CORBY BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2017
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GLOSSARY

3G  Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP  Artificial Grass Pitch
ASC  All Stars Cricket
BC  Bowls Club
CBC  Corby Borough Council
CC  Cricket Club
CSP  County Sports Partnership
ECB  England and Wales Cricket Board
EH  England Hockey
FA  Football Association
FC  Football Club
FIFA  Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT  Fields in Trust
FPM  Facilities Planning Model
GIS  Geographical Information Systems
HC  Hockey Club
KKP  Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF  Local Development Framework
LMS  Last Man Stands
NGB  National Governing Body
NPPF  National Planning Policy Framework
ONS  Office for National Statistics
PGA  Professional Golfers Association
PPS  Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS  Performance Quality Standard
RFU  Rugby Football Union
RUFC  Rugby Union Football Club
S106  Section 106
TGR  Team Generation Rate
TC  Tennis Club
U  Under
PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Corby Borough Council (CBC) commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to deliver a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the authority. The report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and other outdoor sports facilities in accordance with Sport England’s Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between local supply and demand.

The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). These steps are separated into five distinct sections:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report.

The project compiles one document as part of a wider inter-related strategy for sport and recreation that also includes an Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy and an Open Spaces Strategy. The inter-relationship between the strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS also use indoor facilities for matches or training or use open space areas for informal use.

Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the PPS is being developed

In 2005, the Council commissioned an audit and assessment of open space, sport and recreation provision in order to provide an evidence base for use in shaping open space policies and determining planning applications and developer contributions. There is now a need to update this existing evidence to take account of changes in provision, planned development and the local needs of the community and changes to planning policy context.

Work has started on the preparation of Part 2 of the Local Plan for Corby following adoption of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy in July 2016. The new local plan must be based upon robust and up-to-date evidence to be found ‘sound’ at examination and be adopted by the Council. One of the key pieces of evidence is an up-to-date assessment of the needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision as required by paragraph 73 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The primary purpose of the PPS is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents within Corby. The Strategy will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision throughout the Borough.
The production of the PPS will also support key areas identified as imperative to the project, as noted below.

**Corporate and strategic**

- It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. During times of change for local authorities, a playing pitch strategy will provide direction and set priorities for pitch sports.
- It provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities, a playing pitch strategy can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants. Current funding examples include the Sport England Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery.
- It helps deliver government policies for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement, and healthy living.
- It helps demonstrate the value of leisure services during times of increasing scrutiny of non-statutory services.

**Planning**

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

**Operational**

- It can help improve current asset management, which should result in a more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- It highlights locations where quality of provision can be enhanced.

**Sports development**

- It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed.
- It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use. This includes information about both pitches and sports teams / user groups.
- It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams / community needs.

**Meeting Sport England PPS Requirements**

PPS requirements set out by Sport England include:

- To support the improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.
- Sports development programmes and changes in how the sports are played.
- The need to provide evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision.
- The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
CORBY BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- Potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programmes e.g. for educational sites.
- To review budgetary pressures and ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
- To develop a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
- To prioritise internal capital and revenue investment.
- To provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities. Paragraph 73 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 73 and 74 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A Playing Pitch Strategy will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraph 76 and 77 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

*North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (Part 1)*

The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy is the strategic Part 1 Local Plan for Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough. This has been prepared by the North Northamptonshire Joint Committee and outlines the vision and outcomes for the four local authorities. Part 2 will provide detailed planning policies to deliver the objectives outlined in the Strategy.

The vision is to ensure that North Northamptonshire will be widely recognised as a safe, healthy, affordable and attractive area for residents and visitors, and an excellent place for business to invest in. In addition, the area will be a showpiece for modern green living and well managed sustainable development which will take advantage of a strategic transport network to be a nationally important growth area.

The Strategy also highlights a summary vision for Corby. This summary vision states that by 2031 Corby will double its population and offer international culture and sport facilities. Enterprise areas will promote the town as a base for businesses leading the way in high performance technologies, creative industries and the green economy. Smart and innovative regeneration and growth will deliver a transformed, vibrant and growing town centre and sustainable urban extensions; together with a network of accessible natural green spaces forming the urban gateway to the wider Rockingham Forest. To achieve the overarching and local vision, the Strategy aims to deliver following ten outcomes successfully:

- Empowered and proactive communities
- Adapt to future climate change
- Distinctive environments that enhance and respect local character and enhance biodiversity.
- Excellent services and facilities easily accessed by local communities and businesses.
A sustainable balance between local jobs and workers and a more diverse economy.
Transformed connectivity.
More walkable places and an excellent choice of ways to travel.
Vibrant, well connected towns and a productive countryside.
Stronger, more self-reliant towns with thriving centres.
Enhanced quality of life for all residents.

To help local communities and businesses access excellent services and facilities (which includes sports facilities), policy seven in the Strategy will resist the loss of any community services and facilities, including leisure facilities, unless an appropriate alternative is provided or evidence is presented that the facility is no longer required and suitable alternative uses have been considered.

Any alternative provision should be of equal or better quality and be located in an appropriate and, where feasible, sustainable location. The Council has started preparing Part 2 of the Local Plan for Corby which will provide detailed planning policies to deliver the vision and objectives highlighted in Part 1. The plan is at the scoping stage, where residents are invited to comment on all key issues which should be included in Part 2.

**Supporting Northamptonshire to Flourish: Northamptonshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020**

This is the latest strategy which aims at improving the health and wellbeing of all people in Northamptonshire. The overall objective is to reduce health inequalities by enabling people to help themselves. The strategy lists four key priorities with targets associated for each priority. The importance of having accessible, good quality sports facilities will assist in achieving all four key priorities:

- Giving every child the best start
- Taking responsibility and making informed choices
- Promoting independence and quality of life for older adults
- Creating an environment for all people to flourish

**First for Wellbeing**

First for Wellbeing is a Community Interest Company (CIC), set up to serve the needs of the local communities across Northamptonshire. Working together with public, private and voluntary sectors, First for Wellbeing aims to build up a community of ‘wellbeing experts’ to:

- Provide and effective, integrated service that prevents poor physical and mental health in the county
- Provide a bespoke service – treat each and every person as an individual
- Support people to effectively balance all aspects of wellbeing
- Take a community-wide-approach – draw out the very best of public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver a more holistic approach to health and wellbeing

First for Wellbeing also hosts Northamptonshire Sport.
Northamptonshire Sport

One of 44 county sports partnerships (CSPs) nationally, Northamptonshire Sport is a partnership of local and national organisations working together to provide opportunities for people to participate in sport, physical activity and recreation in Northamptonshire. It is hosted by First for Wellbeing and its activities are supported via Sport England Lottery grant funding and by other local and national partners.

The CSP leads and supports on a number of different programmes to support the development of sport in the county. These include:

- The Jog Northants Programme; this develops jogging groups that operate from communities, schools, weight loss clubs, athletics clubs, leisure centres and workplaces.
- Disability Sport; developing programmes to integrate people with a disability into mainstream sport.
- Nordic Walking; the CSP has developed a number of programmes in local parks to engage those who may feel intimidated who wish to engage in regular physical activity.
- Development of satellite school clubs
- School Sport and Competition; the CSP leads on the delivery of the School Games Programme across the county. This encourages participation in sport and competition at all levels in a wide range of sports.

In 2010 the CSP produced the Northamptonshire Strategy for Sport and Active Recreation. Its vision is to make Northamptonshire a fitter, more active and successful sporting county by 2020. This is underpinned by four key aspirations:

- To increase the participation of children, young people and adults in sport and active recreation.
- To improve the identification and development of talented performers so that more individuals from Northamptonshire compete successfully at national and international level.
- To increase capacity provision by improving access sports facilities and strengthening the volunteer and paid workforce in sport and active recreation in the county.
- To develop a fit for purpose sports system where the roles of organisations are defined as partnership working is developed.

Agreed scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities were agreed by the steering group for inclusion in the Assessment and Strategy:

- Football pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- Cricket pitches
- Rugby union pitches
- Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)
- Gaelic football pitches
- Outdoor tennis courts
- Outdoor netball courts
- Outdoor bowling greens
- Outdoor athletics tracks (including walking facilities)
- Golf courses
It should be noted that for the non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, netball bowls, athletics and golf) included within the scope of this study the supply and demand principles of Sport England methodology: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) are followed to ensure the process is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This is less prescriptive than the PPS guidance. Thus, where applied, the approach to assessing non-pitch sports is a supply/demand assessment based on more a ‘light touch’ approach.

**Management arrangements**

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

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

**Study area**

The study area is the Corby Borough Council administrative area. Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas have been created to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. For this reason, Corby is divided into the following five analysis areas based on ward boundaries (as seen in figure 1.1 overleaf):

- **Rural West Analysis Area** – Rural West
- **Stanion & Corby Old Village Analysis Area** – Stanion & Corby Village
- **Urban North Analysis Area** – Lodge Park, Rowlett Road, Lloyds, Central
- **Urban South Analysis Area** – Beanfield, Kingswood and Hazel Leys, Oakley, Danesholme, Oakley South
- **Weldon & Gretton Analysis Area** – Weldon & Gretton
Figure 1.1: Map of Corby
Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision

A clear picture of supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities in Corby needs to be provided to include an accurate assessment of quantity and quality. This is achieved through consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that they inform the subsequent strategy. It informs current demand, adequacy, usage, future demand and strategies for maintenance and investment for outdoor sports facilities in Corby.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of outdoor sports facilities

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

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

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

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

**Quantity**

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

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

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1. [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)›Facilities and Planning› Planning Applications
Accessibility

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

- **Community use** - provision in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- **Available but unused** - provision that is available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- **No community use** - provision which as a matter of policy or practice is not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club sites along with some semi-professional club sites where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- **Disused** – provision that is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed sites’.
- **Lapsed** - last known use was more than five years ago (these fall outside of Sport England’s statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

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

Quality

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

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

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

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.
Gather demand information and views

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

- Organised competitive play
- Organised training
- Informal play

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

Current and future demand for outdoor sports facilities is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

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

For data analysis purposes, an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face to face consultation.

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation. Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews.

The response rates of such consultation are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Total number</th>
<th>Number responding</th>
<th>Response rate</th>
<th>Methods of consultation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football clubs</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>Face to face meeting or via online survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football teams (including exported demand)</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Face to face meeting or via online survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket clubs</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>Face to face meeting or via online survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby union clubs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Face to face meeting or telephone consultation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey clubs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Telephone consultation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis clubs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Face to face meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowls clubs</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Online survey or telephone consultation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Future demand

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

#### Population growth

The resident population in Corby is recorded as 66,854 (based on ONS 2016 mid-year estimates). By 2031 (in line with the Local Plan), the population is projected to increase by 23.3% to 82,448 (ONS 2014-based projections 2014-2031).

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

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

Other information sources used to help identify future demand include:

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

#### Housing growth

In order to achieve objectives listed in the Joint Core Strategy, there needs to be an increase in housing stock within Corby. The Strategy highlights each of Northamptonshire’s local authority’s housing requirements from 2011-2031. There is an identified need of an annual dwelling increase of 460 in Corby, with a total increase of 9,200 dwellings by 2031. Part 2 of the Strategy, once complete, will identify specific housing site allocations.

Policy 28 of the Joint Core Strategy assumes significantly higher levels of immigration into Corby than the adjusted household projections suggest. Some of this enhanced growth will arise from demand that would otherwise be directed at Kettering Borough. This strategic opportunity is identified as 5,000 additional dwellings, totalling 14,200 dwellings by 2031 and 710 dwellings per annum.
Secondary school provision

The Joint Core Strategy identifies that the planned growth in housing development is to be supported by investment in either building new or creating capacity in existing primary and secondary schools. Northamptonshire’s School Organisation Plan (2016-21) details how educational establishments will accommodate the proposed growth.

Currently there are five operational mainstream secondary schools in the Borough. These are:

- Brooke Weston Academy
- Corby Business Academy
- Corby Technical School
- Kingswood Academy
- Lodge Park Academy

In addition, Maplefield Academy also accommodates students up to the age of 19 years old; however, this is a specific facility for students with severe behaviour emotional and social difficulties.

The Organisational Plan states that, between the period of 2016-2021, there will be an additional 579 primary school places (reception to year 6) required and 211 additional secondary places required (years 7-13). Proposals to accommodate this increase within the secondary provision include the expansion of Corby Technical School from 75 to 150 pupils per year group (effective from September 2017) and the establishment of a new secondary school for the Borough (opening September 2019).

Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

In line with Sport England’s Playing Pitch Guidance Stage C, an in-depth understanding of outdoor sports provision has been developed using the supply and demand information and by assessing views from stakeholders in light of local and national information. This stage should:

- Provide a clear understanding of the provision and management of outdoor sports facilities at individual sites.
- Develop the current and future picture of provision.
- Identify the key findings and issues

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative ratings are linked to a capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each playing pitch is assessed against the recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) can be accommodated. This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows:

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

For non-pitch sports, capacity is generally not determined by the amount of activity per week (or per season) but rather by membership.

**Develop the current picture of provision**

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

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

**Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing**

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future. Scenario testing occurs in the strategy report and therefore does not form part of the assessment report.

**Identify the key findings and issues**

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in Corby. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues, which should now be checked, challenged and agreed by the Steering Group prior to development of the Strategy (Section D).

The following sections summarise the local administration of the included outdoor sports facilities in Corby. Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plan (where they exist). Local league details are provided in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.
PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

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

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

Consultation

In addition to face-to-face consultation with key football clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all clubs playing within Corby. Contact details were provided by Northamptonshire County FA and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email. The survey was returned by 15 clubs (including face-to-face meetings), which equates to a club response rate of 63% and a team response rate of 74%.

The following key clubs were met with for a face-to-face consultation:

- Corby Kingswood FC
- Corby Stewart & Lloyds FC
- Corby Stewart & Lloyds Youth FC
- Oakley Vale FC

In addition, the Northamptonshire Saturday Combination League and the Youth Weetabix League were consulted.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies 48 grass football pitches within Corby across 25 sites. Of the pitches, 40 are available, at some level, for community use across 19 sites, as presented in the table below. The large majority of unavailable pitches are located within schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Available for community use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanion &amp; Corby Old Village</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community
The Urban North Analysis Area (22 pitches) contains substantially more provision when compared to the other analysis areas. The least amount of provision can be found in the Rural West Analysis Area, with just one mini 5v5 pitch present.

There are a large number of adult pitches (22) identified when compared to other pitch sizes, which reflects that the majority of teams use adult pitches. It should be noted, however, that nationally many youth 11v11 teams are playing on adult pitches, which may be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than through preference. This is especially the case in Corby, with no dedicated youth 11v11 pitches provided meaning that 23 youth 11v11 teams play on the incorrect pitch type.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, u17s and u18s can play on adult pitches. The FA’s recommended pitch size for adult football is 100 x 64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91 x 55 metres for u16s and u15s, 82 x 50 metres for u14s and u13s and 73 x 46 metres for u12s and u11s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches (u10s and u9s) is 55 x 37 metres and for 5v5 pitches (u8s and u7s) it is 37 x 27 metres.

The following sites contain adult pitches that are currently being used for youth 11v11 matches:

- Abington Road Playing Fields
- Butland Road Playing Field
- Corby Rugby Club
- Steel Park (Corby Town Football Club)
- West Glebe Park
- Brooke Weston Academy
- Burghley Drive Playing Field
- Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex
- Stewarts & Lloyd Football Club
- Woodsend Pavilion

Of the above, Brooke Weston Academy, Butland Road Playing Field, Burghley Drive Playing Field and Corby Rugby Club are used solely by youth 11v11 teams. These sites could therefore provide a starting point to provide dedicated youth 11v11 pitches as no adult teams would be adversely affected by a pitch re-configuration, although there may be a need to retain adult provision if shortfalls are evident.

In addition to no youth 11v11 provision existing, there are also only two community available mini pitches provided across Corby (one 5v5 and one 7v7). This is likely a result of all mini football matches taking place outside of the Borough, at North Park in Kettering, due to the use of a central venue system. Nevertheless, many clubs express a desire to play at a venue within Corby as it will save on travel costs and as there is a belief that the current site used has reached capacity. Currently, there are 43 mini teams affiliated to Corby clubs.

Figure 2.1 overleaf identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Corby. For a key to the map, see Table 2.10.
Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Corby
Future provision

There are plans to redevelop Cottingham Recreation Ground, which would see a new 9v9 football pitch created. The project plan has been developed between Corby Borough Council and the Cottingham Recreation Ground Working Group.

Pitch quality

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

- Good
- Standard
- Poor

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

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation. The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use. In total, eight pitches are assessed as good quality, 21 as standard quality and 11 as poor quality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2.2: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult pitches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poor quality pitches are located at the following sites:

- Abington Road Playing Fields
- Butland Road Playing Field
- Burghley Drive Playing Field
- West Glebe Park
- Stanion Park

Please note that, although these sites contain poor quality pitches, it does not necessarily mean that all pitches on the site are poor quality. For example, West Glebe Park contains one poor quality adult pitch and three standard quality adult pitches.

