



**Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study and Playing Pitch Strategy**

**2016 - 2032**

**Strategy Overview Report and Executive Summary**



***CONTINUUM***  
**SPORT & LEISURE LTD**



## 1. Introduction and Purpose of the Study

### 1.1 Introduction

Hart District Council has a long tradition of supporting the provision and development of open spaces and sport and physical activity facilities for its residents and visitors. The Council recognises that these facilities, both formal and informal, are essential components of the district's infrastructure which both drive and respond to growth, change and improvement across Hart.

In 2015 Hart District Council undertook a detailed Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs and Opportunities Assessment. The study was led by Continuum Sport & Leisure in association with LUC and encompassed indoor and outdoor facilities for sports as well as sports pitches, playing fields and play space.

With the changes to national planning policy and the notable changes to Hart in terms of population growth and housing development, the Council are currently developing their Local Plan and gathering the full evidence base for all services and provision across a wide range of opportunities and constraints within Hart. The new Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study will form an essential component of the emerging Local Plan and requisite Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Hart District, located in north Hampshire, covers an area of 215km<sup>2</sup> and with a current population of 91,662. The district is largely rural with greatest population densities in the towns of Yateley, Fleet, and Blackwater with between 10.87 and 37.95 persons per hectare. Much of the rest of the borough has a relatively low population density of between 0.26 and 10.86 persons per hectare. The population density, based on the 2011 census, states that there are on average 4.2 people per hectare living in Hart. The 2011 census revealed that the district has the highest quality of life in England and is also the least deprived administrative area.

Hart District faces pressure for housing and population growth, with consequent pressures on existing infrastructure and services. It sits within a housing market area that includes Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Boroughs. A Strategic Housing Market Assessment for the three authorities published December 2014 suggested that Hart has a need for around 4,000 new homes between 2012 and 2032. This figure could increase as a result of further updates to the SHMA, or if Hart needs to take any unmet housing needs from elsewhere in its housing market area<sup>1</sup>.

Hart District Council is committed to improving the quality of life for all of its communities. Evidence from Sport England shows that increasing participation in sport, physical activity and recreation can help to reduce health inequalities, spur economic growth and energise community engagement.

### 1.2 Report Purpose

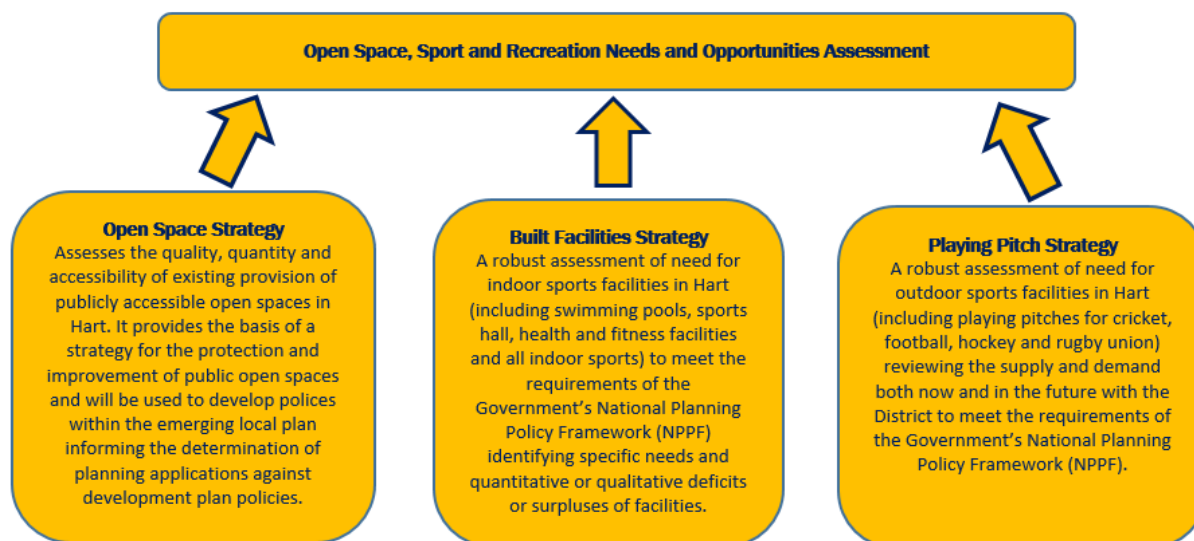
The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs and Opportunities Assessment consists of 3 different documents which combine to offer a robust and up to date assessment of open space, sport and recreation facility needs across Hart. The three components of the work are summarised in Figure 1 below.

Each separate document follows national guidance and best practice and each represent essential components of the emerging Hart Local Plan evidence base and requisite Infrastructure Delivery Plan. This overarching executive summary sets out the methodologies and processes followed for the 3 documents which make up the overall study and presents the key findings and recommendations from each. Taken together these recommendations put Hart District Council in a strong position to improve open space, sport and recreation provision across the district up to 2032.

---

<sup>1</sup> The housing growth target in the 2016 SHMA increased the total on the 2014 target used in this report by 12 dwellings per annum (dpa). In December 2016 it was agreed with Sport England that this change in the housing growth target has minimal impact on the projections for population growth and has no impact on the assessment or key findings.

Figure 1 – Study Overview



### 1.3 Open Space and Sports Facilities Overview

Overall, 192 spaces were audited across 8 categories (excluding outdoor sports facilities, covered by the PPS). By far the greatest quantity of open space in the district falls within the Natural/Semi-natural green space category with the 59 open spaces accounting for over 90% of total area of greenspace. Hart District has significant areas of land owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), which includes a population of military service personnel and their families. In addition, much of the open spaces within the north of the district fall within the Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area.

The PPS provides site specific action plans for 46 playing pitch sites across Hart, covering the leading outdoor sports of football, cricket, rugby and hockey. The 46 sites are split into 3 sub areas (West Area, North East Area and South East Area) which allows for a geographical analysis of supply of and demand for playing pitches in Hart.

The Sport and Recreation Strategy assesses the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing sports facility supply in Hart across 44 sites agreed with Hart District Council. These sites covered sports hall, swimming pools, health and fitness, martial arts and other leading indoor facility types.

### 1.4 Sport and Physical Activity - Health, Wellbeing and the Local Economy in Hart

Hart District Council is committed to improving the quality of life for all of its communities. Evidence from Sport England shows that increasing participation in sport and physical activity can help to reduce health inequalities, spur economic growth and energise community engagement.

A number of key statistics highlight the importance of sport and physical activity nationally with further indication below of how this impacts on the residents of Hart.

