the Alexandra Soccer League or the South Cheshire Youth League as both use a central venue system for certain age groups. The Alexandra Soccer League uses Alexandra Soccer Centre for all mini matches, whereas the South Cheshire Youth League uses a variety of venues, including the 3G pitches at Cumberland Arena and Sandbach Community Football Centre, mostly for youth 9v9 matches.

Furthermore, Crewe FC uses Cumberland Arena for matches outside of the South Cheshire Youth League's central venue system, as does Sandbach United FC at Sandbach Community Football Centre. Bollington Juniors FC and Alderley United FC access All Hallows Catholic College, Congleton Rovers FC accesses Congleton High School, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC accesses Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Middlewich Town FC and AFC Middlewich Athletic access Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School). Both Nantwich Town Football Club and Egerton Youth Club are also used for matches, predominately by the respective owners (Nantwich Town FC and Egerton FC), which is an issue for the former given that it is no longer FA/FIFA approved.

Rugby

Reaseheath College provides the sole World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Cheshire East, with teams from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC using the pitch for training and occasional match play.

Macclesfield RUFC previously attempted to develop a full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Priory Park, however, planning permission was refused. In addition, Wilmslow RUFC also expresses an aspiration to develop such provision.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

For football, there is limited spare capacity on the present supply of 3G pitches when teams require access for training purposes leading to a number of clubs reporting a need for increased provision. The FA model suggests that there is a current shortfall of at least seven full size 3G pitches (eight on an analysis area basis) and a future shortfall of at least eight (nine on an analysis area basis). Given this, priority should be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches, with precedence given to areas with identified shortfalls; Congleton, Crewe, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Poynton, Sandbach and Wilmslow.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

In addition, it is important to sustain the current pitch stock to ensure that shortfalls are not exacerbated. To that end, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place and it is also recommended that all new and existing pitches undergo FA testing every three years to remain or become FA approved. This is particularly key in relation to the pitches at Nantwich Town Football Club and Alexandra Soccer Centre, which have reached the end of their lifespans.

For rugby union, further provision may be required in addition to the pitch at Reaseheath College given the identified overplay of grass pitches at sites such as Knutsford Academy, Sandbach Rugby Club and Congleton Park (see Part 5: Rugby Union).

3G summary

- ◀ **With 642 teams currently playing in Cheshire East, there is a need for 17 full size 3G pitches, meaning a current shortfall of seven pitches (discounting pitches at Reaseheath Training Complex and Reaseheath College).**
- ◀ **When considering future demand for an additional 51 teams, the shortfall increases to eight full size 3G pitches.**
- ◀ **Alternatively, if each team was to remain within their respective analysis area for training, there is a current shortfall of eight 3G pitches and a future shortfall of nine.**
- ◀ **Shortfalls are present in Congleton, Crewe, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Poynton, Sandbach and Wilmslow.**
- ◀ There are 12 full size 3G pitches within Cheshire East, all of which are floodlit and 11 of which are available to the community (Reaseheath Training Complex is not).
- ◀ In addition, there are also five smaller sized 3G pitches.
- ◀ The LFFP identifies seven potential sites for full size 3G pitch development and a further two sites for smaller sized 3G pitch development; however, this will need to be re-assessed in light of this update.
- ◀ Eight of the 11 full size 3G pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches (Nantwich Town Football Club, Reaseheath College and Reaseheath Training Complex are not).
- ◀ The pitch at Reaseheath College is World Rugby compliant and can therefore be used to accommodate competitive rugby union usage.
- ◀ Pitches at both Alexandra Soccer Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club are over ten years old (having been installed in 2007) and therefore require imminent resurfacing.
- ◀ Each FA approved pitch is in use for match play and 122 teams currently play home matches on them, which is a considerably high number when compared to the majority of other local authorities.
- ◀ Nantwich Town Football Club is also in current use for competitive matches, despite it not being on the FA register.
- ◀ For football, priority should not only be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches, with precedence placed on areas with shortfalls, but also on sustaining the current pitch stock.
- ◀ For rugby union, consideration should be given to further 3G provision given overplay of grass pitches.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

The Cheshire Cricket Board Ltd (CCB) is the main governing and representative body for Cricket within Cheshire East. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the Borough.

The CCB is currently working with the ECB on delivering its five-year plan Cricket Unleashed and laying the foundations for its new Strategy, "Inspiring Generations", which will go live from 2020.

Senior cricket is typically played in leagues on Saturday afternoons, although within Cheshire East there is also significant demand for Sunday cricket. The junior league structure tends to be club based matches that are played mid-week, meaning there is usually no conflict with access to squares as matches can be played on a variety of days (Monday-Friday). In Cheshire East, however, a lot of junior matches are also played on Sunday mornings.

Consultation

There are 35 cricket clubs playing in Cheshire East. Of these, 24 responded to consultation requests in 2017 resulting in a response rate of 67%. The table below indicates which clubs were responsive and those that were not.

Table 4.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club ²⁰	Responded?
Alderley Edge CC	Yes
Alsager CC	No
Ashley CC	No
Aston CC	Yes
Audlem CC	No
Bollington CC	Yes
Bunbury CC	No
Cholmondeley CC	Yes
Congleton CC	No
Crewe CC	No
Disley CC	Yes
Elworth CC	Yes
Haslington CC	No
Holmes Chapel CC	Yes
Kerridge CC	Yes
Knutsford CC	Yes
Langley CC	Yes
Lindow CC	Yes
Macclesfield CC	Yes
Middlewich CC	No
Mobberley CC	Yes

²⁰ Please note that when the original PPS took place there were 39 clubs; however, four have since folded.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Name of club ²⁰	Responded?
Mossley CC	Yes
Nantwich CC	Yes
Over Peover CC	Yes
Pott Shrigley CC	Yes
Poynton CC	No
Prestbury CC	No
Rode Park & Lawton CC	Yes
Rostherne CC	Yes
Sandbach CC	Yes
Styal CC	Yes
Toft CC	Yes
Weston CC	Yes
Wilmslow CC	Yes
Wistaston CC	No

Prior to this, consultation also took place between August and September 2013, with 34 out of 35 clubs responding (97%). The only club that did not respond was Holmes Chapel CC (it did respond in 2016). For the update, demand information from the original PPS was checked and challenged against ECB data, with the NGB providing an update paper in regards to the original PPS.

4.2: Supply

In total, there are 49 grass cricket squares in Cheshire East across 43 sites. All of the squares are available for community use.

As seen in the table below, the majority of grass wicket squares available for community use are found in Macclesfield (12) and Congleton (11). The least are located in Crewe and Poynton (both three). The majority of the grass wicket squares are in current use by clubs with the exception of those found at the King's School.

Table 4.2: Summary of squares available for community use

Analysis area	Squares available for community use
Congleton	11
Crewe	3
Knutsford	8
Macclesfield	12
Nantwich	7
Poynton	3
Wilmslow	5
Cheshire East	49

Junior wickets

Of the grass wicket squares in Cheshire East, 23 contains some grass wickets that can only accommodate junior demand up to the u15 age group due to their proximity from the boundary edge. Of these, 22 also provide wickets suitable for all types of play, whilst one is for junior cricket only (the second square at Elworth Cricket Club).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Non turf pitches (NTPs)

There are NTPs accompanying 14 grass wicket squares:

- ◀ Alsager Cricket Club
- ◀ Crewe Vagrants
- ◀ Eric Swan Sports Ground
- ◀ Langley Cricket Club
- ◀ Mossley Cricket Club
- ◀ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ◀ Wilmslow Leisure Centre
- ◀ Congleton Sports and Social Club
- ◀ Elworth Cricket Club
- ◀ Haslington Cricket Club
- ◀ Macclesfield Cricket Club (x2)
- ◀ Nantwich Cricket Club
- ◀ The King's School (Westminster Road)
- ◀ Weston Cricket Club

In addition, there are standalone NTPs located at the following sites:

- ◀ All Hallows Catholic College
- ◀ Brine Leas School
- ◀ Eaton Bank Academy
- ◀ Marton Primary School
- ◀ Pownall Hall School
- ◀ Ruskin Community High School
- ◀ St Thomas More Catholic High School
- ◀ Tytherington High School
- ◀ Wilmslow High School
- ◀ Alsager Leisure Centre
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Malbank School and Sixth Form College
- ◀ Nantwich Cricket Club
- ◀ Poynton High School
- ◀ Shavington High School
- ◀ The King's School (Fence Avenue (x2))
- ◀ The Oaks Academy

Of the above, only Alsager Leisure Centre, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Marton Primary School and Nantwich Cricket Club offer community use and, of those, only Nantwich Cricket Club receives any regular demand. All remaining standalone NTPs are considered to be unavailable to the community, although the majority do receive internal usage as they are located within educational sites.

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs not only assist with training (with the aid of mobile nets) but they are also frequently used for junior matches, which in turn can help reduce excessive use of grass wickets. Although only one standalone NTP in Cheshire East is recorded as accommodating junior play, the majority of those accompanying grass wicket squares are in use for this purpose.

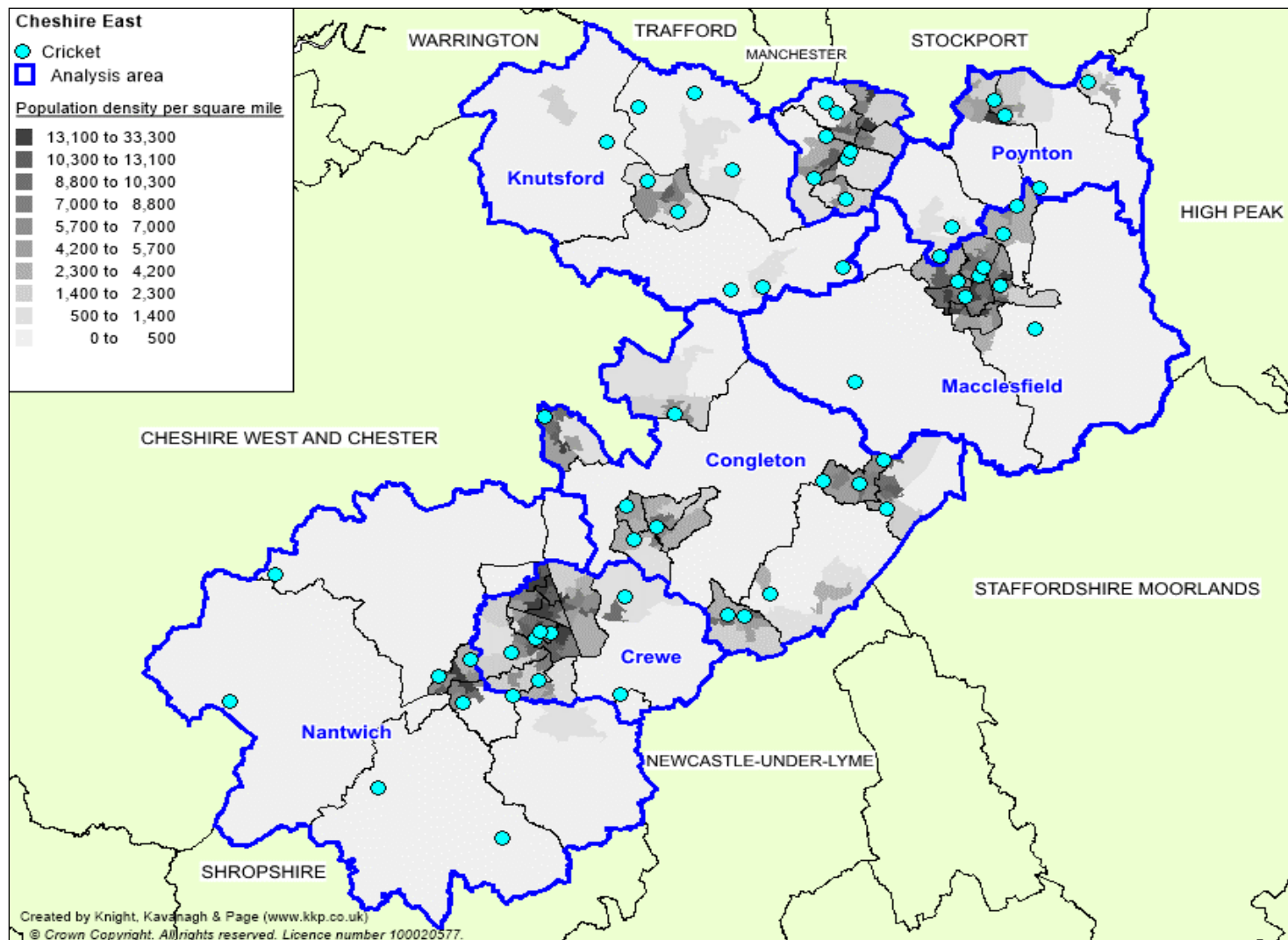
Disused wickets

Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre was previously serviced by a standalone NTP that was lost in 2015 as part of a 3G pitch development. The same also applies to Sir William Stanier School, which had a standalone NTP taken out of use in 2009 as part of Building Schools for the Future (BSF). Both schools express an interest in having replacement provision installed in order to help with curricular activity.

The map overleaf shows the location of all cricket squares (grass and non-turf) currently servicing Cheshire East. For a key to map, see Table 4.3.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches in Cheshire East



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.3: Key to map of cricket pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets		
					Senior grass	Junior grass	non-turf
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Wilmslow	Yes	1	13	6	-
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	12	-	1
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes-unused	1	-	-	1
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	15	3	-
9	Aston Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	8	6	-
18	Bollington Recreation Ground (Bollington Cricket Club)	Macclesfield	Yes	1	9	2	-
20	Toft Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	15	4	-
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	No	1	-	-	1
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	12	-	-
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	10	-	-
32	Alderley Park	Knutsford	Yes	1	10	-	-
33	Congleton Sports and Social Club (Congleton Cricket Club)	Congleton	Yes	1	6	3	1
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	No	1	-	-	1
38	Crewe Vagrants (Crewe Cricket Club)	Nantwich	Yes	1	16	2	1
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club (Disley Cricket Club)	Poynton	Yes	1	11	-	1
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	No	1	-	-	1
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	2	12	-	1
					-	3	-
50	Audlem Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	10	-	-
51	Haslington Cricket Club	Crewe	Yes	1	11	3	1
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	8	-	-
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	11	1	-
68	Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club)	Knutsford	Yes	1	15	-	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets		
					Senior grass	Junior grass	non-turf
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	2	12	-	1
					9	-	1
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Nantwich	Yes-unused	1	-	-	1
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	14	4	-
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	16	-	-
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	2	11	5	1
					-	-	1
101	Pownall Hall School	Wilmslow	No	1	-	-	1
102	Poynton High School	Poynton	No	1	-	-	1
103	Poynton Sports Club (Poynton Cricket Club)	Poynton	Yes	1	4	2	-
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	No	1	-	-	1
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	12	5	-
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	Yes	2	10	-	-
					6	-	1
111	Shavington Academy	Crewe	No	1	-	-	1
117	The King's School (Cumberland Street)	Macclesfield	Yes	1	9	-	-
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	No	1	-	-	1
120	Styal Playing Fields (Styal Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	9	1	-
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	Yes	1	4	-	1
126	The King's School (Derby Fields)	Macclesfield	Yes	3	9	-	-
					6	-	-
					3	-	-
127	The King's School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	2	-	-	1
					-	-	1
129	The Oaks Academy	Crewe	No	1	-	-	1
131	The Rectory Field (Wilmslow Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	9	1	1
135	Weston Cricket Club	Crewe	Yes	1	14	-	1
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	No	1	-	-	1

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets		
					Senior grass	Junior grass	non-turf
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club (Wilmslow Wayfarers Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	8	-	-
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground (Wistaston Sports and Leisure Ground, Church Lane)	Crewe	Yes	1	9	2	1
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	No	1	-	-	1
152	Chelford Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes-unused	1	10	-	-
153	Langley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	11	2	1
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Wilmslow	Yes	1	6	9	-
155	Marton Primary School	Macclesfield	Yes-unused	1	-	-	1
156	Mere Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	10	-	-
157	Mossley Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	5	2	1
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	11	3	-
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Poynton	Yes	1	10	3	-
160	Rode Park and Lawton Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	11	3	-
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	6	-	-
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	No	1	-	-	1
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	14	-	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future developments

The King's School is due to move to its new campus on Alderley Road during the summer of 2020 following the sale of both its Westminster Road and Fence Avenue sites for housing. Both sites contain cricket squares; however, Sport England has no objection to the development as there will be new squares and indoor cricket nets provided at the new site. The new provision is deemed to be of a greater benefit to sport. The planning application does include or impact on provision at Derby Fields or Cumberland Street.