All sites containing poor quality pitches are council sites. Council maintained pitches often undergo limited maintenance regimes due to restricted budgets, which is usually exacerbated by the open access nature of sites that results in high levels of use for other
purposes, such as unofficial football activity, dog walking and fitness groups. In Corby, Kier are subcontracted to handle the majority of maintenance with a regime that involves grass cutting every 14 days and yearly seeding, aeration, sand-dressing and fertilisation. The only council site not maintained by Kier is Butland Road Playing Field, which is instead maintained by Midwest.

Similarly, pitches at schools often undergo basic maintenance programmes, resulting in poor quality ratings; however, within Corby, the majority of educational sites with community accessible pitches are academies. These are often able to adopt more stringent maintenance regimes in order to sustain pitch quality for curricular and extra-curricular purposes. Usually the work is sub-contracted to an external company but tailored to suit specific needs. As a result, pitches at Brooke Weston Academy and Corby Business Academy are assessed as good quality, with all remaining school pitches assessed as standard.

Pitches at six sites are maintained by clubs (Corby Rugby Club, Stewarts and Lloyds Football Club, Weldon Football Club, Steel Park, Gretton Recreation Ground and one pitch at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex). The majority of these are assessed as standard quality, with the exception of Steel Park (Corby Town Football Club) and Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex, which are assessed as good quality. Clubs that maintain their own pitches often rely on volunteers but can usually offer more dedicated and specialised regimes, although acquiring the necessary equipment sometimes proves problematic.

In general, club consultation indicates varying degrees of change in pitch quality over the previous three years. Of responding clubs, four (27%) report no significant difference, compared to seven (46%) that report worsening pitch quality and four (27%) that report improving pitch quality.

Of those that cite pitch quality improvements, Corby Ravens FC attributes the improvements to better drainage, Corby Trades & Labour FC states that it is due to fewer teams playing on its pitch and both Stewart & Lloyds FC and Stewart and Lloyds Youth FC report improved maintenance. That being said, Stewart and Lloyds FC also highlights that some of its pitches are worsening in quality due to overuse that maintenance cannot rectify.

Overplay and low levels of maintenance are an issue reflected by a number of clubs in relation to decreasing pitch quality. This is highlighted as a significant issue by clubs at West Glebe Park, Butland Road Playing Field and Abington Road Playing Fields. In addition, consultation with Corby Kingswood FC highlights further issues at Abington Road Playing Fields including regular flooding in certain areas of the site and unofficial use.

Specific comments relating to pitch conditions at individual sites can be seen in the table overleaf. The comments are a combination of club feedback and site assessment information.

Table 2.3: Site-specific comments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Abington Road Playing Fields</td>
<td>Some areas of the site are prone to flooding. This combined with low levels of maintenance and high levels of usage on the site result in games having to be postponed or moved to a different site. Site is also prone to unofficial use due to it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site ID</td>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex</td>
<td>Reported to have high levels of use, resulting in worsening pitch quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Stanion Park</td>
<td>Site has issues with waterlogging as well as high demand resulting in overuse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>West Glebe Park</td>
<td>Issues with flooding in certain areas, in particular on one pitch around high traffic areas such goal mouths. In addition, low levels of maintenance reported on site. One club describes a pitch as being dangerous during certain times of the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Woodsend Pavilion</td>
<td>Issues with waterlogging and dog fouling due to being a public site. Also reported as having problems with rubbish being dumped on the pitch and motorbikes and cars being driven over the pitch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Stewart &amp; Lloyds Football Club</td>
<td>Due to overmarking and high usage, pitches are decreasing in quality to the point where the Club is struggling to maintain them. Furthermore, there is an issue with waterlogging on one of the adult pitches, although the Club is planning to solve this through slit drainage at the end of the season.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In support of comments made by clubs playing at West Glebe Park, consultation with the Northamptonshire Combination Football League highlights that the pitches are in need of some work, particularly in relation to the middle pitch which is prone to flooding even after a small amount of rain. The League also reports that the pitch at Woodsend Pavilion has large bald patches, resulting in the pitch becoming very muddy.

For a full breakdown of quality ratings at each site, please refer to Table 2.10.

**Over marked pitches**

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini or youth pitches may be marked onto adult pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch.

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time. That being said, over marking in Corby is relatively well managed as leagues are aware of when each age group has fixtures, meaning clashes at sites rarely happens.

**Table 2.4: Sites containing over marked pitches**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brooke Weston Academy</td>
<td>A 9v9 pitch over marked with rugby pitch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Butland Road</td>
<td>Adult football pitch over marked with a 9v9 pitch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kingswood Secondary Academy</td>
<td>Adult football pitch over marked with a rugby pitch.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CORBY BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Stanion Park</td>
<td>Adult football pitch over marked with 9v9 pitch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Stewart &amp; Lloyds Football Club</td>
<td>Two adult pitches overmarked with three youth 9v9 pitches.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ancillary facilities

The majority of community available football pitches in Corby are serviced by changing provision, with the facilities accompanying Gretton Recreation Ground assessed as good quality after a new clubhouse was built in 2012 following Sport England, Football Foundation and Parish Council funding. The majority of remaining sites are accompanied by standard quality facilities, although the provision servicing Danesholme Park is rated as poor due to the age and size of the changing rooms.

Club consultation supports these findings, with 12 clubs rating ancillary provision as standard, one club rating it as good and two clubs rating it as poor. Corby Ravens FC rates Danesholme Park as poor quality due to the issues cited above in addition to a lack of car parking, whereas Corby Town Ladies & Girls’ FC rates Butland Road Playing Field as poor because it does not have access to changing rooms.

Table 2.5: Clubs response to changing facility quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite reporting standard quality facilities, Stewart and Lloyds FC cites issues surrounding its amount of car parking provision. Similarly, Stanion United FC rates overall quality as standard but reports that the interior of the clubhouse building at Stanion Park is quite poor and is in need of refurbishment.

Clubs using West Glebe Park report that the changing facilities at the site are adequate.

As Butland Road Playing Field is without changing provision, many clubs are unable to use it for matches due to rules enforced by the Weetabix Youth Football League. The rules state that changing provision and toilets must be provided at sites being used for matches, meaning Oakley Vale FC could not access the site as was intended when the pitches were improved approximately four years ago. As a result, the Club is using Brooke Weston Academy for its home matches. It has explored many options for suitable facilities to be hosted at Butland Road Playing Field, including port-a-cabins and access to an adjacent community centre, but as yet no solution has been formalised. The Council does state that there is some funding available for changing facility provision.

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Corby is generally secure, i.e. through a long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. An exception to this is found at schools and academies that state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use. In total, five educational providers do not allow community use of some or all of their pitches:
The reasons for not allowing community use vary. The most common example is that the schools want to protect pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes due to existing quality issues. Other reasons include staffing issues, health and safety issues and a lack of profitability.

Moreover, some schools that do provide community availability do so without providing security of tenure, meaning they can stop the external use at any point devoid of any warning. To prevent this happening, it is recommended that club users enter community use agreements with the schools that they access. This especially applies to Oakley Vale FC and Corby Warriors Youth FC, which use Brooke Western Academy and Corby Business Academy respectively.

The majority of remaining clubs rent their pitches on an annual basis from the Council. One club; Stewarts & Lloyds FC, leases land from both Tata Steel and a Trust.

**Football pyramid demand**

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

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with ‘A’ being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 7 clubs.

There are three clubs playing in the football pyramid in Corby. Corby Town FC competes in the Northern Premier League (Premier Division) at Step 3, whilst Corby Pegasus FC and Gretton FC play in the Northamptonshire Combination League (Premier Division) at Step 7. None of these clubs report an issue with current or future ground grading.

The FA does report that there is currently a deficit of Step 7 changing facilities within the area. Therefore, should any clubs have the opportunity to progress to Step 7, they may face barriers in doing so. This can have a significant impact on club development.

**2.3: Demand**

Through the audit and assessment, 75 teams from within 24 clubs were identified as playing within Corby. This consists of 30 adult men’s, two adult women’s, 39 youth boys’ and four youth girls’ teams. As aforementioned, there are currently no mini teams playing in Corby due to them all playing at North Park, a central venue for the Weetabix Youth Football League in Kettering.
Aside from the Rural West Analysis Area, which contains no demand, the Stanion & Corby Old Village Analysis Area services the fewest number of teams (three), followed by the Weldon & Gretton Analysis Area (five teams). The majority of teams play in the Urban North Analysis Area (50 teams), which coincides with it containing the largest number of pitches. The analysis area with the second highest demand is the Urban South Analysis Area (17 teams).

Stewart & Lloyds Youth FC reports how the Club has increased significantly over the last few years, making it the largest club within Corby. It currently has 350 players, some of which are part of the under 18’s team, grown through the support of a Grow the Game Grant. The second part of this grant is due to be received by the Club in the near future.

**Exported demand**

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

The above applies to Oakley Vale FC, which currently has an u16’s team playing outside of Corby as the team is accessing Geddington Sports Ground in Kettering. Consultation with the Club highlights a desire for this team to play within Corby, ideally at Butland Road Playing Field albeit this requires changing rooms to be provided, as discussed earlier.

As previously mentioned, 44 mini teams are playing outside of Corby due to the use of central venue system for the Weetabix Youth Football League. A number of these teams would prefer to play within Corby and given the high level of demand there is a perceived scope for the League to expand and to create another central venue. Ideally, this would be via the use of the 3G pitch stock to avoid the creation of grass pitches and also to avoid any overuse or quality issues.

**Unmet demand**

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

**Future demand**

Table 2.6: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Corby

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Youth 11v11</th>
<th>Youth 9v9</th>
<th>Mini 7v7</th>
<th>Mini 5v5</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanion &amp; Corby Old Village</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Future demand can be defined in three ways. Through participation increases, using population forecasts and additional demand generated from housing growth. The latter will be assessed via a range of scenarios contained within the Strategy document.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2031) based on population growth. It is predicted that there will be a possible increase of four senior men’s, six youth 11v11 boys’, one youth 11v11 girls’ and six youth 9v9 boys’ teams across Corby.

Table 2.7: Team generation rates (2031)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Current population within age group</th>
<th>Current no. of teams</th>
<th>Team Generation Rate</th>
<th>Future population within age group</th>
<th>Predicted future number of teams (2031)</th>
<th>Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Mens (16-45)</td>
<td>12,843</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>14,771</td>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Women (16-45)</td>
<td>13,101</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6551</td>
<td>15,187</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Boys (12-15)</td>
<td>1,513</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>2,207</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Girls (12-15)</td>
<td>1,468</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>2,206</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Boys (10-11)</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1,103</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Girls (10-11)</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>1,105</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)</td>
<td>1,822</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,180</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)</td>
<td>1,907</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,143</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When applied by analysis area, participation is anticipated to increase in the Urban North Analysis Area by two senior men’s, nine youth 11v11 boys’ and four youth 9v9 boys’ teams and in the Urban South Analysis Area by one senior men’s, one youth 11v11 boys’ and one youth 11v11 girls’ team.

As seen in the table overleaf, there is not enough demand or population growth in the Rural West, Stanion & Corby Old Village or Weldon & Gretton analysis areas to result in any additional teams.

Table 2.8: Team generation rates by analysis area (2031)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by Analysis Area)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Men’s (16-45)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Women (16-45)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Boys (12-15)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Girls (12-15)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Boys (10-11)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Age group team numbers differ from Table 2.6 as forecasts are based on age rather than playing format. U17 and U18 teams affiliate to their respective County FA as juniors, however, are generally considered to play on and require adult pitches and are considered by age boundaries to be in the adult age group.
Participation increases

A number of clubs’ report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Of the three clubs that quantify their potential increase, there is a predicted growth of 22 teams, as seen in the table below.

Table 2.9: Potential team increases identified by clubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Future demand</th>
<th>Pitch size</th>
<th>Match equivalent sessions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stewart &amp; Lloyds Youth FC</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>3 x Youth</td>
<td>9v9</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakley Vale FC</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>3 x Youth</td>
<td>9v9</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11 x Youth</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby Kingswood FC</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>5 x Youth</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total future demand expressed, amounts to 11 match equivalent sessions, the majority of which is identified in the Urban South Analysis Area (seven match equivalent sessions) and on adult pitches. The Urban North Analysis Area also contains some future demand (four match equivalent sessions), whereas no future demand exists in the Rural West, Stanion & Corby Old Village or Weldon & Gretton analysis areas.

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

---

3 It is considered that all youth 11v11 teams will play on adult sized pitches due to no youth 11v11 provision currently existing.

4 Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.
Table 2.10 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential capacity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play is below the level the site could sustain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At capacity</td>
<td>Play matches the level the site can sustain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overused</td>
<td>Play exceeds the level the site can sustain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Education sites**

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

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking. For Corby, current play at education sites has been increased by one match equivalent session per pitch to account for curricular and extra-curricular use.

**Informal use**

A number of football pitches in the area are on open access sites. As such, these pitches are subject to informal use in the form of dog walkers, unorganised games of football and exercise groups. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime to protect quality.


**Peak time**

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Corby, peak time is considered to be Saturday PM for adult pitches and Sunday PM for youth 9v9 pitches. There is no peak time for youth 11v11 pitches, as none are provided, or for mini pitches, as no demand exists.

In the table below, please note that, on occasion, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period that what exists overall. This is because the majority of use occurs outside of the peak period; therefore, the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increases overall capacity.
Table 2.10: Football pitch capacity analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Type of tenure</th>
<th>Pitch type</th>
<th>No. of pitches</th>
<th>Available for community use?</th>
<th>Agreed quality rating</th>
<th>Current play (match sessions)</th>
<th>Site capacity (match sessions)</th>
<th>Overused (+), At Capacity (-) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)</th>
<th>Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Abington Road Playing Fields</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brooke Weston Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Unsecure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Burghley Drive Playing Field</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Butland Road Playing Field</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Corby Business Academy</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Unsecure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>2 Yes</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-2.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Danesholme Junior Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Corby Rugby Club</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cottingham C of E School</td>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Unsecure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>- unused</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Danesholme Park</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Danesholme Park</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gretnan Recreation Ground</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Hazel Leys Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Unsecure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>2 Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre Pitch</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kingswood Secondary Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Unsecure</td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Club/Council</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>3 Yes</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-6.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Stanion Park</td>
<td>Stanion &amp; Corby Old Village</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Weldon Church of England Primary School</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Unsecure</td>
<td>Mini</td>
<td>1 No</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>West Glebe Park</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>3 Yes</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Woodseck Pavilion</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Stewarts &amp; Lloyds Football Club</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>3 Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Priors Hall Junior Academy</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Unsecure</td>
<td>Mini</td>
<td>1 No</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Beanfield Primary School</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Weldon Football Club</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Exeter Primary School</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Unsecure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Steel Park (Corby Town Football Club)</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1 No</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

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

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

In addition, both mini pitches have been excluded from the actual spare capacity table due to there being no mini teams playing in the area.
### Table 2.11: Actual spare capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Pitch type</th>
<th>Pitch size</th>
<th>No. of pitches</th>
<th>Available for community use?</th>
<th>Agreed quality rating</th>
<th>Current play (match sessions)</th>
<th>Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)</th>
<th>Match equivalent sessions available in peak period</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brooke Weston Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>(9v9)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Actual spare capacity at peak time for one additional team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>(9v9)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-2.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Actual spare capacity at peak time for one additional team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Corby Business Academy</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>(9v9)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-2.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Actual spare capacity at peak time for one additional team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Corby Rugby Club</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Actual spare capacity at peak time for two additional teams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>(9v9)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Actual spare capacity at peak time for one additional team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Corby Technical College</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes - unused</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spare capacity discounted due to being an unused school site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Danesholme Junior Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>(9v9)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes - unused</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spare capacity discounted due to being an unused school site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>-6.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Actual spare capacity at peak time for six additional teams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Stewarts &amp; Lloyds Football Club</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Actual spare capacity at peak time for three additional teams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>(9v9)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Actual spare capacity at peak time for two additional teams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Steel Park (Corby Town FC)</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Spare capacity retained to protect pitch for football pyramid activity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Actual spare capacity has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type.

Table 2.12: Actual spare capacity summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Youth (11v11)</th>
<th>Youth (9v9)</th>
<th>Mini (7v7)</th>
<th>Mini (5v5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanion &amp; Corby Old Village</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table shows 10 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across seven sites in Corby with most expressed on adult pitches and in the Urban North Analysis Area (5.5 match equivalent sessions). There is also a moderate level of actual spare capacity identified on youth 9v9 pitches (2.5 match equivalent sessions) but none identified on the other pitch types.

Furthermore, there are two match equivalent sessions of spare capacity discounted (aggregated from all pitch types) due to pitches being located on unused school sites (Corby Technical College and Danesholme Junior Academy).

Overplay

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

In Corby, two pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions each. Both of these pitches are assessed as poor quality, meaning improvements would eradicate current overplay.

Table 2.13: Overplay summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Pitch type</th>
<th>No. of pitches</th>
<th>Capacity rating (match sessions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Abington Road Playing Fields</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Burghley Drive Playing Field</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All overplay is evident on adult pitches an in the Urban North Analysis Area.

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

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

Table 2.14: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Actual spare capacity</th>
<th>Demand (match equivalent sessions)</th>
<th>Overplay</th>
<th>Exported demand</th>
<th>Current total</th>
<th>Future demand</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanion &amp; Corby Old Village</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is currently an adequate number of adult pitches to meet demand, with 6.0 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity; however, taking into account future demand there is a shortfall equating to 9.0 match equivalent sessions. The shortfalls are evident in the Urban North and Urban South analysis areas, with spare capacity remaining in the Weldon & Gretton Analysis Areas. Both the Stanion and Corby Old Village and Rural West analysis areas remain at capacity. The latter remaining balanced in supply and demand due to no teams existing or predicted to exist in this analysis area.

