



LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

OCTOBER 2017

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd

Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF

T: 0161 764 7040 E: mail@kcp.co.uk www.kcp.co.uk



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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial grass pitch
CC	Cricket club
CFA	County Football Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football club
FE	Further Education
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLA	Greater London Authority
HE	Higher Education
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFA	London Football Association
MC	Middlesex Cricket
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPA	Playing Pitch Assessment
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby union football club
S106	Section 106
SE	Sport England
TGR	Team generation rate
U	Under (team age group)
WR	World Rugby

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Assessment (PPA) Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Tower Hamlets Council (the Council).

This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch 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 the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a PPS. These steps are separated into five distinct sections:

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

Stages A-C are covered in this report. This document only considers supply and future demand for playing pitches in the borough and the council should develop, in partnership, a positive strategy (the equivalent of Stage D) to address the findings of the assessment, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Stage D will be embedded in the council's Open Space Strategy.

Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

The primary purpose of the PPA is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents across Tower Hamlets. The Assessment will be produced in accordance with stages A-C of Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013 as updated in March 2014). The actual strategy element, to comply with paragraph 73 of the NPPF, will be within the Council's Open Space Strategy. This element would be developed in accordance with Stage D of Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy guidance and alongside this PPA, provides a strategy for future playing pitch provision throughout the Borough.

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.

Why the PPA is being developed

The Council has commissioned the completion of a Playing Pitch Assessment (Stages B and C) which will assess current pitch provision in relation to quantity, quality and accessibility as well as to help identify future requirements in line with sports club development and population growth in Tower Hamlets.

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A Playing Pitch Assessment will provide the evidence required to inform development of strategic recommendations and actions to help protect playing fields and seek to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements. Along with the findings of the PPA, the strategic recommendations and actions developed will be embedded in the council's Open Space Strategy (OSS) and will inform the Council's emerging Local Plan and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). It will also serve to inform Council policies and decisions on sport and recreation, parks and open spaces, maintenance and management of local authority assets, as well as helping to inform the case for securing developer contributions and reinvestment into playing field and supporting ancillary provision.

Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning, local policies and sport development criteria can be implemented efficiently and effectively.

The Playing Pitch Assessment will provide the following information and documents:

- ◀ Assessment of existing pitch supply and demand by sport and site
- ◀ Assessment of existing pitch quality and capacity by sport and site
- ◀ Assessment of the use of artificial grass pitches for match play and price sensitivity analysis to inform future developments
- ◀ Assessment of the current maintenance regimes for pitch sports and any financial implications effecting for future maintenance
- ◀ Assessment of lapsed and disused sites
- ◀ Assessment of future pitch supply and demand by sport and site
- ◀ Assessment of pitch usage during peak periods by sport and site
- ◀ Assessment of pitch overplay and actual spare capacity by sport and site

The Playing Pitch Assessment was prepared by a partnership of sports organisations with the Council. The sports organisations and education establishments have a vested interest in ensuring existing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities can be protected and enhanced based on evidence of need. Many of the objectives and actions will be delivered and implemented by sports organisations and education establishments in addition to the Council.

The protection of playing field land both for formal sport and recreational use as well as green spaces such as parks plays an integral part in ensuring facility resource is available, linking to and facilitating the delivery of other health and physical activity strategies. For example, the 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation' (Department of Media Culture and Sport, 2015) strategy aims to confirm the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. It is government's ambition that all relevant departments work closer together to create a more physically active nation, where children and young people enjoy the best sporting opportunities available and people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy the many benefits that sport and physical activity bring, at every stage in their lives.

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Scope of the project

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

Pitch sports

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Artificial grass pitches (AGPs – including use for hockey)
- ◀ Third generation turf pitches (3G pitches)

Pitch sports will be assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. The guidance also includes other pitch sports (i.e. rugby league, softball/baseball, Gaelic football, American football, Australian rules football, lacrosse) however no formalised club demand was recorded in or exported from the Borough for these pitch sports.

Outdoor sports

- ◀ Tennis
- ◀ Bowls
- ◀ Athletics

Outdoor sports will be assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). Non-pitch outdoor sports require a different methodology to assess demand and supply to that used for pitch sports.

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.

The Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPA 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 National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). Please see Appendix 2 for a list of Steering Group contacts.

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPA has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPA.
- ◀ Develop subsequent recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes based on actions undertaken as recommended within a further action plan and set of recommendations.
- ◀ Ensure that the PPA is kept up to date and refreshed.

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The extent of the study area

Tower Hamlets has been split into four distinct areas for the purpose of this study, aligning to the four sub-areas applied within the Local Plan. Referred to throughout the PPA as analysis areas, they are (including current population¹):

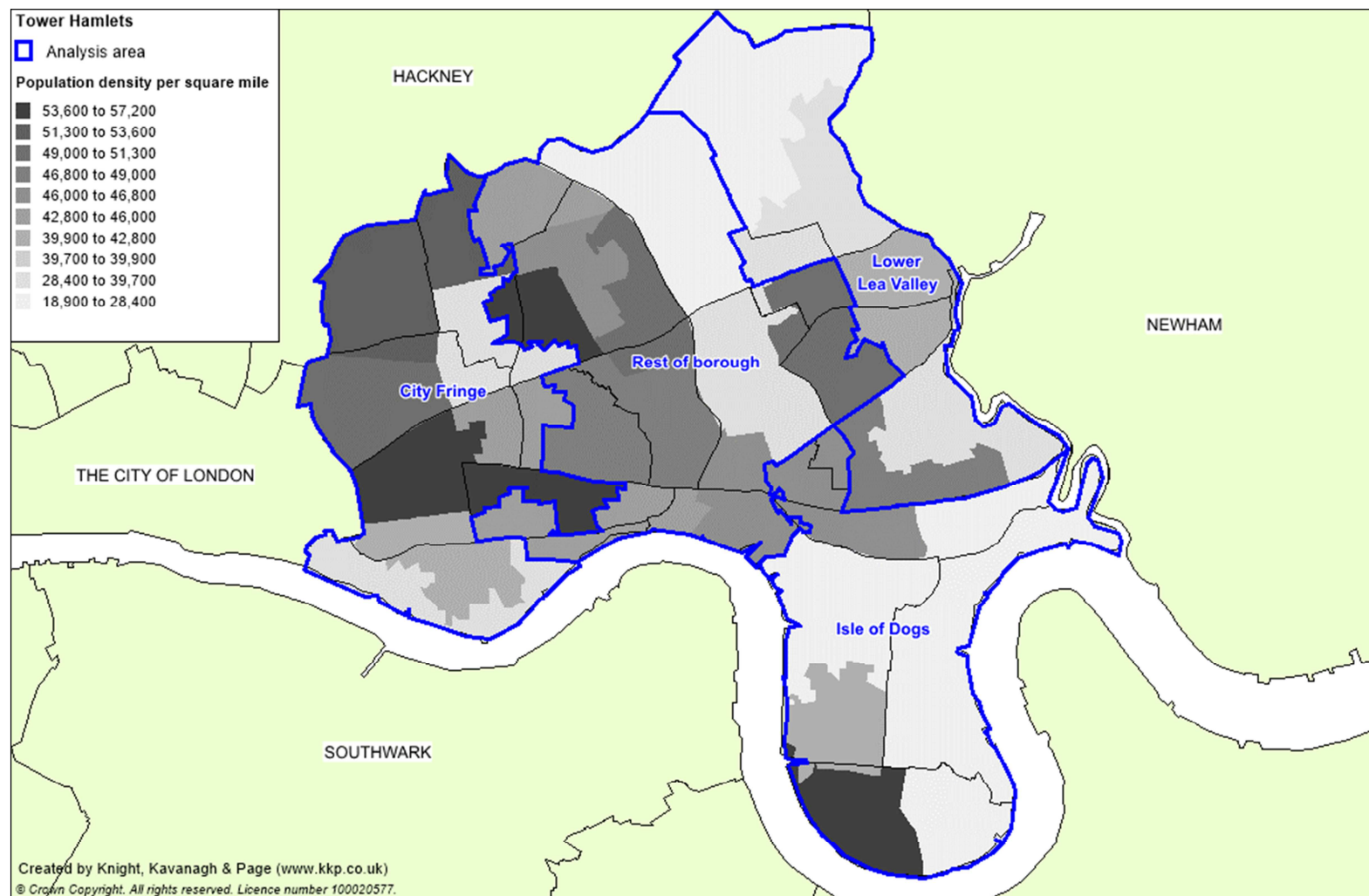
- ◀ City Fringe (80,515)
- ◀ Isle of Dogs (68,116)
- ◀ Lower Lea Valley (51,359)
- ◀ Rest of Borough (100,991)

It is likely there is a level of imported demand and sports teams from outside the study area that use pitches within Tower Hamlets. In addition, it is likely that sports teams from inside Tower Hamlets use facilities outside of the Borough. This cross-boundary movement will be taken into consideration when producing this assessment. The study area will be the whole of Tower Hamlets Borough together with any areas close to the Borough boundary within 1km where significant sports facilities are present and import/export participation is occurring on a regular basis.