Notwithstanding the above, a separate application has been submitted that will result in the loss of the square at Cumberland Street if approved (19/1270M). To offset this loss, an additional new cricket square will be provided at Alderley Road.

Knutsford Academy has identified adjacent land that it wishes to acquire from Crown Estates. Should this proposal take place, the School intends to supply a grass wicket square that will be available to the community. There is currently no cricket provision on site.

Poynton Sports Club is in the process of securing nearby land that will be used to relocate all on-site provision, including the cricket square. This is, however, dependent on securing planning permission and the sale of its existing site.

Nantwich, Toft and Weston cricket clubs are all exploring the development of secondary squares, however, no formal plans are in place, whilst Langley CC has an aspiration to develop its site and become a multi-sports club. It is looking into acquiring funds in order to enable this.

The wider development of Alderley Park will result in the cricket provision remaining. The site was previously operated by Astra Zeneca but will now be managed by ESAR, with community availability remaining.

Security of tenure

The majority of clubs across Cheshire East either own their home grounds or have a long-term lease arrangement in place, meaning security of tenure is provided. This is not the case, however, for Audlem, Over Peover and Prestbury cricket clubs, which currently rent squares on a rolling annual basis from local landowners, or for Bunbury CC, which has only seven years remaining on its lease, again from a local landowner. A long-term lease arrangement (25 years or more) improves the chances of clubs attracting funding that can be used to sustain and improve square quality, ancillary provision and surrounding infrastructure.

Bollington CC and Wilmslow CC rent their squares (Bollington Recreation Ground and Rectory Field respectively) on a yearly basis from the Council. This is seen as less of an issue because the Council is expected to continue providing cricketing provision at the sites used and neither club expresses any concern with the current arrangement.

Some clubs also use secondary venues through a rental agreement, either due to a lack of capacity at their main ground or to prevent overplay. Alderley Edge CC splits its excess usage across Styal Playing Fields, Sandbach CC and Haslington CC use Sandbach School (Boys), Toft CC uses Mere Cricket Club, Prestbury CC uses Kerridge Cricket Club and Ashley CC uses Rostherne Cricket Club. It is therefore recommended that secure agreements are put into place for these clubs at these venues to ensure long term access.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Macclesfield CC also splits its usage across two squares, albeit they are co-located. Its use of its second square (known locally as Parkside Cricket Ground) is currently considered unsecure as the Council is awaiting transfer of the provision as part of a planning agreement. Following this, it will be leased to the Club.

Pitch quality

The quality of cricket squares in Cheshire East was assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) and user consultation in 2016/2017 to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Where quality is known to have changed since the non-technical assessments, via consultation with the ECB, clubs and the Council, the ratings have been amended accordingly.

In total, 37 community available squares are deemed to be good quality, 11 to be standard quality and one to be poor quality. As such, there is a much higher proportion of good quality squares in Cheshire East when compared to the majority of other local authorities.

Table 4.4: Summary of pitch quality in Cheshire East

Good	Standard	Poor
37	11	1

The second square at Sandbach School (Boys) is considered poor quality predominately due to drainage issues that lead to the pitch being unplayable after inclement weather. The surface of the outfield also undulates and is uneven, making it dangerous for the fielding team. In contrast, the first square at the School is assessed as good quality as it suffers from none of the above issues and is maintained to a higher level.

The following squares are assessed as standard quality:

- ◀ Audlem Cricket Club
- ◀ Chelford Cricket Club
- ◀ Kerridge Cricket Club
- ◀ King's School (all campuses)
- ◀ Mossley Cricket Club
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club (Poynton Cricket Club)
- ◀ Rostherne Cricket Club

Of the club sites, Audlem, Kerridge, Mossley and Rostherne cricket clubs are used primarily to host UK Fast Cheshire Cricket League matches, which is the lowest level of senior club cricket within Cheshire. As such, the clubs are generally smaller and therefore have less resource to maintain the squares to comparable levels. Kerridge Cricket Club and Rostherne Cricket Club are also without covers, which makes preparation difficult following rainfall.

Poynton Cricket Club is subject to lacrosse activity when the season starts, which causes significant wear and tear on the outfield.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Chelford Cricket Club is no longer used following the host club folding. As a result, it is no longer maintained to an appropriate standard.

Although all remaining squares are assessed as good quality, several suffer from recurring issues that affect pitch condition. For example, Disley CC reports that over marked football pitches on its square (Disley Algamated Sports Club) makes post season remedial work challenging, whereas Nantwich CC reports that its square suffers from occasional drainage issues.

Macclesfield CC also cites drainage problems, particularly alongside the boundary edge of its main square, whilst Bollington CC and Wilmslow CC report that the open access nature of their squares (Bollington Recreation Ground and Rectory Field respectively) can lead to high levels of unofficial use and dog fouling.

Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club) has a development plan which has a 2-5 year aim of improving the grass soil quality on the cricket square and a 5-10 year aim of employing a dedicated groundsman in order to maintain the site to ECB standards.

Maintaining a high quality playing surface is the most important aspect of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. To obtain a full technical assessment of wickets and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment to determine whether a cricket square meets the Performance Quality Standards which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship. There are three categories of measurement that relate to the overall quality of the square: structural quality, presentational quality and playing quality. Once a square has been assessed it is given a quality rating as shown below:

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

The audit of standalone NTPs assessed two as good quality, 11 as standard and three as poor. The good quality squares are located at Macclesfield Cricket Club and Nantwich Cricket Club, whereas the poor quality ones are located at All Hallows Catholic College, Alsager Leisure Centre and Ruskin Community High School. All three poor quality NTPs have fallen into a state of disrepair and are no longer used by the respective schools, although all three providers report that they would be interested in having them refurbished or replaced for curricular purposes.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Cheshire East have access to changing facilities at their home ground, with the majority of provision considered good or standard quality. Of particular concern, however, is the condition of the clubhouse building at Mere Cricket Club, which is considered too small and poor quality.

The clubhouse at Poynton Cricket Club is also reported to be poor quality due to the age of the facility. The changing rooms are dated and therefore the layout is unsuitable, particularly for junior members.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The development plan for Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club) states an aspiration to improve the changing facilities on site. The existing provision is rated as standard albeit dated.

In terms of other ancillary issues, Lindow Cricket Club is serviced by a car park that is too small to accommodate the number of visitors received during a weekend, whereas a new development nearby to Aston Cricket Club may cause an issue to residents with the ball going over the separating tree line.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training and many clubs in Cheshire East express an aspiration for more nets to be provided or for existing nets to be improved.

Wilmslow CC is currently without nets at Rectory Field, as are Audlem and Mere cricket clubs, albeit Mere CC only fields one team so is less likely to require nets at its site. Sandbach CC currently has access to two practice nets but reports an aspiration for more to be provided.

Disley, Holmes Chapel, Knutsford and Nantwich cricket clubs all report a need for their existing practice nets to be improved, whereas Alderley Edge CC is looking to acquire a mobile net and a bowling machine to better aid with its training. For Knutsford CC, the Club wants to upgrade its existing nets and add an additional three lane facility.

Access to indoor nets during the winter is also reported as a problem by clubs. Some report that they are priced out of using facilities, whilst others cannot get access at desirable times as the majority of sports halls are dominated by other sports. The Cheshire Cricket Board Facilities Strategy 2013-2018 recognises that the provision of indoor facilities across Cheshire is of a mixed standard, with some good quality facilities but the majority being dated and in need of investment. The key indoor facilities currently used are:

- ◀ Brine Leas School
- ◀ Cheshire College South and West
- ◀ Tytherington School
- ◀ Wilmslow High School

As mentioned previously, as part of the development of the King's School, an indoor cricket centre is being created, amongst other sports facilities.

4.3: Demand

In total, there are 35 clubs competing in Cheshire East generating 287 teams (2018 affiliation data). As a breakdown, this equates to 109 senior men's, six senior women's, 166 junior boys' and six junior girls' teams.

As seen in the table below, the majority of clubs are large clubs offering several senior teams and numerous junior teams across different age levels. Only seven of the clubs do not provide a junior section and only two of these are one team clubs (Kerridge and Rostherne cricket clubs).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.5: Summary of teams

Club name	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Alderley Edge CC	Wilmslow	4	-	10	-
Alsager CC	Congleton	4	-	7	-
Ashley CC	Knutsford	6	-	5	1
Aston CC	Nantwich	2	-	4	-
Audlem CC	Nantwich	2	-	2	-
Bollington CC	Macclesfield	4	-	4	-
Bunbury CC	Nantwich	2	-	2	-
Cholmondeley CC	Nantwich	3	-	-	-
Congleton CC	Congleton	2	1	5	-
Crewe CC	Nantwich	1	-	5	-
Disley CC	Poynton	3	-	2	-
Elworth CC	Congleton	4	-	6	-
Haslington CC	Crewe	5	-	8	-
Holmes Chapel CC	Congleton	2	-	-	-
Kerridge CC	Macclesfield	1	-	-	-
Knutsford CC	Knutsford	3	-	-	-
Langley CC	Macclesfield	3	1	5	-
Lindow CC	Wilmslow	4	1	15	2
Macclesfield CC	Macclesfield	5	-	13	2
Middlewich CC	Congleton	2	-	6	-
Mobberley CC	Knutsford	4	-	7	-
Mossley CC	Congleton	2	-	3	-
Nantwich CC	Nantwich	3	1	7	-
Over Peover CC	Knutsford	3	-	1	-
Pott Shrigley CC	Knutsford	2	-	3	-
Poynton CC	Poynton	4	1	12	1
Prestbury CC	Poynton	3	-	4	-
Rode Park & Lawton CC	Congleton	2	-	6	-
Rostherne CC	Knutsford	1	-	-	-
Sandbach CC	Congleton	4	-	10	-
Styal CC	Wilmslow	3	-	-	-
Toft CC	Knutsford	5	-	8	-
Weston CC	Crewe	4	-	2	-
Wilmsow CC	Wilmslow	3	-	1	-
Wistaston CC	Crewe	4	1	3	-
Total		109	6	166	6

Congleton contains the highest number of teams (66), in part due to large clubs such as Sandbach, Alsager and Congleton cricket clubs playing within the Analysis Area. Knutsford (49 teams), Wilmslow (43 teams), Macclesfield (38 teams), and Nantwich (34 teams) and have a similar level of demand, whilst Poynton (30 teams) and Crewe (25 teams) and are serviced by the least number of teams.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.6: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of teams				Total
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	
Congleton	22	1	43	-	66
Crewe	13	1	13	-	27
Knutsford	24	-	24	1	49
Macclesfield	13	1	22	2	38
Nantwich	13	1	20	-	34
Poynton	10	1	18	1	30
Wilmslow	14	1	26	2	43
Cheshire East	109	6	166	6	287

No unmet, latent or displaced demand is recorded by any of the clubs.

Women's and girls cricket

Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years, with 8-10% of the Whole Sport Plan funding focused on women and girls and talent ID. Currently, in Cheshire East, this target is being met, with six senior women's and six junior girls' teams fielded.

The ECB's refreshed strategy called "Inspire Generations" was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

Inspire Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women's and girls' cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

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

Participation trends

In 2016, the ECB unveiled a strategic five-year plan (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success is being measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the game and the plan sets out five important headline elements: more play; great teams; inspired fans; good governance and social responsibility; strong finance and operations. Whilst a new strategy is coming in 2020 and specific details will emerge over coming months, junior cricket and women's and girls' participation will remain a focus.

The National Player Survey (NPS) conducted over the past three years by the ECB reveals that the nature of participation in traditional league cricket is currently suffering a decline, although this is being offset by a rapid increase in non-traditional formats (such as LMS and

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

T20 competitions). These are shorter, quicker formats of the game and are referenced further on in this report.

Since the original PPS was completed in 2017, participation in Cheshire East has been on the whole static, with the overall number of teams dropping from 290 to 287. This, however, does not show that many clubs have experienced significant increases in demand, only to be offset by clubs suffering a decline in participation.

The biggest increase is seen in female demand, with four more senior women's teams and four more junior girls' teams participating in Cheshire East now when compared to demand in 2017. This is a major positive given the ECB's focus on increasing female activity nationally, as set out above. In contrast, the overall number of senior men's teams has reduced by six, whilst the total number of junior boys' teams has reduced by five.

In total, nine clubs have experienced a growth in senior men's demand, four in senior women's demand, 12 in junior boys' demand and four in junior girls' demand. Conversely, nine clubs have lost senior men's teams, 16 clubs have lost junior boys' teams and one club has lost junior girls' teams (no clubs have lost senior women's teams).

Included within the above figures are clubs that existed in 2017 but that have now folded or no longer field competitive teams. This applies to Alderley Park, Chelford, Mere and Wilmslow Wayfarers cricket clubs which combined previously fielded seven teams. Of the clubs, Mere CC is the only one still in existence, occasionally playing friendly matches.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, using population forecasts and housing growth. The Strategy Report that proceeds this report contains a range of housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development.

Participation increases

When clubs were consulted in 2017, a number of clubs reported plans to increase their number of teams in the future. These figures have now been re-visited and amends have been made where initial demand is known to have been realised, as well as incorporating some additional demand from consultation that took place for this update. Where quantified, future demand amounts to an increase of four senior men's, one senior women's and two junior teams, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.7: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams		
		Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Disley CC	Poynton	1	-	1
Holmes Chapel CC	Congleton	-	-	1
Mobberley CC	Knutsford	-	1	-
Nantwich CC	Nantwich	1	-	-
Rode Park & Lawton CC	Congleton	1	-	-
Styal CC	Wilmslow	1	-	-
Total		4	1	2

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Population forecasts

In addition, team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2030) based on population growth. Using this, an increase of eight junior boys' teams is expected.

Table 4.8: Team generation rates based on population growth (2030)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population ²¹
Senior Men (18-55)	85,430	109	1:784	77,363	100.3	0.0
Senior Women (18-55)	87,897	6	1:14650	79,643	5.4	0.0
Junior Boys (7-17)	26,100	166	1:157	27,428	174.4	8.0
Junior Girls (7-17)	24,879	6	1:4147	26,044	6.3	0.0

The table below identifies the breakdown of the predicted growth in junior boys' demand when team generation rates are studied on an analysis area basis.