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

Youth 11v11 pitch analysis

It must be reiterated that there are currently 23 youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, which goes against the FA Youth Review. Removing this demand from adult pitches would alleviate all future shortfalls, although this is not currently possible as there are no youth 11v11 pitches that the demand could be transferred to.

Twelve youth 11v11 pitches would be required to accommodate all current youth 11v11 demand and an additional 14 pitches would be needed should TGR’s and future growth expressed by clubs be realised, presuming that all play takes place at peak time. Some adult pitches could be reconfigured to reduce this number, especially those that are currently used solely for youth 11v11 matches.

Secondary schools also provide an option to increase the youth 11v11 pitch stock as it is the most suitable pitch type for the majority of students and will therefore aid the curricular and extra-curricular programme as well as the community.
Youth 9v9 pitch analysis

Table 2.15: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Actual spare capacity</th>
<th>Demand (match equivalent sessions)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overplay</td>
<td>Exported demand</td>
<td>Current total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanion &amp; Corby Old Village</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are currently enough 9v9 pitches to meet demand, with 2.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity. When taking future demand into consideration, a shortfall is created, amounting to 2.5 match equivalent sessions. The largest shortfall is evident in the Urban North Analysis Area (2.0 match equivalent sessions).

Mini pitch analysis

There are currently 44 mini teams affiliated to Corby that play outside of the Borough due to the use of a central venue system. Should a venue be created in Corby to accommodate this demand, it is unclear how many pitches would be required as numerous mini matches can be played on the same pitch on the same day, back-to-back. The number is, however, quite likely to be high to avoid any overplay and to accommodate any future growth.

A better solution to creating a significant number of pitches would be to utilise a 3G pitch that is already provided, such as Kingswood Secondary Academy, Lodge Park Sports Centre or Tresham College. This would enable three or four matches to be played at the same time (due to how 3G pitches are marked out) and multiple fixtures on the same day would not cause any capacity or quality issues due to the amount of demand that can be accommodated on the surface. It will also avoid any postponements during bad weather spells.

---

8 In match equivalent sessions
Football – grass pitch summary
- The audit identifies 48 grass football pitches within Corby across 25 sites, of which, 40 pitches are available for community use across 18 sites.
- There are no dedicated youth 11v11 pitches provided, meaning that all 17 youth 11v11 teams play on the incorrect pitch type.
- In total, eight community available pitches are assessed as good quality, 21 as standard quality and 11 as poor quality.
- Changing facilities servicing Danesholme Park are considered to be poor quality, whilst Butland Road Playing Field is without provision.
- There are three clubs playing in the football pyramid in Corby; Corby Town FC, Corby Pegasus FC and Gretton FC.
- There are 75 teams from within 24 clubs playing within Corby, consisting of 30 adult men’s, two adult women’s, 39 youth boys’ and four youth girls’ teams.
- There are no mini teams playing within Corby due to the use of a central venue system at North Park, in Kettering.
- Oakley Vale FC also expresses exported demand as it has an u16’s team playing outside of Corby at Geddington Sports Ground, in Kettering.
- Using TGRs, it is predicted that there will be an increase of four senior men’s, six youth 11v11 boys’, one youth 11v11 girls’ and six youth 9v9 boys’ teams.
- Of the three clubs that quantify their potential future demand, there is a predicted growth of 22 teams.
- There are 6.0 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity identified across seven sites.
- Two pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions each.
- There is currently an adequate number of adult pitches to meet demand; however, taking into account future demand there is a shortfall equating to 9.0 match equivalent sessions.
- Twelve youth 11v11 pitches would be required to accommodate all current youth 11v11 demand and an additional fourteen pitches would be needed if both TGR’s and future growth expressed by clubs is realised.
- When taking future demand into consideration, a shortfall is created, amounting to 2.5 match equivalent sessions. The largest shortfall is evident in the Urban North Analysis Area (2.0 match equivalent sessions).
- Should mini demand be accommodated within Corby, a better solution would be to utilise the 3G pitch stock rather than creating multiple grass pitches.
PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

3.1: Introduction

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

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

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

Table 3.1: 3G type and sport suitability

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

3.2: Current provision

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

There are three full size 3G pitches in Corby that fully comply with the above specification, consisting of two pitches in Urban North and one pitch in Urban South.

Table 3.2: Full size 3G pitches in Corby

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Community use?</th>
<th>Floodlit?</th>
<th>Size (metres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kingswood Secondary Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>100 x 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Lodge Park Sports Centre</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>100 x 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Tresham College (Corby Campus)</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>100 x 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As seen, all of the pitches are floodlit and available to the community. In addition, there is also one smaller sized 3G pitch located at West Glebe Park that measures 35 x 34 metres. Although too small to host any sort of match play, the pitch can be used to accommodate some training demand as well as social and casual use.

Figure 3.1 overleaf shows the location of all 3G pitches within Corby, regardless of size.
Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Corby
FA/FIFA approved pitches

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

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

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

All full size 3G pitches in Corby are currently FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. Re-testing is required every three years to ensure that this remains the case.

World Rugby compliant pitches

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

The RFU investment strategy into 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. One 3G pitch, located at Tresham College is currently World Rugby Registered, which is sufficient to meet demand both now and in the future.

Management

Both Kingswood Secondary Academy and Tresham College are managed in house by the School and the College, respectively. Lodge Park Sports Centre is managed by the Council but is accessed solely by Lodge Park Academy during school hours.
Availability

The availability of the pitches is relatively similar throughout the week, with all three reserved for education use until 17:00 (Tresham College), 17:30 (Lodge Park Academy) or 18:00 (Kingswood Secondary Academy). Kingswood Secondary Academy is then available to the community until 21:00, whilst Lodge Park Sports Centre and Tresham College are available until 21:30.

At weekends, both Tresham College and Lodge Park Sport Centre are available 9:30 until 21:30, making them accessible for twelve hours each day. Kingswood Secondary Academy is available 10:00 until 14:00, making is accessible for four hours each day.

Table 3.3: Summary of 3G pitch availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site Analysis area</th>
<th>Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kingswood Secondary Academy Urban South</td>
<td>Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 10:00 until 14:00 Saturday to Sunday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Lodge Park Sports Centre Urban North</td>
<td>Reserved for school use until 17:30 during the week. Available to the community from 17:30 until 21:30 Monday to Friday and from 09:30 until 21:30 Saturday to Sunday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Tresham College (Corby Campus) Urban North</td>
<td>Reserved for college use until 17:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 9:30 Monday to Friday and from 9:30 until 21:30 Saturday to Sunday.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quality

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

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

Table 3.4: Age and quality of full size 3G pitches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site Analysis area</th>
<th>Year installed/resurfaced</th>
<th>Quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kingswood Secondary Academy Urban South</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Lodge Park Sports Centre Urban North</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Tresham College (Corby Campus) Urban North</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lodge Park Sports Centre is nearing ten years old and therefore requires imminent resurfacing to prevent quality deterioration. This is particularly key if the pitch to retain its FA accreditation for competitive matches to be played on the surface. Approval was granted in 2016, meaning renewal will be needed in 2019.
Both Kingswood Secondary Academy and Tresham College are within their recommended lifespan (having been installed in 2009 and 2011 respectively), with the former assessed as standard quality and the latter assessed as good quality. Both pitches undergo regular maintenance and no major issues were identified during site assessments or through consultation with users.

Ancillary facilities

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

3.3: Demand

The full size 3G provision currently servicing Corby is reported as being well used at peak times, especially midweek during winter months due to training demand. This is especially the case at Kingswood Secondary Academy, which reports that it is fully booked Monday-Friday, with the only spare capacity existing on Saturdays and Sundays.

Lodge Park Sports Centre is used less, with data suggesting that it is operating at 68% capacity during the week and at 31% capacity during weekends. This ranges from month to month, with March being the busiest month (operating at 85% capacity) and July being the quietest month (operating at 54% capacity). The Centre allows for block bookings from users so that they have a guaranteed day and time for three months, although this never accounts for more than 50% of the overall capacity. The remaining 50% is reserved for weekly bookings and pay and play users.

During the winter, Tresham College has spare capacity remaining on each night other than Wednesdays, with six available slots existing on Mondays, three on Tuesdays, two on Thursdays and four on Fridays. For weekends, it is currently only used from 10:00-11:00 and from 15:00-17:00 on Saturdays and from 20:00-21:00 on Sundays, despite extensive opening hours. Usage reduces greatly in the summer, with only ten regular bookings each week.

Nationally, capacity on 3G pitches is not only taken up by sports teams and casual users but also by small-side commercial football leagues. This is also the case in Corby, with Soccer Sixes using Tresham College every Tuesday evening, all year round. As well as this, disability clubs and youth clubs also regularly access the 3G pitch stock in Corby.

Football

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

Training demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at floodlit facilities.
Of clubs responding to consultation, 32% report that they require additional training facilities, and 23% specifically mention demand for 3G pitches. This is a relatively low figure when compared to other local authorities, though it still suggests a level of unmet demand. Some teams currently access sand-based pitches or indoor sports halls, whilst others do access 3G pitches but do so at undesirable times. The clubs that express a need for more 3G pitches or for greater access to the existing stock are as follows:

- Corby Kingswood FC
- Corby Strip Mills FC
- Corby Town Ladies & Girls FC
- Corby White Hart Loco’s FC
- Stewarts & Lloyds Youth FC

The FA’s long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. In order to calculate the number of football teams a 3G pitch can service for training, peak time access is considered to be from 18:00 until 22:00 Tuesday-Thursday resulting in an overall peak period of 12 hours per week. Mondays and Fridays are not included within this calculation as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match.

Full size 3G pitches are divided into thirds or quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers it is estimated that 42 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch for training. On this basis, with 119 teams currently affiliated to Corby (including exported mini demand), there is a need for three full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 2.8). As there are currently three 3G pitches provided, supply is considered sufficient to meet current demand.

When considering future demand for an additional 21 teams (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there remains a demand for three full size pitches (rounded down from 3.3), meaning supply remains sufficient.

The full size 3G pitches currently provided are also considered to be best located to meet demand. If every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in, the Urban North Analysis Area contains the most demand (77 teams) meaning it is suitable that it provides the most number of 3G pitches (two). The Urban South Analysis Area, which contains one 3G pitch, provides the second highest number of teams (25), whilst the Weldon & Gretton (15 teams), Stanion & Corby Old Village (two teams) and Rural West (no teams) analysis areas do not provide enough demand to constitute a full size pitch being installed.

**Match play demand**

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is FA approved, floodlit and available for community use during the peak period.
In Corby, all three full size 3G pitches have undergone testing and are therefore FA approved to host competitive matches. That being said, there are currently no regular users of the provision for this purpose, although the pitch at Lodge Park Sports Centre receives some match play demand from Corby Town Ladies & Girls FC and Corby Hellenic Ladies FC when grass pitches are unplayable during bad weather spells.

The majority of matches played on 3G pitches nationally are mini soccer matches. This is not currently possible in Corby as all mini demand is exported to Kettering due to the use of a central venue (North Park). Nevertheless, a 3G pitch does provide a viable option for a central venue to be created within Corby should the FA and the League deem it to be appropriate.

**Rugby**

Tresham College has the only World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Corby. This is sufficient to meet demand.

**3.4: Supply and demand analysis**

Using FA calculations, the current supply of full size 3G pitches is considered to be sufficient to meet current and future demand. As such, there is no requirement for an increase in provision, although there is a need to better utilise the existing stock with five clubs reporting that current needs are unmet and with no clubs regularly using the pitches for matches. For training purposes, this should be achieved through more effective programming, with providers working in partnership with the FA and local clubs to ensure that every team has the opportunity to access a pitch. For match play purposes, clubs and leagues need to be encouraged to transfer their demand from grass pitches, at which point 3G pitch hire costs need to be comparable. This will not only aid in the utilisation of 3G pitches but it will also reduce identified overplay of grass pitches as well as resultant quality issues.

To ensure that supply remains sufficient to meet demand, there is a need to retain the current number of full size 3G pitches. To that end, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place to ensure long-term sustainability. This will allow for re-surfacing to take place when required and will ensure that FA certification remains in place. It is especially key at Lodge Park Sports Centre, which is nearing the end of its lifespan.
### 3G summary

- There are three full size 3G pitches in Corby (Lodge Park Sports Centre, Kingswood Secondary Academy and Tresham College), all of which are floodlit and available to the community.
- In addition, there is also one smaller sized 3G pitch located at West Glebe Park that measures 35 x 34 metres.
- All full size 3G pitches are currently FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches.
- Tresham College has the only World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Corby. This is sufficient to meet demand.
- Lodge Park Sports Centre is nearing ten years old and therefore requires imminent resurfacing to prevent quality deterioration, whereas both Kingswood Secondary Academy and Tresham College are within their recommended lifespan.
- All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate.
- Based on current and future demand, there is a need for three full size 3G pitches, meaning supply is considered sufficient to meet demand.
- There is a need to better utilise the existing stock, with five clubs reporting that current needs are unmet and with no clubs regularly using the pitches for matches.
- To ensure that supply remains sufficient to meet demand, there is a need to retain the current number of full size 3G pitches.
PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

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

The NCB is currently working with the ECB on delivering its new five-year plan, Cricket Unleashed. Its success will be measured by the number of people who support, play and follow the whole game and is based upon five key areas (more play, great teams, inspired fans, good governance and social responsibility and strong finance and operations).

Senior cricket is typically played in leagues on Saturday afternoons; however, some teams play in other leagues on Sundays and Wednesdays. The junior league structure tends to be club based matches that are played mid-week, meaning there is usually no conflict with access to squares as matches can be played on a variety of days (Monday-Friday).

Consultation

There are seven cricket clubs playing in Corby. Of these, five responded to consultation requests resulting in a response rate of 71%. The two clubs that did not respond to consultation requests are East Carlton CC and Montagu Old Boys CC.

4.2: Supply

In total, there are seven grass cricket squares in Corby located across six sites, with Stewarts & Lloyds Cricket Club having two squares each. All of the squares are available for community use and their distribution across Corby can be seen in the summary table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Squares available for community use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanion and Corby Old Village</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weldon and Gretton</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

There are NTPs accompanying three grass wicket squares. These squares are located at the following sites:

- Great Oakley Cricket Club
- Stewarts & Lloyds Cricket Club
- Weldon Cricket Club

In addition, there is a standalone NTP at Corby Business Academy; however, this is considered to be unavailable for community use.
The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs not only assist with training (with the aid of mobile nets) but they are also frequently used for junior matches, which in turn can help reduce excessive use of grass wickets. This is reported as being the case at Weldon Cricket Club but not at Great Oakley Cricket Club or Stewarts & Lloyds Cricket Club.

The map overleaf shows the location of all cricket squares (grass and non-turf) currently servicing Corby.
Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches in Corby
Table 4.2: Key to map of cricket pitches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Community use?</th>
<th>No. of squares</th>
<th>No. of wickets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>grass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Corby Business Academy</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>East Carlton Cricket Club</td>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Old Eastonians Cricket Club (Rockingham Castle)</td>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Stewarts &amp; Lloyds Cricket Club</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gretton Recreation Ground</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Weldon Cricket Club</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Great Oakley Cricket Club</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Security of tenure

Both Great Oakley CC and Weldon CC are considered to have security of tenure. The latter has a 100-year lease of Weldon Cricket Club from the Singlehurst Weldon Charitable Trust, whereas the former has recently finalised a new lease agreement with Great Oakley Estates. As part of the lease agreements, both clubs manage and maintain the grounds as well as the accompanying ancillary facilities, with Great Oakley CC owning its own clubhouse.

Given that Montagu Old Boys CC accesses Great Oakley Cricket Club for its matches through a rental agreement, the Club is also considered to have security of tenure.

Stewarts & Lloyds CC is considered to have limited security of tenure as it is currently waiting for a new long-term lease agreement to be finalised with Tata Steel, with anecdotal evidence suggesting that this will soon be resolved. As it stands, the Club maintains both the ground and ancillary facilities.

Gretton CC and Old Eastonians CC rent their respective grounds on an annual basis and as such are not considered to have security of tenure. Gretton CC rents Gretton Recreation Ground from Gretton Parish Council, whilst Old Eastonians CC rents its ground of the same name from Rockingham Castle. This agreement is particularly problematic as the site is often unavailable for cricket due to its use for other purposes.

East Carlton CC is known to use East Carlton Cricket Club for matches; however, the ownership, management and access arrangements at the site are unknown as the Club did not respond to consultation requests.
**Pitch quality**

As part of the PPS guidance, there are three levels to assessing the quality of cricket pitches: good, standard and poor. Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards, which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsman.

The non-technical assessment of grass wicket squares in Corby found three squares to be good quality, three to be standard quality and one to be poor quality.

**Table 4.3: Summary of quality for community available cricket pitches in Corby**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The three squares rated as good quality are located at Great Oakley Cricket Club and Stewarts & Lloyds Cricket Club (x2), whereas the three standard quality squares are at Old Eastonians Cricket Club, Weldon Cricket Club and Gretton Recreation Ground. The only square to rate as poor quality is at East Carlton Cricket Club. This is primarily because of a sloped, uneven outfield that is described as being unsuitable for league cricket.