- **17% of deaths are caused by inactivity.** International comparison shows physical inactivity is a greater cause of death nationally than in almost every other economically comparable country.
- **£7.4bn** is the estimated figure that **physical inactivity costs the national economy** in healthcare, premature deaths and sickness absence.
- **£1,760 - £6,900 can be saved** in healthcare costs **per person** by taking part in sport.
- **£20.3bn was contributed to the English economy** in 2010 through sport and sport-related activity.
- **29% increase in numeracy levels** can be achieved by underachieving young people who take part in sport.
- **£7.35 is the estimated return on investment for every £1 spent** on sports for at-risk youth through, for example, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
- The **cost of inactivity for Hart is estimated at £1.3million per year.**
- **1 in 5 of all people in Hart (19.8%) are inactive.**

Alongside the health related factors, Sport England have also highlighted the economic value of sport for Hart. Headline figures include:

- **Gross Value Added for Sports Participation in Hart totals £19.4million per year** – this covers subscription fees, equipment and sportswear.
- **Gross Value Added for non-participation related sport totals £4.2million** – including spectator sports and subscriptions.
- **The total value of the industry to Hart** across both participation and non-participation activities totals **£23.6million**.

*Source – Sport England Mini Sports Profiles 2014*

The need for Hart District Council to continue to invest in sport and physical activity is clear from both a health perspective and from an economic value stand point. The full study highlights the leading infrastructure needs for sport across all facility types, agreed within the project brief, and the investment needs identified will contribute significantly towards increasing the proportion of Hart District Council's residents who regularly play sport and are physically active both in formal settings indoors and outdoors and accessing good quality green space. As the Council continues to work hard to reduce the health related factors associated with inactivity and grow this vibrant element of the local economy, this study aims to direct investment in open space, sport and recreation facilities to greatest effect.

## 2. Methodology and Process

### 2.1 Open Space Study Methodology

The methodology for the assessment of open spaces reflects the requirements of the NPPF and was developed through reviewing current best practice guidance as well as considering the context of open space provision in Hart. A summary of the tasks taken in the preparation of the open space strategy is provided below:

#### **1: Policy review**

- Open space is defined in the NPPF as space of public value, not just land, but areas of water – rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs – which provide visual amenity and offer opportunities for sport and recreation.
- The delivery of multifunctional open spaces for wildlife, health, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage and food production is highlighted as a core planning principle of the NPPF.
- Paragraph 73 emphasises the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation for the health and well-being of communities; it stresses the need for robust and up-to-date assessments of local open space, sports and recreation facility, demand and opportunity, assessments which identify specific deficits or surpluses to determine what is needed where.

#### **2: Assessment of local needs**

- Consultation was carried out to understand the needs of the community and the perceptions of the community regarding the current levels of provision.
- Consultation was carried out using a number of different mechanisms including online surveys and workshops, together with the use of emails and telephone conversations.
- To capture responses from a wider group, a web based consultation was held for 14 weeks from March 2015 to June 2015. There were 437 respondents to the survey.

#### **3: Existing open space provision**

- Site audits were carried out for all publicly accessible open spaces over a prescribed threshold size depending on the type of open space.
- A number of other sites where there is restricted access (e.g. open times) were also included in the site audit.
- 192 spaces were audited and categorised under 8 types.

#### **4: Setting and applying provision standards**

- Analysis has been completed to assess the provision of publicly accessible open space within Hart.
- Each type and hierarchy of open space was assessed to identify the current quantity, quality, accessibility and value.
- Having an understanding of the baseline information enables the setting of locally derived standards which aim to guide the future provision of open space in Hart.

#### **5: Recommendations**

- A number of recommendations have been made around the protection, improvement and provision of high quality, accessible and safe open spaces in Hart.
- The findings and recommendations of the study should be used to inform priorities for future investment in open spaces in Hart.

### 2.2 Built Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy Methodology

Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities provides the recommended approach to undertaking a robust assessment of need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities to meet the requirements of the Government's NPPF. The Consultant Team has used and applied the ANOG methodology to produce these specific elements of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for Hart.

#### **1: Prepare and Tailor the Approach**

- Establishment of a Project Steering Group to oversee the study process.
- Detailed review of the specific needs for Hart.
- Approval of proposed methodology with Hart and Sport England.
- Agreement of indoor and outdoor sites for inclusion in study with Hart and Sport England.
- Agreement of parameters of the study with Hart and Sport England, including facility types to be included within the assessment and specifications.

- Consultation with Sport England regarding the use of national planning tools.

## **2: Gather Information**

- Planning Tools: detailed analysis of supply if and demand for sports facilities using a variety of planning tools and data sources.
- Site Audits: non-technical visual quality assessments of all indoor and outdoor sites offering a range of sports facilities across Hart.
- Strategy and Policy Review: review and analysis of a range of strategies, policies and plans to identify specific corporate priorities for Hart District Council which both influence and can be influenced by improved sports facility provision.
- Consultation Process: thorough and robust consultation process to ensure that the conclusions and recommendations are sound and firmly grounded in local need and demand.

### **Consultation to Create a Local Picture of Need**

Consultation is critical to help gather information and then check, challenge and validate the supply audit and picture of demand presented in this study. In terms of consultation the NPPF refers to the need for early and meaningful engagement and collaboration. The NPPF, within paragraph 155, suggests that *"a wide section of the community should be proactively engaged, so that local plans, as far as possible, reflect a collective vision and a set of agreed priorities."*

As such, consultation is key to building a comprehensive local picture of need and priority for sport within this study and formulate Hart's emerging planning policies. Ahead of the detailed analysis of provision and the supply and demand of facilities, a process of consultation with key partners and stakeholders was undertaken.

The consultation process included online surveys to determine sport and leisure facility needs in the district covering community clubs, schools and also separate surveys for organisations that own or maintain playing pitches as well as face to face interviews with leading stakeholders, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport.

### **3: Bring Information Together**

- Draw conclusions and make recommendations based on a large, detailed and robust evidence base.
- Quantitative assessment of sports facilities in Hart through a supply and demand analysis.
- Qualitative assessment of sports facilities in Hart through non-technical visual quality assessments.
- Accessibility assessments for sports facilities in Hart based on agreed distance thresholds.
- Identifying priorities and establishing quality and spatial standards for each facility type.

The focus of Sport England's latest guidance on strategic planning for community sports facilities is for all local authorities and planning departments to provide a more localised picture of need, based on local evidence and the use of national planning tools in the most relevant and robust way. Sport England is advising local authorities and their planning departments to move away from a blanket approach to setting standards for sports facility provision based on numerical standards and comparisons with other local authorities (where supply and demand can be influenced by a wide range of other factors).

Hart District Council is keen to follow this guidance on strategic planning and assessing needs and opportunities whilst maintaining a pragmatic approach to any new facility provision given the difficult economic circumstances that all local authorities are currently experiencing and will continue to experience for many years across all areas of service provision.

The playing pitch strategy methodology for Hart followed closely the specific guidance and approach aligned with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013 and updates at as 03/03/2014) tailored to the Hart District Council study area.