Table 4.9: Future demand from team generation rates by analysis area

Analysis area	Additional junior boys' teams generated from the increased population ²²
Congleton	2
Crewe	1
Knutsford	1
Macclesfield	1
Nantwich	1
Poynton	1
Wilmslow	1
Cheshire East	8

As seen, each analysis area is projected to have some element of growth within this format of the game, with two additional teams projected in Congleton and one additional team projected in each of the other analysis areas.

Whilst no other formats of play have sufficient population growth to indicate an increase in demand, it must be stated that team generation rates are based exclusively on future population forecasts and do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport.

Similarly, they cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as club development plans, NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus on developing female participation

²¹ Rounded to the nearest whole number

²² Rounded to the nearest whole number.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

within Cheshire and nationally which is likely to lead to more women's and girls' teams in the future.

Last Man Stands

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

LMS does not currently operate in Cheshire East, however, should suitable locations be available it is something that will be considered in the future as there is currently no dedicated alternative (such as a T20 league). The CCB indicates that a venue in Crewe, such as King George V Playing Fields, which has recently undergone renovation for football use, and/or Macclesfield would be best suited.

All Stars Cricket

All Stars Cricket is an initiative from the ECB aimed at providing children aged five to eight with a great first experience in cricket. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

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

A number of clubs are involved in the All Stars initiative in Cheshire East and, in the future, the ECB predicts that more clubs will register to become involved. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs and in turn have an impact on the usage and availability of provision.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturdays, with 76 teams playing on this day compared to 30 that play on Sundays and five veteran's teams that play midweek.

For junior cricket, peak time demand is considered mid-week, although some matches are scheduled on a Sunday. It should therefore be noted that mid-week cricket has the potential to be spread across numerous days (Monday-Friday) and, as a result, pitches have greater capacity to carry junior demand (providing the pitches are not overplayed).

4.4: Capacity analysis

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist due to health and safety issues. This has changed since the original PPS was carried out as previously, the capacity of each wicket was five matches per season regardless of quality. The impact of this alteration means that standard and poor quality squares in Cheshire East are now deemed to have less capacity than they did in 2017 (for the original study).

The above guidance is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

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

The ECB suggests that a non-turf wicket can accommodate 60 matches per season. As no non-turf wickets are recorded as accommodating more than this in Cheshire East, they are all considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity as they are generally accessed during mid-week by junior teams and as a result can be used on a variety of days. For this reason, non-turf wicket capacity has been discounted from the table overleaf so that it does not distort the capacity of grass wickets.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.10: Cricket pitch capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Quality	Wicket type	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	Senior	13	65	71	6
						Junior	6	30	32	2
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	Senior	12	60	62	2
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes-unused	1	Poor	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	Senior	15	75	64	11
						Junior	3	15	15	
9	Aston Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good	Senior	8	40	24	16
						Junior	6	30	24	6
18	Bollington Recreation Ground (Bollington Cricket Club)	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Good	Senior	9	45	52	7
						Junior	2	10	12	2
20	Toft Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	Senior	15	75	60	15
						Junior	4	20	16	4
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	No	1	Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good	Senior	12	60	40	20
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good	Senior	10	50	30	20
32	Alderley Park	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	Senior	10	50	30	20
33	Congleton Sports and Social Club (Congleton Cricket Club)	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	Senior	6	30	35	5
						Junior	3	15	15	
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	No	1	Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
38	Crewe Vagrants (Crewe Cricket Club)	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good	Senior	16	80	60	20
						Junior	2	10	10	
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club (Disley Cricket Club)	Poynton	Yes	1	Good	Senior	11	55	42	13
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	No	1	Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	2	Good	Senior	12	60	60	
						Junior	3	15	16	1
50	Audlem Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	Standard	Senior	10	40	24	16
51	Haslington Cricket Club	Crewe	Yes	1	Good	Senior	11	55	50	5
						Junior	3	15	15	
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	Senior	8	40	24	16
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Standard	Senior	11	44	30	14
						Junior	1	4	0	4
68	Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club)	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	Senior	15	75	36	39
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	2	Good	Senior	12	60	62	2
					Good	Senior	9	45	50	5
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Nantwich	Yes-unused	1	Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	Senior	14	70	35	35
						Junior	4	20	10	10
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	Senior	16	80	72	8
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	2	Good	Senior	11	55	60	5
					Good	Junior	5	25	20	5
					Good	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
101	Pownall Hall School	Wilmslow	No	1	Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
102	Poynton High School	Poynton	No	1	Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Quality	Wicket type	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
103	Poynton Sports Club (Poynton Cricket Club)	Poynton	Yes	1	Standard	Senior	4	16	56	40
						Junior	2	8	28	20
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	No	1	Poor	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	Senior	12	60	58	2
						Junior	5	25	20	5
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	Yes	2	Good	Senior	10	50	40	10
					Poor	Senior	6	0	10	10
111	Shavington Academy	Crewe	No	1	Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
117	The King's School (Cumberland Street)	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Standard	Senior	9	36	12	24
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	No	1	Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
120	Styal Playing Fields (Styal Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	Senior	9	45	42	3
						Junior	1	5	10	5
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	Yes-unused	1	Standard	Senior	4	16	12	4
126	The King's School (Derby Fields)	Macclesfield	Yes-unused	3	Standard	Senior	9	36	12	24
					Standard	Senior	6	24	12	12
					Standard	Senior	3	12	12	
127	The King's School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	2	Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
					Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
129	The Oaks Academy	Crewe	No	1	Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
131	The Rectory Field (Wilmslow Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	Senior	9	45	32	13
						Junior	1	5	5	
135	Weston Cricket Club	Crewe	Yes	1	Good	Senior	14	70	52	18
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	No	1	Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club (Wilmslow Wayfarers Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	Senior	8	40	0	40
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground (Wistaston Sports and Leisure Ground, Church Lane)	Crewe	Yes	1	Good	Senior	9	45	50	5
						Junior	2	10	12	2
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	No	1	Poor	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
152	Chelford Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes-unused	1	Standard	Senior	10	40	0	40
153	Langley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Good	Senior	11	55	45	10
						Junior	2	10	8	2
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	Senior	6	30	60	30
						Junior	9	45	60	15
155	Marton Primary School	Macclesfield	Yes-unused	1	Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-
156	Mere Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	Senior	10	50	30	20
157	Mossley Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Standard	Senior	5	20	20	
						Junior	2	8	8	
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	Senior	11	55	30	25
						Junior	3	15	5	10
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Poynton	Yes	1	Good	Senior	10	50	40	10
						Junior	3	15	10	5
160	Rode Park and Lawton Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	Senior	11	55	40	15
						Junior	3	15	10	5
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Standard	Senior	6	24	22	2
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	No	1	Standard	Standalone NTP	-	-	-	-

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Quality	Wicket type	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Good	Senior	14	70	34	36

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

The table overleaf ascertains whether any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'spare capacity' for both senior and junior cricket. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

There are 34 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in Cheshire East totalling 635 match equivalent sessions per season across 32 sites. Where there is a significant amount of potential capacity available, however, this may not represent actual spare capacity, i.e. whether a pitch is available at the peak time. The table overleaf therefore explores where spare capacity is identified at peak time for both senior cricket and junior cricket as this can be deemed actual spare capacity for that format of play.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.11: Summary of actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Wicket type	Amount of spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Squares available in the peak period for senior cricket (Saturday)	Squares available in the peak period for junior cricket (midweek)	Comments
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	Senior	11	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
9	Aston Cricket Club	Nantwich	1	Senior	16	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
				Junior	6	-	1	Not suitable for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
20	Toft Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	Senior	15	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
				Junior	4	0	1	Not suitable for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Nantwich	1	Senior	20	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Nantwich	1	Senior	20	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
32	Alderley Park	Knutsford	1	Senior	20	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
38	Crewe Vagrants (Crewe Cricket Club)	Nantwich	1	Senior	20	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club (Disley Cricket Club)	Poynton	1	Senior	13	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
50	Audlem Cricket Club	Nantwich	1	Senior	16	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
51	Haslington Cricket Club	Crewe	1	Senior	5	0	0	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; insufficient spare capacity for junior cricket
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Congleton	1	Senior	16	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	1	Senior	14	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity for both senior and junior cricket
				Junior	4	-	1	Not suitable for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
68	Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club)	Knutsford	1	Senior	39	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Congleton	1	Senior	35	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
				Junior	10	-	1	Not suitable for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	Senior	8	0	0	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; insufficient spare capacity for junior cricket
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich	1	Senior	5	0	0	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; insufficient spare capacity for junior cricket
				Junior	5	-	0	Unsuitable for senior cricket; insufficient spare capacity for junior cricket
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Congleton	1	Senior	2	0	0	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; insufficient spare capacity for junior cricket
				Junior	5	-	0	Unsuitable for senior cricket; insufficient spare capacity for junior cricket
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	1	Senior	10	1	1	Spare capacity for both senior and junior cricket discounted to account for school use

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Wicket type	Amount of spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Squares available in the peak period for senior cricket (Saturday)	Squares available in the peak period for junior cricket (midweek)	Comments
117	The King's School (Cumberland Street)	Macclesfield	1	Senior	24	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and to account for school use
120	Styal Playing Fields (Styal Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	1	Senior	3	0	0	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; insufficient spare capacity for junior cricket
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	1	Senior	4	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to future loss of the site
126	The King's School (Derby Fields)	Macclesfield	2	Senior	36	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and to account for school use
131	The Rectory Field (Wilmslow Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	1	Senior	13	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
135	Weston Cricket Club	Crewe	1	Senior	18	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club (Wilmslow Wayfarers Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	1	Senior	40	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time for both senior and junior cricket.
152	Chelford Cricket Club	Macclesfield	1	Senior	40	0	0	Site is no longer maintained to an appropriate level, thus, spare capacity has been discounted.
153	Langley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	1	Senior	10	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
156	Mere Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	Senior	20	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity for both senior and junior cricket
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	Senior	25	0	1	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
				Junior	10	-	1	Not suitable for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Poynton	1	Senior	10	0	1	Not suitable for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
				Junior	5	-	1	Not suitable for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
160	Rode Park and Lawton Cricket Club	Congleton	1	Senior	15	0	1	Not suitable for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
				Junior	5	-	1	Not suitable for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	Senior	2	0	0	Played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket; insufficient spare capacity for junior cricket
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	1	Senior	36	0	1	Not suitable for senior cricket; actual spare capacity for junior cricket

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Although a large amount of spare capacity is identified, it is not as simple as to aggregate this into a general oversupply of cricket squares. Of the 34 squares identified with spare capacity, only six are available for further senior cricket activity on a Saturday and only three of those can be considered as having actual spare capacity (the others are discounted due to being school based), amounting to 74 match equivalent sessions. All remaining squares are used to capacity on a Saturday with at least two teams assigned to them as a home venue.

The actual spare capacity is split across Wilmslow, Knutsford and Macclesfield, with no actual spare capacity for senior cricket existing in the remaining analysis areas.

Table 4.12: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Congleton	-
Crewe	-
Knutsford	20
Macclesfield	14
Nantwich	-
Poynton	-
Wilmslow	40
Cheshire East	74

It is worth noting, however, that more squares have spare capacity on a Sunday, meaning additional senior demand could be accommodated outside of the peak period whilst still playing within a competitive league format.

For junior cricket, 22 of the squares have actual spare capacity during midweek, totalling 488 match equivalent sessions. The reason for this being substantially higher than the capacity for senior cricket is because fixtures can be split across numerous days, meaning more than two home teams can be assigned to a square. In addition, junior teams can access all of the wickets as opposed to just the senior or junior ones. It is only therefore only clubs with a significant junior membership base that struggle for capacity, such as Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Poynton cricket clubs.

The actual spare capacity for junior cricket is evident in each analysis area, with Knutsford containing the most (146 match equivalent sessions) and Crewe containing the least (18 match equivalent sessions).

Table 4.13: Actual spare capacity for junior cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Congleton	81
Crewe	18
Knutsford	146
Macclesfield	64
Nantwich	98
Poynton	28
Wilmslow	53
Cheshire East	488

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Overplay

As guidance, all pitches receiving more than five match equivalent sessions per wicket per season are adjudged overplayed. On this basis, overplay in Cheshire East is high, with 13 squares overplayed across 12 sites by a total of 161 match equivalent sessions, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.14: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Wicket type	Overplay (matches per season)
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Wilmslow	1	Senior	6
				Junior	2
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Congleton	1	Senior	2
18	Bollington Recreation Ground (Bollington Cricket Club)	Macclesfield	1	Senior	7
				Junior	2
33	Congleton Sports and Social Club (Congleton Cricket Club)	Congleton	1	Senior	5
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Congleton	1	Junior	1
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield	2	Senior	7
103	Poynton Sports Club (Poynton Cricket Club)	Poynton	1	Senior	40
				Junior	20
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	1	Senior	10
120	Styal Playing Fields (Styal Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	1	Junior	5
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground (Wistaston Sports and Leisure Ground, Church Lane)	Crewe	1	Senior	5
				Junior	2
153	Langley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	1	Junior	2
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Wilmslow	1	Senior	30
				Junior	15

In total, wickets suitable for senior cricket are overplayed by 112 match equivalent sessions, whilst junior only wickets are overplayed by 49 match equivalent sessions (meaning overplay on wickets suitable for junior cricket equates to 161 match equivalent sessions).

For senior cricket, overplay of suitable wickets is spread across Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Poynton and Wilmslow, with the majority found in Poynton (40 match equivalent sessions) and Wilmslow (36 match equivalent sessions). No overplay is identified in Knutsford or Nantwich.

Table 4.15: Summary of overplay by analysis area for senior cricket

Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
Congleton	17
Crewe	5
Knutsford	-
Macclesfield	14
Nantwich	-
Poynton	40
Wilmslow	36

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
Cheshire East	112

For junior cricket, the picture is similar, again with no overplay identified on suitable wickets in Knutsford or Nantwich. Poynton again displays the most overplay (60 match equivalent sessions).

Table 4.16: Summary of overplay by analysis area for junior cricket

Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
Congleton	18
Crewe	7
Knutsford	-
Macclesfield	18
Nantwich	-
Poynton	60
Wilmslow	58
Cheshire East	161

Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a reduction in play is recommended on overplayed squares to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time. This is particularly key at sites that are heavily overplayed, such as Alsager, Poynton, and Lindow cricket clubs.

4.6: Conclusions

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. The tables below look at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and future demand highlighted from population increases and club-based aspirations. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for senior teams and between four and eight matches for junior teams, depending on age).