Similarly, despite its standard quality rating, Weldon Cricket Club also suffers from severe sloping issues. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this would prevent the Club playing at a higher level than it currently does, which could be problematic due to its future growth aspirations and youth setup. Furthermore, the NTP that accompanies the square is considered to be poor quality, verging on being unusable.

Stewart & Lloyds CC believes that its square has improved over the last few seasons. It attributes this to the fact its groundsman has been working hard to improve pitch maintenance and has recently attended a course. Despite this, the Club does state that there are some hollows across the outfield that can collect water, resulting in occasional drainage issues.

In contrast, despite overall good quality, Great Oakley CC reports that the quality of its pitch has declined due to increased usage as a result of hosting a high number of junior Northamptonshire representative cricket matches. This has caused more significant signs of wear and tear, which was noted during site assessments, with grass coverage being described as acceptable rather than good.

Both Old Eastonians CC and Gretton CC report having an uneven outfield, which was also identified during site assessments. Gretton CC states that this is likely caused by the fact the site is a recreation ground, accessed daily both officially and unofficially. This usage ranges from access by Gretton FC to annual fairs and local children playing football on a casual basis. It also reports that the PQS assessment rating of the ground has been lower than previous seasons.
**Ancillary facilities**

All clubs in Corby have access to changing facilities at their home ground, as well as adequate car parking provision. The majority of clubs consider their ancillary facilities to be good, with the exception of Old Eastonians CC, which believe its clubhouse is of standard quality. This can likely be attributed to having no shower provision, umpire changing facilities or disabled access.

Two clubs; Old Eastonians CC and Great Oakley CC, report some issues with vandalism and antisocial behaviour at their sites, some of which is considered serious such as attempted burglary and evidence of drug use.

**Training facilities**

Great Oakley, Gretton, Stewart & Lloyds and Weldon cricket clubs all have access to training nets in situ at their sites; however, Great Oakley CC reports an aspiration for more nets to be installed. The Club also indicates that improvements are required to the non-turf wickets that accompany the current provision.

Old Eastonians CC does not have access to training nets and, as such, reports a need for facilities to be provided. Its preference is for mobile training nets that can be rotated across different areas of its square.

East Carlton Cricket Club is also without training facilities.

**4.3: Demand**

In total, there are seven clubs competing in Corby generating 26 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 17 senior men’s and nine junior boy’s teams, with no dedicated female teams in existence. The distribution of these teams across the clubs can be seen in the following table.

**Table 4.4: Summary of teams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club name</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>No. of competitive teams</th>
<th>Senior men’s</th>
<th>Senior women’s</th>
<th>Junior boys’</th>
<th>Junior girls’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Carlton CC</td>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Eastonians CC</td>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewarts &amp; Lloyds CC</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gretton CC</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weldon CC</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Oakley CC</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montagu Old Boys CC</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stewart & Lloyds CC and Weldon CC are the largest clubs, with both consisting of five senior men’s teams and three junior boy’s teams. Great Oakley CC has three senior men’s and three junior boys’ teams, whereas the remaining four clubs field just one senior men’s team.

A summary of teams by analysis area can been seen in the table below. The Weldon & Gretton Analysis Area has the highest number of teams overall, with nine fielded. There are
no teams fielded in the Stanion & Corby Old Village Analysis Area, which correlates to it having no squares.

Table 4.5: Summary of teams by analysis area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Senior men’s</th>
<th>Senior women’s</th>
<th>Junior boys’</th>
<th>Junior girls’</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanion and Corby Old Village</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weldon and Gretton</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although no senior womens or junior girls teams currently exist within Corby, Weldon CC does have both senior and junior female members.

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

**Participation trends**

The ECB unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at [http://www.cricketunleashed.com](http://www.cricketunleashed.com)). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the game and the plan sets out five important headline elements: More play; great teams; inspired fans; good governance and social responsibility; strong finance and operations.

The National Player Survey (NPS) conducted over the past three years by the ECB reveals that the nature of participation in traditional league cricket is currently suffering a decline, although this is being offset by a rapid increase in non-traditional formats (such as LMS and T20 competitions).

Despite the national decline, four of the responding clubs in Corby report that the number of senior players has remained static over the last three years. This applies to Stewarts & Lloyds, Weldon, Gretton and East Carlton cricket clubs but not to Old Eastonians CC, which reports a decrease.

Of the clubs that have a junior section; Stewart & Lloyds CC and Weldon CC report no changes in participation, whilst Great Oakley CC reports a decrease.

**Future demand**

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts.

**Participation increases**

Two clubs report plans to increase their number of teams in the future. Where expressed, this amounts to an increase of two senior men’s and one junior boys team. All remaining clubs report no future demand, with focus instead placed on retaining current participation levels.
Table 4.6: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>No. of competitive teams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Oakley CC</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Eastonians CC</td>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population forecasts

In addition, team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2031) based on population growth. Using this, an increase of one senior men’s teams and two junior boys’ teams is expected.

Table 4.7: Team generation rates based on population growth (2031)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Current population within age group</th>
<th>Current no. of teams</th>
<th>Team Generation Rate&lt;sup&gt;9&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Future population within age group</th>
<th>Predicted future number of teams</th>
<th>Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Men’s (18-55)</td>
<td>16,804</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1:988</td>
<td>18,707</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Women’s (18-55)</td>
<td>17,044</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19,177</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Boys (7-18)</td>
<td>4,771</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1:795</td>
<td>6,609</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Girls (7-18)</td>
<td>4,856</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,532</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due to participation trends nationally within the sport, it is considered unlikely that both population growth and future demand expressed by clubs will be realised, exclusive of each other. Instead, it is considered more likely that population growth will be incorporated into planned club growth, and vice versa.

Last Man Stands

Last Man Stands (LMS) was founded in 2005. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on non-turf wickets. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the ‘Last Man Stands’ on his own.

This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and is increasing in popularity; however, it does not currently operate in Corby. The closest venue where LMS is in existence is Northampton.

Although no LMS venue currently exists in Corby, the ECB believe there would be demand should one come into existence and as such, states that Corby is a target area. This should therefore be taken into future consideration for cricket in the area.

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<sup>9</sup> Please note TGR figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
All Stars Cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, Stewart & Lloyds CC has registered to become an ECB All Stars Cricket (ASC) Centre in 2017. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight.

The ECB predict that more clubs in the area will register to become an ASC Centre in Corby over the next year. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs and in turn have an effect on the usage and availability of provision. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

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

Future investment in participation

In June 2017, the ECB announced new five-year media rights deals totalling £1.1 billion for first-class county and international matches played at home, from 2020-2024. The new deals include a continuation of the ECB relationship with Sky Sports, now extending beyond broadcasting as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and commitment to increase participation and drive engagement, shaped by the Sky Ride initiative model Sky Sports previously developed with British Cycling.

The new deals also include a return to free to air television for live cricket, with the BBC to show coverage of international T20 matches, as well as domestic T20 competitions including the women’s and new City-based franchise competition proposed for 2020. Together, significant investment in participation and increased free to air media coverage could see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPS and the impact should be reviewed over coming years.

Peak time demand

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

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

4.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

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

To help calculate spare capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality grass wicket should be able to take five (senior) matches per season (e.g. a square with 12 grass wickets can accommodate 60 matches). This is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential capacity</th>
<th>Play is below the level the site could sustain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At capacity</td>
<td>Play matches the level the site can sustain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overused</td>
<td>Play exceeds the level the site can sustain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ECB also suggests that a non-turf pitch can accommodate 60 matches per season. As no non-turf pitches are recorded as accommodating more than this in Corby, they are all considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity as they are generally accessed midweek by junior teams and can be used on a variety of days. For this reason, non-turf wicket capacity has been discounted from the table overleaf so that it does not distort the picture on grass wickets.
Table 4.8: Cricket pitch capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Community use?</th>
<th>No. of squares</th>
<th>Pitch quality</th>
<th>No. of grass wickets</th>
<th>Capacity (sessions per season)</th>
<th>Actual play (sessions per season)</th>
<th>Capacity rating (sessions per season)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>East Carlton Cricket Club</td>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Old Eastonians Cricket Club</td>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Stewarts &amp; Lloyds Cricket Club</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gretton Recreation Ground</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Weldon Cricket Club</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Great Oakley Cricket Club</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Spare capacity**

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

There are three squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in Corby, totalling 70 match equivalent sessions per season. Where there is a significant amount of potential capacity available, this may not represent actual spare capacity, i.e. whether a pitch is available at the peak time. The following table therefore explores where spare capacity is identified on a Saturday (peak period) as this can be deemed actual spare capacity.

**Table 4.9: Summary of actual spare capacity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Amount of spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)</th>
<th>Pitches available in the peak period (Saturday)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>East Carlton Cricket Club</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Although pitch does have capacity at peak time. This is discounted due to suitability for league games being raised as an issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Old Eastonians Cricket Club (Rockingham Castle)</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Actual spare capacity discounted as the site is not always available for cricket due to its use for other purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gretton Recreation Ground</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>There is currently spare capacity for one additional senior team at peak time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only one of the three squares showing spare capacity is available for further use on a Saturday, equating to 0.5 match equivalent sessions in total. This is Gretton Recreation Ground, which can accommodate one more senior team.

**Overplay**

As guidance, all pitches receiving more than five match equivalent sessions per wicket per season are adjudged to be overplayed. As a result, Stewart & Lloyds Cricket Club, Weldon Cricket Club and Great Oakley Cricket Club are classed as being overplayed, equating to 29 match equivalent sessions per season. Four of these sessions are at Stewart & Lloyds Cricket Club, 15 are at Weldon Cricket Club and ten at Great Oakley Cricket Club. This can be seen in the table overleaf.
**Table 4.10: Summary of overplay**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>No. of squares</th>
<th>Overplay (matches per season)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Stewarts &amp; Lloyds Cricket Club</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Weldon Cricket Club</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Great Oakley Cricket Club</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>29</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**4.5: Supply and demand analysis**

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand.

The table below looks at available spare capacity at peak time for senior cricket (Saturdays) considered against overplay and future demand highlighted during consultation. Match equivalent sessions for future demand have been calculated using the average number of matches played per season (ten matches for senior men and five matches for junior boys).

**Table 4.11: Capacity of grass wicket squares**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)</th>
<th>Demand (match sessions)</th>
<th>Overplay</th>
<th>Current total</th>
<th>Future demand</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanion &amp; Corby Old Village</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As seen in the above table, the overall shortfall of grass wicket squares in Corby amounts to 13 match equivalent sessions currently and worsens to 38 match equivalent sessions in the future. Recommendations to alleviate such shortfalls will be further explored in the Strategy document that follows this report.

When analysing supply and demand on an analysis area basis, the Weldon & Gretton Analysis Area is identified as having capacity to accommodate both current and future demand, although there remains a need to alleviate the overplay at Weldon Cricket Club.

In contrast, both the Urban North and Urban South analysis areas have a current shortfall in grass wicket square provision of four match equivalent sessions and ten match equivalent sessions respectively. Whilst this shortfall is predicted to remain the same in the Urban North
Analysis Area, it is predicted to increase in the Urban South Analysis Area to a total of 25 match equivalent sessions due to future growth aspirations expressed by Great Oakley CC. The Rural West Analysis Area is currently played to capacity, with future demand resulting in a shortfall of ten match equivalent sessions due to Old Eastonians CC planning to increase by one senior team.

For junior cricket, the shortfalls of grass wickets squares are less of an issue because they can utilise NTPs and generally require access during midweek; however, there remains a clear need to improve the provision available, particularly at Weldon Cricket Club. An increase in the number of NTPs in strategically viable locations would also be beneficial, not only for junior cricket but also to alleviate shortfalls of grass wickets and for the potential existence of LMS.
**Cricket summary**

- In total, there are seven grass cricket squares in Corby located across six sites, all of which are available for community use.
- There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at three sites, as well as a standalone NTP at Corby Business Academy, although this is not available for community use.
- Stewarts & Lloyds CC is considered to have limited security of tenure as it is currently waiting for a new lease agreement to be finalised.
- Gretton CC and Old Eastonians CC rent their respective grounds on an annual basis and as such are not considered to have security of tenure.
- All remaining clubs have security of tenure.
- The non-technical assessment of grass wicket squares found three squares to be good quality, three to be standard quality and one to be poor quality. The poor quality pitch is located at East Carlton Cricket Club.
- The majority of clubs’ rate ancillary provision as good quality, with the exception of Old Eastonians CC, which rates quality as standard.
- Old Eastonians CC reports a need for training facilities to be provided in the form of mobile nets, whereas Great Oakley CC reports an aspiration for more nets to be developed.
- In total, there are seven clubs competing in Corby generating 26 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 17 senior men’s nine junior boy’s teams.
- Only Eastonians CC reports a recent decline in senior participation, with the remaining four responding clubs reporting static participation. Great Oakley CC reports a reduction in junior participation.
- Two clubs report plans to increase their number of teams in the future equating to an increase of two senior men’s and one junior boys team.
- Peak time demand for senior cricket is Saturday, whereas for junior cricket it is midweek.
- Two squares have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand; Old Eastonians Cricket Club and Gretton Recreation Ground.
- Stewart & Lloyds Cricket Club, Weldon Cricket Club and Great Oakley Cricket Club are classed as being overplayed, equating to 29 match equivalent sessions per season.
- The Weldon & Gretton Analysis Areas is identified as having capacity to accommodate both current and future demand, although there remains a need to alleviate the overplay at Weldon Cricket Club.
- The Urban North and Urban South analysis areas have a current shortfall in grass wicket square provision amounting to four match equivalent sessions and ten match equivalent sessions respectively.
- The Rural West Analysis Area is currently played to capacity, with future demand resulting in a shortfall of ten match equivalent sessions due to Old Eastonians CC planning to increase by one senior team.
- Taking into account future demand the shortfall in the Urban South Analysis Area is predicted to increase to a total of 25 match equivalent sessions.
PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

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

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are two rugby clubs in Corby; Stewart and Lloyds RFC and Corby RFC. Of the two clubs, Stewards and Lloyds RFC were met with face to face for consultation; Corby RFC was consulted via a telephone call.

5.2: Supply

Within Corby there are five senior pitches available for community use across two sites; Corby Rugby Club provides two and Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club provides three. In addition, there are a further two senior pitches and one junior pitch unavailable for community use spread across three school sites. All community available pitches are located in the Urban North Analysis Area.

Traditionally mini and junior rugby takes place on over marked senior pitches. This is the case across Corby, as no club site is identified as having dedicated mini or junior pitches. The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to the table below.

Table 5.1: Pitch dimensions

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

Figure 5.1 overleaf shows the location of all rugby union pitches within Corby, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 5.5.

---

10 Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.
11 Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.
Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Corby
**Pitch quality**

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

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

**Table 5.2: Definition of maintenance categories**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M0</td>
<td>Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1</td>
<td>Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2</td>
<td>Action is no improvements to maintenance programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 5.3: Definition of drainage categories**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D0</td>
<td>Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2</td>
<td>Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3</td>
<td>No action is needed on pitch drainage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 5.4: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Natural Inadequate (D0)</th>
<th>Natural Adequate (D1)</th>
<th>Pipe Drained (D2)</th>
<th>Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor (M0)</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate (M1)</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good (M2)</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Of the community available pitches in Corby, two are identified as being poor quality and three are identified as being good quality. The poor quality pitches are both located at Corby Rugby Club, where maintenance is considered to be basic, whereas the good quality pitches are all located at Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club, where maintenance is considered to be sophisticated and detailed. None of the pitches have a drainage system in place, although drainage remains adequate across both sites.

A detailed breakdown of all pitches can be seen in the table overleaf.
### Table 5.5: Site quality ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Community use?</th>
<th>Security of tenure</th>
<th>Pitch type</th>
<th>Non-technical assessment score</th>
<th>Quality rating</th>
<th>Floodlit?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brooke Weston Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Unsecure</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>M1/D1</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Corby Business Academy</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Unsecure</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>M1/D1</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Corby Rugby Club</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>M0/D1</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>M0/D1</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Lodge Park Academy</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Unsecure</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>M1/D1</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>M2/D1</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>M2/D1</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>M2/D1</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ancillary facilities

Stewarts and Lloyds RFC reports that its social space and changing facilities are dated and therefore are in need of refurbishment. This is particularly important to the Club as it has aspirations to utilise its social space for external hire to create an additional revenue stream.

The remaining ancillary facilities servicing the Club are considered to be good quality. Over the past five years, the Club has been successful in funding applications to both the RFU and Sport England. This has resulted in new shower provision, windows and a heating system as well as an upgraded electricity network.

Corby RFC is serviced by two changing rooms and communal shower and toilet facilities. The quality is considered to be adequate for the current club needs, albeit dated.

Security of tenure

Both Stewarts and Lloyds RFC and Corby RFC have secure tenure. Stewart and Lloyd RFC has a 75-year lease agreement of its site from Tata Steel, whereas Corby RFC owns the freehold of its site.

5.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in Corby tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training. No latent or unmet demand is identified for access to additional rugby pitches.