### 3. Open Space Study – Findings and Recommendations

#### 3.1 Existing Open Space Provision

Site audits were carried out for all publicly accessible open spaces over a prescribed threshold size depending on the type of open space. A number of other sites where there is restricted access (e.g. opening times) were also included in the site audit. Overall, 192 spaces were audited, which were categorised into the following types:

**Figure 2: Open Space Typologies Recorded in Hart**

	Type of Open Space	Primary Purpose
Greenspaces	Parks and Gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events
	Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education awareness
	Green Corridor	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration
	Amenity Greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work
	Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion
	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity
	Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters
	Roadside Verges	Act as a buffer to local transport routes of industry, provide nature conservation and contribute to local character
	Outdoor Sport Facilities	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics, or countryside and water sports. (included in a separate study)

The quantity of publicly accessible open space within each typology is shown in Figure 3. By far the greatest quantity of open space in the district falls within the Natural/ Semi-natural green space with the 55 open spaces accounting for over 90% of total area of greenspace.

**Figure 3: Quantity of Publicly Accessible Space Recorded in Hart**

Type	Number of sites	Total area (ha)	Percentage of total area of greenspace
A. Parks and gardens	29	78.18	4.62%
B. Natural / Semi-natural green space	55	1,543.88	91.2%
C. Green corridors	4	30.88	1.82%
D. Amenity green space	9	3.81	0.23%
E. Allotments	8	4.93	0.29%
F. Cemeteries and churchyards	22	11.37	0.67%
G. Provision for children and young people	53	5.02	0.3%
H. Roadside verges	9	14.80	0.87%
Number of Sites	192	2046.57	100%

#### 3.2 Development of a Hierarchy

To develop a framework for analysis of the sites, a detailed hierarchy was developed, for the purpose of this assessment, using a combination of the size of the sites and the typologies. The hierarchy structure was developed with reference to existing example standards, and is set out in Figure 4.

**Figure 4: Hierarchy for Analysis**

Type	Regional Provision	District Provision	Local Provision	Small Local Provision
A. Parks and Gardens	N/A	N/A	A2. Local Parks and Gardens	A3. Small Local Parks and Gardens
Thresholds (ha)	60.1>	20.1-60	2.1-20	0.1-2
B. Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	B1. Regional Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	B2. District Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	B3. Local Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	B4. Small Local Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace
Thresholds (ha)	90.1-500	12.1-90	2.1-12	0.4-2
C. Green Corridors	Further division of Green Corridors into a hierarchy was not deemed appropriate, for the purposes of this assessment.			
Thresholds (ha)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
D. Amenity Greenspace	Further division of Amenity Greenspace into a hierarchy was not deemed appropriate, for the purposes of this assessment, as this is predominantly a local provision.			
Thresholds (ha)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
E. Allotments	Further division of Allotments into a hierarchy was not deemed appropriate, for the purposes of this assessment, as this is predominantly a local provision.			
Thresholds (ha)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F. Cemeteries and Churchyards	Further division of Cemeteries and Churchyards into a hierarchy was not deemed appropriate, for the purposes of this assessment, as this is predominantly a district provision.			
Thresholds (ha)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
G. Provision for Children and Young People*			NEAP	LEAP
Thresholds (ha)			0.1>	0.09-0.04
H. Roadside Verges	Further division of Roadside Verges into a hierarchy was not deemed appropriate, for the purposes of this assessment, as this is predominantly a local provision, provided where opportunity arises.			
Thresholds (ha)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
I. Outdoor Sports Facilities	Part of a separate playing pitch strategy for Hart District.			
J. Civic Space	No civic space has been identified within Hart District.			

\* Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play; Fields in Trust; 2006.

### 3.3 Standards for Open Space Provision

Analysis has been completed to assess the provision of publicly accessible open space within Hart. Each type and hierarchy of open space was assessed to identify the current quantity, quality, accessibility and value. Having an understanding of the baseline information enables the setting of locally derived standards which aim to guide the future provision of open space in Hart.

There are four types of open space standard:

- Accessibility: the maximum distance residents should be required to travel to use an open space of a specific typology.
- Quantity: the provision (measured in m<sup>2</sup> or hectares) of each open space typology which should be provided as a minimum per 1,000 population.
- Quality: the quality of open space provided within each typology, assess using the green flag criteria.
- Value: the value of open space provided in each typology.

Quantity and accessibility standards have not been prepared for churchyards and cemeteries, green corridors or roadside verges. This reflects the fact that these spaces offer limited opportunity for recreation and the proximity to such spaces is not generally considered to be a requirement. However it is important to record such spaces as it may be desirable to “enhance” these sites in areas deficient in other open space typologies. **Figure 5** summarises the standards recommended to Hart District Council. These standards will be used to support the future delivery and management of open spaces in the district.



**Figure 5: Summary of standards by typology and hierarchy**

Type	Hierarchy level	Accessibility standard	Quantity standard	Quality standard	Value standard
A. Parks and gardens	A.2 Local parks and gardens	800m/ 10 min walk/ 4 min cycle	0.85 ha/ 1,000 head of population	58	66
	A3. Small local parks and gardens	400m/ 5 min walk/ 2 min cycle		46	62
B. Natural and semi-natural green space	B1. Regional natural and semi-natural green space	5km/ 1 hr walk/ 20 min cycle	6.92 ha/ 1,000 head of population (excluding sites designated as SPA or SSSI)	46	64
	B2. District natural and semi-natural green space	4km/ 50min walk/ 15min cycle		43	68
	B3. Local natural and semi-natural green space	2km/ 25min walk/ 10 min cycle		31	50
	B4. Small local natural and semi-natural green space	400m/ 5 min walk/ 2min cycle		32	54
C. Green corridors	N/A	N/A	0.34 ha/ 1,000 head of population	51	59
D. Amenity green space	N/A	400m/ 5 min/ 2 min cycle	n/a	33	55
E. Allotments	N/A	800m	0.05 ha/ 1,000 head of population*	32	59
F. Cemeteries and churchyards	N/A	N/A	n/a	33	60
G. Provision for children and young people	NEAP	600m	1.10 sites per 1,000 head of population within the 16-29 age group	19	4
	LEAP	240m	1.49 sites per 1,000 head of population within 5 to 15 age group	22	3
	LAP	60m	2.81 sites per 1,000 head of population within 0 to 4 age group	19	3
H. Verges	N/A	N/A	N/A	26	46

\*The quantity of allotments currently excludes the additional plots proposed at Edenbrook Country Park

### 3.4 Recommendations for Future Open Space Provision

Hart Council should consider the following for inclusion in future planning policies:

1. Protect existing open spaces as an important community, nature conservation and heritage resource.
2. Use the standards set out in this document to guide improvement to existing provision and to guide provision of new open spaces in the future (see Figure 5 above) particularly in areas which currently fall below the required standards for quantity and accessibility.
3. Provide open spaces that positively welcome people in terms of physical and social access.
4. Ensure a healthy, safe and secure experience for users.
5. Ensure sites which have been identified as falling below the thresholds for quality and/ or value are prioritised to ensure open spaces are well-maintained and meet the needs of the communities they serve.

6. Promote the environmental qualities and the sustainability of open spaces through carrying out appropriate management practices.
7. Maintain and enhance the landscape character and nature conservation value of Hart's open spaces whilst ensuring provision for contemporary users.
8. Provide opportunities to increase community use and involvement in the management of open space (e.g. through events, education, interpretation and developing partnerships).
9. Ensure effective promotion of the open space network in Hart.
10. Seek to strengthen the open space network through close working with other land management organisations in the district and preparing a green infrastructure strategy to ensure provision meets the needs for the district's residents and nature conservation.