Table 4.17: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Congleton	-	17	17	12	29
Crewe	-	5	5	-	5
Knutsford	20	-	20	12	8
Macclesfield	14	14		-	
Nantwich	-	-		12	12
Poynton	-	40	40	12	52
Wilmslow	40	36	4	12	8
Cheshire East	74	112	38	60	98

As seen in the table above, there is an overall current shortfall of grass wicket squares in Cheshire East amounting to 38 match equivalent sessions for senior cricket, although spare capacity exists in Knutsford and Wilmslow. When factoring in future demand, the overall

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Cricket summary

- ◀ For senior cricket, a significant overall shortfall of squares is identified, amounting to 38 match equivalent sessions currently and 98 match equivalent sessions when factoring in future demand.
- ◀ For junior cricket, overall spare capacity exists both currently (327 match equivalent sessions) and in the future (255 match equivalent sessions); however, there remains a need to alleviate identified overplay.
- ◀ In total, there are 49 grass cricket squares in Cheshire East located across 43 sites, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ Of the grass wicket squares in Cheshire East, 23 contains some grass wickets that can only accommodate junior demand due to their proximity from the boundary edge.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at 14 sites (15 squares) and there are standalone NTPs at 17 sites.
- ◀ Standalone NTPs were previously in place at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Sir William Stanier School but are now considered to be disused.
- ◀ Tenure is considered unsecure for Audlem, Over Peover and Prestbury cricket clubs, which rent their squares on an annual basis, and for Bunbury CC, which has only seven years remaining on its lease.
- ◀ Macclesfield CC has unsecure tenure on its second square; the Council is awaiting transfer of the provision as part of a planning agreement before leasing to the Club.
- ◀ The audit of grass wicket squares found 37 community available pitches to be good quality, 11 to be standard quality and one to be poor quality (at Sandbach Boys' School).
- ◀ Of particular concern is the condition of clubhouse buildings servicing Poynton Cricket Club and Mere Cricket Club.
- ◀ Three clubs (Wilmslow, Audlem and Mere cricket clubs) are currently without access to cricket nets and four clubs (Disley, Holmes Chapel, Knutsford and Nantwich cricket clubs) express a demand for more nets to be provided.
- ◀ In total, there are 35 clubs generating 287 teams, which equates to 109 senior men's, six senior women's, 166 junior boys' and six junior girls' teams.
- ◀ Since 2017, participation has been on the whole static, with the overall number of teams dropping from 290 to 287; however, this does not show that many clubs have experienced significant increases in demand, only to be offset by clubs suffering a decline in participation.
- ◀ The biggest increase is seen in female demand, with four more senior women's teams and four more junior girls' teams participating now when compared to demand in 2017.

shortfall increases to 98 match equivalent sessions. These shortfalls are significant and require addressing.

When analysing junior demand, there is current overall spare capacity amounting to 327 match equivalent sessions albeit a shortfall is present in both Poynton and Wilmslow. When factoring in future demand, these shortfalls worsen whilst overall spare capacity reduces to 255 match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.18: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for junior cricket

Due to the overall spare capacity for junior cricket, there remains is a clear need to alleviate overplay, particularly at those sites with substantial levels of overplay. Scenarios relating to how this can be achieved will be detailed further in the Strategy document that proceeds this report.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- ◀ There is currently no Last Man Stands (LMS) operating in Cheshire East, however, it is a target area for the future, particularly in Crewe and/or Macclesfield.
- ◀ Future demand expressed by clubs equates to growth of four senior men's, one senior women's and two junior teams.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict a growth of eight junior boys' teams, with two in Congelton and one in each of the remaining analysis areas.
- ◀ Peak time demand for senior cricket is Saturday, whereas for junior cricket it is midweek.
- ◀ There are 34 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets, totalling 635 match equivalent sessions per season; however, only three of these have actual spare capacity at peak time for senior cricket.
- ◀ For junior cricket, 22 squares have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand at peak time.
- ◀ Overplay in Cheshire East is high, with 13 squares overplayed across 12 sites by 161 match equivalent sessions.

PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for rugby union. It is split into six areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. A full-time development officer is responsible for Cheshire East (as part of the Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire and North Midlands area) and works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, including working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are seven rugby union clubs in Cheshire East, all of which responded to consultation in 2016/2017 requests resulting in a 100% response rate. Crewe & Nantwich, Congleton, Macclesfield and Sandbach rugby clubs were met with face-to-face; Holmes Chapel,

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Knutsford and Wilmslow rugby clubs responded via an online survey. For the update, demand information from the original PPS was checked and challenged through consultation with the RFU.

In addition, Acton Nomads RFC also responded to consultation requests, but there is no evidence to suggest that the Club is still in existence, with no fixtures or results shown since 2017.

5.2: Supply

Within Cheshire East, there are 24 sites containing 44 senior, ten junior and ten mini rugby union pitches. Of these, 27 senior, six junior and all mini pitches are available for community use. Those not available for community use are all located at educational sites.

As seen in the table below, the large majority of community available pitches are located in Congleton (18). There are no community available pitches within Poynton, whereas only one is located within Crewe, three within Knutsford, five within Wilmslow, eight within Macclesfield and nine within Nantwich.

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

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. of mini pitches
Congleton	11	3	3
Crewe	1	-	-
Knutsford	1	2	-
Macclesfield	4	-	4
Nantwich	6	-	3
Poynton	-	-	-
Wilmslow	4	1	-
Cheshire East	27	6	10

Although there are dedicated junior and mini pitches identified, it must be noted that most junior and mini rugby traditionally takes place on over marked senior pitches. This is the case across Cheshire East, even at sites with dedicated junior/mini markings.

Disused provision

There were two senior rugby union pitches located at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that are not being re-provided as part of the wider development of the site (Alsager Sports Hub). Instead, the University has previously made improvements to the rugby pitches at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, which the University's rugby teams relocated to (although they have since relocated to Platt's Lane Complex, in Manchester). In addition, a contribution has been secured via a S106 agreement to buy maintenance equipment to ensure the pitches can be maintained to the required standard to support the amount of play, although this has yet to be pulled down by the Club. Furthermore, the following sites each previously contained one senior rugby union pitch but no longer do:

- ✦ Alsager Leisure Centre
- ✦ Barony Park Sports Complex
- ✦ Congleton High School
- ✦ Egerton Youth Club

At Alsager Leisure Centre, Congleton High School and Egerton Youth Club, each pitch that was used for rugby union is now marked out and used for football. Knutsford RUFC

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

previously used Egerton Youth Club before the Club transferred its demand to Knutsford Academy.

At Barony Park Sports Complex, the rugby union pitch was used by Acton Nomads RUFC; however, this is no longer marked out now that the Club does not compete.

Future developments

The King's School is to provide five additional rugby union pitches at Alderley Road as part of its consolidation to the site; however, both the existing junior pitches at Fence Avenue and Westminster Road will be replaced. This results in a net gain of three pitches. In addition, a new clubhouse is to be provided and a link between the School and Macclesfield RUFC has been formed via a sports development plan and community use agreement, which includes the sharing of pitches and facilities on both the new site and the adjacent existing site, as well as maintenance teams and equipment. This development involves the overall net loss of playing field, although it has been mitigated by provision of new indoor/outdoor sports facilities that is deemed to outweigh the loss by Sport England and will be of a greater benefit to rugby clubs and other pitch sport users.

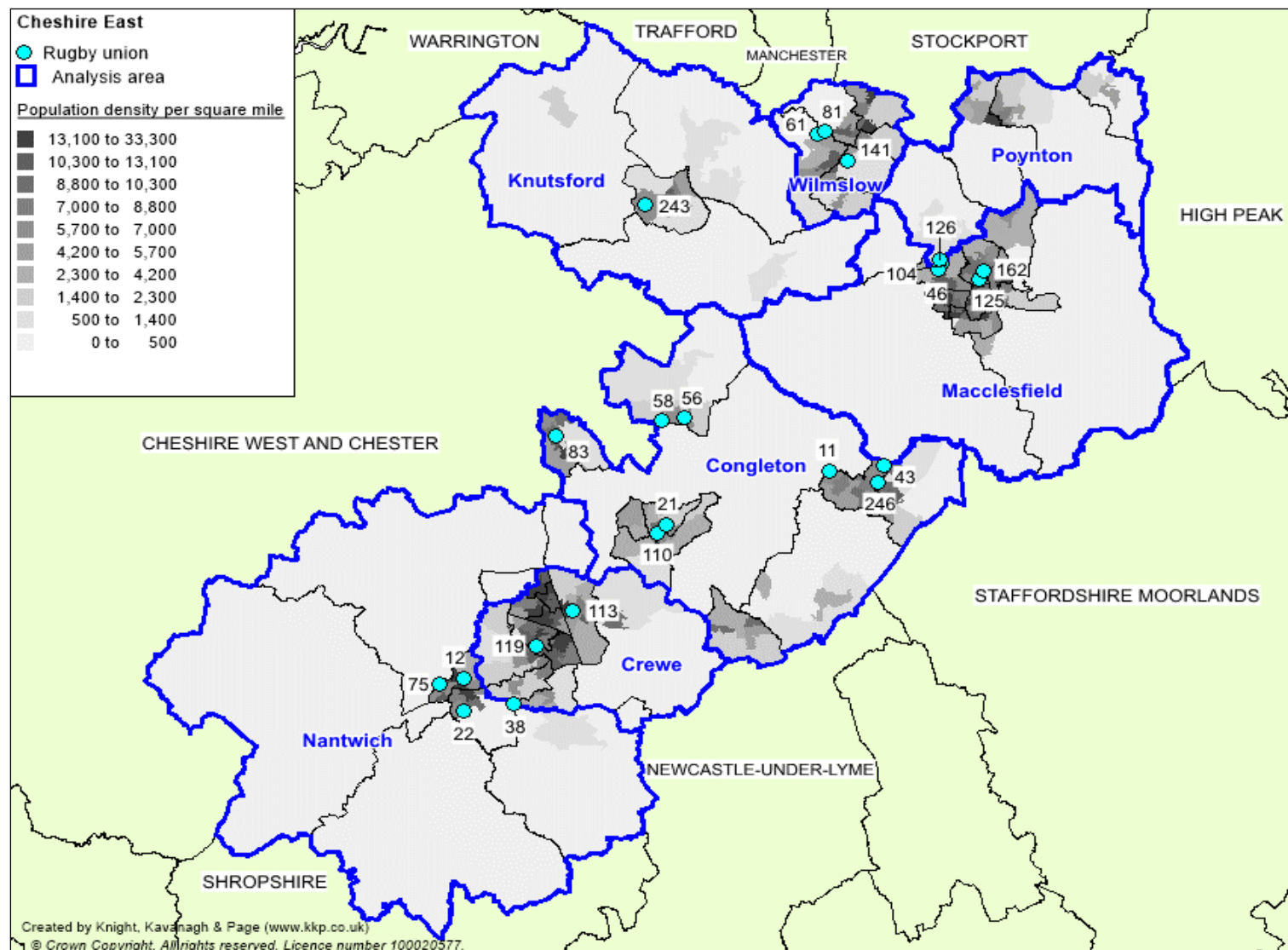
Knutsford Academy, working alongside Knutsford RUFC, has identified adjacent land that it wishes to acquire from Crown Estates. Should this proposal take place, the School intends to supply one additional senior and one additional junior rugby union pitch in addition to the one senior and one junior pitch that is currently provided. That being said, there has been no movement on this proposal in recent years.

Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) has been identified in the draft Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) as a potential site for housing. Whilst nothing has been confirmed, this could entail developing a section of the site with contributions then going towards improving rugby provision. A previous planning application along these lines was refused.

Figure 5.1 overleaf shows the location of all rugby union pitches currently servicing Cheshire East, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 5.6.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Cheshire East



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Security of tenure

Tenure is considered secure for Macclesfield RUFC, which owns Priory Park. It is also secure for Sandbach RUFC, which owns part of its site and leases the remainder from a local landowner in an agreement that has around 90 years remaining.

Security of tenure is also provided to Wilmslow RUFC, as it owns Memorial Ground. In addition, the Club accesses Jim Evison Playing Fields as a secondary venue via a yearly rental agreement from the Council. This is considered to be secure as all council facilities are deemed to be safeguarded for future sporting use.

Crewe & Nantwich RUFC owns its pitches and then operates out of Crewe Vagrant Sports Club via an annual subscription.

Holmes Chapel RUFC has only eight years remaining on its licence of Holmes Chapel Community Centre from Holmes Chapel Parish Council. It is recommended that this be increased to a 25 year lease to provide greater security of tenure and to help the Club attract funding for club and site developments.

Congleton RUFC rents Hankinson's Field, Congleton Park and Back Lane from the Council, with the Club owning its own clubhouse; a former pub within the centre of Congleton.

Knutsford RUFC rents Knutsford Academy on an annual basis from the School. To ensure prolonged use, it is recommended that the parties enter into a secure community use agreement. In order to attract funding, the club will need to obtain a lease agreement. It is recommended that this is at least 25 years in length.

Pitch quality

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements: the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated.

The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

Table 5.2: Definition of maintenance categories

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

Table 5.3: Definition of drainage categories

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.4: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

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

The quality of rugby union pitches in Cheshire East was assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the RFU) in 2016/2017; however, where quality is known to have changed since, via consultation with the RFU, clubs and the Council, the ratings have been amended accordingly.

Of the community available pitches in Cheshire East, 22 are assessed as good quality, 13 are assessed as standard quality and eight are assessed as poor quality.

Table 5.5: Quality of pitches available for community use

Senior pitches			Junior pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
14	6	7	2	3	1	6	4	-

The table overleaf shows the quality ratings for each of the pitches in Cheshire East based on a combination of non-technical site assessments and user consultation.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.6: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
11	Back Lane	Congleton	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
					Junior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Congleton	Yes	10	Senior	No	M2 / D2	Good
					Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D2	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Junior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Junior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	Yes-unused	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
28	Congleton Park	Congleton	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	Yes	6	Senior	Yes	M2 / D2	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D2	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	No	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	No	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
53	Hankinson's Field	Congleton	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Congleton	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes-unused	2	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
					Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
					Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Nantwich	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	3	Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)	Congleton	No	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Macclesfield	Yes	8	Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	No	4	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
113	Sir William Stanier School	Crewe	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	No	1	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor
125	The Kings School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	No	1	Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
126	The Kings School (Derby Fields)	Macclesfield	No	6	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
127	The Kings School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	1	Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	No	3	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	No	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
255	Booths Park	Knutsford	Yes	1	Junior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Poor quality pitches are found at the following community available sites:

- ◀ Back Lane
- ◀ Congleton Park
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ◀ Jim Evison Playing Fields
- ◀ Sir William Stanier School

Both the senior and the junior pitch at Back Lane are assessed as poor quality due to drainage issues (D0), as are the senior pitches at Jim Evison Playing Fields, Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Congleton Park. The senior pitch at Sir William Stanier School is rated as poor quality due receiving very limited maintenance (M0).

Of the poor quality pitches, both Back Lane and Congleton Park are used by Congleton RUFC, whilst Jim Evison Playing Fields is in use by Wilmslow RUFC. Neither Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre nor Sir William Stanier School are in use by clubs, despite being available, although both sites do receive use internally.

Furthermore, both St Thomas More Catholic High School and Eaton Bank Academy contain a poor quality senior pitch, albeit neither are available for community use.

Despite being assessed as good quality and despite having a pipe drainage system in place (D2), Macclesfield RUFC reports that its floodlit senior pitch suffers from drainage issues due to the clubhouse building shielding the pitch from sunlight. The Club hoped to resolve this by replacing the existing facility at a perpendicular angle in addition to other site development plans but planning permission was refused.

Other good quality pitches are found at Sandbach Rugby Club, Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) and Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club). All of these sites are maintained by clubs and therefore the maintenance regime is more specialised and more frequent than at those sites maintained by the Council or by schools.