Competitive play

Two rugby union clubs play within Corby. The clubs vary in size, with Stewarts and Lloyds RFC being a large well-established club that operates a range of senior, junior and mini teams. In contrast, Corby RFC operates a single senior team that has struggled to fulfil its fixtures in recent season, which dwindling participation causing a major issue.

In total, there are five senior men’s, two junior boys’ and six (mixed) mini teams provided across the two clubs.

Table 5.6: Summary of demand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>No. of rugby union teams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby RFC</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewarts and Lloyds RFC</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the table above, Stewarts and Lloyds RFC also operates a veteran’s team that plays infrequently throughout the rugby season.
Training demand

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

In Corby, Stewarts and Lloyds RFC trains throughout the season on its match pitches. The Club currently has two floodlit pitches, with all midweek training demand generally taking place on the second floodlit pitch, thus reducing its capacity for match play. The first floodlit pitch is predominately reserved for first and second team matches.

Corby RFC utilises its sand-based AGP for the majority of its training requirements. Although the pitch is not suitable for tackling, rucking or mauling, it does provide a consistent surface to undertake skill based training exercises. In addition, the floodlighting of the pitch illuminates surrounding grass areas, in turn providing small spaces that can be used for contact drills, when required.

For an AGP to be suitable for contact rugby, it must have a 3G surface and must be approved by World Rugby. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality. The RFU investment strategy into AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2031).

Table 5.7: Team generation rates (2031)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Current population within age group</th>
<th>Current no. of teams</th>
<th>Team Generation Rate</th>
<th>Future population within age group (2031)</th>
<th>Predicted future number of teams</th>
<th>Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Mens (19-45)</td>
<td>11,697</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2339</td>
<td>13,123</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Womens (19-45)</td>
<td>11,890</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13,561</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Boys (13-18)</td>
<td>2,244</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1122</td>
<td>3,291</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Girls (13-18)</td>
<td>2,344</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,293</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini rugby mixed (7-12)</td>
<td>5,039</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>6,556</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As can be seen in the table above, there is expected population growth equating to the creation of one mini team. This equates to 0.25 match equivalent sessions on a senior pitch.
Participation increases

The RFU is active in developing rugby union in local state schools through the All Schools programme launched in September 2012. The aim is to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union, with such schools linking to a local team of RFU Rugby Development Officers (RDOs). The RDO’s deliver coaching sessions and support the schools to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme. In Corby, the programme is currently operating at Corby Business Academy and Lodge Park Academy and is expected to begin at Kingswood School and Brooke Weston School ahead of the 2017/2018 season.

Stewart and Lloyds RFC is the partner club to the programme and it is expected that its involvement over next three years will result in a substantial increase in the number of junior members. Using this, the Club has plans to establish U14, U15 and U16 teams to create a full complement of junior sides. In terms of demand, this equates to 1.5 match equivalent sessions, in addition to training demand which cannot be quantified at this stage.

Corby RFC is not linked to the All Schools programme but reports an aspiration to develop a junior section, with the Club currently looking at hosting coaching sessions to attract demand to enable such growth. In addition, it wants to develop a second senior team to supplement its first, although it is acknowledged that current participation needs to be stabilised first.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams, it is considered to be Saturday PM as all senior teams play at this time. Peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

5.4: Capacity analysis

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

- All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- Use of school pitches by schools reduces potential capacity by one match equivalent session.
- All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
- From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch.
- Mini teams (U6-U12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch or a dedicated mini pitch.
- For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away).
For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch.

- Senior rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of team equivalents.
- Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 80 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

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

*Table 5.8: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drainage</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor (M0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Inadequate (D0)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipe Drained (D2)</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.
Table 5.9: Capacity table for community available pitches in Corby

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Community use?</th>
<th>Pitch type</th>
<th>Number of pitches</th>
<th>Quality rating</th>
<th>Non-tech score</th>
<th>Floodlit?</th>
<th>Match equivalent sessions (per week)</th>
<th>Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)</th>
<th>Capacity rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Corby Rugby Club</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>M0/D1</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>First team pitch used by Corby RFC which accommodates one competitive fixture every other week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>M0/D1</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Pitch currently unused due to limited activity from Corby RFC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>M2/D1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>First team pitch for Stewart and Lloyds RFC used to accommodate one senior match, one junior match and some mini activity each weekend, as well as school fixtures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>M2/D1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Pitch is used to accommodate two senior training sessions and one junior training night per week in addition to senior/junior fixtures dependent on pitch rotation. The pitch also accommodates school fixtures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>M2/D1</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Pitch is used for the majority of junior and mini training/fixtures over a weekend.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

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

Table 5.10: Actual spare capacity table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Potential capacity</th>
<th>Actual capacity</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Corby RFC</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Pitch quality at Cordy RFC is poor and as such is not suitable to accommodate additional use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Stewart and Lloyds Rugby Club</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>First team pitch which will not be permitted to have additional usage to protect quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>A non-floodlit pitch which contains actual spare capacity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the four pitches identified as having potential spare capacity, only one pitch, located at Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club, is identified as having actual spare capacity. The potential capacity on the first team pitch at the site should be retained to protect quality, whereas potential capacity on the two pitches at Corby Rugby Club is discounted due to quality issues.

Overplay

There is one pitch identified as being overplayed, located at Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club. It is used as the main training pitch by the Club and as such is utilised three nights per week by senior and junior teams in addition to weekend use for matches and mini/junior training. Further to this, this pitch is also used for school fixtures. In total, the pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent session per week.

5.6: Conclusions

Having considered supply and demand, the table overleaf identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay of rugby union pitches in Corby based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on population growth and club development plans, where quantified, and therefore includes future demand for mini and junior teams.
The rugby union pitches in Corby are currently being played to capacity. In addition, a need exists to alleviate overplay on the pitch used for training activity at Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club. This can be achieved through pitch quality improvements or by installing additional floodlighting so that training demand can be spread on to the sites third senior pitch.

When incorporating future demand, there is an overall shortfall of 1.75 match equivalent sessions, predominately due to the growth aspirations reported by Stewarts and Lloyds RFC. It is therefore imperative that the Club is supported in being able to accommodate this anticipated growth without it being detrimental to pitch quality.

Whilst both current and future demand can be accommodated at Corby Rugby Club, there is a requirement for pitch quality to improve at the site to enhance the rugby union offer. First and foremost, this should be done by increasing maintenance levels with better equipment perhaps being needed.

### Rugby union summary
- There are five senior rugby union pitches available for community use across two sites (Corby Rugby Club and Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club).
- The pitches located at Corby Rugby Club are assessed as poor quality (M0/D1), whereas the pitches at Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club are assessed as good quality (M2/D1).
- Stewarts and Lloyds RFC has aspirations to develop its social space and changing room provision.
- Tenure is secure for both clubs.
- In total, there are five senior men’s, two junior boys’ and six (mixed) mini teams provided by the clubs.
- It is predicted that future population increases (by 2031) could generate enough demand to create one mini team.
- Stewarts and Lloyds RFC has aspirations to develop three junior teams, which is linked to the RFU All Schools programme.
- Corby RFC has aspirations to start a junior section whilst also creating a second senior team.
- Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club contains a pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent session predominately due to hosting training demand.
- The Club also contains a pitch with actual spare capacity amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions, with potential capacity on the remaining pitch retained to protect quality.
- Spare capacity on both pitches at Corby Rugby Club is discounted due to quality issues.
- The rugby union pitches in Corby are currently being played to capacity. In addition, a need exists to alleviate overplay on the pitch used for training activity at Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club.

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12 Total figure include future population increases which may generate one mini team (0.25 match sessions) and three junior teams expected to be created at Stewart and Lloyd Rugby Club (1.5 match sessions).
PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

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

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

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

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

For senior teams, a full-size pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas, which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends. EH’s preference is for four-metre side and five-metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres, though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.
It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek and requires access to a pitch and floodlights.

**Club consultation**

There is currently one hockey club in Corby; Corby HC. The Club, which was consulted via telephone and is in the process of re-establishing itself after folding approximately five years ago.

**6.2: Supply**

There are currently two full size hockey suitable AGPs in Corby, both of which are located at education sites. The pitch at Brooke Weston Academy is sand-filled, whereas the pitch at Corby Business Academy is sand-dressed. Both are fully floodlit and are available for community use.

Corby Business Academy is currently used by Corby HC; Brooke Western Academy is unused for hockey purposes.

*Table 6.2: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs in Corby*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Floodlit?</th>
<th>Community use?</th>
<th>Hockey use?</th>
<th>Size (metres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brooke Weston Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>100 x 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Corby Business Academy</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>101 x 63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The analysis areas currently served by a full size, hockey suitable AGP are Weldon & Gretton (Brooke Weston Academy) and Urban South (Corby Business Academy).

In addition, there are also five smaller sized AGPs suitable for hockey use across four sites, as seen in the table below. Although too small to host competitive matches, they could be accessed to accommodate some training demand, if needed.

*Table 6.3: Summary of smaller sized hockey suitable AGPs*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Community use?</th>
<th>Floodlit?</th>
<th>Size (metres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brooke Weston Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>32 x 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Corby Rugby Club</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>42 x 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gretton Recreation Ground</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>46 x 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Maplefields Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please refer to Figure 6.1 overleaf for the location of all hockey suitable AGPs, regardless of size.
Figure 6.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in Corby
Management

Both full size AGPs are located on education sites and are therefore managed by the respective schools.

Availability

Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this calculation, both full size AGPs in Corby are readily available to the community, with Brooke Weston being available for 29 hours and Corby Business Academy being available for 30 hours and 15 minutes during the peak period.

Brooke Western Academy is reserved for private use Monday to Friday from 09:00 until 18:00 and available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 on Saturday and Sunday.

Corby Business Academy is reserved for private use from Monday to Friday from 09:00 until 18:00 and available to the community from 17:45 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 on Saturday and Sunday.

Quality

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

The following table indicates when each of the full-size pitches were installed or last resurfaced within Corby, together with an agreed quality rating following non-technical assessments and user consultation.

Table 6.4: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Year installed/resurfaced</th>
<th>Quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brooke Weston Academy</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Corby Business Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the guidance of a ten-year carpet life, Brooke Weston Academy is likely to be due to be resurfaced in the near future as it has not been refurbished since 2007. The pitch is assessed as standard quality, with maintenance carried out by a private company. It is redressed with sand quarterly and regular sanding can help to sustain pitch quality for longer due to less wear on the carpet; however, it’s important to strike a balance between working to sustain quality and pitch performance. This would likely become an issue should club hockey take place at the site in the future due to high levels of sand reducing ball pace.

Corby Business Academy is rated as good quality, despite being nine years old, with users stating that it is one of the best pitches they have played on. Moreover, the pitch was previously used by Kettering HC, which imported into Corby primarily because of its quality, although it has now moved back to the Kettering area.
There are currently no sinking funds in place for refurbishment of either of the AGPs within Corby, meaning future carpet replacement is unlikely regardless of quality deterioration. This may impact on their ability to cater for hockey demand and could result in neither being suitable for match play.

**Ancillary provision**

Both full size AGPs in Corby are serviced by adequate changing provision located within the school buildings.

Corby HC has expressed an interest in having use of a Council owned community centre, which is in the process of being developed within close proximity to the pitch at Corby Business Academy. This would provide clubhouse like facilities, including a kitchen, thus allowing the Club to meet league requirements of providing food for the opposition following a match.

**6.3: Demand**

Corby HC is currently in the process of re-establishing itself after folding a number of years ago. Primarily, the Club is currently working to develop itself through junior training and initiatives, such as via EH’s Back to Hockey initiative.

As it stands, the Club is hoping to enter one team into the Northants Women’s Hockey League for the 2017/2018 season. It will, however, be listed as a ‘friendly’ game for all other teams in the League. This has been approved by the League in an effort to support the Club and prevent it from having to pay fines should it have to forfeit a match due to player numbers.

Corby HC is currently training at Corby Business Academy on Thursday evenings between 17:45 and 18:30 and will also be using the pitch for its home games next season. At the first training session, 75 juniors were in attendance, providing the Club with optimism for its future aspirations.

**Participation trends**

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

**Latent demand**

It is likely that there is some existing latent demand as a result of no hockey clubs being situated within Corby; however, this latent demand is likely to be met by the reformation of Corby HC.

Sport England’s Market Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of ‘the percentage of adults that would like to participate in hockey within Corby, but are not currently doing so’. The tool identifies latent demand of 115 people, the majority of which are within the segments ‘Ben - Male, recent graduates, with a ‘work-hard, play-hard’ attitude’.
Future demand

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

Corby HC reports aspirations to develop both a women’s and men’s hockey team as well as a strong junior section over the next three years.

Usage

Corby Business Academy reports that the pitch is predominantly used midweek, with the pitch operating at 60% capacity Monday to Friday and at around 20% capacity at weekends. Corby HC currently accesses the pitch for 45 minutes during the peak period each week, meaning the remaining usage is attributed to football.

Brooke Weston Academy reports regular midweek evening use of between 15 and 20 hours, although none of it is hockey related. Two football clubs (Corby Ravens FC and Oakley Vale FC) use the pitch on a weekly basis, with the remaining usage made up of casual football participation.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is currently a sufficient supply of full size, hockey suitable AGPs in Corby to meet both current and future demand, based on the aspirations of Corby HC. This is based on England Hockey’s recommendation that a full sized, floodlit AGP can accommodate four matches at peak period (Saturday).

In order to maintain a sufficient supply, it is important, as a minimum, to retain the hockey suitable AGP at Corby Business Academy, as well as to ensure that it is maintained to a good standard. Furthermore, the creation of a sinking fund should be explored to make certain any repairs and refurbishments are feasible when required.

It is also advisable to retain Brooke Western Academy as a hockey suitable AGP should Corby HC expand beyond the capacity available at Corby Business Academy. This will also require a sinking fund to be setup to ensure long-term sustainability.

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way of replacing their tired sand-based carpet and generating money from hiring out a 3G pitch to football clubs and commercial football providers. This has come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams being displaced from their preferred geographical area.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand-based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants will have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.
It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

The 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Those proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports’ governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance ‘Selecting the Right Artificial Grass Surface’ which can be found on Sport England’s website:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hockey summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ There are currently two full size hockey suitable AGPs in Corby; Corby Business Academy and Brooke Weston.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Both full size AGPs are floodlit and available for community use, however, only one is currently used for hockey purposes (Corby Business Academy).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ In addition, there are five smaller sized AGPs suitable for hockey use, which, although too small to host competitive matches, could be used to accommodate some training demand if the need arises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Both full size AGPs are readily available to the community during the peak period, as identified by Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Based on the guidance of a ten-year carpet life, Brooke Weston Academy is due to be resurfaced, whereas Corby Business Academy is one year away from consideration for resurfacing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ There is currently one club within Corby; Corby HC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ The Club reports aspirations to develop both a women’s and men’s hockey team as well as a strong junior section over the next three years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ There is currently a sufficient supply of full size, hockey suitable AGPs in Corby to meet both current and future demand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ In order to maintain a sufficient supply, it is important, as a minimum, to retain the hockey suitable AGP at Corby Business Academy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ It is also advisable to retain Brooke Western Academy as a hockey suitable AGP should Corby HC expand beyond the capacity available at Corby Business Academy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART 7: GAELIC FOOTBALL

7.1: Introduction

Gaelic football, together with hurling, is administered by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), which is split into various counties at a localised level. GAA’s outside of Ireland cover large geographic non-traditional areas that are not generally considered to be counties in any other context. For example, Northamptonshire (including Corby) is covered by Warwickshire GAA.

The sport is played between two teams of 15 players each, with the objective of scoring by kicking or punching the ball into the other team’s goal (three points) or between the upright posts and over the crossbar (one point). The field of play must be 130-145 metres long and 80-90 metres wide.

Consultation

Corby O’Rahilly’s GAA did not respond to consultation requests. Information was instead gathered via consultation with the Council and other partners as well as through online research.

7.2: Supply

Nationally, many Gaelic football pitches are dual use pitches, with other sports such as football or rugby union often taking precedence. That, however, is not the case in Corby. Instead, a dedicated Gaelic football pitch is provided, located at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex. The pitch is leased to Corby O’Rahilly’s GAA in an agreement that has over 70 years remaining.

7.3: Demand

Corby O’Rahilly’s GAA is the only Gaelic football club in Corby. It currently fields a senior team in a league administered by Warwickshire GAA. The League consists of three divisions of five teams, with Corby O’Rahilly’s GAA forming part of the third division. Matches are played every Sunday from February until April.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that, in addition to its senior team, the Club are looking to create an u16s team. Warwickshire GAA provides competitions at u18s, u16s, u14s and u12s level, as well as senior level.

In addition to matches, the Club trains every Tuesday evening during the season, or on Sunday afternoons on non-match days.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

A Gaelic football pitch must be retained for continued use by Corby O’Rahilly’s GAA. To that extent, the current offering is seen as ideal as the Club has security of tenure and is not impacted on by other sports.
## Gaelic football summary

- There is a dedicated Gaelic football pitch in Corby, located at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex.
- The pitch is leased to Corby O’Rahilly’s GAA in an agreement that has over 70 years remaining.
- Corby O’Rahilly’s GAA is the only Gaelic football club in Corby.
- It currently fields a senior team in a league administered by the Warwickshire GAA.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that the Club are also looking to create an u16s team.
- In addition to matches, the Club trains every Tuesday evening during the season, or on Sunday afternoons on non-match days.
- A Gaelic football pitch must be retained for continued use by Corby O’Rahilly’s GAA.
PART 8: BOWLS

8.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Corby are flat green. Bowls England is the NGB for flat green bowls with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance. The flat green bowling season runs from May to September.