¹ Data Source: ONS Mid-2015 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

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Figure 1.1: Map of the Tower Hamlets Study Area (including Analysis Areas)



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What makes the study area different?

Tower Hamlets directly neighbours the City of London to the West, whilst it also borders London Boroughs of Hackney to the North and North West and Newham to the East and North East. The Borough is enclosed by the River Thames to the South, though over the river lie London Boroughs of Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich.

The Borough is one of the most culturally vibrant and diverse areas of the country, it is densely populated, with over 200,000 people living within eight square miles at the heart of London's East End. Approximately 49% of residents are from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities; 33% are of Bangladeshi heritage, whilst there are also sizable Somali, Caribbean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indian and Pakistani communities.

It is home to a number of London's famous tourist attractions including the Tower of London, Tower Bridge, Columbia Road Flower Market and Billingsgate Fish Market, whilst it is also takes in Canary Wharf, one of London's major business districts. However, though prosperity has grown around Canary Wharf and the City fringes which lie within the Borough, there are some areas of deprivation which contribute to a picture of contrast across Tower Hamlets, affecting pricing of pitches within the Borough to ensure that they remain accessible to all of the population.

Tower Hamlets is well served connected with major public transport links such as the London Underground and Docklands Light Railway (DLR) networks. As such is considered to have a largely transient population, many of whom commute into the City and Tower Hamlets each day to work, particularly those based at Canary Wharf. As such, people from neighbouring Boroughs may participate in physical activity within Tower Hamlets due to proximity to workplaces or on their way to or from work. The Borough will be even better connected through development of the Crossrail network which will further increase public transport capacity to the Borough and is anticipated to act as a major catalyst for further regeneration. Two new Crossrail stations are proposed at Whitechapel and the Isle of Dogs.

The densely populated and urbanised nature of much of the Borough presents unique challenges with regards to playing pitch provision which influence the picture for all grass pitch sports detailed within this assessment. With limited grass space available, most grass pitches are located at parks or areas of open public space where green spaces serve multiple functions, the most pertinent example being Victoria Park. As a large metropolitan open space, playing pitches are one of a number of considerations onsite, with a high level of footfall from public and recreational use impacting on playing pitches and the park hosting a variety of large scale events, particularly music festivals throughout the summer. Similarly, there are few sites which are able to accommodate multiple grass pitches (Table 2.10) and changing facilities and as such several clubs and leagues are known to export demand to neighbouring Boroughs based on preference to access a multi-pitch, hub style community use offer. It is notable that there is no grass pitch provision at school sites which tend to be served by AGPs, therefore some public sites such as Millwall Park are used by local schools for fixtures, further adding to the extent of use.

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

It is essential that a PPA is based on the best and most accurate and up-to-date information available about the supply of and demand for playing pitches. This section provides detail about how this information has been gathered in Tower Hamlets.

An audit of playing pitches

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'².

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

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

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 PPA takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side, for example, 5v5 mini football pitches. This PPA counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all of the pitches within Tower hamlets. 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, exclusion of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Quantity

All playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database. 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 detail is recorded in the project database. (It is supplied as an electronic file):

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

² www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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Accessibility

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

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

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

No sites were identified as being disused or lapsed in entirety. There are sites where playing pitch provision may be either lapsed, disused or no longer marked but which serve another public function such as a park or public open space, therefore are not disused or lapsed in entirety. The sites and pitches are detailed further in the following individual sport sections.

Quality

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

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

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The quality of all pitches identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them is assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual pitches and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch.

The ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>), users and providers were also consulted with regard to quality and in some instances the quality rating adjusted to reflect this.

Developing a picture of demand

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. Demand for playing pitches in Tower Hamlets 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 existing demand which is unable to be realised as additional teams due to a lack of sufficient or suitable provision for either match play, training or both. Some clubs may operate waiting lists or have large squads in order to accommodate players but could field additional teams from these participants with access to additional provision.

Latent demand is recognised as the number of teams that could be fielded if access to additional pitch provision (and ancillary facilities) was available, though which is not necessarily known or engaged with clubs at present.

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 playing pitches 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.

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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:

Sport	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs	59%	Face to face
Football teams	68%	Electronic survey Telephone
Cricket clubs	100%	Face to face
Rugby union clubs	100%	Face to face
Hockey clubs	100%	Face to face Telephone
Tennis clubs	100%	Telephone
Bowls clubs	100%	Electronic survey Telephone
Athletics clubs	100%	Telephone
Secondary schools	61%	Face to face Electronic survey
Colleges	100%	Telephone
Universities	33%	Telephone
Primary/SEN schools	45%	Electronic survey Telephone

Future demand

Future demand is an informed estimate made of the likely future demand for pitches in the study area. This is generally based on the most appropriate current and future population projections for the relevant age and gender groupings for each sport. Key trends, local objectives and targets and consultation also inform this figure. Using population growth factors, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches in Tower Hamlets.

Population growth

The current resident population in Tower Hamlets is 300,981³. The Assessment report forecasts future demand for each sport to three points; 2021, 2026 and 2031. Future population is forecasted⁴ to grow to the following at these three points:

- ◀ 2021 - the Borough's population is projected to increase to 358,409, an increase of 57,428 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 19%).
- ◀ 2026 - the Borough's population is projected to increase to 364,542, an increase of 63,561 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 21.1%).

³ Data Source: ONS Mid-2015 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

⁴ Data Source: GLA 2015-Round Population Projections

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- ◀ 2031 - the Borough's population is projected to increase to 381,953, an increase of 80,972 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 26.9%).

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 pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area.

Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases, to the ONS population in each Analysis Area. This figure is then applied to the TGRs and is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

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

New schools

The Borough is expecting to have the fastest growing population in London and England over the next ten years, placing an increased demand on the infrastructure and land usage. Tower Hamlets is planning to deliver nearly 4,000 new homes each year over the next few years, which is the highest London Plan housing target. As such, the Council identifies a need to increase school capacity including the expansion of existing and development of new schools.

The Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) identifies five forms of entry proposed to be created by September 2018 at the Former Bromley Hall Special School (two forms) and the Former Bow Boys' School site (three forms). The projected level of need for primary school places by 2025/26 will increase by six forms. This will likely mean the provision of a further three to four primary schools dependant on size. The greatest population growth is expected to be within the wards of Blackwall and Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf, Whitechapel and Poplar, whilst the Core Strategy sets out that the delivery of new primary schools should be explored in the Fish Island, Bromley-by-Bow and Poplar Riverside areas.

Projections from GLA modelling anticipate that there will be 917 more 11 year olds in 2025/26 than there was in 2015/16. Consequently, there will be an anticipated need for additional secondary school capacity equating to 28 forms of entry, with ten forms needed by 2020/21. There are two allocations for secondary schools (each with sixth form entry), one at London Dock (to be Council delivered, planned 2020/21) and one at Westferry Printworks.

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Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered within Section B was used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision. It focused on looking at how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

Understand how a site is being used

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

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

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

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 at when it is needed or the site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

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

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 playing pitch provision in Tower Hamlets. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues.

The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch sports in Tower Hamlets. 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.

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisations primarily responsible for the development of football in Tower Hamlets are London FA and Essex FA, though most affiliate to the former. They are 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 assessment seeks to record supply and demand for formalised and affiliated football amongst clubs which affiliate to one of the two County Football Associations (CFA), however in Tower Hamlets there is reported to be a considerable amount of unaffiliated football. This has been captured and recorded where known, however there is likely to be additional play which is not formalised and subsequently may not be recorded within this section.

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

Consultation

Attempts were made to consult with all football clubs playing in Tower Hamlets and leagues accommodating Tower Hamlets based teams, with contact details having been provided by the two CFAs. All clubs were sent an online survey by which to register their views, with some clubs later consulted by telephone following initial lack of response to the survey.