Moreover, two senior pitches at both Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Sandbach Rugby Club (all D2) have some form of drainage installed.

Ancillary facilities

Holmes Chapel RUFC is the only club within Cheshire East to report no issues with ancillary provision. The Club rates the quality of its changing provision at Holmes Chapel Community Centre as adequate quality as recent refurbishments have taken place.

As previously mentioned, the clubhouse facility servicing Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is detrimental to pitch quality and the building itself is dated, whilst Congleton RUFC reports a need for the changing rooms servicing Back Lane to be improved. The current facilities are considered too small and are deemed unsuitable for rugby use having been built to accommodate football users.

Crewe & Nantwich RUFC aspires to refurbish its existing changing provision at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and to extend its clubhouse so that it provides two additional changing rooms, dedicated refereeing provision, a physio room and increased storage space. Furthermore, the Club is also trying to acquire funding to improve the site's car parking, both in terms of quality and size.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Knutsford RUFC reports a need for its own clubhouse in closer proximity to the pitches it uses at Knutsford Academy. Currently, the Club accesses the changing rooms at the School, which are considered to be poor quality, before using Knutsford Sports Club for post-match refreshments, travelling over a mile to do so.

Wilmslow RUFC reports that the changing rooms servicing Jim Evison Playing Fields are poor quality and are in desperate need of modernisation. The facilities at the Club's main venue, Memorial Ground, are considered adequate.

Before folding, Acton Nomads RUFC lost access to its clubhouse, a pub called the Red Lion. Due to the social aspects of rugby, clubs tend to require access to a social area that is serviced by a bar, which in turn can also generate income to help with sustainability. It is therefore likely that this contributed to the Club's demise.

5.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in Cheshire East tend to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

Competitive play

Seven rugby union clubs play within Cheshire East. The clubs are mostly large in size, with Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Wilmslow rugby clubs have a large number of teams at both senior and junior level. Holmes Chapel RUFC is the smallest club, fielding two senior teams.

As seen in the table below, there are 93 teams across the clubs, which as a breakdown equates to 22 senior, 35 junior and 36 mini teams (2018/2019 affiliation data).

Table 5.7: Summary of demand

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams		
		Senior	Junior	Mini
Congleton RUFC	Congleton	3	3	6
Crewe & Nantwich RUFC	Nantwich	4	8	6
Holmes Chapel RUFC	Congleton	2	-	-
Knutsford RUFC	Knutsford	1	4	6
Macclesfield RUFC	Macclesfield	5	6	6
Sandbach RUFC	Congleton	4	8	6
Wilmslow RUFC	Wilmslow	3	6	6
Total		22	35	36

Also included in the figures above are two senior women's team, as fielded by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and Macclesfield RUFC as well five junior girls' teams that are recorded at Crewe & Nantwich RUFC (three), Sandbach RUFC (one) and Congleton RUFC (one). Although none of the other clubs field dedicated female teams, others do have girls playing within mixed mini teams.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Most teams play within Congleton (23), which is reflective of the Area also containing the most number of pitches as well as large clubs such as Congleton RUFC and Sandbach RUFC being based here. No teams play within Poynton, which has no community available provision, although Macclesfield RUFC services the Area, or Crewe (as Crewe & Nantwich RUFC plays in Nantwich).

Table 5.8: Summary of demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior	Junior	Mini
Congleton	0	11	12
Crewe	-	-	-
Knutsford	1	4	6
Macclesfield	5	6	6
Nantwich	4	8	6
Poynton	-	-	-
Wilmslow	3	6	6
Cheshire East	22	35	36

No exported/imported, latent or unmet demand is expressed by any of the clubs.

Participation trends

There are eight less teams currently than when compared to 2016/2017 data, with an overall decline in senior (eight fewer teams) and mini (three fewer teams) participation. Nevertheless, junior participation has increased, with three more junior teams now fielded.

In addition to the loss of Acton Nomads RUFC and the transfer of demand out of Cheshire East by Manchester Metropolitan University, Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Knutsford, Sandbach and Wilmslow rugby clubs all field less senior teams now than they did two seasons ago, although Sandbach RUFC and has grown by one senior team. At junior level, Congleton RUFC has seen a decrease in participation, whereas Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Wilmslow rugby clubs have seen increases. For mini participation, Congleton RUFC has seen an increase; Knutsford, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Wilmslow rugby clubs have seen a decrease.

Training demand

Nationally, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed.

A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of floodlighting and there are seven floodlit pitches within Cheshire East. Two are located at both Sandbach Rugby Club and Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) and one is located at Booths Park, Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club).

In addition, Macclesfield Rugby Club also has access to a smaller sized, floodlit 3G pitch at Priory Park that is accessed for non-contact training, with the floodlit grass pitch being used to accommodate all remaining training demand.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

One of the two floodlit pitches at Memorial Ground is used by Wilmslow RUFC for the majority of its training demand, with other floodlit pitch mostly reserved for matches. Likewise, Sandbach RUFC accesses one of its two floodlit pitches for its training, with the other being preferred for matches. The floodlit pitch at Booths Park is utilised by Knutsford RUFC for all of its training demand.

The floodlit pitch at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is used to accommodate some training demand from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC albeit the Club mostly accesses the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Reaseheath College. The grass pitch is used during the spring and summer as artificial provision is not generally required.

The remaining clubs do not generally use match pitches for training. Instead, Holmes Chapel RUFC uses a disused bowling green at Holmes Chapel Community Centre via portable floodlights. Before this, the Club utilised the 3G pitch at Holmes Chapel Leisure but this was not ideal as it was not World Rugby compliant and therefore could not be used for full contact activity.

Congleton RUFC uses floodlighting attached to a building as well as portable floodlighting to train on an unmarked piece of land at Hankinson's Field. This has recently been re-located following the development of Congleton Leisure Centre.

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

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

As referenced, Reaseheath College provides the sole World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Cheshire East, with teams from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC using the pitch for training and occasional match play.

Macclesfield RUFC previously attempted to develop a full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Priory Park, however, planning permission was refused. In addition, Wilmslow RUFC also expresses an aspiration to develop such provision. The RFU investment strategy into AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites.

See Part 3 of this report for further information.

Additional usage

Senior pitches at the following sites are also dual use football pitches and, as such, their capacity to accommodate rugby is limited:

- ◀ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ◀ Malbank School and Sixth Form College
- ◀ Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)
- ◀ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ◀ Sir William Stanier School
- ◀ St Thomas More Catholic High School

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Although none of the above are in current use by rugby clubs, the pitches at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, Malbank School and Sixth Form College and Sir William Stanier School are available. Further to this, the pitch at Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School) is available to the community for football purposes (and used by Middlewich Town FC) but not for rugby.

Education

Rugby union is traditionally a popular sport within independent schools as is the case in Cheshire East where it is particularly prominent at the King's School.

The RFU is also active in developing rugby union in local state schools through the All Schools programme launched in September 2012. The aim is to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union, with such schools linking to a local team of RFU Rugby Development Officers (RDOs). The RDO's deliver coaching sessions and support the schools to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme.

Within Cheshire East, the following schools are part of the All Schools programme:

- ◀ Malbank School and Sixth Form College
- ◀ Ruskin Community High School
- ◀ Shavington Academy

In addition, the majority of state schools have extensive rugby union activity that is highlighted by many having access to on-site pitches. The following schools are known involve rugby union within their sporting curriculum:

- ◀ All Hallows Catholic College
- ◀ Brine Lease School
- ◀ Fallibroome Academy
- ◀ Knutsford Academy
- ◀ Poynton High School
- ◀ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ◀ Wilmslow High School
- ◀ Alsager High School
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Holmes Chapel High School
- ◀ Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)
- ◀ St Thomas More Catholic High School
- ◀ The Oaks Academy

Many of these schools also work closely with the RDO's to develop the sport and, as part of that, RFU community coaches enter the schools to deliver regular sessions. Sir William Stanier School and Eaton Bank also previously had involvement with the RFU but this is no longer the case due to staff and priority changes within the schools.

In addition, Reaseheath College has an extensive rugby programme that has been further helped with the installation of its 3G pitch. The College is a RFU Focus College.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, using population forecasts and housing growth. The Strategy Report that proceeds this report contains a range of housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Population increases

Team generation rates are used overleaf as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2030). As seen, an increase of four junior boys' and one junior girls' team is predicted.

Table 5.9: Team generation rates (2030)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate ²³	Future population within age group (2030)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population ²⁴
Senior Men's (19-45)	5,594	21	1:266	5,380	20.2	0.0
Senior Women (19-45)	5,910	2	1:2955	5,656	1.9	0.0
Junior Boys (13-18)	1,346	30	1:45	1,506	33.6	4.0
Junior Girls (13-18)	1,265	5	1:253	1,382	5.5	1.0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	2,773	36	1:77	2,756	35.8	0.0

When broken down by analysis area, it is estimated that the growth of five junior teams will equate to one team in each of Congleton, Knutsford, Sandbach, Poynton and Wilmslow.

Please note that team generation rates do not take into account current RFU initiatives or contextual events. For example, the RFU is currently driving to increase female participation across the country and the creation of additional women's and girls' teams is a focus area for the NGB. As a result, future demand for such activity could be higher than what is suggested via the use of team generation rates.

Participation increases

When clubs were consulted in 2017, a number of clubs reported plans to increase their number of teams in the future. These figures have now been re-visited and amends have been made where initial demand is known to have been realised, as well as incorporating some additional demand from consultation that took place for this update.

The following four clubs within Cheshire East have known future demand:

- ◀ Crewe & Nantwich RUFC
- ◀ Holmes Chapel RUFC
- ◀ Macclesfield RUFC
- ◀ Wilmslow RUFC

Macclesfield RUFC reports an intention to expand by one additional junior boys' team in addition to the creation of a junior girls' section. The Club, however, states that the condition of its clubhouse is preventing female participation.

Crewe & Nantwich RUFC plans to increase by one senior men's team and one junior girls' team. The Club did previously field an additional men's team but this folded due to a lack of interest.

²⁴ Rounded to nearest whole number

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Wilmslow RUFC states that it expects to increase its number of teams by one senior men's (veterans') and one mini team, whilst the RFU reports that Holmes Chapel RUFC plans on setting up a junior section.

The peak period

In order to establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be determined. Peak time for senior rugby union matches in Cheshire East is Saturday afternoons, although junior and mini teams also access senior pitches on Sundays. Peak time is Sunday mornings for junior and mini rugby; for women's and girls' rugby, it is Sunday afternoons.

5.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times. To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site-by-site analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ Use of school pitches by schools reduces potential capacity.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where dedicated mini and junior pitches are provided).
- ◀ From u13s upwards, teams play 15v15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (u6-u12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch
- ◀ For senior and junior teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.
- ◀ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch.
- ◀ Senior rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Colt's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Women's and girls' rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ◀ Training taking place on pitches is met by the addition of match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate:

Table 5.10: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.11: Rugby union provision and level of community use within Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
11	Back Lane	Congleton	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	2.5	1.5	1	A senior pitch that is used by Congleton RUFC and overplayed by one match equivalent session
				Junior	No	Poor	1.5	1.5		A junior pitch that is used by Congleton RUFC and played to capacity
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Congleton	Yes	Senior	No	Good	1	3.25	2.25	A senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC and generally reserved for first team fixtures with spare capacity of 2.25 match equivalent sessions
				Senior	Yes	Good	5	3	2	A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC to accommodate training demand; overplayed by two match equivalent sessions
				Senior	Yes	Good	3	3		A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC mostly for matches and occasional training demand; played to capacity.
				Senior	No	Good	3.25	3.25		A senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC and played to capacity
				Senior	No	Good	3	3		A senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC and played to capacity
				Junior	No	Good	3	3		A junior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC and played to capacity
				Junior	No	Good	3	3		A junior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC and played to capacity
				Mini	No	Good	1	3	2	A mini pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Mini	No	Good	1	3	2	A mini pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	Yes-unused	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	1	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match session; however, one match session of spare capacity remains
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	1	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match session; however, one match session of spare capacity remains
28	Congleton Park	Congleton	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	3	1.5	1.5	A senior pitch that is used by Congleton RUFC and overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	Yes	Senior	Yes	Good	4	2.75	1.25	A floodlit senior pitch that is used to accommodate training demand from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC; overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions
				Senior	No	Good	2.5	3.25	1.25	A senior pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and generally reserved for first team fixtures; spare capacity of 1.25 match equivalent sessions
				Senior	No	Good	2.5	3	0.5	A senior pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC; spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
				Mini	No	Good	2	3	1	A mini pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Mini	No	Good	2	3	1	A mini pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Mini	No	Good	2	3	1	A mini pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	No	Senior	No	Poor	-	0.5	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
53	Hankinson's Field	Congleton	No	Senior	No	Standard	3	2	1	A senior pitch accessed by Congleton RUFC and played to capacity

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Congleton	Yes	Senior	No	Standard	1	2	1	A senior pitch that is used by Holmes Chapel RUFC with one match equivalent sessions of spare capacity
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes-unused	Senior	No	Poor	-	-		A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused; school usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
				Senior	No	Poor	-	0.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused; school usage reduces capacity by one match session, with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity remaining
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	1	1.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity
				Senior	No	Poor	1	1.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Nantwich	Yes-unused	Senior	No	Standard	-	-		A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused; school usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	Senior	Yes	Good	3	3		A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC to mostly accommodate its match demand but also some training demand; played to capacity
				Senior	Yes	Good	3	3		A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC to accommodate its training demand; played to capacity
				Junior	No	Standard	2	2		A junior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC and used to capacity
83	Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre)	Congleton	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use; school and community football usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Macclesfield	Yes	Senior	Yes	Good	4.5	3	1.5	A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC to accommodate its training demand; overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions
				Senior	No	Good	2	3	1	A senior pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Senior	No	Good	2	3	1	A senior pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Senior	No	Good	2	3	1	A senior pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match session of spare capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match session of spare capacity
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use. School usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
				Senior	No	Standard	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use. School usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
113	Sir William Stanier School	Crewe	Yes-unused	Senior	No	Poor	-	-		A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use; school and community football usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	No	Senior	No	Poor	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use; school usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
125	The Kings School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
126	The Kings School (Derby Fields)	Macclesfield	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Junior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Junior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A junior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
127	The Kings School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	0.5	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	No	Senior	No	Poor	-	0.5	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community; school usage reduces capacity by one match session
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	Yes	Senior	No	Standard	3	1	2	A senior pitch that is used by Knutsford RUFC and overplayed by two match equivalent sessions, with school usage reducing capacity by one match session
				Junior	No	Standard	3	1	2	A senior pitch that is used by Knutsford RUFC and overplayed by two match equivalent sessions, with school usage reducing capacity by one match session
255	Booths Park	Knutsford	Yes	Junior	Yes	Standard	2	2		A junior pitch used by Knutsford RUFC for all of its training demand and played to capacity.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Spare capacity

'Actual spare capacity' has been ascertained following review of identified 'potential capacity' in Table 5.11. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Despite 12 senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play, only three are available for further use during the peak period for senior rugby (Saturday PM). As seen in the table below, this equates to 1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity, as opposed to 11.5 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity.