The findings of the overall study should also be used to inform priorities for future investment.

## 4. Sport and Recreation (Built Facilities) Strategy – Findings and Recommendations

### 4.1 Facilities

The key findings of the Sport and Recreation (Built Facilities) Strategy by sports facility type are summarised below. The policy recommendations and detailed analysis of each facility types can be found in the full Strategy document.

The parameters of this study (the indoor and built sports facility types assessed and their respective specifications) are set out below:

- Swimming Pools over 20m in length or 160m<sup>2</sup> with community access
- Sports Halls over 3 courts in size (or 27m x 17m) with community access
- Health and Fitness Suites (gym space) offering over 20 stations
- Outdoor Bowls Facilities
- Squash Courts
- Tennis Courts
- Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- Specialist Sports Facilities
  - Golf Facilities
  - Netball Facilities
  - Athletics
  - Cycling

The study follows Sport England guidance with regard to forward planning and the priorities set out in this report are based on the detailed local picture that has been assembled. The priorities identified are specific to each of the leading indoor facility types that have been assessed and are categorised under the Protect, Enhance and Provide headings:

- **PROTECT** sports facilities from loss as a result of redevelopment.
- **ENHANCE** existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management.
- **PROVIDE** new facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future.

### Swimming Pools

- There are six sites across Hart which offer swimming pools which meet the criteria for inclusion within this study (community accessible pools at least 20m in length and 160m<sup>2</sup> in area). Learner/teaching/training pools and leisure pools located at sites which also offer a main pool which meets the inclusion criteria have also been included within the supply and demand analysis, as per Sport England’s FPM modelling. The FPM modelling excludes private facilities and lidos from its analysis.
- Currently there is 16.59m<sup>2</sup> of water space in Hart per 1,000 of the population. This is a higher per capita supply than in Basingstoke & Deane, but lower than in East Hants and Rushmoor. This figure for Hart is higher than the average figure for the South East and England (13.82m<sup>2</sup> and 12.46m<sup>2</sup> respectively per 1,000 population).

**Figure 6: Swimming Provision Priorities, Improvements and Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<p>Maintain the current level of swimming pool provision across Hart at a minimum. Ensure that the per capita swimming pool supply does not fall below <b>19.05m<sup>2</sup> of water space per 1,000 of the population.</b></p> <p>This figure is based upon the increase in water space from the new Hart Leisure Centre set against projected population increases.</p>	<p>Enhance the quality of the swimming pool provision within the district so as to achieve and maintain a mean quality score of at least 4 out of 5 for these sites.</p> <p>Priority sites to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RAF Odiham – the changing rooms are dated and should be refurbished, incorporating DDA requirements to bring the quality score up.</li> <li>○ Gibraltar Barracks – the changing rooms are dated and should be refurbished, incorporating DDA</li> </ul>	<p>Consideration should be given to investigating the provision of additional water space in the north and eastern parts of the district to cater for unmet demand and future housing growth in Winchfield.</p> <p>Hart Leisure Centre – the redevelopment of Hart Leisure Centre through the following pool offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One x 25m x eight lane pool + 250 spectator seats</li> <li>○ One x 25m x four lane pool with movable floor to 1.6m</li> <li>○ One x 20m x four lane teaching pool/ children’s play area</li> </ul>

Protect	Enhance	Provide
	<p>requirements to bring the quality score up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lord Wandsworth College – there are currently no dedicated changing rooms attached to this pool. New changing rooms could increase community use.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-3 years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replacement pools as part of the redevelopment of Hart Leisure Centre by Spring 2017 (budget identified).</li> </ol> <p><b>Medium Term (3-5 years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refurbishment of changing rooms at RAF Odiham.</li> <li>Refurbishment of changing rooms at Gibraltar Barracks.</li> <li>New changing rooms at Lord Wandsworth College.</li> </ol> <p><b>Long Term (5+ years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible feasibility study into providing new water space in the north/east of the district.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Future Needs for Swimming</b></p> <p>The priorities set out above will address the current unmet demand by improving access to and capacity of the current pool stock whilst addressing the needs of Hart with the focus on a realistic aim for investment.</p> <p>As part of the overall review process the growing population within the district will impact on the current supply (and the projected increase in supply) and unmet demand. The regular review of this study every two years will need to include updated Sport England FPM analysis.</p>		

### Sports Halls

- There are eight sites across Hart which offer sports halls which are at least three badminton courts in size and are community accessible.
- The eight sports hall sites provide a combined total of 12 separate sports halls or 44 badminton courts (when activity halls at 3+ court hall sites are taken into account).
- Currently there are 5.35 badminton courts in Hart per 10,000 of the population. This is a higher per capita supply than in all Hart's neighbouring boroughs with the exception of East Hants, which has a supply of 5.11 courts per 10,000 population. This figure for Hart is also higher than the average figure for the South East and England (4.35 courts and 4.54 courts respectively per 10,000 population).

**Figure 7: Sports Hall Priorities, Improvements and Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<p>Maintain the current level of sports hall provision across Hart at a minimum. Ensure that the per capita sports hall supply does not fall below <b>4.30 badminton courts per 10,000 of the population</b>.</p> <p>Ensure that existing community use programmes on school and MOD sites are maintained.</p>	<p>Enhance the quality of the sports hall offer at school and MOD managed sites to match other sports hall provision in the borough and improve their viability and suitability for community use. Achieve and maintain a mean quality score of at least 4 out of 5 for these sites.</p> <p>Priority sites to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robert May's School – the dated changing rooms are in urgent need of refurbishment to increase the limited existing community use.</li> <li>Yateley Health &amp; Fitness – the dated changing rooms are in urgent need of refurbishment to support the existing community use programme.</li> </ul>	<p>Hart District Council should work with schools and Hampshire County Council to extend the opening hours for community use to address current gaps in demand for indoor sports hall space.</p> <p>Redevelopment of Hart Leisure Centre through the following facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 x 8 court sports hall + 20 spectator seats</li> </ul> <p>The Consultant Team are of the view that the refurbishment / investment needs at the schools listed under 'enhance' would address the initial current needs the Council is aiming to achieve.</p>

Protect	Enhance	Provide
	<p>Ensure that future programming of, and quality improvements to, sports halls address the specific needs of individual sports (boccia, handball etc) in terms of technical specifications and access to appropriate facilities and allow for progression in training and competition within Hart.</p> <p>Ensure that the existing indoor cricket net provision within sports halls in Hart is ECB compliant.</p>	<p>Yateley Manor Preparatory School have no dedicated community changing facilities, but they have plans in place to improve this.</p>
<p><b>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-3 years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Replacement sports halls as part of the redevelopment of Hart Leisure Centre by Spring 2017 (budget identified).</li> <li>2. Refurbishment projects order of priority: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2a. Robert May’s School – changing refurbishment.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Medium Term (3-5 years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refurbishment projects order of priority: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1a. Yateley Health &amp; Fitness – changing refurbishment.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Long Term (5+ years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New two changing room community changing facilities at Yateley Manor Preparatory School.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Future Needs for Sports Halls</b></p> <p>The priorities set out above will address the current unmet demand by improving access and capacity to the current sports hall stock whilst addressing the needs of Hart with the focus on a realistic aim for additional investment.</p> <p>As part of the overall review process the growing population within the district will impact on the current supply (and the projected increase in supply) and unmet demand. The regular review of this study every two years will need to include updated Sport England FPM analysis.</p>		

### Health and Fitness Suites

- There are nine sites across Hart which offer health and fitness suites with 20+ stations. These sites provide a combined total of 353 health and fitness stations.
- Hart has the lower supply of stations per 10,000 population than any of its neighbouring boroughs.
- The health and fitness market is continuing to evolve and change to meet market needs. At the time of this report the market is moving away from heavily kitted out gyms with machines with the emphasise on training spaces and resistance activities.

