

Harrogate Borough Council

Outdoor Sports Strategy

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1. Introduction

Introduction

01

Neil Allen Associates was commissioned in April 2012 to produce an outdoor sports strategy for Harrogate Borough. The strategy updates the area based update and supplement to the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy (PPS) that was completed in 2007 and built upon the initial strategy that was produced in 2004. That study identified a shortage of pitches to meet the peak demand for cricket, rugby union, hockey and junior football both at that time and based on future projections. Particular problems accommodating junior football at times of peak demand were identified and there was also a shortage of artificial grass pitches.

Since the development of the 2004 PPS and the 2008 update, the popularity of different sports has changed, and it continues to evolve as new forms of sports are introduced to drive participation increases. Of particular note, the Sport England Active People survey shows an increasing number of people wishing to play sport in Harrogate, particularly football and if this improvement is to be maintained, it is essential that the facility stock is adequate to meet both current and projected demand.

Adding to this, the population of the Borough is forecast to continue to grow particularly in the main settlements of Harrogate and Knaresborough. Outdoor sports facilities are therefore likely to increasingly become under pressure for alternative uses, and at the same time, the number of people in the Borough who might want to use facilities is growing. Furthermore, the character of the borough, which is a balance between rural and urban areas presents additional challenges in the provision of effective sport and leisure facilities. Forward planning of provision is therefore essential.

This outdoor sports strategy takes into account this changing landscape and ensures that the evidence base relating to outdoor sports facilities relevant and reflective of sporting priorities in the Borough.

Key Drivers

The key drivers for the preparation of this strategy are therefore;

- to inform decision making on the need for new and enhanced pitch provision at a neighbourhood level both now, and as the population grows and the profile of the population changes;
- to ensure that there is an up to date outdoor sports assessment in place to support the ongoing development of the local planning framework, including the need for new allocations for sport and recreation facilities. A clear understanding of the current position with regards surpluses and deficiencies of pitches and outdoor sports facilities is essential if strategic planning is to be robust and if facilities are to meet both current and projected needs;
- to examine the impact of potential increases in participation in sport and active recreation across the borough;

- to help maximize the use of existing resources, including exploring the role that school sites can play in the overall delivery of outdoor sports facilities in the borough;
- to ensure that the pitch stock is tailored to meet changing demands and that the quality of facilities is sufficient to meet needs;
- guide a strategic and innovative approach to the delivery of playing pitches in the district linking with local, regional and National Governing Body priorities and in the context of the challenging financial environment; and
- provide a strategic context for any funding opportunities that arise.

Furthermore national land use policy promotes a bottom up approach to planning and highlights the importance of understanding issues and collating evidence at a settlement level. An understanding of local aspirations and priorities is one of the key drivers for the preparation of this outdoor sports strategy. Sport England has stated, *'there is a fresh drive for localism, promoting greater accountability for service delivery and improvement and giving more flexibility and responsibility for delivery to both local authorities and their communities'*.

This strategy therefore provides an understanding of the adequacy of pitch and outdoor sports provision at a local settlement level, as well as across Harrogate Borough as a whole.

Strategic Vision

The strategy seeks to support the Council and its partners in the creation of:

'An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of outdoor sports facilities, which provides local opportunities for participation by all residents of the borough at all levels of play from grassroots to elite'.

The achievement of this vision will support the achievement of aims and objectives much wider than the sporting arena, including The vision of the Harrogate District Strategic Partnership which is "Working together to enhance the many and varied communities, economies and environment of our towns and dales, we will make the District a place where people are valued and protected and where access, opportunity, prosperity and support are available to all".

The strategy guides the delivery of outdoor sports facilities across Harrogate Borough and while led by Harrogate Borough Council, is intended to be delivered in partnership by all key stakeholders.

Objectives

The objectives of the strategy link to the achievement of the overarching vision and are as follows:

- evaluate current trends and needs of different users, as well as the profile of the local population;
- undertake an audit of all existing pitches, including an evaluation of the quality of pitches and access to existing facilities;

- identify all current users and potential users of pitches and sports facilities;
- analyse the adequacy of provision to meet both current and projected need;
- identify key priorities and actions, including timeframes and responsibilities; and
- agree a strategy for monitoring and review.

This strategy therefore evaluates the adequacy of provision across Harrogate Borough and sets out the priorities for action for the following sports;

- Football (including American Football)
- Cricket
- Rugby Union
- Rugby League
- Hockey
- Tennis
- Croquet.

These sports have been chosen because they are important in the context of Harrogate Borough and link with guidance set out in 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England, Sport England (1999). The strategy is set out as follows:

- Section 2 –Methodology
- Section 3 - Context and Participation Profile
- Section 4 – Football
- Section 5 – Cricket
- Section 6 – Rugby
- Section 7 – Hockey
- Section 8– Tennis
- Section 9 – Strategy and Actions.

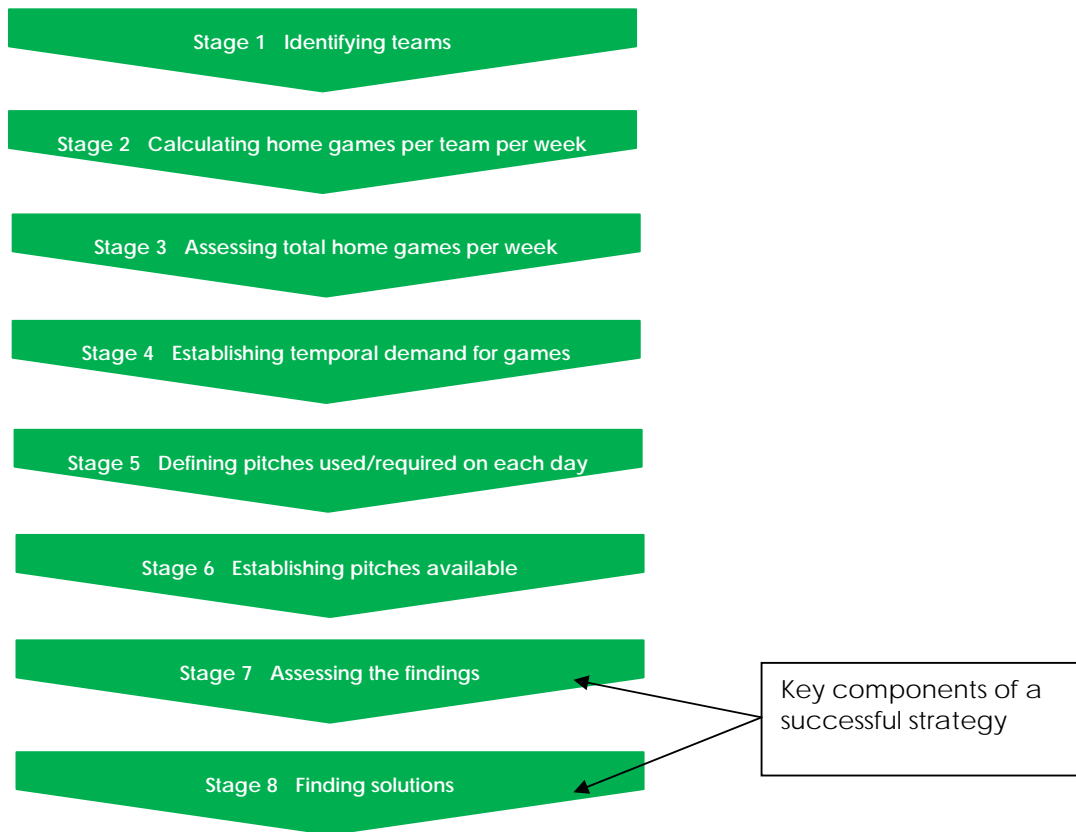
2. Methodology

02

This section summarises the methodology that has been used. The strategy has been developed in line with *'Towards a Level Playing Field: A Manual for the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy'* (Sport England, 2003) (TaLPF).

Figure 2.1 summarises the key stages of this methodology which comprises eight stages. These stages, broadly cover the issues of supply and demand. While stages one to six are largely numerical calculations, designed to evaluate the current supply and demand, it is steps 7 and 8, the evaluation of issues and solutions, which are the essential components of a successful strategy.

Figure 2.1 - The key stages of the Playing Pitch Methodology



TaLPF is currently being updated and a revised methodology is likely to be published in 2013. Pilots are underway exploring the proposed new methodology, which takes into account the evolving context of sport and the recently published National planning framework. It places a greater emphasis on site specific issues and takes into account trends in the type of facilities, including the growing emphasis on use of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) and moves to introduce new forms of different sports. It also promotes much greater engagement with National Governing Bodies of Sport. Where possible, these changes have been incorporated into the preparation of this Outdoor Sports Strategy for Harrogate Borough.

TaLPF includes only a methodology for pitch sports and there is no formally adopted approach for assessments of tennis. The adequacy of tennis facilities has therefore been evaluated through an assessment of supply and demand. The remainder of this section briefly summarises the approach that has been undertaken in the preparation of this strategy.

Approach

Demand (Steps 1 – 5)

A full audit of teams playing or wishing to play within Harrogate Borough was conducted. This audit process involved:

- use of data collected by National Governing Bodies (NGBs) on participation;
- cross referencing of NGB data through analysis of records from the 2008 PPS, local league websites and fixture lists, pitch booking lists and internet research; and
- clarification telephone calls with clubs and providers.

To supplement baseline data, a consultation exercise was carried out to provide full understanding of the issues and challenges currently experienced. This comprised:

- distribution of a mixture of postal and electronic surveys to clubs playing within or close to the district boundaries and follow up telephone calls to none responding clubs. This work was supported by the FA and ECB who provided contact details and coordinated research through the local supporting infrastructure. For football, distribution of surveys to clubs was coordinated through local league secretaries;
- distribution of surveys to all schools and follow up telephone calls to none responding schools (final response 82%). This work built on previous work undertaken by the Harrogate School Sports Partnership exploring the use of facilities at school sites;
- attendance at a meeting with representatives of football across the Borough especially configured to inform the preparation of this strategy;
- additional telephone and email consultations with secretaries of leagues;
- email and telephone discussions with Parish and Town Councils;
- face to face and telephone discussions with NGBs to discuss key issues and priorities;
- discussions with officers of Harrogate Borough Council; and
- discussions with other external stakeholders including Sport England.

Overall, a high proportion of teams within Harrogate Borough engaged successfully with the process. Final responses were:

- Football – 67% of clubs, 87% of teams
- Cricket – 64% of clubs, 79% of teams
- Rugby Union – 100% of clubs and 100% of teams
- Hockey – 100% of clubs and 100% of teams

- Tennis –73% of clubs
- Croquet – 100% of clubs and 100% of teams.

Attempts were made to contact all none responding clubs on at least three separate occasions.

Supply (Step 6)

A full audit of the supply of playing fields is an essential component of an outdoor sports strategy and sites in all ownerships are considered. A detailed audit of all facilities across the Borough was compiled by:

- analysing the audit of playing fields and open space compiled for the 2008 PPS;
- reviewing NGB data on pitches and the Sport England Active Places tool;
- a detailed survey to all schools and analyzing the findings of the sports club survey and league secretary consultation;
- engaging with Parish and Town Councils to understand provision in their control;
- consultation with other potential key providers;
- undertaking non technical site visits (in line with the Sport England Matrix) to all public playing fields and a sample of school sites;
- consulting with Grounds Maintenance staff; and
- carrying out internet searches and local consultation.

Availability and accessibility

The ownership and accessibility of facilities will influence their actual availability for community use. In line with Towards a Level Playing Field, the term 'secured community use' has been adopted to define this. This embraces:

- all local authority facilities;
- school facilities where they are subject to formal community use agreements;
- other institutional facilities that are available to the public as a result of formal community use agreements; and
- any facilities that are owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals and which, as a matter of policy and practice, are available to large sections of the public through membership of a club or through an admission fee.

Pitches in secured community use are pitches where the future use is secured for the coming seasons by one or more of the following:

- a formal community use agreement;
- a leasing/management arrangement between the school and LEA requiring;
- the pitch(es) to be available to community teams;

- policy of community use minuted by school or LEA, including tariff of charges, etc;
- minutes of the board of school governors allowing use of pitches by community teams; and
- written commitment from the school to the current community team(s) using the pitch(es) and where it is the intention of the school to maintain access for community teams to its pitch(es) at peak times (ie evenings, weekends and/or school holidays) for the next two or more years.

Strategy Development (Stages 7 and 8)

Following the collation of supply and demand data, calculations were undertaken to evaluate the adequacy of pitches in the borough. These calculations, alongside the key issues arising from consultations, drive the priorities of the strategy and the actions that emerge from these priorities. Extensive scenario testing was also carried out to evaluate the implications of issues emerging and to provide a full picture of the adequacy of provision in different parts of the borough.

Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)

Artificial pitches are increasingly being used to meet demand for pitch sports. To acknowledge this, the adequacy of AGPs has been evaluated using the Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM). This work was undertaken by Sport England and supplied to NAA to inform the strategy document.

Section 3 sets out the strategic context for the provision of outdoor sports facilities in Harrogate District. It also provides a full understanding of the participation profile in sport and physical activity of residents, as well as their propensity to participate and comments upon the key population trends which may influence demand for facilities in future years.

3. Population and Sports Participation Profile

03

Introduction

An understanding of the local strategic context is essential if a strategy is to be effectively tailored to achieve local targets and priorities. The demographics of a given area can also impact upon the propensity of a population to participate in different sports.

This section therefore summarises the key documents and policies that impact upon the priorities of the outdoor sports strategy and provides an overview of the demographics of the borough and the impact of this on demand for pitch sports.

Strategic Context

National Level

At a national level, there are several key policies that impact upon the preparation of this Playing Pitch Strategy:

- The National Planning Policy Framework seeks to make the planning system less complex and more accessible, and to promote sustainable growth. The framework includes a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' in order to promote development but highlights the importance of environmental protection. The presumption champions the right sort of development at the right level by placing a greater emphasis on having a Local Plan in place. Through the plan, local communities will have a say in the sort of development they want and need in their areas. These plans will set out the opportunities for local development and form the basis for planning decisions. The framework specifically highlights the importance of providing high quality open spaces and sports facilities and outlines the contribution that this makes to the health and well being of communities. It indicates that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities which should help to determine where new and enhanced provision is required. It also highlights the importance of protecting facilities for sport and recreation including playing fields, unless they are surplus to requirements, are to be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quality and quantity (and in a suitable location) or are to be sacrificed in return for a development of alternative sport and recreation provision. This assessment of Playing Pitches and outdoor sports facilities will provide the Council with an important evidence base to fulfil these requirements.
- Sport England has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing pitches since 1996 and has a long established policy of retention, which is the precursor to the PPG17 guidance above. Sport England also advises that informed decisions on playing pitch matters require all local authorities to have an up to date (within the last three years) assessment of need and a strategy emanating from this.

Local Context

More local to Harrogate Borough, the preparation of this outdoor sports strategy impacts upon, or is informed by, a number of key documents including;

Local Planning Documents: The Harrogate Borough Core Strategy was adopted in 2009 and sets out the vision of what Harrogate District should be like and outlines the strategic policies for development and conservation up to 2021 and beyond. It is part of the Local Development Framework, a set of documents outlining strategic policies for the borough.

Sport and recreation is central to the delivery of the core strategy, with the strategy seeking to ensure that residents of Harrogate District enjoy better access to community facilities, including public open space and sport. The strategy recognises the role of the provision of sport and recreation facilities in planning for sustainable growth and the evidence provided within this outdoor sport facilities strategy will help to bring the Core Strategy vision to reality. This strategy will also support the development of other documents and plans within the Harrogate Local Development Framework in particular the Sites and Policies DPD and Area plans which will contain development control policies and site allocations to support the delivery of the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy highlights the importance of considering the need to allocate space for the delivery of new and improved community sports facilities across the borough.

With specific reference to sport, the Core Strategy seeks to provide new sports facilities and open spaces in Harrogate and builds upon guidance set out in PPG17 (now replaced by the National Planning Framework) which seeks to establish sustainable networks of sports facilities. The core strategy highlights the need to consider the needs and demands of both older residents (particularly as a result of the ageing population) and younger residents and records that consultation undertaken as part of the preparation of the LDF identified the need for more cultural, sport, leisure and entertainment facilities in particular for the young.

Building on these issues, Policy C1 of the Core Strategy indicates:

Proposals for the use and development of land will be assessed having regard to community needs within the District, with particular importance placed on the following specific needs identified through the Harrogate District Community Plan and other relevant strategies and plans:

- elderly people, especially in terms of open market housing, health, sport and recreation;
- young people, especially in terms of affordable housing, higher education/training and sport, leisure;
- cultural and entertainment facilities;
- the rural population especially in terms of affordable housing and access to services; and
- disabled people, especially in terms of access to services and mobility.

Wherever possible and viable, proposals for new development will be expected to contribute to achieving:

- a reduction in the fear of crime and incidence of anti-social behaviour;
- a reduction in social inequalities and disadvantage; and
- the protection and enhancement of the supply of community facilities and local services.

The Borough Council will expect developers to provide for and/or contribute towards the provision of community and other infrastructure needs generated directly by their development where this is necessary to make a scheme acceptable in planning terms.

This outdoor sports facility strategy will support the delivery of this strategy and will evaluate needs and aspirations adopting a local 'bottom up' approach. It provides evidence to support the need for new outdoor sports facilities within settlements across the district and highlights the key issues relating to such facilities that will impact upon the delivery of Policy C1.

Harrogate District Sport, Recreation, Open Space and Village Hall Study was published as part of the Local Development Framework urban areas and policies consultation in Autumn 2011.: It drew upon the research undertaken as part of the 2004 PPS, which broadly concluded that there was a shortage of pitches to meet the peak demand for cricket, rugby union, hockey and junior football both at that time and based on future projections. Particular problems accommodating junior football at times of peak demand were identified and there was also a shortage of artificial grass pitches. The sport, recreation, open space and village hall study was compiled to form the first stage in identifying the need for new open space provision within a number of settlements across the District and acted as a basis for engaging with parish council's, residents, schools and other interested parties to determine what is required to service the needs of communities. It identifies shortfalls in the provision of outdoor sports facilities across the district and notably highlights large gaps in provision in Harrogate, Ripon and Knaresborough. This study will update the findings of this assessment and provide a sport specific perspective on the issues identified, supporting decision making future the future allocation of sports facilities.

Harrogate District Partnership Plan: This is the strategic plan of the Harrogate District Strategic Partnership. It sets out the Partnership's long term vision and priorities for the area from 2006 to 2021. In particular, the partnership seeks to provide;

- A prosperous economy
- A healthy and active society
- A quality environment.

The key priorities are therefore set out under the theme of;

- Strong local economies
- Supporting our communities
- Enhancing and protecting our environment.

The empowerment of local communities to take control of shaping their neighbourhood.

The overall vision of the plan is:

"Working together to enhance the many and varied communities, economies and environment of our towns and dales, we will make the District a place where people are valued and protected and where access, opportunity, prosperity and support are available to all".

Playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities can make key contributions towards the achievement of objectives under several of the above strands. Sports groups are a key part of the Harrogate District Partnership and will be strongly involved in driving forward sports participation across the borough to support the achievement of the wider aims and objectives.

Harrogate Borough Corporate Plan – 2012 to 2015 - The Corporate Plan sets out the long-term vision for the Harrogate district, the aims for the Council as an organisation, corporate priorities and the long term outcomes that we want to achieve. It highlights the importance of delivering in partnership to ensure that all desired outcomes are achieved. The plan has the vision of ensuring that Harrogate District is:

"The best place to live, work and visit - by miles."

The key priorities for the delivery of the vision fall under the objectives of;

- *A strong local economy*
- *Supporting our communities and;*
- *An excellent local council.*

Sport and recreation facilities can contribute to the achievement of many of the desired outcomes of the local plan.

Interrelationship with Neighbouring Authorities

Harrogate Borough is bordered by Leeds City Council, Hambleton Borough Council, Richmondshire District Council, York City Council, Selby District Council, Bradford City Council and Craven District Council.

Given that users travel between authorities, and needs in one authority are impacted by both supply and demand in another, it is important to consider the issues identified in neighbouring authorities, and the resulting action points. For contextual purposes, the key issues and priorities of Playing Pitch Strategies (where existing) and consultations with each of the neighbouring boroughs is summarised below.

Leeds City Council: The Leeds City Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment (2011) highlights the following relating to sports pitches and other outdoor sports facilities:

- Access to sports pitches is good with almost all residents able to access a site within a 15 minute walk. Policy seeks to encourage the creation of large hub facilities which can offer higher quality ancillary facilities. There is a strong reliance on the education sector, with 240 of the 400 pitches in education ownership.
- 77% of public pitches were let during the season 2010 / 2011 and there has been a steady decrease in demand (14% overall) since 2005 / 2006. The quality of pitches is therefore a much greater issue for pitches across the city than the quantity.
- The quality of pitches received particularly high amounts of criticism, with key issues including poor drainage, poor changing facilities and a lack of pitches with changing facilities and changing demands of clubs (ie the need for separate changing facilities accommodating female players etc).
- 33% of residents in Leeds consider the amount of tennis facilities to be poor and courts are also unevenly distributed. The Council are currently engaged with the LTA in a programme of improvement for tennis courts in parks.
- There is a good distribution of AGPs, although clubs commented upon the importance of ensuring that these facilities are floodlit to maximise usage.

Hambleton District Council: Hambleton District Council does not currently have a playing pitch strategy. The 2006 PPG17 assessments indicates that there is a good satisfaction with the quality and quantity of outdoor sports facilities in the borough, with the key issues raised being a lack of changing accommodation and limited parking.

Richmondshire District Council: Richmondshire District Council do not currently have a playing pitch strategy. Consultation however reveals that there is little cross over between the districts in terms of football, cricket, rugby and hockey. There are however no facilities within the district for American football, Rounders, Croquet, lacrosse or polo and therefore facilities in Harrogate for these sports enhance opportunities for those living within Richmondshire.

York City Council; York City Council are currently updating their City Sport and Active Leisure Strategy and the most recent assessment was undertaken in 2010. With regards playing pitches, this concluded that the area neighbouring Harrogate Borough (the west of the city) currently has an under provision of approximately 8 mini soccer pitch, 5 junior rugby league and 2 junior rugby union pitches. By 2030, with population and sports development growth, this shortfall will have increased to 28 mini soccer pitches, 14 junior and 12 senior soccer pitches, 13 junior rugby league, 2 senior and 4 junior rugby union pitches and 2 cricket pitches. Several club specific issues were also identified, including the need to create new outdoor sports facilities in Copmanthorpe, expansion of playing pitch area for Dringhouses Football Club and the creation of high quality changing facilities for Poppleton FC. This project received funding from the Football Foundation at the end of 2010. Key priorities identified include supporting relevant projects identified as well as negotiating agreements with schools in order to improve the amount of community use of facilities. These large shortfalls identified may have implications on demand for facilities in Harrogate. The strategy will also include other facilities in York, including large scale built facilities and small informal facilities located in parks for example.

Selby District Council

Selby District Council are currently in the process of preparing a playing pitch strategy, which will examine the adequacy of provision for outdoor sports across the district. The strategy will be completed in 2012.

Bradford City Council: The Bradford Open Space Sport and Recreation Study (2008) identifies the following issues relating to pitches:

Football - The document concludes that there is capacity to accommodate the amount of play required if improvements were made to the quality of facilities but the number of dedicated mini soccer pitches is low. There are lots of single pitch sites with no changing facilities and junior clubs are dispersed.

Rugby – there are few issues and the quality of pitches is high.

Cricket – pitches are being played to capacity and there are pressures on the existing stock.

Hockey – no appropriate pitches to accommodate the elite game and teams struggle to access synthetic pitches.

Craven District Council: Like Harrogate Borough, Craven District Council are currently producing a playing pitch and recreation facility strategy. Research to date however reveals that due to the geography, there are few cross overs in participation between Harrogate and Craven in pitch sports. There are only a couple of sports venues on the border between Craven and Harrogate and these are only small local facilities with a local catchment area.

Population and Sports Participation

This evaluation of population trends and overall participation in sport in Harrogate District underpins the evaluation of the adequacy of facilities in later sections. This section draws on the findings from the Sport England Active People surveys and Sport England Market Segmentation, as well as participation analysis undertaken by the FA. In particular it covers:

- **Population trends in Harrogate District:** What are the population trends in Harrogate and what does this mean for pitch sports participation?

- **Sports Participation trends for adults in Harrogate District:** Drawn from the Sport England Active People Survey, what are the overall trends in participation, how are these changing and what does this mean for pitch sports participation?
- **Which are the most popular sports played by adults in Harrogate District:** Again drawn from the Sport England Active People survey; and where do pitch sports rank in terms of popularity when compared with other sports/physical activity?
- **What is the sporting profile of participants in Harrogate District and where do they live:** Using the Sport England market segmentation data to set out a sports and spatial profile of the most dominant population groups in Harrogate. How do pitch sports *rank* in the importance and the amount of sports played by these groups? Does Harrogate have more or less potential pitch sports participants when compared with the national profile?
- **What percentage of adults who play pitch sports now compared to how many adults would like to play these sports:** Again based on the Active People market segmentation survey findings, what percentage of the Harrogate population play pitch sports now and where are they located in the authority? What percentage of the Harrogate population would like to play pitch sports and where do they live?

Harrogate Borough Profile

Geographical Location

Harrogate Borough is one of the largest in England at 1305 sq km (505 sq miles) and is situated between the cities of Leeds/Bradford in the south, the district of Richmondshire in the north, the city of York, Hambleton and Selby districts in the east and the Craven district in the west.

The district is characterised by being both urban and rural in nature, with large sparsely populated areas located alongside the urban settlements of Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon. Over 120 smaller settlements are scattered across the district including the small market towns of Boroughbridge, Masham and Pateley Bridge which lies in the centre of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Harrogate district has the largest population of all the districts in North Yorkshire and it is expected to increase from 158,700 in 2010 to 183,700 by 2033. Population density is the 33rd lowest out of 201 non-metropolitan district areas with a lower proportion of urban wards and a significantly higher proportion of villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings.

Population Profile

Analysis of the population profile of Harrogate District provides a context for the interpretation of participation in sports. The current population profile and projected changes over the 2010 – 2015 period for Harrogate is set out in Table 3.1. This is based on the ONS sub national population projections for this period, which provide an understanding of district wide trends. They account for inward and outward migration, birth rates, housing growth etc. For context, figures for the Yorkshire Region and England wide are also included.

Harrogate District makes up 3% of the total Yorkshire and the Humber population and is estimated to be circa 158,000 (2010 Sub National Population estimates).

The significant finding from analysis of the projected changes to the population is that over a five year period between 2010 and 2016 while the England wide projected increase in population is 4.4%. In overall numbers, the growth in the population is anticipated to be 5,700 people.

Longer term, by 2024, population is expected to reach 166,700, an overall increase of 8500 people.

Age Profile of the 2012 – 2024

The anticipated age profile of residents over the period 2012 to 2024 is set out in five year age group bands in Table 3.1.

The key issues arising from this table in relation to demand for playing pitches are as follows:

- Despite overall population increases, the amount of people in the age groups that most typically participate in pitch sports is projected to decrease between 2012 and 2024. While there are currently 63,100 people in these age brackets, by 2024 it is anticipated that there will only be 62,600 residents within these age groups. The decline in numbers of residents falling within these age groups is even more apparent in the short term, with only 60,700 people between the ages of 10 and 44 in 2017. This suggests therefore that based upon demographic trends alone, overall demand for pitches is likely to remain relatively static or decline.
- Despite the overall trend towards the ageing population, the amount of people in the age groups likely to participate in junior and mini football are more stable, suggesting that the decline is likely to take place in adult football. Most age groups within the range to play adult football will see a decline, although there will be an increase in the 30 – 39 age group. Although it is not possible to measure exact numbers (population profile is sub divided by five year age brackets which do not directly correlate with age ranges for each type of football), it is anticipated that:
 - For mini football, the amount of people in the relevant age groups will increase slowly but steadily, from 8,600 (2012) to 9,100 (2024)
 - For junior football, in the short term demand will remain relatively constant, but up to 2024, will increase (possibly up to 9% increase)
- The greatest increases in population are likely to occur in the 55 – 65 age group and the 75+ age groups. Residents in these age groups in general have a lower propensity to participate in outdoor sports.

While the above suggests that within this strategy period, overall, there are likely to be fewer people in the age groups most likely to use pitches (and in particular lower numbers of adult participants) it must be noted that longer term, demand for pitches may rise again as the increase in the number of people in the younger age groups translates into higher levels of adult participation.

Table 3.1 – Projected Population Profile – Harrogate District 2012 - 2024

AGE GROUP	Population (1000's)												
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
0-4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2
5-9	8.6	8.8	8.9	8.9	9	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1
10-14	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.3	9.5	9.5	9.5
15-19	9.8	9.7	9.4	9.2	9	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.9	9	9.2	9.3
20-24	7.5	7.1	7	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.1	6	5.9	5.9
25-29	8.3	8.7	8.8	8.8	9	9	8.8	8.7	8.5	8.3	8.2	8.1	8
30-34	8	8.2	8.4	8.6	8.7	8.9	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.4	9.3
35-39	9.1	8.8	8.6	8.7	8.9	9	9.3	9.5	9.7	9.9	10.1	10.4	10.5
40-44	11.7	11.5	11	10.6	10.1	9.6	9.2	9.1	9.2	9.4	9.6	9.9	10.1
45-49	12.9	12.7	12.5	12.1	12	11.7	11.5	11	10.6	10.1	9.6	9.3	9.2
50-54	11.8	12.2	12.5	12.7	12.8	12.8	12.7	12.5	12.1	12	11.8	11.5	11
55-59	10.1	10.4	10.7	11.1	11.4	11.6	11.9	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.6	12.4	12.3
60-64	10.2	9.7	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.9	10.1	10.5	10.8	11.1	11.4	11.7	12
65-69	9.7	10.1	10.4	10.4	10.4	9.8	9.4	9.2	9.1	9.3	9.5	9.8	10.1
70-74	7.4	7.5	7.8	8.1	8.4	9.1	9.6	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.3	8.9	8.8
75-79	6	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.4	7.7	8.4	8.8	9.1
80-84	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9	5	5.1	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.8	6	6.2
85-89	3	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.9	4	4.2	4.4
90+	2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.9	3	3.2	3.3	3.5
All ages	157.9	158.5	159.2	159.8	160.5	161.1	161.9	162.6	163.4	164.2	165	165.7	166.4

Population Growth and Change

The nature of Harrogate District means that population is not evenly dispersed geographically. The six largest towns in Harrogate Borough currently accommodate circa 75% of the overall population of the borough. The remainder (39,000) are based in a series of settlements ranging from clusters of houses to villages containing around 2000 people.

In order to promote a sustainable pattern of development and to ensure that all residents have access to the services that they require, the Harrogate Borough Core Strategy sets out a settlement hierarchy. This strategy groups the settlements and identifies the range of services that may be expected in each. The settlement hierarchy is as follows:

Group A settlements are the largest centres of the District and they have a reasonably wide range of jobs, shops and services and are appropriate settlements in which to focus growth. They include the towns of Harrogate and Knaresborough, (including Scriven), and the city of Ripon.

Group B settlements comprise Local Service Centres (Boroughbridge, Masham and Pateley Bridge) and the District's villages that have the best access to jobs, shops and services by non car modes of transport. These settlements will be the focus of growth in the District's rural areas and include the towns of Boroughbridge, (including Langthorpe), Masham and Pateley Bridge, (including Bridgehousegate) and the villages of Birstwith, Burton Leonard, Darley, Follifoot*, Great Ouseburn, Green Hammerton, Hampsthwaite, Killinghall, Kirkby Malzeard, Marton cum Grafton, Pannal, Ripley, Spofforth, Summerbridge and Tockwith.

Group C settlements are smaller settlements with limited shops and services. These include the villages of Aldborough, Askwith*, Beckwithshaw, Bishop Monkton, Bishop Thornton, Burnt Yates, Cundall, Dacre, Dacre Banks, Dishforth, Glasshouses, Goldsborough, Grantley, Grewelthorpe, Kirby Hill, Kirk Deighton, Kirk Hammerton, Kirkby Overblow*, Little Ouseburn, Lofthouse, Long Marston, Markington, Melmerby, Minskip, North Stainley, Rainton, Ramsgill, Roecliffe, Sawley, Scotton, Sharow, Sicklinghall*, Skelton on Ure, Staveley, Wath (nr Ripon) and Whixley.

The majority of housing growth will focus in the Group A and B settlements and will take place on previously developed land. It is likely however that extensions to the urban area of Harrogate (west) and Knaresborough (east) will be required to accommodate the necessary level of growth.

Table 3.2 summarises the likely percentage of housing growth that will take place in each part of the borough based on current proposals in the core strategy.

Table 3.2 – Likely Proportion of Housing Growth

Area	Demographics	Likely Percentage of New Housing
Harrogate	Largest town in the district with a population of circa 73,000. Characterised by large parks, gardens and the Stray –a large protected open space in the town. High car ownership	48%

Area	Demographics	Likely Percentage of New Housing
Knarborough	Market town with population of circa 15,000. Local shopping and service centre on banks of River Nidd.	14%
Ripon	Population of circa 16,300. Cathedral city and market town that forms the main service centre for the more rural northern areas of the district.	8%
Boroughbridge	The parish of Boroughbridge, which includes the separate villages of Aldborough and Minskip, has a population of 3340 (2005).	3.5%
Pateley Bridge	Pateley Bridge with Bewerley has a population of around 2,500. It lies at the heart of the AONB and is a local service centre serving people to the north of this area.	3%
Masham	Masham's population stands at 1,250. It provides a localised service centre in an area that is relatively sparsely populated	2%
Other villages and countryside		21%

Geographical Analysis

To fully understand the patterns of supply and demand, the adequacy of provision has been analysed firstly across Harrogate District and then more specifically within each of nine geographical regions. This ensures that issues relating to specific areas of the district are identified and that settlement and site specific issues can be recorded.

Table 3.3 sets out the areas that have been used for this assessment and they are also illustrated in Map 3.1. Populations are estimates compiled using the Population Estimates calculated by Policy, Performance & Partnerships, Chief Executive's Group, North Yorkshire County Council and are based upon revised Mid Year Estimates for 2010.

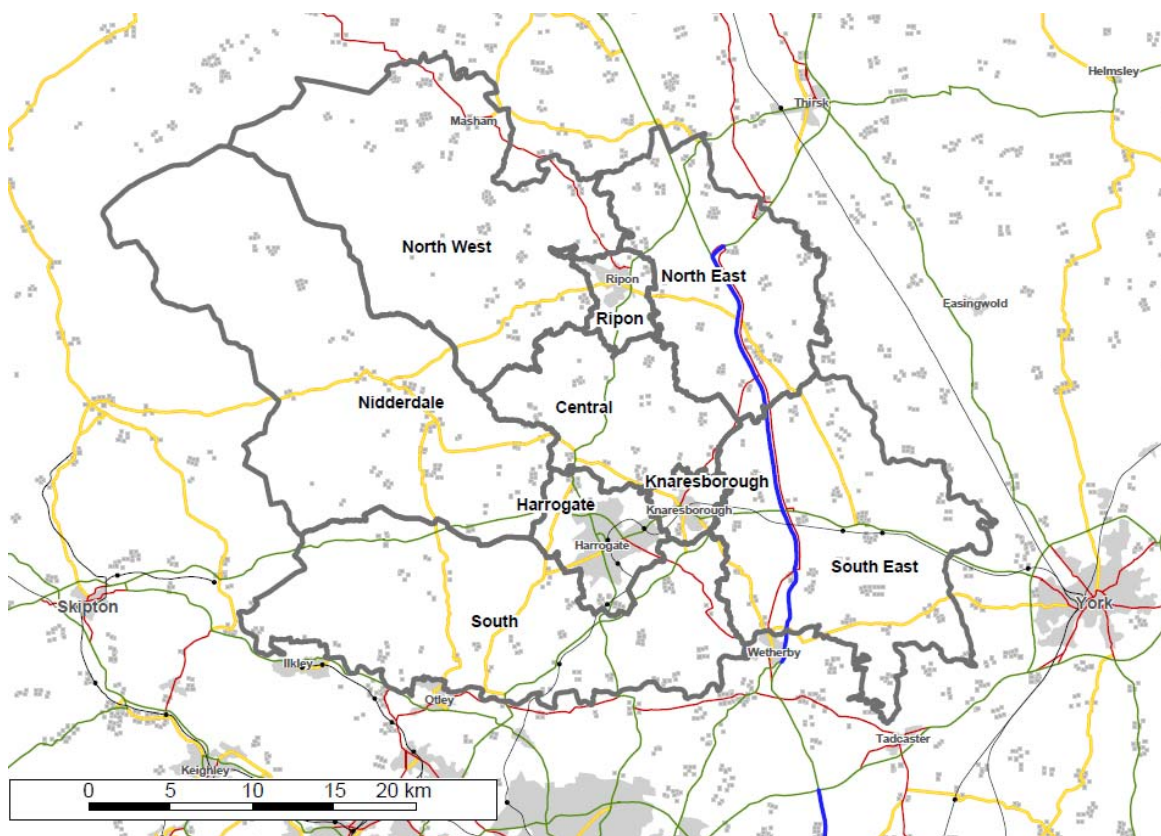
Table 3.3 –Analysis Areas in Harrogate Borough

Area	Estimated Current Population	Parishes	Group A and B Settlements
Harrogate Town	78070	Harrogate, Killinghall	Harrogate (A), Killinghall (B), Pannal (B)
Knarborough	16290	Knarborough, Plompton, Scraven, Goldsborough	Knarborough (A)
Ripon	18270	Ripon, Littlethorpe, Sharow	Ripon (A)

Area	Estimated Current Population	Parishes	Group A and B Settlements
South Harrogate District	6520	Blubberhouses, Fewston, Norwood, Haverah Park, Beckwithshaw, North Rigton, Weeton, Castley, Stainburn, Leathley, Farnley, Newhall with Clifton, Lindley, Weston, Askwith, Denton, Middleton, Nesfield with Lanbar, Great Timble, Little Timble, Kirkby Overblow, Kearby with Netherby, Sicklinghall, Spofforth with Stockeld, Follifoot	Spofforth (B), Follifoot (B)
South East Harrogate District	9490	Arkendale, Marton Cum Grafton, Dunsforths, Great Ouseburn, Little Ouseburn, Kirby Hall, Thorpe Underwoods, Whixley, Allerton Mauleverer with Hopperton, Flaxby, Coneythorpe and Clareton, Ribston Great and Walshford, Little Ribston, North Deighton, Kirk Deighton, Hunsingore, Tockwith, Bilton in Ainsty, Wighill, Long Marston, Wilstrop, Moor Monkton, Nun Monkton, Green Hammerton, Kirk Hammerton, Cattal, Thornville	Marton Cum Grafton (B), Great Ouseburn (B), Green Hammerton (B), Tockwith (B)
Central Harrogate District	4940	Markenfield Hall, Markington with Wallerthwaite, Bishop Thornton, Ripley, Nidd, Brearton, Scotton, Farnham, Ferrensby, Staveley, Walkingham Hill with Occaney, Coprgrove, Burton Leonard, Bishop Monkton, South Stainley with Cayton	Burton Leonard (B), Ripley (B)
Nidderdale	9800	Stonebeck Up, Stonebeck Down, Fountains Earth, High and Low Bishopside, Hartwith cum Winsley, Clint, Hampthswaite, Felliscliffe, Birstwith, Menwith With Darley, Thonthwaite with Padside, Thuscross, Beverley, Dacre	Pateley Bridge (B), Birstwith (B), Darley (B), Hampthswaite (B), Summerbridge (B)
North East Harrogate District	9350	Copt Hewick, Bridge Hewick, Givendale, Newby with Multick, Weswick, Roecliffe, Boroughbridge, Ellenthorpe, Milby, Kirby Hill, Humberton, Thornton Bridge, Norton-le-Clay, Cundall with Leckby, Dishforth, Skelton, Marton-le-Moor, Langthorpe, Melmbery, Wath, Rainton with Newby, Asenby, Hutton Conyers, Baldersby, Norton Conyers	Boroughbridge (B)
North West Harrogate District	5800	Colsterdale, Healey, Ilton-Cum-Pott, Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton, Skelding, Eavestone, Sawley, Warshill, Aldfield, Lindrick with Studley Royal and Fountains, Studley Roger, Azerley, North Stainley with Sleningford, Gewelthorpe, Burton-on-Yore, Masham, Fearby, Ellington High and Low, Ellingstring,	Kirkby Malzeard (B), Masham (B)

Area	Estimated Current Population	Parishes	Group A and B Settlements
		Swinton with Wathermarske, Grantley, Winksley	

Map 3.1 – Areas for Analysis in Harrogate Borough Council



Adult Participation in Sport

The nationally accepted measure of adult participation in sport is the Sport England Active People survey. The first survey was conducted between October 2005 and October 2006, and was a telephone survey of 363,724 adults in England (aged 16 plus). It is unique in providing reliable statistics on participation in sport and active recreation for all 354 local authorities in England (a minimum of 1,000 interviews were completed in every Local Authority).

The Active People survey has been updated on the same basis, commencing in October each year until the following October. The latest Active People survey is AP 6 which commenced in October 2009 and finished in October 2011. It provides by far the largest sample size ever established for a sport and recreation survey and allows levels of detailed analysis previously unavailable. It identifies how participation varies from place to place and between different groups in the population. The survey also measures the proportion of the adult population that volunteer in sport on a weekly basis, club membership, involvement in organised

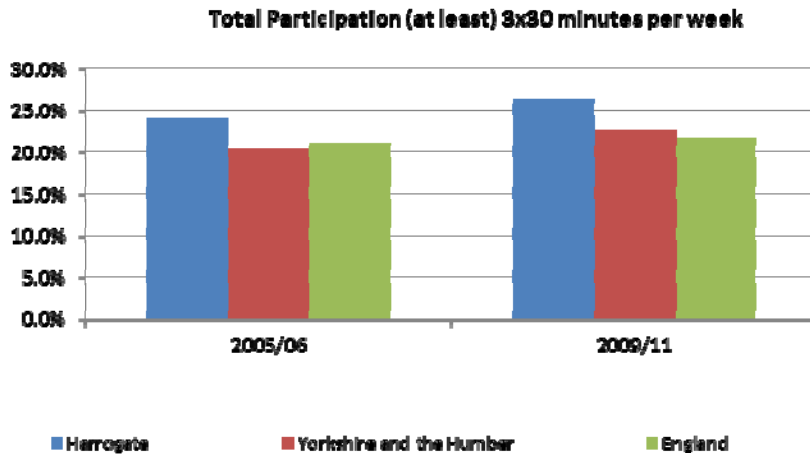
sport/competition, receipt of tuition or coaching, and overall satisfaction with levels of sporting provision in the local community.

Headline Findings from the Active People Survey

Adult (16+) participation in sport is generally higher in Harrogate than in Yorkshire and the Humber and England as a whole. 42.3% of the Harrogate population does not participate in any recreation, 0.9% lower than in 2005/06 (43.2%). This is 6% lower than the Yorkshire and the Humber (48.8%) and England (48.2%) averages.

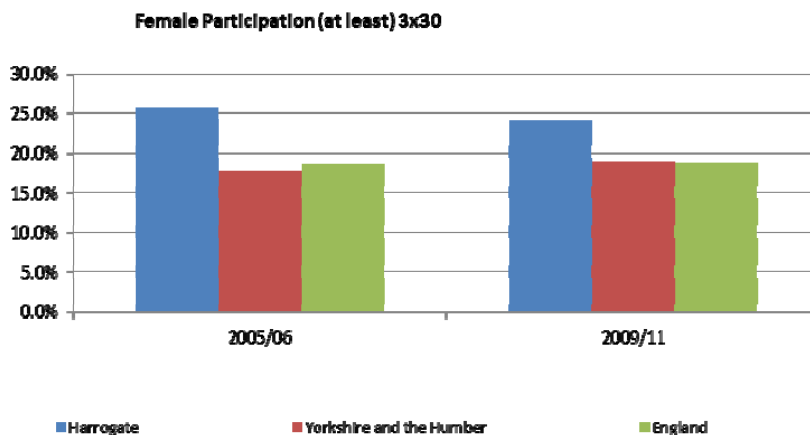
26.5% of the Harrogate population participate in sport and active recreation at least 12 times a month. Again, this figure is better than the Yorkshire and Humber and the England averages (22.7% and 21.9% respectively). On the whole, more men and women participate in sport and active recreation in Harrogate than the rest of the population. Chart 3.1 emphasises the differences in participation levels between Harrogate, Yorkshire and Humber and England.

Chart 3.1 – Total Participation in Harrogate



Interestingly, female participation is much higher in Harrogate than in the rest of Yorkshire and the Humber and England, as shown in Chart 3.2. Participation is over 5% higher in Harrogate, although there has been a slight decrease in participation since 2005/06.

Chart 3.2 – Female Participation in Sport and Active Recreation



Other key findings of the Active People Survey include:

- The number of people in Harrogate doing at least one hour of volunteering in sport per week has risen steadily since 2007/08, with 11.7% currently volunteering. This is significantly higher than both Yorkshire and the Humber (7.7%) and England (7.2%).
- There was a decrease in club membership of 2.9% from 27.9% down to 25% between 2009-10 and 2010-11. Nonetheless, this figure is still higher than the Yorkshire and the Humber (22.4%) and England (23.3%) averages. The amount of coaching received is also higher in Harrogate (20.2%), which is very positive, as this may encourage children to continue with sport and recreation into their adult years.
- Over 20% of the population also took part in organized competition over the past 12 months, which is over 5% higher than both the Yorkshire and Humber and England averages.
- 76.1% of the Harrogate population are satisfied with the local provision of sport (2009-10), which again is much higher than the Yorkshire and the Humber and England averages (69.2% and 69.0%). Satisfaction with the provision is again likely to increase/maintain participation, as the population are happy with facilities/enjoying playing.

Which are the Most Popular Sports in Harrogate District?

It is also important to also understand which sports/activities people most like to participate in. This can often be informal sporting or physical activity such as walking, and as much for a health benefit as well as formal sports.

The five most popular sporting activities based on participation at least once a month according to Active People 6 are cycling, swimming, gym, football and athletics. Football is therefore the only pitch sport that ranks as one of the five most popular sports.

Perhaps unsurprisingly given the above average levels of participation, the number of adults wanting to do more sport in Harrogate is 49.7%, which is lower than Yorkshire and Humber (52%) and England (54.9%) averages. The specific sport with the highest levels of potential demand is swimming (9.8%).

What is the profile of adult sports participation in Harrogate District?

As part of the Active People survey findings Sport England analysed the data on the English population (18+) to produce 19 market segments with distinct sporting behaviours and attitudes. This includes information on specific sports people take part in as well as why people do sport, whether they want to do sport and the barriers to doing more sport. In addition, the segments provide information on media consumption and communication channels, social capital, health indicators including obesity and engagement in the wider cultural sphere. A full description of all the 19 market segments can be found at <http://segments.sportengland.org/querySegments.aspx>.

The power of these sporting segments lies not only in their ability to help us better understand the characteristics of our potential market but also to explore the market base at differing geographic levels. Each segment has been assigned a name that reflects the most popular first names for the group.

Market segmentation allows us to develop a more sophisticated, tailored approach to delivering services. Map 3.2 summarises the market segmentation profile for Harrogate District. This same information can also be set out in bar chart form (Chart 3.3). This is followed by a description of each of the dominant market segments and their sporting activity profile.

Map 3.2 - Dominant Market Segments in Harrogate District by Population and Location

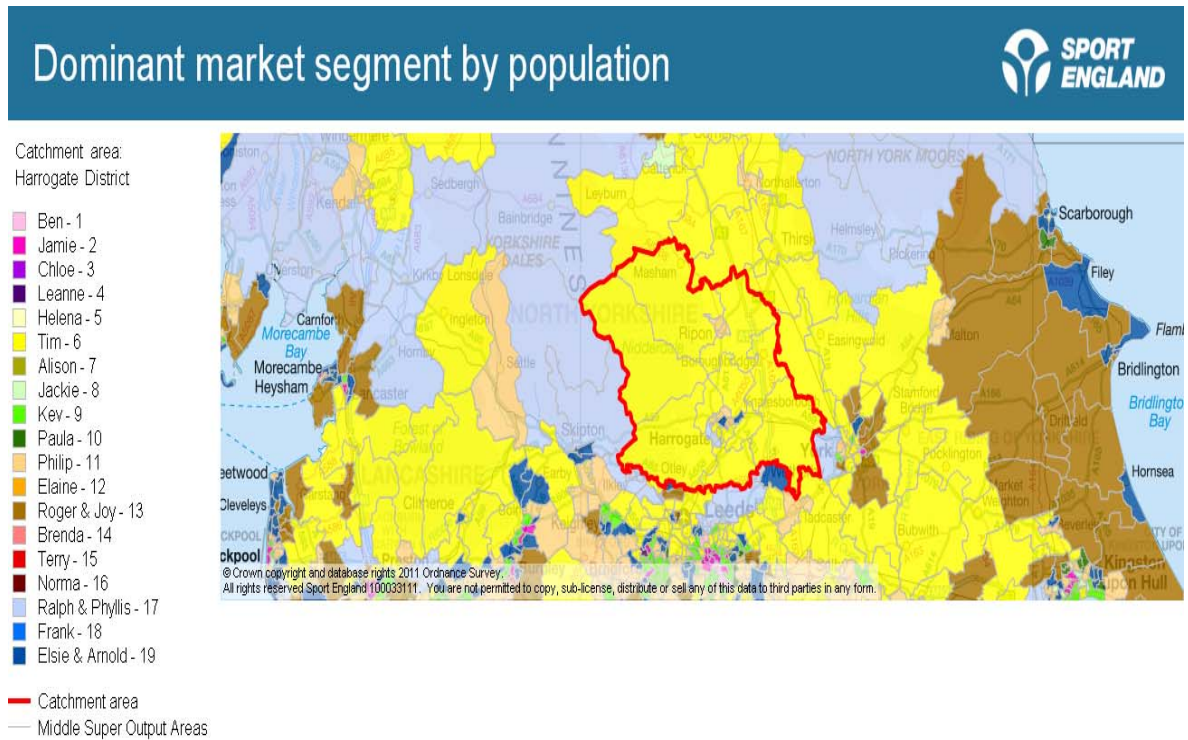
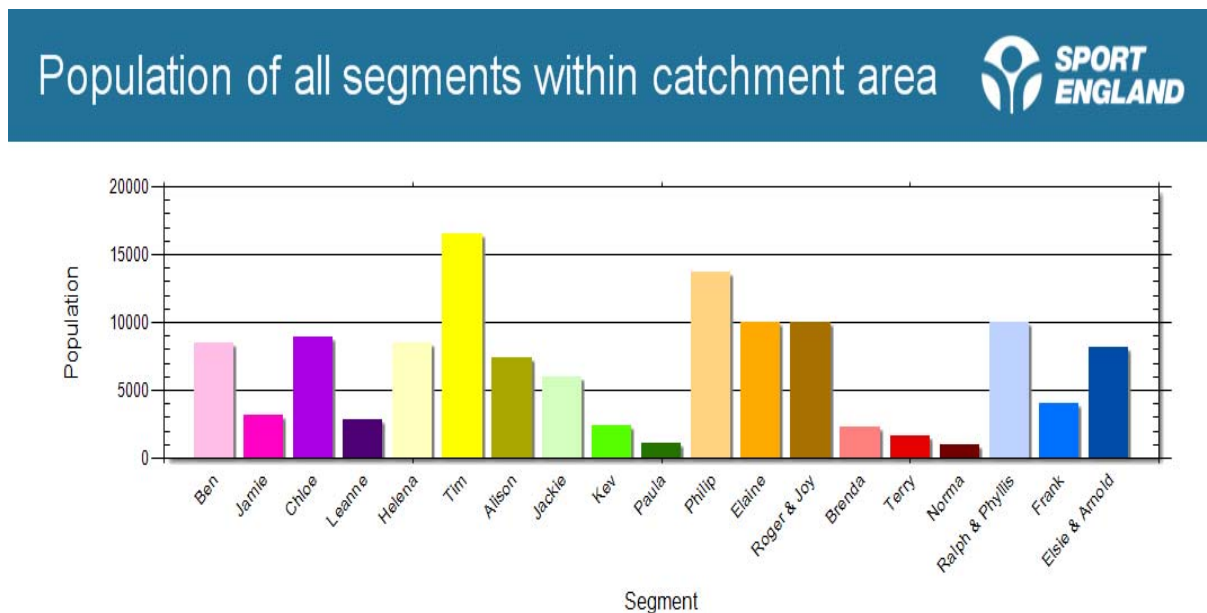


Chart 3.3 - Dominant Market Segments in Harrogate District by Population Total



As Map 3.2 and Chart 3.3 show, Tim is the dominant segment, and lives all across Harrogate. This is true of most parts of the district, except in Harrogate, where Philip and Ralph and Phyllis dominate. Tim also dominates a large area of the surrounding area.

Chart 3.2 demonstrates that while the dominant sector is Tim, there are 5 other segments with over 10,000 population, and another 6 segments with over 5,000. Tim has over 16,000 residents in Harrogate. Philip is the second highest population behind Tim with almost 14,000. Elaine, Roger and Jay and Ralph and Phyllis all have over 10,000 residents. The Active People Market Segmentation profile of these segments are described as:

- **Tim a very active type enjoying high intensity activities.** Tim enjoys technical sports such as skiing, uninhibited by financial outlay. Both team games and individual activities feature high on his agenda and personal fitness activities are also popular. **21% of the Tim segment** take part in **cycling** compared to 9% of all adults nationally; 20% of this segment takes part in **keep fit/gym**, compared to 17% of all adults nationally. **Swimming, football and athletics** or **running** are also popular sports for Tim. Tim is more likely than all adults to take part in football and athletics.
- **Philip is in his late forties and is the most active in his age group.** The top sports that Philip participates in are **Cycling is the top sport, and 16% of this segment do this at least once a month, almost double the national average.** Philip also enjoys **keep fit/gym, swimming, football, golf and athletics (running).** His participation in most of his top sports is above the national average, which is indicative of the priority he places on sport.
- **Elaine;** Her **sporting activity levels are consistent with the national average**, and slightly above average for some indicators. **23% of Elaine's are likely to be a member of a health club** and may also attend classes – 22% of this segment has received instruction in the past 12 months. **The top sports that Elaine participates in are Keep fit/gym and swimming** which are the most popular sports with around a fifth of the segment doing these, followed by **cycling (7%), athletics or running (3%), tennis (2%), badminton (2%) and horse riding (2%).**
- Roger & Joy are slightly less active than the average adult population. **The top sports that Roger & Joy participate in are: Keep fit/gym and swimming are the most popular sports with 13% of the segment doing these,** followed by **cycling (8%), golf (6%) and angling (2%).** Their participation levels are below average for all of these sports, with the exception of bowls and golf.
- **Ralph and Phyllis** are in their late sixties, retired and do sport to meet with friends, improve performance, and because they enjoy it. They take part in sports such as swimming, fishing and golf. **Ralph & Phyllis are generally less active than the average adult population, but their activity levels are higher than others in their age range.** They are likely to be doing the same or less sport than 12 months ago, with health the main issue for those doing less. The top sports that Ralph & Phyllis participate in are **keep fit or gym, 9% swimming, 7%, play golf and bowls 4%.**

It is clear that while those falling under the 'Tim' categorisation enjoy high intensity sports, after Tim the next four highest market segments are all in the older age groups of 40+ (Philip, Roger and Joy, Elaine and Ralph and Phyllis) This finding is consistent with the population findings reported on earlier which indicate that the Harrogate population is ageing, and becoming increasingly so.

Both of the top two segments (Tim and Philip) are more active than the national averages and this reflects the fact that participation in Harrogate is higher than the average. Supporting this, the other more dominant segments all have higher than average participation levels for their age.

What do these findings say about participation in pitch sports?

Implications of these market segments for participation are therefore:

- the 2nd – 5th highest market segments are not in the age range for playing pitch sports. They are in the 40 – 59 age group. By 2015, this age range represents 23,200 people or 28.2% of the total Harrogate District population;
- only one of the dominant market segments in Harrogate District plays pitch sports (Tim). Tim is also the market segment with the highest population and spatial coverage in Harrogate District, with there being 8,900 Tim's in Harrogate District based on AP 4 (11.5%). Tim is very active in playing sports but the most popular activities he plays are cycling and keep fit/gym. Swimming, football and athletics or running are listed as other sports played. So even in the highest market segment there is not a high profile for the playing of pitch sports. Some of the groups do however have an interest in bowls, which will be explored later; and
- of the market segments that do play pitch sports, it is football that is the main pitch sport played. This is played by Ben, Jamie and Kev who are in the 18 – 39 age group. As can be seen from the bar chart in Chart 3.1 these three groups do not have a high representation in Harrogate District. There are 4, 400 Ben's, 1,900 Jamie's and 2,500 Kev's. Together they make up 11.3% of the Harrogate District population currently. Ben is the most sporty of the 19 segments and 33% of Ben's play football compared to 4% of adults nationally. Jamie (who is the second most sports active of the 19 market segments) has a rate of 28% playing football, while 12% of Kev's play football, compared with 4% nationally.

Further detail on participation within each specific sport is found in Sections 4 – 8.

Summary and Implications for this Strategy

The contribution that the effective provision of playing pitches can make towards the achievement of wider corporate objectives and those of key partners is clear. Table 3.4 summarises the contributions that the provision of outdoor sports facilities can make towards the achievement of the goals of some key strategies across Harrogate District.

Table 3.4 – Impact of effective outdoor sports facilities on wider aims and objectives

Objectives for the future delivery of Playing Pitches			
	Enhance the quality of outdoor sports facilities	Ensure the quantity of facilities is sufficient to meet local needs	Maximise access and functionality of outdoor sports facilities
Strategic Documents			
National Planning Policy Framework	✓	✓	✓
Harrogate District Local Development Framework	✓	✓	✓
Harrogate Borough Corporate Plan	✓	✓	✓
Harrogate District Partnership Plan	✓	✓	✓

Analysis of neighbouring local authority Playing Pitch Strategies highlights some issues in surrounding local authorities, particularly with regards the quality of pitches and access to AGPs. There are also several issues arising from analysis of Sport England Market Segmentation and Active People surveys, as well as the demographic profile of the borough. Specifically these are:

Firstly: the age groups with the highest populations currently are not those that traditionally play outdoor sports. Furthermore, population projections indicate that the number of people aged between 10 and 44 is likely to decline between now and 2024 (initially sharply) meaning that excluding the potential for participation increases through other means, current participation is likely to remain relatively stable.

Secondly: participation in Harrogate Borough as a whole is good and is higher than both national and regional averages. As a consequence, the amount of people that wish to play participate but currently do not is lower than in other areas. The amount of volunteers and coaching is also above average. This suggests that district has sound foundations on which to build.

Thirdly: Sport England market segmentation, which profiles the types of adult sports participants into 19 market segments and identifies which sports they play and how often, indicates that only one of the top six (in terms of numbers of people) market segments in Harrogate District plays pitch sports and this is Tim. Tim is however the market segment with the highest population. While many of the other more common segments have a lower propensity to participate, they are amongst the more active groups for their age range. Overall however it is fair to say that Harrogate District has an age and activity profile that is not focused on participation in pitch sports. Even residents in the Tim market segment rank pitch sports around fourth in the choice of sporting activity.

The remainder of this report draws on the base information in this section, and provides an overview of provision for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, croquet and tennis. The key strategy priorities are set out in Section 11.

4. Football

04

Introduction

This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for football and provides:

- An overview of supply and demand for football
- An evaluation of the overall adequacy of pitches to meet demand
- Settlement specific issues and opportunities
- Key issues for the strategy to address.

Football in Harrogate District – An Overview Pitch Supply

There are 179 individual grass football pitches across Harrogate District. This figure includes all known public, private, school and other pitches whether or not they are in formal (secured) community use. These pitches comprise:

- 72 adult football pitches
- 53 junior football pitches
- 54 mini soccer pitches

In addition, there are several school sites containing generic grass fields which are not marked as pitches but perhaps have the potential to function as such in future.

The full audit of pitches can be seen in Appendix A. Only 63% of football pitches offer secured community access. Many sites currently offer community use and have done so for a while, however the independence of these sites means that there can be no guarantees that this will remain. Of the pitches detailed above;

- 41 adult football pitches have secured (formal) use, an additional 21 offer informal community use and 8 have no community use;
- 25 junior pitches are secured for use, while there are 7 at sites with informal access and 25 pitches at sites with no access; and
- 45 mini pitches are secured, while there are pitches informally available and 7 pitches that are not accessible.

Table 4.1 provides a comparison between pitches in secured community use now and at the time of the previous PPS (2008). It indicates that the supply of football pitches has changed significantly, with fewer adult pitches available and substantially more junior and mini pitches. This can be partially attributed to the redesignation of adult pitches to junior pitches and also to the creation of additional junior and mini pitches, many of which are on the outfield of cricket grounds.

Part of the decrease in the number of adult pitches is also attributable to the number of sites that no longer offer a formal pitch (although all of these have been retained as informal facilities). This will be returned to later. Examples include Staveley and Copthorne Recreation

Field, Rainton Recreation Field, Pateley Bridge Park, Max Pullan Recreation Ground, North Stanley Recreation Field and Marton Cum Grafton Recreation Field.

Table 4.1 – Changes to the Pitch Stock between 2008 and 2012

Year	Adult Football Pitches	Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football Pitches
2008	56	15	6
2012	41	25	45

While for the purposes of this assessment sites have been classified as having a certain number of pitches, it is clear that most sites in the district operate flexibly and figures therefore provide an indication only. Mini and junior pitches are often laid out on top of adult pitches for example in order to maximise the amount of play that takes place. As far as possible, it has been ensured that pitches are not double counted.