Table 5.12: Summary of actual spare capacity on senior pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Potential capacity	Actual capacity	Comments
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Congleton	2.25	-	Used to capacity at peak time
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	1	-	No spare capacity considered due to school use
			1	-	No spare capacity considered due to school use
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	1.25	-	Used to capacity at peak time
			0.5	-	Used to capacity at peak time
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Congleton	1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	0.5	-	No spare capacity considered due to school use
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	0.5	0.5	Currently used by just one senior team meaning actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains
			0.5	0.5	Currently used by just one senior team meaning actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Macclesfield	1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
			1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
			1	0.5	Currently used by just one senior team meaning actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The pitches with actual spare capacity are located at Jim Evison Playing Fields (two pitches) and Priory Park (one pitch).

For junior and mini rugby union, the programming of matches can be unclear in regards to ascertaining actual spare capacity, especially at peak time as the number of matches played varies from week to week. Teams do not play regular matches as part of a league format; rather, clubs enter cup competitions or organise for their younger age groups to play those from another club either at home or away and on a friendly basis.

When matches are not being played, teams will generally hold training sessions instead, meaning that mini and junior teams may require access to their home pitches for consecutive weeks whilst no away fixtures are organised. Consequently, it is presumed that no pitches used by mini or youth teams have significant actual spare capacity for an increase in demand, but it is acknowledged that some does exist when the pitches are not in use.

Overplay

There are eight pitches across seven sites that are overplayed by a combined 11.25 match equivalent sessions.

Table 5.13: Overplay summary

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
11	Back Lane	Congleton	1
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Congleton	2
28	Congleton Park	Congleton	1.5
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	1.25
53	Hankinson's Field	Congleton	1
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Macclesfield	1.5
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	2
			2
Total			11.25

Most overplay is recorded at Knutsford Academy, where pitches are overplayed due to the site offering a limited number of pitches to Knutsford RUFC when compared to clubs of a similar size. This is further exacerbated by school usage reducing capacity.

Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is overplayed first and foremost due to its floodlit pitch accommodating training demand during certain parts of the year, although this has reduced since the creation of the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College. Similarly, overplay identified at Sandbach Rugby Club and Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is predominately caused by training demand., with usage more frequent and concentrated.

The pitches at Congleton Park and Hankinson's Field are overplayed primarily because of limited capacity due to being poor quality. This has then been compounded by the reduction of the training space at Hankinson's Field following the development of Congleton Leisure Centre.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

No dedicated mini or junior pitches are adjudged overplayed but that is not to say that they all have capacity for an increase in demand. As aforementioned, due to the nature of mini and junior rugby, it is unlikely that those pitches already accommodating such demand have actual spare capacity for a significant increase in demand.

5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay in each of the analysis areas as well as in Cheshire East as a whole for senior rugby union based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on club development plans and population increases and includes future demand for mini and junior teams as it is presumed that these will access senior pitches.

Table 5.14: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Congleton	-	4.5	4.5	1	5.5
Crewe	-	-		-	
Knutsford	-	4	4	0.5	4.5
Macclesfield	0.5	1.5	1	1.5	2.5
Nantwich	-	1.25	1.25	1.5	2.75
Poynton	-	-		-	
Wilmslow	1	-	1	1.25	0.25
Cheshire East	1.5	11.25	9.75	5.75	15.5

Overall, there is a shortfall of 9.75 match equivalent sessions identified on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand, with minimal spare capacity existing in Wilmslow and shortfalls evident in Congleton, Knutsford, Nantwich and Macclesfield. The overall picture worsens when considering future demand, with a shortfall of 15.5 match equivalent sessions recognised and each analysis areas with club rugby activity experiencing a shortfall.

²⁵ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Rugby union summary

- ◀ **Overall, there is a shortfall of 9.75 match equivalent sessions identified on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand.**
- ◀ **The overall picture worsens when considering future demand, with a shortfall of 15.5 match equivalent sessions recognised and each analysis areas with club rugby activity experiencing a shortfall.**
- ◀ There are 24 sites containing 44 senior, ten junior and ten mini rugby union pitches, with 27 senior, six junior and all mini pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ The King's School is to provide five additional rugby union pitches at Alderley Road as part of its consolidation to the site; however, both the existing junior pitches at Fence Avenue and Westminster Road (that are not to RFU standards) will be lost.
- ◀ Knutsford Academy, working alongside Knutsford RUFC, has identified adjacent land that it wishes to acquire so that it can increase its supply of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Holmes Chapel RUFC has only eight years remaining on its licence of Holmes Chapel Community Centre and tenure is also considered to be unsecure for Knutsford RUFC at Knutsford Academy as no community use agreement is in place.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, 22 are assessed as good quality, 13 are assessed as standard quality and eight are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield, Knutsford and Wilmslow rugby clubs all report development plans or issues with their changing facilities.
- ◀ Seven rugby union clubs play within Cheshire East consisting of 93 teams, which as a breakdown equates to 22 senior, 35 junior and 36 mini teams.
- ◀ There are eight less teams currently than when compared to 2016/2017 data, with an overall decline in senior (eight fewer teams) and mini (three fewer teams) participation albeit junior participation has increased (three more teams).
- ◀ Sandbach, Knutsford, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield and Wilmslow rugby clubs all train on match pitches using floodlighting, with Crewe & Nantwich RUFC also accessing the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict a growth of four junior boys' and one junior girls' team, whilst Crewe & Nantwich, Holmes Chapel, Macclesfield and Wilmslow rugby clubs have plans to expand.
- ◀ Despite 12 senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity, only three (two at Jim Evison Playing Field and one at Priory Park) are available for further use during the peak period for senior rugby (Saturday PM).
- ◀ There are eight pitches across seven sites that are overplayed by a combined 11.25 match equivalent sessions.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and is administered locally by the Cheshire Hockey Association.

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

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

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

For senior teams, a full-size pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas, which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends. EH's preference is for four-metre side and five-metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres, though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek for senior activity and requires access to a pitch and floodlights, whereas many junior teams train on a Sunday as well as during midweek.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club consultation

There are currently seven hockey clubs fielding teams within Cheshire East:

- ◀ Alderley Edge HC
- ◀ Crewe Vagrants HC
- ◀ Knutsford HC
- ◀ Macclesfield HC
- ◀ Sandbach HC
- ◀ Triton HC
- ◀ Wilmslow HC

Consultation took place across 2016 and 2017, with all seven clubs responding to consultation requests resulting in a 100% response rate. Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Wilmslow hockey clubs responded via an online survey, whereas Triton HC engaged in a telephone consultation.

For the update, demand information from the original PPS was checked and challenged through consultation with EH.

6.2: Supply

There are 16 full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East. The majority of the pitches are floodlit, although Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre and Cheshire College South and West are not.

As seen in the table below, all of the full size AGPs are available for community use, however, Shavington Leisure Centre, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Cheshire College South and West and Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College are not in current use by hockey clubs and the latter two are without hockey goals.

Table 6.2: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Floodlit?	Community use?	Hockey use?	Size (metres)
5	Alsager School	Congleton	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
6	Alsager Sports Hub	Congleton	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 63
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Knutsford	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Nantwich	No	Yes	No	110 x 60
109	Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	Congleton	No	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	No	100 x 60
114	Cheshire College South and West	Crewe	No	Yes	No	100 x 60
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	Wilmslow	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Floodlit?	Community use?	Hockey use?	Size (metres)
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
128	The Macclesfield Academy / Macclesfield College	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	No	100 x 65
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	Yes	Yes	Yes	105 x 60
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Wilmslow	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60

Please note that whilst Alsager Sports Hub has been included in the table above, the AGP has only recently been constructed and is not currently in use for club hockey. It is expected to be ready Spring 2019 and accessed by clubs from next season. The provision replaces a full size AGP that was previously in place at the site (Manchester Metropolitan University, Alsager Campus).

The majority of full size AGPs are located in Congleton and Macclesfield (both contain four), whereas there are no full size pitches in Poynton and only one is located in Knutsford. Two pitches service both Crewe and Nantwich, whilst three service Wilmslow.

Table 6.3: Full size hockey suitable AGPs by location

Analysis area	Full size hockey suitable AGPs
Congleton	4
Crewe	2
Knutsford	1
Macclesfield	4
Nantwich	2
Poynton	-
Wilmslow	3
Cheshire East	16

In addition, there are also 16 smaller size AGPs suitable for hockey use, as seen in the table below. Although too small to host competitive matches, they can be accessed to accommodate some training demand, especially the larger ones such as Ruskin Community high School and Terra Nova School. Of the pitches, ten are available to the community and nine of those are floodlit (only the Oaks Academy is not).

Table 6.4: Summary of smaller sized hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
13	Beech Hall School	Macclesfield	No	Yes	30 x 20
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Poynton	Yes	Yes	45 x 35
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Congleton	Yes	Yes	45 x 35
90	Nantwich Primary Academy	Nantwich	No	No	70 x 40
94	Nuffield Fitness and Wellbeing Centre (Radbroke Hall)	Knutsford	No	Yes	30 x 20
97	Parkroyal Community School	Macclesfield	No	No	40 x 30

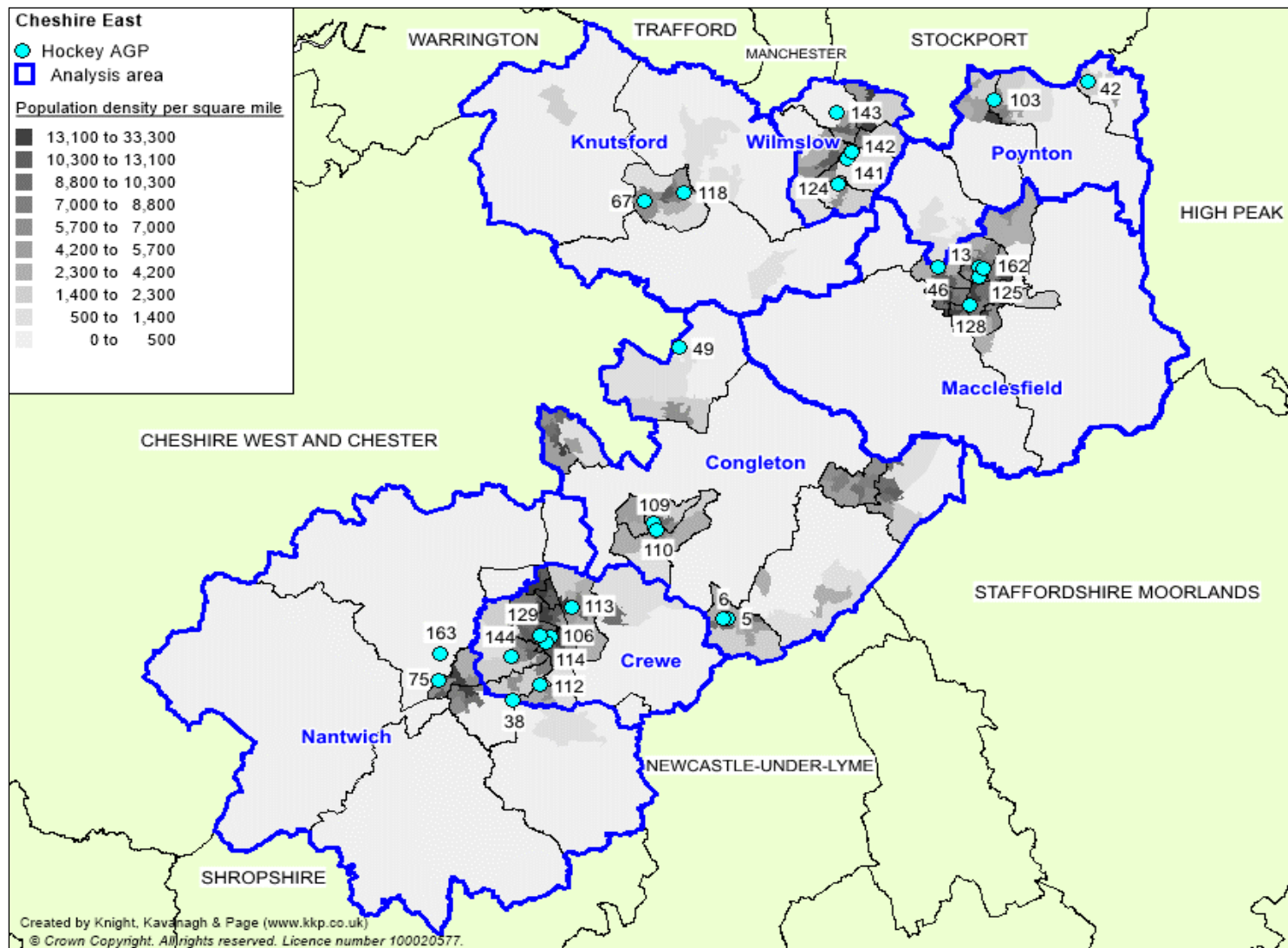
CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton	Yes	Yes	60 x 30
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	Yes	Yes	78 x 40
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	55 x 35
118	St John's Wood Academy	Knutsford	No	No	25 x 20
122	Terra Nova School	Congleton	Yes	Yes	80 x 45
127	The King's School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	No	80 x 45
129	The Oaks Academy	Crewe	Yes	No	85 x 30
142	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	25 x 20
196	Mablins Lane Community Primary School	Crewe	No	No	65 x 30

Please refer to Figure 6.1 overleaf for the location of all hockey suitable AGPs, regardless of size.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future developments

The King's School is moving from its existing three sites at Cumberland Ave, Fence Ave and Westminster Road to a site at Alderley Road. As part of this consolidation, the AGPs at Fence Ave and Westminster Road will be replaced by two full size, floodlit AGPs at Alderley Road, with completion expected Summer 2020. The existing pitches will remain in place until complete. It is hoped by the School that a double pitch site will encourage a club to make it a home base, rather than just using it as a secondary venue. Conversations are ongoing with Alderley Edge HC and Macclesfield HC regarding this.

Wilmslow HC reports that it is looking into establishing a second pitch on site at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club due to capacity issues and is currently looking into funding possibilities.

Management

The following full size AGPs are located at educational sites and are managed in house:

- ◀ Fallibroome Academy
- ◀ Malbank School & Sixth Form College
- ◀ Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)
- ◀ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ◀ Cheshire College South and West
- ◀ The King's School (Westminster Road)
- ◀ The Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College
- ◀ Tytherington High School
- ◀ Wilmslow High School

Alsager School, Knutsford Leisure Centre and Shavington Leisure Centre are also located at educational sites; however, ESAR operates them under a dual use agreement. Similarly, The Edge Hockey Centre is owned by Ryleys School but is leased to and managed by Alderley Edge HC in an agreement that has 24 years remaining.

When in use, the AGP at Alsager Sports Hub will be handed over to the Council and managed by ESAR.

As for the remaining pitches, the respective clubs manage both Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club internally. Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is owned, whereas Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is leased from the Council (23 years remaining).

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this calculation, all full size AGPs in Cheshire East are readily available to the community, with all pitches available for at least 25 and a half hours during the peak period and seven pitches available throughout (34 hours).