**Figure 8: Health and Fitness Priorities, Improvements and Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<p>Maintain the existing provision of health and fitness station supply at all Hart District Council run Leisure Centres and ensure affordable community access to these facilities.</p>	<p>Enhance the quality of the health and fitness offer at Hart District Council sites. Achieve and maintain a mean quality score of at least 4 out of 5 for these sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Frogmore Leisure Centre – ancillary provision and DDA requirements need addressing. This will be addressed as part of the refurbishment of Frogmore Leisure Centre, which should also include consideration to increasing the</li> </ul>	<p>No additional health and fitness offer required in Hart unless the current supply is reduced.</p> <p>Hart Leisure Centre – the health and fitness suites are being replaced as part of the redevelopment of Hart Leisure Centre to provide the following facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 x 150 station fitness gym</li> </ul>

Protect	Enhance	Provide
	number of health and fitness stations on offer.	
<p><b>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-3 years)</b></p> <p>1. Replacement Health and Fitness Suites as part of the redevelopment of Hart Leisure Centre by Spring 2017 (budget identified).</p> <p><b>Medium Term (3-5 years)</b></p> <p>1. Replacement Health and Fitness Suites as part of the £1.5m refurbishment of Frogmore Leisure Centre (budget identified).</p> <p><b>Long Term (5 years+)</b></p> <p>1. No changes proposed.</p>		
<p><b>Future Needs for Health and Fitness</b></p> <p>The Consultant Team does not advocate that the Council focuses on a standard for stations per head of population due to the constant changes to the health and fitness market and its lack of appropriateness to measure impact.</p> <p>The Council must ensure that health and fitness remains affordable and accessible and the quality scores for their leisure centres are aligned to those of the private sector as per quality assessment within the study.</p>		

### Outdoor Bowls Facilities

- There are six sites across Hart which provide outdoor bowls facilities.
- A combined total of 34 rinks (or 28 rinks if Bramshill is excluded) are available for community use in Hart.

**Figure 9: Outdoor Bowls Priorities, Improvements and Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain existing supply of outdoor bowls rinks in Hart and support the clubs in the district.	Enhance the quality of the maintenance at Hook Bowling Club and Yateley Bowling Club. Achieve and maintain a mean quality score of at least 4 out of 5 for these sites.	No additional outdoor bowls rinks required in Hart unless the current supply is reduced.
<p><b>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-3 years)</b></p> <p>1. No changes proposed.</p> <p><b>Medium Term (3-5 years)</b></p> <p>1. No changes proposed.</p> <p><b>Long Term (5 years+)</b></p> <p>1. No changes proposed.</p>		
<p><b>Future Needs for Outdoor Bowls</b></p> <p>With the retention of existing clubs, the needs for outdoor bowls in Hart will continue to be met.</p>		

### Squash Courts

- There are five sites across Hart which offer squash courts and provide a combined total of 14 squash courts.
- Hart Leisure Centre offers the most squash courts (six courts).
- The redevelopment of Hart Leisure Centre will not contain any squash courts and as such, the total district-wide supply will be reduced to eight courts by Spring 2017.

**Figure 10: Squash Courts Priorities, Improvements and Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain existing supply of squash courts in Hart.	Consider making maintenance improvements to the squash courts at Blackwater & Hawley Leisure Centre, Frogmore Leisure Centre and Lord Wandsworth College to make them more attractive to clubs and community users.  Maintain an average quality score of 4 out of 5 for squash facilities.	No additional squash courts required in Hart unless the current supply is reduced.  If the supply is reduced (as a result of the new Hart Leisure Centre) then a minimum of two glass backed squash courts to be provided.
<p><b>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-3 years)</b> 1. No changes proposed.</p> <p><b>Medium Term (3-5 years)</b> 1. Two new glass backed squash courts to be provided subject to a review of the demand for squash.</p> <p><b>Long Term (5 years+)</b> 1. No changes proposed.</p>		
<p><b>Future Needs for Squash</b> The needs for investment into the current facility stock to improve the quality of squash in Hart is the focus for the Council in order to enhance the current facilities and then ensure this level of provision, which is considered as suitable at its current level, is maintained or suitable alternative provision is agreed with the NGB subject to the review of local demand.</p>		

### Tennis Courts

- There are 10 sites within Hart that offer 26 outdoor tennis courts for use by the community (3 courts are floodlit).
- On the whole Hart falls within the lower range in terms of outdoor tennis court supply when compared with neighbouring local authority areas.

**Figure 11: Tennis Courts Priorities, Improvements and Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain the existing supply of tennis courts in Hart.	Make improvements to the tennis courts at the following sites to make them more attractive to clubs and community users:  Calthorpe Park - The tennis courts and run-off should be power-washed and repainted. The tennis courts should have their maintenance programme reviewed to ensure that they are playable all year round.  Elvetham Heath - The tennis/netball courts should be resurfaced as the surface is worn and slippery.  Hartletts Park - The tennis courts should be resurfaced as they are uneven and full of dips.	No additional tennis courts required in Hart.

Protect	Enhance	Provide
	<p>Hook Meadow - The court and run-off areas should be painted to make the courts more attractive and suitable for use.</p> <p>Rotherwick Playing Fields - The court and run-off areas should be painted to make the courts more attractive and suitable for use.</p>	
<p><b>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-3 years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Power-washing and repainting of the tennis courts at Calthorpe Park.</li> <li>2. Repainting of the tennis court at Rotherwick Playing Fields.</li> <li>3. Repainting of the tennis court at Hook Meadow.</li> <li>4. Resurface of the tennis/netball courts at Elvetham Heath.</li> </ol> <p><b>Medium Term (3-5 years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resurface of the tennis courts at Hartletts Park.</li> </ol> <p><b>Long Term (5 years+)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No changes proposed.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Future Needs for Tennis</b></p> <p>The investment identified above and priorities for improving tennis facilities will address the needs for the current and future population by improving access and improving quality and capacity for community use on a number of sites.</p>		

### Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)

- The number of AGPs in Hart is lower than all of its neighbouring boroughs.
- The FPM modelling indicates that there is a need for an additional full size AGP in the district.
- Hampshire County FA have identified a need for additional 3G AGP provision in Hart based on local area data and the level of latent demand identified through FPM modelling.