Table 4.2 summarises the distribution of community use pitches (pitches in formal secured community use) across the district. It also outlines the number of pitches that are unsecured in each area. It is clear that a large proportion of pitches in Harrogate and Ripon that offer some community use are not secured. These are primarily schools and / or army properties.

Table 4.2 – Community Use Pitches

Area	Adult Football Pitches	Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football Pitches	Unsecured pitches	% of Total Pitches used / available that are secured
Central Harrogate District	4	1	9	0	100%
Harrogate Town	19	9	17	15	75%
Knaresborough	1	6	4	2	85%
Nidderdale	2	1	2	2	72%
North East Harrogate District	2	0	0	7	92%
North West Harrogate District	2	0	3	0	100%
Ripon	3	2	2	4	64%
South East Harrogate District	7	4	2	2	87%
South Harrogate District	1	2	6	0	100%

As indicated in Table 4.2, there are several pitches that are unsecured for community use. These are all available for use, or are used by local clubs, meaning that they are important in providing opportunities to participate. Sites currently offering informal (unsecured) community

use include; Harrogate High School, Rosset School, Harrogate Grammar School, Outwood Academy, Queen Ethelburga's College, Clothholme Road Sports Field, Ripon Cathedral Choir School, Ashville College, Ripon Grammar School, St Cuthberts CE Primary School, St John Fishers Catholic High School, St Mary's Primary School, Tockwith Primary School, Army Foundation College, Belmont Grosvenor School, Boroughbridge Primary School, Boroughbridge High School, Burnt Yates C of E Primary School.

Map 4.1 illustrates the location of all football pitches in the district, demonstrating those facilities that are available for community use. It indicates that when compared to the distribution of the local population, sites are relatively evenly dispersed.

The pitches (mini, junior and adult) that are available for formal (secured) community use within the district are located at 48 sites. Map 4.2 illustrates the scale of facilities that are available for formal community use. The majority of sites have two or more pitches, however there are 21 pitches with only 1 football pitch. Many of these are located in the more rural parts of the district and also have cricket pitches.

Map 4.2 also provides an indication of the quality scores achieved through site visits. This will be discussed later in this section in more detail.

Other Facilities

Complementing the spread of grass pitches, there are nine AGPs, all but two of which are sand based. Facilities at Queen Ethelburga's College and Rossett Sports Centre are 3g pitches, meaning that they are suitable for football use. Sandbased facilities can however be used for training, although they are less popular.

Four of the facilities (at King James School, Harrogate Grammar School, Ripon Grammar School and St Aidans Church of England School) are not floodlit. This can restrict the use of facilities in the evening. It must be noted however that despite there being 9 pitches in the district, there is relatively limited access to this facility stock, with only three pitches fully accessible for community use. Of these, only one is accessible – the pitch at Rosset Sports Centre.

In addition to, a pitch at Ashville College Sports and Fitness Academy was under construction at the time of audit work but was due to open in September 2012.

Demand

Active People and Market Segmentation (Sport England)

From the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation (explained in Section 3), it is possible to evaluate:

- how many of the Harrogate District population **do** participate in football and how this varies across the authority; and
- how many of the Harrogate population **would like** to participate in football and again how this varies across the authority.

The national trend for football participation falls from the age of 16-19. The number of people who currently play football in England is just under 2.2 million (April 2012). Male participation has grown over the last 12 months, but female once a week numbers have fallen. There is a falling trend of 16 year old participation in football, which will ultimately impact the number of older people playing the game in the future. The overall national participation rate is 5.1% at least once a week, compared to 5.8% in Yorkshire.

Map 4.3 shows spatially the percentage of the Harrogate District population who, based on the Active People survey 6 findings, are currently participating in football. Chart 4.1 sets out the profile of current participation in football across the 19 market segments.

Map 4.3 - Percentage and location of the adult population who do play football.

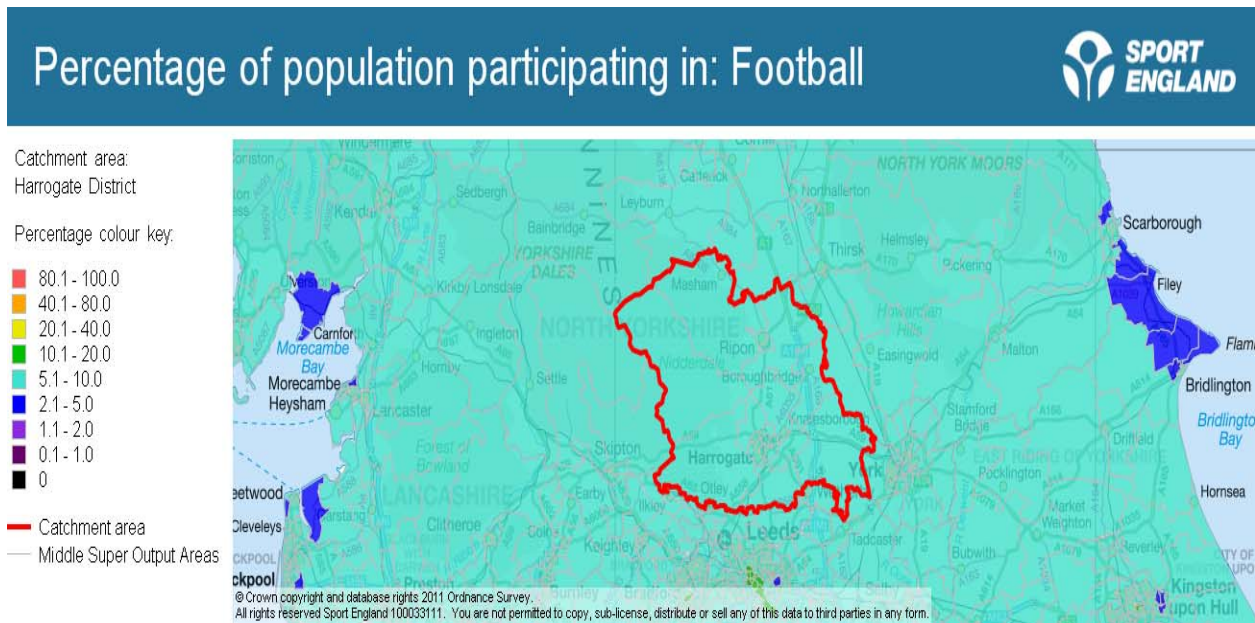
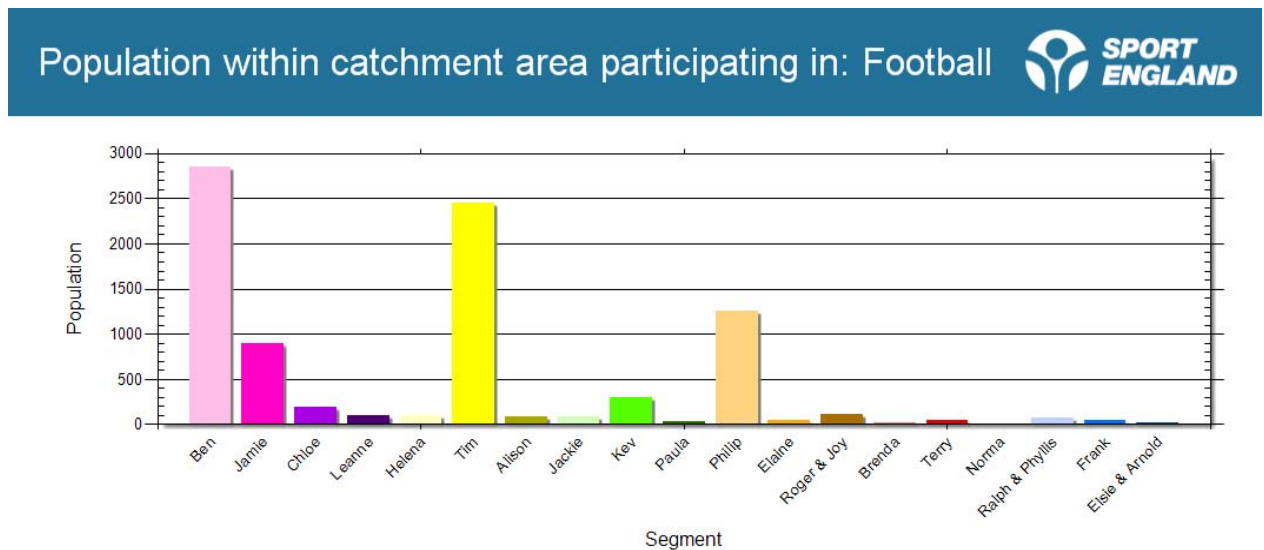


Chart 4.1 - Profile of the market segments who participate in football in Harrogate District



The key findings from Map 4.3 and bar chart 4.1 are that:

- participation falls in the 5.1-10% across the district (5.5% specifically) and there is no spatial variation in this. The overall national participation rate is 5.1% at least once a week, compared to 5.8% in Yorkshire; and
- participation in football is dominated by 3 market segments (Ben, Tim and Philip). These 3 groups contribute around 6,500 of the 8,689 (75%) of the population of Harrogate District to actually participate in football. Ben is the most active of all of the market segments. Jamie is the only other group with over 500 football players.

The Active People analysis of the percentage of adults who would **like to** play football is represented in map and bar chart form and set out in Map 4.4 and Chart 4.2.

Map 4.4 - Percentage and location of the Harrogate District adult population who would like to play Football.

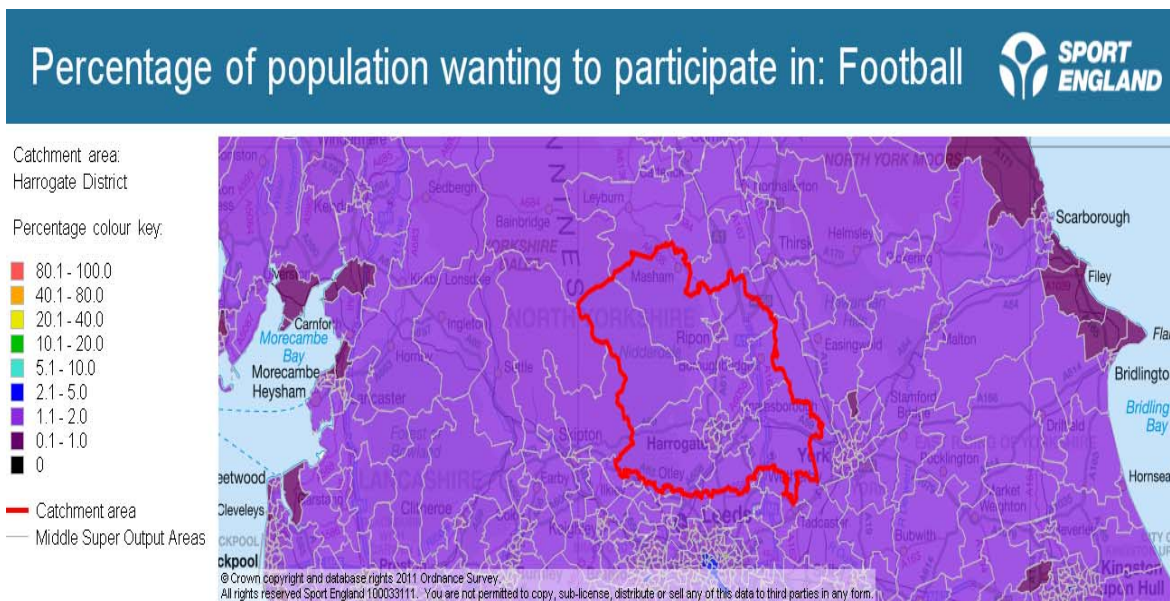
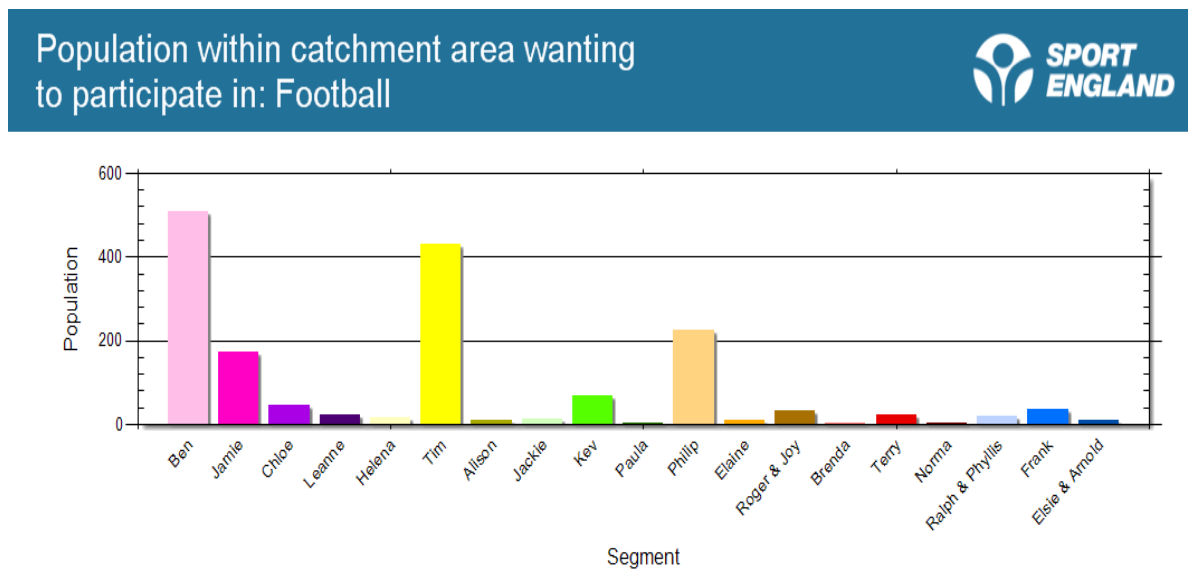


Chart 4.2 - Profile of the market segments who would like to play football in Harrogate District



The key findings from both the map and the bar chart are that:

- 1.1-2% of people in Harrogate state that they would like to play football and like the current levels of participation, this is uniform across the district. This represents a relatively low level of latent demand and is equivalent to circa 1,651 people; and

- Ben and Tim dominate the segments that would like to participate (over 900 people in these two segments would like to play) and therefore represent over 50% of the latent demand within the Harrogate population. Chloe is the female demonstrating the highest level of latent demand, but this is in relatively low numbers.

Harrogate Borough Participation Report - Season 2011 – 2012 (The FA)

The FA football participation report provides an overview of participation in the borough (measured through the FA County Administration System) and provides an indication of trends between recent seasons.

It concludes that circa 47% of football teams in Harrogate are junior teams, while 24% of teams are mini football teams. The remainder are adult teams. Whilst there was an increase of 2 adult teams between 2010 and 2011, there were small decreases of 6 teams in both junior and mini football.

94% of junior and mini teams play in a Club that has achieved the Charter Standard Accreditation. This is significantly higher than the nationwide average of 75% and indicates that there is a well developed and sustainable club infrastructure within the borough. On average, clubs run 3.3 teams, compared to 2.9 teams nationally. This suggests that clubs are slightly larger than the average size.

Despite this, conversion rates calculated by the FA (which evaluate the proportion of people aged in the relevant age groups that are playing football) indicate that there is scope to further increase participation, with participation by all age groups in Harrogate being below national and regional averages. When compared against local authorities classified by the FA as being within the same sub group (ie similar population structure), Harrogate is ranked 33 in terms of 46. The report suggests that using participation in similar authorities as a basis, there is scope for the following growth;

- 39 adult male teams
- 5 adult female teams
- 43 junior male teams
- 22 mini soccer teams.

Current Football Participation

Football is now the second most popular sport in Harrogate (measured by the number of teams) after cricket. A comparison between the number of teams playing in 2008 (according to the Harrogate Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy 2008 Area Based Supplement) and those registered to play in the 2011 – 2012 season is set out in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 – Trends in Participation between 2008 and 2012

	Adult Teams	Junior Teams	Mini Teams
2008	80	63	67
2012	77	99*	56*
Difference	-3	+36	-11

*Includes teams at Kirk Deighton Football Club that are now based outside of the village at Grange Park in Wetherby. Also includes teams that play at Harrogate Town FC.

Table 4.4 below demonstrates some interesting trends and clearly indicates that there has been an increase in the number of teams participating in football districtwide.

Whilst adult participation and the number of mini teams demonstrate a small decline, the number of junior teams has increased significantly and there are almost 50% more junior teams playing in the district today than in 2008. The decline in adult participation in particular is in line with national trends, although as set out above FA data reveals a slight increase between 2010 and 2011. The loss of mini football teams also accords with FA data.

A full list of the 2012 clubs, teams, the leagues they play in and their locations can be found in Appendix B. It must be noted that these totals represent a snapshot in time and it is acknowledged that teams run can change almost weekly.

Table 4.4 summarises the spread of teams currently playing (or wishing to play) in Harrogate Borough by Analysis Area. It illustrates that participation in terms of the number of teams is highest in Harrogate, with almost a third of all teams playing within the town. To an extent this is influenced by the distribution of existing pitches, with most pitches found in these parts, near to main population centre.

When comparing the amount of participation with the population of the area, it can be seen however that participation is actually lower in Harrogate than in other parts of the district. When measured against the number of people living in the area, participation is much higher in the central and south eastern parts.

Table 4.4 – Football teams in Harrogate District

Area	Adult Male	Ladies Teams	Junior Male	Junior female	Mini Soccer
Central Harrogate District	3	0	3	5	10
Harrogate Town	32	1	30	2	17
Knaresborough	3	0	9	3	5
Nidderdale	7	0	6	0	2
North East Harrogate District	7	0	6	0	2
North West Harrogate District	3	0	1	0	2
Ripon	7	0	7	4	3
South East Harrogate District	12	0	12	0	11
South Harrogate District	2	0	10	1	4

The profile of teams and clubs has remained similar to that in 2008 and the majority of teams are part of large clubs. In contrast, most senior teams remain single teams, although there are some large clubs that run both junior and senior teams (or have links between junior and senior teams). These include Knaresborough Celtic FC, Killinghall Nomads FC, Beckwithshaw Saints FC, Boroughbridge FC, Ripon City FC, Pannal Sports FC and Harrogate Railway FC.

Leagues

Reflecting the large geographical area covered by Harrogate District, there are several leagues operating. While some leagues have only one or two representatives from the district, others operate primarily within this area. The leagues that operate primarily in the Harrogate District boundaries are as follows:

Harrogate and District Junior League operates both a boys and a girls league, both of which are affiliated to the West Riding County Football Association. The boys league caters for teams from U10 through to U18 (and many clubs have teams aged younger than this, although they do not play competitively) while the girls league caters for U12 and U13 teams. In the boys division, there are both A and B divisions for all age groups excluding U18. The league takes place on a Sunday (with fixtures spread throughout the day to ensure that all games can be accommodated). The league has recently become a charter standard league and in total there are 149 teams. It is expected that this will grow to 173 teams in the next season.

Nidderdale Junior Football League – is a small league, running divisions for U9 and U11 for the season 2011 – 2012. The league plays on a Saturday morning and included 6 teams in the U11 and 7 teams in the Under 9 age group during 2011.

Harrogate and Wharfedale Friendly Junior Football League is a league for U8 and U9 teams played on a Sunday morning.

Claro Sunday Football League – adult league played on a Sunday morning, the league includes three divisions, with 11 teams in the first division and ten teams in the remainder.

Harrogate and District Saturday Football League – includes 47 adult teams split into four divisions for the 2011 season. The league plays on a Saturday afternoon and the number of teams is relatively static, with teams leaving and others immediately replacing them.

Nidderdale Village League is a friendly adult football league that plays on Saturday mornings. The league was established 9 years ago and currently has 9 teams.

West Yorkshire Football League – is part of the national football league pyramid system (the premier league is equivalent to Step 7) and feeds directly into the North East Counties League. Knaresborough Town Reserves and Ripon City play within this league. Knaresborough Town FC were accepted by the North East Counties League for the 2012 season. As a result of the position of these leagues on the FA pyramid, there are specific requirements for pitch quality and the facilities provided. Harrogate Town and Harrogate Railway FC have previously played in this league, but have since progressed to the Northern Conference (Evo Stik League).

Some teams also travel to York to play in the York Girls League and York Minor Leagues and there are also some teams playing within senior leagues in the Leeds and York areas. In addition to the above leagues, the Harrogate District FA run four cup competitions, which further adds to the demand for pitches in the borough.

Quality of Football Pitches

Pitch quality influences the amount of matches that be sustained, and as a consequence has a significant impact on the overall adequacy of the pitch stock. Furthermore, perceived quality of pitches (and ancillary facilities) is almost as important as actual quality and can change usage patterns.

Quality of pitches in Harrogate District has been measured through a variety of means, specifically:

- Site assessments using the assessment matrix provided in TaLPF
- Consultation with providers on pitch quality, including a questionnaire for schools and Parishes and consultation with bookings officers
- Consultation with pitch users.

Site Visits

The Towards a Level Playing Field Assessments are non-technical assessments designed to provide an overview of pitch quality and to highlight areas for further investigation.

The timing of this study meant that site visits had to be undertaken at the end of the football season when pitches had already some time to recover from heavy amounts of use during the season. This made it difficult to fully assess the quality of the facilities and in particular to take into account the level of wear and tear that is generated during the season. In addition, there was significant heavy rainfall over parts of the site visit period, which meant that some pitches were visited having recently been subjected to periods of high rainfall. The assessments do however provide a basis for the understanding of the quality of the pitch stock, particularly when combined with the views of users.

Overall, visits demonstrated that the quality of football pitches is more varying than any other pitch type, with scores achieved ranging from 32% to 98% (below average to excellent). Where the quality of pitches varies within a site, pitches have been assessed separately. The highest scoring pitches are as follows:

- Bishop Monkton Playing Fields – 81%
- Kirk Deighton AFC – 84%
- Boroughbridge Sports Association – 89%
- Harrogate Railway FC – 89%
- Tockwith Sports Field – 91%
- Ripon City FC – 95%
- Knaresborough Town FC – 98%.

Sites achieving lower quality scores include; Beckwithshaw Playing field, The Stray, Belmont Park/Cats Field, Hampsthwaite Recreation Ground, Killinghall Moor, Markington Sports Field, Oatlands Recreation Ground, Pateley Bridge Park, Queen Ethleburgha's Park and Ure Bank Football Pitch. It is notable that while some of these sites are small single pitch sites, many offer multiple pitches and the poor quality of these facilities is therefore a particular concern.

Damage to the pitch surface was evident at all of the poorer scoring sites. Table 4.5 summarises the quality of pitches by area and reveals that the average quality score is relatively consistent district wide although it is notably poorer in South East Harrogate, Nidderdale and Harrogate Town. Further site and area specific detail is provided later in this section.

Table 4.5 – Pitch quality by area

Analysis Area	Average Site Quality Score	Range of Quality Scores	Availability of changing rooms
Central Harrogate District	79%	51% - 86%	1 site with 2 mini pitches contains no changing facilities.
Harrogate	71%	40% - 91%	3 sites with no changing facilities at all (all single pitch site)
Knaresborough	75%	56% - 98%	All sites have changing accommodation
Nidderdale	67%	53% - 67%	Lower provision of changing facilities. One large site without changing.
North East Harrogate District	79%	68% - 89%	All sites have changing accommodation
North West Harrogate District	74%	74%	All sites have changing accommodation
Ripon	63%	32% - 95%	One site without changing accommodation
South East Harrogate District	78%	65% - 91%	All sites have changing accommodation
South Harrogate District	69%	56% - 82%	No sites without changing accommodation

Site assessments reveal that the significant majority of sites meet with NGB criteria for minimum sizes and safety margins. There are also several sites where pitches are overmarked. In general terms, the site visits reveal that:

- Line markings were unclear on many pitches, although to an extent this could be attributed to the time of year that site visits were undertaken. Only 35% of pitches had good line markings and 30% were considered to be poor. In general, clubs mark out the lines on the pitches that they use
- Grass cover was particularly poor with wear and tear in the goal mouths. 24% of pitches had only circa 60% grass cover and an additional 3% had below 60%. 42% of pitches had above 85% grass cover.

- Some pitches are uneven, undulating and bumpy. 28% of surfaces were rated as poor or very poor however 66% were considered to be good or very good. Few pitches are on significant slopes, with 51% of pitches considered to be excellent. Only 6% were poor.
- Unofficial use of pitches was evident at circa 40% of sites and damage to the surface was also apparent on many pitches. In particular this affected public pitches, but was also found at other sites. Despite this, although few pitches in the district are fully secure and the majority double up as informal recreation grounds, there was little evidence of glass or litter and only 27% of pitches were contaminated with dog foul at the time of the site visits.
- Of the posts and sockets that were visible, some were ageing and in need of replacement. 23% of pitches achieved ratings of poor and 43% had equipment of good quality. On Council pitches (and many club pitches) equipment is taken down after each game in an attempt to preserve the quality of the facility and to minimise unauthorised use of the pitches.
- Many of the changing facilities are ageing and of poor quality. A lot of the pavilions appeared run down and in need of improvement and there are sites where the changing accommodation is insufficient for the number of pitches, or there are no changing facilities;
- Parking – many sites have small car parks in comparison to the number of users;

Chart 4.3 illustrates the average quality score achieved for each of the criteria sites were measured against. Site-specific quality issues are discussed later in this section.

Chart 4.3 – Quality issues at football pitches



School Playing Fields

Few schools have formal agreements that guarantee the long term use of their pitches however many high schools and some primary schools are used informally for matches and / or training.

Of the schools that responded to the questionnaire, it is clear that the majority of use that takes place on school sites is at secondary schools. Harrogate Grammar School, Ripon Grammar School both indicate that offer use of their pitches and along with Harrogate High School it is these sites that are used by clubs most frequently. Nidderdale High School and Rosset School are both used by the community outside of curricular hours, but it is thought that use is primarily restricted to the indoor facilities and artificial pitches.

Some primary schools also suggest that they offer community access, specifically Holy Trinity Primary School, Grewelthorpe C of E Primary School, St Cuthberts Primary School and St Mary's Primary School. Only 11 schools responding currently accommodate use on their school sites, which represents less than 20% of the total respondents. Of the none respondents, Boroughbridge Primary School also offer regular community access.

This overall response suggests that in theory, there is significant scope to increase the amount of community use at school sites (based upon the number of pitches available).

Despite this, excluding those that currently offer community use, just 35% of schools indicated that they would be willing to consider opening up their pitches to the community in future years (although some expressed concerns about doing so). Three of these schools suggested that their facilities are available now / they already offered the use of their fields to community groups but have received little or no interest (Summerbridge Primary School, Burnt Yates Primary School). King James Secondary School also indicate that they are keen to extend the use of their facility. For those that did not wish to make their facilities available, the key reasons were:

- the size of the facility means that it is unsuitable for formal use and it is therefore unlikely that teams would want to use it (7);
- access – a caretaker would be required to open up the facility (many schools were also concerned about the cost implications) (7);
- security – schools are fully locked and there are concerns about the impact on security if used outside of school hours (5);
- lack of changing facilities (4); and
- poor quality of pitch – concerns about the quality of drainage and the evenness of the pitch surface (3).

One school referred to a previous bad experience with a club using their facilities, indicating that the club did not respect the pitches or the facilities provided.

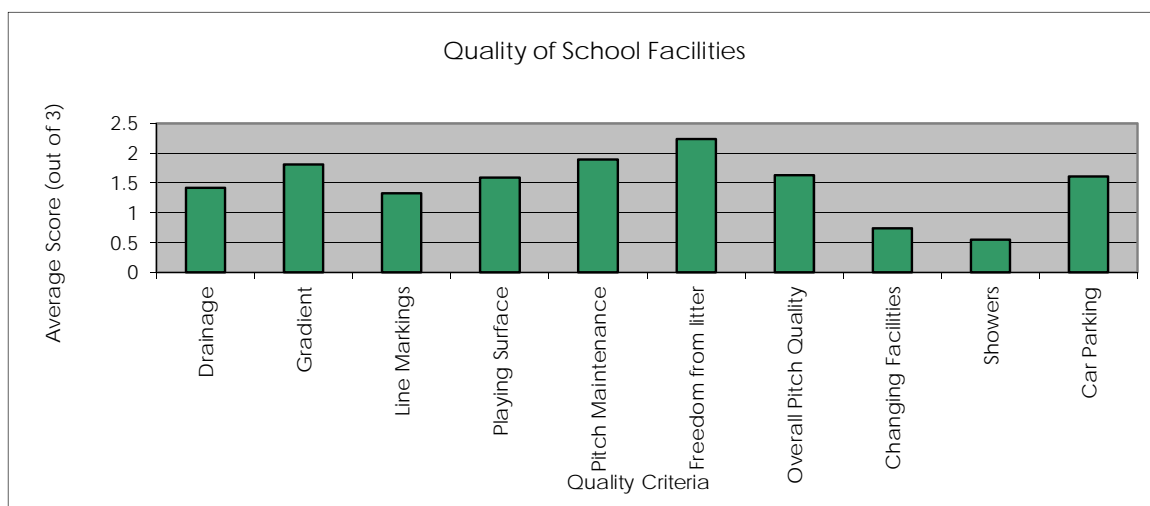
Schools consider the quality of their facilities to be relatively poor, with the rating awarded for each quality factor being between poor and average. Only the lack of litter on the playing fields was rated above average. Changing facilities and showers were considered to be a particular problem and the drainage was also rated poorly, with the mean rating below average. Line markings are also considered to be below average.

Further investigation of school responses suggests that few schools actually mark out formal pitches, with most just using their playing fields informally and putting up goals where required. This may reduce opportunities for community use, as formal pitch markings would be required.

The increasing independence of schools means that securing long term agreements will be essential if access to facilities is to be guaranteed. This analysis also suggests that there are several issues to be addressed (including pitch quality) if the dual use of school facilities is to become a successful long term strategy for pitch provision in Harrogate District.

Chart 4.4 summarises the key quality criteria and the average scores awarded to them.

Chart 4.4 – Quality of School sites



Several schools made specific comments relating to the quality of pitches, the majority of which related to the poor playing surface and / or lack of drainage of the site. Notably, almost 50% of secondary schools commented that drainage of their facilities is poor. Sites where particular concerns were highlighted include Saltergate Junior School, King James School, St Aidans High School, St Roberts Catholic Primary School, Nidderdale High School, St John Fishers High School, Boroughbridge High School, Ripon Grammar School. This spread of schools demonstrates that the issue of poor drainage is not isolated to one part of the borough. Of particular concern is that many of the sites suffering from poor drainage are secondary schools, which have a wider variety of facilities and many are already important in meeting the needs of the local community as well as offering facilities for school use.

Reflecting the perception that the quality of school playing fields is poor, just over 20% of respondents to the school survey indicated that playing fields do not meet their curricular requirements. The main reasons given were:

- lack of pitches on site / size of playing fields is prohibitive to appropriate use (Marton Cum Grafton C of E Primary School, North Stainley Primary School, North Rigton C of E Primary School, Spofforth C of E Primary School, Killinghall Primary School);
- quality of existing playing fields (St Peters Brafferton CE VA Primary School, St Aidans High School);

- drainage (St John Fishers Catholic High School, St Roberts Catholic Primary School); and
- requirement for an AGP – Nidderdale High School and Boroughbridge High School.

Only three schools indicated that they currently have active plans to improve their school playing fields, specifically;

- King James High School – Floodlights on AGP;
- Outwood Academy – resurface and remark tennis courts; and
- Boroughbridge High School – improvement to facilities in Boroughbridge as part of Aldborough Gate Project.

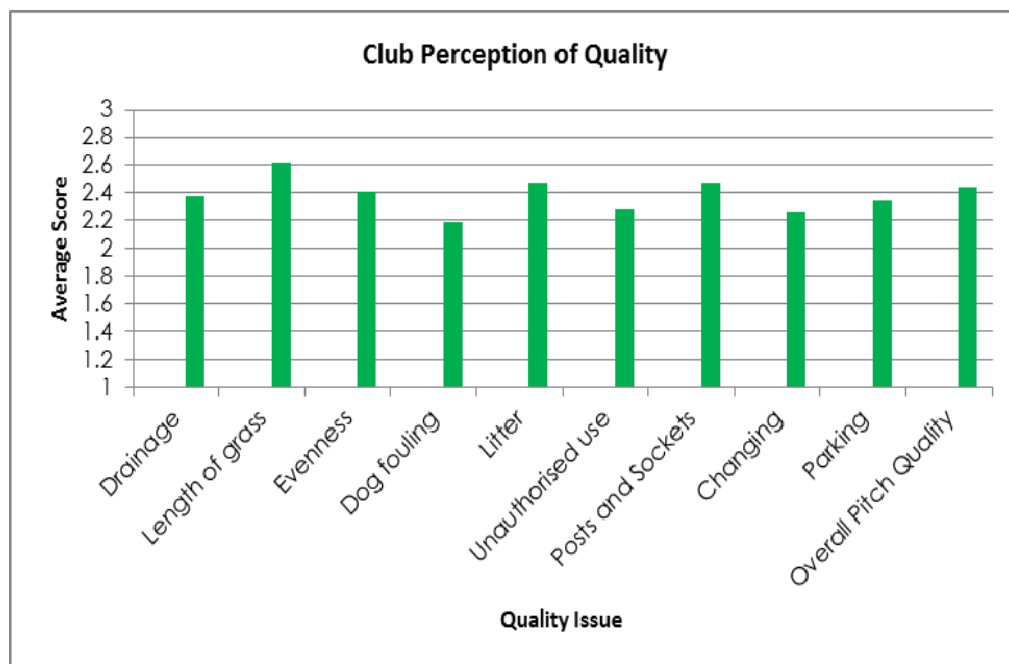
Several other schools indicated that they would be keen to see improvements if funding was available. These primarily focused upon the provision of AGPs, improvement of changing and playing surfaces and the development of changing accommodation.

Club Perceptions of Quality

The 2008 strategy indicated that clubs were relatively satisfied with the quality of provision, but had greater concerns about the amount of facilities available. This remains the overall picture, although some concerns relating to pitch quality are evident.

Clubs were asked to rate the pitches that they use against several key quality issues and to give marks of either good (3 points), acceptable (2 points) or poor (1 point). Chart 4.5 illustrates the average score attributed against each criteria and demonstrates that the average quality score attributed to each factor is between 2 and 3 (acceptable to good.)

Chart 4.5 – Sports Club Perceptions of Football Pitch Quality



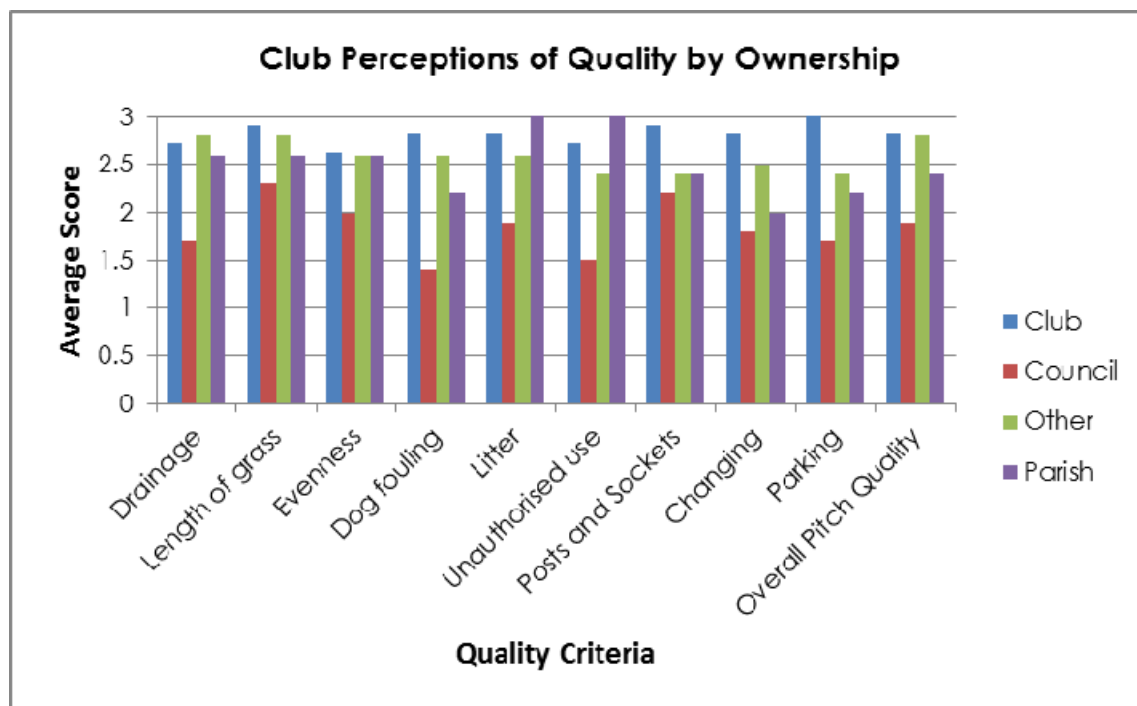
While overall, perceptions of quality are relatively positive, Chart 4.5 indicates that the key issues from a club perspective are dog fouling, changing, unauthorised use, parking and drainage. The length of the grass, quality of equipment and amount of litter on pitches are rated positively. Of particular note, several pitches were rated as poor in terms of drainage by all or most of their users, specifically:

- Killinghall Moor
- Harlow Hill, Harrogate
- Almsford Oval
- Harrogate CC
- The Stray

Further analysis of the perceptions of clubs however, demonstrates that there are variations according to the type of pitches used. Chart 4.6 illustrates the views of clubs according to whether they use a Harrogate Borough Council, Parish Council / Management Committee or private club facility.

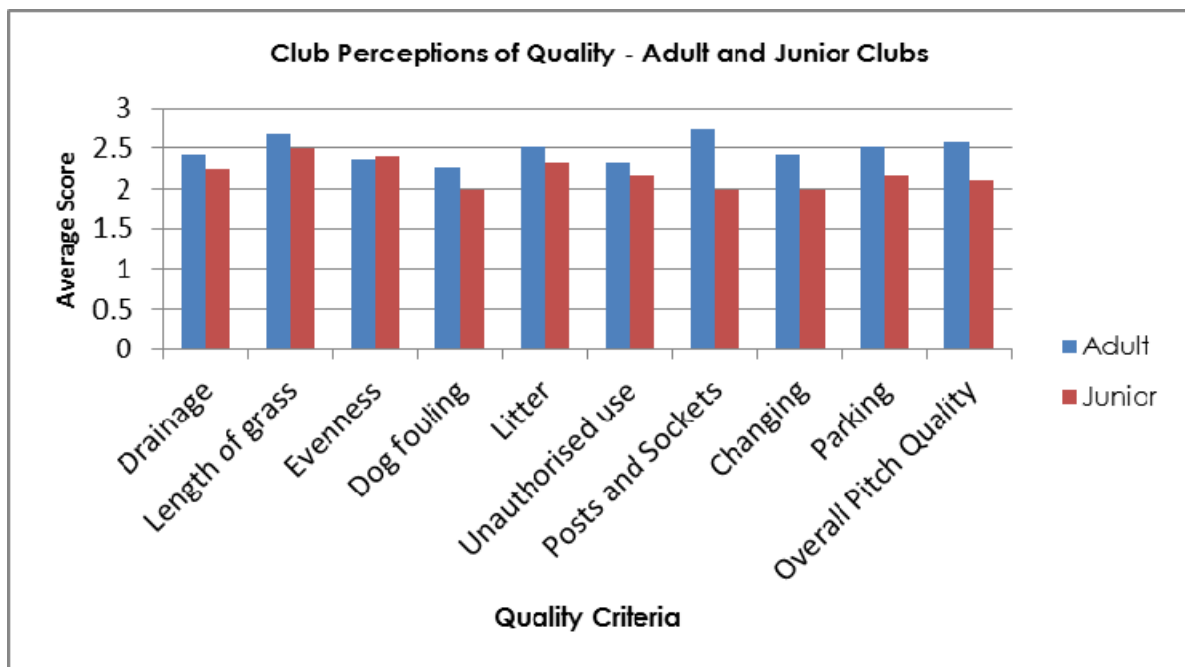
It demonstrates that teams using private club pitches consistently exhibit higher levels of satisfaction than other teams against all quality features. For all features rated, pitches owned by Harrogate Borough Council score more poorly than any other type of pitch. There are particular issues with the amount of dog fouling and unauthorised use (which can be attributed to the open access to these sites), drainage and parking. The overall quality of Council pitches is rated below acceptable. Pitches in all other types of ownership are rated between average and good.

Chart 4.6 – Variations in pitch quality by ownership



Although there are clear variations in perception according to the pitch ownership, there are fewer differences when comparing the views of adult teams with those of junior teams. Chart 4.7 illustrates this and demonstrates that while on the whole, adult teams have a higher opinion of the quality of facilities than junior teams, there is relatively little difference. Again the average rating for all criteria is above 2 (acceptable).

Chart 4.7 – Variations in club Perception between Pitch Type



Further analysis indicates that as well as varying between the provider of pitches, there is also geographical variation in the quality of provision. Pitches in the Harrogate Town and Nidderdale areas of the borough are of much lower quality than other pitches. This is illustrated in Table 4.6, which sets out the average percentage score achieved for each factor by area. While this must be treated with caution as it is dependent upon the balance of clubs (and the number of clubs) that have responded, it does provide an indication of the quality of provision. In particular, it is noticeable that drainage in Harrogate and Nidderdale is particularly poor in comparison to other areas of the district and that site visits also reveal the average quality of facilities to be lower in these areas. Specific comments made by clubs reinforce this, with recurring comments including;

- Lack of changing and toilet facilities
- Drainage makes 50% of matches unplayable on some pitches
- Overuse is a significant problem and further impacts upon the quality of pitches in the area
- Insufficient storage.

Almost 40% of clubs indicated that quality issues experienced at their site impacts upon the development of the club. The main reasons given for this were;

- Beckwithshaw - overuse

- Almsford Oval (Pannal Ash) - drainage
- Scotton - lack of facilities and overuse
- Boroughbridge - Changing facilities
- Harrogate - changing facilities
- The Stray - drainage
- Station View - drainage
- Oatlands - toilets and changing facilities
- Hampsthwaite - drainage

Table 4.6 – Perception of Pitch Quality Issues by Area

Area	Drainage	Length of grass	Evenness	Dog fouling	Litter	Unauthorised use	Posts and Sockets	Changing	Parking	Overall Pitch Quality
Harrogate Town	61%	82%	64%	64%	76%	64%	79%	67%	67%	70%
Knaresborough	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Ripon	93%	93%	100%	73%	80%	73%	93%	93%	87%	93%
South Harrogate District	100%	100%	83%	83%	100%	100%	100%	50%	50%	100%
South East Harrogate District	100%	100%	83%	83%	100%	100%	100%	50%	50%	100%
Central Harrogate District	91%	95%	86%	81%	91%	87%	94%	72%	71%	93%
Nidderdale	67%	83%	67%	67%	100%	100%	83%	50%	83%	50%
North East Harrogate	83%	83%	83%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	83%	83%
North West Harrogate	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Consultations

Consultations with clubs revealed the following:

- Despite the relative positivity with regards the quality of pitches in Harrogate District, only 21% of clubs responding to the questionnaire are currently happy with the overall pitch stock in the District. Of the clubs that were not happy with the amount of facilities provided, they attributed this to the following reasons:
 - Pitch Quality - 63%
 - Changing Facilities - 59%
 - Amount of pitches - 13%;

There are no clear patterns of the type of clubs that are dissatisfied, with both large junior clubs and single team adult clubs expressing dissatisfaction.

25% of clubs indicate that they have difficulties accessing pitches for home matches. Interestingly, only three of these teams require adult pitches (of these two are based in Ripon). The remainder of clubs identifying a lack of pitches all have large numbers of junior teams

More than 50% of clubs indicate that they have experienced problems accessing facilities for training. Several clubs note the importance of The Stray in providing training facilities. A few clubs feel that there is a lack of 3g pitches. Five clubs are not currently playing at their preferred location, specifically:

- Killinghall Nomads – wish to relocate to Killinghall Moor
- Boroughbridge Juniors - - wish to relocate to Aldboroughgate
- Pannal Sports FC – would prefer to play closer to Pannal
- Pannal Ash FC – would prefer to play at facilities that are higher quality
- Ripon Red Arrows – would like to play at an alternative venue within Ripon.

5 clubs indicated that they are running less teams than last season while five clubs indicated that they are running more. The remainder of clubs have remained static between seasons 2010 – 2011 and 2011 – 2012. 14 clubs indicate that they wish to run more teams. While the majority focus upon additional junior and mini teams, some indicated that they intend to set up a ladies section, or to run an additional adult team. Clubs with an interest in running additional teams include: Boroughbridge Juniors, Harrogate Town FC, Tockwith Juniors FC, Harrogate Railway Athletic FC, Nidd United FC, Ripon City, Ripon City Panthers, Scotton Scorchers, Sherwood FC, Harlow Hill FC, Harrogate Railway Juniors FC, Kirkby Lions Junior FC, Markington, Beckwithshaw Saints Juniors FC, Hampsthwaite and Birstwith JFC, Killinghall Nomads JFC.

The barriers to increasing participation (in order of most commonly referenced) were:

- Lack of external funds and grants (7)
- Shortage of all-weather pitches for training (6)
- Shortage of good quality junior grass pitches (6)

- Shortage of good quality senior grass pitches (5)
- Cost of hiring / using facilities (4)
- Shortage of / poor quality changing facilities (3)
- Shortage of coaches / volunteers (3).

Football League Consultations

A meeting was organised by the FA for representatives of all leagues providing football within Harrogate Borough Boundaries and this was held on Wednesday 30th May at Harrogate Station View. The meeting was attended by representatives of West Riding County FA, Neil Allen Associates and Harrogate Borough Council as well as secretaries of the Claro Sunday League, Harrogate District FA, Harrogate District FA Junior League and Nidderdale Village League. In relation to the adequacy of provision, the key points raised at the meeting include:

Claro Sunday League

- Concerns about cost of hiring pitches
- Consider that the creation of a group to coordinate the development of football in the Borough on an ongoing basis would be beneficial.

Harrogate Junior League

- Raise concerns about pitches at school sites not being accessible to local clubs
- Pitches at Harrogate Grammar School are considered to have specific problems with drainage particularly the bottom pitch which floods
- Cost of hiring pitches perceived to restrict use at some sites – This is particularly evident at Killinghall Moor where few teams use the pitches. The pitches at this site are generally good having improved in recent years although one pitch has a particular drainage problem
- Pitches on the Stray are popular because they are cheap but the changing accommodation is very small to accommodate the number of teams playing.
- Pitches are better quality in Ripon as soils are lighter, however there is a general shortage of pitches with the only sites being Camp Close and Hell Wath (Ripon City AFC but can be used on a Sunday)
- There are particular issues relating to lack of changing at schools and at Ethelburghas Playing Fields
- Harlow Hill is a Council pitch but the changing accommodation is owned by the football club operating at the site but they do not allow access to these facilities by other teams
- There is an overall perception that all pitches are now operating at capacity.

Nidderdale League

- Teams are largely based at cricket clubs others or at Parish Council pitches. Hampsthwaite have new portacabins for changing
- It is considered that there is an increased demand for girls' football. Scotton is a big club with 60 girls playing football at the cricket club and at the club site and 5 teams are all playing on the same pitch, meaning that the facility is already at capacity
- The junior league considers there to be latent demand – most of the junior teams play on big pitches and there is a need to provide the right size pitches for the ages concerned. The junior league will be making the transition to 9 v 9 football, which will place greater emphasis on the need for additional pitches.

District Football Association

- There are concerns about the quality of pitches at Killinghall Moor which is exacerbated by teams training on pitches. Several matches have been cancelled at this site. There are issues in general whereby teams are required to train on their match pitches, which adds extra wear and tear to the pitch and subsequently results in pitch deterioration
- It was felt that longer leases to clubs were required to enable clubs to invest in sites and to benefit from funding opportunities. It would be expected that the rental of the pitch would be reduced to reflect the fact that the club was maintaining the pitch
- Multiple teams use the same facilities which results in overuse. This has a negative impact on pitch quality and can also cause issues when fixtures in cups are drawn
- It is believed that there are some pitches that are no longer in use. There is a need to fully understand this, and to review pitch allocations in order to ensure best use. This will also need to take into account the implications of the review of youth football
- There are concerns about the availability of 3g pitches – required for training. The use of such a pitch for cup and league fixtures would also help to reduce issues with drainage and to help clear backlog.

Other key issues discussed at the meeting include:

- Concerns about the impact of the recent decision to rebuilt Harrogate High School, which will reduce the availability of pitches in and exacerbate the perceived shortage of pitches
- Inconsistency with relation to access to pitches at school sites
- Concerns about the adequacy of 3g provision - leagues felt that the key issue was block booking of Rossett 3G by 5 a side leagues which reduces access for others. Suggestions were made about whether it was possible to restrict the use of facilities for 5 a side to one day a week
- It was felt that schools were reluctant to offer access to synthetic turf pitches so pitches may be in place but are not available
- The Youth Development Review will see the introduction of new forms of the game, including 9 v 9. This will have an impact on the pitch layouts. WRCFA, with their support,

will be looking to HBC to coordinate pitch changes/layouts with football clubs/Junior Leagues.

The FA – National Governing Body Perspective

The FA National Game Strategy 2011 – 2015 seeks to build upon the successes of the previous strategy in enhancing participation and improving the playing experience at all levels of football. It considers;

- Growth and retention
- Raising standards
- Creating better players
- Running the game
- The work force
- Facilities.

Growth and retention and facilities are of direct relevance to this outdoor sports facility strategy. The strategy states that the key priorities for growth of football over the period 2011 – 2015 are as follows:

- retain and develop existing teams
- halt the decline in male adult 11-a-side and retain female 11-a-side teams by improving the access and quality of pitches; providing a referee for every game; supporting volunteers, using technology and increasing participation through FA Just Play Centres and the Get Into Football Programmes
- develop The FA's Children and Young People offer to sustain participation and to address the drop out at key phases mini-soccer to youth, 14–16, 16–19
- continue to support existing and diverse communities to participate in affiliated football
- develop different affiliation and benefits packages for groups not traditionally affiliated e.g. HE, FE, Intra-mural and small-sided
- embed flexible formats of football such as 60 minute matches, shorter competition programmes and turn up and play, and develop playing opportunities to meet changing player lifestyles.

The success of the above initiatives will clearly have a direct impact on the level of demand for facilities and the type of facilities that are required. With regards facilities, the strategy indicates that the key priorities are as follows:

- maximise all investment into facilities including Football Foundation grants and other sources of capital;
- champion and promote the Protection of Playing Fields (PPF) by working with Sport England as a statutory consultee and with other agencies to promote PPF through granting of covenants and long-term leases;
- develop sustainable facility models, new procurement opportunities and cost effective facility designs and options; and
- manage existing resources more effectively by providing specific guidance and support regarding localism and the impact on facilities; updating FA technical standards; reviewing delivery models with current pitch/facility providers; developing a support/advice/maintenance package for existing pitch/facility providers and a self-help facility improvement programme for clubs and leagues.

Local to Harrogate, the FA indicate that improvements to facilities are essential if aspirations relating to football are to be achieved. As well as site specific issues covered later in this report, the following general issues were raised;

- Junior clubs are constrained by a lack of appropriate football pitches
- The quality of facilities is poor and standards of maintenance are declining. This is causing an overall deterioration in the quality of pitches
- There is a need to formalise community use agreements to maximise the use of the available resources
- FA analysis indicates that Harrogate BC should have four 3g pitches – there is a need to identify opportunities to provide these facilities
- There is a need to carry out ground improvements to grass pitches. Improvements to changing facilities are also required, however this is considered to be of lower priority.

The following have received funding from the FA within the last 10 years:

- Harrogate Borough Council Hell Wath (Ripon) - New changing rooms and new grass pitches
- Beckwithshaw Village Hall – improvement of grass pitches
- Birstwith C Of E Primary School – improvement of grass pitches
- Knaresborough Celtic JFC – new changing rooms and new grass pitches
- Highside Playing Field Association – new changing rooms
- Harrogate High School, Ripon College, Rossett School, Scotton Scorchers JFC, Harrogate and District Railway Athletic, Kirkby Malzeard JFC, Killinghall Nomads JFC, Pateley Bridge Football Club – new goalposts.

Supply and Demand Modelling

The Playing Pitch methodology (PPM) is a peak day model, which determines the adequacy of pitch supply to meet peak time demand. In Harrogate District, demand (from competitive fixtures) is spread for both adults and juniors.

For adults, just under 50% of play takes place on a Saturday afternoon, while just over 40% of play takes place on a Sunday morning. Juniors play predominantly on a Sunday, with just over 50% of youth football and 40% of mini football taking place on a Sunday morning, and an additional 20% taking place Sunday afternoon. It must however be noted that for junior teams this spread of play is enforced rather than desired, as the junior league indicate that they must permit teams to choose their own starting times in order to ensure that all games can be fitted in.

This spread of play means that peak time demand is relatively low. This however causes other issues as it means that pitches are often used on a Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon, placing different pressures on the pitches.

Table 4.7 summarises the results of the application of the PPM for football. As a starting point, this table includes only sites that have formal (secured) community use. It also excludes provision at school sites, as while some schools indicate that they currently offer secured community use, the independence of these schools means that this cannot be guaranteed longer term. The role of these schools will be considered later in this section. It must be noted that this table includes

all pitches that are available, regardless of their quality (and desirability). Again this will be considered later in this section.

Table 4.7 clearly demonstrates that there are enough adult pitches to meet demand even at peak times. When assuming that all junior teams play on pitches meeting FA guidelines for their age group, there are only just enough junior pitches but more than enough mini pitches at peak times.

It should be noted that Harrogate Town AFC and the CNG Stadium are excluded from these calculations as this is a semi professional club. The youth team are included as on occasion they use community pitches.

Table 4.7 – Adequacy of Pitch Provision in Harrogate District

Stage		Football	Mini soccer
STAGE ONE		Adult games	76
Identifying teams		Junior teams	99
STAGE TWO		Adult games	0.5
Calculate home games per week		Junior teams	0.5
STAGE THREE (S1x S2)		Adult games	39
Assessing total home games per week		Junior teams	50
STAGE FOUR		Adult games	0%
Establish temporal demand for pitches	Saturday AM	Junior teams	23%
		Adult games	47%
	Saturday PM	Junior teams	0%
		Adult games	40%
	Sunday AM	Junior teams	51%
		Adult games	12%
	Sunday PM	Junior teams	26%
		Adult games	20%
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4)		Adult games	0
Defining pitches used each day	Saturday AM	Junior teams	11
		Adult games	18
	Saturday PM	Junior teams	0
		Adult games	15
	Sunday AM	Junior teams	25
		Adult games	5
	Sunday PM	Junior teams	13
		Adult games	6
STAGE SIX		Adult games	41
Establishing pitches currently available		Junior teams	25
STAGE SEVEN (S6-S5)		Adult games	41.0
Identifying shortfall (-) and surplus (+)	Saturday AM	Junior teams	13.6
		Adult games	23.1
	Saturday PM	Junior teams	25.0
		Adult games	25.8
	Sunday AM	Junior teams	-0.2
		Adult games	36.4
Sunday PM	Junior teams	12.1	
	Adult games	39.4	

Building on the calculations set out in Table 4.7, Table 4.8 summarises the shortfalls and surpluses in 2004, 2008 (both extracted from the previous PPS) and 2012. It indicates that patterns recorded in the 2008 PPS remain similar, with surplus adult pitches in both years, but that shortfalls of junior pitches have reduced. This can largely be attributed to the reconfiguration of pitches that has taken place in the interim, with higher numbers of junior and mini pitches now provided. It must be noted however that the new regulations recently introduced by the FA with regards pitch sizes will place additional pressures on pitches as some teams currently using youth pitches will instead require 9 v 9 pitches and also will need different sized goals.

Table 4.8 – Shortfalls and Surpluses of Football Pitches

Year	Shortfall / Surplus Adult Football Pitches	Shortfall / Surplus Junior Football Pitches	Shortfall / Surplus Number of Mini Football Pitches
2004	+35	-21	-10
2008	+38	-9.9	-10
2012	23.1	-0.2	33.2

Geographical Variations in the adequacy of provision

To provide a spatial understanding of surpluses and deficiencies, Table 4.9 outlines the shortfalls and surpluses of pitch provision at peak times (ie Saturday afternoon for seniors and Sunday mornings for mini teams and juniors) by area of the district.

Table 4.9 – Adequacy of football pitches in Harrogate District

Analysis Area	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football - Shortfall / Surplus
Central Harrogate District	3.3	-1.0	6.9
Harrogate Town	11.5	0.8	13.4
Knaresborough	0.3	2.9	3.0
Nidderdale	0.4	-0.5	1.6
North East Harrogate District	0.4	-1.5	-0.4
North West Harrogate District	1.3	-0.3	2.6
Ripon	1.4	-0.8	1.4
South East Harrogate District	4.2	0.9	-0.3
South Harrogate District	0.5	-0.8	5.2

Table 4.9 indicates that the overall district wide pattern disguises some differences when taking into the different geographical areas. While most areas of the district actually have a shortfall in junior pitches, there are sufficient pitches in Harrogate, Knaresborough and South East Harrogate to meet demand. Similarly, it is clear that the majority of surplus adult pitches are located in Harrogate and the south east of the district and that in most other areas, provision is

closely matched with demand. A similar picture is also evident in relation to mini football pitches, with some areas exhibiting shortfalls despite overall provision being sufficient.

Further in depth analysis however indicates that while Table 4.8 and 4.9 assume that patterns of play are similar across the district, in reality they actually vary within the district. This is primarily caused by the dominance of different leagues in different parts of the borough. This variation has quite significant impact in that in some areas, peak time for both adult football and junior football is at the same time, meaning that there is greater pressure on the pitch stock. This is particularly true in Harrogate, where the peak demand for both adults and juniors is Sunday morning.

Table 4.10 takes this into account and illustrates the adequacy of provision in each part of the district based upon actual temporal demand in each area. It also provides detail upon the peak period in each part of the district. The implications of this will be discussed further in the area specific analysis later in this section.

Table 4.10 – Adequacy of Provision taking into account variations in Temporal demand

Housing Market Area	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football Shortfall / Surplus	Peak Periods
Central Harrogate District	2.5	-3	4	Adult Sunday PM, Both mini and junior soccer Saturday AM
Harrogate Town	10.75	-4.75	10	All three types of football Sunday morning
Knaresborough	-0.5	2.25	2.75	Saturday afternoon adults, Sunday afternoon junior and mini teams
Nidderdale	0	-1.5	1	Sunday morning adults and juniors, Saturday mornings for mini soccer teams
North East Harrogate District	1.5	-1	-1	Saturday afternoon for adults and Saturday mornings for mini and junior teams
North West Harrogate District	1	-0.5	2	Saturday afternoon for adults and Saturday mornings for mini and junior teams
Ripon	1.5	0	1.75	Split between Saturday afternoon and Sunday mornings for adults, Sunday afternoon for junior teams
South East Harrogate District	3	1	-0.5	Saturday afternoon for adults, Sunday morning for mini soccer teams and Sunday afternoon for junior
South Harrogate District	0	-0.25	4.75	Saturday afternoon for adults, Sunday afternoon for mini and junior teams

All tables included so far take into account only pitches that are formally secured for community use. As set out earlier, several schools also permit informal use of their pitches (and some indicate that this use is secured). Table 4.11 demonstrates the impact of including these facilities. It shows that when including these facilities, provision is more than sufficient to meet requirements. Table 4.11 takes into account two scenarios, one of which includes just those

schools that consider themselves to have formal agreements and the second of which takes into account all of those schools offering community use.

Table 4.11 – Role of Schools

Analysis Area	Including schools with secured use			Including all schools permitting access		
	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football - Shortfall / Surplus
Central Harrogate District	3.3	-1.0	6.9	3.3	-1.0	6.9
Harrogate Town	22.5	1.8	13.4	25.2	1.8	13.4
Knaresborough	0.3	2.9	3.0	0.3	3.9	4.0
Nidderdale	0.4	-0.5	1.6	1.4	0.5	1.6
North East Harrogate District	3.4	1.5	0.6	3.4	1.5	0.6
North West Harrogate District	1.3	-0.3	2.6	1.3	-0.3	2.6
Ripon	3.4	0.2	1.4	4.4	-0.1	1.6
South East Harrogate District	4.2	0.9	1.7	4.2	0.9	1.7
South Harrogate District	0.5	-0.8	5.2	0.5	-0.8	5.2

Table 4.11 indicates that schools have a particularly important role to play in some parts of the district. It is likely that this will become more important as new requirements are brought in as part of the FA review. Specific surpluses and shortfalls will be considered in the area specific sections.

Role of Cricket Clubs in meeting demand for football

It is apparent that since the previous Playing Pitch Strategy completed in 2008, mini football pitches have now been provided at several cricket clubs and there are relationships between cricket clubs and junior football clubs. At least 18 pitches are provided on the outfields of cricket clubs and this has served to reduce and in most cases eliminate the unmet demand for mini football pitches in the district. It is evident however (and discussed in more detail in Section 5), that there is a correlation between cricket clubs complaining about the quality of outfields and

those that are allowing junior football on their fields. Table 4.12 therefore considers the impact of removing these sites pitches and clearly demonstrates the contribution that they make in meeting demand. Figures include only sites secured for formal community use.