Consultation

There are four bowls clubs identified in Corby. Of these, Corby Woodsend, Corby Forest and Corby Seagrave House bowling clubs responded to consultation requests via survey or telephone. Corby Grampian BC did not respond and questions exist over its current status due to declining numbers. It is therefore unknown as whether the Club is still operational.

8.2: Supply

Quantity

There are five bowling greens in Corby, located across four sites and all available for community use. Two of these are located at Corby Seagrave House Bowling Club.

There are three greens located in the Urban North Analysis Area across two sites and two greens across the same number of sites located in the Urban South Analysis Area. The Rural West, Stanion & Corby Old Village and Weldon & Gretton analysis areas have no identified greens.

Table 8.1: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Number of greens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanion &amp; Corby Old Village</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 8.1: Flat greens in Corby
Ownership/management

All four bowling clubs in Corby access the site of the same name as the respective club. For Corby Seagrave House BC and Corby Forest BC, this is done via a lease agreement. The former leases its site from Punch Taverns, whereas the latter leases from the Scottish Trust.

Corby Woodsend BC rents its green on an annual basis from the Council, whilst the position of ownership and management for Corby Grampian BC is unknown due to no response from the Club.

In terms of ownership and management of ancillary facilities, Corby Woodsend BC has use of Council owned and managed facilities, Corby Forest BC owns and manages its own ancillary facilities and Corby Seagrave House BC leases its ancillary facilities from Corby Seagrove. As part of this agreement, Corby Seagrove maintain the exterior of the building and the Club maintain the interior.

Quality

Following a non-technical assessment of greens in Corby and consultation with clubs, three greens are assessed as good quality, one as standard quality and one as poor quality. The table below summarises the quality on a site-by-site basis.

Table 8.3: Summary of bowling green quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Number of greens</th>
<th>Quality of green</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Corby Forest Bowls Club</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Corby Seagrave House Bowling Club</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Corby Grampian Bowls Club</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Corby Woodsend Bowls Club</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ratings from the non-technical assessments carried out generally reflect the views of clubs playing at those sites, with Corby Forest Bowls Club and Corby Seagrave House Bowling Club assessed as good quality and Corby Woodsend Bowls Club assessed as standard quality. In contrast, Corby Grampian Bowls Club is assessed as poor quality. This is likely to be a result of low levels of use and infrequent maintenance.
Two clubs; Corby Forest BC and Corby Woodsend BC, report that there has been improvement in green quality since last season. The former attributes this to members working hard to improve the green, whilst the latter believes improvements are due to the green keepers becoming more experienced.

Corby Seagrave House BC reports that the quality of its greens have stayed the same and that they continue to be maintained to a high standard, as reflected in their utilisation for county matches. The Club is, however, currently raising funds to make improvements to the edges of the second green. Some issues with vandalism are also cited as bikes are occasionally ridden across the site.

The main impact on green quality in the Corby area, as noted from non-technical assessments, is the evenness and gradient of the greens.

**Accessibility**

Responding clubs state that players travel between two and five miles to access facilities. The clubs also report that the proportion of players from outside Corby using their facilities is between one and 25%.

**Ancillary facilities**

All clubs responding to the survey have access to a clubhouse/pavilion on site. Both Corby Forest BC and Corby Woodsend BC describe ancillary facilities as adequate, although the latter highlights that both the toilet and kitchen areas need refurbishing. Corby Woodsend BC also reports a need for additional car parking space.

Corby Seagrave House BC believes its ancillary facilities are of good quality, although the Club does express a desire to improve disabled access. It plans to do this once enough money has been raised as part of ongoing fund-raising initiatives.

Due to no response from Corby Grampian BC, the quality of ancillary provision at the Club’s home site is unknown. Access to its clubhouse could not be gained during non-technical assessments.

**Floodlighting**

One green, located at Corby Seagrave House BC, has floodlighting. This provides additional opportunity for access for training and matches during the evenings and increase the sites capacity, especially during the winter. Floodlit bowling greens are relatively rare across the country and the site should therefore be considered as key for bowls activity.
8.4: Demand

**Current demand**

There are four bowls clubs playing in Corby, although, as mentioned previously, the current operational status of Corby Grampian BC is unknown. Membership of those clubs that shared data amounts to 164 adult members and two junior members.

*Table 8.4: Current club membership for bowls clubs in Corby*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club name</th>
<th>Senior male</th>
<th>Senior female</th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corby Seagrave House BC</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby Woodsend BC</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby Forest BC</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby Grampian BC</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>119</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The largest club in the Corby area is currently Corby Forest BC, with a total of 70 members. This is followed by Corby Woodsend BC with 58 members and Corby Seagrave House BC, with 38 members. As well as being the largest club, Corby Forest BC is also the only club to have any junior members.

Despite there being a decline in senior membership for bowls nationally, all three clubs report that numbers have stayed the same over the last three years. In contrast, it is reported that Corby Grampian BC has suffered a decline in membership resulting in it potentially folding.

Both Corby Forest BC and Corby Seagrave House BC report having teams playing in a variety of leagues, including the Northants County League. As well as playing in competitive leagues, the clubs describe participating in a number of friendly games and leagues throughout the season.

Corby Woodsend BC do not play in any leagues; however, the Club plays 34 friendly matches per season both home and away against other local bowling clubs.

**Future demand**

Using ONS projections (2014-2019), the number of persons aged 65 and over living in Corby is likely to increase continuously from 9,155 in 2014 to 18,012 in 2039, representing an increase of 6%. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for bowling greens may increase slightly or at least remain static on this basis.

All three responding clubs identify plans to increase membership in Corby; however, only Corby Woodsend BC identifies by how many members it wishes to increase by. It reports wanting to increase its senior section by a further 20 members and its junior section by ten members. It plans to do this through advertisement, via, for example, local radio networks.
Both Corby Forest BC and Corby Seagrave House BC have aspirations to see their senior and junior sections grow. It is generally hoped this will happen through word of mouth, although Corby Seagrave House BC engaged with local primary schools last season and delivered some coaching sessions, this did not result in any junior members joining. It is now looking to engage with the Eastern European community in Corby but to date is finding it hard to obtain contact.

**Latent demand**

Sport England’s Segmentation Tool enables analysis of ‘the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so’. The tool identifies latent demand of 422 people who would like to participate in the sport within Corby. The most dominant segment is ‘Elsie & Arnold’ - Retired singles or widowers, predominantly female, living in sheltered accommodation (30%).

**Club challenges**

Consultation with clubs highlight a small number of challenges that some clubs face, as detailed below. This mostly surrounds issues regarding player recruitment and retention.

*Table 8.5: Current site issues*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Issue highlighted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corby Seagrave House BC</td>
<td>Recruitment and retention of players is highlighted as an issue by the Club.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby Woodsend BC</td>
<td>The Club highlights issues with player recruitment and retention, which has led to shortages on match day. As a result, last season, the Club had to cancel two matches. The Club also describes issues with access to the site for some player and potential players. This included costs and lack of public transport to the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby BC</td>
<td>Recruitment and retention of player is reported to be an issue as well as lack of external funding.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**8.5 Supply and demand analysis**

It is considered that bowling clubs in Corby generally have spare capacity, meaning that current membership and any forecasted increase in membership is sustainable, with clubs able to accept additional members should demand increase. The latter point is supported by clubs as all responding clubs report that identified future demand can be accommodated on greens currently available to them. As such, priority should be placed on ensuring that existing levels of provision are sustained and green quality and ancillary provision is improved where necessary in order to allow for continued use.

There is also a requirement to gain contact with Corby Grampian BC in order to determine its current status. If the Club remains operational, support is required to ensure that its needs are being met. If the Club has folded and has no aspiration to reform, the green it played on may no longer be required.
Bowls summary

- There are five flat greens located across four sites in Corby.
- There are three greens located in the Urban North Analysis Area and two greens located in the Urban South Analysis Area. The Rural West, Stanion & Corby Old Village and Weldon & Gretton analysis areas have no identified greens.
- Corby Seagrave House BC and Corby Forest BC lease their greens, whereas Corby Woodsend BC rents its green. The position of ownership and management for Corby Grampian BC is unknown due to no response from the Club.
- Three greens are assessed as good quality, one as standard quality and one as poor quality.
- Responding clubs all rate the quality of their ancillary facilities as standard or good; however, Corby Woodsend BC states that the toilet and kitchen facilities need refurbishment.
- One green, located at Corby Seagrave House Bowling Club, has floodlighting.
- There are four bowls clubs playing in Corby. Membership of those clubs that shared data amounts to 164 adult members and two junior members.
- Despite there being a decline in senior membership for bowls nationally, all responding clubs report that numbers have stayed the same over the last three years.
- In contrast, it is unknown whether Corby Grampian BC is still operational due to declining membership numbers and a lack of a response.
- All three responding clubs identify plans to increase membership in Corby; however, only Corby Woodsend BC quantifies growth (20 senior members and ten junior members).
- Using ONS projections, demand for bowling greens may increase slightly or at least remain static in the future due to an increase in the population aged 65 and over.
- Generally, it is considered that bowling greens in Corby have spare capacity, meaning current membership and any increase in membership is sustainable.
- Priority should be placed on ensuring that existing levels of provision are sustained and green quality and ancillary provision is improved where necessary in order to allow for continued use.
- There is also a requirement to gain contact with Corby Grampian BC in order to determine its current status.
PART 9: TENNIS

9.1: Introduction

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

Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with a representative from the LTA as well as Corby Tennis Centre, an affiliated LTA Club. Consultation with the LTA was carried out in a steering group format with other NGBs, whereas Corby Tennis Centre was consulted through a face to face meeting.

9.2: Supply

There are 32 tennis court identified in Corby across seven sites, with all 32 of the courts being available for community use.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Courts available for community use</th>
<th>Courts unavailable for community use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural West</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanion and Corby Old Village</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of courts are located in the Urban North Analysis Area, whereas there are no courts located in either the Rural West Analysis Area or the Stanion and Corby Old Village Analysis Area.

For the purposes of this report, availability for community use refers to courts in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management recorded as being available for hire by individuals, teams or clubs. This also includes availability for social use or pay and play.

Figure 9.1 overleaf identifies the location of current tennis courts in Corby. For a key to the map, see table 9.2.
Figure 9.1: Location of tennis courts in Corby
### Table 9.2: Summary of provision site by site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Community use?</th>
<th>No. of courts</th>
<th>Floodlit?</th>
<th>Court type</th>
<th>Court quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brooke Weston Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Macadam</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Artificial turf</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Corby Business Academy</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Macadam</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gretton Recreation Ground</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>Parish Council</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Artificial turf</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kingswood Secondary Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Macadam</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Lodge Park Sports Centre</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>School/Council</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Macadam</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Macadam</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>West Glebe Park</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Macadam</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Corby Tennis Centre</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Macadam</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Future supply**

Corby Tennis Centre acknowledges that tennis is a popular sport in the region and is currently drawing up plans to expand its outdoor provision; however, no formal work has yet taken place.

**Additional supply**

In addition to the outdoor courts, there are also eight indoor tennis courts at Corby Tennis Centre which are available for community use. These courts are further discussed as part of the Indoor and Built Facilities Assessment Report and accompanying strategy, which sit alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy findings.

**Floodlighting**

Of the courts that are available for community use, thirteen are floodlit; six courts are at Corby Tennis Centre, six at Kingswood Secondary Academy and one at Gretton Recreation Ground.

**Court type**

Macadam is the most common playing surface within Corby, with 29 courts (90%) courts being this type. The remaining courts are artificial turf, with two located at Brooke Western Academy and one located at West Glebe Park.

**Quality**

The majority of courts (17) are rated as standard quality. Ten courts are rated as good quality and five are rated as poor quality.

**Table 9.3: Summary of court quality**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All standard quality courts are located at education sites. School courts often struggle to achieve good quality ratings as a result of their high levels of use, with many overmarked and used for a wide range of both curricular and extracurricular purposes. The maintenance of such courts is also considered to be basic and infrequent, as opposed to club maintained courts which tend to receive more specialised and dedicated work.

The two sites with courts rated as poor quality are Lodge Park Sports Centre and West Glebe Park. The poor quality of these courts is attributed to faded line markings, noticeable levels of moss and some surface damage, such as loose stones and unevenness. It is therefore presumed that the courts have not been resurfaced for some time.

The courts rated as good quality are located at Brooke Weston Academy, Corby Tennis Centre and Gretton Recreation Ground, with the six courts at Corby Tennis Centre scoring highest for quality across Corby. This is due to well-maintained courts with good, clear line markings, quality nets, adequate safety margins, disabled access and floodlighting.
Improving park courts is a national priority for the LTA; however, it reports that unless tennis courts are supported by changing facilities, a café and floodlighting, it becomes more difficult to operate a sustainable tennis programme, which therefore makes it more difficult to generate external investment. The LTA also advocates that sites with a minimum of four courts are likely to be more sustainable.

**Ancillary provision**

The ancillary provision at Corby Tennis Centre is rated as good quality. Both members and casual players have access to the clubhouse which has a small café, toilets and changing rooms with shower facilities.

In contrast, the ancillary provision servicing non-club courts is generally considered to be poor quality. Some offer changing facilities but are of a poor quality, whilst other sites either do not provide changing facilities or provide them too far away from courts to be used. Often, the facilities predominately service football and cricket pitch users and therefore are not readily available or suited to tennis court users.

**Ownership and management**

Corby Tennis Centre is owned by the Council but managed by a non-profit company, with a manager employed to oversee day to day management of the site. The non-profit company leases Corby Tennis Centre from the Council. As it stands, there are seven years remaining on the lease.

The majority (55%) of courts within Corby are located at education sites and are therefore managed internally by the respective schools. The only exception to this is at Lodge Park Sports Centre, which is a dual use site with management split between the School and the Council.

Gretton Recreation Ground is owned by Gretton Parish Council and managed by the Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground. As per conditions of a grant received from the Big Lottery, the courts must be open access for 75% of the time, meaning booking space is limited.

West Glebe Park is owned and managed by the Council.

**9.3: Demand**

Corby Tennis Centre provides the only tennis club within Corby. It currently has 180 members in addition to providing pay and play and social tennis opportunities. The members make up four men’s, three ladies and three mixed teams that enter two leagues; the Northampton League and the East Northamptonshire League.

At present the Club has no competitive junior teams; however, there is a junior development squad and the Tennis Centre holds junior national competitions. In addition to this, the Centre employs a development officer who works closely with local primary schools in partnership with the LTA. The delivery of this programme acts as a contributor to popularity of tennis in the area.
The Centre is open seven days a week, from 10:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 08:30 until 20:30 on Saturdays and Sundays. The Centre reports being particularly busy between 16:30 and 21:30 on weekdays as well as being at capacity during weekends. As a result of the courts being in such high demand, the Centre has had to adopt a member priority approach, meaning there is less opportunity for pay and play and social tennis. In addition, this may impact on park tennis league matches, which also take place at the Centre.

In contrast to the capacity issues at Corby Tennis Centre, the majority of education sites report a lack of demand for tennis courts. A number of schools do, however, acknowledge that this is likely a result of being unable to compete with the quality of the Tennis Centre. Moreover, the majority of courts outside of the Tennis Centre are without floodlighting, thus reducing available playing time and as such court capacity.

**Latent demand**

Sport England’s Market Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of ‘the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis within Corby, but are not currently doing so’. The tool identifies latent demand of 753 people, 168 (22%) of which are within the segments ‘Jamie – young blokes enjoying football, pints and pool’ and ‘Philip - Mid-life professional, sporty males with older children and more time for themselves’.

**Parks tennis**

Parks tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are run by Local Tennis Leagues which affiliates to the LTA and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

Despite being a club site, Corby Tennis Centre accommodates parks tennis leagues in Corby as it is the only tennis hub site in the area. Hub sites such as these are in line with the current LTA Facilities Strategy. The strategy focuses on targeted investment in ‘welcoming’ park facilities for people to socialise and play. Ideal park hubs for tennis have been identified as having good quality courts and ancillary provision, accompanied by toilets and cafe facilities which are able to act as a facility management point, social area and reference point for tennis delivery to develop the wider tennis customer experience.

Tennis park hub sites host community coaching sessions and will have programmed activity throughout the week, whilst they will remain available to book by centre members, members of the public and park league players using online booking system Clubspark. This is an online booking system which sends an automated email as evidence as part of a self-policing system for managing court bookings. The LTA reports that over 2,000 hours of court time were booked in 2016 by a database of over 2000 people held on Clubspark.
**Tennis Tuesdays**

After being trialled in London in 2014, the LTA launched Tennis Tuesdays in partnership with sportswear brand Nike. The initiative focuses on increasing women’s participation in tennis and skill development with a key fundamental social element, seeking to engage women in new and innovative ways to help break down barriers to female participation. Sessions are available to all abilities and are structured based on four ability levels ranging from beginner to advanced, each week based on one of six themes ranging from improving specific techniques to tactical awareness and match play. Sessions run from May to October, taking place every Tuesday evening for an hour.