KKP was able to resource the consultation of a handful of select clubs in person, these clubs having been identified by London FA as particularly important to secure a response from due to notably pertinent issues relating to supply and/or demand. The following clubs were identified and interviewed face to face or instead consulted via telephone as they were unavailable to meet in person:

- ◀ Millwall Albion FC
- ◀ St Katharines FC
- ◀ Victoria Park FC
- ◀ Wapping Youth FC
- ◀ Westward Boys FC

Consultation (either through online survey, face to face interview, or telephone consultation) with clubs playing within the Borough represents a 59% club response rate, equating to a 68% team response rate. Furthermore, a number of survey responses were received from clubs no longer playing or displaced from the Borough which are not included within this figure. The results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

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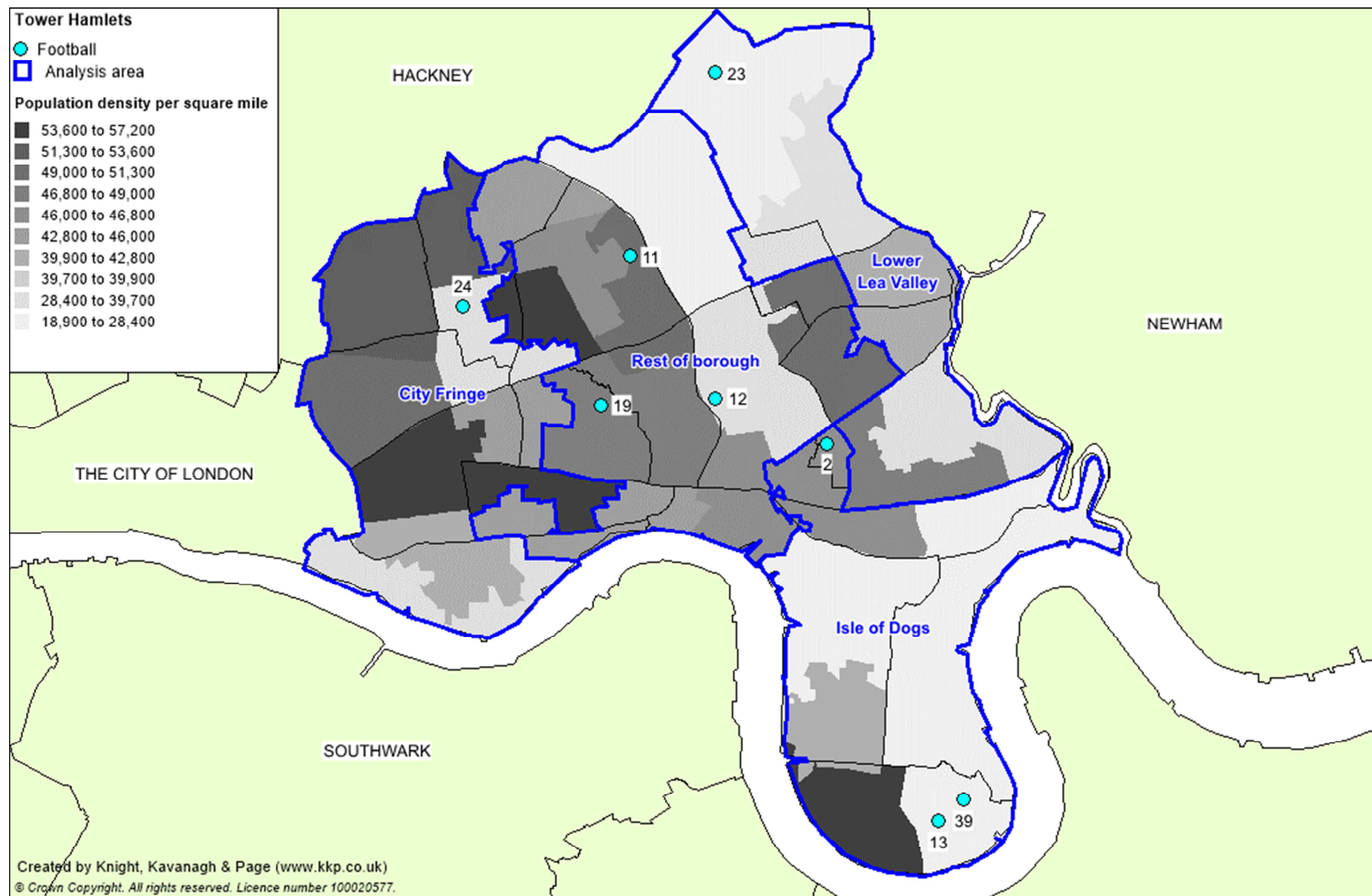
2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 22 grass football pitches across eight sites in Tower Hamlets, of which all are reported to be available for community use on some level. It should be noted that the grass football pitch at Stepney Green Park is only marked during the summer and therefore is unavailable during the traditional winter football season during which the data to inform this section was captured. Though some pitches may not have official recorded use they many serve a wider purpose within the community as public open space.

There is just one full sized FIFA certified 3G pitch in Tower Hamlets on which competitive football matches are permitted to be played at Stepney Green Park. This is further detailed later in the section and in Part 3. There are also two smaller sized 3G pitches which are FA certified, both at The Workhouse Leisure Centre. Figure 2.1 identifies all grass football pitches Tower Hamlets regardless of community use.

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Figure 2.1: Location of grass football pitches in Tower Hamlets



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Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches

Analysis Area	Pitch type					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
City Fringe	2	-	1	-	-	3
Isle of Dogs	2	3	1	-	2	8
Lower Lea Valley	5	-	1	1	1	8
Rest of Borough	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total	12	3	3	1	3	22

Most available pitches in Tower Hamlets (55%) are adult sized. This is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. Nationally many youth 11v11 teams play on adult pitches, however, this is not considered ideal for youth players between U13 and U16 age groups and is not in line with the recent FA Youth Review. Just four available pitches are youth 11v11 sized representing 18% of the available supply in the Borough.

Table 2.2: FA recommended grass/3G pitch sizes

Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100x64	106x70
Over 18/Adult	11v11	100x64	106x70

Future supply

Population increases and growth in housing developments anticipated within the Borough are expected to generate additional demand for sports facilities including football pitches. A subsequent action plan and set recommendations within the Open Space Strategy will be used to guide the development of any new sporting provision of which may include the creation of additional pitches, new ancillary facilities or new sites to best accommodate both the newly generated demand and current requirements. The subsequent increased population will create a need for further infrastructure developments which may include additional or extended school provision. Again, positive strategy, following this Playing Pitch Assessment, should be developed to guide the composition of sports provision should this happen, to best serve the requirements of schools, communities and sport across the Borough as a whole.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches Tower Hamlets has been assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments (as determined by The FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating. Percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows;

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- ◀ Poor = 0-49.9%
- ◀ Standard = 50-79.9%
- ◀ Good = 80%+

As such, each pitch within Tower Hamlets has a quality rating of good, standard or poor.

Pitch quality is primarily influenced by the carrying capacity of the site; often pitches are over used and lack the required routine maintenance work necessary to improve drainage often resulting in poor quality pitches that cannot sustain levels of use. Pitches which receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work will often be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games able to take place each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches which 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.

Table 2.3 Summary of football pitch quality

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	-	5	7
Youth 11v11	-	1	2
Youth 9v9	-	1	2
Mini 7v7	-	-	1
Mini 5v5	-	-	3
Total	-	7	15

The pitch quality ratings determined through a combination of non-technical assessments and user feedback show that the majority (68%) of grass pitches are rated as poor quality, with 32% rated as standard. There are no grass pitches rated as good quality in Tower Hamlets.

Private sites⁵ (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than Council parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. Private site hire is often at full cost recovery. However, the cost of self-maintenance can be limited by funds or equipment available and consequently some clubs may not be able to carry out the required level of maintenance each year, instead targeting specific areas of the pitch or times of the year, sometimes not every season.

The maintenance and use of Council sites is usually less frequent whilst other public use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues given that some Council managed sites also function as publicly accessible and open recreational space. In Tower Hamlets, all grass pitch provision also acts as open recreational space and is therefore adversely affected by casual use. All pitches are frequently used and are maintained by the Council which acts within budgetary constraints.

Specific comments from club consultation relating to the pitch conditions at individual sites can be seen in the table below. These comments were factored in to pitch quality ratings, along with the information sourced from the non-technical site assessments.

⁵ There are no private sites, managed or maintained by clubs within Tower Hamlets.