Table 4.12 – Role of cricket clubs in meeting demand

Area	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football - Shortfall / Surplus
Central Harrogate District	3.3	-2.0	-0.1
Harrogate Town	11.5	0.8	7.4
Knaresborough	0.3	2.9	3.0
Nidderdale	0.4	-0.5	1.6
North East Harrogate District	0.4	-1.5	-0.4
North West Harrogate District	1.3	-0.3	2.6
Ripon	1.4	-0.8	1.4
South East Harrogate District	4.2	0.9	-0.3
South Harrogate District	0.5	-0.8	-0.8

The Impact of Quality

Quality of pitches has emerged as one of the significant concerns throughout consultation, particularly with regards the quality of Council pitches. Poor quality pitches may be unsuitable to meet demand, and may also be undesirable for clubs to use. Quality can also impact upon the ability of a pitch to sustain the required use over a season.

Site visits reflect the consultation findings and reveal that the quality of football pitches is more varying than any other type of pitch. Table 4.13 summarises the shortfalls and surpluses of pitch provision across the district when pitches scoring below 54% (and therefore rated as below average) are excluded. Adult pitches that do not have any changing rooms and therefore do not meet with league regulations are also excluded.

Figures include only sites secured for formal community use.

Table 4.13 – Impact of Poor Quality Pitches

Analysis Area	Including schools in full use		
	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football - Shortfall / Surplus
Central Harrogate District	2.3	-1.0	6.9
Harrogate Town	4.5	-4.2	4.4
Knaresborough	0.3	2.9	3.0
Nidderdale	0.4	-1.5	-0.4
North East Harrogate District	0.4	-1.5	-0.4
North West Harrogate District	1.3	-0.3	2.6
Ripon	0.4	-0.8	1.4
South East Harrogate District	4.2	0.9	-0.3
South Harrogate District	0.5	-0.8	5.2
TOTAL	14,2	-6.5	22.5

It is clear that the quality of pitches has an impact on the adequacy of provision, with supply much more closely balanced with demand when taking this into account. The impact of poorer quality provision in Harrogate is particularly apparent. The shortfall of junior pitches almost offsets the surplus of adult pitches.

Most of the facilities at cricket clubs are of good quality currently and are therefore included within calculations above. If as outlined earlier these facilities were to be withdrawn, provision would be even more closely matched with demand.

Frequency of Use of Pitches

Analysis of surpluses and shortfalls at peak times disguises the frequency of use of pitches in the district. As set out previously, as demand is spread across the weekend with some play midweek, use of pitches is higher than may initially appear. Table 4.14 summarises the number of matches per week on each pitch (pitches used for matches only). Figures include only sites secured for community use.

Table 4.14 – Frequency of Use of Pitches

	Number of Teams	Matches per Week	Number of Pitches	Matches per week
Adult	76	38	41	0.93 matches per week
Junior	99	50	25	2 matches per week
Mini	56	28	45	0.62 matches per week

Table 4.14 indicates that adult and mini pitches are required to sustain relatively limited amounts of competitive activity, with pitches used on average less than once per week. Disregarding the type of pitch and measuring only pitches required against pitches provided for football, pitches are used on average 1.6 times per week. This is below the recommended optimum level of use (2 games per week). Junior pitches are used at this level.

Analysis of formal match play only however ignores other uses of pitches. Many of the pitches are located within Council owned and managed parks, or within wider recreation areas and are therefore also used informally. Of particular note, there is a high usage of grass pitches for training in the district and most teams indicate that they train on their match pitch (although there is also some use of informal grassed areas at The Stray for this purpose). Peak time for training is a Saturday, and based on the number of teams that have indicated that they use grass pitches to train, this could amount to the equivalent of another 172 teams. While much of this use takes place at school sites, it adds significant wear and tear to pitches. Added to this, pitches at school sites are also used for PE lessons as well as inter school fixtures. Like at the public pitches, this does not impact upon peak time demand.

It is difficult to quantify this off peak usage, however to provide an indication of usage, the following assumptions have been used:

- assuming that each of the seven secondary schools regularly permitting use generates five teams each (one for each year group), this is equivalent to an additional 35 teams. To also take into account the use sustained during PE lessons / break times, it is assumed that use on school sites may be up to the equivalent of 10 teams (70 team equivalents)
- junior schools frequently accommodating teams generate the equivalent of one team (2)
- based on figures provided, it is assumed that 50% of teams train once per week on a grass pitch, and that they train with another team (circa 86 matches per week).

Calculations using the above assumptions suggest that pitches are used as a maximum 2.2 times per week. This is only marginally above recommended optimum levels for pitch provision and is based upon worst case scenario assumptions for school and training use. It does however disguise imbalances in usage between different pitches which will be outlined later.

Team Generation Rates

Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. TGRs in Harrogate District have largely improved since 2004, reflecting the participation increases that have taken

place with only mini football declining marginally. Table 4.15 illustrates the TGRs for football. For comparison purposes, it also includes the National Averages extracted from the Sport England database. These figures should however be treated with caution as they have not been updated for several years.

Table 4.15 – TGRs in Harrogate District

Sport	TGR Harrogate District 2004	TGR Harrogate District 2012	Sport England National Average
Mini Soccer	1:112	1:123	1:431
Junior Male	1:117	1:62	1:195
Junior Female	1:476	1:362	1:4038
Adult Male	1:373	1:354	1:452
Adult Female	1:29858	1:27873	1:19,647

Future Demand

By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand. Based on the projected population growth;

- the number of adult football teams would change from 79 now, to 76 in 2017 and 78 by 2024;
- the number of junior football teams will increase slightly, from 99 now, to 101 in 2017 and 107 by 2024; and
- the number of mini teams will remain relatively stable, from 56 now, to 58 in 2017 and 56 by 2024.

Table 4.16 summarises the projected shortfalls and surpluses of pitch provision for the district up to 2024. The projections are based upon sub-national population projections that are available at district level only. They take into account the changing age profile of the district but are for the baseline position only (ie. assume that all pitches are of sufficient quality). Figures include only sites secured for community use.

Table 4.16 – Shortfalls and Surpluses of Provision

Analysis Area	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football Shortfall / Surplus
Current	23.1	-0.2	33.2
Future – 2017	23.4	-0.8	32.8
Future 2024	22.7	-2.3	33.2

Table 4.16 indicates that despite the anticipated population growth, the changing profile of the population means that there will be little increase in demand for football pitches resulting solely from population growth.

The FA youth review will however see the introduction of the requirement for pitches of different size as follows:

- U7 – 5 v5 (by 2013/14)
- U8 – 5v5 (by 2014/15)
- U9 – 7v7 already established
- U10 – 7v7 already established
- U11 – 9v9 (by 2013/14)
- U12 – 9v9 (by 2014/15)
- U13 - 11v11 or 9v9 optional

Based on current participation (ie teams in age groups that require 9 v 9 etc) these requirements are likely to impact on the following clubs: Boroughbridge JFC, Knaresborough Celtic JFC, Killinghall Nomads, Scotton Scorchers FC, Pannal Sports FC, Pannal Ash FC, Beckwithshaw JFC, Burton Bullets FC, Hampsthwaite JFC and Ripley Rockets FC. Many of these clubs have already indicated that demand is constrained by supply.

When considering the impact of potential participation increases (as well as the anticipated population growth) using an estimate of 1% per annum, demand increases and supply becomes more closely matched with demand. By 2024, at peak time:

- there would be 20.3 surplus adult football pitches;
- 5.6 junior football pitches shortfall; and
- 31.8 surplus mini pitches.

This assumes that the temporal demand for football remains constant and that the pitch stock is also constant. The FA indicate that there is scope to increase demand even more, if levels of participation achieved in other authorities were to occur. It indicates that based upon 2011 figures, growth potential is as follows:

- 39 senior male teams
- 5 senior female teams
- 43 youth male teams
- 22 mini soccer teams.

Increases on this scale would result in;

- 13 surplus adult football pitches

- -11.7 junior football pitches
- 22 surplus mini football pitches.

While therefore there are currently enough pitches and based upon the same rates of participation, there remain enough pitches in the district in future years (based upon the same rates of participation) analysis has demonstrated that this is not the case when taking into account other issues such as the quality of provision. This therefore demonstrates the importance of addressing issues now to ensure that pitch stock is not constrained later.

Should significant participation increases occur, even if issues with the pitch stock were addressed, provision would remain tight if other interventions (such as the formal use of school sites) were not considered.

Localised Issues

Analysis of the adequacy of provision on a district wide basis disguises more localised issues of supply and demand. Furthermore, analysis of the adequacy of facilities on peak days hides several other key issues that are evident from more in depth scrutiny and analysis of site specific issues. These include:

- demand at peak time is only just over 50% on average and fewer pitches are therefore required to meet peak time demand. As a result, demand is spread across the week and some pitches sustain several matches;
- while some sites accommodate little play, there are some facilities that are overused and clubs that are displaced;
- there are some concerns that there are not enough pitches of appropriate quality in some parts of the district and to meet the needs of some club. This is likely to extend further as the new regulations requiring different types of pitch through the FA review become clear; and
- projected population growth is also greater in some parts than others.

In order to address this, specific analysis has been undertaken for each area of the district. This draws together the key issues raised in Tables 4.9 – 4.13 and outlines any concerns arising from this. The role of each site is also considered to provide a more detailed overview of activity.

For each area, two tables are provided as follows;

A table outlining the results of the scenarios set out in detail in Tables 4.9 – 4.13, in brief, analysis of the adequacy of provision when considering:

- baseline calculations(drawn from district wide calculations);
- the specific balance of play in an area;
- when including schools sites that do not have formal secured use;
- when excluding pitches provided by cricket clubs (which may be removed at any time if there is an impact on cricket pitch quality; and
- when excluding poor quality pitches.

A second table considering the function of each site and summarising;

- the quality score achieved;
- comments relating to the site made by clubs;
- usage of the site at peak periods; and
- usage of the site over the week (based on an assumption that each pitch should sustain an optimum level of 2 games per week).

Sites where usage is high are coloured in red and no usage is represented by green. Some use, but with scope to increase the amount is represented by amber.

Central Harrogate District

Football pitches in Central Harrogate District are managed by clubs and Parish Councils / Playing Fields Trusts. Unlike the district wide average, demand is higher for pitches on a Saturday morning (junior and mini pitches) and a Sunday afternoon (matches requiring adult pitches – primarily older youth teams).

Table 4.17 summarises the adequacy of provision with Central Harrogate District, drawing together the findings of the different scenarios analysed in Tables 4.9 – 4.13. It indicates that there are particular pressures on junior pitches, which are caused primarily by the large numbers of teams run by Scotton Scorchers JFC and Nidd United FC. It is also clear that cricket clubs have a particularly important role to play in this part of the district, with shortfalls of pitches if cricket clubs are taken out of the equation. More than one club indicate that pitch provision for junior is already becoming tightly balanced in this area and the requirements for the FA youth review will impact upon Scotton Scorchers JFC as well as Ripley Rockets.

Table 4.17 – Adequacy of Provision within Central Harrogate District

Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play). <i>(Explained further in Table 4.9)</i>	3.3	-1	6.9
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play <i>(Explained further in Table 4.10)</i>	2.5	-3	4
Including schools that offer informal community access <i>(Explained further in Table 4.11)</i>	3.3	-1	6.9
Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they impact upon pitch quality) <i>(Explained further in Table 4.12)</i>	3.3	-2	-0.1
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches <i>(Explained further in Table 4.13)</i>	2.3	-1	6.9

Supporting the tables set out above, consultation with clubs indicates that junior clubs in this area are concerned about the potential impact that a lack of facilities (both pitches and changing accommodation) will have on the longer term development of pitches.

Table 4.18 provides site by site detail on each site in Central Harrogate District. It demonstrates that:

- for adult football, both Burton Leonard and Bishop Monkton have capacity. Markington also has capacity although there are no changing facilities at this site;
- capacity for additional junior teams is more limited. While there is some availability at peak time, demand is spread meaning that pitches take lots of games over the weekend period. As highlighted above, clubs highlight concerns about the limited provision of pitches. No clubs indicated however that they have issues accessing pitches for matches or training currently. Scotton Scorchers use the adult pitch as three mini pitches frequently, meaning that this pitch takes extra wear and tear than would otherwise be the case. The new FA review will place further demand on pitches;
- the quality of facilities is above good, with the highest average percentage in the district. Changing facilities are however a concern, with the quality of provision at the majority of sites considered poor. The range of scores achieved (51-86% demonstrates this). Just over 50% of clubs are not satisfied with the stock of facilities currently and this was attributed to quality rather than the amount of facilities;
- the relatively small size of sites means that junior clubs are spread across multiple venues; and
- there are issues with unofficial use, with almost all sites used for informal recreation and training as well as formal play. This adds to the wear and tear on the pitches. Where relevant, the impact of training has been taken into account when evaluating the weekly capacity of the site using team equivalents.

With regards specific settlements, both Burton Leonard and Ripley, the two category B settlements have pitch provision. Capacity is however limited in Ripley and this may restrict club growth longer term, particularly as existing facilities are located at the cricket club.

In future years, demand is likely to remain relatively stable. None of the key settlements within Central Harrogate are earmarked for major housing growth. Earlier analysis demonstrates however the participation increases would have a greater impact, particularly on demand for junior football. Both Scotton Scorchers RUFC and Nidd United have continued aspirations for growth and participation increases are therefore a reality. Provision in this area is therefore likely to be very closely matched with demand in future years.

Table 4.18 overleaf contains the following information;

- the quality score achieved;
- comments relating to the site made by clubs;
- usage of the site at peak periods;
- use of the pitch for training; and

- usage of the site over the week (based on an assumption that each pitch should sustain an optimum level of 2 games per week) but also taking into account the use of the pitch for training.

Colours used represent the following:




	No additional availability
	Some usage but scope to increase use
	No usage

Table 4.18 – Site Specific Issues in Central Harrogate

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Bishop Monkton PF	1			86%	81%	Excellent playing field. Very even and good grass cover.	Bishop Monkton FC	Good quality pitches. Sharing with cricket club limits pre and post season football use.	Capacity on Saturday afternoon and some capacity Sunday morning			Yes (Saturday). No training pitches (equivalent to one team)	
Burton Leonard CC/Sports Field	1		2	64%	79%	Changing funded by Sport England in 1997. Outfield of cricket pitch used. Safety margins questionable	Burton Bullets, Burnton Leonard Squirrel	Shared with cricket. Issues with evenness of pitch unofficial use including dog fouling and litter. Changing provision is poor.	Free on a Saturday PM, some capacity Sunday PM		Used Saturday morning. Capacity at other times	Yes (Saturday). No training pitches. Equivalent to 0.5 adult football teams and 1 mini team	
Markington Sports Field	1			0%	51% - 65	No changing accommodation. Limited grass cover and evidence of damage to surface. Slope.	Markington FC	Drainage not adequate in wet weather. Otherwise acceptable	Used on Sunday morning. Capacity Saturday afternoon				Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Ripley CC		1	2	61%	86%	Good pitches on edge of cricket outfield	Ripley Rockets, Killinghall Nomads JFC	Pitch provision acceptable to good.		Full Sunday AM, capacity Sat AM	Capacity both days	Yes. No training pitches. Equivalent to 2 teams per week	Yes, but nearing capacity due to use of site for training also.
Scotton CC			3	62%	75%	Good quality playing field, some uneven areas	Scotton Scorchers FC			Teams spread across several sites		Yes. No training pitches. 3 team equivalents	
Scotton Scorchers / Percy Field	1			69%	75%	Poor damage to surface and unofficial use.	Scotton Scorchers FC, Nidd United FC	Pitches are overused and there is a lack of facilities. Pitches acceptable	Teams spread across several sites but some capacity. Used however by mini teams too			Yes. No training pitches. Training equivalent to 3teams.	High levels of use may impact on quality
Scotton Village Hall Field			2	None	75%	Some damage to surface	Scotton Scorchers FC, Nidd United FC				Teams spread across several sites but some capacity	Yes. No training pitches. Most training takes place at Percy Field.	

Harrogate Town

Unlike most parts of the district, the majority of pitch provision in Harrogate Town is managed by Harrogate Borough Council. As set out earlier in this section, it is in this part of the district where dissatisfaction is highest and only one club playing in the town is currently satisfied with provision.

Table 4.19 summarises the adequacy of provision with this part of the district, drawing together the findings of the different scenarios analysed in Tables 4.9 – 4.13.

Table 4.19 – Adequacy of Provision within Harrogate Town

Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play). <i>(Explained further in Table 4.9)</i>	11.5	0.8	13.4
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play <i>(Explained further in Table 4.10)</i>	10.75	-4.75	10
Including schools that offer informal community access <i>(Explained further in Table 4.11)</i>	25.5	1.8	13.4
Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they impact upon pitch quality) <i>(Explained further in Table 4.12)</i>	11.5	0.8	7.4
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches <i>(Explained further in Table 4.13)</i>	4.5	-4.2	4.4

Table 4.19 indicates that there are some issues behind the initial comparison between supply and demand. Specifically;

- When taking into account all pitches, there are more than sufficient pitches within Harrogate Town to meet current demand. There is however a clear imbalance between supply of junior pitches and the demand for these pitches. Although there are sufficient adult pitches, the supply of junior pitches is only just sufficient to meet demand
- The district wide figures do however present a slightly misleading picture, as Harrogate Town is unique in that it is the only part of the district where the peak time for all types of football is the same – Sunday morning. This intensifies the demand at this time and is clear that there is a particular shortfall of junior pitches. Indeed, the shortfall of junior pitches is only just outweighed by the surplus of adult pitches
- Many of the pitches have already been used on a Saturday for competitive play and the majority of teams in the area also train on a Saturday, causing further wear and tear. It is also worth noting that many pitches in this area are overmarked – for example Oatlands Recreation Ground - this means that provision is perhaps slightly more flexible than it may first appear
- There is a clear role for schools in this part of the district and this is reflected in the table, which indicates that pitch provision is more in line with demand when schools are

included. Harrogate High School and Harrogate Grammar School are particularly important in meeting the needs of the community for both matches and training. There are however some concerns about the lack of ancillary facilities available at these sites. St Aidans High School and St John Fishers School provide further opportunities to increase the amount of community provision as neither of these sites are currently used by football clubs. Both schools however raise concerns with drainage of their sites

- There is less reliance upon cricket clubs to provide football pitches in this part of the borough
- It is clear that the quality of pitches is a significant issue. While on face value there are more than sufficient pitches to meet requirements, when taking into account the quality of pitches and excluding poor quality and / or undesirable pitches, the supply and demand balance is very close.

To provide further insight into the above issues, Table 4.20 gives site by site detail on each site in Harrogate Town. It demonstrates that:

- while it appears that there is a lot of capacity within Harrogate Town, use is unevenly distributed across the pitch stock and indeed many of the pitches are operating at or near capacity at peak time for both adults and juniors. These include Almsford Playing Fields, Blue Wood Nursery, Harlow Hill Playing fields and Killinghall Moor. In contrast, while Oatlands Recreation Ground and The Hydro have some capacity, Queen Ethelburga's Park, Prospect Park and the Stray are also able to sustain more play. Particularly on a Sunday, there are few spare slots on any of the pitches except the Stray. The amount of training that takes place however means that pitches are used regularly and some potentially exceed recommended levels over the week due to the training that also takes place
- it is clear that there are several pitches available at the Stray that are not used – these distort figures to an extent. These pitches are poor quality and for adults, there are insufficient changing rooms for all to be used at the same time. There is capacity at all times, however few teams wish to play at the venue and pitches that have been marked out are not used. Excluding these spare pitches, demand is almost equivalent to supply;
- the quality of pitches in this part of the district is lower than many other areas with an average score of 71%. This average however disguises significant variation in pitch quality, with sites achieving scores of between 40% and 91%. Key issues include:
 - Drainage (The Stray, Killinghall Moor, Almsford Oval, Crimble Meadow)
 - Toilets and changing facilities – Oatlands Recreation Ground, Almsford Oval, The Stray, Prospect Park)
 - Parking – Queen Ethelburga's
 - Pitches suffer from unofficial use as they serve as informal recreation grounds as well as formal football pitches.

Several clubs indicate that the quality of pitches impacts upon club development and this is viewed as a particular issue specifically within Harrogate Town. It is notable that many of the issues identified relate to drainage. This can cause cancellations and add to the fixture backlog later in the season, as well as limit the quality of playing experience. Adding to the identified quality issues, a lack of changing accommodation and insufficient pitches of the right size were

perceived to be the key issues by clubs. Significantly however, only Pannal Sports and Pannal Ash FC have had difficulty accessing venues suggesting that reflecting figures set out above, the actual amount of pitches is not significant. Interpretation of consultation, as well as the analysis of the figures therefore suggest that the inherent issue is that **there are not enough pitches that are of the right quality.**

- Adding to issues with the amount of pitches and the quality of facilities, it is clear that several clubs are dispersed across multiple venues. Most notably these include Pannal Sports FC and Pannal Ash FC (both of whom have struggled to access pitches) and Killinghall Nomads are also playing across several venues. All of these clubs have declared an aspiration to lease pitches in order that they can manage the sites with a view to obtaining funding to improve pitch quality. All of these clubs will also be impacted upon by the FA Review of youth football, which will require a different pitch configuration in future years.

Harrogate contains the only 3g pitch in the district that is currently available for use (at Rosset Sports Centre). This pitch is perceived by clubs to be fully booked and issues with the cost of the facility are also raised. Several clubs comment that without the use of the Stray, training opportunities would be even more limited. Nine clubs indicate that they have difficulties obtaining facilities for training and these are a mixture of adult and junior teams. Where relevant, the impact of training has been taken into account when evaluating the weekly capacity of the site using team equivalents.

The pitch at Harrogate Grammar School pitch (sand based) is also available to the community although the surface means that it is not suitable for competitive football fixtures. Use of artificial pitches for training does however reduce the pressures on grass pitches.

48% of new housing in the district is projected to be built in Harrogate (Core Strategy). This means that this area is likely to see a higher than average increase in demand for provision in future years.

Despite this, earlier analysis demonstrates that because of the changing population profile (as people are becoming older, they are less likely to participate), population growth is likely to only ensure that participation remains constant. Increases in the proportion of people participating (through sports development initiatives and club development for example) would have a greater impact, particularly on demand for junior football.

Several clubs (specifically Harrogate Railway FC and JFC, Harlow Hill FC, Killinghall Nomads and Harrogate Town FC all have continued aspirations for growth and participation increases are therefore a reality. Coupled with the higher than average population growth in the area (which will negate the decline in propensity to participate as residents become older), this means that addressing issues with pitch provision in this area is a key priority.

While provision may be sufficient to accommodate the increases that clubs aspire to, participation increases on the scale that the FA indicate are possible (based on the performance of other authorities) would mean that demand would outstrip supply.

Table 4.20 overleaf contains the following information;

- the quality score achieved;
- comments relating to the site made by clubs;
- usage of the site at peak periods;

- usage of the site for training and
- usage of the site over the week (based on an assumption that each pitch should sustain an optimum level of 2 games per week) but also taking into account the impact of training.

Colours used represent the following:




	No additional availability
	Some usage but scope to increase use
	No usage

Table 4.20 – Site Specific Analysis in Harrogate Town

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Almsford PF			5	37%	60 - 61%	Very poor changing facilities. Poor grass cover and evidence of unofficial use. Line markings poor. Drainage issues raised.	Pannal Ash JFC	Pitch quality poor and 50% of matches are unplayable due to drainage. Toilets are unusable. Issues with dog fouling and unofficial use. Changing poor. Club would like long term lease.			Some capacity at peak times. Current focus on Sunday play.	No	Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality
Belmont Park/Cats Field		1		None	47%	No changing accommodation. Limited grass cover and long grass. Some evidence of dog fouling. Uneven and undulating	Pannal Sports JFC / Harrogate Railway Juniors			At capacity on a Sunday morning.		No	Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality. High levels of use may impact on quality
Crimple meadows		1		None	60%	No changing facilities, evidence of unofficial use. Poor line markings and sloping. Drainage issues	Pannal Sport FC			At capacity Sunday morning		Yes (Saturday) Equivalent of at least one team.	Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality. High levels of use may impact on

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
						evident							quality
Harlow Hill / Plantation Road	1			49%	74%	Poorly located portacabin. Poor grass cover and damage to the pitch surface.						No regular use identified	
Harrogate Cricket Club			4	95%	91%	Good pitches on edge of cricket outfield	Pannal Sports Junior FC	Poor drainage makes winter playing conditions very difficult. Site is uneven in parts and club has poor equipment. Club struggles to obtain appropriate pitches for both matches and training			Small amount of capacity on Sunday morning	Some irregular training (linked with the Stray)	Site at capacity when training takes place here also
Harrogate Railway football club	2			97%	89%	New changing rooms. Good provision	SherwoodFC, Harrogate Railway FC, Harrogate Railway Athletic	Good quality playing pitch. Slight drainage problem on 1st team pitch	Full on Saturday PM			Yes. Equivalent to two teams maximum. Train adjacent to pitch - no clear implications.	

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Killinghall Moor	4	2		82%	56%	Changing block built in 2000. Limited grass cover and some issues with unofficial use. Limited equipment. Drainage issues.	Harrogate Coach and Horses, Beckwithshaw Saints Juniors, Killinghall Nomads JFC, Harrogate CSC,	Pitches are acceptable although drainage is poor. Tractor damages pitches when wet. Site also suffers from dog fouling. Poor posts and sockets	Spare capacity Saturday PM. Used by adults and juniors Sunday and full	Some capacity Saturday, full Sunday		Limited	Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality
Oatlands Recreation Ground	1	1		58%	54-67%	Pitches overmarked. Old changing block inadequate for size of pitches. Poor safety margins and some uneven parts of playing fields. Clear evidence of unofficial use. Issues with pitch surface need rectifying.	Harlow Hill FC, Pannal Ash JFC	Toilets are poor and changing facilities are too small. Drainage is acceptable but unofficial use causes dog fouling and litter. There are limited training facilities.	Used Saturday PM, capacity Sunday Am	Used Sunday Am		Limited	Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality. High levels of use may impact on quality

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Oatlands Stray	7		1	55%	61 - 63%	Poor grass cover and pitches relatively uneven. Changing facilities insufficient for number of pitches.	Hampsthwaite Utd, Harrogate Cosmos, Pannal Sports JFC, Hampsthwaite Utd Sunday, Atlanta FC, Showbiz Whites, Killinghall Nomads JFC	Overall pitches acceptable but individual elements poor. Pitches suffer from overuse and poor changing. Pitches would benefit from drainage.	Used on both Saturday and Sunday. Circa 5 pitches used Sunday morning			Yes (Saturday). Training usually takes place outside of main pitches so no team equivalents considered.	Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality
Pannal Ash CC			2	48%	82%	Poor pavilion.						No	
Prospect Park		1		None	61% - 63%	No changing facilities, small pitches.						No	
Queen Ethelburga's park		3		None	40 - 51%	Small sized facility and no changing accommodation. Poor quality pitch overall.	Pannal Ash JFC	Parking and drainage considered to be poor.		Almost at capacity (1 slot) Sunday afternoons		Limited	Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality. High levels of use may impact on quality

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Stray Rein	4		3	55%	61 - 63%	Poor grass cover and pitches relatively uneven. Changing facilities insufficient for number of pitches.	Hampsthwaite Utd, Harrogate Cosmos, Pannal Sports JFC, Hampsthwaite Utd Sunday, Atlanta FC, Showbiz Whites, Killinghall Nomads JFC	Overall pitches acceptable but individual elements poor. Pitches suffer from overuse and poor changing. Pitches would benefit from drainage.	High demand Sunday		Spare capacity	Yes. Training takes place outside main pitches and so no team equivalents considered	Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality
The Hydro			2	In leisure centre	67%	No on site changing facilities. Use of adjacent leisure centre (Some problems reported with this). Some dog fouling and damage to the surface.	Killinghall Nomads JFC	Lack of changing facilities. Drainage poor.			Used Sunday morning	Limited	

Knaresborough

There is only one public pitch in Knaresborough (Fysche Field). The remainder of facilities are leased and managed by clubs, specifically Knaresborough Celtic and Knaresborough Town. Notably there has been significant investment into facilities in this area, led by clubs in partnership with the Football Foundation. Demand in this area is perhaps more focused than in other areas of the district, with all peak time adult demand focused on a Saturday afternoon, while junior sport is played on a Sunday.

Table 4.21 summarises the adequacy of provision in Knaresborough, drawing together the findings of the different scenarios analysed in Tables 4.9 – 4.13. It indicates that despite the higher than average temporal demand, provision is sufficient in quantitative terms to meet the needs of clubs and there is no reliance on cricket clubs or schools to do this currently. The quality of pitches is also good, although there are some issues with informal / unauthorised use.

Table 4.21 – Adequacy of Provision within Knaresborough

Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play). <i>(Explained further in Table 4.9)</i>	0.3	2.9	3
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play <i>(Explained further in Table 4.10)</i>	-0.5	2.25	2.75
Including schools that offer informal community access <i>(Explained further in Table 4.11)</i>	0.3	3.9	4
Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they impact upon pitch quality) <i>(Explained further in Table 4.12)</i>	0.3	2.9	3
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches <i>(Explained further in Table 4.13)</i>	0.3	2.9	3

To provide further insight into pitch provision in Knaresborough, Table 4.22 gives site by site detail on each site in Knaresborough. It demonstrates that:

- despite provision being sufficient to meet demand, it is clear that most sites are at or nearing capacity. Knaresborough Celtic use King George V Playing Fields as an overspill as their main home site is full and Knaresborough Town also have no capacity at peak times. A mini pitch has also been marked out at Hay a Park to accommodate additional play. Pitches are therefore sustaining relatively high levels of use. Pitches are also used for training which further places pressure on the existing facilities. The FA youth review will have implications on pitch layout at this site in future years;
- reflecting this, although the quality of pitches is good, there are some signs of heavy use including damage to the surface and poor grass cover. Pitches achieve scores of between 56% and 98%, suggesting that there is a degree of variation, however on average the quality of facilities is better than in many other parts of the district; and

- there are few opportunities in Knaresborough for teams that are not affiliated to one of the large clubs to play.

There is no 3g football pitch in Knaresborough. The existing sand based pitch at King James School receives some limited community use however the facility does not have floodlights and it's potential role for community sport is therefore limited. King James School are keen to extend the role of the school in catering for the community, however there are concerns with the drainage of the school playing fields meaning that there are currently limited opportunities for community use of these facilities.

14% of new housing in the district is projected to be built in Knaresborough(Core Strategy). This means that this area is likely to see a higher than average demand for provision in future years and provision is already approaching capacity. Despite this, earlier analysis demonstrates that because of the changing population profile, participation increases would have a greater impact, particularly on demand for junior football. No clubs in Knaresborough have specifically indicated that they are seeking to increase the amount of teams that they run. Any increases in participation will however mean that provision is tightly matched with demand and that extra provision will need to be secured.

Table 4.22 overleaf contains the following information;

- The quality score achieved
- Comments relating to the site made by clubs
- Usage of the site at peak periods
- Use of site for training
- Usage of the site over the week (based on an assumption that each pitch should sustain an optimum level of 2 games per week).

Colours used represent the following:

	No additional availability
	Some usage but scope to increase use
	No usage

Table 4.22 – Site Specific Analysis in Knaresborough

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Fysche Field, Knaresborough		1		98%	56%	Pitch relatively uneven. Clear evidence of unofficial use. Changing in leisure centre	Knaresborough Celtic		Some spare capacity			Yes. Up to 12 team equivalents spread across 3 sites	Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality. High levels of use may impact on quality
King George V			3	98%	72%	Open site with changing accommodation. Open access and relatively uneven, some evidence of unofficial use, dog fouling and litter. Good grass cover	Knaresborough Celtic					Yes. Up to 12 team equivalents spread across 3 sites	
Knaresborough Celtic		5		95%	75%	Poor grass cover	Knaresborough Celtic			Focus on Sunday play but site used for training		Yes. Up to 12 team equivalents spread across 3 sites	

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
										also			
Knaresborough RUFC (Hay a Park)			1								Used as overflow. Capacity Saturday and Sunday	Yes (rugby too). 1 team equivalent	
Knaresborough Town AFC (Manse Lane)	1			100%	98%	Good quality pitch with good changing accommodation. Separate training area.	Knaresborough Town	Good quality pitches and playing fields.	Full Saturday PM. Spare capacity Sunday			Yes. Training facilities so no impact on main pitch	

Ripon

Demand for pitches in Ripon is more evenly split than most other parts of the district, with only 50% of demand at peak time for adults, and junior and mini teams playing on a Sunday. There are two public pitches (at Camp Close and Ure Bank) and the other pitches are in club control (Hell Wath is leased to Ripon City Panthers by Harrogate BC).

Alongside Harrogate Town, Ripon has the highest levels of dissatisfaction of clubs. All clubs playing in this part of the district indicate that they are currently unhappy with the pitch stock and this is attributed to both qualitative and quantitative reasons.

To investigate issues further, Table 4.23 summarises the adequacy of provision with this part of the district, drawing together the findings of the different scenarios analysed in Tables 4.9 – 4.13.

Table 4.23 – Adequacy of Provision within Ripon

Scenario	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play). <i>(Explained further in Table 4.9)</i>	1.3	-0.8	1.4
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play <i>(Explained further in Table 4.10)</i>	1.5	0	1.75
Including schools that offer informal community access <i>(Explained further in Table 4.11)</i>	3.4	0.2	1.4
Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they impact upon pitch quality) <i>(Explained further in Table 4.12)</i>	1.4	-0.8	1.4
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches <i>(Explained further in Table 4.13)</i>	0.4	-0.8	1.4

As Table 4.23 indicates:

- Even at the baseline level, pitch provision in Ripon is perhaps more closely matched with demand than any other part of the district, with shortfalls of junior pitches that are only just outweighed by surplus adult pitches. The amount of mini pitches available is also only just sufficient to meet demand. When taking into account the actual temporal demand in Ripon (rather than the district wide average) provision is more able to meet demand, however this is partially enforced by the constraints of the pitch stock rather than desires and aspirations of clubs. Notably, of the three adult clubs struggling to access match pitches, two are based in Ripon and more than half of all clubs struggle for pitches.
- There is limited use of pitches at school sites currently by football clubs and there are numerous pitches in the area at schools / army properties without formal community use. Such facilities include Claro Barracks and Cathedral Choir School as well as Outwood Academy and Clotherholme Playing Fields. Ripon Grammar also has pitches and these are used on occasion informally.

- The quality of pitches has an impact on the overall capacity of pitches, with less than one surplus pitch when excluding poor quality sites.

To provide further insight into the above issues, Table 4.24 gives site by site detail on each site in Ripon. It demonstrates that:

- with regards adult pitches, there is no capacity on a Saturday afternoon for additional play (excluding the pitch at Ure Bank which is not used) and only one slot on a Sunday morning. The limited facilities available mean that there is only one public pitch and this is fully booked – this means that there are limited opportunities to develop football in this area. Ripon City FC have aspirations to relocate (and to sell their existing ground to fund this relocation) in order to improve the quality and amount of facilities at their disposal;
- like the adult pitches, facilities at Hell Wath are heavily used (and are for the sole use of Ripon City Panthers) and there is no capacity for additional play. These facilities are also used extensively for training;
- although the pitch at Ure Bank is not used, this is primarily dictated to by the quality of the site, which is particularly poor. This site received the lowest quality rating of all facilities in the district and is also poorly located; and
- although overall the quality of pitches is acceptable in this area, it is this part of the district that demonstrates the highest level of variation of all, with scores achieved ranging from 32% (Ure Bank) to 95%. All pitches demonstrated signs of overuse and wear tear, specifically limited grass cover and damage to the surface. This heavy use of pitches means that opportunities to train on pitches is limited and the lack of alternative pitches means that clubs struggle to access facilities.

There are no 3g pitches in the Ripon area and the only sand based pitch is at Ripon Grammar School, which offers limited if any access to the general public. As well as highlighting issues with access to pitches for matches, more than 50% of clubs also highlighted concerns about a lack of facilities for training. Training is not permitted on several match pitches in the area and a lack of training facilities was highlighted as one of the main reasons that clubs in this area are dissatisfied with the overall pitch stock.

8% of new housing in the district is projected to be built in Ripon (Core Strategy). This means that this area is likely to see a higher than average demand for provision in future years. Despite this, earlier analysis demonstrates that because of the changing population profile, participation increases would have a greater impact, particularly on demand for junior football. Both Ripon City and Ripon City Panthers have stated aspirations for growth and participation increases are therefore a reality. Any increases in participation would create shortfalls in provision unless new pitches were secured.

Table 4.24 overleaf contains the following information;

- The quality score achieved
- Comments relating to the site made by clubs
- Usage of the site at peak periods
- Usage of the site for training
- Usage of the site over the week (based on an assumption that each pitch should sustain an optimum level of 2 games per week). This also takes into account the impact of training.

Colours used represent the following:




	No additional availability
	Some usage but scope to increase use
	No usage

Table 4.24 – Site Specific Issues within Ripon

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Camp Close Ripon	1			Yes	56%	Poor grass cover and uneven in parts. Dog fouling a clear issue.	Ripon Red Arrows, Hornblower FC	Pitch quality acceptable overall. Dog fouling, litter and unauthorised use problematic. More bins are required on site and changing required for referees. This pitch cannot be used for training which presents challenges.	Full on Saturday PM, scope for additional team Sun AM			No	High levels of use may impact on quality. Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
HellWath Community Park		2	2	95%	70%	Football Foundation Funded changing accommodation. Limited grass cover and poor line markings.	Ripon City Panthers	Good facilities that suffer from dog fouling. Parking is poor and there are not enough facilities for training and storage.		Heavy use on both Saturday and Sunday morning for competitive fixtures		Yes (Saturday). 9 team equivalents	
Mallorie Park - Ripon City AFC	1			67%	95%	Outdated changing accommodation. Limited grass cover at time of visit. Separate training area.	Ripon City FC, Ripon City Panthers, The Ship, Harrogate Veterans FC	Pitches are of good quality. Lack of affordable training facilities and a lack of overall pitches and 3g pitches.	Full Saturday PM and Sunday AM			Yes, training facilities adjacent so no impact on match pitch	
Ure Bank Football Pitch	1			None	32%	Poor quality pitch with almost no grass cover. Very uneven and lots of damage to surface. No changing accommodation			Unused			No	Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality

North East Harrogate Borough

Demand for pitches in North East Harrogate District is focused upon a Saturday afternoon for adults and Saturday mornings for junior and mini teams. This means that there is heavy use of pitches on a Saturday. Provision in this part of the district is relatively limited, with the only community pitches being at Boroughbridge Sports Association and Dishforth Playing Fields. Boroughbridge is the main settlement in this area of the district and the majority of demand is based within this area.

Table 4.25 summarises the adequacy of provision with this part of the district, drawing together the findings of the different scenarios analysed in Tables 4.9 – 4.14.

Table 4.25 – Adequacy of Provision within North East Harrogate District

Scenario	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play). <i>(Explained further in Table 4.9)</i>	0.4	-1.5	-0.4
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play <i>(Explained further in Table 4.10)</i>	1.5	-1	-1
Including schools that offer informal community access <i>(Explained further in Table 4.11)</i>	3.4	1.5	0.6
Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they impact upon pitch quality) <i>(Explained further in Table 4.12)</i>	0.4	-1.5	-0.4
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches <i>(Explained further in Table 4.13)</i>	0.4	-1.5	-0.4

As Table 4.25 indicates:

- Even at the baseline level, there are shortfalls of junior and mini pitches and the provision of adult pitches is only just sufficient. When taking into account the temporal demand for pitches, this situation intensifies further
- Incorporation of facilities at school sites shows a clear reliance upon pitches at school sites (specifically at Boroughbridge High School and Boroughbridge Primary School). These schools do not offer formal community use
- The quality of pitches has minimal impact on the overall capacity of community pitches although it must be noted that neither school site offers ancillary facilities to support the pitches that are used.

To provide further insight into the above issues, Table 4.26 gives site by site detail on each site. It builds upon the issues identified above and indicates that:

- with regards adult pitches, Boroughbridge Sports Association is heavily used and there is no spare capacity on either Saturday or Sunday. In contrast, Dishforth Playing Fields is able to accommodate additional play on both Saturday and Sunday; and

- there are no opportunities for junior teams outside of the school sites. Boroughbridge JFC are spread across both the High School and the Primary School and they have no security of tenure of facilities. Reflecting this, the clubs express dissatisfaction with the total lack of pitches in this part of the borough and are concerned about the future implications of this in terms of club development. There are also concerns about the quality of pitches, including access to facilities on site. Boroughbridge High School also raise concerns with the drainage of these pitches.

In addition to the pitches highlighted in this section to date, Rainton Recreation Field is not currently used as a formal pitch but has previously functioned as such.

Access to artificial pitches is limited and many residents are outside of the recommended catchment of 20 minutes. There are no 3g pitches in the area and no sand based facilities. Reflecting this, concerns about access to training facilities were also raised by the clubs. Boroughbridge High School expressed an aspiration to provide an AGP on site.

20% of housing development will be distributed across rural villages in Harrogate. This means that the exact impact in this part of the district is unknown but is likely to be relatively insignificant. Despite this, earlier analysis demonstrates that because of the changing population profile, participation increases would have a greater impact than population growth, particularly on demand for junior football. Boroughbridge Juniors have stated aspirations for growth and participation increases are therefore a reality and would increase existing shortfalls. Facilities are however currently restricting intentions and the club are working alongside the Town Council and the schools to improve the future of pitch provision in Boroughbridge.

Table 4.26 overleaf summarises the site by site issues in the North East of Harrogate District. It contains the following information;

- The quality score achieved
- Comments relating to the site made by clubs
- Usage of the site at peak periods
- Use of the site for training
- Usage of the site over the week (based on an assumption that each pitch should sustain an optimum level of 2 games per week) taking into account the impact of training.

Colours used represent the following:

	No additional availability
	Some usage but scope to increase use
	No usage

Table 4.26 – Site by Site Analysis – North East Harrogate District

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Boroughbridge Sports Association	1			77%	89%	Grass cover and equipment of poor quality. Training area.	Borough bridge FC, Borough bridge JFC	Pitch quality acceptable to good but insufficient income to maintain standards. Health and safety issues due to inadequate lighting. Need additional changing and surrounds for ground.	Heavy emphasis on Sunday play. Capacity on Saturday			Yes (Saturday). Training facilities	Junior FC use school sites. High levels of use may impact on quality
Dishforth Sports Assoc	1			75%	68%	Grass relatively long but good grass cover. Slight damage to surface. Appears to have separate training area	Dishforth FC		Some spare capacity Sunday morning. No use Saturday PM			No	

North West Harrogate Borough

Demand for pitches in North West Harrogate District is focused upon a Saturday afternoon for adults and Saturday mornings for junior and mini teams. This means that there is heavy use of pitches on a Saturday. Provision in this part of the district is relatively limited, with the only community pitches being at Kirkby Malzeard (Highside Playing Fields) and Masham Sports Association. This means however that the two key settlements in this part of the borough both have playing fields.

Table 4.27 summarises the adequacy of provision drawing together the findings of the different scenarios analysed in Tables 4.9 – 4.14.

Table 4.27 – Adequacy of Provision within North West Harrogate District

Scenario	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play). <i>(Explained further in Table 4.9)</i>	1.3	-0.3	2.6
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play <i>(Explained further in Table 4.10)</i>	1	-0.5	2
Including schools that offer informal community access <i>(Explained further in Table 4.11)</i>	1.3	-0.3	2.6
Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they impact upon pitch quality) <i>(Explained further in Table 4.12)</i>	1.3	-0.3	2.6
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches <i>(Explained further in Table 4.13)</i>	1.3	-0.3	2.6

As Table 4.27 indicates:

- Even at the baseline level, provision is only just sufficient to meet requirements. There are enough adult and mini pitches, but pressures on junior pitches. There is limited use of school facilities in this area and the situation remains consistent when taking into account schools that are open for informal community use
- The quality of pitches has minimal impact on the overall capacity of community pitches.

To provide further insight into the above issues, Table 4.28 gives site by site detail on each site. It builds upon the issues identified above and indicates that:

- with regards adult pitches, there is spare capacity at both sites;
- there is also spare capacity at Highside Playing Fields for mini teams and it is thought that pitches are used flexibly, with the adult pitch being used for mini play on occasion; and
- the quality of pitch provision is comparatively good and is consistent. The Kirkby Malzeard Playing Fields received Football Foundation Funding in 2011 and as a

consequence were upgraded significantly. There are greater opportunities to upgrade the playing fields at Masham Sports Association.

In addition to the pitches highlighted in this section to date, North Stainley Recreation Association is not currently used as a formal pitch but has previously functioned as such.

Access to artificial pitches is limited and many residents are outside of the recommended catchment. There are no 3g pitches in the area and no sand based facilities.

2% of new housing in the district is projected to be built in Masham specifically (Core Strategy) and a further 20% of housing development will be distributed across rural villages. This means that in comparison to other rural areas, the level of growth in this part of the district will be above average. Despite this, earlier analysis demonstrates that participation growth will have limited impact on demand, and instead participation increases are more likely to impact on the need for pitches.

Kirkby Lions JFC have stated aspirations for growth and participation increases are therefore a reality. While there is some capacity at their existing site, any other sites are likely to cause longer term shortfalls in provision.

Table 4.28 overleaf contains the following information;

- The quality score achieved
- Comments relating to the site made by clubs
- Usage of the site at peak periods
- Usage of the site over the week (based on an assumption that each pitch should sustain an optimum level of 2 games per week).

Colours used represent the following:




	No additional availability
	Some usage but scope to increase use
	No usage

Table 4.28 – Site Specific Issues in North West Harrogate District

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Highside PF Kirby Malzeard	1		3	92%	74%	Football Foundation Funded in 2011.	Kirkby Lions Junior FC, Kirkby Malzeard FC	Good quality playing field. One goalmouth is beneath a tree and is often muddy.	Full Saturday PM. Potential that junior team also uses this pitch			Yes (Saturday) (3 mini team equivalents)	
Masham Sports Association	1			Changing accommodation inaccessible			Masham FC		Used on Sunday morning. Capacity Saturday afternoon			Limited	

Nidderdale

Demand for pitches in Nidderdale is focused on a Saturday for mini soccer, but on Sunday morning for both junior and senior football. This means that there are limited opportunities for adults and juniors to share pitches and a higher demand at this time.

Provision in this part of the district is relatively limited, with the only community pitches being at Pateley Bridge Showground, Darley and Hampsthwaite Recreation Ground. Notably, Nidderdale is one of the areas where clubs have expressed higher levels of dissatisfaction with the stock of facilities.

Table 4.29 summarises the adequacy of provision with this part of the district, drawing together the findings of the different scenarios analysed in Tables 4.10 – 4.14 in order that issues can be further explored.

Table 4.29 – Adequacy of Provision within Nidderdale

Scenario	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play). <i>(Explained further in Table 4.9)</i>	0.4	-0.5	1.6
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play <i>(Explained further in Table 4.10)</i>	0	-1.5	1
Including schools that offer informal community access <i>(Explained further in Table 4.11)</i>	1.4	0.5	1.6
Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they impact upon pitch quality) <i>(Explained further in Table 4.12)</i>	0.4	-0.5	1.6
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches <i>(Explained further in Table 4.13)</i>	0.4	-1.5	-0.4

As Table 4.29 indicates:

- Even at the baseline level, supply is closely matched with demand. The shortfall of junior pitches is just outweighed by the surplus of adult pitches;
- The high emphasis on demand for adult and junior pitches on a Sunday morning is clear and there are shortfalls of provision;
- The playing fields at Nidderdale High School are not currently used, but they would offer additional capacity and reduce pressures on other pitches.
- The quality of pitches has further negative impact, with shortfalls in this part of the borough increasing. This is also reflected in club consultation, which demonstrated higher levels of dissatisfaction with the quality of provision than in most other areas.

Table 4.30 gives site by site detail on each site in Nidderdale. It builds upon the issues identified above and indicates that:

- with regards adult pitches, usage is uneven. There is high demand at Darley Playing Fields and Pateley Bridge Showground is also fully booked on a Saturday. There is however capacity at Hampsthwaite Recreation Ground;
- there is also capacity at Hampsthwaite Recreation Ground for junior teams to play. Hampsthwaite JFC will be impacted however by the new requirements for youth football and changes to the pitch configuration will therefore be required; and
- the quality of pitches in this area is impacted upon by drainage and water retention issues and it is notable that there is little variation in the quality of the overall facilities, with an average score of 53% to 67%. This however suggests that there are no particularly high quality facilities and quality in this part of the borough is lower than many other areas. The poor quality reduces the availability of pitches and can result in cancellations and the relocation of teams. Hampsthwaite Recreation Ground is identified as having particularly poor drainage. Pitches at Hampsthwaite also not have changing facilities or toilets which restricts their attractiveness to users. Closer analysis reveals that this is the cause of the existing shortfalls – two teams from Hampsthwaite are currently forced to travel to Harrogate Town to use pitches as they are not able to access appropriate pitches within Hampsthwaite. Notably, all clubs expressing dissatisfaction with the pitch stock referenced the quality of pitches and not the amount of facilities.

In addition to the pitches highlighted in this section to date, there are several facilities not currently used as formal pitches but that have previously functioned as such, specifically Pateley Bridge Park and Max Pullan Recreation Ground.


Access to artificial pitches is limited and many residents are outside of the recommended catchment. There are no 3g pitches in the area and no sand based facilities. Nidderdale High School expressed the aspiration to develop an AGP.

20% of housing development will be distributed across rural villages in Harrogate district. This means that the exact impact in this part of the district is unknown but is likely to be relatively insignificant. Earlier analysis demonstrates that because of the changing population profile, participation increases would have a greater impact, particularly on demand for junior football than population growth. Hampsthwaite and Birstwith JFC have stated aspirations for growth and participation increases are therefore a reality. Such growth may generate shortfalls in this part of the district longer term.

Table 4.30 overleaf contains the following information;

- The quality score achieved
- Comments relating to the site made by clubs
- Usage of the site at peak periods
- Use of the site for training
- Usage of the site over the week (based on an assumption that each pitch should sustain an optimum level of 2 games per week). This also takes into account the impact of training.

Colours used represent the following:

	No additional availability
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	Some usage but scope to increase use
	No usage

Table 4.30 – Site Specific Detail in Nidderdale

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Darley Playing field	1			73%	67%	Changing funded by Sport England. Evidence of some damage to pitch surface and unofficial use.	Nidd United FC	Good playing fields but anticipate issues securing time for other age groups. Pitch suffers from occasional waterlogging.	High demand on a Sunday			Yes (Saturday – 2 team equivalents)	High levels of use may impact on quality
Hampsthwaite Rec		1	2	None	53 - 54%	No changing accommodation. Long grass, some evidence of dog fouling.	Hampsthwaite and Birstwith JFC, Nidd United	Pitch often very muddy due to water retention and lack of grass cover. Pitch suffers from dog fouling.		Play spread, capacity Saturday and Sunday	Used Saturday	Yes (Saturday – 4 team equivalents)	Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality
Pateley Bridge Showground	1								Full Saturday PM			Irregular	

South Harrogate District

Demand for pitches in South Harrogate is spread, with peak time for adult football being Saturday, youth (Sunday morning) and mini teams playing on Sunday afternoon. Beckwithshaw contains the only facilities in this part of the district, with two sites at the Village Hall and the Cricket Club.

Table 4.31 summarises the adequacy of provision to meet demand, drawing together the findings of the different scenarios analysed in Tables 4.9 – 4.13.

Table 4.31 – Adequacy of Provision within South Harrogate District

Scenario	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play). <i>(Explained further in Table 4.9)</i>	0.5	-0.8	5.2
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play <i>(Explained further in Table 4.10)</i>	0	-0.25	4.75
Including schools that offer informal community access <i>(Explained further in Table 4.11)</i>	0.5	-0.8	5.2
Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they impact upon pitch quality) <i>(Explained further in Table 4.12)</i>	0.5	-0.8	-0.8
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches <i>(Explained further in Table 4.13)</i>	0.5	-0.8	5.2

As Table 4.31 indicates:

- Even at the baseline level, supply is closely matched with demand in terms of adult and junior football. There are however clearly sufficient mini pitches with the largest surplus in the district (after Harrogate)
- The facilities at the cricket club are of particular importance to the local club – without these pitches there would be a shortfall in this area of mini pitches and the amount of teams currently run by the club would be unsustainable
- There are concerns relating to the quality of the facilities and provision becomes more closely matched with demand when quality is taken into account.

Table 4.32 gives site by site detail on each site. It builds upon the issues identified above and indicates that:

- there is capacity for additional adult play on a Saturday at the Village Hall. This site is however at capacity on a Sunday morning with junior teams and it is likely that the pitch would be used by these teams. Reality therefore suggests that there are limited further opportunities for adults in this part of the district

- although the village hall is unable to accommodate additional matches at peak times, there is scope to increase the amount of play at Beckwithshaw Cricket club although the impact on the quality of the cricket outfield should be monitored; and
- the quality of the changing facility at the village hall is poor. While this does not impact upon capacity, it limits the attractiveness of the facility. Pitch quality also requires improvement. The only issues raised in this part of the district related to the quality of provision. No concerns over the quality of pitches were evident.

20% of new housing in the district is projected to be spread across rural villages and the extent of growth in this part of the district is therefore unknown. Earlier analysis however demonstrates that because of the changing population profile, participation increases would have a greater impact, particularly on demand for junior football. Beckwithshaw Saints JFC have stated aspirations for growth and participation increases are therefore a reality. Any significant increases in participation would see facilities becoming insufficient to meet requirements in this part of the district.

Table 4.32 overleaf contains the following information;

- The quality score achieved
- Comments relating to the site made by clubs
- Usage of the site at peak periods
- Use of the site for training
- Usage of the site over the week (based on an assumption that each pitch should sustain an optimum level of 2 games per week).

Colours used represent the following:

	No additional availability
	Some usage but scope to increase use
	No usage

Table 4.32 – Site Specific Detail in South Harrogate District

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Beckwithshaw CC			6	72%	82%	Pitches on cricket outfield. Gaps in grass cover	Beckwithshaw Saints JFC	Conflicts with cricket use can cause issues. Introduction of new FA rules may have further impact.			Capacity for additional play. Emphasis on Sunday play. Not used for competitive fixtures Saturday	No	
Beckwithshaw Playing Field/village hall	1	2		65%	56%	Overmarked pitches in poor condition. Grass cover noticeably poor	Beckwithshaw Saints Seniors / Beckwithshaw Saints JFC	Changing facility is poor.	Some capacity (current play Saturday PM)	At capacity on a Sunday morning (peak time). Junior teams likely to be using senior pitch as overspill		No	Capacity potentially impacted by pitch quality. High levels of use may impact on quality

South East Harrogate District

Demand for pitches in South East Harrogate District is focused on a Saturday for adults, Sunday morning for mini football and Sunday afternoon for junior football. This means that demand is spread across the weekend.

Provision in South East Harrogate is relatively high and is primarily focused upon club and Parish Council / Playing Field association facilities.

Table 4.33 summarises the adequacy of provision to meet demand, drawing together the findings of the different scenarios analysed in Tables 4.9 – 4.13.

Table 4.33– Adequacy of Provision within South East Harrogate

Scenario	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play). <i>(Explained further in Table 4.9)</i>	4.2	0.9	-0.3
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play <i>(Explained further in Table 4.10)</i>	3	1	-0.5
Including schools that offer informal community access <i>(Explained further in Table 4.11)</i>	4.2	0.9	1.7
Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they impact upon pitch quality) <i>(Explained</i>	4.2	0.9	-0.3
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches <i>(Explained further in Table 4.13)</i>	4.2	0.9	-0.3

As Table 4.33 indicates:

- Provision is sufficient to meet demand at a baseline level, with sufficient adult and junior pitches and only a small shortfall of mini football pitches. This shortfall is offset by the surplus adult and junior pitches
- Adjustments to the temporal demand have little impact on the overall adequacy of provision.
- School sites used informally provide a little additional capacity. This is due to the inclusion of Tockwith Primary School, which provides two mini football pitches. The role of cricket pitches is however clear, as there is a small shortfall of provision when taken out of the equation.
- The quality of pitches has some impact on the overall adequacy of provision, with the surpluses of adult football pitches reducing. This suggests that not all pitches in the area are fit for the purpose that they are intended.

Table 4.34 gives site by site detail on each site. It builds upon the issues identified above and indicates that:

- with regards adult pitches, usage is uneven. There is high demand at Kirk Hammerton and Kirk Deighton pitches as well as Great Ouseburn however there is capacity at Green Hammerton and Whixley Playing Fields is hardly used;
- analysis of the adequacy of pitches for juniors presents a misleading picture, as Kirk Deighton JFC actually travel out of the district to Wetherby to use their new facility (Grange Park). The old facility at Loshpott Lane still exists and is occasionally used, but has capacity to accommodate additional play. Tockwith FC is a growing club and facilities are nearing capacity. The club uses Tockwith Primary School to accommodate this overspill and raises concerns about the impact of the recent FA review on the adequacy of pitches; and
- the quality of pitches is varying, but none fall below the threshold that suggests they may suffer from reduced capacity. There are however some quality issues that need to be addressed.

In addition to the pitches highlighted in this section to date, Marton Cum Grafton Recreation Ground is not currently used as a formal pitch but has previously functioned as such.

Access to artificial pitches is limited and many residents are outside of the recommended catchment. There are no 3g pitches in the area and no sand based facilities. All clubs indicate that they struggle to access training facilities and highlight the challenges they face with training on their match pitches.

20% of new housing in the district is projected to be spread across rural villages and the extent of growth in this part of the district is therefore unknown. Earlier analysis however demonstrates that because of the changing population profile, participation increases would have a greater impact, particularly on demand for junior football. Tockwith JFC have stated aspirations for growth and participation increases are therefore a reality. The club are already nearing capacity and longer term additional provision may therefore be required.

Table 4.34 overleaf contains the following information;

- The quality score achieved
- Comments relating to the site made by clubs
- Usage of the site at peak periods
- Use of the site for training
- Usage of the site over the week (based on an assumption that each pitch should sustain an optimum level of 2 games per week).

Colours used represent the following:

	No additional availability
	Some usage but scope to increase use
	No usage

Table 4.34 – Site Specific Issues in South East Harrogate District

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Great Ouseburn PF	1	1		95%	79%	Modern facility with disabled access lift. Pitches good quality although some damage to the surface.	Ouseburn United FC		Full Saturday PM, spare capacity Sunday AM			Yes (one team equivalent)	
Green Hammerton Village Hall	1	1		95%	75%	Good quality changing accommodation.	Pannal Ash JFC		Used Sunday morning, capacity Saturday PM			Yes	
Kirk Deighton AFC	1			75%	84%	Poor grass cover. Adequate changing accommodation	Good quality pitches. Club require floodlit training area to reduce reliance upon 3g pitches.		At capacity Saturday PM. Spare slot on Sunday Am			Yes	

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Kirk Hammerton Football Pitch	1			67%	77%	Good pitch provision	FC Harrogate, Civil Service FC	Pitches are of good quality	Full Sunday morning. Capacity Saturday PM			No	
Loshpott Lane - Kirk Deighton JFC		2		57%	75%	Remote site, long grass at time of site visit and poor line markings.				Appears virtually unused since relocation to Grange Park		Yes in conjunction with Lospott Lane	
Tockwith Sports Field	2		2	94%	91%	Good quality changing recently funded by the Football Foundation. Good pitch provision.	Tockwith FC, Tockwith JFC, Harrogate College FC	Good quality facilities. More pitches needed to meet challenges presented by new FA review. Over use causes pitch deterioration. There are also concerns over the amount of rabbit / mole holes	Some capacity Sunday. Full Saturday PM	Full Sunday	Full Saturday	Yes (Saturday – 15 team equivalents)	High levels of use may impact on quality

Site Name	No of Adult Football Pitches	No of Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football pitches	Changing Quality Score	Pitch Quality Score	Site Visit Comment	Key Users	Club(s) Comment	Adult Peak Time Availability	Junior Peak Time Availability	Mini Peak Time Availability	Training on Pitch?	Scope to Accommodate More?
Whixley Village Hall	1			76%	65%	Damage to surface. No equipment.			Unused			No	

Summary and Key Issues

Drawing on the issues and analysis set out in previous pages, the key issues for football in Harrogate District are therefore summarised below.