**Figure 12: AGPs Priorities, Improvements and Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<p>Maintain the current level of AGP provision across Hart at a minimum. Ensure that the per capita AGP supply does not fall below <b>0.32 pitches per 10,000 of the population</b>.</p> <p>Ensure that existing community use programmes on school sites are maintained.</p>	<p>Enhance the capacity of the AGP provision within the district. Priority sites to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Robert May's School – the three-quarter sized 3G AGP is not fully accessible by the community due to the floodlighting constraints put on their original planning permission. Now that the floodlights and the site has been in operation for a couple of years the school should apply to extend the hours of use for the floodlights.</li> </ul> <p>Enhance the quality of the AGP provision within the district so as to increase their rating from standard to good. Priority sites to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Robert May's School – the existing school changing rooms are in urgent need of refurbishment and current AGP users have to use temporary portacabins by the side of the pitch.</li> </ul>	<p>A new full size 32mm 3G AGP at Calthorpe Park School is currently under construction and due to be completed by September/October 2015.</p> <p>As part of the redevelopments for the new Hart Leisure Centre the following facilities will be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Four x floodlit 5-a-side 3G AGPs</li> <li>○ One x floodlit full size 3G AGP</li> </ul> <p>Plans are currently being developed to build a floodlit full size sand filled AGP at Eversley Sports Association in conjunction with Yateley Hockey Club. The Council should work with England Hockey to support this project that meets the latent hockey demand.</p>



Protect	Enhance	Provide
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lord Wandsworth College – replace the surface of the three quarter size second sand filled AGP as it is more than 12 years old and coming to the end of its life.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-3 years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Robert May’s School – apply for an extension to the planning permission to extend the hours of use for the existing floodlights.</li> <li>2. New floodlit full size 3G AGP at Calthorpe Park School</li> <li>3. New floodlit full size and floodlit small sided 3G AGPs as part of the redevelopment of Hart Leisure Centre (budget identified).</li> </ol> <p><b>Medium Term (3-5 years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. New floodlit full size sand-filled AGP as part of the new developments at Eversley Sports Association</li> <li>5. No changes proposed.</li> </ol> <p><b>Long Term (5 years+)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. No changes proposed.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Future Needs for AGPs</b></p> <p>The priorities set out above will address the current unmet demand and future demand by improving access to and the capacity of the current AGP stock whilst addressing the needs of Hart with the focus on a realistic aim for additional investment.</p> <p>As part of the overall review process the growing population within the district will impact on the current supply (and the projected increase in supply) and unmet demand. The regular review of this study every two years will need to include updated Sport England FPM analysis.</p>		

### Golf

- There are six golf facilities in Hart. The largest being Oak Park Golf Club which has a 13 bay driving range and 9 and 18 hole courses.
- Although all six facilities are privately owned and managed, they are accessible to the community on a pay and play basis through a green fee or registered membership basis.

**Figure 13: Golf Priorities, Improvements and Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain the existing level of dedicated golf provision across the district.	None.	No additional golf facilities required in Hart unless the current supply is reduced.
<p><b>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-3 years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No changes proposed.</li> </ol> <p><b>Medium Term (3-5 years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No changes proposed.</li> </ol> <p><b>Long Term (5 years+)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No changes proposed.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Future Needs for Golf</b></p> <p>With the retention of the existing clubs, the needs for golf in Hart will continue to be met. The Council should not be putting any capital funding into golf facilities, but instead help support the clubs to look at funding opportunities to develop the game.</p>		

## Netball

- There are two sites within Hart that offer outdoor netball courts.
- There are a total of six outdoor courts across the two sites, of which one are floodlit (Elevetham Heath).
- All of these sites fall under the jurisdiction of their respective Parish and Town Councils (Blackwater and Hawley Town Council and Elvetham Heath Parish Council) and are located in parks or open spaces.

**Figure 14: Netball Priorities, Improvements and Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Protect and retain the outdoor netball facilities at Blackwater and Hawley Leisure Centre and Elvetham Heath.	Make improvements to the netball courts at the following sites to make them more attractive to clubs and community users:  Elvetham Heath - The tennis/netball courts should be resurfaced.  Blackwater and Hawley Leisure Centre - The netball courts should be resurfaced.	No additional netball courts required in Hart unless current supply is reduced.
<p><b>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-3 years)</b></p> <p>1. Resurface of the tennis/netball courts at Elvetham Heath. (See also tennis in 6.45)</p> <p><b>Medium Term (3-5 years)</b></p> <p>2. Resurface of the tennis/netball courts at Blackwater and Hawley Leisure Centre.</p> <p><b>Long Term (5 years+)</b></p> <p>1. No changes proposed.</p>		
<p><b>Future Needs for Netball</b></p> <p>The investment identified above and priorities for improving netball facilities will address the needs for the current and future population by improving access and improving quality and capacity for community use on a number of sites.</p>		

## Athletics Facilities

Specialist athletics facilities are not currently provided for in Hart, but have been identified during the consultation and could potentially play a key role in extending the community sports offer across the district.

**Figure 15: Athletics Facility Priorities, Improvement and Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
None.	None.	Hart District Council, Hampshire County Council and England Athletics to work together to identify a suitable school site that could host a compact athletics facility.
<p><b>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-3 years)</b></p> <p>1. No changes proposed.</p> <p><b>Medium Term (3-5 years)</b></p> <p>1. Installation of a compact track or 'J' track at a school. To be determined.</p> <p><b>Long Term (5 years+)</b></p> <p>1. No changes proposed.</p>		
<p><b>Future Needs for Athletics</b></p> <p>The need to develop training / satellite sites for athletics such as school site is seen as a critical part of the development of the sport within Hampshire.</p>		

## Cycling Facilities

Specialist facilities for cycling sports are not currently provided for in Hart, but have been identified during the consultation and could potentially play a key role in extending the community sports offer across the district.

**Figure 16: Cycling Facility Priorities, Improvement and Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
None.	None.	Hart District Council in conjunction with the Parish Councils to explore the feasibility of providing BMX tracks, Pump, mountain biking trails and skate parks at a local level.
<p><b>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-3 years)</b> 1. No changes proposed.</p> <p><b>Medium Term (3-5 years)</b> 1. Feasibility Study into a co-ordinated approach of providing BMX tracks, Pump, mountain biking trails and skate parks at a local level.</p> <p><b>Long Term (5 years+)</b> 1. No changes proposed.</p> <p><b>Future Needs for Cycling</b></p> <p>The need to develop dedicated facilities for cycling disciplines is one that the Council should explore not only to develop the sport in the district, but also as a valuable tool to help increase physical activity.</p>		

## 4.2 Summary

The full sport and recreation study provides Hart District Council with an updated assessment of the needs of the existing and future resident population for community sports and leisure facilities up to 2032 in line with the Local Plan.