As it stands there are no Tennis Tuesdays sessions running within Corby. Individuals would have to travel to the City of Peterborough Tennis Club (approximately 19 miles from the Centre of Corby) in order to participate in this initiative.

**Informal tennis**

A high number of courts (32) are available for informal tennis; however, only Corby Tennis Centre reports a high pay and play demand, which is presumably assisted by the attraction of good quality courts. Education sites report low demand, which is believed to be a reflection on poorer court quality, the lack of a social environment and the absence of floodlighting. The latter reduces availability, particularly midweek when the majority of participation is in the evenings.

The two council owned courts at West Glebe Park are also available for informal tennis. These courts can be hired; however, demand for these courts is also low. This is likely attributed to poor quality, meaning an improvement could see increased demand.

**9.4: Conclusions**

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit court can accommodate 60 members. Although Corby Tennis Centre is operating well within these figures, it does not take into account demand from non-members or the regular coaching sessions that take place. As the Centre reports that it is operating at capacity, there may be a requirement for it to be provided with an increased number of courts, which it is actively trying to achieve with its future supply aspirations. These development plans should therefore be supported.

As all remaining (non-club) courts are deemed to have spare capacity for a growth in demand, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites that are assessed as poor or standard quality. Doing this may also further alleviate some of the pressure on Corby Tennis Centre as it will encourage some demand to transfer to alternative sites.
There are 32 tennis courts identified in Corby, of which, 26 courts are available for community use.

There are 13 floodlit courts spread across three sites, all of which are available for community use.

The majority of courts have a macadam surface, representing 90% of existing supply.

There are ten courts assessed as good quality, 17 courts assessed as standard quality and five courts assessed as poor quality.

Corby Tennis Centre is the only tennis club within Corby, catering for 180 members.

Despite being a club, Corby Tennis Centre also accommodates parks tennis leagues.

As it stands Corby Tennis Centre is operating at capacity and as a result is creating potential latent demand.

There may be a requirement for the Centre to be provided with more courts, which it is actively trying to achieve with its future supply aspirations.

As all remaining (non-club) courts are deemed to have spare capacity for a growth in demand, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play.
PART 10: NETBALL

10.1: Introduction

England Netball governs netball in England. Levels of participation are quickly increasing, with over 100,000 affiliated members and at least one million women and girls playing during a typical week. The NGBs aim is to provide its members and partners with the best possible service and experience in sport.

Nationally, the majority of netball activity takes place indoors although outdoor demand does exist. For information relating to indoor netball in Corby, please see the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy that accompanies this report.

10.2: Supply

There are 13 outdoor netball courts in Corby across five sites, all of which are available for community use. The majority of the courts are located at school sites, with the only exception being two at West Glebe Park that are council operated. All of the courts over mark tennis courts.

Table 10.1: Netball courts in Corby

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Analysis area</th>
<th>Community use?</th>
<th>No. of courts</th>
<th>Floodlit?</th>
<th>Court quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brooke Weston Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Corby Business Academy</td>
<td>Weldon &amp; Gretton</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kingswood Secondary Academy</td>
<td>Urban South</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Lodge Park Sports Centre</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>West Glebe Park</td>
<td>Urban North</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In line with the quality findings for tennis, the courts at Brooke Weston Academy are assessed as good quality, the courts at Corby Business Academy and Kingswood Secondary Academy are assessed as standard quality and the courts at Lodge Park Sports Centre and West Glebe Park are assessed as poor quality.

Kingswood Secondary Academy provides the only floodlit courts.

10.3: Demand

There are two clubs affiliated to England Netball based in Corby; Abacus Netball Club and Corby Netball Club. Corby Netball Club is the larger of the two, with approximately 110 members, which has risen steadily over the past two years due to a positive outreach programme. The Club competes in both the Northants League and the Corby Netball League as well as various junior leagues and offers netball to women of all ages focusing on competition, development and participation.

Both clubs currently train and play predominately indoors at Lodge Park Sports Centre, meaning neither regularly access outdoor provision.
Corby Netball League

The League is a senior league that has been running for over 40 years. Fixtures take place from September until June with all matches held indoors at Lodge Park Sports Centre every Sunday between 13:00 and 19:00. In addition to teams fielded by the aforementioned affiliated clubs, a further 12 unaffiliated teams are currently entered.

There are no league fixtures held on outdoor courts.

Back to Netball

Back to Netball sessions are running across England and provide women of all ages a gentle re-introduction to the sport. Sessions cover the basics of the game including passing, footwork and shooting and finish with a friendly game. Since its creation in 2010, over 60,000 women have taken part.

In Corby, Corby Netball Club runs Back to Netball sessions at Lodge Park Sports Centre every Wednesday from 19:00 until 20:00; however, this takes place indoors.

High 5

High 5 is a version of netball that has five players instead of the usual seven, eliminating the positions of wing attack and defence. It is designed specifically for children aged 9-11, using fun and variety to get them into the game, polish skills and aid fitness. A key part of High 5 is players rotating around positions as this allows all participants to experience every position.

Corby Netball Club currently runs four High 5 teams.

Walking netball

Walking netball has evolved from a growing demand for walking sports. It is a slower version of the game and has been designed so that anyone can play, regardless of age and fitness levels. That being said, there are currently no walking netball sessions available in Corby, although as it is a relatively new initiative it is more than possible in the future with Corby Netball Club expressing an interest.

10.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is currently very little community demand for outdoor netball provision with the majority of activity taking place indoors. As such, priority should be placed on sustaining and improving court quality at school sites, where possible, to accommodate curricular and extracurricular activity. This can be carried out in conjunction with improving tennis court quality at the same sites.
Netball summary

- There are 13 netball courts located across five sites, all of which are available for community use.
- Brooke Weston Academy is assessed as good quality, Corby Business Academy and Kingswood Secondary Academy are assessed as standard quality and Lodge Park Sports Centre and West Glebe Park are assessed as poor quality.
- Kingswood Secondary Academy provides the only floodlit courts.
- There are two clubs affiliated to England Netball based in Corby; Abacus Netball Club and Corby Netball Club.
- Both clubs currently train and play predominately indoors at Lodge Park Sports Centre, meaning neither regularly access outdoor provision.
- In addition to teams fielded by the aforementioned affiliated clubs, a further 12 unaffiliated teams are entered into the Corby Netball League.
- Corby Netball Club runs Back to Netball sessions at Lodge Park Sports Centre (indoor) and also field four High 5 teams.
- As there is little community demand for outdoor netball provision, priority should be placed on improving court quality at school sites to improve the curricular and extra-curricular offer.
PART 11: ATHLETICS

11.1: Introduction

Athletics is administered across the United Kingdom by UK Athletics, including responsibility for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of the sport, anti-doping protocol, health and safety, facilities and welfare, training and coach education and permitting and licensing. Locally the sport is governed through England Athletics via a team consisting of an area manager and coach/club support officers.

Consultation

There is currently one athletics club within Corby; Corby Athletics Club. Consultation with the Club was carried out via telephone.

11.2: Supply

There is currently one athletics track in Corby. This is based at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex and is used by Corby Athletics Club. It also accessed by two triathlon clubs; Welland Valley Triathlon Club and Corby Triathlon Club. The latter of the two being an adult club and the former being a junior club.

The track is a floodlit, eight-lane tartan synthetic track, with a 12-lane finishing straight. It was originally built in 1985, with refurbishment last taking place in 2005. As well as track disciplines, the facility also accommodates all field disciplines including throwing events and jumping events and it is accompanied by a 1000 seater stand parallel to the finishing straight.

The facility is located in a fairly central location to the North West of Corby centre, in the Urban North Analysis Area, as seen in the figure overleaf.
Figure 11.1: Location of athletics tracks in Corby
Quality

The track at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex is rated as good quality. It has consistent visible lane markings and little evidence of wear to the surface. This is supported by consultation with Corby Athletics Club, which highlights no major issues. The Club is proactive in maintaining quality and ensures the track is cleaned annually and re-lined when necessary.

Notwithstanding the above, the Club does state that the floodlights need replacing; however, this is considered to be fairly imminent following funding being received from various sources such as Tata Steel, Sport England, the Council and the Club itself. As part of the refurbishments, the clubhouse servicing the site will also be improved and wheelchair anchors will be installed to allow for wheelchair racing. This comes on the back of the site becoming a disabled county athletics centre, due to its already good disabled access.

The overall quality of the facility sees it hosting a number of annual events and open meetings together with junior, adult and veteran league fixtures.

Ancillary provision

The current ancillary facilities at the site are described by the Club as being poor quality, in particular the changing room area. Nevertheless, as mentioned previously, a new clubhouse is soon to be developed. This new facility will include changing rooms, a communal area and a kitchen, all of which will be DDA compliant.

The changing facilities at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex are currently shared between Corby Athletics Club, Weldon United FC and Corby Town FC, although the latter will soon have access to new changing facilities at Steel Park.

Ownership/management

The track is owned by the Council but managed by Corby Athletics Club as part of a 40-year lease agreement that will run up until 2054. As such, tenure for the Club is considered to be secure.

The club is currently a community organisation; however, consultation with the Club highlights its desire to gain charitable status.

11.3: Demand

Corby has one athletics club; Corby Athletics Club, which caters for both adult and junior athletes. The Club currently has 240 members, two thirds of which are members under the age of 17. Consultation highlights that the Club is stable and manages to maintain a consistent level of members, although it does see influxes around April.

The Club offers coaching for athletes from the age of eight. It hosts training sessions at the track on Tuesday and Thursday evenings as well as hosting elite training sessions on Saturday and Sunday mornings. In addition, the academy for the youngest athletes at the Club train early on a Wednesday evening.

In addition, the Club hosts monthly open meetings on Tuesday evenings through the spring and summer months, as well as a number of league fixtures for juniors, adults and veterans.
**Parkrun**

Parkrun is a series of weekly five kilometre (k) runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of parks and open space across 850 locations in 12 countries including the UK. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Parkrun events are all ability runs open to all aged 14 years and older, whilst there are shorter 2k Junior Parkrun events available on Sunday mornings for junior runners aged four to fourteen years. In order to take part, runners must first register online in order to receive a printed barcode which gives them access to all Parkrun events.

Parkrun actively promotes local clubs as part of its weekly events in order to advertise them to runners who may potentially be interested in joining a club, whilst approximately 10% of current Parkrun participants are already associated to running clubs. It is common for local clubs to also support Parkrun events through volunteering.

At present, one Parkrun event operates in Corby every Saturday, based at West Glebe Park. This began in September 2013. Since then, 2,566 people have taken part, with an average of 85 people participating each week. The largest attendance recorded is 374 people.

There are no Junior Parkrun events in Corby. In order to access a junior Parkrun, Corby residents would have to travel to Leicester, Daventry or Bedford.

**Great Run Local**

Great Run Local is a network of running events which operate very much like Parkrun in that they too are free, weekly and volunteer driven. It differs in that distances offered are flexible, but generally include two routes at 2k and 5k in order to encourage participation of all abilities. That being said, there are no Great Run Local events in Corby at present.

**Couch to 5k**

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining and active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise. The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion, the end goal being for the participant to be able to run 5k by the end of the plan. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge which can help boost confidence and self-belief, whilst running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

An increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.
Corby Athletics Club states that although it believes this is a positive initiative with many benefits, it has impacted on its number of casual members. This is due to individuals no longer accessing the track for training sessions, rather choosing to use roads and parks to participate in the nine-week self-lead programme.

RunTogether

RunTogether is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. The role of RunTogether is to provide enjoyable, supportive and inclusive running opportunities across England in the form of set routes (3-2-1 routes), running groups and access to programmes such as Find a Guide and Mental Health Ambassadors.

There is currently one RunTogether group within Corby; Body Magic Marvels, which operates within West Glebe Park. There is also a 5k, 3-2-1 route in Welland Park.

3-2-1 routes

3-2-1 is a Run England project which aims to provide a range of marked out running or jogging routes across the country that anyone can try. It is considered a way of providing a meaningful challenge to help more people to get running when it best suits them. Local providers (working in partnership with athletics clubs and Run England groups) can mark out routes that are three, two and one miles, kilometres or laps.

Other users

There are a number of other user groups or clubs which might make use of athletics tracks, including triathlon clubs and adaptive or all ability groups. There are also a number of road running clubs or general running groups which may make use of the track on certain occasions.

There are two triathlon clubs using Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex; Welland Valley Triathlon Club and Corby Triathlon Club. Both of which train on a Friday evening.

Future demand

It is likely that demand for use of the athletics track may increase in the future, primarily through an increase in participation at Corby Athletics Club. Although the Club did not identify specific plans to increase membership, it is actively involved in the local community and has links with local schools.

Furthermore, it is to be expected that the popularity of the Parkrun event will increase in the future following national trends.

11.4: Conclusions

It is thought that in order for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of 200 is required. Given that Corby Athletics Club currently has 240 members and has significant growth potential, it is believed that the track at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex is sustainable and needed. As such, the priority should be on retaining track quality so that the facility can continue to accommodate demand as well as carrying out the planned refurbishment of ancillary facilities.
In addition, precedence should be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the Park Run event as well as supporting the 3-2-1 routes and various running and triathlon clubs that are providing for the population of Corby.

**Athletics summary**

- There is currently one athletics tracks in Corby, located at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex.
- The track is rated as good quality.
- The current ancillary facilities at the site are described as being poor quality, with a new clubhouse soon to be developed.
- The track is owned by the Council but managed by Corby Athletics Club as part of a 40-year lease agreement.
- Corby has one athletics club; Corby Athletics Club, which currently has 240 members.
- There are also two triathlon clubs using Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex; Welland Valley Triathlon Club and Corby Triathlon Club.
- There is one Parkrun event operating in Corby every Saturday, based at West Glebe Park.
- There is also a 5k, 3-2-1 route in Welland Park.
- There is currently one RunTogether group; Body Magic Marvels, which operates within West Glebe Park.
- Given that Corby Athletics Club currently has 240 members and has growth potential, it is believed that the track at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex is sustainable.
- The priority should be on sustaining track quality so that the facility can continue to accommodate demand as well as carrying out planned refurbishment of ancillary facilities.
- In addition, precedence should be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the Park Run event as well as supporting the 3-2-1 routes and various running and triathlon clubs.
PART 12: GOLF

12.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 675,000 members belonging to one of 1900 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership.

Nationally, it is governed by England Golf. The role of the NGB includes providing competitions for all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules and introducing new golfers via its initiative ‘get into golf’.

As of March 2017, England Golf will solely oversee the Whole Sport Plan and receive golf’s National Lottery grant under Sport England’s strategy. England Golf’s Whole Sport Plan, identifies how England will achieve its vision of becoming ‘the leasing golf nation in the world by 2020’ from grass roots through to elite level.

Consultation

Priors Hall Golf Course responded to consultation requests; Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex did not.

12.2: Supply

There are two golf courses situated within Corby. Priors Hall Golf Course is the premier venue, consisting of 18-holes, whereas Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex is a short nine-hole course more suited to beginners and casual players. The former affiliates to England Golf; the latter does not.

Management

Priors Hall Golf Course is a municipal facility leased from Tata Steel in an agreement that expires in 2062. This course is currently managed by the Council.

Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex is owned privately and leased to another private entity on a long-term arrangement for management purposes.

Course facilities

Priors Hall Golf Course is a standard 18-hole course that also hosts a nine-hole Footgolf course, a large practice ground, a putting/chipping green and a driving net.

Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex provides a short nine-hole course (with six Par 3s and three Par 4s) as well as a 25-bay driving range. In fact, the Complex is primarily considered to be a driving range facility, with the course providing a secondary offering.
Table 12.1: Summary of golf courses in Corby

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Number of holes</th>
<th>Par</th>
<th>Yardage13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priors Hall Golf Course</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>6631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quality**

Priors Hall Golf Course is considered to be good quality, with a dedicated maintenance regime carried out by in-house green staff. That being said, it is prone to drainage and irrigation issues as it is built on former gravel pits, although consultation with the Course notes that these issues have improved over recent years and overall, it is considered to be a good quality course by users.

Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex suffers from some quality issues; however, it meets the demand of its users which are mostly casual players, beginners, juniors and elderly seniors.

**Ancillary facilities**

The provision of a clubhouse can often be key for golf clubs nationally as it can provide an income stream, not only from members but also through hiring the venue out for occasions (e.g. wedding receptions).

Both Priors Hall Golf Course and Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex provide a two-tier clubhouse that feature a shop and changing rooms as well as a bar, kitchen and function room that are available to external hirers. Both buildings are, however, in need of modernisation due to dated interiors and this affects their popularity.

**Membership and costs**

Access to Priors Hall Golf Course is available via both membership and pay and play, although the latter may be limited at specific times during club competitions. Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex is predominately a play and pay facility although season tickets are available that offer reduced fees.

Nationally, many clubs have begun to alter their pricing structure to allow for discounted rates following a decline in golf participation. For instance, some clubs now offer a six-day or five-day membership (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not on a Saturday and/or a Sunday), whilst others now provide discounts based on age that is no longer limited to junior players. Previously, many clubs throughout the country had a waiting list for membership but that is rarely the case in the present day.