Key issues to address Football

- Active People surveys indicate that participation is above national averages, although below Yorkshire regional averages. FA comparison with similar authorities however demonstrates that there is scope to increase the amount of participation in the district, as Harrogate is ranked relatively poorly in terms of the number of teams generated when measured against similar authorities
- There has however been an increase in demand for football since the 2008 Playing Pitch Strategy. This increase is all junior teams and there has been a slight decline in the number of adult and mini football teams playing. This has been met in part by the reconfiguration of some existing playing fields
- Despite some action since the 2004 and 2008 strategies, clubs remain dissatisfied and only 21% are happy with the pitch stock. 40% of clubs feel that pitch provision inhibits club development and this is attributed to a variety of factors including quality and changing facilities. Only 13% indicate that they have problems with the amount of pitches (although these are all large clubs with several teams)
- Modelling reveals that there are significant surpluses of adult pitches across the district, with circa 22 pitches spare on a peak day. There are also surplus mini pitches (33) but shortfalls of junior pitches. Reflecting the variety of concerns raised by clubs, these headline figures however disguise a multitude of issues, including the poor quality of some pitches, geographical differences and the role of school and cricket clubs in providing football pitches. While the overall amount of pitches is sufficient in most parts of the district, pressures are high in North East Harrogate District and Ripon. In contrast, there are high numbers of pitches in Harrogate
- If cricket clubs were to withdraw their pitches (due to the impact on the quality of the outfield, supply would be much more closely matched with demand (particularly in more rural parts of the district). There are also several school sites which are currently meeting the needs of clubs but that do not offer security of tenure for these clubs (these are primarily in the more urban parts of the district, as well as in Boroughbridge)
- The spread of demand also means that while demand is relatively high at peak times, many pitches receive quite a lot of use outside of this which generates additional wear and tear (and means that several pitches function at capacity over the week). The amount of usage also varies significantly between sites and some sites are not used, while others are used significantly.
- The quality of existing pitches is variable and while there are some high quality facilities there are issues with surfaces, car parking, quality of equipment and changing accommodation. Drainage is also a significant issue, particularly in Harrogate and there are clear differences in the perception of pitch quality across the district
- When taking into account the quality of pitches, there is a clear issue and supply is much more closely matched with demand. This is particularly true of Harrogate, where the bulk of the poorer pitches are located. When excluding poorer quality

Key issues to address Football

pitches there are shortfalls of provision in Ripon, North East Harrogate District and Nidderdale and there are few pitches surplus in any areas

- Adding to these issues, several clubs are dispersed across multiple sites many of which are poor quality. This is not beneficial to club development
- The population of Harrogate District is ageing, and the propensity of residents to participate in football is therefore low, and this will become even more apparent over the strategy period. While the district will see population growth, the impact of this is negated to an extent by the change in the population profile. Casual and more recreational play is therefore likely to decline
- However the larger more committed / developmental clubs all indicated that they are seeking to further increase participation. Pressures on pitches, which are already only just sufficient to meet demand, are therefore likely to grow
- As well as facilities for matches, access to training pitches is also a significant barrier for clubs and most train on their match pitches. Although there are 9 artificial pitches, only three are accessible to the community and only two are 3g pitches (one of which is not currently accessible). Training on grass pitches adds extra pressure on these facilities and creates additional wear and tear
- The intended development of 9v9 football by the FA will bring requirements for a new type of pitch to the district – there will be a requirement to consider how and if this is to be implemented. This will place further pressures on small sided pitches
- There are several pitches in the district that have previously been used as pitches and are no longer used for this purpose, as well as pitches that appear to be derelict
- There are opportunities for improved partnership working across the district, to promote a more strategic approach to provision. The FA, leagues and clubs identified the need to improve communication and to ensure that facilities provided reflect the needs of clubs and of football development
- The cost of participating was highlighted as a key issue by many clubs and a lack of volunteers and coaches was also seen as detrimental to ongoing football development.

American Football

Supply

There are no American Football pitches located within Harrogate District.

Demand

There are no American Football teams situated in the district and no demand identified. The nearest teams are based in Leeds (Yorkshire Rams and Leeds Varsity Rams, which offer both American Football for both seniors and juniors) and play in Middleton, South Leeds at the Britball stadium. To the north, DC Presidents American Football Team is based in Durham and play at Esh Stadium, where they also have access to the adjacent indoor arena for training.

Issues identified

There are no issues identified for American Football. There are no existing facilities and no evidence of demand.

5. Cricket

05

This section evaluates the adequacy of facilities for cricket across Harrogate Borough and provides:

- An overview of supply and demand for cricket
- An evaluation of the overall adequacy of pitches to meet demand
- Area and site specific issues and opportunities
- Key issues for the strategy to address.

Overview of Facilities for Cricket

Supply

There are 72 cricket grounds across Harrogate District. Of these pitches:

- 56 pitches are located at club sites and are used, owned or managed by cricket clubs /playing field associations
- 12 are located at school / college sites
- 4 pitches are located at sites associated with the police / Army.

Harrogate Borough Council does not manage any cricket pitches. Cricket across the district is strongly reliant on the voluntary sector, with most facilities rented or leased by clubs and maintained and managed by the clubs themselves.

All club sites are secured for community use and there is currently unsecured (informal) use of playing fields at several school sites containing cricket pitches. Pitches that are currently used include Belmont Grosvenor School and Boroughbridge High, Harrogate Grammar School and Ripon Grammar School. This means that

- 92% of cricket pitches are offer some degree of community use
- 78% of pitches are secured for community use.

The spread of cricket pitches across the district is summarised in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 – Cricket Pitches in Harrogate District

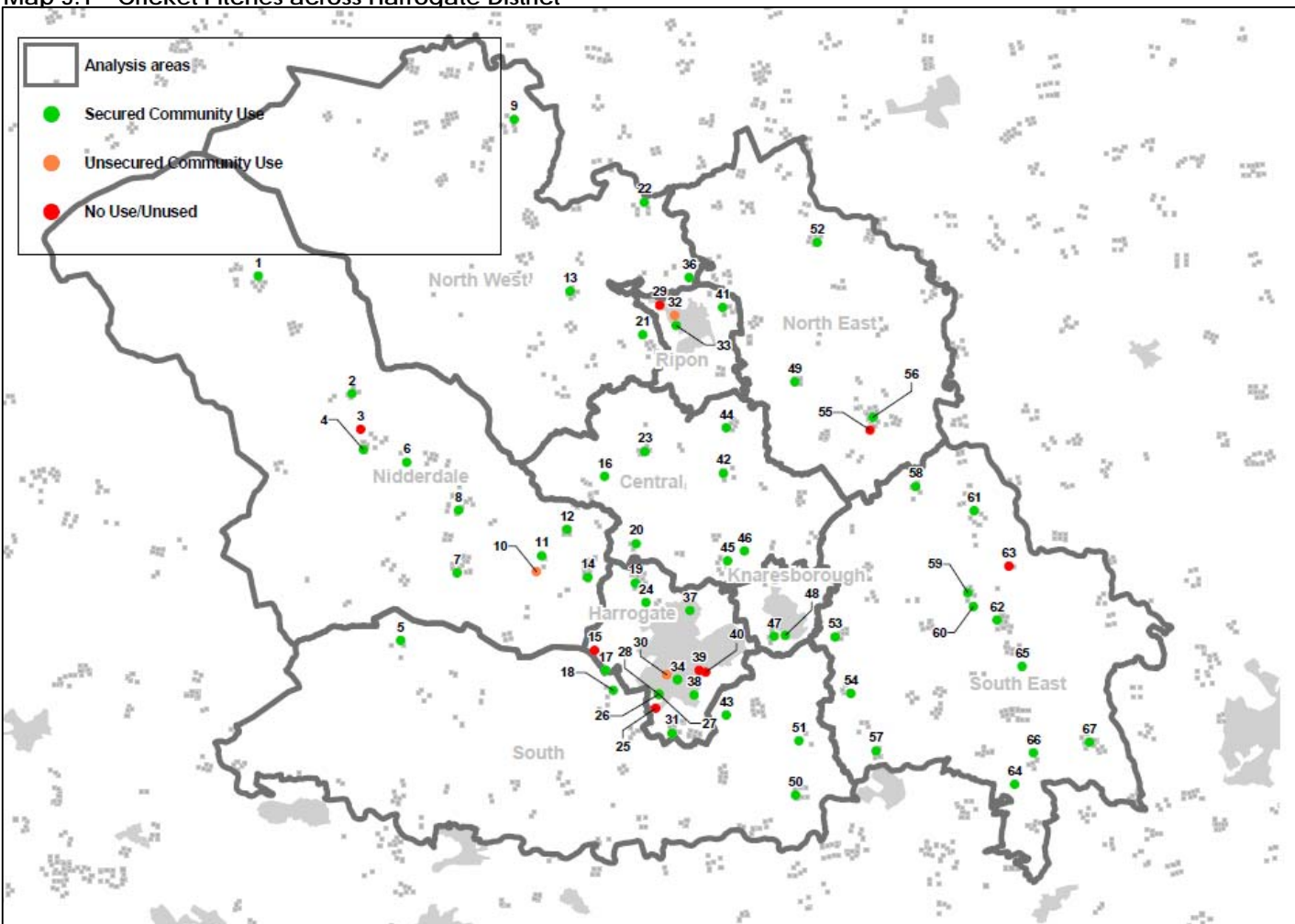
Area	Parish/ Club Cricket Pitches	Secured School Cricket Pitches	Unsecured School Pitches	Schools with no access	Army / Police Pitches
Harrogate Town	7	0	7	1	3
Knaresborough	3	0			
Ripon	2	0	1		1
South Harrogate District	6	0	0	0	0
South East Harrogate District	10	0	0	0	0
Central Harrogate District	7	0	0	0	0
Nidderdale	8	0	1	1	0
North East Harrogate District	6	0	1	0	
North West Harrogate District	7	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	56	0	10	2	4

It is clear from Table 5.1 that cricket pitches are relatively evenly distributed although there are fewer facilities in Knaresborough and Ripon than in other parts of the district, particularly when taking into account the size of the population in these areas. The majority of pitches that are not available to the local community are located in Harrogate Town.

Four clubs have two pitches (Birstwith CC, Harrogate CC, Newby Hall CC and Studley Royal CC).

Map 5.1 illustrates the distribution of cricket pitches across Harrogate District.

Map 5.1 – Cricket Pitches across Harrogate District



Demand

Active People and Market Segmentation

Nationally, participation levels in cricket (once per week) have remained consistent since October 2008. However, the number of people playing cricket on a more regular basis (two times a week for 30 minutes) grew significantly between October 2010–October 2011. The profile of cricket participation in Harrogate District is set out in Map 5.2 and Chart 5.1.

Map 5.2 - Percentage and location of the Harrogate District adult population who play cricket

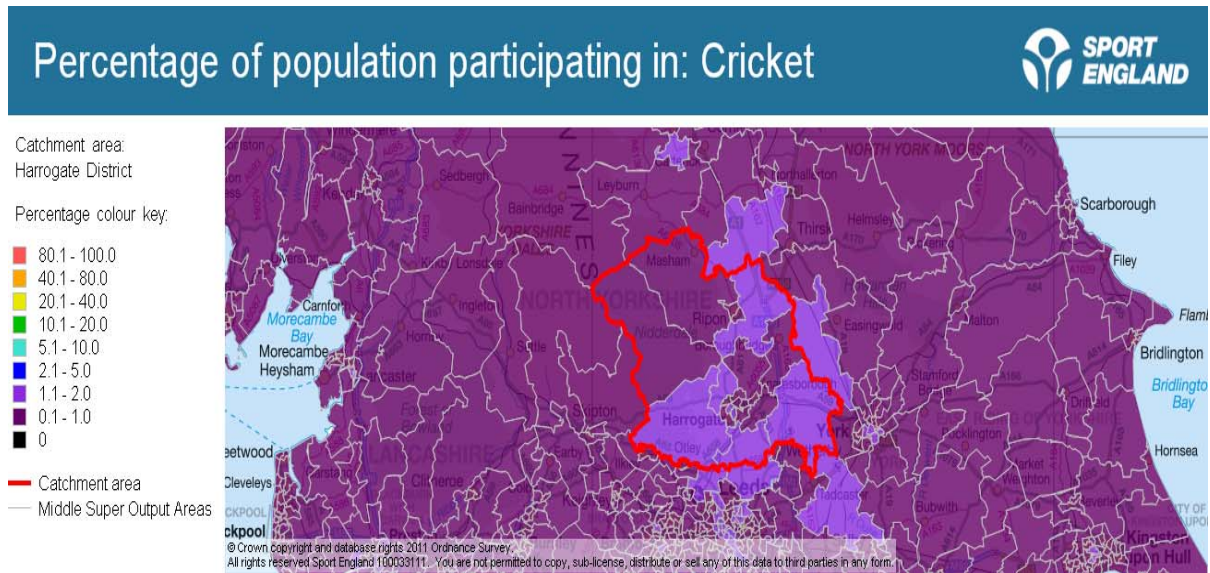
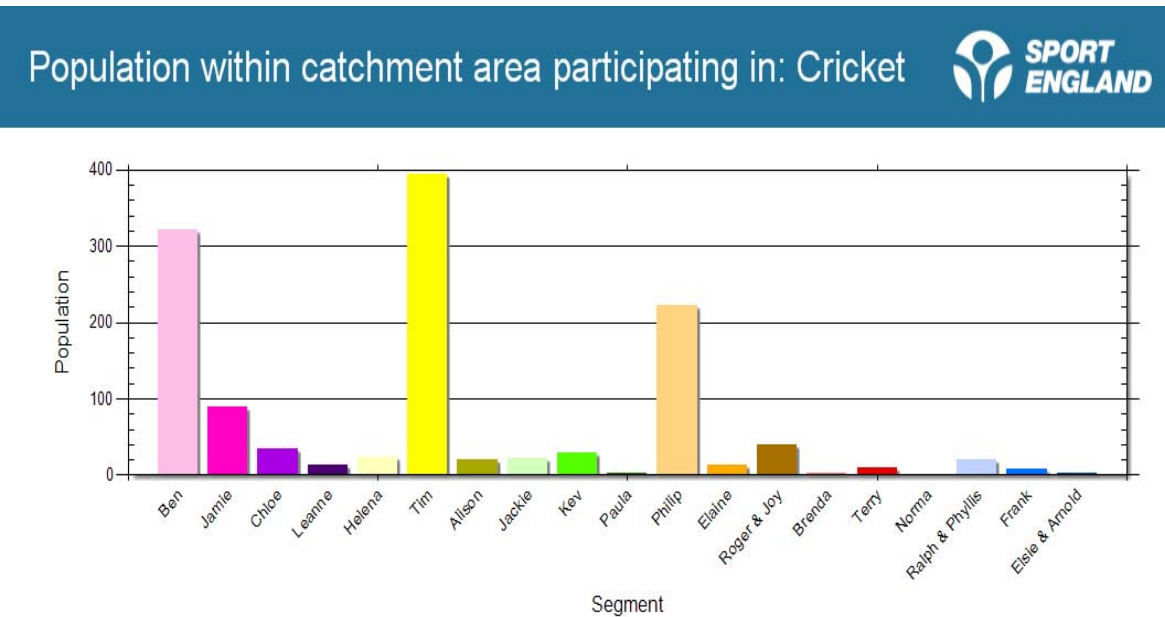


Chart 5.1- Profile of the market segments who participate in cricket in Harrogate District



The key findings from both the map and the bar chart are that:

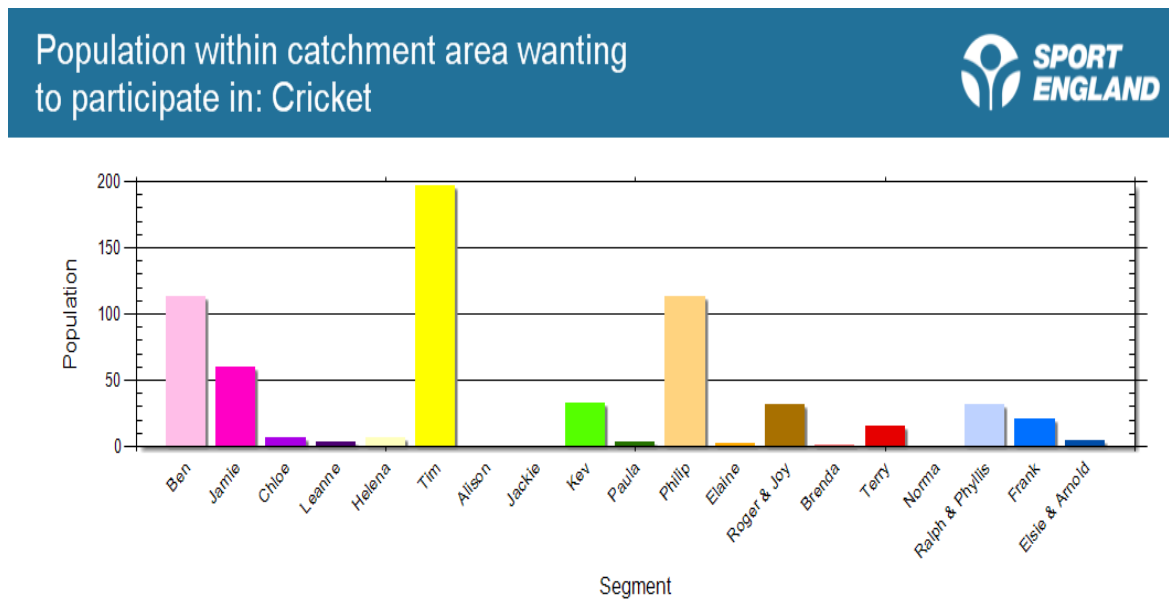
- the map shows that there is an uneven spread across Harrogate in terms of how many people play Cricket. There is a mix between 0.1-1% and 1.1-2% of the population who do play, with more people in the central and eastern areas of the district playing cricket. The national participation rate of people participating in Cricket at least once a week is 0.49%, which is lower than the Yorkshire average of 0.75%. The percentage of people playing Cricket in Harrogate is 0.8%, above both the national and Yorkshire averages; and
- the majority of those participating in cricket are from 3 market segments (Tim, Ben and Philip). These are also the same groups that play football. These groups contribute over 900 people, which equates to 75% of the cricket playing population.

Turning to the Active People analysis of the percentage of adults who would **like to** play cricket, this is set out in Map 5.3 and Chart 5.2.

Map 5.3 - Percentage and location of the adult population who would like to play cricket



Chart 5.2 - Profile of market segments who would like to play cricket in Harrogate District



As shown by Maps 5.2, between 1.1-2% of the population state that they would like to play cricket – unlike actual participation, this is spatially uniform across the district. Like the current participants, it is Tim, Philip and Ben who would most like to play but do not currently do so. These groups represent over 400 people who would like to play. In total, circa 642 people who do not currently play would like to play cricket. This suggests that despite high levels of participation, there is a reasonable level of latent demand. The uneven distribution of current participation, but even unmet demand suggests that there is potentially scope to increase the number of people playing cricket.

Current Participation

Table 5.2 illustrates that there has been an increase in the number of cricket teams playing within Harrogate District between 2008 to 2012, with a total of 289 teams now playing in the area. Growth has occurred in both adult and junior male cricket as well as in female cricket. The growth has occurred due to the existing clubs running additional teams, rather than the creation of new clubs.

Table 5.2 – Trends in Cricket Participation between 2008 and 2012

Year	Senior Teams	Junior Teams
2008	166	76
2012	180	109
Difference	+14	+33

The distribution of cricket teams across the district is summarised in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3 – Cricket Teams across the District

Analysis Area	Adult	Junior
Central Harrogate District	26	12
Harrogate Town	25	25
Knaresborough	16	10
Nidderdale	26	12
North East Harrogate District	11	4
North West Harrogate District	17	16
Ripon	8	1
South East Harrogate District	28	15
South Harrogate District	23	14

All clubs indicate that they are currently playing at their preferred facilities although some clubs highlight that their club bases are stretched and that junior teams are forced to travel to other sites in order to play.

Cricket Leagues

Cricket in Harrogate Borough is largely focused on two leagues, specifically;

Theakston Nidderdale and District Amateur Cricket League: This league has 7 divisions and accommodates over 100 teams. For seniors, there is both a Saturday league and a midweek Wednesday league. There are also junior leagues, with competitions ranging from U9 to U17.

Airedale and Wharfedale Senior Cricket League – the league is spread over North and West Yorkshire and includes 36 teams split into three divisions. Matches are played on a Saturday for the first and second teams whilst the third teams play on Sunday. There is no junior section.

Midweek evening cricket takes place through the Harrogate and District Evening Cricket League and the evening league run by the Nidderdale and District Amateur Cricket League.

Pitch Quality

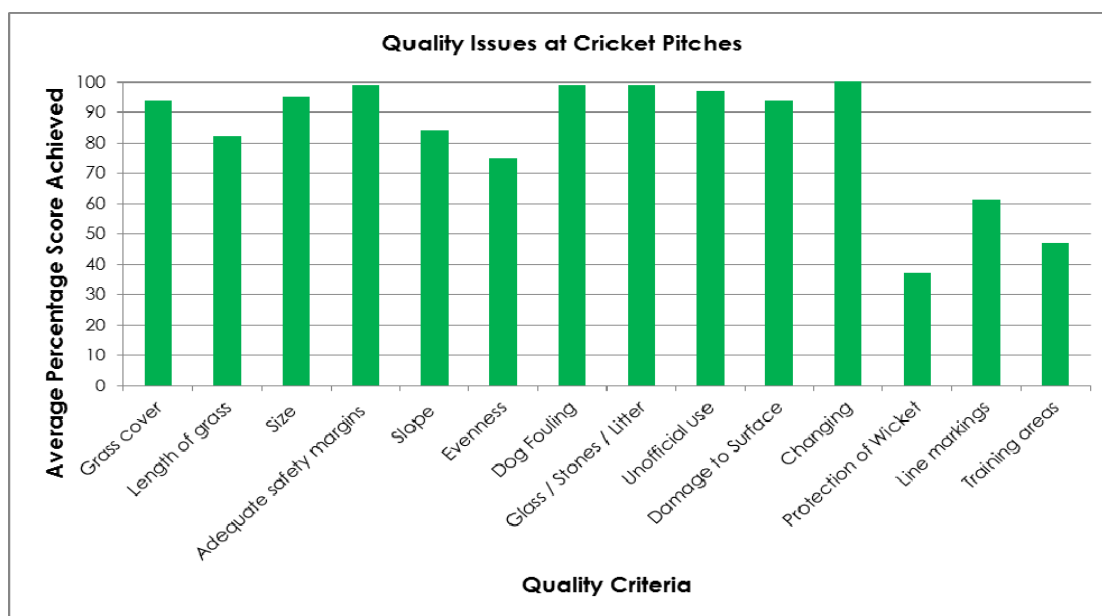
Pitch quality has a significant impact on the overall adequacy of supply in an area. Particularly for cricket, poorer quality pitches can be dangerous and can lead to injuries due to uneven bounce of the ball. The specialised grounds maintenance requirements of cricket pitches mean that the TaLPF non technical site assessment matrix is of more limited value than for other sports. It does not assess the way that the pitch plays and provides only an overview of pitch quality.

The assessments however reveal that the quality of cricket pitches is excellent overall. 17 pitches achieved scores of 90% or above (an excellent pitch) and all but two pitches were rated as 64%

or above (a good pitch). This demonstrates the consistently high quality of facilities that are available. This may be influenced to an extent by the timing of the site visits, which were carried out at the beginning of the cricket season.

The high scores are also strongly influenced by the range of facilities that are available, with only 35% of sites not having practice nets, and all clubs having access to changing rooms. It is clear however that there is a greater range in the quality of changing accommodation that is available, with scores ranging from 36% to 97%. Some poorer quality venues were described as dilapidated and in urgent need of repair / upgrade. The Birstwith CC second pitch is served by a gazebo only. Chart 5.3 demonstrates the average percentage score achieved for each of the key quality criteria during site visits.

Chart 5.3 – Quality of Cricket Pitches in Harrogate District



As evident in Chart 5.3, there are few issues with the quality of cricket pitches in the district with particularly high scores achieved in terms of the safety margins, lack of dog fouling and litter and presence of changing facilities. The key area for improvement is protection of the wicket, with surprisingly less than 50% protected at the time of site visit. While grass cover is good, there are some pitches that are relatively uneven and the length of grass at some sites was long. Where clubs also have artificial wickets, the quality of these was also good. Training nets were also of high quality.

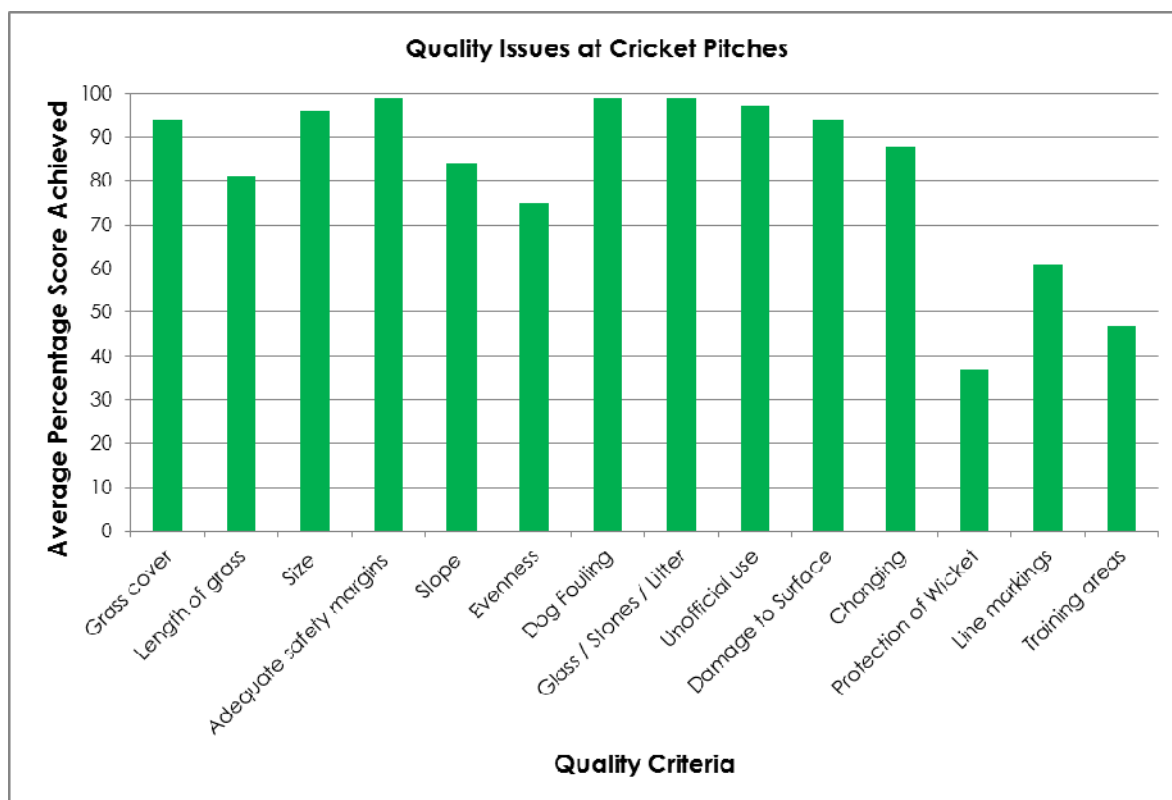
Club Opinion on Quality

Clubs were asked to rate the quality of pitches that they use against different features (using ratings of either 1 (poor), 2 (acceptable) or 3 (good)). Chart 5.4 illustrates that reflecting the findings of site visits, overall, clubs perceive the quality to be acceptable to good, with all factors achieving average scores of between 2 and 3.

The evenness of the wicket and length of grass were rated particularly highly and again, reflecting the findings of the site assessments, the lowest scores were attributed to the quality of changing accommodation / pavilions. Evenness of outfield and drainage were also rated lower than most other factors. Clubs making specific comments relating to the quality of their

pitches primarily referenced issues with drainage (cancellations have been particularly high during the 2012 season) and additional pressures caused by the use of cricket outfield by football clubs during the off season. There is a clear link between use of outfield for football and a perception of quality issues – all clubs permitting use of their outfield for football rated the quality of the outfield lower than those with pitches dedicated to cricket.

Chart 5.4 – Perceptions of Pitch Quality by Cricket Clubs



The high quality of cricket pitches is evident across all areas of the borough and there are few differences in perceived quality. This is illustrated in Table 5.4 overleaf which summarises the average percentage rating achieved for each criteria by clubs in each part of the district.

Site and area specific comments are recorded later in this section.

Cricket League Quality Analysis

Given the limitations of the TaLPF matrix in the assessment of cricket pitches, it is essential to consider other means of evaluating the adequacy of cricket pitches. The Theakston Nidderdale and District Amateur Cricket League has a Grounds Committee, which monitors the quality of cricket pitches through once a year assessments, looking specifically at the quality of the wicket and the outfield. This analysis and assessment provides a more detailed and cricket specific interpretation of the site specific issues and the areas for improvement. As it is completed annually, it also facilitates trend analysis.

In general, the assessments support the positivity relating to the quality of cricket pitches, revealing that;

- the quality of pitches is good overall, with the majority of grounds achieving scores of good or excellent overall;
- of the ground reports available online, only three grounds achieve scores of fair or poor for the quality of the wicket and only three received ratings of fair or poor for the quality of the outfield;
- the key issues identified were weeds and moss encroaching onto the square and rabbit holes in the outfield; and
- despite positive results overall, 26 grounds achieved lower scores in 2011 than in 2010 suggesting that there had been a slight decline in quality.

Table 5.4 – Perceived Quality of Cricket Pitches by Area

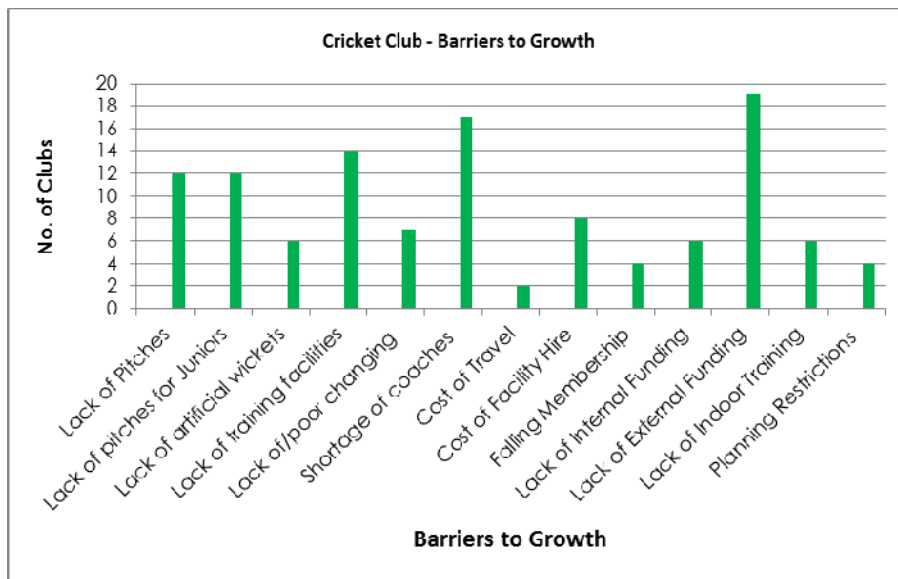
Area	Drainage	Length of grass	Evenness of wicket	Evenness of outfield	Size of Outfield	Litter	Adequacy of changing	Adequacy of car parking	Overall Pitch Quality
Harrogate Town	77.8%	94.4%	94.4%	72.2%	83.3%	88.9%	83.3%	94.4%	88.9%
Ripon	83.3%	83.3%	100.0%	83.3%	83.3%	100.0%	83.3%	83.3%	100.0%
South Harrogate District	88.9%	100.0%	100.0%	77.8%	88.9%	88.9%	66.7%	77.8%	77.8%
South East Harrogate District	94.4%	100.0%	100.0%	77.8%	77.8%	94.4%	72.2%	94.4%	88.9%
Central Harrogate District	86.1%	94.4%	98.6%	77.8%	83.3%	93.1%	76.4%	87.5%	88.9%
Nidderdale	88.9%	100.0%	93.3%	86.7%	93.3%	93.3%	73.3%	73.3%	93.3%
North East Harrogate	66.7%	100.0%	100.0%	66.7%	100.0%	66.7%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
North West Harrogate	44.4%	88.9%	88.9%	88.9%	88.9%	88.9%	100.0%	100.0%	88.9%

Consultations

Consultation with cricket clubs demonstrated that:

- 17% of clubs responding to the questionnaire are not happy with the cricket facilities in the district. The main reasons given for dissatisfaction are the quality of changing accommodation and training facilities and one club referenced the need for additional facilities. Several clubs also highlight that there is a reliance on private clubs to provide cricket pitches and reinforce that there are no public cricket facilities;
- players travel to reach their preferred cricket club, with only 18% of players travelling less than a mile to play. A further 50% of players travel between 1 and 5 miles to reach their cricket club, while the remainder travel more than five miles;
- only one club is not playing at their preferred venue (only one pitch is available at the site and therefore some teams have to travel to a second venue). 8 clubs however indicated that they have experienced difficulties accessing cricket pitches for matches. 8 clubs also suggest that they have problems securing facilities for training. These clubs are dispersed across the district. Several clubs travel to use cricket nets at other clubs;
- 25% of responding cricket clubs are running more teams than last year and only 6% of clubs have reduced the number of teams. This suggests that demand for cricket is continuing to increase. Echoing this, 19 clubs responding indicated that they wished to run more teams. If all clubs achieved their stated aspirations, this would amount to a minimum of 24 additional junior teams and 5 senior teams; and
- cricket clubs highlighted several issues relating to barriers to development and these are summarised in Chart 5.5. The key issues identified were a lack of external funding and a shortage of coaches and volunteers. A lack of training facilities was the most commonly referenced issue directly related to facilities.

Chart 5.5 – Barriers to Growth for Cricket Clubs



League Secretary Consultation

Airedale and Wharfedale Senior Cricket League: Four clubs within Harrogate Borough participate in the Airedale and Wharfedale Senior Cricket league. All have been involved for over 20 years, specifically;

- Knaresborough CC (member since 1958)
- Follifoot (member since 1963)
- Bilton (member since 1953)
- Beckwithshaw (member since 1977).

Across the league, participation has remained static and it is evident that fewer junior players are entering the league than in previous years. Furthermore, many players have numerous other commitments and are unable to play in all matches. This means that higher numbers of players are required in each squad and the number of teams is therefore reduced. The number of teams entered into the league by the clubs in Harrogate Borough has remained consistent with the exception of Beckwithshaw CC, who have previously entered more teams than they run now.

To enhance the playing experience for member clubs, entry to the league requires the achievement of specific quality standards. Grounds are assessed every two years and clubs are notified of improvements if facilities do not meet specifications. All four cricket clubs in the league in Harrogate Borough have met these expectations and the league suggest that the quality at all four grounds is improving. Indeed the quality of facilities (both pitch and pavilion) across the league is considered to be high.

Theakston Nidderdale Cricket League; the majority of clubs in Harrogate Borough participate in the Theakston and Nidderdale Cricket League which runs both an adult and junior section. The creation of the junior league has had positive impact upon the growth of many clubs, with many junior players now filtering through to the senior sides and several clubs have entered new 3rd and 4th X1s. Studley Royal are a particular example, having entered a 5th XI this year. Demand for the junior league has significantly increased and clubs with junior teams are thriving. This is partially attributed to the success of the national cricket team, as well as the development of more coaches. It must however be noted that in contrast, some clubs fielding just one Saturday team are struggling as larger clubs with several teams are retaining players that would previously have played at the smaller clubs.

Despite the clear growth, the league does have capacity to accommodate more teams and are open to new clubs entering. There are currently 9 divisions and the League Management Committee reserve the right to create new divisions given demand. Division 9 also has three fewer teams than all other divisions. The league are currently exploring ways of reducing travel times for it's members clubs.

All teams within the league currently play on grass wickets (although many clubs have synthetic wickets for training). In general, the league considers the facilities to be excellent, with many character grounds. Just Harrogate and Newby Hall have more than one pitch on site, whilst Studley Royal have an additional facility in the Deer Park. The remainder of clubs with more than 2 teams share grounds with other teams and there is limited capacity for further teams. Grounds used in this way include Belmont Grosvenor School, Birstwith, Bishop Monkton, St George's Road, Harrogate, Boroughbridge, Glasshouses, Almsford Oval, Newby Hall, Marton cum Grafton,

Thorpe Perrow, Huby, Ripon Grammar School, Studley Royal 3rds and 4ths play at Studley Royal Deer Park.

The quality of pitches is generally thought to be of a very high standard. Groundsmen take great pride in producing their wickets and some clubs have part time groundsmen whilst others have almost full time groundsmen all of whom carry out their duties free of charge. The Ground Committee do carry out pre or early season ground inspections to ensure that pitch quality is maintained. In contrast, pavilion facilities are variable throughout the league and range from excellent, Harrogate, Masham, Spofforth, through to adequate, Marton-cum-Grafton, Pannal Ash. Birstwith CC have also maximised the use of their resources. There are however known issues around the adequacy of facilities for the disabled and ladies at many clubhouses.

The key priority identified is improved indoor facilities. The league runs a very successful junior indoor 6-a-side competition throughout the winter months and currently make use of the facilities at Pateley Bridge and Boroughbridge. There is however very little space to expand beyond these two due to lack of availability of suitable alternatives and cost is also an issue. The facility at Boroughbridge High School is not available for the season 2012/13 and the concessionary charges for juniors are also being removed. Sustaining such leagues and therefore maintaining the introduction of juniors into the game is therefore challenging.

National Governing Body perspective – The Yorkshire Cricket Board

The ECB Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013) Grounds to play, sets the following targets;

- energise people and partnerships to deliver national goals at local level;
- enhance asset growth through continuing interest free loans to community clubs, expand NatWest Cricket Force, support corporate or public sector cricket grounds under threat of closure through the England and Wales Cricket Trust, and seeking to expand partnerships for Indoor Cricket;
- create a vibrant domestic game;
- enhance facilities, environments and participation:
 - ensure that facilities area able to sustain participation levels
 - prioritise investment in ‘Chance to Shine’ programme – a scheme that seeks to reintroduce cricket into schools;
- expand club/ school links and position the cricket club at the heart of the community. Grants will be provided to clubs that make their club facilities available to the local community and to local schools; and
- create successful England teams.

The Yorkshire Cricket Strategy (2008 – 2013) is the strategic plan for cricket for the Yorkshire region and it outlines the strategic priorities and investment priorities for the period in question. It seeks to establish partnership working across the Yorkshire region and to secure the buy in of all key stakeholders.

The strategy identifies the following priorities across the Yorkshire region;

- Improve the quality of practice facilities non-turf and fine turf

- Improve the quality of match playing facilities and expand provision where needed
- Provide suitable machinery to meet the above priorities (including covers, sight screens)
- improve the provision of pavilions and changing facilities
- Provide new and additional grounds and support new clubs where needed.

The need to improve access to indoor nets and training facilities is also highlighted.

For North Yorkshire specifically, the order of priorities varies slightly, with the provision of suitable machinery highlighted as being the top priority. Practice facilities and improvements to pavilions and changing facilities are also of a higher priority in this area than investment in pitch quality. The strategy also sets out a series of target quality standards. These include;

- ensuring that wickets are used no more than 5 times per year;
- the type of machinery that each club should have access to; and
- providing appropriate (at least two per match on at any one time) clean changing facilities in an appropriate location in relation to the pitch as well as umpire room.

The strategy highlights that all clubs should have a facility management plan.

The North Yorkshire region is very diverse and participation in the area is particularly high in comparison to many other parts of the country and there have recently been significant increases in the number of participants and the number of teams at clubmark accredited and focus clubs. In particular;

- the number of senior players has increased by 281%, and the number of senior teams by 205% between 2008 and 2011;
- there was a 183% increase in the number of U15 players, and a 212% increase in the number of teams at U15 level;
- there were increases of over 200% in the number of U9 and U11 players, and circa 150% increases in the number of teams running; and
- increases of 123% in the number of U13 players and 157% in the number of teams.

Cricket in Harrogate

21% of all affiliated cricket clubs in North Yorkshire are based within Harrogate Borough boundaries. In total, there are 15 clubs that have now achieved clubmark accreditation in Harrogate, specifically;

Beckwithshaw CC, Bilton CC, Birstwith CC, Dacre Banks CC, Follifoot CC, Harrogate CC, Knaresborough CC, Knaresborough Forest CC, Little Ribston CC, North Stainley CC, Ouseburn CC, Pannal CC, Spofforth CC, Studley Royal CC and Whixley CC. Club mark accreditation reflects the organisation of the club, and confirms that they are well run and managed, providing safe, child friendly and effective opportunities in cricket.

Harrogate CC, Knaresborough CC and Spofforth CC have gained Focus Club status and as a result prepare cricket development plans that are approved annually. Priority is given therefore

to ensuring that these clubs have appropriate facilities. All three focus clubs have relatively recently received investment to support improvements to their facilities.

Key priorities of the Yorkshire Cricket Board in relation to facilities currently include;

- identifying effective ways of monitoring the quality of facilities and highlighting areas of improvement through the introduction of systems to monitor pitch quality through the local leagues. As well as identifying current issues, it is also important that ongoing analysis of facility is undertaken to provide an understanding of trends relating to pitch quality;
- improving the quality of pitches at clubs by enhancing knowledge of maintenance – the ECB are seeking to increase membership of the Institute of Groundsmen to maximise the implementation of good practice maintenance; and
- maintaining dialogue with clubs to improve forward planning and club development. The Harrogate Cricket Forum has proved a particularly effective way of delivering this objective, with cricket clubs of all sizes joining to discuss issues affecting them and to share best practice.

Nationally, there is a strong drive on increasing participation in cricket and recently focus has been placed upon supporting growth in informal cricket as well as encouraging more adult participants to enter the game. There is also a focus on reducing the drop out associated with the transition between junior and senior cricket.

There are strong foundations in place for senior and junior cricket and many of the leagues also operate midweek leagues too. Last man stands is a franchise which seeks to bring new participants into the game. Each team has 8 players who participate in a shortened form of amateur cricket and it is designed to create a social atmosphere as an alternative to formal cricket. Results are posted on an international website and teams in different countries can compare themselves against each other. The franchise has recently been introduced in Harrogate and is likely to see an increase in informal participation in the area.

The recent increases in participation in North Yorkshire as a whole and in Harrogate Borough specifically are likely to start to have an impact on cricket. Much of the increase, particularly in junior sport, has been accommodated at club mark and focus clubs and there is now relatively limited capacity at these clubs as matches are sustained throughout midweek. In contrast, there are some clubs that continue to run just one or two teams. Longer term, there may be demand for second grounds for some clubs, or alternatively opportunities to link larger clubs with smaller clubs who have capacity at their facilities.

To further grow the sport of cricket, strong links have been developed with schools to ensure that young people are exposed to the game. 29 schools have been targeted in Knaresborough and Harrogate by the Chance to Shine programme, which introduces cricket to pupils. Bilton CC, Harrogate CC, Knaresborough CC and Spofforth CC are all involved in the delivery of the Chance to Shine programme in Harrogate. This early exposure to cricket can generate aspirations to join clubs, further increasing the pool of participants and consequently placing greater reliance upon facilities. There is also a competitive inter school cricket competition. For junior schools, cricket can be played within their existing facilities, using a softball and equipment provided as part of the programme. Few senior schools currently have facilities and therefore links are developed with clubs, with schools using facilities during the day when facilities would otherwise be closed.

The significant and ongoing increases in participation in cricket within Yorkshire mean that club development planning is essential if cricket clubs are to remain sustainable and if facilities are to meet with requirements.

Supply and Demand Modelling

The Playing Pitch methodology (PPM) determines the adequacy of pitch supply to meet peak time demand.

Although participation has increased, it is notable that there is now a greater emphasis on play on a Saturday afternoon (primarily due to the focus on the two key leagues). While more teams wish to play midweek (almost 60% overall), this demand is spread across the five days of the week. Nearly 40% of teams wish to play on a Saturday afternoon, meaning that this is the peak day.

Table 5.5 summarises the results of the application of the PPM and indicates that there are just sufficient pitches to accommodate demand at a peak time. It clearly demonstrates however that demand is closely balanced with supply. The calculations include only those sites that are secured for community use.

Table 5.5 – TaLPF Calculations – Cricket

		Cricket	
STAGE ONE		Adult games	180
Identifying teams		Junior teams	109
STAGE TWO		Adult games	0.5
Calculate home games per week		Junior teams	0.5
STAGE THREE (S1x S2)		Adult games	90
Assessing total home games per week		Junior teams	55
STAGE FOUR Establish temporal demand for pitches	Saturday AM	Adult games	0%
		Junior teams	0%
	Saturday PM	Adult games	59%
		Junior teams	2%
	Sunday AM	Adult games	0%
		Junior teams	0%
	Sunday PM	Adult games	4%
		Junior teams	24%
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4) Defining pitches used each day	Saturday AM	Adult games	0
		Junior teams	0
	Saturday PM	Adult games	53
		Junior teams	1
	Sunday AM	Adult games	0
		Junior teams	0
	Sunday PM	Adult games	4
		Junior teams	13
STAGE SIX		Adult games	56
Establishing pitches currently available		Junior teams	
STAGE SEVEN (S6-S5) Identifying shortfall (-) and surplus (+)	Saturday AM	Adult games	56.0
		Junior teams	
	Saturday PM	Adult games	1.8
		Junior teams	
	Sunday AM	Adult games	56.0
		Junior teams	
	Sunday PM	Adult games	39.3
		Junior teams	

Table 5.5 reveals that when taking into account all pitches, there are just sufficient cricket grounds to meet demand on a Saturday afternoon (not taking into account any requirement for rest and recovery). This however disguises some more localised pressures and several pitches are used by clubs to accommodate overspill (including Belmont Grosvenor School and Ripon Grammar School, both unsecured pitches). Site and area specific issues and pressures will be considered later in this section.

Impact of Training and midweek play

For cricket, pitch quality and amount of play on the wicket are as important as the number of grounds that are available. This is particularly true in Harrogate District, where the proportion of play on the peak day is relatively low and there is a significant spread of activity across the

weekend and midweek, meaning that some pitches sustain high levels of use. Many of the clubs have junior teams playing each night of the midweek and the majority of clubs also use their home bases for training.

The ECB works alongside the Yorkshire Cricket to improve the quality of the cricket experience and promote higher quality facilities. As set out above, many of the wickets are currently used for a full game Saturday and Sunday and a half game midweek as well (usually 20 overs compared to 50 at a weekend), as well as by junior teams midweek. ECB guidelines suggest that a strip / wicket should be used as follows:

- 3 times – optimum
- 4 times – overuse
- 5 times – extensive overuse

Analysis of the number of strips at each club and the number of teams playing on the facilities reveals that provision is relatively closely balanced with demand and that facilities are well used. While 18 clubs use each wicket less than three times, ten clubs use each wicket four times or more, specifically; Knaresborough Forest, Ripley CC, Follifoot CC, Bishop Thornton CC, Killinghall CC, Sharow CC, Birstwith CC, Glasshouses CC, Burton Leonard CC and Pannal CC. This suggests that these clubs are nearing capacity. It must be noted that this provides an indication only. Calculations have been undertaken using broad assumptions (specifically that senior teams will play eight home games per season and that junior use will be equivalent to 2 full games per season – actual use reduced to reflect the lower number of overs in a junior game). Further discussion is provided in area and site specific sections that follow.

Usage of the facilities for training is largely off peak and therefore does not impact on peak time shortfalls and surpluses or on the above figures relating to the use of the wicket. It can however generate wear and tear of the outfield, and on the wicket where artificial wickets are not used. Artificial wickets are considered appropriate by the ECB for training, however their value for matches is limited and even for junior matches, are thought to inhibit player development. Several clubs also permit junior football clubs to use their outfield for football pitches during the winter months and this places further demand upon the pitches. As highlighted earlier in this section, there is a strong correlation between quality issues on the outfield and the use of facilities for football.

Team Generation Rates and Latent Demand

Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team, thus enabling analysis of participation. Table 5.6 summarises the TGRs for cricket and provides a comparison between the TGRs now and those that were evident in 2008. It supports the conclusions that participation has grown since 2008, with particularly the TGR for junior teams being particularly lower. It must be noted that where teams are mixed teams (male and female) they have been classified as male, meaning that these figures provide an indication only. For comparison purposes only, the national averages (extracted from Sport England's database) are also included. These should however be treated with caution as the database has not been updated for several years.

Table 5.6 – TGRs across Harrogate District

Type of Cricket	TGR 2008	TGR 2012	Sport England National Average
Junior Male Cricket	1:95	1:58	1:1480
Junior Female Cricket	1:3240	1:6,536	1:21052
Senior Male Cricket	1:244	1:211	1:1415
Senior Female Cricket	1:3062	1:4,711	1:54,815

Meeting Future Demand

Population projections for Harrogate District indicate that while the amount of people living in the district will grow, the age of these residents will increase and lower proportions of the population will have the propensity to participate in pitch sports. This is particularly true of participants that would typically play adult cricket.

Using TGRs as a basis, it is possible to predict the implications of the likely population growth for cricket. This analysis demonstrates that the requirements for pitches are likely to remain relatively static, with:

- the number of adult teams decreasing by 8 by 2024 (and by 2 by 2017); and
- the number of junior teams increasing by 2 between now and 2017 and by 9 by 2024.

When taking into account participation increases as well as population growth, participation becomes more constrained. There is already little capacity in the pitch stock and opportunities to increase participation are therefore looked at on an area by area basis.

Localised Issues

Given the importance of a club base to cricket club, as well as the geographical size of Harrogate District, local and site specific analysis provides a much greater understanding of the adequacy of provision for each club and the issues outside of peak time demand. Table 5.7 summarises the shortfalls and surpluses in each area of the district based upon peak time demand (and including only pitches formally secured for use. It indicates that there are pressures in most areas of the district.

Table 5.7 – Shortfalls and Surpluses of Cricket Provision across Harrogate District

Analysis Area	Current Peak time Shortfall / Surplus
Central Harrogate District	-0.8
Harrogate Town	-0.6
Knaresborough	-1.8
Nidderdale	0.2
North East Harrogate District	2.7
North West Harrogate District	1.8
Ripon	-0.4
South East Harrogate District	1.6
South Harrogate District	-0.9

The remainder of this section considers the adequacy of provision in each area in more detail and evaluates site and settlement specific issues.

Central Harrogate

Cricket in Central Harrogate is focused on seven sites and there are 26 adult teams and 12 junior teams. In terms of the number of teams measured against the population of the area, this means that participation in cricket is higher in this part of the borough than in any other. Both Burton Leonard and Ripley, the two largest settlements in the area have strong cricket clubs.

Reflecting this, at peak time on a Saturday afternoon, there is a small shortfall of pitches in Central Harrogate equivalent to 0.8 pitches. This suggests that the existing stock of cricket pitches is at capacity and that there is limited scope for further growth.

Table 5.8 summarises the sites containing cricket pitches and provides an indication of the level of use of these facilities both over the week (to determine the overall use of the site) and at peak time. Squares coloured in red indicate that the site is operating at or over capacity, amber indicates that there is some use although more can be accommodated, while green suggests that there is spare capacity at the site. Midweek grounds have been considered to be at capacity when they are required to accommodate at least four games. The amount of use per wicket is also calculated (where the number of wickets at a site is available). Three to four games per wicket per season is considered optimum.

Table 5.8 clearly demonstrates that with the exception of Bishop Monkton Playing Fields, all pitches have at least two teams wishing to use them on a Saturday afternoon (peak time) and they are therefore fully booked. There is capacity at all sites on a Sunday.

It is clear that capacity at larger clubs is becoming stretched. For Burton Leonard and Ripley CC specifically, capacity midweek is also becoming stretched due to high numbers of junior teams, as well as participation by adults in midweek leagues. This suggests that cricket pitches in this part of the district are well used.

Both Ripley CC and Bishop Thornton CC comment on the impact that the amount of play is already having on their wickets and data suggests that both clubs use each strip more than the recommended number of times per season.

Two clubs do not currently have any practice nets – specifically Markington and Scotton. Both of these are relatively small clubs.

Quality is varying in this part of the district, with scores ranging from 64% to 91%. Both Markington and Staveley CC have poor pavilions and several clubs reference issues with lack of equipment and concerns with pitch maintenance and drainage. It is notable that almost all facilities in this part of the district are also used for football which places extra wear and tear on the outfield. Site visits clearly demonstrate the implications of this, with evidence of damage to the surface at several sites.

Quality concerns are of greater priority currently than quantity, however longer term, pressures on cricket pitches may further increase if clubs continue to grow and it is likely that even in the short term, facilities will begin to restrict the expansion of some of the larger clubs.

There are no school sites in this area that currently have cricket pitches.

Table 5.8 – Cricket Pitches in Central Harrogate District

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Pavilion Quality Score	Pitch Quality score	Site visit comment	Key users	Adult Teams	Junior Teams	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek	Number of times wicket used per season	Club Comment
Bishop Monkton PF	Yes – 1 bay	86%	91%	Site also used for football but pitches do not overlap	Bishop Monkton CC	2	0				2.66 per season. Some spare capacity midweek and Saturday.	Pitches rated as good, no scorer box
Bishop Thornton CC	Yes – 1 bay	66%	86%	Slight slope	Bishop Thornton CC	3	3				Use high – circa 4.5 times per season.	Pitches considered acceptable to good. Number of games however affects quality of wickets
Burton Leonard CC/Sports Field	Yes – 2 bays	64%	88%	Small safety margins, some evidence of damage to surface. Also used for football but no overlaps	Burton Leonard CC	6	4				Use high – circa 5.8 times per season. Limited capacity	Facilities considered good
Markington Sports Field	No	50%	68%	Slightly uneven in parts and slight slope. Changing pavilion poor. Also used for	Markington CC	3	1				Unknown – no usage figures provided	No comment

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Pavilion Quality Score	Pitch Quality score	Site visit comment	Key users	Adult Teams	Junior Teams	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek	Number of times wicket used per season	Club Comment
				football.								
Ripley CC	Yes – 2 bays	61%	88%	Pitches overlap, site also used for football	Ripley CC	6	3				Usage of wickets high – 4.2 per season. Limited capacity. Club use other facilities for some teams to meet demand.	Facilities good overall but club have struggled to obtain pitch for matches in the past. Club have to rent pitches on an annual basis.
Scotton CC	No	61%	75%	Some evidence of damage to the surface. Also used for football (pitches overlap)	Scotton CC	3	0				2.66 times per season. Capacity for additional use.	Drainage poor and pitches also suffer from mole and rabbit holes
Staveley Cricket Club	No	61%	79%	Slightly sloping, no practice nets and poor changing provision.	Staveley Cricket Club	3	1				1.5 times per season. Additional capacity	Pitch good but car parking is poor and changing facilities are outdated

Harrogate Town

Participation in Harrogate town is amongst the highest in the district in terms of number of teams, however the size of the population means that TGRs are lower than all other areas.

Cricket in Harrogate is focused predominantly around large clubs, all which have several teams. Reflecting this, there is a small shortfall of 0.6 pitches on a Saturday afternoon. This suggests that the existing stock of cricket pitches is at capacity.

Table 5.7 summarises the sites containing cricket pitches and provides an indication of the level of use of these facilities both over the week (to determine the overall use of the site) and at peak time. Squares coloured in red indicate that the site is operating at or over capacity, amber indicates that there is some use although more can be accommodated, while green suggests that there is spare capacity at the site. Midweek grounds have been considered to be at capacity when they are required to accommodate at least four games. The amount of use per wicket is also calculated (where the number of wickets at a site is available). Three to four games per wicket per season is considered optimum.

Table 5.9 clearly demonstrates that with the exception of Pannal Ash CC, all pitches are fully booked on a Saturday afternoon and most also receive heavy use throughout the week, with only one pitch not used on a Sunday and midweek. Emphasising this, both Bilton CC and Killinghall CC highlight issues with accessing pitches for matches and Killinghall CC is shown to be at capacity in terms of amount of play on the wickets. Pannal CC are also at capacity and have to travel to other grounds to accommodate all of their teams. Almsford Oval is a particularly important overspill ground in this part of the district and is used by a variety of teams including Knaresborough Forest CC, Ripley CC, Pannal CC.

Usage of pitches in terms of the number of matches per wicket is varying, however only Pannal Ash CC and Bilton have usage that could be considered low. There is already evidence of clubs having to travel to other sites to obtain cricket pitches.

There are several cricket pitches within Harrogate Town that are not currently used including St John Fishers Catholic High School, St Aidans High School, Army Foundation College, National Policing Improvement Centre, Rossett School and Harrogate Grammar School. Harrogate Gas Cricket Club is also now derelict and the team has recently disbanded, withdrawing from the Nidderdale League.

Like in most other parts of the district, while sites are nearing capacity, quality is also an issue in this part of the district. The quality of facilities at Almsford Playing Fields (pavilion) and Pannal Ash (pavilion) is highlighted as being in need of improvement and the Nidderdale Cricket League ground reports also raised issues relating to the quality of the Almsford Oval pitches. Pannal Ash CC also highlight issues with drainage of pitches.

Table 5.9 – Cricket Clubs in Harrogate Town

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Changing % Score	Site Visit % Score	Site Visit Comments	Club	Total Adult Teams	Total Junior Teams	Saturday Use	Sunday Use	Midweek	Use of each wicket per season	Club Comments
Almsford PF	Yes	36%	56%	Limited grass cover but relatively uneven outfield and a slight slope. Some evidence of damage and misuse. Changing pavilion poor. Also used for football but pitches do not overlap	Acts as overspill ground for several clubs and used regularly by Knaresborough Forest CC and Ripley CC			■		■	Unknown	Several clubs use this facility primarily as overspill. Comments from league ground report suggests improvements required.
Bilton Cricket Club	Yes – 3 bays	91%	95%	Good changing accommodation	Bilton CC	4	4	■		■	Use of wickets acceptable – circa 2.1 uses per strip.	Quality of pitch is good although more root growth needed in parts. Club have difficulty accessing pitches for junior matches.
Harrogate Cricket Club	Yes – 2 bays	95%	100%	Site also used for football but pitches do not overlap. Note there are 2 pitches at this site.	Harrogate CC	6	10	■		■	Wickets nearing capacity (almost 4 games per wicket). Club has 2 grounds, but number of junior teams means this is approaching	Club consider quality of pitches as good, although public access causes issues due to dog walking on site. Club would like artificial

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Changing % Score	Site Visit % Score	Site Visit Comments	Club	Total Adult Teams	Total Junior Teams	Saturday Use	Sunday Use	Midweek	Use of each wicket per season	Club Comments
											capacity.	wickets and public seating. Funding is in place.
Killinghall CC	Yes – 1 bay	70%	81%	Small facility	Killinghall CC	5	3				Usage is high with strips used more than 4 times per season (4.75)>	Quality of facilities but there are not enough pitches and club has difficulties accessing pitches for matches
Pannal Ash CC	No	48%	82%	Changing / pavilion poor and dilapidated. Also used for football but pitches do not overlap.	Pannal Ash CC	2	0				Usage low. 1.33 times per season per strip. Capacity to accommodate additional play.	Drainage of pitch is poor
Pannal CC	Yes	83%	82%	Uneven in parts, good grass cover. New pavilion	Pannal CC	6	8				Club uses overspill ground to accommodate all usage. Without overspill, strips used 6.8 times per season.	Pitches acceptable to good

Knareborough

Within Knareborough, cricket is focused around three cricket clubs that between them have a total of 26 teams (of which 16 are adult teams). The number of teams that are accommodated at a peak time means that pressures in Knareborough are higher on a Saturday than in any other part of the borough, with a shortfall of almost two pitches. This is reflected by the use of Almsford Oval by Knareborough Forest CC – the team have to travel into Harrogate to play.

Table 5.10 summarises the sites containing cricket pitches and provides an indication of the level of use of these facilities both over the week (to determine the overall use of the site) and at peak time. Squares coloured in red indicate that the site is operating at or over capacity, amber indicates that there is some use although more can be accommodated, while green suggests that there is spare capacity at the site. Sites have been assumed to be at capacity midweek when they are required to accommodate four or more matches. The amount of use per wicket is also calculated (where the number of wickets at a site is available). Three to four games per wicket per season is considered optimum.

Table 5.10 clearly demonstrates that reflecting the identified shortfalls of provision, all three sites are at capacity at peak time. Like in most other parts of the district, and reflecting the number of junior teams that are run by clubs, cricket pitches are also well used on both Sundays and midweek. Knareborough Cricket Club is at capacity on Sundays as well as Saturdays and all clubs host midweek matches. Use of the wicket at Knareborough Forest CC is particularly high, indicating that there are limited opportunities for further growth.

Although clubs are reaching capacity, quality of facilities emerged as a higher priority, with Knareborough Forest CC identifying the need to improve changing and drainage, while Goldsborough CC struggle to source appropriate training facilities. All clubs in this area have access to nets at their own sites.

Table 5.10 – Cricket facilities in the Knaresborough Area

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Changing % Score	Site Visit % Score	Site Visit Comments	Club	Total Adult Teams	Total Junior Teams	Saturday Use	Sunday Use	Midweek	Use of Wicket	Club Comments
Goldsborough CC	Yes – 2 bays	59%	95%	Good quality pitch provision but poor quality changing provision.	Goldsborough CC	5	2	■	■	■	Acceptable use - circa 3 games per strip.	Facilities acceptable to good but club have difficulties accessing training facilities
Knaresborough CC	Yes	81%	93%	Good quality pitch provision	Knaresborough CC	6	4		■	■	Unknown	No comment
Knaresborough Forest CC	Yes – 2 bays	64%	84%	Poor changing facilities.	Knaresborough Forest CC	5	4	■	■	■	Heavy use of facility – hence some teams travel to Almsford Oval to play.	Drainage and changing facilities poor. Club also experiences issues with dog fouling.

Ripon







The number of cricket teams in Ripon is lower than in all other parts of the district. Ripon is one of the largest settlements and it is likely that there is therefore potential to realise latent demand in this area. Notably, participation in junior cricket is lower in this part of the district than in most other areas.

Calculations demonstrate that on a Saturday (peak time) there is a shortfall of 0.4 pitches. Both clubs have three adult teams wishing to play on a Saturday and are already using facilities at school sites as an overspill (Ripon Grammar School). This facility is not however secured for community use and access could be removed at any time.

As outlined in Table 5.1, there is also a pitch at Claro Barracks that is not accessible.

Table 5.11 clearly demonstrates that reflecting the identified shortfalls of provision, both sites are at capacity at peak time although is scope to accommodate additional play in the week. The strips at Sharow CC are however already used heavily, suggesting that Ripon CC has the greater amount of spare capacity. The quality of both facilities is good, although Ripon CC can suffer from drainage issues during periods of heavy rainfall.