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Table 2.4: Summary of pitch quality comments from clubs

Site ID	Site name	User comments
2	Bartlett Park	Poor quality pitch which drains poorly and is poorly maintained.
11	Meath Gardens	Drains poorly, impacting on condition for regular use.
12	Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium	Standard quality pitch which is perceived to have improved in quality due to an improved level of maintenance.
13	Millwall Park	Poor quality pitches which drain poorly and are believed to received minimal maintenance during the winter months.
23	Victoria Park	Poor quality pitches subject to dog fouling and perceived low level maintenance. The configuration of the pitches from the previous location in the park is believed to have impacted upon pitch quality. Reported to drain poorly.
24	Weavers Field	Standard quality pitches but with issues regarding grass coverage and draining poorly.

Consultation with clubs through face to face meetings and online survey responses highlighted a number of common issues reported at sites, with opinions of poor quality or infrequent maintenance being commonly reported issues. Clubs are generally of the opinion that the grass is not cut frequently enough and report that grass is often cut for the requirements of informal open space rather than for fine turf sports pitches. In summary, the maintenance of Council sites is perceived to be of a basic or poor quality, whilst drainage issues at sites such as Weavers Field and Millwall Park also negatively influence pitch quality. User perception was a contributing factor to determining pitch quality, however, the information from non-technical assessments equally contributed to overall quality, factoring in pitch maintenance information provided by the Council; pitch evenness; grass cover; drainage; evidence of dog fouling; evidence of unofficial use; overmarking; grass length; and pitch gradient⁶.

The grass pitch at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium is utilised by clubs playing within the Football Pyramid and as such must adhere to minimum standards. This is recognised by the Council and improvements have been made to the pitch quality in the recent past. Clubs that use the pitch have noted this improvement as referenced in Table 2.4.

Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches can occur in areas to allow a greater use of space. However, this sustained and intense use over short periods of time can impact on pitch quality and allows little time for the surface to rest and recover. Use of smaller pitches marked within larger pitches typically causes focused and specific wear due to the high traffic on certain overlapping areas such as the middle third of adult pitches. There is one over marked pitch in Tower Hamlets, located at Stebondale Street, where a youth 9v9 pitch is over marked by two mini 5v5 pitches.

Two sites accommodate a mix of sports, a common example being cricket and football where football pitches are marked either onto a section of the outfield area or where a

⁶ This is not an exhaustive list of assessment criteria from non-technical assessments.

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cricket square is located in between football pitches for use during the summer. This is the case at both Millwall Park and Victoria Park. The increasing occurrence of significantly wet weather over winter months is frequently causing football seasons to be extended further into the summer months and may cause clashes with summer sports such as cricket that usually run through the football off season. This may be with regards to the actual playing pitches which overlap or the supply of changing facilities which may be insufficient to serve teams playing both sports simultaneously. To prevent this being an issue Tower Hamlets Council ensure that concurrent bookings are not taken for the different sports and note that if both sports are played simultaneously on the aforementioned sites then it is as a result of informal, non-booked, play.

Ancillary facilities

Changing facilities are a key issue at several football sites. Some of the facilities are described as poor quality by users, for example before refurbishment the ancillary facilities at Victoria Park were reportedly of a poor standard and the changing facilities at Millwall Park were deemed poor quality by both users and a non-technical assessment due to the number of pitches that need to be catered for on the site, along with the condition and size of each changing room.

Some responding clubs state they have demand for greater access to changing rooms or increased quantity to sufficiently cater for the number of pitches onsite. However, in some cases clubs may play at sites without changing facilities but in reality do not have demand to access to them. This is a particular trend nationwide in that most mini and youth teams are using changing facilities increasingly less and that access to toilet facilities are of greater priority.

Teams have reported issues accessing the changing facilities at Victoria Park, with recent refurbishment rendering changing facilities inaccessible. However, this refurbishment has recently completed and is now fully available for teams using pitches on the site. The changing facilities at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium are reported to be good quality however there are only two changing rooms available to service the adult pitch and the sand dressed AGP also onsite.

Security of tenure

All teams within Tower Hamlets either rent pitches individually or have home venues designated by leagues, which rent pitches on a seasonal basis. It is therefore considered that all teams and clubs have unsecure⁷ tenure of home grounds, though pitch provision is considered secured as part of the Council's maintained sports and leisure provision offering. Unsecure can make practical sense given the transient nature of the population in the Borough and the good transport links joining Tower Hamlets to neighbouring Boroughs, allowing teams to choose where they play or being able to attract players from across the Borough due to the nomadic nature and flexibility of home venue.

Conversely, a lack of security can potentially leave clubs open to the possibility of folding as they can lack a consistent base from which to operate. This can result in teams struggling to attract and retain players, particularly for mini and youth teams.

⁷ Although clubs rent pitches from the Council on a seasonal basis, it should be noted that a priority/exclusive booking agreement is in place between the Council and current users of pitches which does provide some security. However, as this does not qualify as secure tenure it is deemed that tenure for all pitches is unsecure.

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Pitch hire costs

Comparative pitch hire prices with neighbouring local authority Newham are shown below, whilst pricing information for neighbouring Hackney was not available.

Block bookings (over 10 bookings/sessions) for Council pitches save on VAT, as do school bookings. Preferential rates are also offered for clubs/leagues/organisations which are considered by the Council to be based in the Borough. Football pitch bookings are for two hour sessions in either the morning or afternoon, with reductions of 50% (schools) and 75% (mini soccer) applicable for bookings requiring just one hour rather than two.

Table 2.5: Comparative pitch hire prices

Pitch type	Price
Tower Hamlets (inclusive of VAT)	
Adult (Borough based booking)	£46.40
Adult (non-Borough based booking)	£88.75 weekday £85.10 weekend
Junior (Borough based booking)	£25.30
Junior (non-Borough based booking)	£46.40 weekday £44.45 weekend
Newham	
Adult (Newham based booking)	£561 per season £78.50 per single match
Adult (non-Newham based booking)	£670 per season £78.50 per single match
Junior (Newham based booking)	£278 per season £36 per single match
Junior (non-Newham based booking)	£340 per season £36 per single match
Schools football	£10 single hire

Comparative pitch hire prices would suggest that based on the Newham model of a 13 match season block booking, Tower Hamlets based teams/leagues receive a comparably more affordable adult pitch price of £502.71 as opposed to the £561 Newham based teams/leagues would pay for use of a pitch in their respective Borough. However, Newham pitch hire information obtained did not include detail on hire of changing provision (where available) and whether this is factored into the comparably higher price. Based on the same model, junior pitch hire in Tower Hamlets is comparable to Newham pricing at £274 compared to £278, though in Tower Hamlets teams may qualify for a discounted rate dependant on format of junior football and whether matches require only a one hour booking as opposed to the standard two hour timeslot.

2.3: Demand

A total of 110 affiliated teams, from 42 clubs, are identified as playing matches or training on football pitches within Tower Hamlets. There are ten teams from Tower Hamlets known to be consistently playing home matches on artificial grass pitches, both 3G and sand based. The following teams regularly play fixtures on AGPs:

- ◀ Abohani FC U12s (Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium 3G)
- ◀ Fowlers FC Adult (Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium (sand AGP))

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- ◀ Shadwell Youth Organisation Adult (Stepney Green Park 3G)
- ◀ Shadwell Youth Organisation Vets (Stepney Green Park 3G)
- ◀ Wapping Youth U12 (Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium 3G)
- ◀ Wapping Youth U10 (Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium 3G)
- ◀ Wapping Warriors U18 (John Orwell Sports Centre sand AGP)
- ◀ Wapping Warriors U15 (John Orwell Sports Centre sand AGP)
- ◀ Wapping Warriors U12 (John Orwell Sports Centre sand AGP)
- ◀ Wapping Warriors U8 (John Orwell Sports Centre sand AGP)

Table 2.6: Summary of football team demand in Tower Hamlets

Number of teams	Adult		Youth Boys		Youth Girls			Mini Soccer		Total
	Men	Women	11v11	9v9	11v11	9v9	7v7	7v7	5v5	
	41	5	24	17	5	1	-	11	6	110
Total	46		41		6			17		

Increases in the number of mini teams does not always lead to an increase in adult teams because nationally participation in 11 aside football is declining due to players opting to play more flexible small sided versions of the game. The way in which people, especially adult men, want to play football is changing. People want to be able to fit it in to their busy lifestyle and the small sided formats and shorter games allow players to do this without giving up their weekends. If this trend continues there is likely to be an increase in demand for 3G pitches.