---

13 White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men’s tees and red denotes ladies tees.
Table 12.2: Summary of membership in Corby

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Membership summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priors Hall Golf Course</td>
<td>Full membership for adults (30-64) is £585 per year. It is then £485 for young adults (22-30) and old adults (65+), £235 for students (18-21) and £125 for juniors (under 18s). If the individual wants to enter competitions and receive a handicap, these prices increase by £65 for adults, £25 for students and £20 for juniors. For a five-day membership, costs are £485 for adults (18-64), £385 for old adults (65+) and £50 for juniors (under 18s). Pay and play is available for adults (21-64) at a rate of £15.50 on weekdays and £20.50 on weekends and for juniors (under 18s), students (18-21) and old adults (65+) at a rate of £10.50 on weekdays and £13 on weekends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex</td>
<td>Season tickets are available from £325; however, no further information is known.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12.3: Demand

Since 2004, participation in golf and club membership has been in decline, with only recent signs showing that the reduction may be levelling off.

England Golf published the ‘Raising Our Game’ strategy in 2014, which defines its strategic direction up to 2017. The document highlights the need for a strategy to enhance market understanding of current golf facilities, which is identified as one of the key considerations to increasing participation. To enable this, market segmentation has been created that is specific to golf, identifying that 24% of adults in England are potential players. This is made up of 9% current players, 8% lapsed players and 7% latent players and amounts to around 9.6 million people in total. The research also provides nine defined profiles and clearly identified behaviours, motivations and barriers within each one.

The nine segments are:

- Relaxed members
- Older traditionalists
- Younger traditionalists
- Younger fanatics
- Late enthusiasts
- Occasionals/time-pressed
- Social couples
- Casual fun

To align with this, a facility mapping tool has been created to provide a statistical data engine that identifies golfing demand within a 20-minute drive time of each facility within England using the segments above. The tool highlights the dominant profiles within each catchment area and also within access to each course. This can then be used to predict likely demand for each type of facility and can support informed marketing, development and investment decisions whilst allowing providers to adapt their offer to cater for a range of different needs.
The demand for golf within Corby by segment type is seen in the table below. The figures represent the number of people within each profile that are within a 20-minute drive time of each course. It is averaged to ensure no double counting.

**Table 12.3: Summary of demand in Corby by segment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment no.</th>
<th>Segment name</th>
<th>Average number of people per affiliated facility (20 minute drive time)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Relaxed members</td>
<td>4,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Older traditionalists</td>
<td>4,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Younger Traditionalists</td>
<td>4,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Younger fanatics</td>
<td>4,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Younger actives</td>
<td>4,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Late enthusiasts</td>
<td>4,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Occasional time pressed</td>
<td>4,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Social couples</td>
<td>4,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Casual fun</td>
<td>4,227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In total, an average of 39,832 people are identified as current or potential users of each golf course within Corby. The most dominant profile is young family members, followed by relaxed members, although each profile is well represented. These profiles are applied on a course-by-course basis in the following table.

**Table 12.4: Summary of demand per course by profile type**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Segment no.</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priors Hall Golf Course</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3,576</td>
<td>3,061</td>
<td>3,729</td>
<td>3,263</td>
<td>3,446</td>
<td>3,149</td>
<td>3,582</td>
<td>3,181</td>
<td>3,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackthorn Wood Golf</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5,861</td>
<td>5,094</td>
<td>5,863</td>
<td>5,402</td>
<td>5,633</td>
<td>5,271</td>
<td>5,745</td>
<td>5,355</td>
<td>5,331</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above summarises that demand is likely to be highest for Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex, which has 49,555 potential users, although it must be noted that the facilities offered may not appeal to certain club-based segments that would generally prefer to access a standard 18-hole course. Contrary to this, the facility is unique in that it is the only driving range and nine-hole course in the surrounding area, meaning it is well placed to cater for the independent segments.

As a comparison, there are 30,111 potential users identified for Priors Hall Golf Course. This facility would be appropriate to the club-based segments, such as older traditionalists and young fanatics, but may not currently be best suited to the independent segments e.g. casual fun or occasional/time-pressed.

Given the high level of demand across both the club-based and the independent profiles, there is clear scope for both facilities to work together in terms of creating pathways, where appropriate, as neither facility can currently cater for the needs of all golfers.
Current demand

Priors Hall Golf Course reports that it currently has a membership of approximately 150 people, which has significantly reduced over the previous three years with a membership of just under 200 recorded in 2014. It is also stated that pay and play use has dropped over this time period, though it is acknowledged that there are more pay and play users than there are members.

The Course has recently worked closely with England Golf, the Golf Foundation and the Council to create a successful junior coaching programme. This has resulted in a significant number of juniors transitioning into members at the Club but has not been enough to offset the loss of adult membership.

Use of Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex is unknown as the facility was unresponsive to consultation requests. That being said, it is known that tri-golf festivals, schools coaching and county coaching has previously been delivered at the site, as support by England Golf and the Golf Foundation. In addition, following the arrival of a new PGA teaching professional, County girls coaching is now delivered at the complex.

Future demand

Priors Hall Golf Course is actively attempting to increase its membership as its recent decline has resulted in financial strain and a lack of sustainability. It is attempting to build on its successful junior coaching programme by targeting local primary and secondary schools, although nothing formal is in place.

Whilst future demand relating to Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex is unknown, it must be considered that the planned housing growth and population increases in Corby provide both sites with an opportunity to attract new and existing players to the facilities.

Footgolf

Footgolf is a relatively new activity that is played on a golf course using a football. The object of the game is to get the ball into the hole using only your feet in the fewest number of shots possible. It is governed by the UK Footgolf Association.

Nationally, there are currently 160 recognised golf courses that incorporate Footgolf, with many clubs recognising it as a chance to provide an income stream that can provide sustainability at a time when participation in the traditional game has decreased. This is the case at Priors Hall Golf Course, which offers a successful nine-hole Footgolf course all year round on a pay and play basis.

Footgolf is not offered at Blackthorn Wood Good Complex but it is acknowledged that the course could be suitable for such provision in the future given its smaller size. The sport is generally played on a smaller than average courses, with Par 3 courses being ideal.
Supply and demand analysis

The England Golf mapping tool suggests that there is significant demand for golf within Corby, meaning each course should be protected together with accompanying facilities. To that end, given recent declining participation and to ensure long-term sustainability, emphasis must be placed on sites retaining their current members/users and capitalising on any untapped demand and future demand generated from housing growth and population increases. The nine segments identified by England Golf should be used to help with this so that providers can cater what is offered to best suit the potential users in the locality.

Further analysis at club or facility level, along with some additional England Golf tools, can be used to better understand the existing members and visitors of each venue. This may help to establish a clearer picture of the overall facility landscape and how well it caters for the local demographic.

Golf summary

- There are two golf courses within Corby; Priors Hall Golf Course consists of 18-holes, whereas Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex is a short nine-hole course.
- Priors Hall Golf Course is a municipal facility and is managed by the Council; Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex is owned and managed privately.
- Priors Hall Golf Course is considered to be good quality. Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex suffers from some quality issues; however, it meets the demand of its users.
- Both sites are accompanied by clubhouse buildings that are in need of modernisation due to dated interiors.
- Priors Hall Golf Course is available via both membership and pay and play; Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex is predominately a play and pay facility although season tickets are available.
- An average of 39,832 people are identified as current or potential users within Corby (49,555 for Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex and 30,111 for Priors Hall Golf Course).
- Priors Hall Golf Course currently has a membership of approximately 150 people, which has significantly reduced over the previous three years.
- Footgolf is offered at Priors Hall Golf Course.
- The England Golf mapping tool picture suggests that there is significant demand for golf within Corby, meaning each course should be protected together with accompanying facilities.
- Given recent declining participation, emphasis must be placed on sites retaining their current members/users and capitalising on any untapped demand and future demand.
APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Physical Wellbeing
- Mental Wellbeing
- Individual Development
- Social & Community Development
- Economic Development
National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)

The Football Association’s (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four-year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- Sustain and Increase Participation.
- Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
- Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite.
- Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees
- Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
- Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.
- Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms.
- Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.
Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matched to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches.

**England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan**

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at [http://www.cricketunleashed.com](http://www.cricketunleashed.com)). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
  - Clubs and leagues
  - Kids
  - Communities
  - Casual

- **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
  - Pathway
  - Support
  - Elite Teams
  - England Teams

- **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
  - Fan focus
  - New audiences
  - Global stage
  - Broadcast and digital

- **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
  - Integrity
  - Community programmes
  - Our environments
  - One plan

- **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
  - People
  - Revenue and reach
  - Insight
  - Operations


The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 1.5 million players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:
Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.

Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary, the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the previous period remains valid:

- Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment


EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England’s investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

“The vision is for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England’s senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few”

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- Grow our Participation
- Deliver International Success
- Increase our Visibility
- Enhance our Infrastructure
- Be a strong and respected Governing Body
England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP), that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium-term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities.

‘The right pitches in the right places’

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90’s. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

**England Hockey Strategy**

EH’s new Club Strategy will assist hockey clubs to retain more players and recruit new members to ultimately grow their club membership. EH will be focusing on participation growth through this strategy for the next two years. The EH Strategy is based on seven core themes. These are:

1. Having great leadership
2. Having Appropriate and Sustainable Facilities
3. Inspired and Effective People
4. Different Ways to Play
5. Staying Friendly, Social and Welcoming
6. Being Local with Strong Community Connections
7. Stretching and developing those who want it

**British Tennis (LTA) - Place to Play Strategy**

The LTA aim to get more people to play tennis more frequently and the places to play strategy is a way of doing this. The strategy will aim to provide high quality facilities for everyone at a convenient location.

It’s one plan that aims to increase opportunities for people to play tennis on a regular basis at tennis clubs close to their home, which provides high quality opportunities on safe and well maintained tennis courts.

The strategy sets out:

- Overall vision for places to play
- How to grow regular participation by supporting places to play to develop and deliver the right programmes
- Capital investment decisions to ensure we invest in the right facilities to grow the sport
- Supporting performance programmes in the right locations

The LTA is committed to growing the sport to ensure that more people are playing tennis more often at first class tennis facilities, with high quality coaching programmes and well organised competition.

The overall aim for the next five years (2011-2016) is to ensure that, as far as practicably possible, the British population has access to and are aware of the places and 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 ten minute drive of their home
- Indoor tennis courts within a 20 minute drive time of their home
- A mini tennis (ten 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)
- A limited number of internationally orientated programmes strategically spread for players 16+ with an international programme (International High Performance Centres)

**Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017**

Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31st March 2017.

- 115,000 individual affiliated members.
1,500 registered coaches.

- Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- County development officer appointed by each county association.
- National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- Be progressive.
- Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- Lead the sport.
- Support clubs and county associations.


The England Athletics plan outlines a strategy to attract and retain 3 million athletics participants by 2017, from a current base of 1.9 million as measured by Active People, whilst cementing athletics as the most popular individual sporting activity in England.

"The ambition is to make England an athletic nation. Traditional athletics for some, running for many, fitness for all”.

In order to achieve this, the goals of the strategic plan are:

- To grow and sustain participation levels in the sport.
- To improve the experiences of every participant in the sport.
- To improve performance levels and to grow the next generation of senior athletic champions.

The plan also reflects a total commitment to delivering an inclusive sport, setting specific disability targets that are woven into the core measures for growth and retention of participation. Key personnel within the England Athletics staffing structure will now lead this area of work, focusing on:

- Delivering inclusive formats of the sport.
- National policy and programme development.
- Coaching and teaching resources.


Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.
UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and its 5-year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA’s Athlete/Participant Development Model. In addition to Track and Field provision, UKA recognises the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future “running” facilities.

The strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

UKA’s 2014-19 Facilities Strategy key outcomes:

- Increased participation across all athletics disciplines
- Increased club membership by providing facilities that support a participation pathway from novice through to club member
- Increased talent pool
- Long term improvement in the development of athletes of all ages and abilities
- Securing the long-term future of existing facilities
- More attractive and inspiring facilities for existing and potential athletes
- Improving the athletics experience for all participants
- Improved relationships and interactions between stakeholders, particularly clubs and facility operators

**England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17 Whole Sport Plan**

England Netball remains committed to its ‘10-1-1’ mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.

To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.
The recently launched England Golf Strategy 2014-2017 focuses on preventing the continued decline of people participating in golf. Since 2004, membership at clubs has declined by around 180,000 members, which is seriously challenging the economy and culture of the sport within England. Active People Survey data shows a current latent demand of 830,000 adults, with a further 2 million golfers playing independently.

The ambition of the strategy is to:

- Reverse the decline in club membership which has been occurring annually since 2005 and stabilise club membership at the July 2014 level of 675,000 members.
- Increase the number of people who play golf at least once a week from the baseline of 750,000 in 2014 to 910,000 by March 2017.
- Strengthen the talent development pathway from club to national level, leading to even more international success for English players.
- Improve communications, governance and partnerships at all levels within England Golf.

There are a number of measurable performance indicators within this strategic plan, with progress tracked and reported on a regular basis. There will be an annual review of progress in April each year, commencing in April 2015 and this will be reported as part of the Annual Report of England Golf. To achieve its aims, England Golf will concentrate on seven key themes:

- More players - Increasing the number of players who play golf regularly.
- More members - Increasing the number of players in club membership.
- Stronger clubs - Supporting clubs to attract and retain members and to achieve a sustainable business model.
- Winning golfers - Identifying and developing talented golfers at every level, leading to international amateur success.
- Outstanding championships - Providing excellent championships and competitions for golfers of all levels.
- Improved image - Changing the perception of golf and improving communications within the sport.
- Excellent governance - Improving the governance, building the infrastructure and strengthening the partnerships to develop golf in England.
## APPENDIX 2: CONSULTEE LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consultee</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Julie Cardwell</td>
<td>Principal Leisure Officer, wellbeing, sport and facilities</td>
<td>Corby Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzanne Preston</td>
<td>Culture and Leisure Housing and Neighbourhood Services</td>
<td>Corby Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Davison</td>
<td>Business Manager</td>
<td>Kingswood Secondary Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clare Curchin</td>
<td>Business Manager</td>
<td>Lodge Park Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Roberts</td>
<td>Business Manager</td>
<td>Corby Business Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jazz Saini</td>
<td>Facilities Manager</td>
<td>Brooke Weston Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Reynolds</td>
<td>Head teacher</td>
<td>Corby Technical College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob McCracken</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>Gretton Parish Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justina Medwell</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>Middleton Parish Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trevor Burbidge</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>Rockingham Parish Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jed Stone</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Stanion Parish Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juliet Lewis</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>Weldon Parish Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Groom</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>Weldon Parish Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Tinto</td>
<td>Northamptonshire County FA</td>
<td>Development Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Legg</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Corby Kingswood FC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William McAuley</td>
<td>Club representative</td>
<td>Corby Pegasus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Watson</td>
<td>Club representative</td>
<td>Corby Ravens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Davies</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Stewart &amp; Lloyds FC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Moon</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Stewart &amp; Lloyds Youth FC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ant North</td>
<td>Club representative</td>
<td>Corby Strip Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Connor</td>
<td>Club representative</td>
<td>Corby Town Ladies &amp; Girls FC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Mcwilliam</td>
<td>Club representative</td>
<td>Corby United</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Holmes</td>
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<td>Corby White Hart Loco’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathan McAlindon</td>
<td>Vice Captain/Treasurer</td>
<td>Oakley Vale FC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn Brazier</td>
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<td>Stanion United</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Bullock</td>
<td>Club representative</td>
<td>Weldon United FC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ian Tortoishell</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Weetabix Youth League</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Jarrett</td>
<td>League Secretary</td>
<td>Northamptonshire League</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oliver Day</td>
<td>Club representative</td>
<td>Corby RFC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adrian Mitchell</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Stewart &amp; Lloyds RFC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Ward</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Corby Hockey Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ian Merriman</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Corby Athletics Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Bradbrook</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Priors Hall Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Williams</td>
<td>Leisure Manager</td>
<td>Corby Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will Sayer</td>
<td>Club representative</td>
<td>Old Eastonians CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Ward</td>
<td>Club representative</td>
<td>Gretton CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dale Jones</td>
<td>Club representative</td>
<td>Great Oakley CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Webb</td>
<td>Club representative</td>
<td>S&amp;L Corby CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allison Prattis / John Corras</td>
<td>Club representative</td>
<td>Weldon CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr P Mullen</td>
<td>Hon Sec</td>
<td>Corby Forest BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr William Keeney</td>
<td>Club representative</td>
<td>Corby Seagrave House BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Murray</td>
<td>Fixtures Secretary Treasurer</td>
<td>Corby Woodsend Bowls club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seamus Hennessey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## APPENDIX 3: THE STEERING GROUP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terry Begley</td>
<td>Principal Planner</td>
<td>Corby Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Stephenson</td>
<td>Head of Culture and Leisure Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul McKim</td>
<td>Planning Manager</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Bartle</td>
<td>Regional Facilities Manager</td>
<td>FA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Tinto</td>
<td>Development Manager</td>
<td>Northamptonshire FA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Redfern</td>
<td>Clubs and Facilities Manager</td>
<td>ECB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pete Shaw</td>
<td>Area Facilities Manager</td>
<td>RFU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Dale</td>
<td>Relationship Manager</td>
<td>EH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darren Clarke</td>
<td>Regional Facilities Manager</td>
<td>LTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbie Lench</td>
<td>Head of Club Support</td>
<td>England Golf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Raiswell</td>
<td>Planning Manager</td>
<td>Sport England</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>