Table 5.11 – Cricket Pitches in Ripon

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Changing % Score	Site Visit % Score	Site Visit Comments	Club	Total Adult Teams	Total Junior Teams	Saturday Use	Sunday Use	Midweek		Club Comments
Ripon Cricket Club	Yes – 2 bays	81%	93%	Slightly sloping and uneven. League records demonstrate pitch to be good.	Ripon CC	4	1				There is scope to increase the amount of use (2.66)	Pitches acceptable to good but suffer from flooding in heavy rain
Sharow Cricket Club	Yes – 1 bay	70%	82%	Slight slope. League records demonstrate pitch to be excellent	Sharow Cricket Club	4					4.88 – the number strips on the pitch means that the wicket is heavily played.	Pitch acceptable to good

South Harrogate District

Participation in cricket in South Harrogate is amongst the highest of all parts of the district, with 37 teams in total accommodated on six sites. Both Spofforth and Follifoot, the two largest settlements in the district include a cricket club.

Calculations indicate that there are sufficient pitches to meet demand on a peak day. Table 5.12 summarises the sites containing cricket pitches and provides an indication of the level of use of these facilities both over the week (to determine the overall use of the site) and at peak time. Squares coloured in red indicate that the site is operating at or over capacity, amber indicates that there is some use although more can be accommodated, while green suggests that there is spare capacity at the site. A site has been considered to be at capacity in midweek if it is required to sustain for or more matches.

Table 5.12 indicates that even though provision is just sufficient, supply is in fact closely matched with demand and indeed there is only one pitch available on a Saturday for senior cricket (and this is already used as overspill by Pannal CC. There is good use of facilities midweek although Sicklinghall CC is only used on a Saturday and there is more capacity available midweek than in many other parts of the district. Follifoot Cricket Club indicates that they are already struggling to accommodate matches and is evident that similar to other areas, the larger clubs are reaching capacity. Usage of the wickets at Follifoot CC is already above optimum levels.

The quality of pitches in this part of the district is high and there are few areas for improvement identified.

Table 5.12 – Cricket Pitches in South Harrogate District

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Changing % Score	Site Visit % Score	Site Visit Comments	Club	Total Adult Teams	Total Junior Teams	Saturday Use	Sunday Use	Midweek	Use of wicket per season	Club Comments
Beckwithshaw CC	Yes	72%	91%	Poorer grass cover than some other sites. Also used for football	Beckwithshaw CC	5	4				Unknown	No comments received
Blubberhouses Cricket Club	Yes	63%	77%	Some evidence of damage to the surface	Blubberhouses CC	4	0				Unknown	No comments received
Follifoot CC	Yes	81%	96%	Good quality pitch.	Follifoot CC	4	5				4.45 matches per strip – above optimum levels of use	Difficulties fitting games in. Need heavier roller to improve maintenance and changing is poor
Sicklinghall Cricket Club	No	53%	81%	Grass long. Pavilion relatively poor.	Sicklinghall Cricket Club	2	0				Low usage – 1.6 matches per strip. Capacity at site.	Pitch acceptable to good
Spofforth CC	Yes	84%	98%	Good quality pitch	Spofforth CC	4	5				3.4 matches per strip – optimum level of usage	Pitch good quality, only concerns relate to evenness of outfield
Weeton and Ruby CC	No				Weeton and Ruby CC	1					Club play friendly cricket only. Site also used by Pannal CC as overspill.	No comments received

South East Harrogate District

Participation in cricket in South East Harrogate is the highest in the district in terms of number of teams (44) and also the number of clubs. Reflecting this, like other parts of the district, there is little spare capacity in the pitch stock, with only Wighill Cricket Club able to accommodate additional play on a Saturday.

This is summarised in Table 5.13 which outlines the sites containing cricket pitches and provides an indication of the level of use of these facilities both over the week (to determine the overall use of the site) and at peak time. Squares coloured in red indicate that the site is operating at or over capacity, amber indicates that there is some use although more can be accommodated, while green suggests that there is spare capacity at the site. Pitches are considered to be at capacity midweek when they are required to accommodate more than 4 games.

Table 5.13 suggests that while like most areas there is very limited capacity at peak times, there is greater ability to accommodate additional play midweek than in other areas although the majority of facilities are still well used. With the exception of Kirk Deighton Cricket Club, most wickets are also used at or below optimum capacity.

Quality is an issue for several clubs in this part of the district, with Great Ouseburn CC, Kirk Deighton CC, Kirk Hammerton CC and Long Marston CC all identifying qualitative improvements that are required. These issues were also reflected in scores achieved in site visits, with sites achieving lower scores than most other areas and several pavilions rated as poor.

Table 5.13 – Cricket in South East Harrogate

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Changing % Score	Site Visit % Score	Site Visit Comments	Club	Total Adult Teams	Total Junior Teams	Saturday Use	Sunday Use	Midweek	Use of wickets per season	Club Comments
Bilton in Ainsty CC	Yes – 1 bay	67%	84%	Average quality facility	Bilton in Ainsty CC	3	2				Below average, circa 2.4. Additional capacity	No umpires room and changing rated poor
Great Ouseburn PF	Yes – 3 bays	95%	91%	Some pitches overlap, site also used for football.	Ouseburn CC	4	6				Optimum use of wickets (3). Number of teams means that site is nearing capacity	Topography of pitch often leads to standing water. Dog fouling is also an issue and the club sometimes struggles to secure sufficient pitches due to fixture clashes as well as the fact that the playing area is shared with football.
Green Hammerton Village Hall		95%	91%	Some evidence of unofficial use and damage to the surface. Changing in new village hall. Some pitches overlap - also used for football	Green Hammerton CC	4	0				Unknown	No comments received

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Changing % Score	Site Visit % Score	Site Visit Comments	Club	Total Adult Teams	Total Junior Teams	Saturday Use	Sunday Use	Midweek	Use of wickets per season	Club Comments
Kirk Deighton CC	No	55%	72%	Small cricket facility, uneven in parts	Kirk Deighton CC	3	1	Red		Yellow	Just above optimum levels – 3.9.	Size of outfield is small and club has difficulties accessing facilities for training. Club also does not have covers or sight screens.
Kirk Hammerton CC	Yes – 1 bay	52%	82%	Uneven in parts, good grass cover. Changing pavilion poor	Kirk Hammerton CC	4	0	Red	Green	Yellow	Low usage of strips (below 2)	Changing facilities poor and some uneven areas on outfield
Little Ribston CC	No	53%	77%	Uneven in parts, good grass cover. Changing pavilion poor	Little Ribston CC	3	1	Red	Green	Yellow	Unknown	No comments received
Long Marston Rec Ground	Yes – 1 bay	41%	77%	Pitch markings and changing in poor condition	Long Marston CC	2	1	Red	Green	Yellow	Below optimum levels – 2.3 games per strip	Square to outfield needs infilling to level bowlers runup; car park needs asphaltting; Glazing in pavilion needs replacing.
Marton Cum Grafton P F	No	53%	81%	Playing outfield relatively uneven, changing pavilion poor	Marton cum Grafton CC	2	0	Red	Green	Yellow	Below optimum levels – 2 games per strip	No comments received
Whixley Cricket Club	Yes	50%	91%	Changing / pavilion poor.	Whixley CC	3	4	Red		Yellow	2.8 games per strip – below optimum levels	Pitch quality is good
Wighill Park Cricket Club	No	64%	79%	No training facilities	Wighill Park Cricket Club	1	0	Yellow		Green	Unknown	No comments received

Nidderdale

With the exception of Summerbridge, there is a cricket club in all larger settlements in the Nidderdale area and participation is high.

The clubs and their grounds are summarised in Table 5.14 which outlines the sites containing cricket pitches and provides an indication of the level of use of these facilities both over the week (to determine the overall use of the site) and at peak time. Squares coloured in red indicate that the site is operating at or over capacity, amber indicates that there is some use although more can be accommodated, while green suggests that there is spare capacity at the site. Grounds have been considered to be at capacity midweek if they are required to sustain four or more games.

Calculations undertaken in line with Towards a Level Playing Field indicate that provision is just sufficient to meet requirements in Nidderdale (0.2 pitches surplus). In addition to secured pitches, Belmont Grosvenor School is regularly used as an overspill facility by clubs, however this site is currently unsecured and access could be removed at any time.

Despite calculations suggesting that provision is relatively tight in this area (these are based on the boroughwide temporal distribution of play) Table 5.14 indicates that there is more spare capacity in the stock of facilities than in most other parts of the district with Glasshouses CC, Birstwith CC and Hampthswaite CC both currently able to accommodate additional play on a Saturday. Grounds in this part of the district however have fewer strips on the square, meaning that they have a lower overall capacity to sustain matches and some grounds are nearing capacity in terms of the number of matches that are played, even though there are timeslots available for to accommodate matches.

The quality of facilities is varying, but most issues identified relate to the quality of the playing pitch rather than the changing facilities. A lack of practice nets is also raised by some clubs and it is clear that a lower proportion of clubs in this part of the district have access to nets. It is particularly noticeable that Birstwith CC, a relatively large club with 2 grounds have to travel to use nets and have no on site facilities.

Table 5.14 - Cricket Pitch Provision - Nidderdale

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Changing % Score	Site Visit % Score	Site Visit Comments	Club	Total Adult Teams	Total Junior Teams	Saturday Use	Sunday Use	Midweek	Use of wickets per season	Club Comments
Birstwith CC	No	81%	81%	New pavilion. Second ground served by gazebo only	Birstwith CC	6	5				Note there are two grounds at this site. Used above average 4.9 times per season	Pitches rated as good
Burnt Yates CC	Yes	70%	74%	Small cricket pitch, uneven in parts and limited safety margins	Burnt Yates CC	4	3				Used above optimum – 4.9 times per season	Club seeking funding to improve pavilion, particularly toilets and showers etc. Club satisfied with quality of provision.
Dacre and Hartwith Sports Association (Max Pullen Sports Ground)	Yes – 1 bay	61%	81%	Some evidence of damage to the surface. Wooden pavilion	Dacre Banks CC	3	0				Additional capacity – stips used circa once per season	Changing facilities rated poor
Darley Cricket Club	No	63%	51%	Excellent grass cover but grass long. Small cricket ground and sloping.	Darley CC	3						

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Changing % Score	Site Visit % Score	Site Visit Comments	Club	Total Adult Teams	Total Junior Teams	Saturday Use	Sunday Use	Midweek	Use of wickets per season	Club Comments
Glasshouses CC	Yes	66%	84%		Glasshouses CC	3	1				Used above average in terms of number strips available	Facilities good on whole but changing is insufficient. Pitch quality also in need of improvement
Hampsthwaite CC	No	67%	79%	Small facility	Hampsthwaite CC	3	0				Unknown	No comments received
Pateley Bridge CC	Yes – 2 bays	66%	86%	Uneven in parts, good grass cover although some evidence of damage to the surface	Pateley Bridge CC	4	3				Strips used circa 3.2 times per season – optimum levels.	Pitches acceptable to good but need to invest in better practice facilities

North East Harrogate District

Boroughbridge, the largest settlement in the North east area contains a cricket club and additional provision is also provided at Boroughbridge High School, although this is available informally only and is rarely if at all used by the clubs.

The clubs and their grounds in this part of the district are summarised in Table 5.15 which outlines the sites containing cricket pitches and provides an indication of the level of use of these facilities both over the week (to determine the overall use of the site) and at peak time. Squares coloured in red indicate that the site is operating at or over capacity, amber indicates that there is some use although more can be accommodated, while green suggests that there is spare capacity at the site.

Calculations undertaken in line with Towards a Level Playing Field indicate that provision is sufficient to meet requirements in North East Harrogate District, with more than two pitches surplus to requirements at peak time. This is the only area of the borough where calculations suggest that there are more than two pitches spare on a peak day.

Table 5.15 supports this and indicates that three of the six cricket pitches (there are two at Newby Hall Cricket Club) are able to accommodate additional play on a Saturday. There is also capacity across the week and on a Sunday.

There is greater flexibility in the stock of facilities in this area and as a consequence there is particular scope to increase the amount of junior participation, with lower than average numbers of teams playing and most clubs focusing solely on adult participation. Most clubs also have capacity during the week and could therefore accommodate growth in participation. Analysis of the usage of wickets available reinforces this, suggesting that all strips are used below optimum levels.

Few quality issues were raised and no clubs raised any concerns.

Table 5.15 - Cricket Pitches in North East Harrogate District

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Changing % Score	Site Visit % Score	Site Visit Comments	Club	Total Adult Teams	Total Junior Teams	Saturday Use	Sunday Use	Midweek	Use of Wicket over season	Club Comments
Baldersby Recreation Association	No	56%	71%	Poor quality grass cover and some evidence of unofficial use	Baldersby CC	1	0	■	■	■	Unknown	None received. Club plays friendlies only
Boroughbridge Sports association	No	78%	79%	Some evidence of unofficial use. Also used for football but pitches do not overlap	Boroughbridge CC	2	0		■	■	Unknown	None received
Newby Hall CC	Yes	70%	96%	League ratings suggest that the second pitch is poorer than the first pitch.	Newby Hall CC	4	4			■	At or below optimum levels (circa 2.4)	Facilities acceptable to good.
Rainton CC	Yes	77%	88%		Rainton CC	2	0			■	Unknown	None received
Wath and Melmerby CC	Yes	66%	84%	Poorer grass cover than some other sites	Wath and Melmerby Cricket Club	4	0	■	■	■	Below optimum levels (circa 1.6)	Pitch acceptable to good

North West Harrogate District

The clubs and their grounds in this part of the district are summarised in Table 5.16 which outlines the sites containing cricket pitches and provides an indication of the level of use of these facilities both over the week (to determine the overall use of the site) and at peak time. Squares coloured in red indicate that the site is operating at or over capacity, amber indicates that there is some use although more can be accommodated, while green suggests that there is spare capacity at the site.

Calculations undertaken in line with Towards a Level Playing Field indicate that provision is just sufficient to meet requirements in North West Harrogate District, with almost two pitches surplus to requirements at peak time.

Table 5.16 supports this and indicates that there is spare capacity, with two sites able to accommodate additional play on a Saturday. There is also capacity across the week and on a Sunday.

It is clear however that pitches are still well used with a lot of play midweek as a result of the high numbers of junior teams. The overall picture in this area disguises club specific issues at Studley CC and North Stainley CC – the two clubs with a larger junior base. This reflects the situation in many parts of the borough.

It is clear that many of the cricket pitches in this part of the district are smaller than average and are of lower quality, with some issues relating to grass cover and drainage.

Table 5.16 - Cricket Pitches in North West Harrogate District

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Changing % Score	Site Visit % Score	Site Visit Comments	Club	Total Adult Teams	Total Junior Teams	Saturday Use	Sunday Use	Midweek	Use of Wickets over season	Club Comments
Highside Playing Fields	Yes	92%	89%	Good changing accommodation	Kirkby Malzeard Cricket Club	1	0	Yellow		Green	Unknown	None received
Galphay and Winkesley CC	No	52%	72%	Slightly uneven in parts. Changing pavilion poor and unsecured	Galphay and Winkesley CC	3	1	Red	Green	Yellow	Optimum levels – circa 3 games per week	Club lacks practice nets and has only basic facilities. Club have difficulty accessing facilities for training
Lofthouse and Middlesmoor CC	Yes	53%	74%	Small cricket pitch, uneven in parts and limited safety margins. Changing pavilion poor	Lofthouse and Middlesmoor CC	2	1	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Unknown	No comments received
Masham Sports Association	Yes	81%	96%		Masham CC	2	2	Red	Green	Yellow	Facility has capacity. Below optimum levels – circa 2 matches per strip.	Facilities good overall but drainage problems on outfield

Site Name	Practice Nets?	Changing % Score	Site Visit % Score	Site Visit Comments	Club	Total Adult Teams	Total Junior Teams	Saturday Use	Sunday Use	Midweek	Use of Wickets over season	Club Comments
North Stainley Recreation Ground	No	97%	74%	Small cricket ground, evidence of informal use including dog fouling	North Stainley CC	3	5				Usage high – almost 4 games per strip	Drainage poor and pitch only acceptable. Need an additional pitch or artificial wicket and also they do not have any covers
Studley Royal CC	Yes – 2 bays	92% and 52%	96% / 79%	Sport England funded pavilion). Second pavilion poor and unsecured	Studley Royal CC	6	7				Optimum usage across 2 pitches – circa 3 games per strip	Would prefer additional pitch at Galphay Road – Deer Park poor. investment in changing and practice facilities. Drainage is poor

Summary and Key Issues to Address - Cricket

Key issues to address – Cricket

- Participation in cricket has increased since the previous playing pitch strategy, with particular growth in the junior form of the game. Cricket is a particularly popular sport in the borough, with participation levels significantly above both national and regional averages
- Reflecting this, modelling reveals that the amount of cricket facilities is very closely matched with demand. On a peak day, calculations reveal that there are circa 2 pitches surplus. Analysis of site by site capacity suggests that there are no pitches that are not used on a peak day, but there is some potential to accommodate additional play at just 10 sites. This means that supply is very closely balanced with demand. Provision in the more built up areas is particularly limited, while clubs based in the north of the borough have the highest levels of spare capacity
- Added to this, most sites are also heavily used midweek due to the growing number of junior teams that are run. It is evident that many of the larger clubs are nearing capacity and this is reflected in both the availability of pitches and the amount of use that wickets receive. In contrast, some of the smaller clubs have spare capacity midweek and are able to accommodate additional play. Many larger clubs are renting overspill facilities from smaller clubs to ensure that they are able to accommodate their fixtures and it is also noticeable that there is some use of school pitches
- Calculations reveal that population growth alone will have little impact upon the demand for cricket pitches. Many clubs have however indicated that they wish to increase the number of teams they are running. Such increases would place greater pressures on cricket pitches. Most of the clubs with aspirations to increase the amount of teams playing at the site are those that are already at or approaching capacity. Initiatives to build participation in cricket through other new forms of the game (including Last Man Standing) and through the development of school club links may have further impact on increasing participation. There is therefore very little flexibility in the current pitch stock and this will become further constrained as participation grows. Longer term, a lack of facilities may inhibit the growth of some clubs
- The high demands placed on the stock of facilities means that the quality of provision is particularly important and both the square and outfield must be able to sustain several games per week – the quality of grounds maintenance is therefore particularly important. The quality of existing pitches is high, although some clubs refer to the impact that the high levels of use are having on the quality of their facility. Several pavilions are of poor quality and some site specific pitch related issues are also identified
- In addition to access to pitches for matches, clubs also reference the importance of facilities for training. The league highlight the need for additional indoor training facilities and several clubs also raise concerns about a lack of access to training facilities.

6. Rugby

06

This section provides:

- An overview of supply and demand for rugby
- An evaluation of the overall adequacy of pitches to meet demand
- Site Specific Issues and Opportunities
- Summary and key issues to address.

Pitch Supply

There are 34 rugby union pitches within Harrogate District. Of these only eight are formally secured for community use and these are located at the three club sites. This represents an increase on the amount of pitches that were available in 2008 when there were six rugby pitches recorded. The remainder of the other pitches are however located at school sites that do permit occasional and informal use of their pitches. Table 6.1 outlines the breakdown of rugby pitches in the borough.

Table 6.1 – Distribution of rugby pitches in Harrogate District

Area	Community Use Pitches	Unsecured pitches permitting community use	Pitches not available for community use
Central Harrogate District	0	0	0
Harrogate Town	3	12	4
Knaresborough	2	0	0
Nidderdale	0	0	1
North East Harrogate District	0	3	0
North West Harrogate District	0	0	0
Ripon	3	4	2
South East Harrogate District	0	0	0
South Harrogate District	0	0	0

Table 6.1 clearly illustrates that provision for rugby in Harrogate is focused around the main population centres of Harrogate, Ripon and Knaresborough.

Demand

Active People and Market Segmentation

Profile of the Harrogate District market segments that play/would like to play rugby union

National participation in Rugby was in steady decline from October 2008 until April 2011. Since then, there has been a gradual increase throughout the year (April 2012). Nonetheless, participation is still almost 50,000 people lower than it was in 2008. Participation once a week shows a steady decline as people get older from 16-19 year olds. 18-19 year old participation has fallen by almost 10,000 in the last year, whereas 16 year old participation has risen. The overall average for once a week participation is 0.46%, compared to 0.49% in Yorkshire. The profile of rugby union participation in Harrogate District is set out in Map 6.1 and Chart 6.1

Map 6.1 - Percentage and location of the adult population who play rugby union.

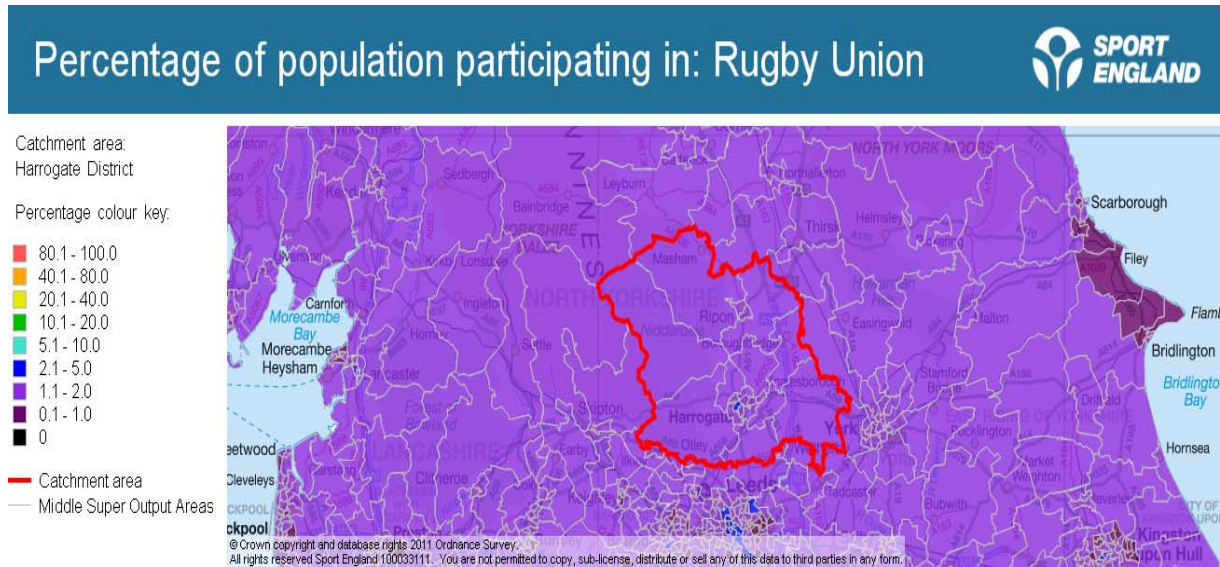
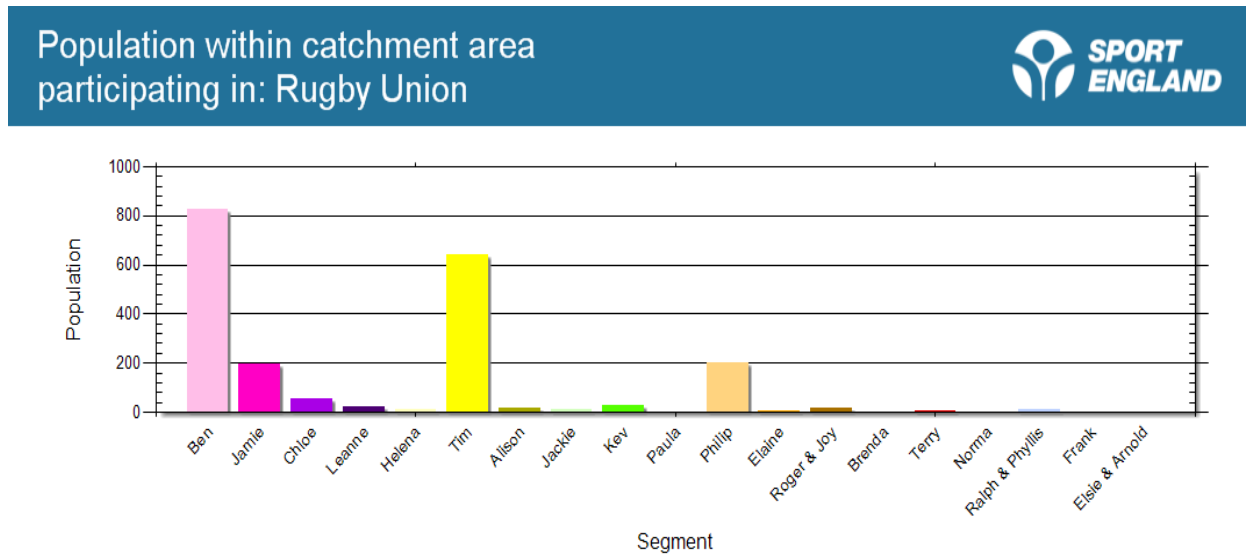


Chart 6.1 - Profile of the market segments who participate in rugby union in Harrogate District



The key findings from both the map and the bar chart are that:

- there is a consistent spread of people who play rugby in Harrogate. Between 1.1-2% of Harrogate participate in rugby. The actual district wide average figures is 1.3%, which is more than double the national and Yorkshire average; and
- as with other sports, the 3 dominating groups are Ben, Tim and Philip. A total of 2,055 people participate, of which these three market segments contribute over 1,600. These segments of Ben and Tim play sport for competitive reasons whilst Philip is a much more casual participant.

Turning to the Active People analysis of the percentage of adults who would **like to** play rugby union, this is set out in Map 6.2 and Chart 6.2.

Map 6.2 - Percentage and location of the adult population who would like to play rugby union.

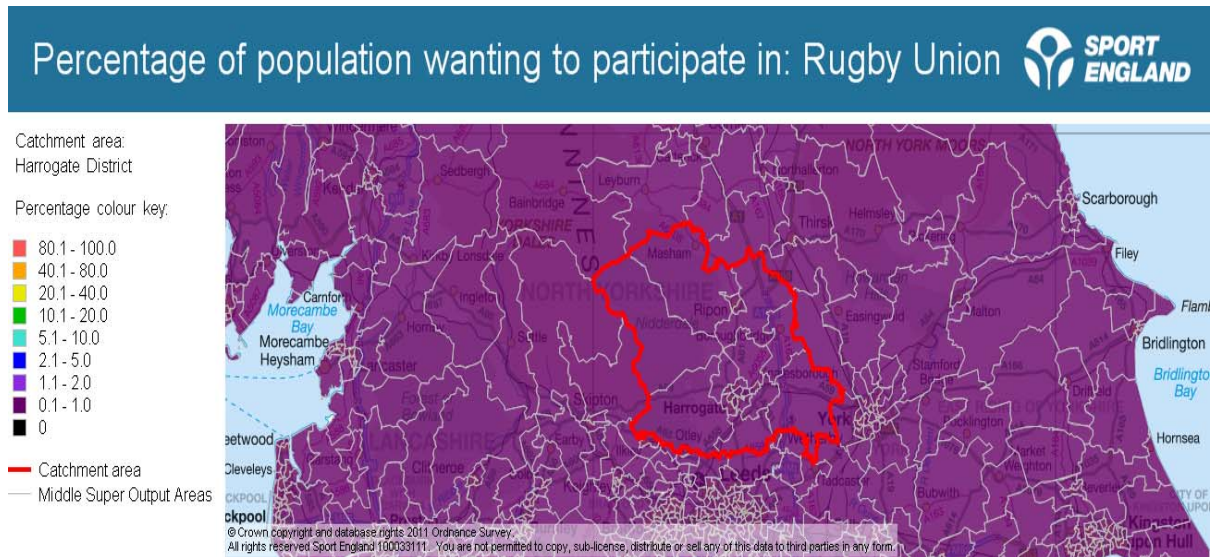
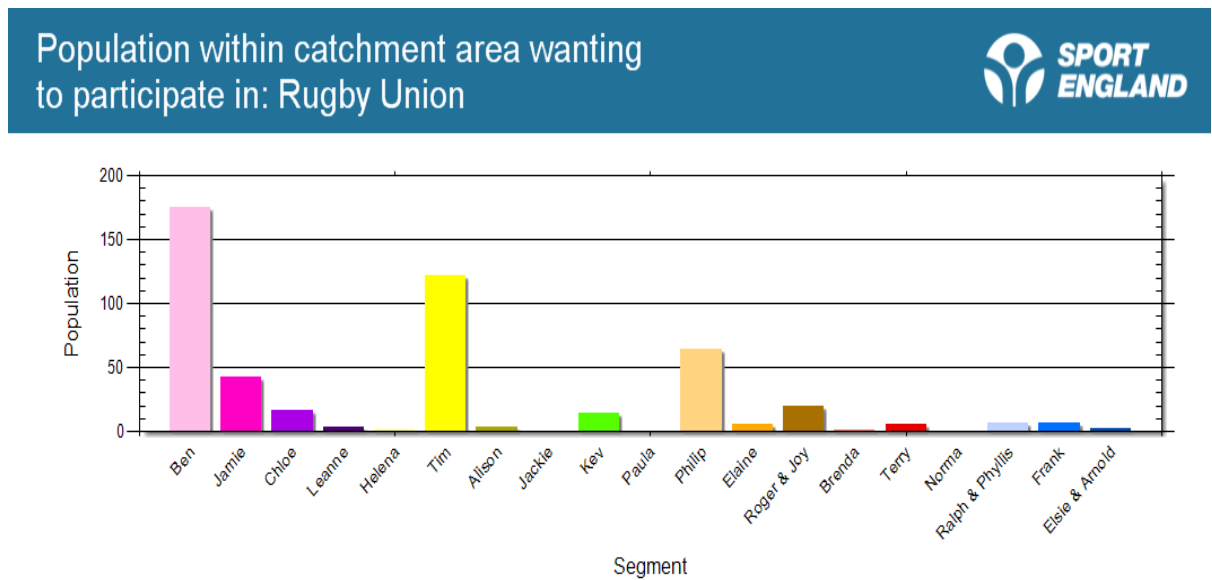


Chart 6.2 - Profile of the market Segments who would like to participate in rugby union



The key findings from both the map and the bar chart are that:

- the percentage of the population who would like to play rugby union does not vary across the District and is the same as the population that do play rugby union; and
- in terms of the dominant market segments who would like to play, it is the same three segments (Ben, Tim and Philip) in the same sequence of highest to lowest population. The total latent demand for rugby union across these three segments is 350 participants and

for all 19 market segments it is 450 participants. This suggests that overall, there is some latent demand for rugby union.

Current Participation

There are three rugby clubs based within Harrogate Borough. In total, RFU records reveal that there are 275 registered senior players and 690 players aged 7 to 17. There are a further 113 players aged between 17 and 19. This demonstrates that although there are only a small number of rugby clubs in the area, these are strong clubs with well-established membership. Harrogate RUFC and Ripon are the largest clubs in the borough, both running 11 junior / mini teams as well as several adult teams. Knaresborough RUFC currently run only senior teams.

Harrogate RUFC attract players from within Harrogate, in addition to slightly further afield within the borough. While 26% of players live less than a mile from the current home venue, 48% travel between 1 and 3 miles and a further 15% travel between 3 and 5 miles. Only 10% of players currently travel more than 5 miles to reach the club's home ground. Like Harrogate RUFC, Ripon RUFC also has a relatively local catchment area, with just 5% of members travelling more than five miles. Knaresborough RUFC attracts players from the widest catchment, with 20% of players travelling over five miles to reach the club.

Participation has increased marginally since 2008, from 31 teams to 34 teams.

Table 6.2 – Rugby Clubs in Harrogate Borough

Club and Area	Adult Teams	Junior Teams	Mini / Midi Teams	Venue	League
Harrogate RUFC - Harrogate	6 (1 st XV, Georgians, Pythons 1 st XV, Pythons RFC Pirates, Pythons RFC Vets XV and Pythons RFC Ladies). 2 colts teams – U17 and U19	4 – U16 / U15/ U14/U13	6 teams - U12/ U11 / U10/U9/ U8/U7	Claro Road, Harrogate. Facilities at Harrogate High School used as overspill. Site includes changing block with toilets and showers, Referee changing in port-a-cabin, Stand, Clubhouse. Floodlighting (for training, not matches). One pitch is also used as a training pitch.	National 3 league north (1 st XV), Yorkshire Merit Table (Georgians), Yorkshire Leagues. Vets and Ladies play friendly fixtures while juniors play in the Yorkshire Cup, festivals and friendlies.
Knaresborough RUFC - Knaresborough	2 senior male teams	None	None	Hay a Park. Facilities include toilets, kitchen and changing accommodation.	Teams play in Yorkshire League and Yorkshire Merit Leagues.
Ripon RUFC - Ripon	3 – 1st, 2nd and 3rd male teams. There is also one U17 team	4 – U16 / U15/ U14/U13	6 teams - U12/ U11 / U10/U9/ U8/U7	Mallorie Park and Army Camp and Choir School as overspill. Facility includes changing, toilets and showers, club house with meeting space and bar. Floodlighting (two pitches).	Yorkshire leagues,

Schools Participation

Reflecting the strong club structure, participation in rugby in schools in Harrogate Borough is high in comparison to most other areas of the country. Development activity in Rossett School recently resulted in 4 -5 new teams at the school. Harrogate Grammar School, Ashfield College, St Aidans RC High School, St John Fishers High School and King James School all regularly participate in rugby. In addition, many primary schools participate in Tag Rugby and there have been several festivals held this year for the School Cluster partnerships. Engagement in rugby at an early age is likely to lead to ongoing participation and many schools have strong links with the local clubs. Issues with facilities however mean that clubs are nearing capacity and that young people who are introduced to rugby in schools in Harrogate Borough are struggling to join clubs.

Quality of Rugby Pitches

Pitch quality influences the amount of matches that can be sustained, and as a consequence has a significant impact on the overall adequacy of supply in an area.

Site assessments have been carried out in line with the assessment matrix provided in Towards a Level Playing Field – these assessments are non-technical assessments designed to provide an overview of pitch quality and the degree to which facilities are fit for purpose. The non-technical site assessments revealed that the quality of rugby pitches in the district is lower than the quality of other types of outdoor sports facilities. Pitches are consistently rated as average – good and the following quality issues were identified;

- **Harrogate RUFC:** the quality of the rugby pitches is average to good when measured against the TalPF site assessment matrix with scores for pitches ranging from 72% - 77%. The ground and the pavilion is however run down and in need of investment. Although pitches were well maintained, grass cover was relatively poor and there was evidence of damage to the surface, potentially caused by overuse
- **Ripon RUFC:** there is variation between the quality of pitches at Ripon Rugby Club, with pitches ranging from 54% to 74% (average to good). Like with Harrogate RUFC, there are areas for improvement with the pitches, with damage to the surface evident and the amount of grass cover being relatively limited. Changing facilities are relatively well located but would again benefit from investment
- **Knaresborough RUFC:** The quality of changing facilities is poor and facilities are in need of upgrade. Like the other two club bases, pitch quality varies between the pitches. Overall, the facilities are rated from average to good, with scores ranging from 68% to 75%. There was evidence of some damage to the surface at the time of site visits.

Clubs were also asked to comment upon the quality of the rugby facilities that are available to them. Comments were received as follows:

- **Harrogate RUFC:** The existing facilities at Harrogate RUFC are owned by Crest Nicholson and are leased until 2014 by the club. Growth in club membership has however seen an increase in demand and the club is no longer able to focus all training and playing activities at the single venue. While RFU guidelines suggest that the optimum capacity for pitches is 2 -3 games per week, pitches at Harrogate RFU are used much more frequently than this, catering for both matches and training. In addition to competitive play, teams generate a weekly training demand of between 9 and 13 sessions. The club estimate that even when taking into account that some activities share a pitch (eg U10 and U9 age groups will share a pitch) and the rotation of teams playing home and away, there is

demand for circa 28 sessions per week concentrated between Thursday and Sunday. Use of the main pitch is restricted as far as possible to protect the playing surface, however it is still considered to be used over and above optimum levels and on average, each pitch sustains circa 9 periods of activity a week, which has significant implications for the quality of pitches. The use of additional pitches at Harrogate High School reduces this demand on pitches slightly, however the lack of changing facilities, medical facilities or shelter from the weather is an issue. The club also often uses grassed areas on The Stray (no pitches marked out) to reduce wear and tear on the main pitches

With regards quality, while the length of grass and freedom from litter and dog fouling is good, drainage, grass coverage and evenness of the pitch are only considered acceptable. Other pitches at the site are considered to be in poorer condition due to the level of use that they receive and the changing facilities are very poor. Uncertainties regarding the lease and a potential move to a new site mean that little investment has been put into the facilities in recent years. The training pitches become inappropriate for training between November and March due to poor drainage and exacerbated by the high levels of use of the pitches

The club indicate that the lack of floodlit training facilities on surfaces that can cope with the volume of use and the wear and tear that this brings is a key issue that impacts upon club development. Facilities at Harrogate High School also do not meet club needs as there are no ancillary facilities available to the club and the playing experience is therefore limited

- Ripon RUFC –The club part owns the existing facilities (owning the land on which the clubhouse and the 1st team pitch is built) but the other two pitches are in other ownership and the club is therefore reliant on the ongoing goodwill for continuing access to these pitches. The club indicates that this situation is no longer sufficient to meet the needs and aspirations of the club as there is no security of tenure and the loss of the pitches not in the club’s ownership would see significant pressure on capacity. While the quality of the facilities is largely acceptable (although equipment is poor), the pitches are believed to be overused and this often leads to the cancellation of both matches and training. Furthermore, there are no match quality floodlights and no training floodlights for the main pitch. The drainage is acceptable, with 2 pitches having pipe and slit drainage (the other pitch is natural)
- Although the quality of pitches is rated as reasonable, the club indicates that a lack of pitches of the right size and access to pitches is a key issue and restricts club development. The reliance of the club on the generosity of others with regards the use of the facilities also restricts the long term vision of the club. As a result, the club wish to relocate to the adjacent football club site where they would hope to expand their ground, erect a covered stand and install match quality floodlights. In addition, the club would like to provide an indoor training gymnasium and a children's play facility
- Knaresborough RUFC; Significant investment has been made into the quality of pitches through money received from S106 contributions, as well as funding from Sport England and the RFU. This money was invested in pitch improvements including levelling, drainage, installation of a fence and the purchase of new equipment and posts. As a result, the pitch quality (particularly the first team pitch) is high. Knaresborough RUFC have recently secured a 99 year lease from Harrogate Borough Council for the use of their facilities and the club indicate that they are satisfied with the pitches that are available and the quality of the facilities although they highlight vandalism and litter as being a significant problem. Some space that is rented is not currently used as a playing pitch, however this space will enable the club to accommodate it’s expansion plans and facilitates training. The quality

of the club house and changing accommodation is poor although a grant has recently been awarded that will see significant improvements to the facility available. There are currently no changing facilities that are suitable for juniors and female teams and this restricts the potential growth of the club.

National Governing Body perspective

Facilities are one of the most important components of a rugby club. They drive the club ethos and spirit and facilitate high quality participation and club development. Appropriate amounts of facilities are essential if clubs are to grow and to develop and attract new members. Facilities are also central to the sustainability of rugby clubs. The RFU National Facilities strategy recognises this, and seeks to enable Clubs, Constituent Bodies, the RFU and the Rugby Football Union for Women (RFUW) and other partners to:

- identify priorities for facility developments to meet the various needs of the sport;
- identify what facilities are required to meet the needs of the Government sports policy and the RFU's Strategic Plan;
- support the prioritisation of investment and funding through a detailed set of developmental criteria, technical requirements, management / operational structures and potential financial viability which will be critical to the provision of quality rugby facilities;
- prioritise future investment to ensure that the right facilities are provided in the right locations and for the right reasons; and
- identify and deliver a minimum standard for all facility provision.

The key facility priorities of the RFU are to:

- assist clubs to become sustainable;
- improve the amount of integrated changing;
- increase the quality and amount of floodlighting for both community use and competition;
- create a safe environment for play; and
- provide central venues for clubs and encourage multi sport venues.

Locally, rugby union is a very popular sport and there have been significant efforts put in to increasing participation by the National Governing Body in partnership with clubs, the Council and key providers. The RFU are working alongside all three clubs in the borough to support their aspirations for improved facilities and to ensure that the sport and continue to grow and develop.

Increasing participation in rugby by teenagers, with a particular focus on retaining players during the transition between junior and senior rugby is a key priority of the RFU and there is also work underway to increase the amount of female participants. Future drives to increase participation will focus around increasing the amount of teams run by clubs in the Borough, building upon the success of the existing club infrastructure. Appropriate facilities will be essential if this is to be possible and there are currently several issues relating to the club bases:

- There is a need for Harrogate RUFC to relocate in order to build a sustainable club base that is of sufficient size and quality to meet with club aspirations
- To ensure ongoing activity at Ripon RUFC there is a need to secure access to appropriate facilities
- Recent improvements to the pitches and the work that will shortly commence on the pavilion will help Knaresborough RUFC to develop and to increase club capacity.

As well as ensuring that clubs have appropriate facilities, it is essential to maximise knowledge and understanding relating to club sustainability and the maintenance of facilities. The RFU Seal of Approval accreditation recognises the effort and achievement of volunteers in reaching the standard required in the development of rugby across the whole club, and to plan for the long-term sustainability of the club. Ripon RUFC have achieved this accreditation for the junior section. Harrogate RUFC had also achieved the award previously and are planning to work towards re-accreditation following the delivery of their plans to relocate. Knaresborough RUFC are also working towards the achievement of the accreditation.

Supply and Demand Modelling

Table 6.3 evaluates the adequacy of existing pitch provision on a peak day. It includes all facilities, whether or not they are available for community use and compares this against the number of teams wishing to play (assuming that each team plays home and away alternatively). As two midi games can be played on an adult pitch, it is assumed that 2 midi teams are equivalent of one adult team. Given the nature of rugby and the wider catchments that pitches serve, calculations have been undertaken at a boroughwide level only.

Table 6.3 – Adequacy of rugby pitches taking into account all pitches

Number of pitches	Number of Teams	Total Number of Matches per week (assume teams play home and away)	Total Number of Matches (Saturday – Senior)	Total Number of Sunday matches (junior and youth)	Total Number of Midi Matches (Sunday morning)	Shortfall / Surplus at Peak Time (Saturday)
34	28	14	5.5	5.5	3	28.5

Table 6.4 therefore suggests that there are enough rugby pitches in Harrogate District to meet peak time demand. This does not however taken into account the availability of the rugby pitches. When giving consideration to different access scenarios it is clear that supply is more closely balanced with demand, specifically;

- when excluding pitches not available for community use (7) the surplus decreases to 21.5 pitches;
- when excluding pitches not secured for community use, supply is very closely balanced with demand, with only 2.5 pitches surplus; and

- when considering only those pitches secured, plus pitches known to be used by clubs (5), provision increases to 7.5 pitches surplus.

Impact of Training on Capacity

All rugby training takes place at the rugby club base and all three clubs do some training on their pitches (although do have some space at the side of the pitches). Grassed areas at the Stray are also used by Harrogate RUFC in a bid to reduce the wear and tear on the pitches at their home ground. Training can be considered to be as follows:

- Harrogate RUFC – training is equivalent to 15 teams
- Ripon RUFC – training is equivalent to 11 teams
- Knaresborough RUFC – training is equivalent to 2 teams.

This means that training generates the equivalent of an additional 14 matches per week (28 team equivalents – teams play against each other in training but train every week). In addition, school pitches are also subject to wear and tear during a typical curriculum programme, particularly for PE lessons and by school teams. The implications of these uses can also be factored in as team equivalents based on the following assumptions:

- Each school with a rugby pitch runs 2 hours outdoor PE per week per year group – equivalent of 5 teams
- Each school with a rugby pitch also has 5 school teams that compete.

These implications represent the worst case scenario and assume that all PE use is focused on the rugby pitches and would generate an additional 140 team equivalents (at each of the 14 sites with rugby pitches). The same assumptions have been applied to the Barracks and Army Foundation College as a means of estimating use at this site. It must be noted that while the teams are likely to play at home every other week, PE use will take place every week and this has been taken into account in calculations.

Demand from school lessons and training does not impact upon the adequacy of provision to meet peak time demand, however it increases the amount of times pitches are used significantly. This is summarised in Table 6.4. Table 6.4 also provides the same summary, taking into account the club based pitches and those that are used as overspill only using the same criteria as set out above.

Table 6.4 – Adequacy of rugby pitches in Harrogate District

Scenario	Number of pitches	Community matches (total)	Use including training team equivalents	Use including PE lessons and training	Matches per week per pitch
All Pitches	34	14	14+ 14 = 28 match equivalents	14+ 14 + 105= 133 match equivalents	3.9
Club based pitches and those used as overspill anyway	13	14	14+ 14 = 28 match equivalents	14+14 +22 = 50 match equivalents	3.8

As is illustrated on the previous page, when taking into account the implications of training patterns and school use of facilities, it is clear that pitch provision is much more well used than initially suggested, with pitches used almost four times per week, which is well above the optimum level of use. It must however be noted that this is likely to present the worst case scenario, as it is assumed that there are high levels of use of club pitches outside of club competitive fixtures.

Access and Capacity

The club based nature of rugby however means that clubs wish to focus their activity at the club base as far as possible. Adding to this, both Ripon RUFC and Harrogate RUFC indicate that the facilities they use as overspill grounds do not meet club needs as they lack ancillary and medical facilities.

There are however issues with the leases for pitches at both Harrogate RUFC and Ripon RUFC (Harrogate lease runs out imminently and Ripon RUFC have a lease for only one pitch. If these five pitches were lost, based on pitches with full community access and pitches that are currently used, there would not be enough pitches to satisfy demand on peak day. When considering the amount of pitches in unsecured use, there would be sufficient pitches, but the lack of formal agreements means that use of these sites can be withdrawn at any time.

The Impact of Pitch Quality and Capacity

Both site visits and consultation confirm that the overall quality of pitches at all three club based sites is average to good, although the overuse of facilities is causing deterioration in pitch quality over the season. None of the pitches achieve scores of below 54% (or ratings of below average) and all are therefore considered capable of sustaining average amounts of play.

Site Specific Supply and Demand

The nature of rugby therefore means that the adequacy of provision at the club base is the overarching priority. Satellite facilities at school sites, while offering a useful short-term solution do not fit into the club ethos and can inhibit club development if they become permanent features. Table 6.5 therefore considers the adequacy of supply to meet demand at each of the club bases. It can be seen that while the overall spread of rugby across the week generates theoretical surpluses of provision, when looking at the club bases, the number of games played per week is significantly above the recommended levels and the school facilities provide an important outlet. Moving forward, when taking into account club development plans, which seek to increase the number of players, the existing pitch provision will become even more strained.

Table 6.5 – Club Based Issues - Rugby

Club	Total Demand	Total Supply at club site (Pitches)	Use Per week	Adequacy of Provision
Harrogate RUFC	6 adult teams, 2 youth, 4 junior, 6.midi	3	15 team equivalents (7.5 matches per week). Training 7.5 matches per week. Pitch used five times per week if excluding pitch at Harrogate High School. Including this pitch, use is still over 3.5 matches per week	Even with use of Harrogate High school provision is strained. Club raises issues with overuse there are also concerns with quality of changing facilities. The lease on the club pitches ends imminently and the club are therefore looking to relocate to a ground that provides them with more facilities, including greater training opportunities and floodlights.
Ripon RUFC	3 adult teams, 1 youth, 4 junior, 6.midi	3	11 team equivalents – 5.5 matches per week. Training also equivalent to 5.5 matches per week. pitches used almost 4 times per week including training.	Pitch use high, little room for growth. The club has a lease for one pitch out of three and the remainder are accessed on goodwill, which limits the amount of funding etc that is achievable. Club has identified need for premises offering them security of tenure to grow club.
Knaresborough RUFC	2 adult teams	2	2 training team equivalents. Pitch use optimum.	Sufficient. Club has room for expansion in terms of the pitches provided, however the changing rooms currently limit the type of rugby that can be played as they are not suitable for ladies / youth.

Latent Demand

Latent demand can be identified from a variety of sources, including Team Generation Rates (TGRs). TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team, thus enabling analysis of participation. Table 6.6 summarises TGRs for rugby across Harrogate District.

Table 6.6 – TGRs across Harrogate District

Type of Rugby	TGR 2008	TGR 2012	National Average
Midi Rugby	1:1,100	1:721	1:2639
Junior Male Rugby	1:646	1:417	1:2105
Junior Female Rugby	N/A	N/A	1:19,524
Senior Male Rugby	1:4690	1:2496	1:7032
Senior Female Rugby	N/A	1:25,878	1:43770

Table 6.6 indicates that participation has remained relatively consistent between 2008 and 2012. Analysis of the Market Segmentation and Active People statistics supports this, indicating that there is some latent demand in the district and therefore an opportunity to further increase the amount of rugby played.

Meeting Future Demand

By applying TGRs to population projections for 2024 we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated and gain an understanding of the adequacy of current pitch provision to meet future demand. As highlighted previously, while there will be population growth, the trend towards an ageing population means that the population falling within the age bands most likely to play rugby will remain relatively stable. As a consequence, the application of team generation rates suggests that, changes to the population profile are likely to have limited impact on the number of teams in the district, with an increase of just one junior team.

The RFU measures participation increases through the affiliation process, looking at the number of participants, number of matches etc. They target increases in adult participation, as junior participants are more easily generated. The conversion of junior participants to adults (thus avoiding the drop off) is also a key target. Clubs indicate that the targets that they are working towards currently are:

- **Harrogate RUFC:** Harrogate RUFC are looking to increase the number of teams by running an additional U19 colts tea as well as an adult 3XV for both Harrogate RUFC and Harrogate Pythons RUFC. They state however that a shortage of good quality senior and junior grass pitches and changing facilities are currently inhibiting the growth of the club. The club are also suffering from issues with costs of hiring facilities, a lack of internal funding and a lack of external funding. Issues with a shortage of suitable indoor training facilities as well as restrictions on development were also identified

To address the issues identified, Harrogate RUFC are currently finalising plans to relocate to Rudding Lane, a site on the south side of Harrogate. The intention is to provide a new facility that will accommodate all of the club's playing activity and provide appropriate ancillary facilities. To link with the lease on the existing facilities, the club is working to achieve planning permission on the new site by January 2013 and they hope that the proposals will be financed by the sale of the existing site for residential development. The club is currently seeking to ensure that the new facilities are up and running for the start of the 2014 to 2015 season. Current plans for the new facility include 3 senior rugby pitches, two junior rugby pitches and a tag pitch as well as a separate training pitch

Ripon RUFC – Ripon RUFC are keen to run additional teams (one adult and one junior team over the next two years). In addition to the facility issues that have already been identified, the club highlight a shortage of all weather training facilities as well as a lack of indoor training facilities. As highlighted earlier in this section, Ripon RFC are keen to secure tenure at a pitch site to ensure the longevity of the club

- **Knaresborough RUFC** – Although Knaresborough RUFC do not currently operate a junior section, it is hoped that the recent improvements to pitch quality, as well as the planned development of the club house will facilitate the creation of a junior and midi rugby section.

All of these developments would place additional pressures on the pitches. Assuming that this is achieved, a minimum of 5 additional teams would be created. If the proposals for development

do not go ahead (and tenure is lost on key pitch sites) there will be particular pressures on rugby pitches in the district.

Summary and Key Issues

Key issues to address – Rugby Union

- Modelling and consultation reveal that when taking into account all rugby pitches there are sufficient pitches to meet peak time demand, although not all are currently available for community use. Furthermore, the nature of rugby, being a club based sport, means that satellite facilities inhibit the culture of club development. This ethos means that facilities play a big part in the success of the rugby club
- Although there are only three rugby clubs in the district, foundations for rugby are strong and all three clubs have aspirations to increase participation with the potential for a minimum of five teams over the next couple of years. Clubs are already thought to be restricting the number of juniors that are taken into the club due to a lack of facilities and a lack of appropriate facilities. Several club specific issues have emerged, specifically:
 - Harrogate RUFC are at capacity on their existing site, and even with the use of Harrogate High School are struggling to accommodate all of their teams. The club have relocation plans which would see the provision of additional pitches as well as a new clubhouse;
 - Ripon RUFC is also nearing capacity however the club do not have security of tenure on their current pitches and the future of the club is therefore uncertain. The club has aspirations to secure new provision; and
 - Knaresborough RUFC have recently received funding to improve the quality of their pitches however the quality of ancillary facilities remains unsuitable and the facilities mean that junior and female play cannot currently be accommodated.

Rugby League

Supply

There are no dedicated rugby league pitches within Harrogate Borough at the current time. The only existing facility is at Hay - A – Park, Knaresborough Rugby Club and is a rugby union pitch during the winter months.

Demand

The only rugby league team based within Harrogate Borough is Knaresborough Rugby League 1st XV. This team is based at Knaresborough Rugby Union Club and is primarily made up of rugby union players who wish to play rugby league during the summer months. The team participates in the Merit League and also plays friendlies. They play circa 10 competitive fixtures per season.

King James Secondary school is the only school currently regularly participating in rugby league in the borough. Recent attempts to introduce touch rugby at Harrogate High School were not successful.

A National Governing Body Perspective – the RFL

Yorkshire is an area of high participation for rugby league and participation is high particularly in Leeds, Hull and Wakefield. Levels of activity in Harrogate are however much lower and the area has limited activity currently. There has also been limited development work undertaken in the district. It is thought that existing participants travel to Wetherby to play for the Wetherby Bulldogs (and many have interests in the game due to participation at their school, outside of Harrogate Borough).

The RFL are currently working on their Whole Sport Plan, which sets out the strategy for delivery of rugby league over the period 2013 to 2017. Elements of this plan will focus on the expansion of rugby league into new areas and for the Yorkshire Amateur Rugby League Board, the development of rugby league into North Yorkshire, including Harrogate, will become a priority. A new club has recently been established in North Leeds, at Moortown, as the first stage of this expansion. It is likely that over the period of the Whole Sport Plan, and therefore over this strategy period, that attempts will be made to increase participation in rugby league across Harrogate District. This is likely to focus upon the introduction of rugby league into schools and potentially the creation of a club based at a school site. Longer term, facility requirements for rugby league may therefore arise.

Summary and Key Issues

Key issues to address – Rugby League

There is limited participation in rugby league in Harrogate Borough. Currently however there are aspirations to increase this over the course of this strategy period. While efforts are likely to focus upon the creation of a club at a school site, there will be a need to monitor facility requirements over the strategy period.

7. Hockey

07

This section evaluates the adequacy of facilities for hockey and considers:

- The supply of pitches and demand for these pitches
- The adequacy of Artificial Grass Pitches in the district for Hockey
- Summary and Issues to Address

Pitch Supply

Hockey is almost exclusively played on Artificial Grass Pitches and grass pitches are largely obsolete for competitive forms of the game. Guidance on AGPs (Sport England 2010) indicates the following surfaces to be suitable for hockey:

- Water Based (suitable for high level hockey)
- Sand Filled (preferred surface for hockey)
- Sand Dressed (acceptable surface for hockey)
- Short Pile 3g (acceptable surface for hockey).

Table 7.1 summarises the distribution of full sized AGPs across Harrogate Borough. It demonstrates that of the nine AGPs, all but two fit the criteria for hockey. Facilities at Queen Ethelburga's College and Rossett Sports Centre are 3g pitches, meaning that they are unsuitable for hockey use.

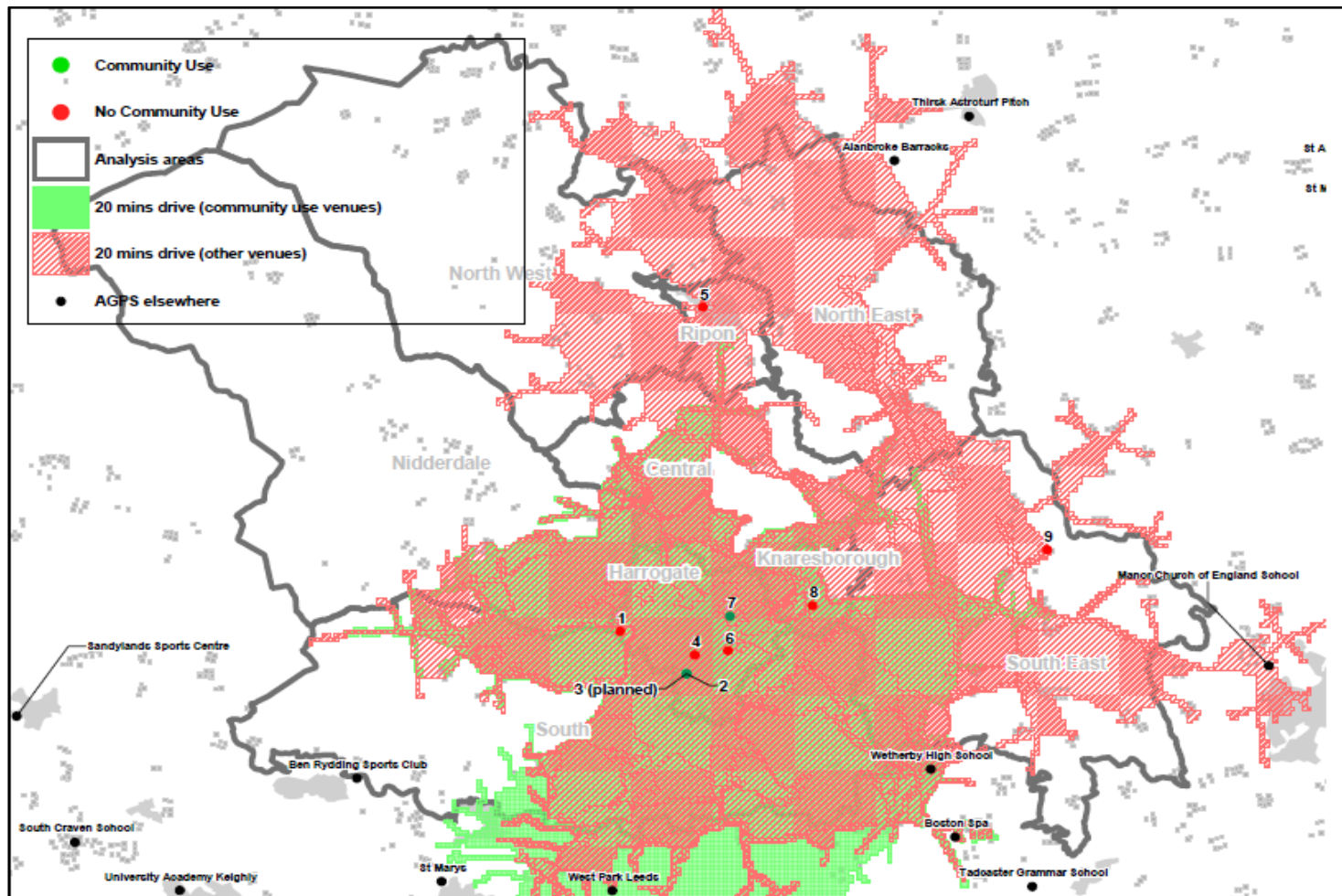
Four of the facilities (at King James School, Harrogate Grammar School, Ripon Grammar School and St Aidans Church of England School) are not floodlit. This can restrict the use of facilities in the evening. It must be noted however that despite there being 9 pitches in the district, there is relatively limited access to this facility stock, with only three pitches fully accessible for community use.

In addition to the facilities included within Table 7.1, a pitch at Ashville College Sports and Fitness Academy is currently under construction and is due to open in September 2012. The distribution of the AGPs is illustrated on Map 7.1. This map also demonstrates the approximate catchment area that these sites serve.

Table 7.1 – AGPs in Harrogate District

Location	Area	Surface	Ownership	Management	Usage Policy	Year Built
Army Foundation College	Harrogate	Sand Based (2 pitches)	MOD	MOD	Private Use	-
Harrogate High School (Harrogate Hockey Club)	Harrogate	Sand based	Community school	Local Authority (in house)	Sports Club / Community Association	1999 (refurbished 2009)
King James School	Knaresborough	Sand Based	Community school	School/ College/ University (in house)	Private Use	2006
Ripon Grammar School	Ripon	Sand Based	Community school	Local Authority (in house)	Private Use	2011
St Aidans Church of England High School	Harrogate	Sand Based	Voluntary Aided School	School/ College/ University (in house)	Private Use	2001
Queen Ethelburga's College	North East	3g	Independent School	School/ College/ University (in house)	Private use	2011
Rossett Sports Centre	Harrogate	3g pitch	Community school	Pay and Play	Local Authority (in house)	1994 (refurbished 2010)
Harrogate Grammar School	Harrogate	Sand Based	Academy	School / College /University	Sports Club / Community Association	2012

Map 7.1 – Distribution of AGPs in Harrogate District



Quality

The quality of facilities in the borough is relatively good with most facilities being built recently. Only the pitch at St Aidans Church of England High School is more than five years old. This pitch is likely to require a refurbishment shortly as the carpet usually lasts circa 10 years.