Leagues

Teams within Tower Hamlets compete in various leagues, the majority of which are not central venue based leagues but home and away format. The following leagues are the most popular amongst Tower Hamlets based teams:

- ◀ Bangladesh FA Summer & Winter Leagues (BFA)
- ◀ Echo Junior Football League
- ◀ Inner London Football League (ILFL)
- ◀ Tower Hamlets Veterans League
- ◀ Tower Hamlets Youth League

The nature of singular teams, pitch hire and revenue generation generally leads to a relatively high turnover of teams from one season to the next, with some teams folding only for factions of players to form new teams with different names the following season. This is not found to be the case in Tower Hamlets due, in part, to a priority/exclusive booking agreement that the Council instigated with current users in order to prevent the aforementioned issues.

The Inner London Football League (ILFL) and the Bangladesh FA Summer & Winter Leagues book pitches each week. The match slots are then allocated to the teams with fixtures that week and often results in teams rotating venues for home games, either between sites in Tower Hamlets or between sites in Tower Hamlets and other Boroughs. A good example being the ILFL which uses four sites in the Borough as well as Wanstead Flats (in Redbridge, operated by the City of London) and Hackney Marshes (Hackney). Similarly, the BFA leagues use Victoria Park, Stepney Green Park and Bartlett Park in Tower Hamlets as well as Wanstead Flats, predominantly for the Winter League.

The ILFL currently has 22 teams competing across two divisions and reports a decline in the number of teams in recent seasons. This was mainly due to cost of entering the

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league which needs to refereeing and insurance costs. It is hoped that the number of teams will be sustained in the next few seasons.

A number of other CFAs around the country run leagues to engage and increase adult participation within specific populations or times, such as vets leagues held at central venues, midweek 11 aside adult flexi leagues and even summer season football. At present London FA does not run a vets league but there are vets teams within the Borough that compete regularly as part of league structures.

The football pyramid

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/step above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading, as it is referred to, assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirements for Step 1 clubs.

Both Sporting Bengal United FC and Tower Hamlets FC compete in the Essex Senior League Premier Division which is at Step 5 of the football pyramid. The clubs both report playing at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium as the floodlit track pitch there is the only grass pitch in the Borough able to meet league requirements.

There are three teams in total which play within the football pyramid shown in Table 2.7.

Table 2.7: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure

Team	League	Level
Leyton Orient Women's FC	London & South East Regional Women's League	Step 3 ⁸
Sporting Bengal United FC	Essex Senior League – Premier Division	Step 5
Tower Hamlets FC	Essex Senior League – Premier Division	Step 5

It should be noted that following the 2016/17 Leyton Orient Women's FC were promoted to the Women's Premier League South East Division 1 which is a Step 2 league in the women's football pyramid. This will result in the Club continuing to base all of its home matches at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium which adheres to the minimum ground requirements for the League.

Training

Access to affordable floodlit training facilities is a key issue for most clubs in Tower Hamlets, particularly those with a large number of youth and mini teams. The majority of clubs responding to the online survey report demand for additional training facilities, with 65% of responses specifically stating a need for increased use of 3G pitches.

There is one full sized 3G pitches in the Borough, located at Stepney Green Park, which is available for community use. Not only is it difficult for teams to access sufficient capacity but those at some large clubs are spread across a number of venues where they can manage to find available timeslots including on small sized 3G pitches, of which there are 31. There are eight sand based AGPs, three of which are full sized and five are smaller sized; which are also available and used by teams for training but clubs still report demand for greater floodlit AGP provision. Access to AGPs for training is covered further in Part 3: Artificial Grass Pitches.

⁸ Achieved promotion to Step 2 for the 2017/18 season

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Some teams, particularly those participating in summer leagues report occasionally training on match pitches when daylight allows, meaning that training demand should be considered to contribute to current capacity and can negatively impact on pitch quality. Utilising facilities at educational sites could improve the current situation regarding training facilities, however, gaining access to these sites is an ongoing problem for local teams due to either community use not being available or no suitable capacity available during ideal training times.

Future demand

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.

Table 2.8: Borough team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams ⁹	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
2021						
Senior Men's (16-45)	91,460	46	1988	108,695	54.7	8
Senior Women (16-45)	82,948	7	11850	100,566	8.5	1
Youth Boys (12-15)	6,067	22	276	6,893	25	3
Youth Girls (12-15)	5,816	3	1939	6,656	3.4	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	3,326	14	238	4,015	16.9	2
Youth Girls (10-11)	3,145	1	3145	3,668	1.2	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	7,034	11	639	8,354	13.1	2
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	7,596	6	1266	7,990	6.3	0
2026						
Senior Men's (16-45)	91,460	46	1988	104,905	52.8	6
Senior Women (16-45)	82,948	7	11850	97,215	8.2	1
Youth Boys (12-15)	6,067	22	276	8,379	30.4	8
Youth Girls (12-15)	5,816	3	1939	7,811	4	1
Youth Boys (10-11)	3,326	14	238	4,244	17.9	3
Youth Girls (10-11)	3,145	1	3145	3,909	1.2	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	7,034	11	639	8,723	13.6	2
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	7,596	6	1266	9,161	7.2	1

⁹ 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 for the purposes of team generation rates.

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Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams ¹⁰	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
2031						
Senior Men's (16-45)	91,460	46	1988	103,065	51.8	5
Senior Women (16-45)	82,948	7	11850	92,356	7.8	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	6,067	22	276	7,761	28.1	6
Youth Girls (12-15)	5,816	3	1939	7,392	3.8	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	3,326	14	238	4,216	17.7	3
Youth Girls (10-11)	3,145	1	3145	4,055	1.3	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	7,034	11	639	8,986	14.1	3
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	7,596	6	1266	9,258	7.3	1

The transient nature of football teams within the Borough¹¹ means that teams and clubs cannot be considered to be based in one analysis area. Therefore, team generation rates (TGRs) are based on future population growth Borough wide and forecast that participation is anticipated to increase at all age groups. Forecasts suggest that participation increases are enough to amount to the creation of at least eight adult men's teams; one adult women's team; three youth 11v11 boys' teams; two youth 9v9 boys' teams; and two mini 7v7 teams by 2021.

TGRs are based exclusively on future population forecasts and the number of teams currently playing in Tower Hamlets and it is assumed that the same proportion of growth will continue to play outside of the Borough. TGRs do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, TGRs cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus on developing girl's football nationally which is likely to lead to more girls' teams in the future and therefore increased demand for pitches.

It is important to note that there has been a recent decrease nationally in participation at adult level and that the number of FA affiliated adult teams playing competitive football has dropped. Similarly, there has been a decline in the number of youth players making the transition from youth football to adult leagues.

A number of teams shown below highlighted clear plans to increase the number of teams for next season, totalling a requirement for a further 16.5 match equivalent sessions across different pitch types.

¹⁰ 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 for the purposes of team generation rates.

¹¹ Teams could not be allocated to specific pitches due to leagues operating on a rotation basis, meaning that a limited number of teams can be deemed to be based within specific analysis areas.

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Table 2.9: Summary of future demand reported by clubs

Club	Age group	Match equivalent sessions per week	Pitch type
Ace 05 FC	Youth 11v11 boys	0.5	Youth 11v11
Acorn FC	Youth 11v11 boys	0.5	Youth 11v11
Beaumont Athletic FC	Mini 5v5	0.5	Mini 5v5
	Youth 9v9 boys	0.5	Youth 9v9
	Youth 11v11 girls	0.5	Youth 11v11
Bromley by Bow FC	Youth 9v9 boys	0.5	Youth 9v9
	Youth 11v11 boys	0.5	Youth 11v11
Limehouse Girls FC	Youth 11v11 girls	0.5	Youth 11v11
Poplar Boys FC	Adult men	0.5	Adult
	Youth 9v9 boys	0.5	Youth 9v9
Robin Hood Tigers FC	Mini 5v5	0.5	Mini 5v5
St Katharines FC	Mini 7v7	0.5	Mini 7v7
	Youth 9v9 boys	0.5	Youth 9v9
	Youth 11v11 girls	0.5	Youth 11v11
	Youth 11v11 boys x 2	1	Youth 11v11
Tower Hamlets FC	Mini 5v5 x 3	1.5	Mini 5v5
	Youth 11v11 boys x 3	1.5	Youth 11v11
Vallance FC	Adult men	0.5	Adult
	Adult women	0.5	Adult
Victoria Park FC	Mini 5v5	0.5	Mini 5v5
Wapping Warriors FC	Youth 9v9 boys	0.5	Youth 9v9
	Mini 5v5	0.5	Mini 5v5
Wapping Youth FC	Adult	0.5	Adult
	Mini 5v5	0.5	Mini 5v5
	Youth 11v11 girls	0.5	Youth 11v11
	Youth 11v11 boys x 2	1	Youth 11v11
Westward Boys FC	Mini 5v5	0.5	Mini 5v5

Unmet and latent 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.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. No clubs explicitly identified any latent demand though a few did refer to housing growth in the Borough and the need for new and improved sports facilities to accommodate increases in population.