The study has determined a clear set of facility priorities and an investment delivery plan over the short, medium and long term based on the findings of the assessment of needs and the evidence collated.

A number of exciting sports facility projects are in the pipeline for Hart which will significantly enhance the facilities infrastructure across the district to improve the participation opportunities on offer to residents and visitors. The new Hart Leisure Centre will improve the quality and variety of sport and leisure facilities available to local people. The planned refurbishment of Frogmore Leisure Centre will also significantly enhance the quality of sports facility provision in Hart.

The main challenge facing Hart District Council is providing sufficient high quality sports facilities to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population up to 2032. Whilst the quality of the existing sports facilities stock is relatively good, the Council will face challenges in maintaining this quality level whilst providing the additional facilities and participation opportunities required by a growing population. This study sets out the priorities and actions up to 2032 which will enable the Council and a range of key partners to achieve this goal and continue to provide a high quality sports facility offer across Hart for the benefit of all residents and visitors.

## 5. Playing Pitch Strategy – Findings and Recommendations

### 5.1 Pitch Sports Overview

The key findings of the PPS by each leading sport are summarised in this section. The priority projects agreed by the Steering Group are also set out which cover the short, medium and longer term needs for each sport covered within the PPS. The full policy recommendations and full site by site specific action plan can be found in the full PPS report.

Figure 15 below provides an overview of the current level of provision for each leading grass pitch sport.

**Figure 17: Pitch Supply and Typology**

Grass Pitches	Cricket	Football	Rugby
Senior pitches	30	33	8
Youth pitches (9v9 & 11v11)	N/A	29	1
Mini pitches (5v5 & 7v7)	N/A	16	0
<b>TOTAL - 117</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>9</b>

### Cricket Overview

- Overall, there are sufficient cricket pitches in the District to meet current demand.
- None of the cricket clubs based in Hart has expressed current plans for growth in adult teams.
- The quality of facility supply is generally very good.
- There are no significant issues of quality and maintenance of the fine turf pitches in club sites or at the pitches at schools.
- Lack of sufficient financial resources for adequate pitch maintenance within clubs is an issue at a number of the cricket sites in the District.
- Strategic priorities include protecting existing playing fields, securing access for cricket at those sites where cricket is at risk and enhancing those pitches and practice facilities currently in use where most needed.
- The falling trend in demand for formal forms of adult cricket, together with low levels of additional demand resulting from the population growth in the District to 2032, will mean that the existing supply, if maintained and retained will be adequate for future needs.

### Football Overview

- Whilst current supply broadly meets current demand for traditional forms of adult league football, there are a number of displaced Hart based clubs that play their home matches in neighbouring boroughs.
- There are significant pressures on demand for access to good quality adult pitches at peak times and there is evidence that the lack of spare capacity of good quality pitches is restricting clubs from growing the number of teams.
- Demand for access to youth and Mini-Soccer pitches is already high and continues to grow necessitating more access to suitable pitches - whether grass or 3G - particularly on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Where feasible, this additional capacity is needed on clubs' home sites to support their financial sustainability. New provision for youth football is needed to meet this increasing demand.
- In particular, it is striking that Mini-Soccer teams (aged U10) comprise 42% of all existing football teams based in Hart whilst Mini-Soccer pitches (5v5 and 7v7) make up just 20% of current pitch supply.
- The analysis supports the case for provision of one more 3G AGP in Hart District of suitable specification for league competition. Where possible, investment in new or enhanced 3G facilities should be directed to multi pitch sites.
- The quality of supply is good with only 3% of the available grass pitches rated as poor. There are no serious issues of quality and maintenance at football sites or at schools and sports clubs. A trend has been identified towards a lack of sufficient resources for adequate pitch maintenance by Town and Parish Councils and this is also an issue for maintenance of changing facilities at a number of the football sites in the District.
- The District needs to protect existing playing field provision and seek to increase playing capacity on existing pitch sites. This should be through a combination of quality enhancement and new provision (particularly of 3G AGPs able to accommodate multiple games in the peak period) over the period of the strategy.

- The structural changes of organised forms of the game at youth and Mini-Soccer level continue to impact on demand for grass pitches and the need to over-mark 5v5 and 7v7 pitches on 9v9 and 11v11 pitches. These changes when combined with demand growth will result in increasing over-play of some sites. The financial pressures on clubs dictate that they strive to accommodate all games on their home ground to maximise income and minimise pitch hire costs.
- To meet future demand, there will be a need to increase the supply of facilities for youth football and Mini-Soccer in particular in accessible locations within the District, and on school sites with community access in the west of the District where there is lower level of current supply. The assessment of need also supports the case for provision of one more 3G AGP in Hart District of suitable specification for league match play.

### **Hockey Overview**

- The analysis indicates that all of the additional peak time demand that would result from the planned growth in Hockey is potentially to be accommodated at the two planned AGPs at Eversley Sports Association and Calthorpe Park School, (the latter being primarily for schools use with potential for “overspill” use and subject to satisfactory accessibility arrangements).
- For junior hockey development within the District, there would be sufficient capacity at these two new pitches to meet demand in the short and medium term, but both clubs will still rely on using facilities out of the District for competition in particular given the specification for Calthorpe School AGP.
- The additional supply that would result from these projects would not be sufficient to cater for displaced demand from other neighbouring boroughs.
- Club membership is growing in both the senior and the junior age groups and is likely to improve with the establishment of the new sand based AGP in the District.
- The scale of forecast for future demand and the current lack of secured access to existing sites indicate that future demand will not be met. Both hockey clubs based in Hart have plans for growth, both plan to expand by a combined total of a further eight new teams over the next few seasons (four senior and four youth). Further provision of hockey AGP capacity at peak weekend times will be needed to accommodate this unmet demand.

### **Rugby Union Overview**

- At the start of the Playing Pitch Strategy process, there were currently no rugby union clubs in Hart.
- The RFU are working on a request for a new senior club in the District (Hook & Odiham RFC) who will need to fulfil a minimum of 12 games before being accepted into a league. The club is predominantly made up of forces players based at RAF Odiham, topped up with some other local residents. Whilst they currently train and play at Lord Wandsworth College, they utilise the changing rooms at the nearby cricket club, a more permanent home will be required should they be accepted into the league and then expand.
- To meet future demand, there will be a need to increase the supply of facilities for rugby in accessible locations within the District. The minimum requirement would be for 2 pitches to provide a more permanent home for the new club Hook and Odiham RFC. This is however dependent on the success of the newly established club activity for the 2016 season.