The King's School (Westminster Road) is open for the least amount of time (25.5 hours), partly due to limited opening hours during the weekend. It must also be noted that, despite extensive opening hours, Sandbach School and Sixth Form College (Girls), Cheshire College South and West (both 31.5 hours) and Malbank School and Sixth Form College (29 hours) are not floodlit and this therefore impacts on the amount of use that can be accommodated.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The AGP at Alsager Sports Hub is a new facility, replacing the pitch that was in place from when the site was referred to Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus). As such, the availability referred to in the table below reflects the old provision as the opening hours of the new provision is not yet known following changes to the operational structure albeit similar accessibility is expected.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.5: Availability of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments	Hockey club users
5	Alsager School	29	Reserved for private use during the week until 18:00 Monday to Thursday and until 17:00 on Fridays. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Thursday, from 17:00 until 22:00 on Fridays, from 09:00 until 22:00 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 16:00 on Sundays. No floodlighting is allowed on a Sunday.	Triton HC
6	Alsager Sports Hub	34	Available to the community from 09:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 20:00 Saturday and Sunday, however, these are subject to alteration following the creation of new provision and a change in the operational structure of the site.	Triton HC
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	34	Available to the community from 08:30 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Crewe Vagrants HC
46	Fallibroome Academy	29	Reserved for private use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Alderley Edge HC
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	30	Reserved for private use until 17:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, from 12:00 until 18:00 on Saturdays and from 10:00 until 18:00 on Sundays.	Knutsford HC
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	29	Reserved for private use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:30 Monday to Friday and from 08:30 until 22:30 Saturday to Sunday, however, a lack of floodlighting makes these times obsolete during winter months.	-
109	Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	31.5	Reserved for private use until 17:30 during the week. Available to the community from 17:30 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 17:30 Saturday to Sunday, however, a lack of floodlighting makes these times obsolete during winter months.	Sandbach HC
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	29	Reserved for private use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Sandbach HC

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments	Hockey club users
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	34	Hired by Shavington High School until 17:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, from 09:00 until 19:00 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 20:00 on Sundays.	-
114	Cheshire College South and West	31.5	Reserved for private use until 16:30 during the week. Available to the community from 16:30 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, from 09:00 until 17:30 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 16:30 on Sundays, however, a lack of floodlighting makes these times obsolete during winter months.	-
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	34	Available to the community from 09:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Alderley Edge HC
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	25.5	Reserved for private use until 17:30 during the week. Available to the community from 17:30 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 12:00 until 21:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Alderley Edge HC; Macclesfield HC; Wilmslow HC
128	The Macclesfield Academy / Macclesfield College	31.5	Reserved for private use until 17:30 during the week. Available to the community from 17:30 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 21:00 Saturday to Sunday.	-
141	Wilmslow High School	34	Reserved for private use until 17:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Alderley Edge HC
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	34	Available to the community from 09:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Wilmslow HC
162	Tytherington High School	34	Reserved for private use until 17:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Macclesfield HC

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Alsager School is accessed by Triton HC, which previously split its usage across this site and Alsager Sports Hub and will do so again once the new pitch is ready for usage. When complete, Alsager Sports Hub will be the main site used by the Club, with Alsager School used as a secondary venue.

The Edge Hockey Centre, the King's School (Westminster Road), Fallibroome Academy and Wilmslow High School are all accessed by Alderley Edge HC. The Club uses the Edge Hockey Centre as its main venue and the others as secondary venues.

The King's School (Westminster Road) is also accessed by Wilmslow HC and Macclesfield HC as a secondary venue. Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is the main pitch used by Wilmslow HC, whereas Tytherington High School is the main pitch used by Macclesfield HC.

Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls) and Sandbach School (Boys) are both accessed by Sandbach HC. The former is generally used for matches, whereas the latter is used for training. Both sites have also been used for training by Triton HC during its period of not being able to access Alsager Sports Hub.

Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Knutsford Leisure Centre are accessed by Crewe Vagrants HC and Knutsford HC respectively. Due to the management structure in place at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, Crewe Vagrant HC is provided with priority access.

To reiterate, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Shavington Leisure Centre, Cheshire College South and West and Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College are not accessed by hockey clubs; however, that is not to say that they are unused. Usage of sand-based AGPs is also common for football and all full size pitches within Cheshire East have recorded football activity taking place on them. The majority of this use is for training purposes, although sites such as Shavington Leisure Centre also run small-sided leagues that take further potential capacity away from hockey users.

Both Malbank School and Sixth Form College and Cheshire College South and West are without floodlighting, which impacts on availability and makes them less desirable for hockey club access, especially for midweek training purposes. The latter is also without hockey goals, as is Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College, which therefore make hockey use impossible. Quality problems at Shavington Leisure Centre prevent any potential usage due to health and safety issues.

Usage of the AGPs is further explored later on in this section of the report.

Quality

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

The following table indicates when each full size pitch was installed or last resurfaced within Cheshire East, together with an agreed quality rating. This follows non-technical assessments and user consultation carried out in 2016/2017; however, alterations have been made, via consultation with EH, clubs and the Council, where quality is known to have changed.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.6: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
5	Alsager School	Congleton	1995	Poor
6	Alsager Sports Hub	Congleton	2019	Good
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	2013	Good
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	2005	Standard
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Knutsford	2003	Poor
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Nantwich	2001	Poor
109	Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	Congleton	2004	Standard
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	2003	Poor
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	Crewe	2004	Poor
114	Cheshire College South and West	Crewe	2011	Good
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	Wilmslow	2011	Good
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	2012	Good
128	The Macclesfield Academy / Macclesfield College	Macclesfield	1990	Poor
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	2007	Poor
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Wilmslow	2007	Standard
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	2007	Standard

As evidenced above, there is a clear need for a number of AGPs to be resurfaced. The following facilities have exceeded their recommended lifespan:

- ✦ Alsager School
- ✦ Knutsford Leisure Centre
- ✦ Malbank School and Sixth Form College
- ✦ Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre
- ✦ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ✦ Shavington Leisure Centre
- ✦ The Macclesfield Academy / Macclesfield College
- ✦ Tytherington High School
- ✦ Wilmslow High School
- ✦ Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club

Of these, Alsager School, Knutsford Leisure Centre, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach School (Boys), Shavington Leisure Centre, the Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College and Wilmslow High School are rated as poor quality, with issues such as wear and tear, worn line markings and poor drainage prevalent.

Fallibroome Academy, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre, Tytherington High School and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club are assessed as standard quality, despite their age, as there are less signs of wear and tear. Nevertheless, refurbishment is still recommended to prevent further deterioration and to ensure long-term accessibility.

All remaining pitches are within their lifespan, with Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, Cheshire College South and West (albeit there is no hockey use), Alsager Sports Hub, the Edge Hockey Centre and the King's School (Westminster Road) assessed as good quality. If not

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

already in place, a sinking fund should be set up at these sites to ensure funds are available for ongoing repairs as well as eventual resurfacing.

Ancillary provision

All full size AGPs within Cheshire East are serviced by changing provision that ranges from basic changing facilities and toilets at the majority of sites to more extensive clubhouse facilities that include a bar and kitchen at sites such as Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, which has recently been refurbished. Similar provision will also service Alsager Sports Hub when the sites development is complete.

A common issue raised by users of other sites is that their social space is located separate to their pitches. For example, Alderley Edge HC currently accesses Alderley Edge Cricket Club as a home base, whereas Triton HC uses Alsager Cricket Club and Macclesfield HC uses Macclesfield Cricket Club. This is because there is no suitable space offered to the clubs at the sites that they use for matches.

In terms of quality at sites used by clubs, both the Edge Hockey Centre and Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre are considered to be poor quality, providing only basic, dated facilities. All remaining provision is assessed as good quality or standard quality.

Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is currently attempting to acquire funding to improve its car park, both in terms of quality and size.

6.3: Demand

There are seven clubs fielding teams in Cheshire East, all of which are large clubs with several senior and junior teams for both males and females. Combined, the clubs contribute a membership of 441 senior men, 348 senior women and 1,072 juniors and consist of 30 senior men's teams, 23 senior women's teams and 35 junior teams (2018/2019 affiliation data).

Table 6.7: Summary of teams playing in Cheshire East

Name of club	No. of teams			No. of members ²⁶		
	Men's	Women's	Junior	Men's	Women's	Junior
Alderley Edge HC	8	8	8	118	78	512
Crewe Vagrants HC	4	3	5	58	82	90
Knutsford HC	3	2	1	50	13	53
Macclesfield HC	4	4	6	50	50	101
Sandbach HC	3	2	6	21	19	89
Triton HC	4	3	4	69	40	135
Wilmslow HC	4	3	5	75	66	92
Total	30	23	35	441	348	1,072

Alderley Edge HC is the largest club, both in terms of its number of teams (24) and its number of members (708). The smallest club is Knutsford HC (six teams and 116 members).

The majority of teams are fielded in Wilmslow (36), whereas no teams play in Crewe or Poynton (Crewe Vagrants HC play in Nantwich). There are six teams playing in Knutsford, 12 in Nantwich, 22 in Congleton and 14 in Macclesfield.

²⁶ Based on 2018/2019 affiliation data, except for Knutsford HC (2016/2017 data) due to it not supplying updated figures

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.8: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of teams		
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
Congleton	7	5	10
Crewe	-	-	-
Knutsford	3	2	1
Macclesfield	4	4	6
Nantwich	4	3	5
Poynton	-	-	-
Wilmslow	12	11	13
Cheshire East	30	23	35

Participation trends

When compared to data in 2016/2017, there are now 277 more members attached to the clubs in Cheshire East, which represents a significant increase. There are now 39 more senior men, 68 more senior women and 170 more juniors participating, with all seven clubs having some level of overall growth. The increase in junior play is especially substantial and reflects well on the local authority.

Nationally, since 2012, hockey has seen a 65% increase of juniors taking up hockey within the club environment. This increase is expected to continue across all age groups in the future, especially given the success of Great Britain's women's team in the 2016 Rio Olympics and due to hosting the 2018 World Cup.

Exported demand

Wilmslow HC occasionally accesses Cheadle Hulme School, in Stockport. This is due to a lack of capacity at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and due to the Club competing with Alderley Edge HC and Macclesfield HC for access to its preferred secondary venues, the King's School (Westminster Road) and Wilmslow High School.

Although not displaced from Cheshire East, it must also be noted that Wilmslow HC fields teams in Macclesfield, at the King's School, despite the club being based in Wilmslow and the same applies to Alderley Edge HC. This is seen as less than ideal by the clubs due to the travel involved.

Manchester Metropolitan University previously fielded its teams at its Alsager Campus until the site closed down to its students. Demand then transferred to Crewe Vagrants Sports Club but matches are now played at venues in and around Manchester. The University, given the uncertainty surrounding the future of its Crewe Campus, prefers this.

Latent demand

During consultation in 2016/2017, clubs were asked whether more AGPs would result in more teams being fielded. Wilmslow HC reported that it could have an additional eight teams (four senior and four junior), Alderley Edge HC four teams (two senior and two junior), Macclesfield HC two teams (both senior) and Crewe Vagrants HC an additional one team (senior).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The above suggests that access to pitches is a major issue affecting the growth of the clubs, and nothing has changed in the last two years to suggest that the situation has been resolved. Nevertheless, the creation of two full size AGPs as part of the King's School development (to replace one full size pitch and one smaller sized pitch) will go some way to easing some of the capacity issues.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's strategic plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, working with regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, EH has an aim to double participation over the next ten years.

EH applies a growth rate to current affiliated membership numbers to determine anticipated increases in future demand. The predicted growth rate for Cheshire East based clubs is 15% and the table below uses this to determine potential growth.

Table 6.9: Predicted future club-based membership based on growth rate

Club name	Current senior members	Future senior members (15% growth rate)	Current junior members	Future junior members (15% growth rate)	Total future members
Alderley Edge HC	196	225	512	589	814
Crewe Vagrants HC	140	161	90	104	265
Knutsford HC	63	75	53	61	136
Macclesfield HC	100	115	101	116	231
Sandbach HC	40	46	89	102	148
Triton HC	109	125	135	155	280
Wilmslow HC	141	162	92	105	267
Total	789	909	1,072	1,232	2,141

Using the growth rate, there is a projected overall increase of 280 members, equating to 120 seniors and 160 juniors. Notwithstanding, it must be made clear that potential growth may be limited by the availability of pitches, especially given the exported and latent demand that is already in existence. As such, for future demand to be realised across the board, solutions are required to resolve capacity issues.

Usage

The table below shows all available sites with full size hockey suitable AGP provision and a summary of use at each site against the peak period (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.9: Summary of usage

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Hockey club users	Other usage	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)
5	Alsager School	29	Triton HC	Football training	Six hours of available capacity exist during the week, the majority of which is on Fridays. The pitch is accessed on a Saturday by Triton HC for junior training, whilst all midweek demand is football related.	Used by Triton HC to capacity for eight hours on a Saturday and on a Sunday, although some of this play is expected to transfer once development of Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) is complete. No further weekend demand is recorded.
6	Alsager Sports Hub	34	Triton HC	-	Site to be used by Triton HC once the development is complete. Until programme of use has been fully developed, available capacity is unknown.	Site to be used by Triton HC once the development is complete. Until programme of use has been fully developed, available capacity is unknown.
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	34	Crewe Vagrants HC	Football training; Small sided football leagues	Used by Crewe Vagrants HC for four hours on a Tuesday and three hours on a Wednesday. Remaining midweek capacity is taken up by football, although the hockey club has priority access if it needs to increase its usage.	Used by Crewe Vagrants HC to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and four hours on a Sunday. All remaining capacity on a Sunday is used to host small-sided football leagues.
46	Fallibroome Academy	29	Alderley Edge HC	Football training	Currently unused for training purposes by hockey clubs. Some spare capacity exists within the peak period on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, with remaining usage coming from football clubs.	Used by Alderley Edge HC for six hours on a Saturday. No further use or Sunday use is recorded within the peak period, although Sunday usage is recorded afterwards in the form of a small-sided football league.
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	30	Knutsford HC	Football training	Used by Knutsford HC for two hours on a Wednesday. Spare capacity is considered to exist across each week day for an increase in demand, with only some football use otherwise recorded.	Used by Knutsford HC for six hours on a Saturday and for two hours on a Sunday. No further weekend use is recorded.
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	29	-	Football training	Limited football demand exists although availability is restricted as there is no floodlighting.	Unused for hockey purposes and completely unused most weekends.
109	Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	31.5	Sandbach HC; Triton HC	-	Used by Triton HC for some training demand although this is expected to be removed once development of Alsager Sports Hub is complete. No other regular demand is recorded during mid-week due to a lack of floodlighting.	Used by Sandbach HC for four hours on a Saturday and on a Sunday. No other regular weekend demand is recorded.
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	29	Sandbach HC; Triton HC	Football training	Accessed by Sandbach HC for two hours on Thursdays for training purposes as well as by Triton HC, although this is expected to be removed once development of Alsager Sports Hub is complete. The majority of remaining capacity is taken up by football, although one hour remains on Mondays and three hours remain on Fridays.	Unused for hockey purposes and completely unused most weekends.
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	34	-	Football training; Small sided football leagues	No hockey use recorded. Only minimal availability exists as the pitch is used to capacity via football during mid-week.	Unused for hockey purposes. Used to host small-sided football leagues on a Sunday from 2pm. No regular demand is recorded on a Saturday.
114	Cheshire College South and West	31.5	-	Football training; American football training	No hockey use recorded. Limited football demand exists although availability is restricted as there is no floodlighting.	Unused for hockey purposes and completely unused most weekends.
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	34	Alderley Edge HC	-	Alderley Edge HC uses the site to capacity during midweek for training purposes.	Used by Alderley Edge HC to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and six hours on a Sunday. No further weekend use is recorded.
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	25.5	Alderley Edge HC; Macclesfield HC; Wilmslow HC	Football training	No regular access is recorded by hockey clubs for training purposes although it is heavily used by the School for this reason. Spare capacity exists on Mondays and Fridays as well as two slots on Tuesdays. All recorded community use during midweek is football related.	Used by all three clubs to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and for four hours on a Sunday. No further weekend use is recorded.
128	The Macclesfield Academy / Macclesfield College	31.5	-	Football training; Small sided football leagues	Around 14 hours of available capacity exist during the week, although this unsuitable for hockey clubs due to no hockey goals being provided. All current use is football related.	Unused for hockey purposes and only sporadically used for football purposes.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Hockey club users	Other usage	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)
141	Wilmslow High School	34	Alderley Edge HC	Football training; Tennis coaching; Fitness classes;	Used for training by Alderley Edge HC although irregular. Remaining capacity used by football clubs although sporadic use comes from tennis and fitness clubs. The only midweek capacity remaining exists on Fridays.	Used by Alderley Edge HC for six hours on a Saturday. No other, regular demand is recorded.
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	34	Wilmslow HC	Football training; Lacrosse training;	Used by Wilmslow HC for two hours on both Tuesdays and Wednesday for training purposes. Remaining capacity is taken up by football users as well as lacrosse demand. Minimal capacity remains on Fridays.	Used by Wilmslow HC to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and for four hours on a Sunday. No other regular demand is recorded.
162	Tytherington High School	34	Macclesfield HC	Football training	Used by Macclesfield HC on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for training purposes. Remaining capacity is taken up by football users, although some minimal capacity remains on Mondays and Fridays.	Used by Macclesfield HC to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and for four hours on a Sunday. No other regular demand is recorded.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

Despite some spare capacity being shown overall for match play purposes currently, it is not realistic to aggregate this into a general oversupply of hockey pitches. The landscape of the sport in Cheshire East shows that some pitches are leased by clubs, and the travel time between pitches can be greater than in other local authorities, meaning it is not necessarily viable or feasible for a club to transfer demand to sites with potential spare capacity. Furthermore, some of the pitches with potential spare capacity are not actually available due to a lack of floodlighting and/or hockey goals or because of quality issues.