Displaced demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to Tower Hamlets registered teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain

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facilities. Displaced demand also refers to demand imported into the Borough, exported from other Boroughs for the same reasons.

Due to the nature of leagues within the Borough, teams can be classed as both displaced and as playing within Tower Hamlets concurrently. Leagues use a wide range of sites both in and out of the Borough due to a reported lack of pitches in Tower Hamlets, rotating teams between venues each week so that each has a fair proportion of play exported. The ILFL uses several venues in Tower Hamlets as well as Wanstead Flats (City of London) and Hackney Marshes (Hackney), where it is able to access multi pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities as part of a hub style offer which is not available in Tower Hamlets. Similarly, the lack of multi pitch sites and propensity of one or two pitch sites (with the exception of Victoria Park) means that the BFA leagues are based at Stepney Green Park, where there is access to both grass and 3G pitches; as well as at Victoria Park and Bartlett Park, whilst exporting some demand to Wanstead Flats (City of London).

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, drainage and usage; it is the sole determinant of pitch capacity in accordance with guidelines.

As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Considering the guidelines on capacity, agreed by the FA as part of Sport England's guidance for a Playing Pitch Strategy (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>) the following was applied in Tower Hamlets in line with FA regulations:

Table 2.10: FA guidelines for pitch capacity

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

Table 2.11 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

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Peak time

Peak time demand for adult and youth 11v11 football pitches is Sunday afternoon. This is affected by some youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches due to a greater availability of this pitch format. Mini 5v5, mini 7v7 and youth 9v9 pitches all have a peak period of Saturday morning. These peak time overlaps may present issues at some multi pitch or multi sport sites where a number of matches are played at once, or at sites where pitches are over marked, or particularly the clash of times where youth 11v11 teams have a preference for use of adult pitches. It could be particularly problematic with regards to changing facilities in terms of having enough changing rooms per pitch to sufficiently serve all matches being played at once, whilst the same peak period for both adult and junior football, on Sunday mornings, may create child welfare issues¹² at sites where the two share pitches and therefore require exclusive changing and shower areas which need to be carefully coordinated and managed. It is recognised that this is not an issue at sites within Tower Hamlets, such as Victoria Park, due to recent refurbishment of such facilities.

Match Equivalent sessions (MES)

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate, as agreed as part of Playing Pitch Strategy guidance, over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

Table 2.11 shows usage in terms of match equivalent sessions per week. One fixture per week equates to one match equivalent session. Similarly, use from a team playing in a home and away format is quantified as 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week, based on requirement for use of one match equivalent session for a fixture once every fortnight rather than every week.

¹² It should be noted that no reports of Child Welfare Issues were raised during the consultation process. This merely highlights that there is the potential for issues to occur due to clashing peak periods for junior and adult football with limited changing facilities available.

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Table 2.11: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Security of tenure ¹³	Community use	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Quality rating	No. of pitches ¹⁴	Current play (MES per week) ¹⁵	FA recommended site capacity (MES per week)	Capacity (MES per week)	MES available at peak time	Actual spare capacity	Comments
2	Bartlett Park	Isle of Dogs	Secure	Yes	Council	Adult		Standard	1	2	2	-	-	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
				Yes - unused		Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	0	2	-2	2	-2	Pitch has two match equivalent sessions per week actual spare capacity available at peak time.
11	Meath Gardens	Rest of Borough	Secure	Yes	Council	Adult		Poor	1	0.5	1	-0.5	0.5	-	Actual spare capacity to be retained to manage poor quality.
12	Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium	Rest of Borough	Secure	Yes	Council	Adult		Standard	1	3	2	1	-	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.
13	Millwall Park	Isle of Dogs	Secure	Yes	Council	Adult		Poor	1	3	1	2	-	-	Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week.
						Youth	(11v11)	Poor	2	4.5	2	2.5	-	-	Overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
19	Stepney Green Park	Rest of Borough	Secure	Yes	Council	Adult		Standard	1	2 ¹⁶	2	-	-	-	Pitch is played to capacity in summer. Pitch is not marked throughout the main winter season, only in summer and used for summer league matches.
23	Victoria Park	Lower Lea Valley	Secure	Yes	Council	Adult		Poor	5	15.5	5	10.5	-	-	Overplayed by 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
						Mini	(5v5)	Poor	1	1	2	-1	1	-	Actual spare capacity to be retained to manage poor quality.
						Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	1.5	2	-0.5	0.5	-	Actual spare capacity to be retained to manage poor quality.
						Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	2	1	1	-	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.
24	Weavers Field	City Fringe	Secure	Yes	Council	Adult		Standard	2	2	4	-2	1	1	Pitch has one match equivalent session per week actual spare capacity available at peak time.
						Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	0.5	-0.5	Pitch has 0.5 match equivalent sessions actual spare capacity available at peak time.
39	Stebondale Street	Isle of Dogs	Secure	Yes	Council	Youth <i>(Mini 5v5)</i>	(9v9)	Poor	1	2	1	1	-	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.

¹³ Unless local information suggests otherwise, it is assumed that the availability of all pitches under Council or sports club management will be secure.

¹⁴ Where pitches are overmarked, recommended capacity is based on the larger pitch size, whilst type and usage of smaller pitch sizes marked within are shown in italics.

¹⁵ Total recorded weekly usage includes that of pitches which may be overmarked, therefore represents total aggregated use.

¹⁶ This pitch is not marked for winter football and therefore use refers to summer play.

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Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual 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 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. Whether a site has actual spare capacity is detailed in Table 2.11.

Overmarked pitches which are used and exhibit potential spare capacity have not been considered available to accommodate further play in order to protect pitch quality, given the nature of repeated and sustained use over a short period of time. In the instance of mini soccer pitches over marked onto adult or youth pitches, mini play has been equated to 0.25 match equivalent sessions due to use of a limited area rather than the whole pitch.

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.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity and need to retain capacity to protect already poor surface quality. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches and allow for rest and recovery

There is a total of 3.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period located across pitches which are available for community use.

Table 2.12: Actual Spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
City Fringe	1	-	0.5	-	-
Isle of Dogs	-	2	-	-	-
Lower Lea Valley	-	-	-	-	-
Rest of Borough	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	2	0.5	-	-

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). Only sites which are overplayed and have current community use have been included in the overplay summary. The FA's requirements for pitch capacity as noted earlier set the recommended capacity of each pitch. It is the aim of the FA to minimise, reduce and eliminate overplay where possible as overplay adversely affects pitch quality and match experience of users. It is important to note which pitches are overplayed in an effort to improve pitch quality and therefore user experience.

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Table 2.13: Sites with overplayed football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Match equivalent sessions
12	Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium	Rest of Borough	Adult		1	1
13	Millwall Park	Isle of Dogs	Adult		1	2
			Youth	11v11	2	2.5
23	Victoria Park	Lower Lea Valley	Adult		5	10.5
			Youth	9v9	1	1
39	Stebondale Street Pitches	Isle of Dogs	Youth	9v9	1	1
Total					11	18

Overplay on football pitches in Tower Hamlets amounts to 18 match equivalents sessions across 11 pitches, the majority of which (75 %) derives from adult pitches. In several cases this likely due to the extensive use of adult pitches for both adult and youth 11v11 football, whilst at some sites pitches are subject to over marking, subsequently intensifying the use of the same pitch space for a number of matches each weekend, particularly at peak time. All of the pitches also act as amenity green space within the Borough and therefore are subject to unofficial use. This unofficial use may impact upon pitch quality, reducing pitch capacity subsequently increasing levels of overplay.

Table 2.14: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
City Fringe	-	-	-	-	-
Isle of Dogs	2	2.5	1	-	-
Lower Lea Valley	10.5	-	1	-	-
Rest of Borough	1	-	-	-	-
Total	13.5	2.5	2	-	-

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2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on both Team Generation Rates (TGRs), which are driven by population increases; and club development plans. Due to the transient nature of football in Tower Hamlets, future demand is attributed Borough wide as teams could not be accurately attributed to a single analysis area, meaning that analysis in relation to future demand, is best served by a Borough wide approach.