## **5.2 Priority Projects**

To assist with the future delivery of the projects highlighted below, and the outline investment requirements, the sites have been divided into the sub-regions of the district for the Playing Pitch Strategy. It should be noted that the assessment of need for all pitch sports within the Playing Pitch Strategy is done on a district wide basis and the split of projects below is done solely to coordinate potential sub-area investment opportunities. These sub-areas are as follows:

### **Sub Area A: West Area**

*(Wards: Eversley, Hartley Wintney, Hook, Odiham and Long Sutton)*

### **Sub Area B: North East area**

*(Wards: Yateley North, Yateley West, Yateley East, Frogmoor & Darby Green and Blackwater & Hawley)*

### **Sub Area C: South East area**

*(Wards: Fleet Pondtail, Fleet Central, Fleet West, Fleet Courtmoor, Church Crookham West and Church Crookham East)*

The recommended priority actions for the Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group to progress in the short, medium and long term following adoption of the strategy are detailed in Figures 16 and 17 below. By their nature, some of these projects may take longer to implement or others may prove impractical or unaffordable following further feasibility assessment as required. It is therefore important that the Steering Group continues to review regularly the progress of projects during the life of the Playing Pitch Strategy to update the priority actions.

Short Term = 1 year to 3 years  
Medium Term = 3 to 5 years  
Long Term = 5 years+

**Figure 18: Playing Pitch Priority Projects Years 1 - 3**

Sub Area	Site	Action
A	Bramshill Police College, Police College, Bramshill, Hook, RG27 0JH	Identify alternative provision
A	Hartley Witney Memorial Ground, Green Lane, Hartley Wintney, RG27 8DL.	Plans for new pitch
A	Lord Wandsworth College, Long Sutton, Hook, RG29 1TB	Maintenance
B	Crown Taverners CC, Minely Road, adjacent to M3 J4a	Support Crown Taverners in providing additional resources for maintenance and lease cost
B	Eversley Sports Association, Bob Schofield Way, Fox Lane, Eversley Cross, RG27 0NQ	Construction of a floodlit full size sand based AGP for hockey
B	Frogmore Leisure Centre, Potley Hill Road, Yateley, GU46 6AG	Improved drainage
B	The Sean Devereux Park, GU46 7SZ	Plan to improve drainage, evenness of outfield  Plans to improve the quality/drainage and layout of the football pitches and in long term clubhouse and floodlights  Negotiating lease with Yateley Cricket Club
B	Yateley Cricket Club, GU46 7SZ ( <i>Yateley CC own part of Sean Devereux Park</i> )	Begin negotiations on lease for football owned part of Sean Devereux Park), improve maintenance regime
C	Calthorpe Park School, Hitches Lane, Fleet, GU51 5JA	Construction of new short pile 3G AGP
C	New Hart Leisure Centre	Two new youth football pitches, a full size floodlit 3G AGP and four five-a-side floodlit 3G AGPs

**Figure 19: Playing Pitch Medium to Long Term Projects**

Sub Area	Site	Action
Medium Term		
A	Hartletts Park, Ravenscroft, Hook, RG27 9NN	Refurbishment of community centre
A	North Warnborough Old Boys FC, The Street, North Warnborough, RG29 1BL	Drainage works
A	Robert May's School, West St, Odiham, Hook, RG29 1NA	Improve changing
B	Yateley Manor Prep School, 51 Reading Road, Yateley, GU46 7UQ	Improve changing – Site acquired - plans in hand
B	Blackwater & Hawley Leisure Centre, Hawley Green, Camberley, GU17 9BW	Improve drainage and re-configure pitches
B	Darby Green Playing Fields, GU17 0DX	Improved drainage
B	Eversley Sports Association, Bob Schofield Way, Fox Lane, Eversley Cross, RG27 0NQ	Additional outdoor cricket nets on Fox Lane site
B	Frogmore Junior School, Green Lane, Camberley, GU17 0NY	Improved drainage
B	The Zebon Copse Centre, Danvers Drive, Church Crookham, GU52 0ZE	Improve drainage
C	Basingbourne Park, GU52 6TE	Re-furbish changing facilities
C	Calthorpe Park, Fleet, GU51 4AB	-Negotiating lease with Fleet Town Council.  -Develop as local hub
C	Oakley Park, GU51 3PP	Improve drainage
C	Peter Driver Sports Ground, Tweseldown Road, Fleet, GU52 8DF	Improve drainage
Longer Term		
A	Additional site North East of Hook	Develop additional pitches
A	Hartley Witney Memorial Ground, Green Lane, Hartley Wintney, RG27 8DL.	-Ongoing negotiations with LA (security)  -Plans to improve drainage on main pitch
A	Odiham & Greywell Cricket Club, Long Lane, RG29 1JE	Purchase / lease additional land for expansion (second pitch)
C	Fleet Cricket Club, GU51 4AB	Plan to improve changing facilities
C	Fleet Town Fitness & Social Club, GU51 5FA	-Planning to replace the existing boardroom building at the ground and to refurbish the existing changing room facilities.

### **5.3 Summary**

The Playing Pitch Strategy forms an integral part of the overall Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for Hart District Council and importantly represents a key element of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan.

The Steering Group that has overseen the development of the strategy set out a number of clear drivers and priorities to address and the Playing Pitch Strategy tackles these by: providing an up to date understanding of supply and demand, providing a solid evidence base for each leading sport, a site specific basis for future investment, addressing changes to demand from population increases and spatial needs, identifying broad issues to be addressed for pitch sports (such as maintenance issues, wider action needed to support individual sports and changing forms of participation), identifying the protection of sites and also determining the future role and demand for AGPs in supporting growth and changes to hockey and football.

The central challenge for Hart District Council, in times of continuing budget pressure for local authorities, is to address both the current identified facility shortfall (in both quality and quantity) as well as continuing to ensure that community provision caters for the District's projected population increases included potential housing overspill and growth from its neighbouring local authorities.



## 6. Conclusion

Hart District Council are in the midst of an important and defining time for the District as the plans (and evidence base) are being put in place to ensure that the development and growth of its infrastructure and population provides the right amount of facilities for open space, sport and recreation and playing pitches which can meet both current and future demand.

The overall strategy has shown evident need for investment into a number of open space, built facilities and playing pitch facilities with the over-riding message that the Council needs to ensure not only the protection (and retention of) open space and specific sports facilities but also the additional development of specific open space and sports facilities types as set out in this summary document and the 3 supporting reports.

Hart District Council and its partners have a good track record of investment in open space, leisure and recreation facilities and the Council has long recognised the value of open space (both through provision and access) and sport and leisure facilities as a key contributors to health and wellbeing, quality of life and community development. Over recent years the Council have invested in open space, sport and leisure facilities in Hart to provide high quality opportunities for residents to improve the quality of life as well as the ability to lead active lifestyles and participate in sport and physical activity. The adoption and implementation of this overall strategy will ensure this can continue.

The Council and its partners have shown great vision in committing to this strategy and the overall Open Space, Sport and Recreation and Playing Pitch Strategy as well as the subsequent potential delivery of the leading priorities and recommendations that have been detailed from the robust evidence base and research that underpins this work.

Hart District Council's Planning Department alongside the Leisure and Environmental Promotion team must now ensure that the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study, and the policies, standards and recommendations presented within each of the leading reports, become embedded within the emerging Local Plan and the local planning process to ensure that open space, sport, leisure and recreation can continue to get the investment it needs to making the lasting and positive impact that it has on the lives of the residents of Hart District.