Demand

Active People and Market Segmentation Analysis

National Hockey participation has grown sharply over the last 6 months (30,000 people increase). This is due almost entirely to male participants, specifically aged 16-34. 16 year old participation once a month is around 10,000 down compared to figures in April 2009. The national average for once a week participation is 0.25%. The Active People analysis of the percentage of adults who play hockey is set out in Map 7.2 and Chart 7.1

Map 7.2 - Percentage and location of the Harrogate District adult population who play hockey

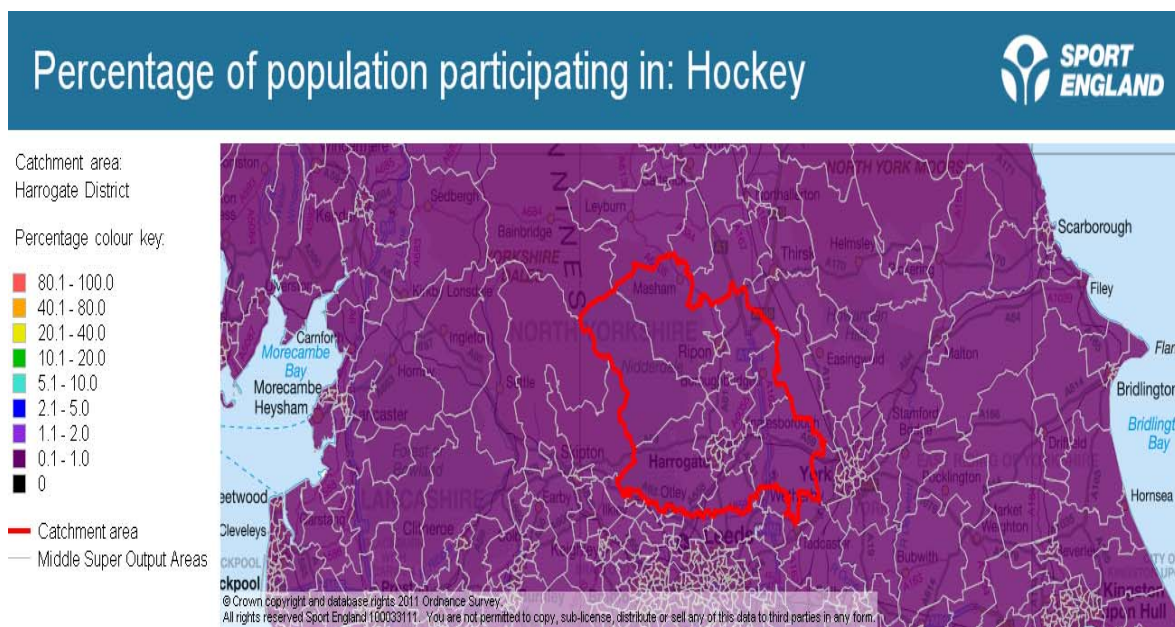
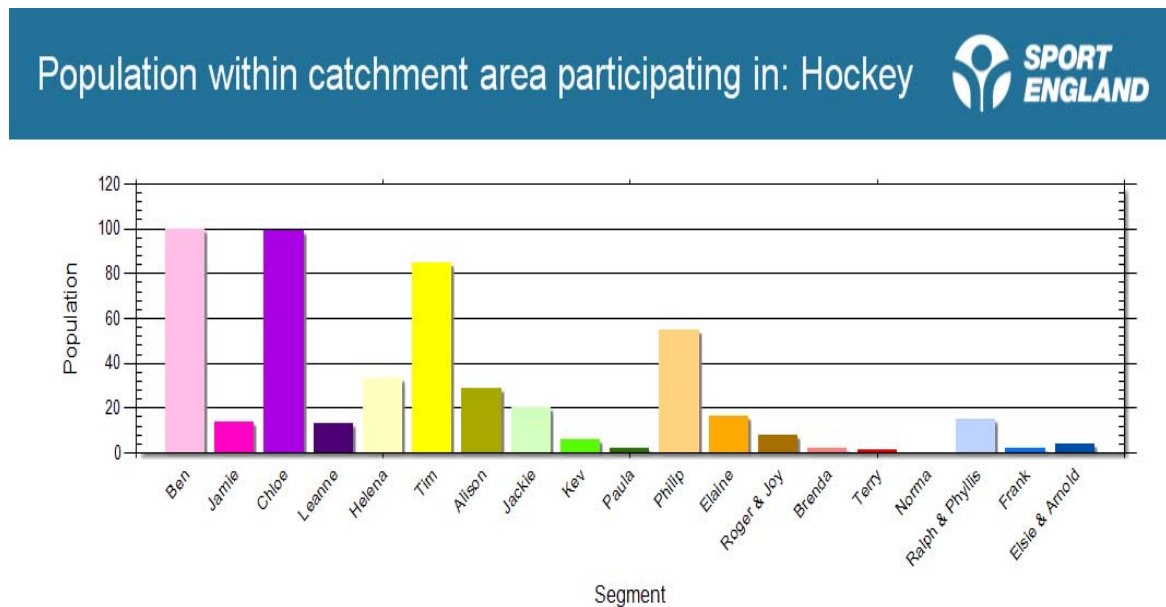


Chart 7.1 - Profile of the market segments who participate in hockey in Harrogate District



The key findings from both the map and the bar chart are that:

- the population of Harrogate playing Hockey is spatially uniform, with 0.1-1.0% participating. This level of participation is lower than for many of the other sports. Participation in Harrogate (at 0.31%) is however higher than the national averages; and
- the profile of hockey players is slightly varying than for many other outdoor sports. While the top four market segments include Ben, Tim and Philip, who are also the key participants in the majority of other sports, for the first time participation in a female segment is also high (Chloe). These 4 groups make up around 340 of 504 Hockey players in Harrogate. There are more Chloes' playing than Tims or Philips. Chloe is an active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. 28% of this group take part in 'keep fit and gym' compared to 17% of all adults; 24% take part in swimming compared to 14% of all adults; and 14% take part in athletics or running. She may also take part in horse riding, tennis, badminton, football, netball and hockey.

The percentage of adults who would **like to** play hockey is set out in Map 7.3 and Chart 7.2. The key findings from both the map and the bar chart are that:

- uniformly across the district, between 1.1 – 2% of the adult population would like to participate in hockey; and
- there is a more even spread across the market segments who would like to play hockey. There are no significant dominating segments, with Chloe representing the highest amount, with 45 people. There are 5 other groups with 20+ people and in total of 271 people would like to play hockey. Significantly, several of these are female groups which has not been the case for other sports.

Map 7.3 - Percentage and location of the adult population who would like to play

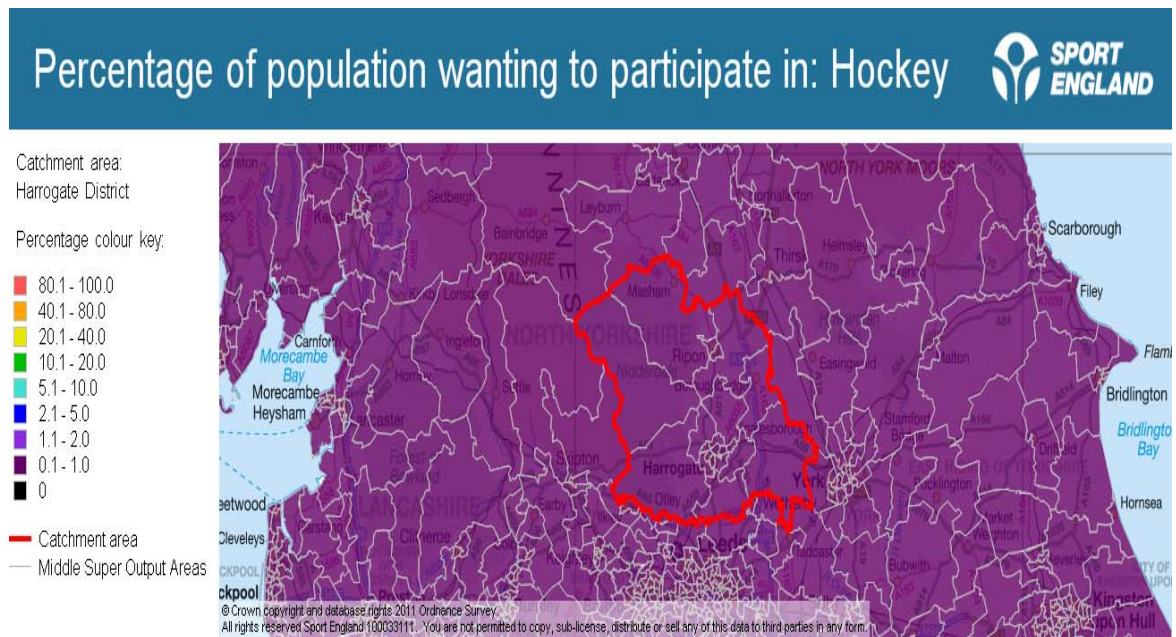
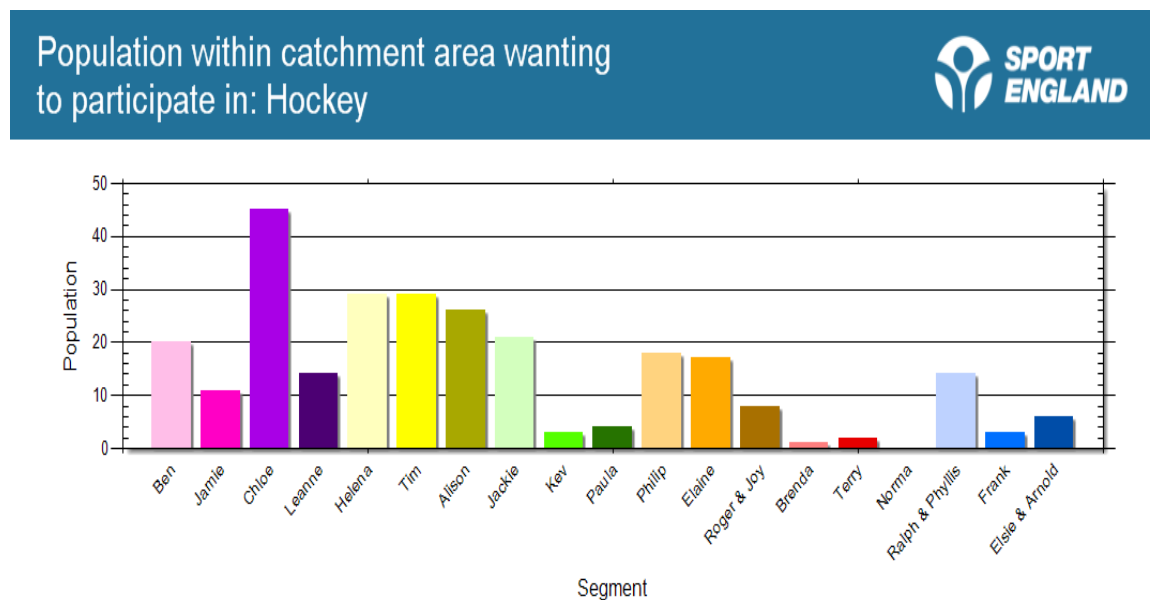


Chart 7.2: Profile of the market segments who would like to participate in hockey



Harrogate Hockey Club

Harrogate Hockey Club is the only club within the District Council boundaries. It is one of the largest clubs in Yorkshire and is very proactive. The club has achieved the Club Mark

award and operates 5 senior male and 5 female teams and also has a thriving junior section, which runs U10, U12, U14 and U16 teams for both boys and girls. The first teams play at a particularly high standard, with the Ladies first team playing in the North Premier League and the men's team in the North East league. The remainder play in the Yorkshire Hockey leagues and games are played on Saturday and Sundays. All junior games take place on Sunday mornings. The number of teams run is consistent with 2008, when there were 10 senior teams and 8 junior teams although there has been an increase in the number of people involved in the junior section.

The club operates from their own facility at Harrogate High School and have been located at this site since 1999. Both the pitch and pavilion are owned and managed by the club and the pitch is fully floodlit. The pitch was financed by a National Lottery grant for the club and is available for public hire outside of hockey training and match times. While all adult matches take place at Harrogate Hockey Club, junior teams are spread across the borough, with the club having to use various venues to accommodate matches, all of which take place on a Sunday morning. The club uses the facility for 8 hours a week training and a further 9 hours per week match play.

Club Consultation

Harrogate Hockey Club indicate that their playing numbers have increased over the last few years and attribute this to the ongoing growth of the junior section. The majority of members of the club live relatively local to the club base, with only 10% estimated to travel more than 5 miles. 20% of club members are thought to live within 1 mile of Harrogate High School, a further 35% between 1 and 3 miles and 35% between 3 and 5 miles.

The club are satisfied with the quality of their facilities overall, and consider the site to be good with the exception of the parking, which is identified as being poor. The quality of facilities is not considered to inhibit hockey development.

Longer term, the club have aspirations to increase both the number of adult and junior hockey teams and have already engaged in discussions with England Hockey about the requirement for facilities to accommodate these aspirations. The current stock of facilities in the borough would require any new teams that are established to be accommodated at venues across Yorkshire, rather than at the existing club base at Harrogate High School.

National Governing Body Perspective

Facilities are a key issue for England Hockey (EH) and they are currently developing a national facility strategy. They highlight the importance of access to appropriate facilities if the sport of hockey is to grow.

EH are currently seeking to increase participation by an additional 10,000 adult players and 20,000 junior players nationwide by 2013. This equates to one or two teams per club. It is anticipated that this will largely be met through the growth in existing hockey bases rather than the establishment of new clubs.

As well as growing participation at club level, there are two other initiatives that might impact upon the future demand for hockey, specifically:

- Back to Hockey: A scheme providing informal sessions to encourage women to take up hockey. Following the informal sessions, participants are invited to join the club; and
- Rush Hockey: This initiative is currently being piloted. It is a small sided form of hockey (4 or 5 players) (that can take place on any surface. It is being tested with commercial partners and is likely to roll out following this. It is not anticipated that this new form of the game will immediately generate additional club based players, but will encourage people who are not currently playing hockey to play. It requires a different type of facility and there is potential for this type of hockey to be run from a club base as a commercial venture, or from leisure centres.

Specific to hockey in Harrogate District, England Hockey believe that facilities are a key issue and the hockey club are at capacity, particularly in the junior section. England Hockey feel that there is scope to expand the club (juniors in particular) but this potential is inhibited by the shortage of facilities at the site. England Hockey would therefore support the provision of a second pitch on the Harrogate High site and have a belief that this would boost participation in both junior and adult hockey. They note that this is included within the club development plan and highlight that it is important that any new pitch is located at the same site in order to avoid club fragmentation and to support club development. In addition to enabling an expansion of the number of competitive teams that can be run at the club, England Hockey indicate that an additional pitch at the site would enable the club to run additional hockey programmes such as Back to Hockey and Rush Hockey, which is not currently possible due to the lack of availability of the pitch.

The key strategic objective for hockey in Yorkshire is to promote the playing of hockey in schools and to link those schools with the hockey club. The amount of hockey played during curriculum time in the borough is relatively good, however opportunities to expand this and to create further links with the club are currently being hampered by the lack of space at Harrogate High School.

Supply and Demand Modelling

FPM Analysis for AGPs

The Sport England Facility Planning Model is a *theoretical tool* for modelling the adequacy of existing AGP provision. This national assessment is undertaken annually by Sport England and for every local authority area in England.

This section summarises the findings of the Sport England assessment in 2012 (prepared specifically by Sport England to inform this outdoor sports strategy). Parameters are based on the rates and frequency of sports participation drawn from national research on football and hockey undertaken by Sport England and sportsotland. Findings on rate, frequency of participation and catchment areas for AGPs are then applied to the population.

The Facility Planning Model includes only facilities that are full sized (although both floodlit and none floodlit pitches are taken into account). It excludes pitches that are not deemed to be available to the public. For Harrogate Borough specifically, the following pitches have been excluded;

- Army Foundation College (2 pitches)
- Ashville College (currently planned to open later in 2012)
- King James College
- Queen Ethelburga's College
- Ripon Grammar School
- St Aidan's Church of England School.

The recently constructed pitch at Harrogate Grammar School is also excluded from this assessment as it was not in use when the data was collected by Sport England. The full FPM report prepared by Sport England is provided as an appendix to this strategy. The points emerging from the analysis are however as follows:

Supply

There are two AGPs on two sites that are included within the modeling – Harrogate High School and Rossett Sports Centre. These two AGPs currently have capacity of 1130 visits per week in the peak period. This is equivalent to 1.5 pitches operating at 100% of capacity for all of the peak period hours

In terms of level of provision Harrogate residents have 0.13 AGP's per 10,000 population, which is notably less than the regional level of provision (0.27 AGP's per 10,000) and the national level of provision (0.34 AGP's per 10,000)

Looking further afield, the ONS considers Harrogate to be similar to Salisbury, Chester, Macclesfield and North Somerset. The pitches per 10,000 level of provision in these Local Authorities is;

- Salisbury 0.3
- Chester 0.6
- Macclesfield 0.7
- North Somerset 0.6

Harrogate's level of AGP provision per capita is therefore (without exception) some way below its 'near neighbour' authorities.

Demand

The model uses known user rates by population profiles. Based upon this, Harrogate's population would be expected to generate demand for 3357 visits per week in the peak period.

Given known parameters as to how many peak period visits AGPs can accommodate per week, it would take 4.5 AGPs (operating flat out) to meet this demand. This figure assumes

that everyone within Harrogate has perfect mobility (ie they are able to travel to use an AGP wherever it is located within the District).

In reality however people make decisions as to whether use facilities based (in part) on whether they can get to them. A major determinant in mobility is whether an individual has access to a car or whether they need to walk / use public transport to access a facility. 11.4% of Harrogate's population does not have access to a car (compared to the Yorkshire Region figure of 22.6%, and the national figure of 19.5%). Harrogate's residents therefore have a higher degree of mobility and therefore have a greater (than average) ability to reach facilities.

Supply and Demand Balance

The 2 AGPs in Harrogate currently operate to the level of 1.5 pitches operating at full capacity during the peak period. Harrogate residents create a demand for AGP use which is equivalent to 4.5 pitches operating at full capacity in the peak period

In simplistic terms therefore Harrogate has a shortfall of 3 AGPs. This however does not take account of the location, nature and quality of facilities in relation to demand; how accessible facilities are to the resident population (by car and on foot); nor does it take account of facilities in adjoining boroughs. These issues are considered below.

- ***Satisfied demand*** - looks at the interaction between facility location, population location and ability / propensity to travel. Where there is an AGP within travelling distance, which has slots available then demand is said to be met. The model reveals that;
 - 56% of demand for AGP use generated by Harrogate residents is satisfied by supply. This is notably lower than the regional (72%) and national (80%) averages for satisfied demand;
 - Harrogate residents had to travel further (that is by car rather than on foot or public transport) to reach provision than the national and regional average; and
 - a significant proportion (41%) of Harrogate resident's satisfied demand is met by provision outside of the District.
- ***Unmet Demand*** - There are 1479 potential AGP visits per week in the peak period that go unmet. This equates to 44% of all demand.
 - Harrogate contributes 4% to Yorkshire's overall level of unmet demand. By comparison the District has 3% of the Region's population
 - It would take 2 AGPs to meet this level of unmet demand (if it were all located in one place). This unmet demand occurs primarily because of lack of capacity (71%), but also because there is no facility within reasonable distance (despite the population's mobility)

- As such unmet demand shows up both in those main urban areas already served by AGPs (Harrogate and Knaresborough), as well as locations that have no provision such as Ripon.
- Unmet demand (at the equivalent to 1.5 AGPs) is greatest in respect of football (3g) AGPs.
- **Use of Facilities:** All of the capacity (1130 visits per week in the peak period) that Harrogate's 2 AGPs offer is used at present. That is not to say the AGPs could not offer more capacity. There are 34 peak period hours in the week. The AGP at Harrogate High School only offers 15.5 hrs in the peak period. In other words it could offer 54% greater capacity.
 - The split of the way customers travel to use the AGPs in Harrogate shows a greater reliance on road (rather than walking). This means they have to travel further (than Yorkshire Region and National averages) to reach facilities
 - The location of Harrogate's AGPs and scarcity of supply relative to demand means that the AGPs capacity is taken up almost exclusively by demand from within the District (98.3%). This self-containment is the highest of all Yorkshire authorities and only two Local Authorities with unique geography's—Isle of Wight, and the peninsular location of Barrow—have higher levels of self-contained utilised capacity
 - By contrast over 40% of demand for use of AGPs generated by Harrogate residents is satisfied by facilities outside of the District.
- **Relative Share:** this shows which parts of the borough have a better or worse share of AP provision. Even though Harrogate residents have higher than average level of personal mobility, the low level of provision with the District mean that residents a relative share of AGP provision that is 25% lower than the national average
 - The spatial patterns to Relative Share across Harrogate confirm the reliance on accessing facilities that lie in neighbouring authorities.
 - As such parts of the District adjoining Leeds, Bradford, York, Hambleton and Selby (and therefore able to access AGP provision in those areas) display a better than average Relative Share.
 - Across the remainder of Harrogate District (and even within Harrogate town itself where the facilities are located) Relative Share is below average.
 - Relative Share worsens from south east to North West across Harrogate, with share being extremely poor in the remote rural north west of the District.

Appendix C contains the full details arising from the application of the FPM.

Towards a Level Playing Field Calculations

Towards a Level Playing Field requires the comparison of the number of teams wishing to play at peak time, with the availability of pitches. Hockey operates more flexibly than most sports, with fixtures typically played over the course of a day with push back times to suit pitch availability. Added to this, the nature of synthetic pitches means that extensive use of the pitch does not have the same impact as it would on grass.

Table 7.3 summarises the current situation, considering scenarios both when using only the club base, and also when using the two pitches that are currently accessible to the public and suitable for hockey (Harrogate High School and Harrogate Grammar School).

Table 7.3 – Towards a Level Playing Field Calculations - Hockey

Calculation	Club Base Only	All appropriate accessible pitches in Harrogate District
Number of AGPS	1	2
Capacity of pitches on peak day (assumes 3 matches per pitch)	4	8
Main Peak Day	Saturday	Saturday
Peak Demand for Teams (assumes all senior play on Saturday)	10	10
Home matches per week	0.5 per team	0.5 per team
Peak Games per week	5	5
Supply / Demand at Peak Time	-1 pitch	Pitch supply sufficient

On the basis that each pitch can take 4 matches per day, overall within the district there are sufficient pitches to meet demand from the club. When taking into account just the facility at the club base however, it is clear that one pitch is insufficient to accommodate all of the needs of the club if all teams wish to play on a Saturday. Currently, senior play also takes place on a Sunday in order to ensure that all demand can be met. To accommodate this, juniors are forced to travel to alternative venues to play, meaning that there is little scope to increase the amount of teams.

England Hockey have identified the need for an additional facility at the club to meet current demand and to enable further development of the club and the junior section in particular. They indicate that even with the other facilities in the district, it is not possible to enter any further teams in the league without new facilities. The location of the sand based facility at Harrogate Grammar School does however provide the opportunity to introduce additional teams to the club and to still play within Harrogate (assuming this facility could be let by the club at the required times).

Latent Demand and Team Generation Rates

It is difficult to estimate precise levels of latent demand because of the sub regional nature of hockey. It is clear however that there is a thriving club within Harrogate District, and there are also other high quality clubs within the vicinity of residents including City of York (who play at four venues in York), Selby Hockey Club and several clubs in Leeds. Furthermore, Sport England Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data suggests that latent demand is low, with less than 300 people in the district wishing to play hockey that do not already do so.

The Team Generation Rates set out in Table 7.4 enable comparison with 2008. They demonstrate that participation in hockey in Harrogate District has demonstrated some growth but has remained relatively stable.

Table 7.4 – TGRs for Hockey

Age Group	Harrogate BC 2008	Harrogate BC 2012	National averages
Senior Male	1:4905	1:5377	1:7944
Senior Female	1:7465	1:5575	1:8943
Junior Male	1:1241	1:876	1:4304
Junior Female	1:1187	1:908	1:5299

Meeting Future Demand

TGRs can be used to provide an indication of the likely impact of participation growth on demand for hockey. In Harrogate District, while there will be population growth, the trend of an ageing population means that the population falling within the age bands most likely to play hockey will remain relatively stable and as a consequence participation is also likely to remain stable.

EH however as referenced earlier in the section has *aspirational* targets to increase participation at a rate equating to 1 –2 teams per club. Harrogate Hockey Club is also seeking to increase the number of participants and the amount of both junior and senior teams that the club is running both short term and long term.

Summary and Key Issues

Key issues to address – Hockey

- Analysis of the current stock of AGPs demonstrates that there are eight facilities that could accommodate hockey, however only two of these are accessible to the general public
- The Sport England Facility Planning Model indicates that there are shortages of Artificial Grass Pitches equivalent to up to three pitches (although one pitch is excluded from consideration as it has only recently been built). This model takes into account only those facilities that are available to the local community. It suggests there is greater unmet demand for 3g AGPs (that are suitable for

football) than sand based AGPs (that are used for hockey). It is clear therefore that while there are sufficient pitches in the district in theory, the lack of access to these facilities means that demand is not being met

- When taking into account all pitches in the district that are accessible for hockey, using both the FPM and Towards a Level Playing Field calculations which consider the actual demand for hockey in the district at peak time, there are sufficient pitches to accommodate the needs of Harrogate Hockey Club. More local analysis indicates the club base is becoming stretched and junior teams travel to use other facilities to ensure that fixtures can be fulfilled. England Hockey indicate that a lack of suitable facilities is inhibiting further growth of the club and development of the club site and they would like to see a second AGP provided on the Harrogate High School Site.
-

8. Tennis

08

This section evaluates the adequacy of facilities for tennis and considers:

- The supply of courts and demand for these courts
- The adequacy of courts in the district for Tennis
- Summary and Issues to Address

Supply

Courts

124 tennis courts are available located on 35 sites across the district. Of these, 88 courts are available for public / club use. The remainder are located at either private sites, or are used only by schools.

Table 8.1 provides a breakdown of the available provision by area of the district.

Table 8.1 – Tennis Courts

Area	Community Use Sites		Available Sites	
	Total Sites	Total Courts	Sites available for community use (includes club sites)	Courts available for community use (includes club sites)
Central Harrogate	3	5	3	5
Harrogate Town	13	62	10	49
Knaresborough	2	10	2	10
Nidderdale	4	9	3	7
North East Harrogate District	2	6	1	3
North West Harrogate District	3	7	3	7
Ripon	5	20	3	12
South East Harrogate	1	2	1	2
South West Harrogate	2	3	2	3
TOTAL	35	124	28	98

It is clear that, the majority of tennis courts (just over 75%) are open to the community through either pay and play access or club membership. Most courts are located at club sites and there are more limited public facilities providing more casual opportunities to participate in tennis. The Nidderdale, Harrogate Town, North East Harrogate and Ripon areas however have facilities that are not currently accessible outside of school / private use (or are not formally secured for use). These facilities are Army Foundation College, Claro Barracks, Ashville College Sports Centre, Harrogate High School, Belmont Grosvenor School, Ripon Grammar School, Harrogate Grammar School and Boroughbridge High School.

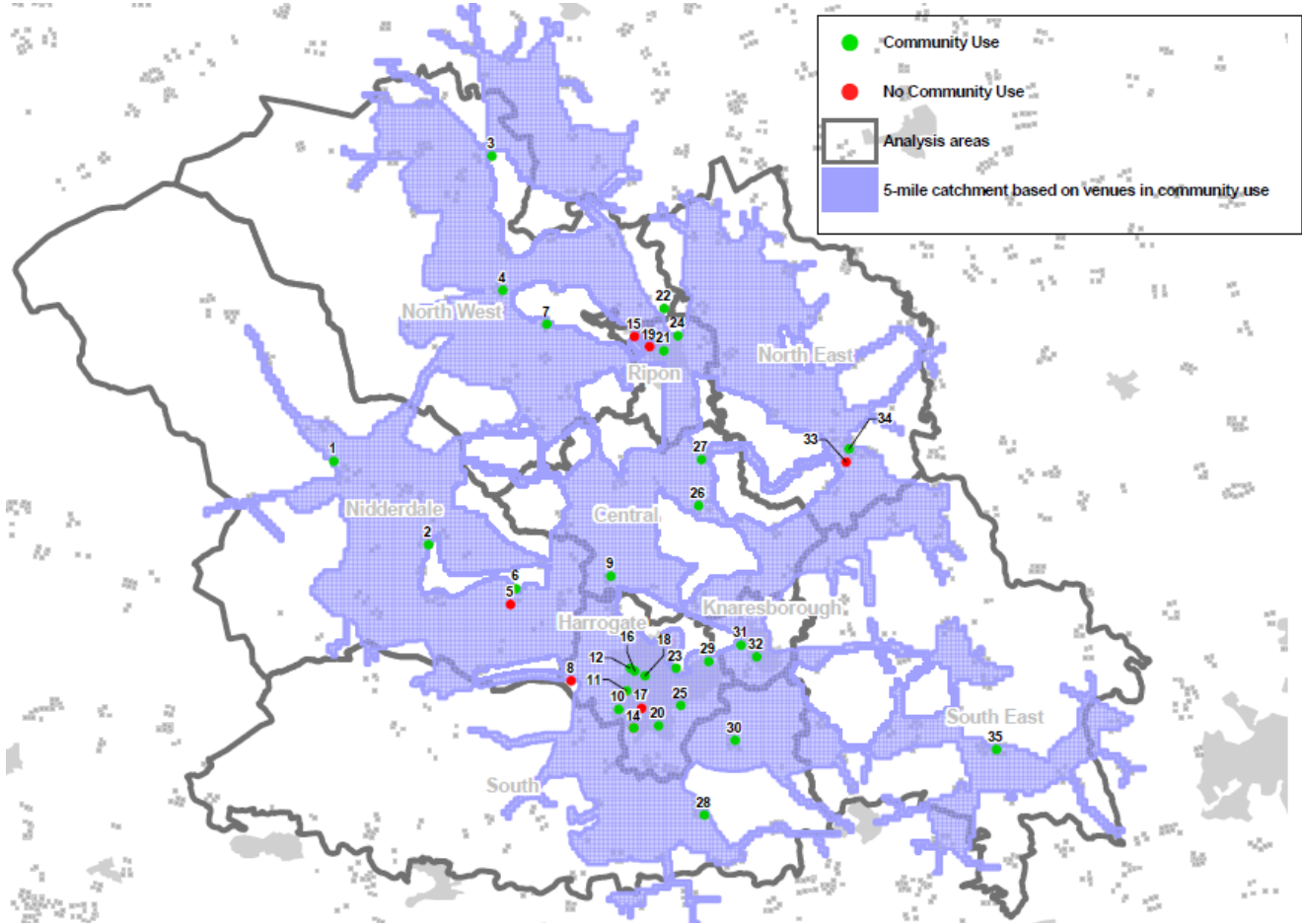
Map 8.1 illustrates the distribution of tennis courts.

Consultation with tennis clubs reveals that:

- 25% of club members travel one mile or less to their tennis club
- 52% of club members travel between two and five miles
- 23% of members travel further than five miles.

Given that 75% of people playing tennis in clubs regularly travel for five miles or less, Map 8.1 shows a five-mile catchment from each site.

Map 8.1 – Distribution of Tennis Courts in Harrogate District



Map 8.1 demonstrates that although there are tennis courts in all areas of the district, they are generally clustered around the larger areas of population. There are gaps in access in all of the more rural parts of the district, including in the South, South East, North West, North East and in Nidderdale.

Demand

Participation

The percentage of adults who play tennis is represented in map and bar chart form and set out in Map 8.2 and Chart 8.1.

Map 8.2 - Percentage and location of the Harrogate District adult population who play tennis

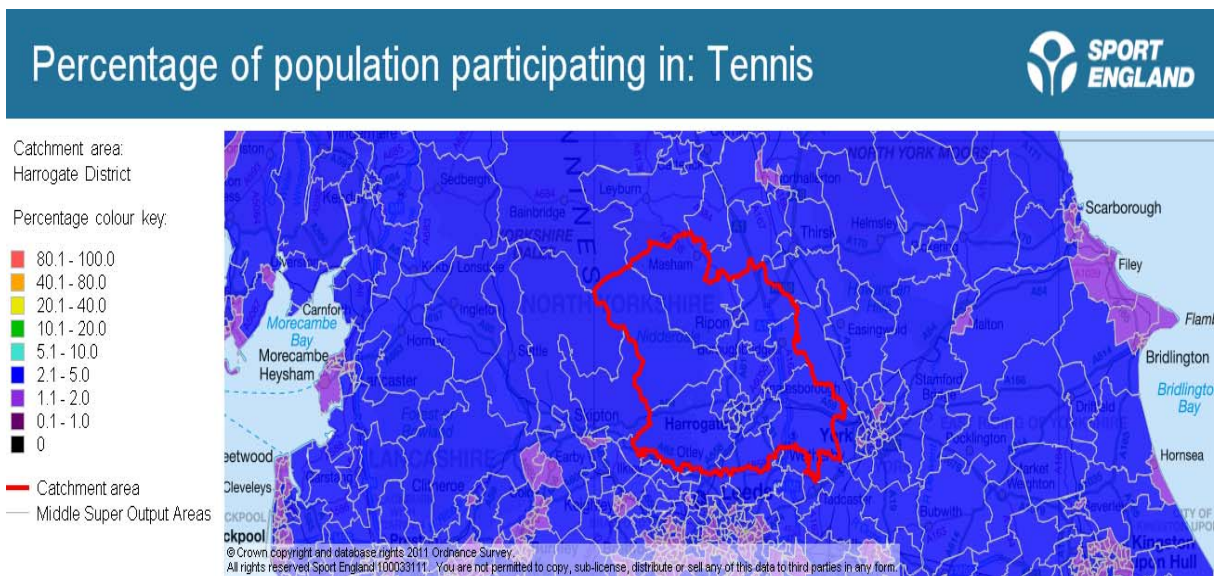
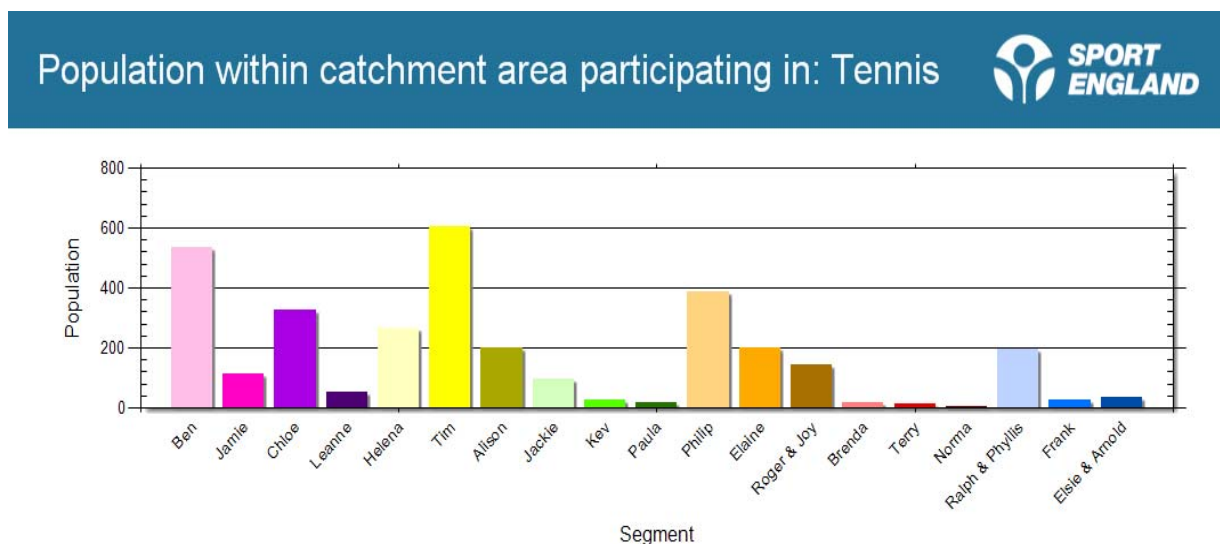


Chart 8.1 - Profile of the market segments who participate in tennis in Harrogate District



The key findings from both the map and the bar chart are that:

- according to Active Places, tennis participation is at a higher level than the pitch sports of rugby union, hockey and cricket. Between 2.1% - 5% of the adult population have played tennis at least once in the past month and this is uniform across the district; and
- like the majority of other outdoor sports, the top 3 dominating groups are again Tim, Ben and Philip, who represent 1,500 of 3,254 participants. Overall however, tennis has a higher and broader base of sports participation across the market segments and participation is more evenly spread across both sexes as well as across a wider age range. In addition to the dominant participants, Chloe, Ralph and Phyllis, Elaine and Helena all have over 200 players and several other groups also enjoy tennis.

Turning to the Active People analysis of the percentage of adults who would like to play tennis this is again represented in map and bar chart form and set out in Map 8.3 and Chart 8.2.

Map 8.3 - Percentage and location of the Harrogate District adult population who would like to play tennis

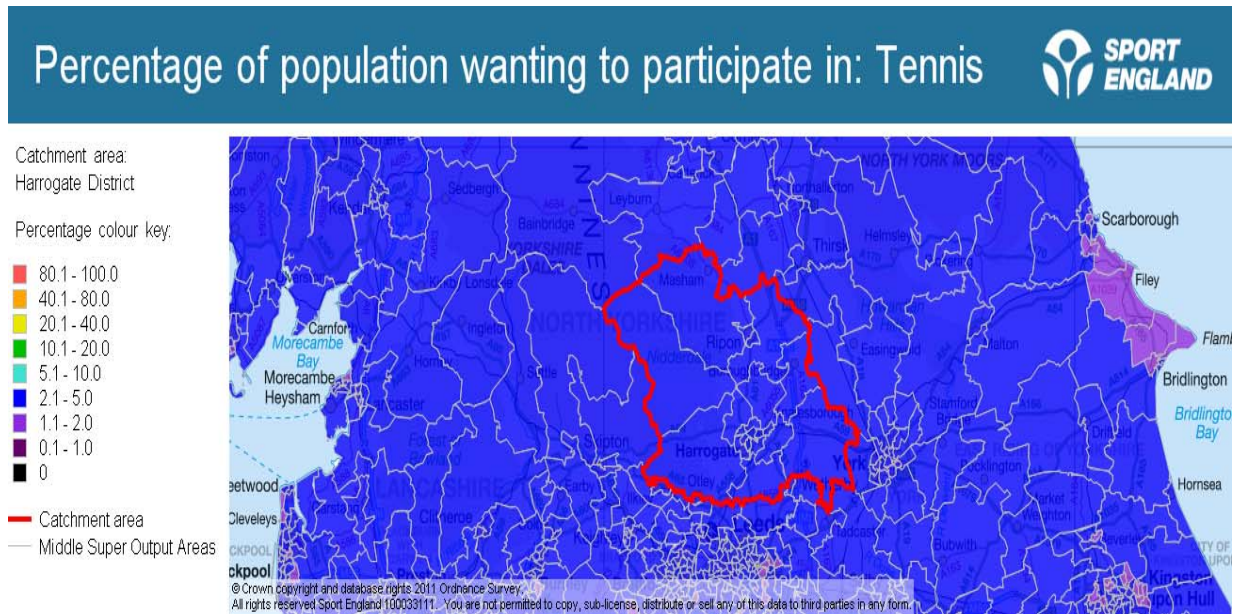
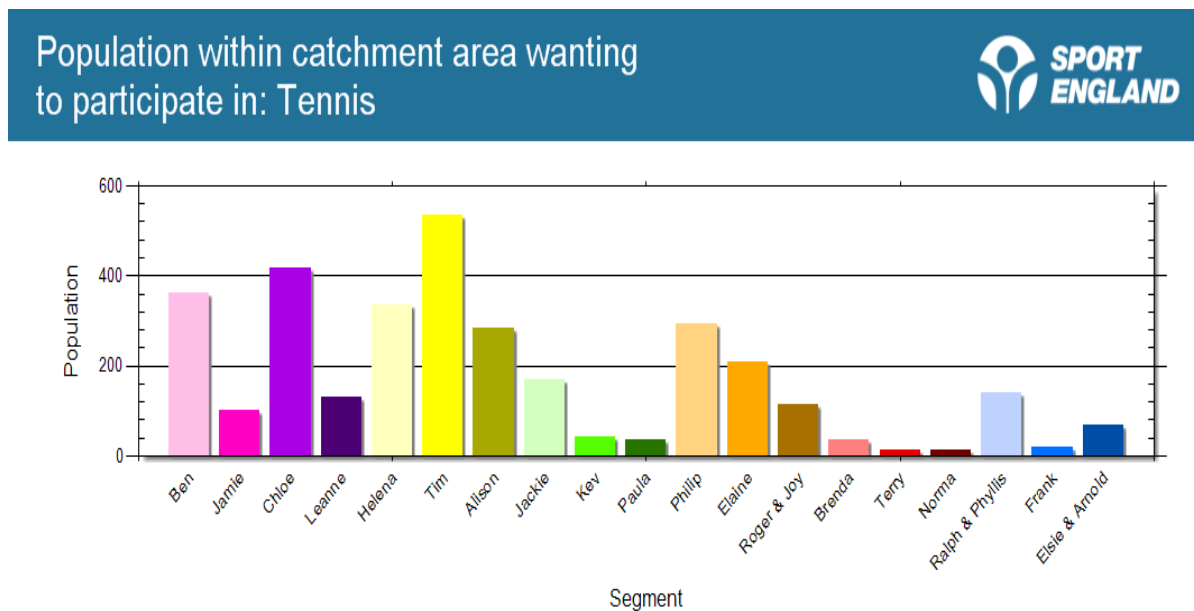


Chart 8.2 - Profile of the market segments who would like to participate in tennis in Harrogate District



The key findings from both the map and the bar chart are that:

- there is a higher proportion of people in Harrogate who would like to participate in Tennis than Cricket, Rugby and Hockey. 2.1-5% of the population said that they would like to play Tennis, a total of 3,321. This suggests that there is a relatively high level of latent demand across the district; and
- Tim is the market segment with the highest latent demand, with over 500 Tims indicating that they would like to play tennis. 6 other market segments also have 200 people each that would like to play tennis. Surprisingly, there are more people in the district who would like to play Tennis than those who actually do. This therefore suggests that there is scope to develop tennis in Harrogate.

Existing Participation – Clubs

There are 16 tennis clubs in Harrogate District and these are set out in Table 8.2. Table 8.2 reveals that the majority of clubs providing detailed information on their membership breakdown have both junior and senior sections. Few clubs indicate that they have recently seen an increase in the number of teams that they are running and participation appears in general to be static. It must be noted that not all tennis courts have clubs associated with them. Table 8.2 references only courts where clubs are based.

Table 8.2 – Tennis Courts in Harrogate District

Club	Teams Run	Number of Members	Venue	Area
Burton Leonard Tennis Club	Mixed adults team	80 members, evenly split between adults and juniors	Burton Leonard Sports Field, Burton Leonard	Central Harrogate District
Bishop Monkton Tennis Club	No information provided		Knaresborough Road, Bishop Monkton	
Harlow Tennis Club	4 mixed teams, ladies and mens team and a junior team. Reduction in the number of ladies teams playing from last year	185 – 56% senior membersh ip	Harlow Tennis Club, Harrogate	Harrogate
Harrogate Racquets Club	Five senior mixed doubles teams, two ladies doubles and one male doubles. Six junior teams (U14 and U12 boys, U12 girls and U10, U9 and U8 mixed). Participation has increased - extra male team and extra ladies team in the season before	321 – 66% junior membersh ip	Harrogate Racquets Club, Firs Road, Harrogate	
Spa Tennis Club	One mixed doubles team, 3 junior teams (U12, U18 boys and U16 mixed)	102 – 76% senior membersh ip	Spa Tennis Club, Kent Drive, Harrogate	
St John Fishers Tennis Club	No teams run - casual play and coaching	159 – 94% junior membersh ip	St John Fishers Catholic High School, Harrogate	
Starbeck Tennis Club	Three senior male and 1 ladies, 3 mixed senior teams and junior teams. Number of teams same as last year.		Starbeck Tennis Club	
The Academy Ltd	No information provided		The Academy, Harrogate	
Knaresborough King James	Two ladies teams, 2 male teams and 2 mixed teams. Participation has	173 – 54% junior membersh	Knaresborough King James Tennis Club, St	Knaresbor ough

Club	Teams Run	Number of Members	Venue	Area
Tennis Club	increased	ip	James School	
Birstwith Tennis Club	3 senior teams, no change from previous season	110 – no breakdown of membership provided	Birstwith Tennis Club, Birstwith Playing Fields	Nidderdale
Dacre Tennis Club	3 senior teams and 1 junior team. Number of teams static	141 – 53% junior members	Dacre Tennis Club, Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields	
Boroughbridge Tennis Club	No information provided		Aldborough Road, Boroughbridge	North East Harrogate
Kirkby Malzeard Tennis Club	105 members	67% junior membership	Highside Playing Fields, Kirby Malzeard	North West Harrogate District
Mashamshire Tennis Club	96 playing members	52% junior membership	Masham Tennis Club	
Ripon Tennis Centre	No information provided		Ripon Tennis Centre, Ripon	Ripon
Tockwith Tennis Club	75 members	42% junior membership	Tockwith Tennis Club	South East Harrogate District
Follifoot Tennis Club	No information provided		Follifoot Tennis Courts	South Harrogate District
Kirby Overblow	No information provided		Kirby Overblow TC	

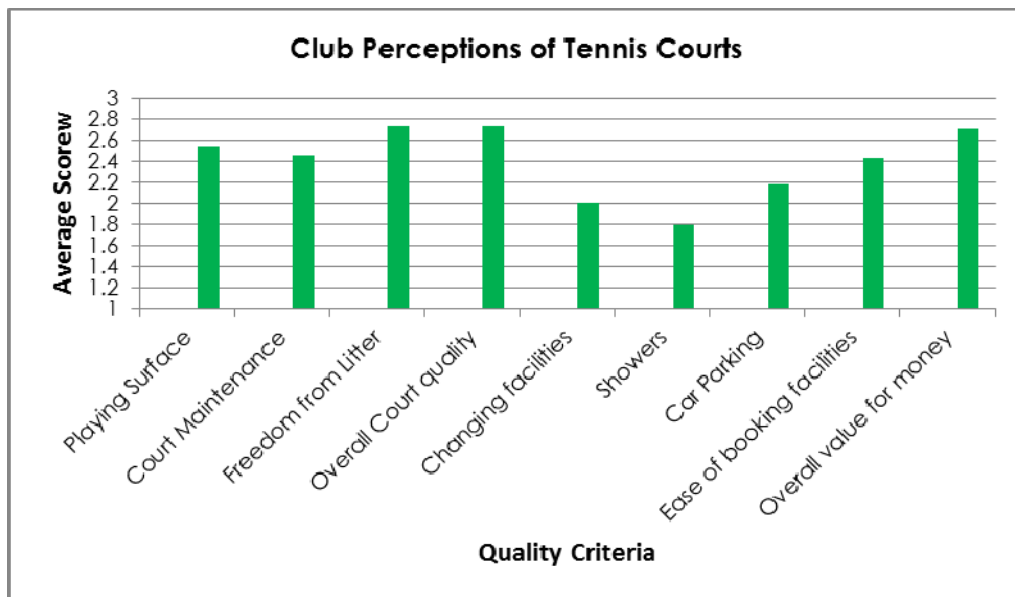
Quality

The quality of existing playing and ancillary facilities was investigated by club questionnaires and informed by the site inspections. The key issues arising are discussed below. Site specific issues and priorities are outlined later in this section.

Site Inspections

Site inspections reveal that there is a variation in the quality of tennis courts, with total scores achieved ranging from 44% to 85%. Over 50% of sites were however rated between 75% and 82% suggesting that while there are extremes in the quality of provision, the quality of the majority of facilities is relatively consistent. Key issues identified relating to tennis courts during site assessments are summarised in Chart 8.3. A score of 3 is equivalent to good, 2 acceptable and 1 poor.

Chart 8.3 – Quality of Tennis Courts

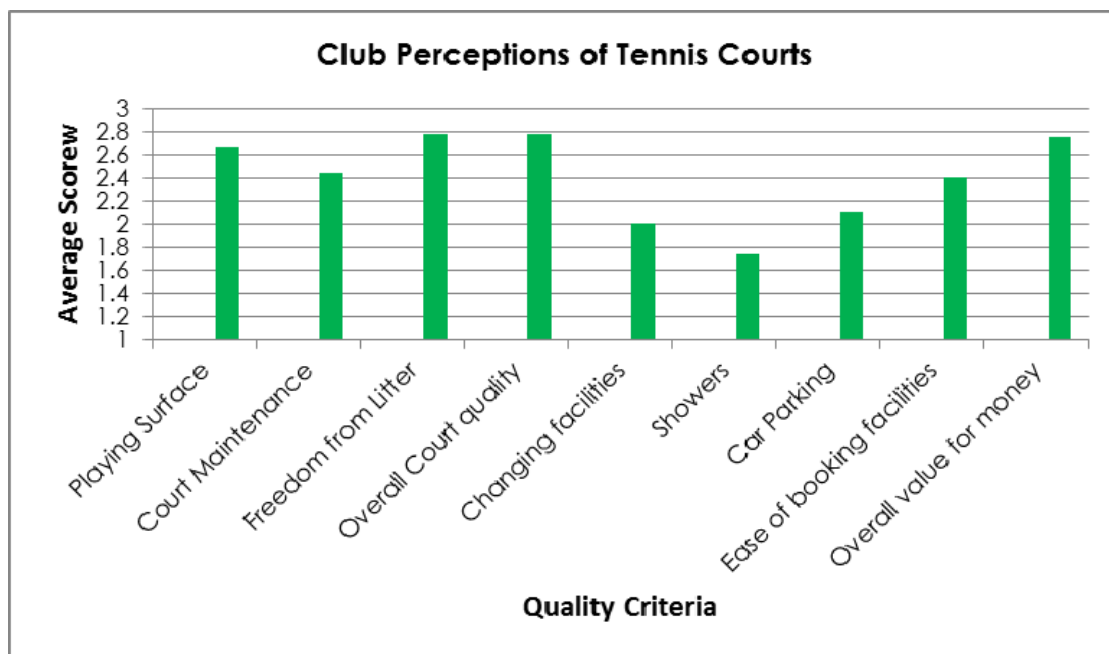


Visits reveal that while the provision for spectators is relatively good, the quality of court surfaces, line markings and the quality of equipment is more variable. The majority of tennis courts have pavilions and changing facilities however there are six sites that do not. The quality of pavilions is particularly varying.

Club Perspective on Quality

Overall, clubs are relatively satisfied with the quality of facilities for tennis with ratings generally between average and good. Fewer responding clubs were however satisfied with the quality of changing facilities and pavilions, with the average score for these factors falling between 1 (poor) and 2 (acceptable).

Chart 8.4 – Club Perceptions of Quality of Tennis Courts



All clubs were asked to comment upon the quality of their facilities and to identify any areas that needed particular improvement. In general, most clubs are satisfied.

Consultation

Tennis Clubs

Although clubs rated the quality of facilities as good overall, more than 50% of those responding indicated that they are dissatisfied with facilities for tennis in Harrogate District as a whole. This was largely attributed to the perceived lack of indoor facilities that are available with only one club not referencing this as an issue. It was felt important that both club access and pay and play to indoor facilities was provided. It was also noted that the amount of facilities provided in schools is declining.

Other issues arising from club consultation include;

- all responding clubs undertake marketing in a bid to attract new members. Activities include open days, coaching and leaflets. Despite this, all clubs currently have capacity to accommodate new members. Only Birstwith TC and Burnton Leonard TC have aspirations to run additional teams within the next two years. Two clubs indicate that they are struggling to retain existing and attract new members; and
- a lack of external funding was highlighted as the key barrier to the ongoing growth of tennis within the district. Other concerns raised included (in order of most commonly raised) a shortage of coaches and volunteers, planning and legislation restrictions on development and the quality of changing facilities.

The provision of new indoor facilities was highlighted as the key priority by the majority of clubs.

Parish and Town Councils

No responding parish or Town Council identified the need for new or additional tennis provision within their locality. It must however be noted that Boroughbridge Town Council are currently consulting upon outdoor sports facility needs with the local community and need could arise through this process.

National Governing Body Perspective

The Governing Body for tennis is the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). It is responsible for the administration of tennis across the country, including youth and other development. The LTA National facility strategy is set out in Places to Play. The *Place to Play Strategy* sets out:

- the overall vision for places to play;
- how the LTA will grow regular participation by supporting places to play to develop and deliver the right programmes;
- how the LTA will make capital investment decisions to ensure investment in the right facilities to grow the sport; and
- how LTA will support performance programmes in the right locations.

It indicates that the LTA is committed to growing the sport to ensure that more people are playing tennis more often at first class facilities, with high quality coaching programmes and well organised competition. The overall aim between 2011-2016 is to ensure that, as far as practicably possible, the British population has access to and are aware of the location of high quality tennis opportunities in their local area. In brief:

- access for everyone to well maintained high quality tennis facilities which are either free or pay as you play;
- a Clubmark accredited place to play within a 10 minute drive of their home;
- indoor courts within a 20 minute drive time of their home;
- a mini tennis (10 and under) performance programme within a 20 minute drive of their home (Performance Centres);
- a performance programme for 11 - 15 year olds within a 45 minute drive time of their home (High Performance Centre); and
- a limited number of internationally orientated programmes strategically spread for players 16+ with an international programme (International High Performance Centres).

The facility element of the LTA places to play strategy focuses on:

- **improving facilities at high quality places to play:** Enhancing facility provision at performance venues and Tennis Clubmark accredited places to play;
- **tennis in community settings:** Beacon sites - supporting LA's to bring back into use existing community tennis facilities and working with them to develop affordable quality tennis programmes; and

- **sustainability:** Advising places to play to ring fence funding to ensure existing facilities can be upgraded or replaced when they get to the end of their life.

LTA research reveals that many successful places to play are unable to grow or maximise their potential and their tennis programme due to site restrictions e.g.

- courts are at capacity and there is no space to expand further; and
- planning restrictions preventing the installation of floodlights or indoor courts.

Yorkshire is in the top 3 counties nationally for tennis participation and as a consequence, there is a strong infrastructure of players, volunteers, competition organisers and coaches. Over the three years leading up to 2011, the number of regularly competing juniors doubled (2500+) and there are now over 21,000 Yorkshire based British Tennis members.

Within Harrogate Borough, the majority of tennis clubs are affiliated to the LTA and there is a strong club structure. Clubs are particularly strong in terms of number of members. Some clubs however have site specific issues that are impacting upon their existing capacity but on the whole clubs are self sustaining.

In contrast to the club structure, the amount of community participation in Harrogate is low and increasing this is a key target of the LTA. In particular, the LTA is seeking to build relationships between clubs, schools and the community, as well as to increase the amount of tennis activity on non traditional sites, such as public parks. In particular, there are targets to increase the number of people aged 16+ who regularly play tennis.

To promote tennis and to encourage new players to take up the sport, the LTA are introducing a new form of the game called 'Touch Tennis' as well as mini tennis. Touch tennis and mini tennis are much more flexible in terms of facility requirements. They need a smaller space than traditional tennis courts and use fold out nets and can therefore be played in a variety of venues including sports halls and community halls. The LTA has already begun to introduce this concept into schools across the district and it is hoped that this will see a subsequent increase in both the numbers of people wishing to join clubs, but also the number of people playing more informally at play and play facilities.

The Places to Play website (<http://www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Getting-started-in-tennis/Places-to-Play/>) is an important tool developed by the LTA with a view to raising awareness of tennis and the opportunities available. It provides information for potential players on the location of courts and also allows people to link up with other players in their area. Reflecting the aspirations to further increase participation in the district, efforts have been made to promote joined up and partnership working, including the creation of a tennis development forum. This has been relatively unsuccessful to date but remains a longer term objective.

The key priorities for the LTA in relation to tennis in Harrogate District therefore include;

- addressing club specific issues;
- supporting the introduction of Touch Tennis;
- increasing the amount of community activity and awareness in tennis; and
- improvement in partnership working and links between different organisations.

Adequacy of Current Provision and Meeting Future Demand

Tennis does not lend itself to the estimation of demand used in other sports or the use of TGR and the Playing Pitch Methodology set out in Towards a Level Playing Field does not extend to tennis. It is however possible to evaluate the adequacy of provision drawing upon the tools available and the information outlined in this section as well as the targets set by the LTA.

Quantity and Accessibility

Table 8.3 summarises the provision in each area of the borough taking into account the population.

Table 8.3 – Distribution of Tennis Courts across Harrogate District

Area	Population	Total Courts	Number of Courts per 1000 population	Courts available for community use (includes club sites)	Number of Community Use Courts per 1000 population
Central Harrogate	4940	5	1.01	5	1.01
Harrogate Town	78070	62	0.79	49	0.63
Knaresborough	16290	10	0.61	10	0.61
Nidderdale	9800	9	0.92	7	0.71
North East Harrogate District	9350	6	0.64	3	0.32
North West Harrogate District	5800	7	1.21	7	1.21
Ripon	18270	20	1.09	12	0.66
South East Harrogate	9490	2	0.21	2	0.21
South West Harrogate	6520	3	0.46	3	0.46
TOTAL	158530	124	0.78	98	0.62

Table 8.3 indicates that despite the abundance of tennis courts within Harrogate Town, the high population means that provision per 1000 population is lower in this part of the district than in Ripon, Central Harrogate, Nidderdale and North West Harrogate.

Provision in the north East and South East of the borough is particularly low in comparison to other areas and this is also reflected in Map 8.1, which indicates that there are gaps in access to facilities in these parts of the district.

According to Active People, 3254 people across the district currently play tennis and a further 3,321 would like to play. This indicates that there is potentially quite a lot of latent demand and that there is an overall potential tennis playing population of 6575. This relates to adults only (Active People Survey is 16+ only).

Clubs in the district have varying balances between adult and junior participation (as demonstrated in Table 9.2) however on average 50% of club members are juniors. This could therefore suggest that the participation figure quoted in Active People surveys of 3254 players represents only half of the actual playing population and that circa 6500 people (adult and juniors) currently play tennis (4.1% of the population).

The LTA uses a variety of measures to evaluate the adequacy of facilities in an area including measures of both accessibility and quantity. Previous standards set by the LTA have suggested that circa one court is required per 40 - 45 participants, although floodlit courts would be able to accommodate more players (circa 60). Application of this standard district wide would suggest that:

- based on current adult participants - when taking into account all courts, there are 126 courts and 3254 adults – this means that each court accommodates circa 26 players and there are therefore more than sufficient facilities;
- when including only those courts that are currently available, provision is still within the targeted standards, with each court taking 33 people;
- including juniors however means that the amount of courts is clearly more matched with demand – and potentially above targeted levels when considering only those facilities that are currently available;
- if Active People estimates of latent demand are accurate, participation could reach 9000 participants. When projecting forwards, if all this existing latent demand was realised, provision would fall below target standards. Assuming no more courts were provided, and all existing courts were accessible, each court would be required to cater for more than 70 people – above the recommended levels; and
- more recently, parameters have changed and LTA research suggests that courts can accommodate more players. Research indicates that at a club base, one court would be sufficient to accommodate circa 60 players, whilst a floodlit court may serve up to 100 members. The use of these parameters suggests that provision in Harrogate District is more comfortably able to accommodate current and potential players. These guidelines are also used to determine the requirements for additional tennis courts at club bases (using the number of members at the club as a way of evaluating requirements).

Indoor Tennis

With regards indoor tennis facilities, the Sport England Active Places database suggests that provision in Harrogate is above both national and regional averages, specifically:

- there are 0.04 indoor courts per 1000 population in Harrogate District;
- there are 0.03 indoor courts per 1000 population in England; and

- provision in Yorkshire and Humber region is equivalent to 0.02 indoor courts per 1000 population.

Current proposals to build a new indoor tennis facility in Harrogate at Harrogate High School as part of the relocation of Spa Lawn Tennis Club would see this provision increase further.

Localised Issues

Analysis of the adequacy of provision by District disguises more localised issues of supply and demand both currently, and projecting forwards. It is important that consideration is given to the adequacy of provision to meet each club and in each area of the district.

The remainder of this section therefore considers area and site specific issues.

Harrogate Town

Harrogate Town has the largest number of courts in the district, and also the largest number of courts that are not currently accessible to the community. All residents are within 5 miles of at least one court. The higher population in the area means that based on the assumed participation rate of 4.1%:

- If all courts were accessible, each court in Harrogate would accommodate 50 people
- When taking into account just those courts that are currently available, this rises to 65 people.

This means that in quantitative terms, supply is just sufficient to meet demand. Longer term however, if latent demand is realised, community use of facilities that are not currently available would be essential if demand was satisfied. All of the existing clubs have capacity and none of the clubs have a membership that exceeds the number of courts that they have, based upon LTA parameters although Spa Lawn Tennis Club and Harrogate Racquets Club are nearing these levels.

While the overall amount of facilities is sufficient, it is notable that the stock of pitches is predominantly club based. Research suggests that the provision of a variety of opportunities is likely to maximise participation.

The quality of tennis courts in general is good, although some site specific issues have been identified. Table 8.4 summarises these site specific issues.

Table 8.4 – Tennis Provision in Harrogate

Access	Site	Number of Courts	Surface	Floodlights	Comments arising from site visits	Club Comments
Private	Ashville College Sports Centre	6	Tarmac		No public access	No club based at this site
Club Membership	Harlow TC	4	Tarmac	No	Equipment in need of improvement. 84%	Courts good overall, although changing facilities considered only acceptable. Club would like to improve clubhouse and provide a roof
Club Membership / Pay and Play	Harrogate Academy Health Club	3	Synthetic Grass	Yes	63%	
Club Membership	Harrogate Racquets Club	4	Synthetic Grass	Yes	78%	Courts good overall, car parking poor. Funding required to invest in clubhouse as well as to improve facilities for badminton and table tennis. May have capacity issues in future - no room for expansion
Pay and Play	Rossett Sports Centre	5	Tarmac	Yes	66%	No club based at this site
Club Membership / Pay and Play	Spa Lawn Tennis Club	4	3 macadam and 1 artificial			Quality of existing facilities is average. Unable to floodlight courts due to location within a conservation area. Club wish to relocate to Harrogate High School (proposed indoor tennis centre) funded through residential development of existing site

Access	Site	Number of Courts	Surface	Floodlights	Comments arising from site visits	Club Comments
Club Membership / School / Pay and Play	St John Fisher RC School	4	tarmac	yes	75%	The quality of these courts is poorer than many others in the district. There is a particular need to apply weedkiller to improve the playing surface, however the proximity of the courts to waterways means that there are restrictions on place to do this. There will be a need to resurface the courts in the short to medium term.
Club Membership	Starbeck Tennis Club	3	Tarmac	No	78%	Need additional court and training facility. Quality issues at existing site - lack of regular and essential maintenance
Pay and Play	Valley Gardens	4	Tarmac	No	78%	No club based at this site
Private	Army Foundation College	7	Tarmac	4 floodlit		No club based at this site
Membership	Barcelo Majestic Hotel and Leisure Club	1	Tarmac	No floodlights	No public access	No club based at this site

Knaresborough

There are only two sites containing tennis courts within Knaresborough, specifically Conyngam Park and St James School. St James School is an important club base (and includes three new courts) while Conyngam Park is a public facility. There is therefore a good balance of facilities in the town and all residents are able to access a tennis court within a five mile drive.