In addition to the above, there is also an issue relating to match start times, with the main leagues servicing Cheshire East currently arranging fixtures to begin at 11:45am at the earliest on a Saturday. This reduces the number of matches that can be played on one day. If start times were altered, more matches could be arranged and capacity would be less of an issue; however, this is not something that EH has any control over.

The picture is also different when considering training demand as many pitches are used to capacity during midweek, whilst those that have capacity are generally only available on Mondays and Fridays, which are undesirable times given their close proximity to weekend matches. This means that clubs such as Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and Macclesfield hockey clubs have limited availability for an increase in training demand.

Given the above, the priority should be to protect or mitigate the loss of any of the 12 sites with pitches currently in use by hockey clubs in order to ensure the situation does not worsen. To that end, it is imperative that Alsager School, Sandbach School (Boys), Knutsford Leisure Centre and Wilmslow High School are imminently refurbished and continue to provide a hockey suitable surface as they have reached the end of their lifespan, have been assessed as poor quality and are in use by hockey clubs. Likewise, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre, Tytherington High School and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club will also require resurfacing in the near future as they are beyond ten years old albeit currently assessed as standard quality.

Precedence should also be placed on accommodating expressed, latent and future demand, which, in at least one aspect, relates to each club based in Cheshire East. It is considered that Knutsford, Triton and Sandbach hockey clubs can accommodate all of their existing and future demand on their current pitches (when the pitch at Alsager Sports Hub is useable); however, Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs will have to utilise spare capacity at alternative venues or through new provision.

For Macclesfield, Alderley Edge and Wilmslow hockey clubs, the development of the pitches at King's School may help relieve capacity issues, although the site is not ideally located for either Alderley Edge HC or Wilmslow HC. An additional pitch within the Wilmslow Analysis Area should therefore be considered for these clubs as there is no existing pitch in the locality that is not already at capacity.

Shavington Leisure Centre is considered to have spare capacity for an increase in usage on a Saturday and offers a viable option for Crewe Vagrants HC, should the Club be willing to access a secondary venue, although the pitch will have to be resurfaced as it is currently unsuitable for hockey use due to its poor quality.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Hockey summary

- ◀ **Due to the landscape of hockey within Cheshire East, the priority should be to protect or mitigate the loss of any of the 12 pitches currently in use by hockey clubs.**
- ◀ **Precedence should also be placed on accommodating expressed displaced, latent and future demand, which, in at least one aspect, relates to each club.**
- ◀ There are currently 16 full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East. Most pitches are floodlit, although Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls) and Cheshire College South and West are not.
- ◀ All of the full size AGPs are available for community use, however, four are currently unused for hockey purposes, two of which are without hockey goals.
- ◀ In addition, there are also 16 smaller sized AGPs suitable for hockey use, which, although too small to host competitive matches, can be used to accommodate some training demand.
- ◀ The King's School is to provide two full size, floodlit AGPs as part of its consolidation to Alderley Road, rather than the one full size and one smaller sized pitch that currently service the School.
- ◀ All full size AGPs are readily available to the community during the peak period, as identified by Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM).
- ◀ Ten of the full size AGPs have reached the end of their lifespan and therefore require resurfacing.
- ◀ A common issue raised by clubs such as Alderley Edge, Triton and Macclesfield hockey clubs is that their social space is located separate to their pitches because there is no suitable space offered to the clubs at the sites that they use for matches.
- ◀ Both the Edge Hockey Centre and Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre are considered to be serviced by poor quality changing facilities.
- ◀ There are currently seven clubs fielding teams in Cheshire East; combined, the clubs contribute a membership of 441 senior men, 348 senior women and 1,072 juniors and consist of 30 senior men's teams, 23 senior women's teams and 35 junior teams.
- ◀ When compared to data in 2016/2017, there are now 277 more members attached to the clubs in Cheshire East, which represents a significant increase.
- ◀ Wilmslow HC expresses exported demand as it occasionally accesses Cheadle Hulme High School, in Stockport, due a lack of pitch capacity within Cheshire East.
- ◀ Wilmslow, Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Crewe Vagrants hockey clubs express latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitches were available to them.
- ◀ EH applies a growth rate to current affiliated membership numbers and for Cheshire East this is 15%, which results in a projected overall increase of 280 members, equating to 120 seniors and 160 juniors.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 7: LACROSSE

7.1: Introduction

Lacrosse is a contact sport played using a small rubber ball and long-handled stick to catch and hold the lacrosse ball. It is governed nationally by English Lacrosse, which has the role of controlling, promoting and developing the sport nationally. Competitive matches are played on grass pitches or artificial grass pitches (110x60 metres). For community clubs, fixtures run from September through until April.

Participation in lacrosse in Cheshire East is limited to two clubs located to the north of the Borough, however, English Lacrosse is keen to expand further, specifically into Macclesfield and the surrounding areas.

Club consultation

Both Poynton Lacrosse Club and Wilmslow Lacrosse Club were consulted via an online survey in 2017.

7.2: Supply

There are seven senior lacrosse pitches in Cheshire East located across three sites, all of which are available for community use. There are four pitches at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, two pitches at Poynton Sports Club and one pitch at Mount Vernon.

There are no dedicated pitches for junior teams, which instead play on senior pitches that are shortened through temporary line markings or with cones.

Table 7.1: Summary of lacrosse pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of senior pitches
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton	2
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Wilmslow	4
249	Mount Vernon	Poynton	1

Future developments

Poynton Sports Club is in the process of securing nearby land that will be used to relocate all on-site provision, including the lacrosse pitches. This is, however, dependent on securing planning permission and the sale of its existing site.

Management

Both Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and Poynton Sports Club are managed internally by the respective clubs. Poynton Sports Club is owned, whereas Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is leased from the Council in an agreement that has 23 years remaining. Mount Vernon is owned and managed by the Council.

Wilmslow Lacrosse Club is a club that forms part of Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and only accesses the pitches at this site. Likewise, Poynton Lacrosse Club is a club that forms part of Poynton Sports Club; however, the Club also accesses the pitch at Mount Vernon through a yearly rental agreement.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Pitch quality

Sport England PPS Guidance does not specifically include lacrosse and therefore quality has instead been determined via consultation with the clubs as well as through site visits on a scale of good, standard or poor.

Both Poynton Lacrosse Club and Wilmslow Lacrosse Club rate the pitches at their main grounds (Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club respectively) as standard quality. All pitches at these sites are considered flat, with adequate drainage, although it is acknowledged that maintenance could be improved.

In contrast, Mount Vernon is considered to poor quality by Poynton Lacrosse Club. The site suffers from drainage issues, poor grass coverage and an undulating surface that makes it dangerous for players.

Ancillary facilities

Both Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Club are serviced by extensive clubhouse facilities that include numerous changing rooms, a bar, a kitchen and a large social area. Both sites are therefore considered to have good quality ancillary facilities, with recent renovation taking place at Wilmslow Phoenix Club.

There are no changing facilities servicing Mount Vernon, which is identified as an issue by Phoenix Lacrosse Club, particularly as it is currently trying to grow its female section and has increasing demand for access to the site.

7.3: Demand

Poynton Lacrosse Club fields three senior men's teams, an u19s development team, three junior boys' teams (u16s, u14s and u12s) and two junior girls' teams (u13s and u11s).

Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields two senior men's teams, an u19s development team and two junior boys' teams (u16s and u12s).

Table 7.2: Summary of teams²⁷

Club name	Analysis area	No. of teams			
		Senior men's (19-45)	Senior women's (19-45)	Junior boys' (10-18)	Junior girls' (10-18)
Poynton Lacrosse Club	Poynton	4	-	3	2
Wilmslow Lacrosse Club	Wilmslow	3	-	2	-

At a senior level, both clubs currently compete in the North of England Men's Lacrosse Association (NEMLA) and various cup competitions and both have been successful in recent years not only regionally but also nationally. In addition, both clubs have also produced players that play or have played internationally.

²⁷ 2018/2019 affiliation data

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Participation trends

Since 2016/2017, Poynton Lacrosse Club has grown, adding another junior girls' team at u11 level. In contrast, Wilmslow Lacrosse Club has seen a reduction in participation as it no longer fields an u14s team or a senior women's team.

Training

Both clubs use AGPs at their home ground to accommodate the majority of training demand, particularly during winter months as this saves the grass pitches from added wear. Poynton Sports Club contains a smaller sized sand-based AGP that measures 60x30 metres, whereas Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club contains a full size sand-based AGP (100x60 metres). Both facilities are floodlit and neither has capacity issues.

Latent demand

Poynton Lacrosse Club illustrated that it could field up to an additional four junior teams if it had more available pitches. This suggests that it uses its current pitches to capacity at peak time, meaning a lack of pitches is hindering potential growth.

No latent demand was expressed by Wilmslow Lacrosse Club.

Exported demand

Due to the format of the competition for u19s teams, both Poynton Lacrosse Club and Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields its development team outside of Cheshire East at a central venue in Trafford. Although technically displaced demand, this is preferred by the clubs due to the level of competition accessed and the lack of an alternative.

Future demand

During consultation in 2017, Poynton Lacrosse Club expressed high levels of future demand, particular in terms of female participation as this was a key part of its development plan. In total, the Club planned to grow by one senior men's, one senior women's and two junior girls' teams. It has realised this in regard to one of the junior girls' teams, with the remaining aspirations still considered to be future demand.

Wilmslow Lacrosse Club also expressed future demand equating to two junior teams, both of which were junior girls' teams. The Club had a number of females participating in training sessions and playing as part of junior boys' teams (in mixed competitions), albeit there was not currently enough demand for a girls' only team to be created. As no girls' teams have since formed, this is still considered to be future demand.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

As Mount Vernon is assessed as poor quality, improvements are required to sustain future use of the pitch by Poynton Lacrosse Club.

Consideration must also be given to providing Poynton Lacrosse Club with access to more pitches given the high levels of latent and future demand it expresses. An alternative to creating new grass pitches for the Club could be to encourage access to a full size 3G pitch, which is becoming increasingly common for lacrosse clubs nationally.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

As Wilmslow Lacrosse Club does not express any latent demand and as it has access to more pitches, it is considered that the Club has enough to provision to accommodate both current and future demand.

To conclude, a shortfall of pitches is identified in relation to Poynton Lacrosse Club, whereas supply servicing Wilmslow Lacrosse Club is deemed to be sufficient.

Lacrosse summary

- ◀ **Consideration must be given to providing Poynton Lacrosse Club with access to more pitches given the high levels of latent and future demand it expresses.**
- ◀ **As Wilmslow Lacrosse Club does not express any latent demand and as it has access to more pitches, it is considered that the Club has enough to provision to accommodate both current and future demand.**
- ◀ There are seven senior lacrosse pitches located across three sites (Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, Poynton Sports Club and Mount Vernon), all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ Both Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and Poynton Sports Club are managed internally by the respective clubs, whereas Mount Vernon is owned and managed by the Council.
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club are rated as standard quality; Mount Vernon is considered to poor quality.
- ◀ Both Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, whereas Mount Vernon is without changing rooms.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club fields three senior men's teams, an u19s development team, three junior boys' teams and two junior girls' team; Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields two senior men's teams, an u19s development team and two junior boys' teams.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club has grown its participation over the previous two years, whilst Wilmslow Lacrosse Club has suffered a decline in demand following the loss of a junior team and its senior women's team.
- ◀ Both clubs use AGPs at their home ground to accommodate the majority of training demand, particularly during winter months as this saves the grass pitches from added wear.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club has future demand amounting to four additional junior teams if it had more available pitches.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club expresses remaining future demand equating to one senior men's, one senior women's and one junior girls' teams, whereas Wilmslow Lacrosse Club has remaining future demand equating to two junior teams.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's Sporting Future strategy.

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

National Planning Policy Framework (2018)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite, the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-2028)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ ***More Play*** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - *Clubs and leagues*
 - *Kids*
 - *Communities*
 - *Casual*
- ◀ ***Great Teams*** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - *Pathway*
 - *Support*
 - *Elite Teams*
 - *England Teams*
- ◀ ***Inspired Fans*** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - *Fan focus*
 - *New audiences*
 - *Global stage*
 - *Broadcast and digital*

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - *Integrity*
 - *Community programmes*
 - *Our environments*
 - *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - *People*
 - *Revenue and reach*
 - *Insight*
 - *Operations*

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7’s offering

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)²⁸

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England’s investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

“The vision is for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England’s senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few”

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

²⁸ Although now outdated, this strategy has not been updated since the period 2013-2017

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP), that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium-term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities.

'The right pitches in the right places'²⁹

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately placed to support the delivery.
- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment.
- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

England Hockey Strategy

EH's new Club Strategy will assist hockey clubs to retain more players and recruit new members to ultimately grow their club membership. EH will be focusing on participation growth through this strategy for the next two years. The EH Strategy is based on seven core themes. These are:

- 1 Having great leadership
- 2 Having Appropriate and Sustainable Facilities
- 3 Inspired and Effective People
- 4 Different Ways to Play
- 5 Staying Friendly, Social and Welcoming
- 6 Being Local with Strong Community Connections

²⁹

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

7 Stretching and developing those who want it