Current picture

Table 2.15: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions per week		
	Actual spare capacity ⁵	Overplay	Current total
City Fringe	1	-	-
Isle of Dogs	-	2	2
Lower Lea Valley	-	10.5	10.5
Rest of Borough	-	1	1
Total	1	13.5	12.5

The table above shows that there is current adult shortfall totalling 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week when taking into account overplay and actual spare capacity. At present, all analysis areas evidence overplay and current shortfalls, with the exception of the City Fringe area.

Table 2.16: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions per week		
	Actual spare capacity ⁵	Overplay	Current total
City Fringe	-	-	-
Isle of Dogs	2	2.5	0.5
Lower Lea Valley	-	-	-
Rest of Borough	-	-	-
Total	2	2.5	0.5

The table above shows that there is a current shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches, all deriving from the Isle of Dogs analysis area. The current shortfalls are likely to be greater given the number of youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. In reality it is likely that a proportion of future demand will also play on adult pitches like many teams currently do in, though this is contrary to guidance in the FA Youth Review. As such, there is a clear need for an increase in youth 11v11 provision in order for this play to be transferred on to the correct pitch size.

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Table 2.17: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions per week		
	Actual spare capacity ⁵	Overplay	Current total
City Fringe	0.5	-	0.5
Isle of Dogs	-	1	1
Lower Lea Valley	-	1	1
Rest of Borough	-	-	-
Total	0.5	2	1.5

The current picture shows that whilst there is currently a shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches. There is actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions in the City Fringe analysis area but this is countered by the overplay in the Lower Lea Valley and Isle of Dogs analysis areas.

Table 2.18: Supply and demand balance of Mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions per week		
	Actual spare capacity ⁵	Overplay	Current total
City Fringe	-	-	-
Isle of Dogs	-	-	-
Lower Lea Valley	-	-	-
Rest of Borough	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-

Mini 7v7 pitches in Tower Hamlets are currently played to capacity, with no overplay or actual spare capacity in any of the analysis areas.

Table 2.19: Supply and demand balance of Mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions per week		
	Actual spare capacity ⁵	Overplay	Current total
City Fringe	-	-	-
Isle of Dogs	-	-	-
Lower Lea Valley	-	-	-
Rest of Borough	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-

Table 2.19 shows that there is currently neither actual spare capacity or overplay on mini 5v5 pitches in Tower Hamlets and that capacity is balanced.

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Future picture

Future demand – 2021

When accounting for future demand applied Borough wide, current shortfalls at adult and both youth pitch types are exacerbated, whilst new shortfalls are created at both mini soccer pitch formats.

Pitch type	Current total	Future demand (2021)	Future total
Adult	12.5	6.5	19
Youth 11v11	0.5	85	9
Youth 9v9	1.5	3.5	5
Mini 7v7	-	1.5	1.5
Mini 5v5	-	4.5	4.5

Future demand – 2026

When accounting for future demand from team generation rates (TGRs) applied Borough wide, current shortfalls at adult and both youth pitch types are exacerbated, whilst new shortfalls are created at both mini soccer pitch formats.

Pitch type	Current total	Future demand (2026)	Future total
Adult	12.5	5.5	18
Youth 11v11	0.5	11.5	12
Youth 9v9	1.5	4	5.5
Mini 7v7	-	1.5	1.5
Mini 5v5	-	5	5

Future demand – 2031

When accounting for future demand from team generation rates (TGRs) applied Borough wide, current shortfalls at adult and both youth pitch types are exacerbated, whilst new shortfalls are created at both mini soccer pitch formats.

Pitch type	Current total	Future demand (2031)	Future total
Adult	12.5	4.5	17
Youth 11v11	0.5	10	10.5
Youth 9v9	1.5	4	5.5
Mini 7v7	-	2	2
Mini 5v5	-	5	5

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2.6: Conclusion

In conclusion, current supply of existing grass football pitches is insufficient to cater for demand expressed at adult and both youth formats of play. Capacity for mini soccer at both formats is balanced, though this is insufficient to accommodate forecasted future growth. In future, by 2021 and through to 20126 and 2031, existing adult and youth short falls are anticipated to be exacerbated, whilst new shortfalls are likely to be created for mini soccer.

The key issues for football are threefold and are heavily influenced by the unique nature of Tower Hamlets as an inner-city Borough on the cusp of the City of London. They are:

- ◀ **Poor quality pitches** – 68% of pitches are rated as poor quality and thus have limited capacity to accommodate use. All are Council managed and maintained and perceived to receive basic levels of maintenance, with many used throughout the summer, limiting opportunity and effectiveness of any rest and remedial work undertaken. Pitch quality is also adversely affected by high levels of unofficial use as all pitches also act as general open space.
- ◀ **Limitations on grass space** – the unique nature of Tower Hamlets as a heavily built up area is reflected in the physical footprints of playing field land on which pitches are marked. Many have just one or two pitches which is less preferable for clubs and leagues which then have to use a number of sites. This is evidenced by the high level of exported demand to large, multi-pitch hub sites such as Hackney Marshes and Wanstead Flats where clubs can have many teams playing in one aggregated offer with accompanying changing provision, the likes of which (Victoria Park aside) does not exist in Tower Hamlets.
- ◀ **Transient nature of demand** – again heavily influenced by the nature of the Borough, the nature of demand and where clubs and leagues play and/or train is fluid and flexible, with many teams regularly playing within Tower Hamlets as often as they do out in neighbouring Boroughs. An insufficient supply of grass football pitches is reported to be a direct causal factor in prompting teams and leagues to seek provision outside of the Borough.

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Football – grass pitch summary

- ◀ **Current supply of football pitches is insufficient to accommodate existing demand for adult and both formats of youth football. Many pitches are also reported to be subject to qualitative issues.**
- ◀ **In future, up to 2021 and through to 2026 and 2031, existing adult and youth short falls are anticipated to be exacerbated, whilst new shortfalls are likely to be created for mini soccer.**
- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 22 grass football pitches in Tower Hamlets, all of which are reported to be available for community use on some level.
- ◀ There is just one full sized FIFA certified 3G pitch in Tower Hamlets and two small sized FA approved 3G pitches on which competitive football matches can be played.
- ◀ Most pitches in Tower Hamlets (55%) are adult sized which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ The majority (68%) of pitches are rated as poor quality, with 32% rated as standard and none as good quality.
- ◀ Changing facilities are an issue at several football sites, particularly access to facilities for adult teams. This issue has since been resolved at Victoria Park following the completion of refurbishment work.
- ◀ No clubs in Tower Hamlets lease or own home venues, either renting annually or on a match-by-match basis. Rental agreements are either with the Council directly or due to being a member of a league which books pitches for its teams.
- ◀ A total of 110 affiliated teams are identified as playing matches on football pitches within Tower Hamlets. There are ten teams recorded as consistently playing home matches on artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Team generation rates based on population indicate that by 2021 there will be the likely creation of an additional eight adult teams, five youth teams and two mini soccer teams across the Borough.
- ◀ Team generation rates based on population indicate that by 2026 there will be the likely creation of an additional seven adult teams, 12 youth teams and three mini soccer teams across the Borough.
- ◀ Team generation rates based on population indicate that by 2031 there will be the likely creation of an additional five adult teams, nine youth teams and four mini soccer teams across the Borough.
- ◀ Many teams highlight a lack of accessible and affordable floodlit training facilities as a key issue. Some export demand to 3G pitches in neighbouring authorities such as Hackney, whilst others make use of a number of sites, some with small sized AGPs or indoor facilities.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity in Tower Hamlets amounts to 3.5 match equivalent sessions across all pitches types.
- ◀ There are 11 pitches overplayed across Tower Hamlets, totalling 18 match sessions.

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

3.1: Introduction

There are several surface types that fall into the category of artificial grass pitch (AGP). The three main groups are rubber crumb (also known as third generation turf or 3G), sand (filled or dressed) and water based.

Competitive league hockey matches can only be played on sand based, sand dressed or water based AGPs. Although competitive play cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable, in some instances, for school or beginner coaching and are preferred to poor grass or tarmac surfaces. Please refer to Part 6: Hockey for further details.

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FA or FIFA certified and registered and a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play at mini soccer and youth level. Only competition up to (but not including) regional standard can take place on a 40mm pile. Minimum playing area dimensions to meet performance standard criteria for competitive football are 90x45 metres (FA standard) or 120x90 metres (FIFA standard), with additional run off areas of three metres required on each side. Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but is not the preferred option.