Assuming the average participation rate across the District of 4.1%, each court in this area would be required to accommodate circa 67 players. This suggests that provision in Knaresborough is nearing capacity and that there may be a need to consider additional facilities in the longer term and if latent demand is to be met. In particular, it emphasises the importance of maximising the use of the existing sites. Table 8.5 summarises the key issues identified with the existing sites.

Table 8.5 – Site specific issues in Knaresborough

Access	Site Name	Courts	Surface	Floodlights	Site Visit	Club Comment
Pay and Play	Conyngam Park	2	Tarmac	No	81%	No club based at this site
Club Membership / School	Knaresborough King James Tennis Club /Knaresborough St James School	8	Macadam	3 floodlit	N/A	Courts are good and have been recently resurfaced. There are however restrictions on the hours that the floodlights can be used and this minimises the use of the courts.

Ripon

The only publically accessible indoor facility in the district is located in Ripon and there is also a public tennis facility at Ripon Spa Park. All residents are within a 10 minute drive of a tennis court.

Almost 50% of the existing courts are not however accessible to the community and this means that there is significant scope to increase provision in this area should the need arise.

Assuming that 4.1% of the population play tennis:

- Currently, each court serves over 60 people on average. While at the top end of recommended levels, the presence of the indoor tennis facilities negates this to an extent as such a facility is able to accommodate many more players (LTA estimates circa 100 people per court). If latent demand was realised however, supply would be very closely balanced with demand. Demand for the indoor facility is particularly high as it is the only facility in the district and this facility attracts usage from outside Ripon as there are no other indoor facilities in the district
- There are several sites that are not available for community access. If all facilities were available to the community, usage would decrease to circa 34 people per court.

Table 8.6 summaries the sites provided in Ripon. No consultation comments were received from Ripon Tennis Centre.

Table 8.6 – Site specific issues in Ripon

Access	Site	Number of Courts	Surface	Floodlights	Comments arising from site visits
Private	Claro Barracks, Ripon	2	Tarmac	No floodlights	N/A
School use	Ripon Grammar School	8	Tarmac	No floodlights	N/A
Pay and Play	Ripon Spa Park	3	Tarmac	No	81%
Club Membership / Pay and Play	Ripon Tennis Centre	8	3 gravel/clay and 3 synthetic / 2 indoor courts	3 floodlit	69%
Membership	Riverside Health and Leisure Club	1	Tarmac	No floodlights	N/A

South Harrogate District

South Harrogate district has only three courts – at Kirkby Overblow (2) and Follifoot. There are no courts in Spofforth, one of the largest settlements in this area (although these residents are within a 10 minute drive of Wetherby). Map 8.1 illustrates that not all residents are within a 5 mile catchment of tennis courts and that provision is relatively sparse in this part of the district.

Based on the assumed participation rate of 4.1% across the district, this means that each court accommodates 89 players which is above recommended levels. Despite this, both clubs are thought to have capacity for additional members. Table 8.7 summarises the site specific issues that have arisen. Comments were not received from either club.

Table 8.7 – Tennis Provision in South Harrogate District

Facility Type	Access	Site	Number of Courts	Surface	Floodlights	Comments arising from site visits
Parish Council / Club	Membership	Follifoot Tennis Court	1	Tarmac	no	69%
Club	Free Access	Kirkby Overblow	2	Tarmac	no	72%

South East Harrogate

Tockwith Tennis Club is the only club in South East Harrogate and offers two courts. There is no pay and play access to these courts. This means that none of the larger settlements of Marton Cum Grafton, Great Ouseburn or Green Hammerton offer a facility and residents must travel and are outside of the five mile catchment for a tennis court. There were previously courts in Marton cum Grafton, however these would require resurfacing if they were to be used. There is believed to have been demand for this to take place in the past.

Reflecting the fact that there are only two courts within this part of the district, when using the LTA standards as a measure of the adequacy of supply, it can be concluded that there is a shortfall in provision, with courts expected to serve almost 200 players each. Despite this, there is capacity within the existing club to accommodate new members and the club are seeking to do so through active promotion. Table 8.8 summarises the provision available at Tockwith Tennis Club and indicates that there are quality issues at this site.

Table 8.8 - Tennis provision in South East Harrogate District

Facility Type	Access	Site	Number of Courts	Surface	Flood lights	Site visits	Club comments
Club	Membership	Tockwith TC	2	Tarmac	No	81%	Court needs replacing. Lack of clubhouse and floodlighting are club's main issues. Provision is considered acceptable. Club struggle with a lack of funding

Central Harrogate District

There are five courts in Central Harrogate all of which are accessible. Both large settlements within this area (Ripley and Burton Leonard) have facilities meaning that the larger areas of population are within close proximity to a site. The location of facilities in these settlements also provides for those in the immediate surrounds and most residents have access to a facility within a 10 minute drivetime.

Assuming the average participation rate across the Borough of 4.1%, each court in this area would be required to accommodate circa 40 players. This suggests that there is capacity in the current facility stock. While Burton Leonard TC indicate that they would like an additional court, LTA parameters suggest that the club does not have enough members currently to require this, although longer term if membership was to increase an additional court would help to cater for this demand. All clubs have capacity for existing members.

Table 8.9 summarises the site specific issues that have arisen.

Table 8.9 – Site Specific Issues

Facility Type	Access	Site	Number of Courts	Surface	Flood lights	Comments arising from site visits	Club Comments
Club / Parish Council	Club Membership / Pay and Play	Bishop Monkton Playing Fields	2	Tarmac	No	Equipment and storage poor, (81%).	None received
Ripley Castle Estate	Private / Club on request	Ripley Tennis Court	1	Tarmac All weather	No	Used by clubs on occasion as overspill. Hotel facility	None received
Club / Parish Council	Club Membership / Free access	Burton Leonard Sports Field	2	Tarmac	No	78%	Court maintenance is expensive. Club would like 3rd court. Currently use facility at Bishop Monkton.

Nidderdale

Quantity of Provision:

There are four sites containing nine courts in the Nidderdale area and these are a range of public, club and school facilities. Two of the courts are not currently accessible to the general public (at Belmont School). Like the other rural areas, access to courts in some parts of Nidderdale is limited and residents are further than five miles from a facility.

Assuming the average participation rate across the Borough of 4.1%, each court in this area would be required to accommodate circa 44 players. This suggests that there is capacity in the current facility stock and this is emphasised by the fact that all clubs have capacity for new members. None of the clubs have a membership that exceeds the number of courts that they have, based upon LTA parameters.

When excluding the tennis courts at Belmont School that are not currently available, this rises to 54, which is still within acceptable levels. Table 8.10 summarises the site specific issues that have arisen.

Table 8.10 – Tennis provision in Nidderdale

Access	Site	Number of Courts	Surface	Floodlights	Comments arising from site visits	Club Comments
Private	Belmont Grosvenor School	2	All weather surface	No floodlights	No public access	No club based at this site
Club Membership	Birstwith Tennis Club	2	Tarmac	No	Equipment and storage poor, good quality surfaces (88%)	Court quality good - recently refurbished. Require additional court at home ground - currently rent 3rd court at Ripley
Club Membership / Casual Access	Dacre Tennis Club	3	Tarmac	No	0.78	Playing surface is acceptable but pavilion and changing facilities are poor and in urgent need of replacement. Pavilion is shared with the cricket club. Would like to upgrade courts to a synthetic surface.
Pay and Play	Pateley Bridge Leisure Centre	2	Tarmac	No	0.72	No club based at site

North East Harrogate District

The only tennis courts within North East Harrogate are in Boroughbridge, the largest settlement in this part of the district. They are situated on two sites (Boroughbridge Tennis Club and Boroughbridge High School). Like other rural areas, not all residents in this part of the district are within five miles of a tennis court.

Assuming that all courts are available (6) (and based upon the average participation rate across the Borough of 4.1%) each court would be required to accommodate circa 60 players which is just within acceptable limits. Tennis courts at Boroughbridge High School are not however currently used by the public and there is no formal use agreement. Courts therefore

theoretically accommodate double this (120 people per court) which is over the recommended amount of people.

While provision is only just sufficient to meet demand in theoretical terms, there is no evidence to suggest that additional tennis facilities are required at Boroughbridge Tennis Club and the club has capacity for additional members. Table 8.11 summarises the key issues that were raised.

Table 8.11 – Key Issues –North East Harrogate

Access	Site	Number of Courts	Surface	Floodlights	Comments arising from site visits	Club Comments
School use	Boroughbridge High School	3	Tarmac	No floodlights	No public access	No club based at site.
Club Membership	Boroughbridge TC	3	Tarmac	No	Equipment and storage in need of improvement. 81%	No comments received

North West Harrogate District

Quantity of Provision:

Provision in North West Harrogate District is comparatively high, with seven courts, all of which are available to the public. This means that using the average participation as a base, each court is required to accommodate circa 34 players, a level below recommended amounts. This suggests that there is capacity in the current facility stock.

Both of the larger settlements (Kirkby Malzeard and Masham) have tennis courts and associated clubs and both of these clubs have capacity for additional members. Like other rural parts of the district however there are some residents that fall outside of the target catchment of a tennis court.

While the quantity of courts in relation to the population is high, the quality of facilities is perhaps more varying than other areas. This, and other issues arising are illustrated in Table 8.12.

Table 8.12 – Tennis courts within North West Harrogate District

Access	Site	Number of Courts	Surface	Floodlights	Comments arising from site visits	Club Comments
Pay and Play	Galphay Village Institute	1	Grass	No	Poor quality equipment and playing surface. Limited storage. 44%	No comments received
Club Members hip / Pay and Play	Kirkby Malzeard Tennis Club	3	Tarmac	No	88%	No comments received
Club Members hip / Pay and Play	Masham shire Tennis Club	3	Tarmac	No	81%	Court surface recently refurbished by club. Lack of floodlighting causes loss of members to Ripon.

Summary and Key Issues

Key issues to address – Tennis

- Tennis offers a significant opportunity to increase overall participation in sport and physical activity in the Borough – the sport has a wider participation base than any other sport and the Active People Survey indicates that there is significant latent demand at present
- There is a strong network of tennis clubs in the district and these are relatively evenly dispersed. There is spare capacity at all of the existing club bases for new members. Despite this, when comparing the amount of facilities that are provided with the potentially active population in the borough, it is clear that provision is reaching capacity. There are also significantly less facilities to meet the size of the population in the south and south east. Some clubs indicate that they require additional provision if they are to meet with needs (although most of these do not meet with LTA parameters for additional provision). If latent demand was realised, demand would be even more closely balanced with, and perhaps exceed, supply. There are several sites that are not accessible to the community that contain large amounts of courts (in particular in Harrogate and Ripon) and access to these sites would become essential
- While there is a good network of club based facilities, there are lower levels of community facilities and the stock of public courts represents only a small proportion of the overall provision. Increasing the awareness of opportunities to play tennis, as well as the amount of use by local communities is a key priority of the LTA.
- The LTA is working to increase participation in the District and higher levels of take up of the sport may therefore become a reality. In particular, this includes the

introduction of new forms of tennis, which may place different demands for facilities

- There are quality issues at both club and public facilities which may inhibit the overall development of tennis in both the short and long term if they are not addressed.
-

Croquet

Supply

There are 2 sites accommodating croquet in the borough specifically Ripon Spa Hotel and Bishop Monkton. There was formerly a croquet lawn in Harrogate on the Queen Ethelburga's School site which was sold for housing.

There are three full size lawns at the Ripon Spa Club.

Demand and Club Consultation

Both existing sites have clubs attached to them. The club at Ripon Spa Hotel is run with the help of the hotel management. The majority of members are of the older age group with a number of ex golfers and cricketers who find the game easier at an older age. Total membership is 50 (30 male and 20 female). There are 4 young people in the club (18-20 age range). Whilst the club would like to recruit more young people they are fairly self contained at the hotel. The hotel also runs corporate croquet days and there are hen parties that come to the hotel and also play croquet as part of the visit. There are no real issues facing the club currently and there are no additional facility related requirements.

Bishop Monkton Croquet Club has been established 5 years and has two lawns as part of the wider sports association which also provides tennis, bowls and football. The Association is a very progressive organisation with excellent facilities.

The club has 65 members with a 50/50 male female split. Of the members there are 25 members in the village section and 40 members who are part of the U3A who travel to the facility from outside the village. The village section would like to recruit more members but the U3A section is at capacity.

The capacity is constrained by flooding of one of the lawns which has meant that the lawn has had to be relocated to the cricket outfield particularly this season. The Association has recently committed to try and raise funds for draining the lawn which they estimate will cost in the region of £20K.

As the fastest growing club in the Yorkshire area it is felt that the drainage issue is key to developing the sport.

National Governing Body Perspective – The Croquet Association

The Croquet Association consider there to be limited facilities for croquet in Harrogate currently and highlight that participation in the sport is growing, particularly as it is well suited to meet the needs of older residents.

Given that Harrogate itself has formerly hosted a facility, the Croquet Association indicate that several players still live in the town, but are forced to travel elsewhere to play now due to a lack

of facilities. The Association would therefore support the creation of a new facility and indicate that a former bowling green could be used to fulfil such a function.

Key issues to address – Croquet

- There are opportunities to increase the amount of croquet played in the district
- there are quality issues evident at the existing club at Bishop Monkton which are thought to impact upon club development.

9. Strategy and Recommendations

9

The recommendations and delivery strategy to address issues identified in Sections 4 – 8 are set out in the pages that follow. Each of the recommendations contributes to the achievement of the overall vision, which is to create a strategy that supports the Council and its partners in the creation of:

'An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports pitches and other outdoor sports facilities, which provides local opportunities for participation by all residents of the district at all levels of play from grassroots to elite'.

To achieve the vision, the strategy seeks to ensure that:

- there are sufficient pitches and courts to meet demand for both matches and training;
- facilities are of the required quality to cater for the needs of all participants; and
- opportunities for club development and increases for participation at all levels, including both grass roots and elite are maximised.

The priorities and recommendations set out below are intended to guide decision making and provide a framework for the future delivery of outdoor sports facilities across the district, and seek to ensure that provision evolves and improves to meet current and changing needs and aspirations.

Delivery of each of recommendation will contribute to the achievement of the overall objectives of the strategy, which seek to achieve the vision for pitch provision in Harrogate District. Recommendations are based on the key issues identified in each section of the report.

Tables 9.1 - 9.9 later in this section provides a geographical summary of the key issues for sport in each analysis area. It also highlights which of the recommendations in this strategy are of particular relevance to each area and the timescales in which they should be addressed. Site specific implications and options to deliver the recommendations are also presented.

Strategy Principles and Recommendations

Football Recommendations

Ensuring that there are enough facilities to meet current and future demand

F1: Address identified deficiencies in junior football pitches and ensure that all teams are playing on pitches of the right size. In the first instance, there are some opportunities to undertake this by redesignating adult pitches as junior pitches, however there are relatively few opportunities to do this, as in most parts of the district the amount of adult pitches is already closely balanced with supply. This should therefore represent a short term (and possibly temporary option) only. Baseline calculations set out in Section 4 indicate that currently as a minimum 18 adult pitches, 25 junior pitches and 12 mini pitches are required to meet peak time demand.

F2: To maximise the use of existing resources and to address deficiencies, particularly in junior football, formalise community agreements at school sites that currently accommodate mini and junior community football. Priority should be given to those pitches currently permitting community use and where there are greater deficiencies. Long term security of tenure should be sought to enable clubs to invest in the facilities and to build partnerships with the school.

Opportunities to increase community use at other school sites through the creation of strong relationships between schools and clubs should also be explored. This is in line with the delivery priorities of the recent Sport England Strategy. There may be opportunities to facilitate community use at school sites through the planning process (referred to later in planning recommendations). It is recognised that there are particular challenges associated with securing community use of school sites. Guidance produced by Sport England available at http://www.sportengland.org/support_advice/accessing_schools.aspx may help to maximise opportunities.

F3: Support the creation of new facilities where unmet demand is identified / and or where facilities are at capacity. This situation may arise for a variety of reasons (discussed in Section 4) including a shortage of pitches in quantitative terms, poor quality facilities meaning that pitches are not fit for purpose or a lack of facilities of appropriate size to meet the needs of certain clubs.

Deficiencies should be addressed by:

- expanding existing sites;
- securing community use of existing school sites;
- formalising existing informal pitches into more formal pitches – this may require qualitative improvements;
- providing new facilities (in particular new facilities to facilitate club development); and
- replacing poor quality pitches with high quality facilities on key hub sites.

F4: Seek to relocate clubs that are dispersed across a variety of sites in order to promote club development. This relocation strategy will also help to accommodate the needs of the FA review of youth football (F5).

F5: Support the introduction of new forms of the game introduced through the FA youth review by allocating appropriate pitches to meet new size guidelines. These new forms of the game are designed to make the transition between junior and adult football easier and to maximise technical improvements.

The introduction of new pitch sizes will however place further demands on the existing pitch stock and the way it is accommodated will need to be different for each club (for example some sites have sufficient capacity on site to lay out additional pitches, while others may need to overmark different sized pitches). Clubs that will be impacted primarily have their own grounds already, but many are identified within this strategy as requiring new or extended grounds.

Ensuring that facilities are of sufficient quality to meet the needs of all users

F6: Seek to provide changing facilities of appropriate quality at all sites accommodating adult football and a minimum standard of toilets and wash facilities at sites for junior and mini football.

F7: Seek to improve the short and longer term quality of pitches by securing levels of investment to ensure that maintenance regimes appropriate to the pitch and its' usage are adopted. This may involve investment in further maintenance work and the purchase / regular renting of additional machinery. The quality of maintenance at all sites is particularly important given the levels of use that are sustained. Support with line marking (possibly guidelines laid down on each pitch at the beginning of the season) should also be given as current line marking is of poor quality on many sites and the sizing of pitches will become increasingly important with the introduction of the new FA review.

F8: To improve the capacity of existing sites and the playing experience for clubs, address identified drainage issues at existing pitches focusing firstly on larger sites where improvements will have maximum impact and where cancellations have been abundant due to drainage issues.

F9: Ensure facilities are tailored to the requirements of clubs by supporting clubs with specific requirements where identified, particularly where a lack of appropriate facilities will impact upon club development and / or progression through the FA pyramid. Consideration should also be given to the additional requirements arising from the FA Youth Review. This might include the provision of new storage facilities and locally required qualitative improvements.

F10: Support the growth and development of football clubs by improving access to training facilities for football clubs across the District. There is a need for both grass and artificial training facilities. Evidence suggests that there are currently not enough 3g pitches (although there are enough pitches when also taking into account sand based pitches, most of these are not open to the community). This should include:

- training floodlights at pitch sites – where training grids can be marked out, this will not impact upon the wear and tear of match pitches; and
- consideration given to the provision of one – two additional 3g AGPs in the District. This could be delivered either by resurfacing an existing facility and opening it up to the community, or the creation of a new facility. The key areas for consideration are Harrogate / Knaresborough (new 3g provision could be delivered by resurfacing and opening up existing facility or new provision), Ripon (new facility) or Boroughbridge (new provision).

Support Football Development

F11: Evaluate opportunities to improve booking systems to improve efficiencies and maximise access to different types of facilities for all user groups. This should include;

- To avoid imbalance in use of pitches, operate a system that ensures that pitches are evenly booked out to avoid wear and tear and operate a policy of rest and recovery on pitch sites during the season
- The existing policy of ensuring prices reflect pitch quality should be retained and reviewed regularly
- Given that demand for pitches is relatively closely balanced with supply in Harrogate District and there are shortfalls in neighbouring authorities, consideration should also be

given to the implementation of a policy permitting use of Harrogate BC pitches only by residents in Harrogate.

F12: Re-establish a football development forum to improve communication between pitch providers, leagues and clubs and ensure that issues impacting upon participation and quality of play can be addressed immediately. An immediate area of discussion at this forum should be the implications of the FA review for football and how this is to be addressed.

F13: Support clubs in their growth and sustainability by implementing a policy of asset transfer / management agreements where clubs are able to demonstrate long term development plans and have achieved appropriate accreditations.

F14: Develop interventions to increase participation in football across the district.

Cricket Recommendations

Ensuring that there are enough facilities to meet current and future demand

C1: In partnership with the Yorkshire Cricket Board, ensure that the amount of cricket facilities available does not impact on the opportunities to grow participation in the sport. Many clubs are nearing capacity, particularly on a Saturday afternoon and midweek where demand for junior cricket is high. New facilities for use by these clubs should be sought through;

- the ongoing development of relationships between larger and smaller clubs. This has already proved successful in the district, with many larger clubs using facilities owned by smaller clubs;
- the development of school club links and the establishment of a relationship between schools and cricket clubs. Facilities at school sites can then be used by the cricket club as the club expands. Note improvements to the quality of facilities are likely to also be required (in line with recommendation (C3)); and
- the provision of a new satellite ground (ie off site facility) for clubs at capacity where this represents a sustainable option for growth.

C2: Secure the use of school facilities currently used to support community cricket. The challenges in achieving this are recognised, however guidance provided by Sport England (http://www.sportengland.org/support_advice/accessing_schools.aspx) will help to maximise opportunities.

Ensuring that facilities are of appropriate quality to meet the needs of all users

C3: Recognising the high levels of demand that are evident and the need for pitches to sustain high levels of use, work in partnership with the Yorkshire Cricket Board to support clubs in improving the quality of pitches, and in accessing funding through the ECB Grant Aid and Pitch Advisory Scheme. Key areas for improvement relate to:

- grounds maintenance skills – qualifications and education, as well membership of the Institute of Groundsmen;
- changing pavilions;
- equipment; and
- pitch quality.

C4: Work with local leagues and clubs to implement a means of monitoring the quality of provision. This should involve a similar process to that currently implemented by the Theakston Nidderdale Cricket League. This is particularly essential given the high levels of use that are evident as it will ensure that issues are identified early enough to rectify them before they impact upon club participation.

C5: Support cricket clubs in the development of training nets to enhance club sustainability and improve overall performance. This might include:

- securing the use of the indoor venues currently used for the junior league (Pateley Bridge and Boroughbridge);
- an additional indoor cricket venue (in an area of high participation and population – Harrogate / Knaresborough or Ripon); and
- the provision of outdoor cricket nets at larger clubs that do not currently have access to such facilities.

Support Cricket Development

C6: Support the sustainable growth of cricket and clubs in the district by promoting communication between all of those involved in cricket through the continuation of the cricket development forum. New clubs should be encouraged to join and share good practice and the forum should support accurate forward planning for all clubs. This will also help in the achievement of recommendation C2 (building of relationships between smaller and larger clubs)

C7: Support the introduction of development initiatives to increase participation in cricket. This may include new forms of the game such as Last Man Standing and initiatives targeting school pupils. Efforts to increase junior participation should be particularly targeted at areas where current numbers of junior teams are lower and where there is capacity in the existing stock to accommodate such demand, specifically;

- North East Harrogate District
- Ripon.

Rugby Recommendations

Ensuring that there are enough facilities to meet current and future demand

R1: Support club relocation where existing club bases are constraining the amount and standard of play.

R2: Consider opportunities to improve security of tenure.

R3: Monitor demand for rugby league provision over the strategy period.

Ensuring that facilities are of appropriate quality to meet the needs of current and future users

R4: Support partners to maintain and improve the quality of existing facilities including;

- Improving and expanding changing accommodation
- The provision of training floodlights at all sites in the District.

Support Rugby Development

R5: Support aspirations to increase participation in rugby across the district and manage the impact of these aspirations on facility development.

R6: Support initiatives to increase rugby participation including the introduction of new forms of the game, which may require the provision of flexible spaces.

Hockey Recommendations

Ensuring that there are enough facilities to meet current and future demand

H1: Consider the provision of an additional AGP to support the needs of Harrogate Hockey Club.

Ensure that facilities are of appropriate quality to meet the needs of users

H2: Harrogate Hockey Club are currently happy with the quality of facilities at their club site. Support any improvements that are required to maintain this standard in the longer term. It should also be ensured that a sinking fund is in place to support the refurbishment of the pitch surface when this is required.

Promote Hockey Development

H2: Support initiatives to introduce new forms of hockey to the district by ensuring that appropriate flexible spaces are available. Priority initiatives for England Hockey are:

- Rush Hockey
- Back to Hockey

H4: Support increases in participation in hockey through the existing club structure and improvement of links with potential participants through the ongoing delivery of hockey in schools.

Tennis Recommendations

Ensuring that there are enough facilities to meet current and future demand

T1: Support the provision of a new indoor tennis facility to enhance the capacity and functionality of existing facilities in the district. This would be best located in Harrogate.

T2: Support Parish Councils with aspirations to develop local tennis provision in order to meet the identified latent demand where this is identified. Priority should be placed on areas which will meet gaps in accessibility.

Ensure that facilities are of appropriate quality to meet the needs of users

T3: Work with the LTA to develop at least one community tennis facility under the Beacon sites programme. This could be located at one of the public tennis sites, or alternatively at a school site that does not currently offer public use or have a club base.

T4: Address quality issues identified at club sites prioritising areas where club development is limited by quality constraints.

T5: Work with the LTA to raise awareness of opportunities for tennis at both public and private facilities across the district.

T6: Support the development of new forms of tennis in order to increase participation across the district. This might include mini tennis, which provides the use of more flexible spaces.

Croquet Recommendations

Ensure that there are enough facilities to meet the needs of users

CQ1: Investigate opportunities to provide a new croquet lawn in Harrogate Town. This should be delivered in conjunction with The Croquet Association (potentially at a former bowling green) and should follow the success introduction of taster days.

Ensure that facilities are of appropriate quality to meet the needs of users

CQ2: Ensure that facilities are of sufficient quality to meet the needs of users by addressing quality issues at existing sites.

Maximise Club Development

CQ3: Seek to increase participation by running taster days to introduce new participants to croquet.

Tables 9.1 to 9.27 overleaf summarise the key issues in each part of the district.

The key priorities in each area based upon the recommendations set out above are also outlined. These tables also detail the links to the Recommendations.

Central Harrogate District

Table 9.1 – Context – Area Specific Summary - Central Harrogate District

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed																				
Football	<p>14 pitches secured for community use. 21 teams in total, with a strong emphasis on junior football. Key clubs include Scotton Scorchers, Burton Bullets and Ripley Rockets. Football pitches in Central Harrogate District are managed by clubs and Parish Councils / Playing Fields Trusts. Unlike the district wide average, demand is higher for pitches on a Saturday morning (junior and mini pitches) and a Sunday afternoon (teams needing larger pitches—primarily U17 / U18 teams).</p> <p>Reflecting the number of junior teams, there are pressures on junior pitches, which are caused primarily by the large numbers of teams run by Scotton Scorchers JFC and Nidd United FC. It is also clear that cricket clubs have a particularly important role to play in this part of the district, with shortfalls of pitches if cricket clubs are taken out of the equation. More than one club indicate that pitch provision for juniors is already becoming tightly balanced in this area.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scenario</th> <th>Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).</td> <td>3.3</td> <td>-1</td> <td>6.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play <i>(Explained further in Table 4.10)</i></td> <td>2.5</td> <td>-3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Including schools that offer informal community access <i>(Explained further in Table 4.10)</i></td> <td>3.3</td> <td>-1</td> <td>6.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used for cricket)</td> <td>3.3</td> <td>-2</td> <td>-0.1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	3.3	-1	6.9	Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play <i>(Explained further in Table 4.10)</i>	2.5	-3	4	Including schools that offer informal community access <i>(Explained further in Table 4.10)</i>	3.3	-1	6.9	Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used for cricket)	3.3	-2	-0.1	<p>Shortages of junior pitch provision</p> <p>Reliance upon cricket clubs to provide pitches for football</p> <p>Dispersal of clubs</p> <p>Quality issues, particularly with changing facilities.</p>
Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus																			
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	3.3	-1	6.9																			
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Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used for cricket)	3.3	-2	-0.1																			

Sport	Context			Issues to be Addressed	
	Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (<i>Explained further in Table 4.13</i>)	2.3	-1	6.9	
Cricket	<p>Building upon the data presented on the previous page, for adult pitches both Burton Leonard and Bishop Monkton have capacity. Markington also has capacity although there are no changing facilities at this site, the club use the cricket pavilion. Capacity for additional junior teams is more limited. While there is some availability at peak time, demand is spread meaning that pitches take lots of games over the weekend period. As highlighted above, clubs highlight concerns about the limited provision of pitches. No clubs indicated however that they have issues accessing pitches for matches or training currently. Scotton Scorchers use the adult pitch as three mini pitches frequently, meaning that this pitch takes extra wear and tear than would otherwise be the case and it also accommodates training.</p> <p>Adding to this, clubs raise concerns relating to overuse of existing pitches and the impact that this will have longer term. The quality of facilities is good, with the highest average percentage in the district. Changing facilities are however a concern, with provision at the majority of sites considered poor. The range of scores achieved (51-86% demonstrates this). Just over 50% of clubs are not satisfied with the stock of facilities currently and this was attributed to the quality of provision rather than the amount of facilities.</p> <p>The relatively small size of sites in this area means that junior clubs are spread across multiple venues</p>			Impact of football on cricket pitches	

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>Burton Leonard and Ripley, the two largest settlements in the area have strong cricket clubs.</p> <p>Reflecting this, at peak time on a Saturday afternoon, there is a small shortfall of pitches in Central Harrogate equivalent to 0.8 pitches. This suggests that the existing stock of cricket pitches is at capacity and that there is limited scope for further growth.</p> <p>With the exception of Bishop Monkton Playing Fields, all pitches have at least two teams wishing to use them on a Saturday afternoon (peak time) and they are therefore fully booked. There is capacity at all sites on a Sunday. It is clear that capacity at larger clubs is becoming stretched. For Burton Leonard and Ripley CC specifically, capacity midweek is also becoming stretched due to high numbers of junior teams, as well as participation by adults in midweek leagues. This suggests that cricket pitches in this part of the district are well used.</p> <p>Both Ripley CC and Bishop Thornton CC comment on the impact that the amount of play is already having on their wickets and data suggests that both clubs use each strip more than the recommended number of times per season.</p> <p>Two clubs do not currently have any practice nets – specifically Markington and Scotton. Both of these are relatively small clubs.</p> <p>Quality is varying in this part of the district, with scores ranging from 64% to 91%. Both Markington and Staveley CC have poor pavilions and several clubs reference issues with lack of equipment and concerns with pitch maintenance and drainage. It is notable that almost all facilities in this part of the district are also used for football which places extra wear and tear on the outfield. Site visits clearly demonstrate the implications of this, with evidence of damage to the surface at several sites. Quality concerns are of greater priority currently than quantity, however longer term, pressures on cricket pitches may further increase if clubs continue to grow and it is likely that even in the short term, facilities will begin to restrict the expansion of some of the larger clubs. There are no school sites in this area that currently have cricket pitches.</p>	<p>Short term quality issues</p> <p>Longer term shortfalls of provision</p>

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
Rugby	No rugby played in this area.	None
Hockey	No hockey played in this area.	None
Tennis	<p>There are five courts in Central Harrogate all of which are accessible. Both large settlements within this area (Ripley and Burton Leonard) have facilities meaning that the larger areas of population are within close proximity to a site. The location of facilities in these settlements also provides for those in the immediate surrounds and most residents have access to a facility within a 10 minute drivetime.</p> <p>Assuming the average participation rate across the Borough of 4.1%, each court in this area would be required to accommodate circa 40 players. This suggests that there is capacity in the current facility stock. While Burton Leonard TC indicate that they would like an additional court, LTA parameters suggest that the club does not have enough members currently to require this, although longer term if membership was to increase an additional court would help to cater for this demand. All clubs have capacity for existing members.</p>	None
Croquet	The only croquet facility in this area of the district is located at Bishop Monkton. The club is a progressive club but issues with the drainage mean that the rink has been unused this year.	Drainage at existing club site

Table 9.2 draws upon the general recommendations set out in this strategy and identifies the key priorities for the Central Harrogate Area.

Table 9.2 Central Harrogate – Summary of Key Priorities

Sport	Key Priorities in Central Harrogate	Rationale	Priority
Football	F5: Support the introduction of new forms of the game.	The impact of these proposals will need to be considered in the short term as new pitch configurations will be required in 2013. This will exacerbate the urgency of the recommendations below. There is a strong participation in junior football in this area and the impact for pitch requirements will therefore be felt strongly.	Short Term
	F3 / F5: Support the creation of new facilities / relocate clubs that are dispersed across a variety of sites.	Demand for junior pitch provision is high and there is a need to provide additional facilities in the short term and a potential longer term further requirement. Long term secured use of school sites will increase the amount of facilities available.	Short – Long Term
	F7 / F8 /F9– Improve pitch quality	Quality of pitches is high although there are issues with changing facilities. The quality of pitches is particularly important in this area as facilities are required to sustain high levels of use and this can impact on quality. Providing additional facilities will reduce the wear and tear on existing pitches, however qualitative improvements will still be required.	Medium – Long Term
Cricket	C3: Support clubs to improve pitch quality	Quality issues at some sites reduce playing experience. The level of existing provision means that qualitative improvements are as important as new pitches currently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short – Medium Term
	C5: Support clubs in the development of training nets	Training nets are an important part of club development, however both clubs without facilities in this area are however	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing

	and enhance sustainability C1: Ensure the amount of pitches does not impact upon participation	small clubs only meaning that they are not a high strategic priority. Capacity is becoming restricted at some larger clubs and extended provision may be required to accommodate demand in the longer term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term
Rugby	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A
Hockey	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A
Tennis	T4 – Address qualitative issues at existing clubs	Capacity in current facility stock. Quality of facilities important if participation is to be maintained.	
Other sports	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A

Table 9.3 sets out the potential options to address the recommendations on a site specific basis.

Table 9.3 – Potential Options to Address Recommendations – Central Harrogate

Links	Recommendation for Central Harrogate	Site Specific Opportunities
C3	Support the improvement of existing cricket facilities	Staveley CC (pavilion), Markington CC.
C5	C5: Support clubs in the development of training nets and enhance sustainability	Markington CC, Scotton CC (although both only small clubs)
F3 / F4	Extend facilities for football in area to accommodate club demand	<p>Expansion of facilities at Percy Field to add capacity for Scotton Scorchers and Nidd United. Nidd United are currently spread across a range of sites (in both Central Harrogate and Nidderdale)</p> <p>Longer term new provision may be required through the allocation of land for sporting purposes through the local plan or through the reinstatement of former playing fields that are now used for informal purposes only. This may be of benefit to Nidd United, who are currently spread across several venues. This would also enhance capacity elsewhere.</p>
F5	Evaluate the impact of the new forms of the game introduced through the FA Youth Review	Discuss site specific implications with Scotton Scorchers, Ripley Rockets and Nidd United FC
F7 / F9	Improve pitch quality and support drainage improvements and upgrades	Bishop Monkton Playing Fields, Percy Fields, cricket grounds used for football.

Harrogate Town

Table 9.4 Context - Area Specific Summary – Harrogate Town

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed																
Football	<p>45 pitches secured for community use. 26 pitches either not fully secure or unavailable. Harrogate High School and Harrogate Grammar School are important providers of pitches for the community. Harrogate Borough Council is the main provider of community pitches.</p> <p>81 teams in total of which 32 are adult, 32 junior and the remainder mini. Clubs are more dissatisfied with provision in Harrogate than any other part of the district. Only one club playing in the town is happy with the facility stock.</p> <p>Modelling reveals that at first glance, there are more than sufficient pitches within Harrogate Town to meet current demand. This however disguises a multitude of issues and various scenarios are set out below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scenario</th> <th>Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).</td> <td>11.5</td> <td>0.8</td> <td>13.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play</td> <td>10.75</td> <td>-4.75</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Including schools that offer informal community access (<i>Explained further in Table 4.11</i>)</td> <td>25.5</td> <td>1.8</td> <td>13.4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	11.5	0.8	13.4	Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play	10.75	-4.75	10	Including schools that offer informal community access (<i>Explained further in Table 4.11</i>)	25.5	1.8	13.4	<p>Imbalance between adult and junior football provision.</p> <p>Poor pitch quality impacting upon overall capacity</p> <p>Role of schools in meeting demand</p> <p>Uneven use of pitches</p> <p>Dispersion of key clubs</p>
Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus															
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	11.5	0.8	13.4															
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play	10.75	-4.75	10															
Including schools that offer informal community access (<i>Explained further in Table 4.11</i>)	25.5	1.8	13.4															

Sport	Context			Issues to be Addressed
	Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they impact upon pitch quality) <i>(Explained further in Table 4.12)</i>	11.5	0.8	7.4
	Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches <i>(Explained further in Table 4.13)</i>	4.5	-4.2	4.4
	<p>Firstly, the district wide figures present a slightly misleading picture, as Harrogate Town is unique in that it is the only part of the district where the peak time for all types of football is the same – Sunday morning. This intensifies the demand at this time. Secondly, there is a clear imbalance between demand for junior pitches and the amount of pitches, and the amount of adult pitches compared to demand.</p> <p>Adding to this, many of the pitches have already been used on a Saturday for competitive play and the majority of teams in the area also train on a Saturday, causing further wear and tear. It is also worth noting that many pitches in this area are overmarked – for example Oatlands Recreation Ground - this means that provision is perhaps slightly more flexible than it may first appear as pitches accommodate teams of different age groups rather than requiring separate pitches.</p> <p>There is a clear role for schools -. Harrogate High School and Harrogate Grammar School are particularly important in meeting the needs of the community for both matches and training and this is clear when schools are added into the equation. There are some concerns about the lack of ancillary facilities available at these sites.</p> <p>While on face value there are more than sufficient pitches to meet requirements, it is clear that quality is a significant issue. When taking into account the quality of pitches and excluding poor quality and / or undesirable pitches, the supply and demand balance is very close. The quality</p>			

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>of pitches in this part of the district is lower than many other areas with an average score of 71%. This average however disguises significant variation in pitch quality, with sites achieving scores of between 40% and 91%. Key issues include drainage, lack of appropriate changing accommodation and poor pitch surface conditions.</p> <p>Adding to this, use is unevenly distributed across the pitch stock and indeed many of the pitches are operating at or near capacity at peak time for both adults and juniors. Usage of pitches is influenced by pitch quality. Pitches that are heavily used include Almsford Playing Fields, Blue Coats Nursery, Harlow Hill Playing fields and Killinghall Moor. In contrast, while Oatlands Recreation Ground and The Hydro have some capacity outside peak times, Queen Ethelburga's Park, Prospect Park and the Stray are also able to sustain more play (albeit predominantly outside of peak periods). Several pitches available at the Stray that are not used due to the quality of the pitches and the lack of changing for all pitches. This is indicative of the issues in this part of the district. Poor quality, a lack of changing accommodation and insufficient pitches of the right size were perceived to be the key issues by clubs. Consultation as well as modelling therefore points to the fact that there are not enough pitches of the right quality. Of particular note, many of the pitches suffer from drainage issues. As well as restricting the amount of play that a pitch can take, this also results in frequent cancellations, which adds to the backlog of fixtures.</p> <p>Adding to this, several clubs are dispersed across multiple venues. Most notably these include Pannal Sports FC and Pannal Ash FC (both of whom have struggled to access pitches) and Killinghall Nomads. All of these clubs have declared an aspiration to lease pitches in order that they can manage the sites with a view to obtaining funding to improve pitch quality.</p> <p>Harrogate contains the only 3g pitch in the district that is currently available for use (at Rosset Sports Centre). This pitch is perceived by clubs to be fully booked and issues with the cost of the facility are also raised. Nine clubs indicate that they have difficulties obtaining facilities for training and these are a mixture of adult and junior teams.</p>	

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>The pitch at Harrogate Grammar School pitch (sand based) is also available to the community although the surface means that it is not suitable for competitive football fixtures.</p>	
Cricket	<p>Participation in Harrogate town is amongst the highest in the district in terms of number of teams (50) however TGRs are lower than all other areas. This means that a lower proportion of people aged up to 55 play cricket in Harrogate Town than in all other areas, suggesting that there is latent demand. There are 7 club based pitches (at six clubs – Harrogate CC has two pitches).</p> <p>Calculations indicate that there is a small shortfall of 0.6 pitches on a Saturday afternoon (peak time), which suggests that the existing stock of cricket pitches is at capacity. Reflecting this, with the exception of Pannal Ash CC, all pitches are fully booked on a Saturday afternoon and most also receive heavy use throughout the week, with only one pitch not used on a Sunday and midweek. Emphasising this, both Bilton CC and Killinghall CC highlight issues with accessing pitches for matches and Killinghall CC is shown to be at capacity in terms of amount of play on the wickets. Pannal CC are also at capacity and have to travel to other grounds to accommodate all of their teams. Almsford Oval is a particularly important overspill ground in this part of the district and is used by a variety of teams including Knaresborough Forest CC, Ripley CC, Pannal CC.</p> <p>Usage of pitches in terms of the number of matches per wicket is lower in this part of the district than in some other areas, however it is notable that there are similar issues – large clubs are nearing capacity although there is space at some of the smaller grounds. There is already evidence of clubs having to travel to other sites to obtain cricket pitches.</p> <p>There are several cricket pitches within Harrogate Town that are not currently used including St John Fishers Catholic High School, St Aidans High School, Army Foundation College, National Policing Improvement Centre, Rossett School and Harrogate Grammar School. Harrogate Gas Cricket Club is also now derelict and the team has recently disbanded.</p>	<p>Lack of secured access to school facilities</p> <p>Quality issues at some sites</p> <p>Pitches nearing capacity</p>

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>While sites are nearing capacity, quality is also an issue. The quality of facilities at Almsford Playing Fields (pavilion) and Pannal Ash (pavilion) are highlighted as being in need of improvement and the Nidderdale Cricket League ground reports also raised issues relating to the quality of the Almsford Oval pitches. Pannal Ash CC also highlight issues with drainage of pitches.</p>	
Rugby	<p>Harrogate RUFC are the largest club in the borough. Their existing facilities are leased until 2014 however there has been an increase in demand and the club is no longer able to focus all training and playing activities at the single venue. While RFU guidelines suggest that the optimum capacity for pitches is 2 -3 games per week, pitches at Harrogate RFU are used much more frequently than this, catering for both matches and training. The use of additional pitches at Harrogate High School reduces this demand on pitches slightly, however the lack of changing facilities, medical facilities or shelter from the weather is an issue. The club also often uses grassed areas on The Stray (no pitches marked out) to reduce wear and tear on the main pitches. Calculations however clearly demonstrate that pitches are used more than the optimum levels.</p> <p>Uncertainties regarding the lease and a potential move to a new site mean that little investment has been put into the facilities in recent years and the quality of both pitches and changing facilities is relatively poor.</p> <p>The club are also concerned about the lack of floodlit training facilities. The club have aspirations to relocate and have identified a new site.</p>	<p>Harrogate RUFC club base is at capacity and the club needs to expand to deliver it's aspirations. The club have identified a new site.</p> <p>Lack of security of tenure for rugby club</p>
Hockey	<p>Harrogate Hockey Club are the only club in the district and are based at Harrogate High School. The club operates ten senior teams and also has a thriving junior section.</p> <p>Analysis of the current stock of AGPs demonstrates that there are eight facilities that could accommodate hockey, however only two of these are accessible to the general public. The</p>	<p>Restrictions on club development from a lack of facilities for Harrogate Hockey Club</p>

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>Sport England Facility Planning Model indicates that there are shortages of Artificial Grass Pitches equivalent to up to three pitches (although one pitch is excluded from consideration as it has only recently been built). This model takes into account only those facilities that are available to the local community. It suggests there is greater unmet demand for 3g AGPs (that are suitable for football) than sand based AGPs (that are used for hockey). It is clear therefore that while there are sufficient pitches in the district in theory, the lack of access to these facilities means that demand is not being met.</p> <p>When taking into account all pitches in the district that are accessible for hockey, using both the FPM and Towards a Level Playing Field calculations which consider the actual demand for hockey in the district at peak time, there are sufficient pitches to accommodate the needs of Harrogate Hockey Club. More local analysis indicates the club base is becoming stretched and junior teams travel to use other facilities to ensure that fixtures can be fulfilled. England Hockey indicate that a lack of suitable facilities is inhibiting further growth of the club and development of the club site and they would like to see a second AGP provided on the Harrogate High School Site.</p>	
Tennis	<p>Harrogate Town area has the largest number of courts in the district, and also the largest number of courts that are not currently accessible to the community. All residents are within 5 miles of at least one court. The higher population in the area means that based on the assumed participation rate of 4.1%:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If all courts were accessible, each court in Harrogate would accommodate 50 people • When taking into account just those courts that are currently available, this rises to 65 people. <p>Both of the above levels suggest that facilities are nearing capacity, but that currently, in quantitative terms are only just sufficient to meet demand. Longer term however, if latent demand is realised, community use of facilities that are not currently available would be</p>	<p>Priorities of the LTA to increase public awareness of pay and play opportunities and to develop a beacon facility</p> <p>Lack of access to some tennis courts</p> <p>Quality issues at some sites</p>

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>essential if demand was satisfied. All of the existing clubs have capacity and none of the clubs have a membership that exceeds the number of courts that they have, based upon LTA parameters although Spa Lawn Tennis Club and Harrogate Racquets Club are nearing these levels.</p> <p>While the overall amount of facilities is sufficient, it is notable that the stock of courts is predominantly club based. Research suggests that the provision of a variety of opportunities is likely to maximise participation. Spa Lawn Tennis Club wish to relocate to develop a new tennis centre including both indoor and outdoor courts.</p> <p>The quality of facilities is generally good, although several clubs identify site specific issues relating to the pavilion and the need to resurface courts. The LTA also wish to maximise the role of public tennis facilities.</p>	
Croquet	There are no croquet facilities within Harrogate although a former site was disbanded several years ago. The Croquet Association highlight opportunities to grow participation in this area through the introduction of a new facility.	Potential to grow participation

Table 9.5 draws upon the general recommendations set out in this strategy and identifies the key priorities for the Harrogate Town area.

Table 9.5 Harrogate Town – Summary of Key Priorities

Sport	Key Priorities in Harrogate Town	Rationale	Priority
Football	<p>F1: Address balance of provision through redesignation of adult and junior pitches.</p> <p>F5: Support the introduction of new forms of the game.</p> <p>F7 / F8 – Improve pitch quality and drainage</p> <p>F3 / F5: Support the creation of new facilities / relocate clubs that are dispersed across a variety of sites.</p>	<p>Pitch provision not tailored to users. There are shortfalls of junior pitches and surplus adult pitches. Redesignation will help to provide a short term solution to reduce these pressures.</p> <p>The impact of these proposals will need to be considered in the short term as new pitch configurations will be required in 2013. This will exacerbate the urgency of the recommendations below.</p> <p>Quality of pitches impacts upon capacity and desirability of pitches. As a consequence, there is an imbalance of use and perceived shortfalls of provision. There are not enough pitches of the right quality. Improvements to pitch quality / drainage will maximise the role of existing facilities.</p> <p>Relocation of clubs that are currently dispersed to new provision will free up capacity at other sites for existing teams.</p> <p>Long term secured use of school sites will increase the amount of facilities available. Improvements to these pitches may be required (linking with F7 / F8 / F6) to ensure that they are suitable for community use.</p> <p>Replacement of poor quality facilities with higher quality sites would better meet demand. This may include the</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Short – Medium Term</p> <p>Medium – Long Term</p> <p>Long Term</p>

Sport	Key Priorities in Harrogate Town	Rationale	Priority
	F10: Consider the provision of a 3g AGP	<p>replacement of single pitches with larger quality sites.</p> <p>As the largest centre of population, a 3g AGP would improve the strategic distribution of these facilities as well as providing additional capacity for football.</p>	
Cricket	<p>C3: Support clubs to improve pitch quality</p> <p>C1: Ensure the amount of pitches does not impact upon participation</p> <p>C5: Support clubs in the development of training nets and enhance sustainability</p>	<p>Quality issues at some sites reduce playing experience. Longer term, as larger clubs near capacity, there may be opportunities to use smaller facilities as overspill (see below) but only if they are appropriate quality).</p> <p>Capacity is becoming restricted at some larger clubs and extended provision may be required to accommodate demand.</p> <p>Pitch and quality is essential if capacity of existing facilities is to be sustained.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short – Medium Term • Medium Term • Ongoing
Rugby	R1: Support the relocation of rugby clubs where existing provision will constrain provision	Existing pitch provision is constrained at Harrogate RUFC in terms of both quality and quantity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Term
Hockey	<p>H2: Support any improvements that are required in pitch provision</p> <p>H1: Consider the need to provide an additional pitch at Harrogate Hockey Club</p>	<p>Quality improvements will be required as pitch ages</p> <p>Club is nearing capacity and increases in participation may see additional facilities required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term • Long Term

Table 9.6 sets out the potential options to address the recommendations on a site specific basis.

Table 9.6 – Potential Options to Address Recommendations – Harrogate Town

Links	Recommendation for Harrogate Town	Site Specific Opportunities
C1	Meet requirements of several clubs who are nearing capacity.	Bring back into use the former Harrogate Gas Cricket Ground (located opposite Killinghall Cricket Club) Local plan allocations to support new facilities, potentially including Pannal Cricket Club
C3	Support the improvement of existing cricket facilities	Almsford Oval (pavilion and pitch)
F1	Redesignation of pitches	Killinghall Moor (change adult to junior pitches) The Stray (adult to junior pitches)
F10	Negotiate access for the community to new 3g AGP or create new facility within Harrogate Town	Ashville College.
F13	Progress discussions with interested clubs in securing leases for facilities,	Killinghall Nomads FC (Killinghall Moor) and Pannal Ash FC (Almsford Oval). It may also be of benefit to consider Oatlands Recreation Ground for Pannal Ash FC as the sites are located very close together). Any lease for Almsford Oval should consider the interrelationship with the cricket pitch on the site as this is an important facility. Discussions with Pannal Ash FC should however consider club development and whether the club should seek a larger site.

Links	Recommendation for Harrogate Town	Site Specific Opportunities
		Any discussions with these clubs should consider the relocation of other clubs / teams that would be effected. The relocation of teams from these clubs to the new grounds would release capacity elsewhere (the Stray).
F2 / F6/ / F9	Secure formal agreements for the use of football pitches. This should include the provision of changing facilities	Harrogate Grammar School, Harrogate High School, St John Fisher School, St Aidans High School
F3 / F4	Allocate land for a new site for at least one large club – this should contain space for sufficient pitches to meet current and projected demand as well as changing accommodation.	Large Club – key opportunities include Pannal Ash, Pannal Sports FC.
F3 / F6 / F7 / F8	<p>Seek to improve access to facilities of appropriate quality across Harrogate by either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying opportunities to relocate pitches to existing green spaces – there are several green spaces that may have capacity to accommodate new pitches (appropriate changing accommodation would also be required). Existing pitches should then be returned to green space. There are currently several single pitch sites within Harrogate – the replacement of these facilities with multi pitch sites of higher quality would be of longer term greater value and of higher sporting benefit <p>Or, if no suitable locations are available; the quality of existing facilities should be improved.</p>	<p>a) If drainage issues cannot be addressed at The Stray, it may be necessary to retain this site as green space only and provide a new site (s) to replace these pitches. Other small sites that should be considered include Crimple Meadows, Prospect Park, Harlow Hill, Belmont Park / Cats Field.</p> <p>b)Replacement facilities should be provided through the local plan process through land allocations for sport or on site facilities within larger urban extensions.</p> <p>Quality issues that require improvement are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking, slope and changing – Queen Ethelburga’s – Changing accommodation improvements / provision – Plantation Avenue / Stray.

Links	Recommendation for Harrogate Town	Site Specific Opportunities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage – The Hydro, Harrogate Railway, Almsford Oval • Pitch improvements - Oatlands Recreation Ground • Toilets / washing facilities at smaller sites (Crimple Meadows, Queen Ethelburgas), Cats Field, Belmont Park.
F5	Evaluate the impact of the new forms of the game introduced through the FA Youth Review	Discuss site specific implications with Killinghall Nomads, Pannal Sports, Pannal Ash FC
F8	Address issues with drainage on existing facilities	<p>Killinghall Moor</p> <p>The Stray</p> <p>Queen Ethelburga's Playing Fields</p> <p>Harrogate Railway</p> <p>Almsford Oval</p>
H1	Support Harrogate Hockey Club in their aspirations for a new hockey pitch at the club base to ensure the ongoing growth of the club, as well as to facilitate aspirations to grow the sport of hockey in the district.	Harrogate Hockey Club
R1	Relocation of rugby clubs to meet demand	Seek to agree suitable relocation site with Harrogate RUFC

Links	Recommendation for Harrogate Town	Site Specific Opportunities
T3	Work with the LTA to introduce a Beacon Tennis Centre in the town	Valley Gardens or school site
T4	Address qualitative improvements at tennis clubs;	Harlow TC – Clubhouse Harrogate Racquets Club – Clubhouse St John Fisher School – resurfacing.

Knaresborough

Table 9.7 - Area Specific Summary - Knaresborough

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed																								
Football	<p>11 pitches available for community use and a further five pitches (all located at school sites) with no community use. Only one pitch owned by Council (Fyshe Field), remainder leased and managed by clubs.</p> <p>20 teams in total focused around two key clubs – Knaresborough Town and Knaresborough Celtic. There has been significant investment into facilities in this area, led by clubs in partnership with the Football Foundation. Demand is perhaps more focused than in other areas of the district, with all adult demand focused on a Saturday afternoon, while junior sport is played on a Sunday. Results of modelling calculations are set out below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scenario</th> <th>Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).</td> <td>0.3</td> <td>2.9</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play</td> <td>-0.5</td> <td>2.25</td> <td>2.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)</td> <td>0.3</td> <td>3.9</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)</td> <td>0.3</td> <td>2.9</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)</td> <td>0.3</td> <td>2.9</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	0.3	2.9	3	Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play	-0.5	2.25	2.75	Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)	0.3	3.9	4	Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)	0.3	2.9	3	Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)	0.3	2.9	3	<p>Adequate existing club bases that have received recent investment. Limited strategic reserve</p> <p>There are few opportunities in Knaresborough however for teams that are not affiliated to one of the large clubs to play.</p> <p>Good quality sites but suffer from overuse and unofficial use</p> <p>Future role of St James School – AGP and community use of grass pitches.</p>
Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus																							
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	0.3	2.9	3																							
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play	-0.5	2.25	2.75																							
Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)	0.3	3.9	4																							
Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)	0.3	2.9	3																							
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)	0.3	2.9	3																							

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>As demonstrated by figures overleaf, despite the higher than average temporal demand, provision is sufficient in quantitative terms to meet the needs of clubs and there is no reliance on cricket clubs or schools to meet needs currently. Despite this, most sites are at or nearing peak time and weekly capacity. Knaresborough Celtic use King George V Playing Fields as an overspill as their main home site is full and Knaresborough Town also have no capacity at peak times. A mini pitch has also been marked out at Hay a Park to accommodate additional play. Pitches are therefore sustaining relatively high levels of use.</p> <p>Although the quality of pitches is good, there are some signs of heavy use including damage to the surface and poor grass cover. Pitches achieve scores of between 56% and 98%, suggesting that there is a degree in variation, however on average facilities are better than in many other parts of the district. Many of the quality issues can be attributed to high amounts of play.</p> <p>There is no 3g football pitch in Knaresborough. The existing sand based pitch at King James School receives some limited community use however the facility does not have floodlights and its potential role for community sport is therefore limited. King James School are keen to extend the role of the school in catering for the community, however there are concerns with the drainage of the school playing fields meaning that there are currently limited opportunities for community use of these facilities.</p>	

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
Cricket	<p>Cricket is focused around three cricket clubs that between them have a total of 26 teams (of which 16 are adult teams). The number of teams that are accommodated at a peak time means that pressures in Knaresborough are higher on a Saturday than in any other part of the borough, with a shortfall of almost two pitches. This is reflected by the use of Almsford Oval by Knaresborough Forest CC – the team have to travel into Harrogate to play. The strips at Knaresborough Forest CC are also heavily used.</p> <p>All three sites are at capacity at peak time. Like in most other parts of the district, and reflecting the number of junior teams that are run by clubs, cricket pitches are also well used on both Sundays and midweek. Knaresborough Cricket Club is at capacity on Sundays as well as Saturdays and all clubs host midweek matches.</p> <p>Although clubs are reaching capacity, quality of facilities emerged as a higher priority, with Knaresborough Forest CC identifying the need to improve changing and drainage, while Goldsborough CC struggle to source appropriate training facilities although all three clubs have practice nets. Changing facilities at Goldsborough are also poor.</p>	<p>Quality issues at key sites</p> <p>Existing sites reaching capacity</p>
Rugby	<p>Knaresborough RUFC are one of three rugby clubs in the district. They run two senior teams but have no junior section. They have recently secured a 99 year lease from Harrogate Borough Council for the use of their facilities. Since then, significant investment has been made into the quality of pitches through money received from S106 contributions, as well as funding from Sport England and the RFU. This money was invested in pitch improvements including levelling, drainage, installation of a fence and the purchase of new equipment and posts. As a result, the pitch quality (particularly the first team pitch) is high. The quality of the club house and changing accommodation is poor although a grant has recently been awarded that will see significant improvements to the facility available.</p> <p>Current use of the pitches is below optimum levels and the club has room for expansion in terms</p>	<p>Poor quality pavilion and clubhouse restricts club development.</p>

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>of the number of pitches that can be laid out.</p> <p>Although Knaresborough RUFC do not currently operate a junior section, it is hoped that the recent improvements to pitch quality, as well as the planned development of the club house will facilitate the creation of a junior and midi rugby section. The existing club base is not sufficient to enable junior and female participation.</p>	
Hockey	There is no hockey played in Knaresborough. The AGP at Knaresborough King James is the right surface for hockey but is not floodlit.	None
Tennis	<p>There are only two sites containing tennis courts - Conyngam Park and St James School. St James School is an important club base (and includes three new courts) while Conyngam Park is a public facility. There is therefore a good balance of facilities in the town and all residents are able to access a tennis court within a five mile drive. The only quality issue identified is the limited availability of the floodlights at Knaresborough King James.</p> <p>Assuming the average participation rate across the District of 4.1%, each court in this area would be required to accommodate circa 67 players. This suggests that provision in Knaresborough is nearing capacity.</p>	<p>Priorities of the LTA to increase public awareness of pay and play opportunities</p> <p>Limited availability of floodlights at club base</p> <p>Longer term potential requirement for additional courts if latent demand was realised.</p>

Table 9.8 draws upon the general recommendations set out in this strategy and identifies the key priorities for the Knaresborough area.

Table 9.8 Knaresborough – Summary of Key Priorities

Sport	Key Priorities in Knaresborough	Rationale	Priority
Football	F5: Support the introduction of new forms of the game.	The impact of these proposals will need to be considered in the short term as new pitch configurations will be required in 2013.	Short Term
	F7 / F8 /F9 – Improve pitch quality and drainage	Quality of pitches impacts upon capacity and desirability of pitches. This is particularly important when pitches are heavily used as in Knaresborough.	Medium Term
	F3 / F5: Support the creation of new facilities / relocate clubs that are dispersed across a variety of sites.	Long term secured use of school sites will increase the amount of facilities available and reduce the wear and tear on existing pitches. Improvements to these pitches may be required (linking with F7 / F8 / F6) to ensure that they are suitable for community use.	Medium Term
	F10: Support the provision of a new AGP or conversion of an existing facility.	As one of the largest centres of population, a 3g AGP in Knaresborough would improve the strategic distribution of these facilities as well as providing additional capacity for football.	Medium Term
Cricket	C3: Support clubs to improve pitch quality	Quality issues at some sites reduce playing experience. The amount of use at these sites means that the quality of facilities is even more important.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short – Medium Term
	C1: Ensure the amount of pitches	Capacity is becoming restricted at some larger clubs and extended provision may be required to accommodate	

	does not impact upon participation C5: Support clubs in the development of training nets and enhance sustainability	demand. Pitch quality is essential if capacity of existing facilities is to be sustained. Training facilities are an important part of this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term • Ongoing
Rugby	R4: Support qualitative improvements to rugby provision	Capacity of club constrained due to restrictions of clubhouse and pavilion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Term
Hockey	No demand identified	No demand identified	N/A
Tennis	T4: Address quality issues at current tennis sites T5: Improve awareness and participation in tennis	Quality of facilities essential to maintain current levels of participation and increase capacity of key club site. Community participation in tennis is a key priority of the LTA. There are few opportunities for tennis in Knaresborough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term • Medium Term

Table 9.9 sets out the potential options to address the recommendations on a site specific basis.

Table 9.9 – Potential Options to Address Recommendations – Knaresborough Town

Links	Recommendation for Knaresborough	Site Specific Opportunities
C1	Meet requirements of clubs who are nearing capacity.	<p>Use of facilities at King James School. There is no existing cricket pitch at the site however the creation of a facility could be instrumental in building relationships between the school and local clubs.</p> <p>Local plan allocations to support new facilities. Long term requirement only.</p>
C3/ C5	Support the improvement of existing cricket facilities	<p>Goldsborough Cricket Club</p> <p>Knaresborough Forest Cricket Club (changing facilities)</p>
F10	Consider the provision of a 3g AGP	Resurface AGP at King James School and secure community access to this facility. Floodlights would also be required to maximise the capacity of the site
F2/ F3 /F6/ / F9/F8	Secure formal agreements for the use of football pitches. This should include the provision of changing facilities.	<p>King James School (drainage improvements will also be required to ensure facilities are of appropriate standard). Hay a Park may also be able to accommodate additional junior football.</p> <p>If this option is unsuccessful, extensions to existing club bases may be required long term. This may need to be delivered through the Local Plan via land allocations for sport and on site facilities within larger urban extensions.</p>

Links	Recommendation for Knaresborough	Site Specific Opportunities
F5	Evaluate the impact of the new forms of the game introduced through the FA Youth Review	Discuss site specific implications with Knaresborough Celtic
R4	Improvement of quality of facilities	Support improvements to Knaresborough RUFC (grant received).
T5	Work with the LTA to raise awareness and increase public use of Tennis facilities	Conyngnam Park
T4	Address qualitative improvements at tennis clubs;	King James School – investigate new floodlighting technology with a view to increasing the amount of time lights can be used for.

Ripon

Table 9.10 - Area Specific Summary - Ripon

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed																
Football	<p>7 pitches available for community use. Two public pitches (at Camp Close and Ure Bank) and the other pitches are in club control (Hell Wath is leased to Ripon City Panthers by Harrogate BC). Further 10 pitches not secured for use. 4 of these pitches are used by the community currently.</p> <p>21 teams in total. Demand more evenly split than most other parts of the district, with only 50% of demand at peak time for adults, and junior and mini teams playing on a Sunday.</p> <p>Highest levels of dissatisfaction- clubs dissatisfied with both amount and quality of provision.</p> <p>Modelling suggests that supply is closely matched with demand as set out below. Shortfalls of junior pitches are only just outweighed by surpluses of other pitch types. Further discussion is provided on these figures overleaf.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scenario</th> <th>Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Junior Football - Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Mini Football - Shortfall / Surplus</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon</td> <td>1.3</td> <td>-0.8</td> <td>1.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supply and Demand taking into account area specific</td> <td>1.5</td> <td>0</td> <td>1.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Including schools that offer informal community access</td> <td>3.4</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>1.4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon	1.3	-0.8	1.4	Supply and Demand taking into account area specific	1.5	0	1.75	Including schools that offer informal community access	3.4	0.2	1.4	<p>Pressures on existing pitch stock – provision constraining demand and no strategic reserve</p> <p>Lack of secure access to some pitches</p> <p>Aspirations of Ripon City FC to relocate in order to improve quality and amount of facilities provided. The rugby club would like to use the site vacated by Ripon City FC if this is vacated as the club move to an additional site – this conflicts with the aspirations of the football club, who need to sell the land in order to fund the planned move.</p>
Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football - Shortfall / Surplus															
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon	1.3	-0.8	1.4															
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific	1.5	0	1.75															
Including schools that offer informal community access	3.4	0.2	1.4															

Sport	Context				Issues to be Addressed
	Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which	1.4	-0.8	1.4	<p>Variation in pitch quality and high levels of wear and tear</p> <p>Role of Ure Bank playing pitch</p>
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality	0.4	-0.8	1.4		
<p>When taking into account the actual temporal demand in Ripon (rather than the district wide average) provision is more able to meet demand, however this is partially enforced by the constraints of the pitch stock rather than desires and aspirations of clubs. Districtwide, of the three adult clubs struggling to access match pitches, two are based in Ripon and more than half of all clubs struggle for pitches. There is no capacity on a Saturday afternoon for additional adult play, and only one slot on a Sunday morning at Mallorie Park and Camp Close.</p> <p>Like adult pitches, facilities at Hell Wath are heavily used (and are for the sole use of Ripon City Panthers) and there is no capacity for additional play. These facilities are also used extensively for training.</p> <p>Quality in Ripon varies more than any other part of the district (from 32% (Ure Bank) to 95%). Quality of pitches has an impact on the overall capacity of pitches, with less than one surplus pitch when excluding Ure Bank. This pitch is not used, due to its quality. This pitch received the lowest quality rating of all facilities in the district and is poorly located</p> <p>All pitches demonstrate signs of overuse and wear tear, specifically limited grass cover and damage to the surface. This heavy use of pitches means that opportunities to train on pitches is limited and the lack of alternative pitches means that clubs struggle to access facilities.</p> <p>There are no 3g pitches in the Ripon area and the only sand based pitch is at Ripon Grammar School, which has limited if any access to the general public. More than 50% of clubs also highlighted concerns about a lack of facilities for training. Training is not permitted on several match pitches in the area.</p>					

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
Cricket	<p>There are only 9 cricket teams – this is lower than in all other parts of the district. As one of the largest settlements, there may therefore be potential to realise latent demand. Participation in junior cricket is particularly low. There are only two cricket clubs – Ripon CC and Sharow CC. Studley Royal CC is located just outside the boundaries of the Ripon analysis area but is also thought to draw users from this area.</p> <p>Calculations demonstrate that on a Saturday (peak time) there is a shortfall of 0.4 pitches. Both clubs have three adult teams wishing to play on a Saturday and both sites are at capacity at peak time. Facilities at Ripon Grammar School are used as an overspill. This not however secured for community use and access could be removed at any time. There is also a pitch at Claro Barracks that is not accessible.</p> <p>Both sites have capacity outside of peak time (although the strips at Sharow CC are heavily used) and there is particular scope to increase participation at Ripon CC.</p> <p>The quality of both facilities is good, although Ripon CC can suffer from drainage issues during periods of heavy rainfall.</p>	<p>Lack of secured access to facility at Ripon Grammar School</p> <p>Potential to increase participation</p>

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
Rugby	<p>Ripon RUFC one of three clubs in the district and run 14 teams on their three pitches. The club only owns one of these pitches and is reliant on the goodwill of the land owner for use of the others. The club are keen to run additional teams (one adult and one junior team over the next two years). There are rugby pitches at Ripon Grammar, Outwood Academy and Cathedral Choir School that cater for some use although there is no long term relationship with the club.</p> <p>Taking into account match play and training, pitches are used almost 4 times per week which is above optimum levels and the club needs to expand to delivery its aspirations. Although there are sufficient rugby pitches in the district as a whole, rugby is a club based sport and the club base is central to the growth of the club. The club would like to use the site vacated by Ripon City FC if this is vacated as the club move to an additional site – this conflicts with the aspirations of the football club. The club also report issues with the lack of training facilities in the area.</p>	<p>club base is nearing capacity</p> <p>Lack of security of tenure for rugby club</p> <p>Role of school rugby pitches.</p> <p>Lack of training pitches.</p>
Hockey	<p>There is no hockey played in Ripon. The City Council comment that anyone wishing to play hockey must travel to Thirsk as there is a lack of facilities</p>	<p>No clear demand identified for new provision although this should be monitored.</p>
Tennis	<p>The only publicly accessible indoor facility in the district is located in Ripon and there is also a public tennis facility at Ripon Spa Park. All residents are within a 10 minute drive of a tennis court.</p> <p>Almost 50% of the existing courts are not however accessible to the community (located at school / MOD sites that are not open to the public) and this means that there is significant scope to increase provision in this area should the need arise.</p> <p>Assuming that 4.1% of the population (average) play tennis, currently, each court serves over 60 people on average. While at the top end of recommended levels, the presence of the indoor tennis facilities negates this to an extent as such a facility is able to accommodate many more players (LTA estimates circa 100 people per court). If latent demand was realised however,</p>	<p>Priorities of the LTA to increase public awareness of pay and play opportunities</p> <p>Lack of access to some tennis courts</p>

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>supply would be very closely balanced with demand. Demand for the indoor facility is particularly high as it is the only facility in the district and this facility attracts usage from outside Ripon as there are no other indoor facilities in the district. There are several sites that are not available for community access. If all facilities were available to the community, usage would decrease to circa 34 people per court.</p> <p>The quality of tennis courts in this part of the district is high.</p>	
Croquet	There are three croquet lawns at the Ripon Spa Hotel. There are no real issues facing the club currently and there are no additional facility related requirements.	

Table 9.11 draws upon the general recommendations and sets out the key priorities for pitch provision in Ripon

Table 9.11 – Key Priorities in Ripon

Sport	Key Priorities in Ripon	Rationale	Priority
Football	F5: Support the introduction of new forms of the game.	The impact of these proposals will need to be considered in the short term as new pitch configurations will be required in 2013. This will exacerbate the urgency of the recommendations below.	Short Term
	F3: Support the creation of new facilities where unmet demand is identified and where facilities are at capacity	There are shortfalls in provision in Ripon and it is in this area where the highest pressures in the district are evident. It must be noted that there is a need to balance the requirements of the football and rugby club. Club based facilities are required and there is also potential to create a new public playing field. The creation of new facilities is a priority issue to	Short – Medium Term

Sport	Key Priorities in Ripon	Rationale	Priority
	<p>F2 – Secure community use agreements at school sites</p> <p>F10 – consider the provision of a new AGP</p>	<p>ensure that football development is not restricted.</p> <p>Replacement of poor quality facilities with higher quality sites would better meet demand. This may include the replacement of single pitches with larger quality sites.</p> <p>There are shortfalls of pitches in Ripon and several school sites that have facilities, some of which are already being used on an informal basis. Securing these facilities will provide extra capacity and will reduce unmet demand. This may present a shorter term solution than the priority of securing a new facility (set out above).</p> <p>As the largest centre of population, a 3g AGP would improve the strategic distribution of these facilities as well as providing additional capacity for football.</p>	Medium – Long Term
Cricket	C2: Investigate opportunities to secure community use at school sites.	Capacity is becoming restricted at both club sites. Informal use is currently made of a school facility but access could be removed from this site at any time. These resources are important to ensure the sustainability of club cricket in Ripon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short – Medium Term
Rugby	R1: Support the relocation of rugby clubs where existing provision will constrain provision	Existing pitch provision is constrained at Ripon RUFC in terms of both quality and quantity. As set out above, it is important that solutions to this issue are evaluated in conjunction with plans for football.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Term

Sport	Key Priorities in Ripon	Rationale	Priority
Hockey	No demand identified	No demand identified	N/A
Tennis	T3 / T5 Improve access to community tennis facilities	Community participation in tennis is a key priority of the LTA. Existing club based tennis facilities are nearing capacity	

Table 9.12 sets out the potential options to address the recommendations on a site specific basis.

Table 9.12 – Potential Options to Address Recommendations – Ripon

Links	Recommendation for Ripon	Site Specific Opportunities
C2	Investigate opportunities to secure community use at school sites.	Ripon Grammar School (currently used by club as overspill)
F10	Provide a new 3g APG	Negotiate access to facility at Ripon Grammar School and reprovide the facility as a 3g pitch (currently sand) New pitch
F3 / R1	Support new facilities for rugby and football clubs to meet demand.	It is important that plans for the football club and rugby club are viewed in the context of each other to ensure an overall sporting benefit for Ripon. The sale for example of the current football club site (and its replacement as a new facility) reduces the options available for the rugby club, who are also struggling for space. Discussions should be held with both Ripon City FC and Ripon RUFC with regards the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a multi sport site in the current location (football / rugby / cricket). To achieve this, qualitative improvements

Links	Recommendation for Ripon	Site Specific Opportunities
		<p>would be required and secured tenure of all existing land used by all clubs would be needed. This may limit future expansion opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocation of the football club to a new site – this would need to be delivered through a sporting allocation in the local plan. In this event, the rugby club could expand to the previous land used by the football club, or alternatively, could look to secure new / additional facilities at an alternative venue. Potential facilities include Outwood Academy (formerly Ripon College), Ripon Grammar School and the former Cathedral Choir School playing fields. <p>All existing playing fields should be protected until a satisfactory outcome is reached for both clubs, given the knock on implications of proposals.</p> <p>Additional public pitches are also required in Ripon. The Ure Bank Playing Fields have no current or future sporting value and opportunities to replace this site should be considered. Opportunities for new facilities in Ripon include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New site (potentially replacing Ure Bank) Use of the former Cathedral Choir School Playing Fields A sporting allocation in the local plan. This might create an opportunity for Ripon City Panthers to move to a larger site and for their existing site at Hell Wath to accommodate other smaller clubs / single teams.

Links	Recommendation for Ripon	Site Specific Opportunities
F5	Evaluate the impact of the new forms of the game introduced through the FA Youth Review	Discuss site specific implications with Ripon City Panthers
T3	Work with the LTA to introduce a Beacon Tennis Centre in the town	Ripon Spa Park

Nidderdale

Table 9.13 – Issues and Priorities in Nidderdale

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed																								
Football	<p>Demand for pitches in Nidderdale is focused on a Saturday for mini soccer, but on Sunday morning for both junior and senior football. This means that there are limited opportunities for adults and juniors to share pitches and a higher demand at this time.</p> <p>Provision in this part of the district is relatively limited, with the only community pitches being at Pateley Bridge Showground, Darley and Hampsthwaite Recreation Ground. Notably, Nidderdale is one of the areas where clubs have expressed higher levels of dissatisfaction with the stock of facilities. The results of calculations are summarised below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scenario</th> <th>Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>-0.5</td> <td>1.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play</td> <td>0</td> <td>-1.5</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)</td> <td>1.4</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>1.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>-0.5</td> <td>1.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>-1.5</td> <td>-0.4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>As indicated above, even at the baseline level, supply is closely matched with demand. The shortfall of junior pitches is just outweighed by the surplus of adult pitches and the high emphasis on demand for adult and junior pitches on a Sunday morning is clear as there are shortfalls of provision. The playing fields at Nidderdale High School are not currently used, but they would offer additional capacity and reduce pressures on other pitches.</p>	Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	0.4	-0.5	1.6	Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play	0	-1.5	1	Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)	1.4	0.5	1.6	Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)	0.4	-0.5	1.6	Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)	0.4	-1.5	-0.4	<p>Poor quality of existing facilities</p> <p>Dissatisfaction of clubs and unevenly distributed play</p> <p>Lack of training facilities and access to AGP</p>
Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus																							
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	0.4	-0.5	1.6																							
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play	0	-1.5	1																							
Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)	1.4	0.5	1.6																							
Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)	0.4	-0.5	1.6																							
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)	0.4	-1.5	-0.4																							

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>The quality of pitches has further negative impact, with shortfalls in this part of the borough increasing when considering the impact of quality of facilities. This is also reflected in club consultation, which demonstrated higher levels of dissatisfaction with the quality of provision than in most other areas. Directly resulting from the quality of facilities, with regards adult pitches, usage is uneven. There is high demand at Darley Playing Fields and Pateley Bridge Showground is also fully booked on a Saturday.</p> <p>The quality of pitches in this area is impacted upon by drainage and water retention issues and it is notable that there is little variation in the quality of the overall facilities, with an average score of 53% to 67%. This however suggests that there are no particularly high quality facilities and quality is lower than many other areas. The poor quality reduces the availability of pitches and can result in cancellations and the relocation of teams. Hampsthwaite Recreation Ground is identified as having particularly poor drainage. Pitches at Hampsthwaite also not have changing facilities which restricts their attractiveness to users. Hampsthwaite has very good toilets and teams change in the cricket pavilion which is in close proximity to the recreation ground. Two adult teams from Hampsthwaite are currently forced to travel to Harrogate Town to use pitches as they are not able to access appropriate pitches within Hampsthwaite. Notably, all clubs expressing dissatisfaction with the pitch stock referenced the quality of pitches and not the amount of facilities.</p> <p>In addition to the pitches highlighted in this section to date, there are several facilities not currently used as formal pitches but that have previously functioned as such, specifically Pateley Bridge Park and Max Pullan Recreation Ground.</p> <p>Access to artificial pitches is limited and many residents are outside of the recommended catchment. There are no 3g pitches in the area and no sand based facilities. Nidderdale High School expressed the aspiration to develop an AGP.</p>	
Cricket	<p>With the exception of Summerbridge, there is a cricket club in all larger settlements in the Nidderdale area and participation is high.</p> <p>Calculations undertaken in line with Towards a Level Playing Field indicate that provision is just sufficient to meet requirements in Nidderdale (0.2 pitches surplus). In addition to secured pitches, Belmont Grosvenor School is regularly used as an overspill facility by clubs, however this site is currently unsecured and access could be removed at any time.</p>	<p>Role of Belmont Grosvenor School</p> <p>Short term quality issues</p> <p>Lack of training provision at Birstwith CC</p>

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>Despite calculations suggesting that provision is relatively tight in this area (these are based on the boroughwide temporal distribution of play) Table 5.14 indicates that there is more spare capacity in the stock of facilities than in most other parts of the district with Glasshouses CC, Birstwith CC and Hamphswaite CC both currently able to accommodate additional play on a Saturday. Grounds in this part of the district however have fewer strips on the square, meaning that they have a lower overall capacity to sustain matches and some grounds are nearing capacity in terms of the number of matches that are played, even though there are timeslots available for to accommodate matches.</p> <p>The quality of facilities is varying, but most issues identified relate to the quality of the playing pitch rather than the changing facilities. A lack of practice nets is also raised by some clubs and it is clear that a lower proportion of clubs in this part of the district have access to nets. It is particularly noticeable that Birstwith CC, a relatively large club with 2 grounds have to travel to use nets and have no on site facilities.</p>	
Rugby	No rugby played in this area.	None
Hockey	No hockey played in this area.	None
Tennis	<p>There are four sites containing nine courts in the Nidderdale area and these are a range of public, club and school facilities. Two of the courts are not currently accessible to the general public (at Belmont School). Like the other rural areas, access to courts in some parts of Nidderdale is limited and residents are further than five miles from a facility.</p> <p>Assuming the average participation rate across the Borough of 4.1%, each court in this area would be required to accommodate circa 44 players. This suggests that there is capacity in the current facility stock and this is emphasised by the fact that all clubs have capacity for new members. None of the clubs have a membership that exceeds the number of courts that they have, based upon LTA parameters.</p> <p>When excluding the tennis courts at Belmont School that are not currently available, this rises to 54, which is still within acceptable levels. Dacre Tennis Club highlight the need for a replacement pavilion (shared with cricket club).</p>	None

Table 9.14 draws upon the general recommendations set out in this strategy and identifies the key priorities for the Nidderdale Area

Table 9.14 Nidderdale – Summary of Key Priorities

Sport	Key Priorities in Nidderdale	Rationale	Priority
Football	<p>F5: Support the introduction of new forms of the game.</p> <p>F7 / F8 /F9– Improve pitch quality</p> <p>F3 / F4 /F5: Support the creation of new facilities / relocate clubs that are dispersed across a variety of sites.</p>	<p>The impact of these proposals will need to be considered in the short term as new pitch configurations will be required in 2013.</p> <p>Quality of pitches is high although there are issues with changing facilities. The quality of pitches is particularly important in this area as facilities are required to sustain high levels of use.</p> <p>Demand for pitch provision is closely matched with demand meaning that longer term, demand may exceed supply. There are several sites that have previously been used for formal play that could be reinstated for this purpose. This may also require qualitative improvements (F7 / F8 / F9)</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Short Term</p> <p>Medium – Long Term</p>
Cricket	<p>C3: Support clubs to improve pitch quality</p> <p>C5: Support clubs in the development of training nets and enhance sustainability</p> <p>C2: Ensure the amount of pitches does not impact upon participation by securing access to school sites</p>	<p>Quality issues at some sites reduce playing experience.</p> <p>Pitch and quality is essential if capacity of existing facilities is to be sustained. Capacity is becoming restricted at some larger clubs and extended provision may be required to accommodate demand.</p> <p>Use takes place on a school site that is not secured formally. This means that access could be removed at any point in time which would be detrimental to cricket provision in the area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short – Medium Term • Short - medium • Long Term
Rugby	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A

Sport	Key Priorities in Nidderdale	Rationale	Priority
Hockey	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A
Tennis	T4 – Address qualitative issues at existing clubs	Capacity in current facility stock. Quality of facilities important if participation is to be maintained.	
Other sports	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A

Table 9.15 sets out the potential options to address the recommendations on a site specific basis.

Table 9.15 – Potential Options to Address Recommendations – Nidderdale

Links	Recommendation for Nidderdale	Site Specific Opportunities
C3 / T4	Support the improvement of existing cricket facilities	Dacre Cricket and Tennis Club
C5	Support clubs in the development of training nets and enhance sustainability	Birstwith CC second ground
F3	Provide additional facilities in the area to accommodate demand.	Reinstatement of facilities previously used for formal play – include Pateley Bridge Park and Max Pullan Recreation Ground. Longer term new provision for Nidd United (linked with recommendations in Central Harrogate). There is also high demand for facilities in Hampsthwaite
F5	Evaluate the impact of the new forms of the game introduced through the FA Youth Review	Discuss site specific implications with Hampsthwaite JFC, Nidd United,
F7 / F9	Improve pitch quality and support drainage improvements and upgrades	Hampsthwaite Recreation Ground

Links	Recommendation for Nidderdale	Site Specific Opportunities
C2/ F2	Negotiate community access to school facilities	Belmont Grosvenor School

North East Harrogate District

Table 9.16 – Issues and Priorities in North East Harrogate District

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed																								
Football	<p>There are only 2 adult football pitches secured for community use but there are 15 teams. Boroughbridge High School and Primary School both offer unsecured use. The only community pitches are at Boroughbridge Sports Association and Dishforth Playing Fields. Boroughbridge is the main settlement in this area of the district and the majority of demand is based within this area.</p> <p>Demand for pitches in North East Harrogate District is focused upon a Saturday afternoon for adults and Saturday mornings for junior and mini teams. This means that there is heavy use of pitches on a Saturday. The results of calculations and modelling are summarised below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scenario</th> <th>Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>-1.5</td> <td>-0.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play</td> <td>1.5</td> <td>-1</td> <td>-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)</td> <td>3.4</td> <td>1.5</td> <td>0.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>-1.5</td> <td>-0.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>-1.5</td> <td>-0.4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It is clearly evident that even at the baseline level, there are shortfalls of junior and mini pitches and the provision of adult pitches is only just sufficient. When taking into account the temporal demand for pitches, this situation intensifies further.</p> <p>Incorporation of facilities at school sites shows a clear reliance upon pitches at school sites (specifically at Boroughbridge High School and Boroughbridge Primary School). These schools</p>	Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	0.4	-1.5	-0.4	Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play	1.5	-1	-1	Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)	3.4	1.5	0.6	Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)	0.4	-1.5	-0.4	Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)	0.4	-1.5	-0.4	<p>Shortfalls in provision</p> <p>Lack of security of tenure for large club</p> <p>Lack of training facilities and access to AGP</p>
Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus																							
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	0.4	-1.5	-0.4																							
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play	1.5	-1	-1																							
Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)	3.4	1.5	0.6																							
Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)	0.4	-1.5	-0.4																							
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)	0.4	-1.5	-0.4																							

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>do not offer formal community use.</p> <p>The quality of pitches has minimal impact on the overall capacity of community pitches although it must be noted that neither school site offers ancillary facilities to support the pitches that are used.</p> <p>More specifically, with regards adult pitches, Boroughbridge Sports Association is heavily used and there is no spare capacity on either Saturday or Sunday. In contrast, Dishforth Playing Fields is able to accommodate additional play on both Saturday and Sunday</p> <p>There are no opportunities for junior teams outside of the school sites. Boroughbridge JFC are spread across both the High School and the Primary School and they have no security of tenure of facilities. Reflecting this, the clubs express dissatisfaction with the total lack of pitches in this part of the borough and are concerned about the future implications of this in terms of club development. There are also concerns about the quality of pitches, including access to facilities on site. Boroughbridge High School also raise concerns with the drainage of these pitches.</p> <p>In addition to the pitches highlighted in this section to date, Rainton Recreation Field is not currently used as a formal pitch but has previously functioned as such.</p> <p>Access to artificial pitches is limited and many residents are outside of the recommended catchment of 20 minutes. There are no 3g pitches in the area and no sand based facilities. Reflecting this, concerns about access to training facilities were also raised by the clubs. Boroughbridge High School expressed an aspiration to provide an AGP on site.</p>	
Cricket	<p>Boroughbridge, the largest settlement in the North east area contains a cricket club and additional provision is also provided at Boroughbridge High School, although this is available informally only and is rarely if at all used by the clubs.</p> <p>Calculations undertaken in line with Towards a Level Playing Field indicate that provision is sufficient to meet requirements in North East Harrogate District, with more than two pitches surplus to requirements at peak time. This is the only area of the borough where calculations suggest that there are more than two pitches spare on a peak day. Three of the six cricket pitches (there are two at Newby Hall Cricket Club) are able to accommodate additional play on a Saturday. There is also capacity across the week and on a Sunday.</p>	Opportunities to increase usage

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>There is greater flexibility in the stock of facilities in this area and as a consequence there is particular scope to increase the amount of junior participation, with lower than average numbers of teams playing and most clubs focusing solely on adult participation. Most clubs also have capacity during the week and could therefore accommodate growth in participation. Analysis of the usage of wickets available reinforces this, suggesting that all strips are used below optimum levels.</p> <p>Few quality issues were raised and no clubs raised any concerns.</p>	
Rugby	No rugby played in this area.	None
Hockey	No hockey played in this area.	None
Tennis	<p>The only tennis courts within North East Harrogate are in Boroughbridge, the largest settlement in this part of the district. They are situated on two sites (Boroughbridge Tennis Club and Boroughbridge High School). Like other rural areas, not all residents in this part of the district are within five miles of a tennis court.</p> <p>Assuming that all courts are available (6) (and based upon the average participation rate across the Borough of 4.1%) each court would be required to accommodate circa 60 players which is just within acceptable limits. Tennis courts at Boroughbridge High School are not however currently used by the public and there is no formal use agreement. Courts therefore theoretically accommodate double this (120 people per court) which is over the recommended amount of people.</p> <p>While provision is only just sufficient to meet demand in theoretical terms, there is no evidence to suggest that additional tennis facilities are required at Boroughbridge Tennis Club and the club has capacity for additional members.</p>	None

Table 9.17 - North East Harrogate District – Summary of Key Priorities

Sport	Key Priorities in North East Harrogate	Rationale	Priority
Football	<p>F5: Support the introduction of new forms of the game.</p> <p>F3 / F5: Support the creation of new facilities / relocate clubs that are dispersed across a variety of sites</p> <p>F2: Secure access to school facilities</p> <p>F10: Consider the provision of a 3g APG</p>	<p>The impact of these proposals will need to be considered in the short term as new pitch configurations will be required in 2013.</p> <p>Demand for pitch provision is closely matched with demand and there are shortfalls of junior pitches. The junior club is dispersed across several sites and does not have security of tenure.</p> <p>Access to school facilities will help to reduce capacity issues and provide longer term sustainability for clubs. Securing access to these facilities may provide a shorter term solution than the new provision suggested above.</p> <p>There is a lack of AGPs in this area of the borough. Provision of a 3g facility may reduce use of grass pitches</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Short Term</p> <p>Short Term</p> <p>Medium – Long Term</p>
Cricket	C3: Support clubs to improve pitch quality	Quality is important to maximise playing experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
Rugby	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A
Hockey	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A
Tennis	T4 – Address qualitative issues at existing clubs	Current facilities meeting high levels of demand. Quality of facilities important if participation is to be maintained.	
Other sports	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A

Table 9.18 sets out the potential options to address the recommendations on a site specific basis.

Table 9.18 – Potential Options to Address Recommendations – North East Harrogate District

Links	Recommendation for North East Harrogate District	Site Specific Opportunities
F3	Provide additional facilities in the area to accommodate demand.	Support the provision of new facilities at Aldboroughgate
F5	Evaluate the impact of the new forms of the game introduced through the FA Youth Review	Discuss site specific implications with Boroughbridge Juniors and ensure that these requirements are taken into account in the design of Aldboroughgate
F10	Consider the provision of a new AGP	Boroughbridge High School
C2/ F2	Secure community access to school facilities	Boroughbridge High School, Boroughbridge Primary School

North West Harrogate District

Table 9.19 – Issues and Priorities in North West Harrogate District

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
Football	<p>Demand for pitches in North West Harrogate District is focused upon a Saturday afternoon for adults and Saturday mornings for junior and mini teams. There are six teams in total.</p> <p>This means that there is heavy use of pitches on a Saturday. Provision in this part of the district is relatively limited, with the only community pitches being at Kirkby Malzeard (Highside Playing Fields) and Masham Sports Association. This means however that the two key settlements in this part of the borough both have playing fields. Calculations and modelling undertaken are summarised below.</p>	<p>None, provision currently sufficient to meet demand overall.</p>

Sport	Context			Issues to be Addressed
	Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus
	Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	1.3	-0.3	2.6
	Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play	1	-0.5	2
	Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)	1.3	-0.3	2.6
	Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)	1.3	-0.3	2.6
	Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)	1.3	-0.3	2.6
	<p>It is clear that even at the baseline level, provision is just sufficient to meet requirements. There are enough adult and mini pitches, but pressures on junior pitches. There is limited use of school facilities in this area and the situation remains consistent when taking into account schools that are open for informal community use. The quality of pitches has minimal impact on the overall capacity of community pitches.</p> <p>More specifically, there is spare capacity at both sites for adult usage. There is also spare capacity at Highside Playing Fields for mini teams and it is thought that pitches are used flexibly, with the adult pitch being used for mini play on occasion.</p> <p>The quality of pitch provision is comparatively good and is consistent. The Kirkby Malzeard Playing Fields received Football Foundation Funding in 2011 and as a consequence were upgraded significantly. There are greater opportunities to upgrade the playing fields at Masham Sports Association.</p> <p>In addition to the pitches highlighted in this section to date, North Stainley Recreation Association is not currently used as a formal pitch but has previously functioned as such.</p> <p>Access to artificial pitches is limited and many residents are outside of the recommended catchment. There are no 3g pitches in the area and no sand based facilities.</p>			

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
Cricket	<p>Calculations undertaken in line with Towards a Level Playing Field indicate that provision is just sufficient to meet requirements in North West Harrogate District, with almost two pitches surplus to requirements at peak time. Two sites (Lofthouse and Middlemoor CC and Highside Playing Fields) are able to accommodate additional play on a Saturday. There is also capacity across the week and on a Sunday.</p> <p>It is clear however that pitches are still well used with a lot of play midweek as a result of the high numbers of junior teams. The overall picture in this area disguises club specific issues at Studley CC and North Stainley CC – the two clubs with a larger junior base. This reflects the situation in many parts of the district where clubs are reaching their capacity.</p> <p>It is clear that many of the cricket pitches in this part of the district are smaller than average and are of lower quality, with some issues relating to grass cover and drainage.</p>	<p>Quality of facilities</p> <p>Some clubs reaching capacity</p>
Rugby	No rugby played in this area.	None
Hockey	No hockey played in this area.	None
Tennis	<p>Provision in North West Harrogate District is comparatively high, with seven courts, all of which are available to the public. This means that using the average participation as a base, each court is required to accommodate circa 34 players, a level below recommended amounts. This suggests that there is capacity in the current facility stock.</p> <p>Both of the larger settlements (Kirkby Malzeard and Masham) have tennis courts and associated clubs and both of these clubs have capacity for additional members. Like other rural parts of the district however there are some residents that fall outside of the target catchment of a tennis court.</p> <p>While the quantity of courts in relation to the population is high, the quality of facilities is perhaps more varying than other areas.</p>	Quality of facilities

Table 9.20 draws upon the general recommendations set out in this strategy and identifies the key priorities for North West Harrogate District

Table 9.20 - North West Harrogate District – Summary of Key Priorities

Sport	Key Priorities in North West Harrogate District	Rationale	Priority
Football	<p>F5: Support the introduction of new forms of the game.</p> <p>F7 / F8 /F9- Improve pitch quality</p> <p>F3 / F5: Support the creation of new facilities / relocate clubs that are dispersed across a variety of sites.</p>	<p>The impact of these proposals will need to be considered in the short term as new pitch configurations will be required in 2013.</p> <p>There are currently enough pitches but there are opportunities to improve the quality of facilities.</p> <p>Like in many other areas, demand for pitch provision is relatively closely matched with supply meaning that longer term, demand may exceed supply. There are pitches that have previously been used for formal play that could be reinstated for this purpose. This may also require qualitative improvements (F7 / F8 / F9)</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Short Term</p> <p>Medium – Long Term</p>
Cricket	<p>C3: Support clubs to improve pitch quality</p> <p>C5: Support clubs in the development of training nets and enhance sustainability</p> <p>C2: Ensure the amount of pitches does not impact upon participation</p>	<p>Quality issues at some sites reduce playing experience. Pitch and quality is essential if capacity of existing facilities is to be sustained. As there are currently enough facilities, quality improvements are of higher priorities.</p> <p>Two clubs are however approaching capacity and longer term, consideration may need to be given to the availability of existing facilities, either through the use of facilities at a smaller club as a satellite ground, or the creation of new facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short – Medium Term • Short - medium • Long Term
Rugby	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A

Sport	Key Priorities in North West Harrogate District	Rationale	Priority
Hockey	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A
Tennis	T4 – Address qualitative issues at existing clubs	Capacity in current facility stock. Quality of facilities important if participation is to be maintained.	
Other sports	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A

Table 9.21 sets out the potential options to address the recommendations on a site specific basis.

Table 9.21 – Potential Options to Address Recommendations – North West Harrogate District

Links	Recommendation for North West Harrogate District	Site Specific Opportunities
C3 / T4	Support the improvement of existing cricket facilities	Studley Royal CC, North Stainley CC
C5	Support clubs in the development of training nets and enhance sustainability	North Stainley CC, Galphay and Winsley CC (small club only)
F3	Provide additional facilities in the area to accommodate demand.	Reinstatement of facilities previously used for formal play – include Pateley Bridge Park and Max Pullan Recreation Ground. Longer term new provision for Nidd United (linked with recommendations in Central Harrogate). There is also high demand for facilities in Hampsthwaite
F5	Evaluate the impact of the new forms of the game introduced through the FA Youth Review	Discuss site specific implications with Kirkby Lions FC
F7 / F9	Improve pitch quality and support drainage improvements and	Masham Recreation Ground

Links	Recommendation for North West Harrogate District	Site Specific Opportunities
	upgrades	
C1	Provide additional cricket facilities where required through a variety of different means	Studley Royal CC
T5	Improve the quality of tennis courts	Galphay Village Institute

South Harrogate District

Table 9.22 – Issues and Priorities in South Harrogate District

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed																								
Football	<p>Demand for pitches in South Harrogate is spread, with peak time for adult football being Saturday, youth (Sunday morning) and mini teams playing on Sunday afternoon. There are 17 teams in total. Beckwithshaw contains the only facilities in this part of the district, with two sites at the Village Hall and the Cricket Club. The results of the modelling are below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scenario</th> <th>Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>-0.8</td> <td>5.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play</td> <td>0</td> <td>-0.25</td> <td>4.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>-0.8</td> <td>5.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>-0.8</td> <td>-0.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>-0.8</td> <td>5.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	0.5	-0.8	5.2	Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play	0	-0.25	4.75	Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)	0.5	-0.8	5.2	Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)	0.5	-0.8	-0.8	Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)	0.5	-0.8	5.2	<p>Shortfalls in pitch provision and longer term impact on club</p> <p>Quality issues at existing sites</p>
Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus																							
Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	0.5	-0.8	5.2																							
Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play	0	-0.25	4.75																							
Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)	0.5	-0.8	5.2																							
Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)	0.5	-0.8	-0.8																							
Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)	0.5	-0.8	5.2																							

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>As can clearly be seen;</p> <p>Even at the baseline level, supply is closely matched with demand in terms of adult and junior football. There are however clearly sufficient mini pitches with the largest surplus in the district (after Harrogate). The facilities at the cricket club are of particular importance to the local club – without these pitches there would be a shortfall in this area of mini pitches and the amount of teams currently run by the club would be unsustainable.</p> <p>There are concerns relating to the quality of the facilities and provision becomes more closely matched with demand when quality is taken into account.</p> <p>More detailed analysis reveals that there is capacity for additional adult play on a Saturday at the Village Hall. This site is however at capacity on a Sunday morning with junior teams and it is likely that the pitch would be used by these teams. Reality therefore suggests that there are limited further opportunities for adults in this part of the district.</p> <p>Although the village hall is unable to accommodate additional matches at peak times, there is scope to increase the amount of play at Beckwithshaw Cricket club at peak times although the impact on the quality of the cricket outfield should be monitored. The impact of training on the pitches should also be considered.</p> <p>The quality of the changing facility at the village hall is poor. While this does not impact upon capacity, it limits the attractiveness of the facility. Pitch quality also requires improvement. The only issues raised in this part of the district related to the quality of provision. No concerns over the quantity of pitches were evident.</p>	
Cricket	<p>Participation in cricket in South Harrogate is amongst the highest of all parts of the district, with 37 teams in total accommodated on six sites. Both Spofforth and Follifoot, the two largest settlements in this part of the district include a cricket club.</p> <p>Calculations indicate that there are sufficient pitches to meet demand on a peak day. Despite this, supply is in fact closely matched with demand and indeed there is only one pitch available on a Saturday for senior cricket (and this is already used as overspill by Pannal CC). There is good use of facilities midweek although Sicklinghall CC is only used on a Saturday and there is more capacity available midweek than in many other parts of the district. Follifoot Cricket Club are already struggling to accommodate matches and is evident that similar to other areas, the</p>	<p>Quality of facilities</p> <p>Some clubs reaching capacity</p>

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>larger clubs are reaching capacity. Usage of the wickets at Follifoot CC is already above optimum levels.</p> <p>The quality of pitches in this part of the district is high and there are few areas for improvement identified.</p>	
Rugby	No rugby played in this area.	None
Hockey	No hockey played in this area.	None
Tennis	<p>South Harrogate district has only three courts – at Kirkby Overblow (2) and Follifoot. There are no courts in Spofforth, one of the largest settlements in this area (although these residents are within a 10 minute drive of Wetherby). Not all residents are within a 5 mile catchment of tennis courts and that provision is relatively sparse in this part of the district.</p> <p>Based on the assumed participation rate of 4.1% across the district, this means that each court accommodates 89 players which is above recommended levels. Despite this, both clubs are thought to have capacity for additional members.</p>	None

Table 9.23 draws upon the general recommendations set out in this strategy and identifies the key priorities for South Harrogate District

Table 9.23 South Harrogate District – Summary of Key Priorities

Sport	Key Priorities in South Harrogate District	Rationale	Priority
Football	F5: Support the introduction of new forms of the game.	The impact of these proposals will need to be considered in the short term as new pitch configurations will be required in 2013.	Short Term
	F7 / F8 /F9- Improve pitch quality	There are concerns over the quality of existing pitch provision and a need to improve sites to ensure that they continue to meet local need.	Short Term

Sport	Key Priorities in South Harrogate District	Rationale	Priority
	F3 / F5: Support the creation of new facilities / relocate clubs that are dispersed across a variety of sites.	Like in many other areas, demand for pitch provision is relatively closely matched with supply. The club are spread across three sites (all of them small) and while the partnership between the football and cricket clubs is positive), the amount of use of the cricket outfield may lead to long term deterioration. New provision may be required to meet the club's needs longer term.	Medium – Long Term
Cricket	C3 /C5: Support clubs in the development of training nets and enhance sustainability C1 – Ensure that there are sufficient facilities for cricket	Quality issues at some sites reduce playing experience. Pitch and quality is essential if capacity of existing facilities is to be sustained. As there are currently enough facilities, quality improvements are of higher priorities and this includes training facilities. Two clubs are however approaching capacity and longer term, consideration may need to be given to the availability of existing facilities, either through the use of facilities at a smaller club as a satellite ground, or the creation of new facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short – Medium Term • Long Term
Rugby	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A
Hockey	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A
Tennis	T4 – Address qualitative issues at existing clubs T6: Support new tennis provision	Capacity in current club bases but courts are highly used. Quality of facilities important if participation is to be maintained. Given that there is no tennis in Spofforth, the largest settlement in this area, and potential usage is high, longer term new provision should be supported if demand arises.	
Other	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A

Sport	Key Priorities in South Harrogate District	Rationale	Priority
sports			

Table 9.24 sets out the potential options to address the recommendations on a site specific basis.

Table 9.24 – Potential Options to Address Recommendations – South Harrogate District

Links	Recommendation for South Harrogate District	Site Specific Opportunities
C3 / C5	Support the improvement of existing cricket facilities	Spofforth CC, Follifoot CC
F3	Provide additional facilities in the area to accommodate demand.	Beckwithshaw JFC
F5	Evaluate the impact of the new forms of the game introduced through the FA Youth Review	Discuss site specific implications with Beckwithshaw JFC
F7 / F9	Improve pitch and changing quality	Beckwithshaw Village Hall (changing)

South East Harrogate District

Table 9.25 – Issues and Priorities in South East Harrogate District

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
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Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed																								
Football	<p>Demand for pitches in South East Harrogate District is focused on a Saturday for adults, Sunday morning for mini football and Sunday afternoon for junior football. This means that demand is spread across the weekend. In total there are 35 teams.</p> <p>Provision in South East Harrogate is relatively high and is primarily focused upon club and Parish Council / Playing Field association facilities. The results of modelling are summarised below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scenario</th> <th>Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> <th>Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).</td> <td>4.2</td> <td>0.9</td> <td>-0.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)</td> <td>4.2</td> <td>0.9</td> <td>1.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)</td> <td>4.2</td> <td>0.9</td> <td>-0.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)</td> <td>4.2</td> <td>0.9</td> <td>-0.3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It is clear that provision is sufficient to meet demand at a baseline level, with sufficient adult and junior pitches and only a small shortfall of mini football pitches. This shortfall is offset by the surplus adult and junior pitches. Adjustments to the temporal demand have little impact on the overall adequacy of provision.</p> <p>School sites used informally provide a little additional capacity. This is due to the inclusion of Tockwith Primary School, which provides two mini football pitches. The role of cricket pitches is however clear, as there is a small shortfall of provision when taken out of the equation. The quality of pitches has some impact on the overall adequacy of provision, with the surpluses of adult football pitches reducing. This suggests that not all pitches in the area are fit for the purpose that they are intended. Reflecting this, usage of adult pitches is uneven. There is high demand at Kirk Hammerton and Kirk Deighton pitches as well as Great Ouseburn however there is capacity at Green Hammerton and Whixley Playing Field is hardly used.</p> <p>Analysis of the adequacy of pitches for juniors presents a misleading picture, as Kirk Deighton</p>	Scenario	Adult Football Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Baseline Supply and Demand (draws upon district wide patterns of play).	4.2	0.9	-0.3	Supply and Demand taking into account area specific patterns of play	3	1	-0.5	Including schools that offer informal community access (Explained further in Table 4.13)	4.2	0.9	1.7	Excluding pitches provided at cricket clubs (which may be removed if they are not used)	4.2	0.9	-0.3	Shortfalls and Surpluses excluding Poor Quality Pitches (Explained further in Table 4.13)	4.2	0.9	-0.3	<p>Quality issues</p> <p>Pressures at Tockwith FC</p>
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Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	<p>JFC actually travel out of the district to Wetherby to use their new facility (Grange Park). The old facility at Loshpott Lane still exists and is occasionally used, but has capacity to accommodate additional play. Tockwith FC is a growing club and facilities are nearing capacity. The club uses Tockwith Primary School to accommodate this overspill and raises concerns about the impact of the recent FA review on the adequacy of pitches. The club also train on their pitches creating further pressures.</p> <p>The quality of pitches is varying, but none fall below the threshold that suggests they may offer reduced capacity. There are however some quality issues that need to be addressed. In addition to the pitches highlighted in this section to date, Marton Cum Grafton Recreation Ground is not currently used as a formal pitch but has previously functioned as such.</p>	
Cricket	<p>Participation in cricket in South East Harrogate is the highest in the district in terms of number of teams (44) and also the number of clubs. Reflecting this, like other parts of the district, there is little spare capacity in the pitch stock, with only Wighill Cricket Club able to accommodate additional play on a Saturday.</p> <p>There is greater ability to accommodate additional play midweek than in other areas although the majority of facilities are still well used. With the exception of Kirk Deighton Cricket Club, most wickets are also used at or below optimum capacity.</p> <p>Quality is an issue for several clubs in this part of the district, with Great Ouseburn CC, Kirk Deighton CC, Kirk Hammerton CC and Long Marston CC all identifying qualitative improvements that are required. Most of these issues were also reflected in scores achieved in site visits, with sites achieving lower scores than most other areas and several pavilions rated as poor.</p>	<p>Facilities reaching capacity at peak time</p> <p>Qualitative issues</p>
Rugby	No rugby played in this area.	None
Hockey	No hockey played in this area.	None
Tennis	<p>Tockwith Tennis Club is the only club in South East Harrogate and offers two courts. There is no pay and play access to these courts. This means that none of the larger settlements of Marton Cum Grafton, Great Ouseburn or Green Hammerton offer a facility and residents must travel and are outside of the five mile catchment for a tennis court. Reflecting the fact that there are only two courts within this part of the district, when using the LTA standards as a measure of the adequacy of supply, it can be concluded that there is a shortfall in provision, with courts expected to serve almost 200 players each. Despite this, there is capacity within the existing</p>	<p>Improvements required for Tockwith TC</p> <p>Potential latent demand</p>

Sport	Context	Issues to be Addressed
	club to accommodate new members and the club are seeking to do so through active promotion. The club currently do not have a clubhouse or floodlights, which reduces the amount of play that can take place.	

Table 9.26 draws upon the general recommendations set out in this strategy and identifies the key priorities for South East Harrogate District.

Table 9.26 South Harrogate District – Summary of Key Priorities

Sport	Key Priorities in South Harrogate District	Rationale	Priority
Football	F5: Support the introduction of new forms of the game.	The impact of these proposals will need to be considered in the short term as new pitch configurations will be required in 2013.	Short Term
	F7 / F8 /F9– Improve pitch quality	There are concerns over the quality of existing pitch provision and a need to improve sites to ensure that they continue to meet local need.	Short Term
	F2: - Secure access to school sites	Access to school sites is currently important in sustaining the activity of the club.	
	F3 / F5: Support the creation of new facilities / relocate clubs that are dispersed across a variety of sites.	Longer term, expanding clubs may need additional facilities to accommodate junior teams.	Medium – Long Term
Cricket	C3 /C5: Support clubs in the development of training nets and enhance sustainability	Quality issues at some sites reduce playing experience. Pitch quality is essential if capacity of existing facilities is to be sustained.	• Short – Medium Term
	C1 – Ensure that there are	There is little capacity in the existing pitch stock and longer	

Sport	Key Priorities in South Harrogate District	Rationale	Priority
	sufficient facilities for cricket	term, additional provision may be required to accommodate demand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long Term
Rugby	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A
Hockey	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A
Tennis	T4 – Address qualitative issues at existing clubs T6: Support new tennis provision	Limited current provision in this area and the only facility in this part of the district does not have floodlights or a pavilion. Potential to provide new tennis facilities due to potential high levels of use if demand was expressed.	
Other sports	No demand evident	No demand evident	N/A

Table 9.27 sets out the potential options to address the recommendations on a site specific basis.

Table 9.27 – Potential Options to Address Recommendations – South East Harrogate District

Links	Recommendation for South East Harrogate District	Site Specific Opportunities
C3 / C5	Support the improvement of existing cricket facilities	Great Ouseburn CC, Kirk Deighton CC (equipment and training nets) Kirk Hammerton CC (pavilion) and Long Marston CC (pitch improvements), Little Ribston (training nets)
F3	Provide additional facilities in the area to accommodate demand.	Extension of Tockwith FC facilities – scope to provide additional pitches within current footprint

F5	Evaluate the impact of the new forms of the game introduced through the FA Youth Review	Discuss site specific implications with Tockwith JFC
F2	Secure access to school facilities	Tockwith Primary School
T5	Improve quality of tennis facilities	Tockwith Tennis Club

Partnership Working

While each sport is considered separately within this strategy, implementation of recommendations and the delivery of pitches across Harrogate District should be looked at strategically, considering opportunities for partnerships between sports, as well as evaluating each sport in isolation. There are some good examples of multi sport partnerships already in the district and these provide foundations for a successful future delivery model.

In addition to proactive improvement of pitches, this also relates to the allocation of S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy funding, which should consider the strategic need for playing fields.

Sport England has recently launched a *Protection of Playing Fields* funding programme which funds new, under threat, disused playing fields and pitch improvement schemes. Successful applicants will be required to demonstrate a strategic need, partnership working and positive impacts for sports participation. This scheme may provide opportunities for the further improvement of pitches across the district.

Planning Issues

The identified deficiencies of certain pitch types (and pressures on the stock of pitch sports in other areas) emphasise the importance of protecting existing areas of playing pitch land and open space in public, private and educational ownership, as playing pitches can be under threat from other, non sport development.

Policies should therefore protect all playing fields from development, unless it can be proven that the site is surplus to requirements, using the findings of this Playing Fields assessment. Sport England are a statutory consultee on playing field assessments. In '*A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England: Policy on Planning Applications for Development on Playing Fields*' (Sport England, 1997), it is indicated that Sport England will oppose any developments that will result in the loss of playing field space in all but exceptional circumstances, whether the land is in public, private or educational use. Sport England considers the definition of a playing field to be '*the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch*'.

Sport England will not object to the loss of playing fields where one or more of the following exception criteria are met:

- An assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport
- The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use
- The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch
- Lost playing fields would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development

- The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

Due to the current levels of demand and the pressures on pitches to cope with this demand, all known playing fields sites should therefore be afforded protection within specific policies that benefit sport and physical activity in Harrogate District, drawing upon the above criteria, and the key recommendations within this strategy for decision making.

This includes both sites that currently function as pitches and sites that are no longer considered to be formal pitches but that could meet needs in future years.

There is however a need to ensure that policies are flexible. The current pitch stock, along with many disused pitches, is characterised by multiple single and two pitch sites. There are however an abundance of larger clubs in the district, who wish to use large multi pitch sites that benefit club development. In some instances therefore, it may be appropriate to replace several single pitch sites with one or more larger multi pitch and / or multi sport venue. Policy should be sufficiently flexible to allow for this, but should not enable the loss of pitches unless they are directly replaced (and linking with the delivery of a specific recommendation of this strategy).

Local Standards

Local standards can be used to determine the requirements of new developments, as well as to evaluate improvements required to the existing facility stock. The standards once adopted by the Council should be incorporated into the emerging local development framework.

The population growth that is forecast in and around Harrogate District means that ensuring appropriate contributions from new developments will be essential if the facility stock is to continue to meet local need in terms of both quality and quantity. Without this population growth, the amount of participants would be lower and fewer facilities would be required.

Local standards should include:

- quantitative elements (how much new provision may be needed);
- a qualitative component (against which to measure the need for the enhancement of existing facilities); and
- accessibility (including distance thresholds and consideration of the cost of using a facility).

Local standards will:

- underpin negotiations with developers over their contributions towards new pitch provision to meet the needs of new residential developments;
- provide an additional overview of the general supply of pitches/level of provision;
- assist in protecting land in playing field use; and
- assist in benchmarking with other areas/authorities.

As well as providing an overall evidence base, local standards enable the assessment of the impact of new development on a site by site basis, enabling locally informed decision making. This will be essential for both proactive and reactive planning across the district.

Quantity Standards

Fields in Trust standard for pitch provision states that for every 1,000 people, 1.2 hectares of playing pitches should be provided. However, this is a national benchmark and it is important to also consider the local context that may impact.

The Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) outlines where current shortfalls and surpluses exist for each type of sport. It identifies where additional pitches are needed to meet demand and enables the calculation of the area of this required level of provision. Given that it is derived directly from a robust calculation of local need, it is compliant with the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The results of the calculations in line with Towards a Level Playing Field have therefore been used to inform the development of local quantity standard specifically for pitches and courts which will reflect local demand. The standard has been set as a district wide standard and represents that amount of pitches required to meet needs across Harrogate District as a whole. This is because evidence suggests that teams travel to reach appropriate pitches where there are none local to them. Furthermore, there are issues relating to quality and quantity of pitches in each area and these will be exacerbated by new development.

Calculation of this local standard is based upon the assumption that in order to maintain adequate pitch protection, all pitches that are currently available for community use are protected (or directly replaced). This is particularly important given the as yet unknown implications of the FA Youth Review which are currently being worked through. It is also important given aspirations in the district to increase participation and calculations that suggest that if these aspirations are to be achieved, all existing provision will be required.

It assumes that all pitches are up to the required specification to accommodate play. In reality, the capacity of poor quality pitches is lower than pitches of higher quality and some pitches are currently of poor quality and struggle to accommodate the number of games required. This standard assumes that qualitative improvements set out in this strategy will be carried out to improve the capacity of existing sites. This may include the replacement of some poor quality pitches with pitches of new and higher quality. This will be essential if new provision is not required, particularly in areas of population growth, where provision will be required to sustain higher levels of use.

The standard also takes into account the areas where clear deficiencies in pitch provision have been identified and the additional facilities required to meet demand. Additional provision is only included in the local standard where this is clearly required in addition to existing facilities. It is therefore acknowledged that some recommendations of the strategy are to be delivered through the reconfiguration of existing facilities.

The strategy recommendations therefore form the basis of the calculations of a local standard which represents a minimum level of provision. It does not take into account the need to maintain a strategic reserve. A strategic reserve is an amount of pitches provided in addition to those needed to meet baseline need. This allows for rest and recovery of pitches and fluctuations in demand.

Table 9.28 – Local Standard Calculations

Pitch Type	Current Number of Pitches (All to be Protected)	Minimum Number of additional pitches required by 2024 to deliver recommendations	Minimum Number of pitches required by 2024 (current + additional required)	Space Requirement per pitch (approximate based on minimum guidelines)	Total Requirement (Number of Pitches Required x Area per pitch)
Adult Football	41	3 (new provision in Ripon)	44	0.90	39.6
Junior Football	25	7 (new provision for two clubs that are currently dispersed)	32	0.60	19.2
Mini Football	43	0 (existing pitches protected)	43	0.22	9.46
Cricket	56	0 (existing pitches protected)	56	1.50	84
Rugby	8	3 (new pitches required for club relocating).	11	1.20	13.2
TOTAL					165.460

As set out above, a total of 165.4560 ha will be required to meet baseline demand in Harrogate District by 2024. When dividing this by the projected population in 2024 (166,700), this equates to 1.01ha per 1000 population.

This constitutes a minimum level of provision to ensure that supply and demand are aligned for community use only, and does not take into account the need to have a strategic reserve. It reflects the amount of pitches that are required for community use. This considers only the pitch area and does not account for changing accommodation , pitch run off or parking.

When taking these issues into account:

- changing room / pavilion -provision of around 200m² – 0.02 ha per 1000 population would provide sufficient space for a small multi functional pavilion with four changing rooms, match officials space, showers, toilets, circulation space and a small kitchen.
- parking and access -0.025 ha per 1000 population would provide sufficient for a parking area of 10m x 25m.

Both of these requirements should be added onto the overall pitch figure of 1.01 ha per 1000 population making a total requirement of 1.05 ha per 1000 population.

As well as ensuring that deficiencies are met for each sport and each pitch type, some degree of spare capacity is an integral part of playing pitch provision for the following reasons:

- to accommodate latent and future demand for existing pitch sport teams;
- to enable the development of new clubs and teams;
- for the development / expansion of new pitch sports (such as mini-soccer and 'tag' rugby); and
- to accommodate backlogs and for rest and recovery periods.

For the reasons highlighted above, it is important to ensure that a strategic reserve of facilities is maintained. An additional 10% has been added onto the standard to accommodate this. The overall standard therefore equates to 1.16 ha per 1000 population and represents the amount of playing fields required.

This standard considers only the playing field area required and does not include run offs, buffer zones etc. All pitches should meet with quality standards set out below, which include appropriate safety margins.

Quality Standards

When determining the required quality of pitches, it is important to consider:

- the standard of play at the site and expectations of users(including league requirements);
- the demand on the site (the number of games played per week);
- the need to facilitate concurrent usage by young people, women and other;
- target groups through appropriate ancillary facilities; and
- facility specifications from National Governing Body (NGB) strategies.

Reflecting this, there are several factors integral to the successful delivery of a network of high sports facilities, specifically, the needs and expectations and users, as well as the design, management and maintenance of existing facilities. Specific to playing pitches for football, rugby and cricket, all pitches should include:

- a high standard of maintenance, enabling the pitch to be played at least twice per week without detrimental impact and ensuring that sites are clean and attractive facilities;
- adequate changing facilities that:
 - are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes and
 - which fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act
 - provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort
 - meet current standards - Sport England & NGB guidelines
- managed community access;
- easily accessible by public transport and by car;
- sufficient car parking;

- size of pitches and run offs must meet NGB specification;
- located in a no flood zone;
- security of tenure (at least 10 years) if a club is to be based at the site; and
- for rugby clubs in particular, sites should include floodlit training facilities.

Each National Governing Body (NGB) provides detailed guidance on the design of facilities and changing accommodation as follows:

Rugby Pitches -

<http://www.rfu.com/ManagingRugby/ClubDevelopment/FacilitiesAndEquipment.aspx>

Football Pitches -

http://www.thefa.com/GetIntoFootball/~/_link.aspx?id=2B126098B0014E32A550A5560117734E&Z=Z

Cricket Pitches - <http://www.ecb.co.uk/development/facilities-funding/facilities-guidance-and-project-development/>

Artificial Grass Pitches -

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities__planning/design_and_cost_guidance/artificial_sports_surfaces.aspx

All new sites within Harrogate District and any modifications to existing facilities should be undertaken in line with this guidance.

Accessibility Standards

Consultation undertaken as part of this study demonstrates that:

- football pitches are expected to be relatively local to the home. Junior clubs in particular wish to play within the town that they live in. Even within the more rural settlements, teams are playing at local facilities. While large clubs attract players from slightly further afield, these clubs expect to have facilities relatively local to their players and highlight the importance of having all facilities on one site where possible. Almost 85% of players at football clubs in Harrogate District travel 5 miles or less;
- cricket is also a relatively local sport, with 68% of players travelling between up to 5 miles to reach their cricket club, while the remainder travel more than five miles;
- like cricket, rugby is relatively club based and there are only three clubs in the district. Given the small number of rugby clubs, these clubs have a larger catchment area, although the majority of players travel up to five miles; and
- there is only one hockey club in the district and this is located relatively centrally.

This suggests that when planning new facilities, particularly as part of new developments that while facilities are required locally (although ideally of sufficient size to accommodate all teams within a club all at one venue) there is a need to retain a club base for cricket, rugby and hockey (and avoid the provision of dispersed pitches) and for football also as far as possible. Other facilities for football are also required to support the requirements of one / two team clubs that play more informally.

New provision should therefore be located off a development site, or in conjunction with the development of a new club, or satellite club to an existing facility, or for football, within a development site where the facility is of sufficient size to sustain at least two pitches with associated changing accommodation. The recommendations draw out the key priorities for the future delivery of playing fields in Harrogate District.

P1: It is recommended that these local standards are incorporated in the Harrogate DC Planning Framework and that they are considered material at any planning stage.

P2: Planning policy should protect existing playing fields from development unless one of the five criteria set out in Sport England guidance on planning for playing fields is met. There may be opportunities for development of playing fields but only based on where there is net benefit to sport from development. This may include the replacement of single pitch sites with a larger high quality multi pitch site. The potential for the site to fulfil a role as a wider open space should be considered prior to disposal. Overall the Council should adopt a flexible approach to development but ensuring in all potential developments there is a net benefit to sport and this is identified and safeguarded. There should be no net loss of playing fields.

P3: To take into account the impact of new population growth on the demand for playing fields and the location of this demand, planning policy should require contributions towards pitch and outdoor sports provision from all new developments.

P4: Planning policy should promote the creation of community use agreements at key school sites. It is acknowledged however that there are many challenges associated with opening schools for community use. Guidance produced by Sport England (available at http://www.sportengland.org/support_advice/accessing_schools.aspx and including Designing for Sport on School Sites) will be of assistance in realising potential opportunities.

P5: Where possible, the creation of new or improved multi pitch sites should be prioritised over the delivery of new single pitches.

P6: Where appropriate, new provision should be created through allocations for sport in the local plan and on site facilities forming part of larger urban extensions.

10. Monitoring and Review

10

Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the strategy is as important as the creation of the initial strategy and is essential if the strategy is to successfully deliver improved playing fields across Harrogate District. This 2012 Strategy draws upon participation data collected at a point in time. While this provides a robust basis on which to evaluate current and future issues, it is essential to keep this under review and to monitor changes, and the implications of these changes. Priorities will change over time as new technologies are introduced and patterns of demand alter. Furthermore, it is essential to evaluate the implications of actions taken and the consequences on the overall strategy. While the strategy vision should therefore remain consistent over the defined period, an action plan should be dynamic and responsive to change.

Monitoring and Review Strategy

Monitoring and review of this strategy should be undertaken as follows:

- Ongoing monitoring of changes to the pitch stock in the district should be carried out (both qualitative and quantitative changes), using the tools provided as part of this assessment
- Annual review of participation, with support from National Governing bodies, to identify any key changes to participation trends in the district, and the likely implications of these changes for pitch requirements and the strategy action plan
- Annual review of pitch usage and pitch bookings to reevaluate surpluses and deficiencies and strategically plan pitch provision every 12 months
- Commitment to review progress by HBC and key partners on the strategy delivery, identification of additional priorities and drawing on the data collated as part of the above two actions, to ensure the strategy remains relevant and current
- The amount of funding for pitches or provision of additional pitches delivered in association with new development will be monitored through the Planning Divisions AMR (Annual Monitoring Report)
- Periodical full refresh of the strategy (every five years).

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