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 (this is also adopted by rugby league). The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard. Full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts can take place. All full sized World Rugby compliant 3G pitches feature on the RFU register, including expiry dates of certification¹⁷. Upon registration, World Rugby compliancy is valid for two years before renewal and retesting is required.

Table 3.1: AGP type and sport suitability

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile.
Rubber crumb	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface. Suitable for non-contact rugby union/league practice or play.
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football.
Sand	Sand Filled	Competitive hockey and football training.
Sand	Sand Dressed	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training.
Water	Water based	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training if irrigated.

¹⁷ <http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/artificial-surfaces/artificial-grass-pitches>

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3.2: Supply

There is one full sized 3G pitch in Tower Hamlets as shown in Table 3.2, with floodlighting and available for community use. There are a further 31 small sized 3G pitches, all of which are considered to be available for community use.

The full sized 3G pitch at Stepney Green Park is situated in the Rest of Borough analysis area, while the distribution of small sized pitches is fairly even with each analysis area having at least one pitch. The Lower Lea Valley has the fewest 3G pitches, with just one small sized pitch, at Poplar Baths.

The full sized 3G pitch in Tower Hamlets is FIFA certified¹⁸, whilst two small sized pitches are FA approved, these are both located in the Isle of Dogs Analysis area at the Workhouse Leisure Centre. Each of these pitches is suitable for competitive football play; with the small sized pitches capable of accommodating mini 5v5 football only.

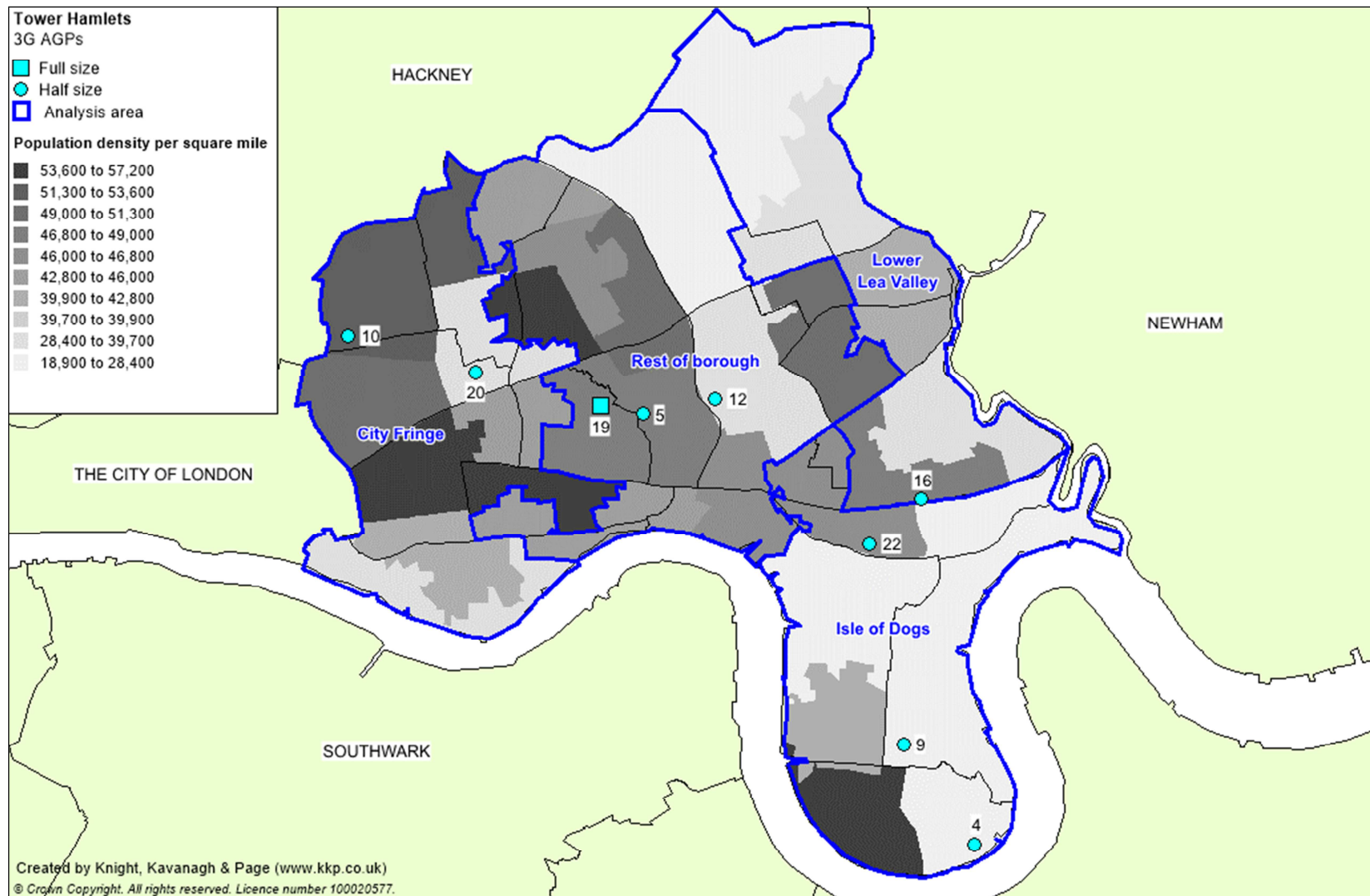
It should be noted that despite pitches not being FA or FIFA certified, match play is still reportedly taking place on them, such as at the two Lucozade Powerleague Soccer centres and sand dressed AGPs at John Orwell Sports Centre and Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium. Competitive football play on sand dressed AGPs is not recommended by The FA and should not be sanctioned.

There are currently no World Rugby certified 3G surfaces in Tower Hamlets, meaning that all rugby union match play is and should only be accommodated on natural grass pitches.

¹⁸ <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/?countyfa=London>

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Figure 3.1: Location of all 3G pitches in London Borough of Tower Hamlets



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Table 3.2: Summary of 3G pitches in Tower Hamlets

Site ID	Site name	Management	Analysis area	Community use	Floodlighting	Number of pitches	Surface type	Dimensions (metres) ¹⁹	Certification
4	George Green's School & Sports Centre	School/College/University	Isle of Dogs	Yes	Yes	1	Medium Pile 3G	60 x 40	
5	Haileybury Centre	Local Authority (in house)	Rest of Borough	Yes	Yes	1	Short Pile 3G	33 x 17.5	
9	Lucozade Powerleague Soccer Centre (Docklands)	Commercial	Isle of Dogs	Yes	Yes	5	Short Pile 3G	25 x 15	
10	Lucozade Powerleague Soccer Centre (London City)	Commercial	City Fringe	Yes	Yes	5	Short Pile 3G	24 x 15	
						1		38 x 20	
						2		23 x 18	
						3		25 x 15	
						1		22 x 12	
						1		36 x 20	
12	Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium	Trust	Rest of Borough	Yes	Yes	4	Short Pile 3G	30 x 20	
						3		50 x 30	
16	Poplar Baths	Local Authority (in house)	Lower Lea Valley	Yes	Yes	1	Short Pile 3G	30 x 20	
19	Stepney Green Park	Local Authority (in house)	Rest of Borough	Yes	Yes	1	Medium Pile 3G	106 x 70	FIFA
20	Swanlea School	School/College/University	City Fringe	Yes	Yes	1	Medium Pile 3G	40 x 22	
22	The Workhouse Leisure Centre	School/College/University	Isle of Dogs	Yes	Yes	2	Medium Pile 3G	35 x 20	FA

¹⁹ Excluding run off areas. FA/FIFA Performance Standard Testing Criteria requires 3m run off areas in each direction. Some pitches of or close to minimum dimensions though compliant may not be considered to be of sufficient size to accommodate adult football matches.

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Future plans for provision

There are no identified proposals to develop new 3G pitches in Tower Hamlets. A previous planning application was submitted by St Katharine's Trust to convert a concrete MUGA in King Edward VII Memorial Park to a full sized 3G pitch which would have been floodlit and available for community use. It is reported that the Trust planned to reprovide four tennis courts on which it planned to build; whilst also supplying table tennis tables, cricket nets and a public toilet on the site. The Trust reported that it planned to source the funds required for the development but the planning application was reportedly unsuccessful. St Katharine's remains keen to explore the possibility of a 3G pitch again in the future, however, this will not be located at King Edward VII Memorial Park with the site currently under development as part of the Thames Tideway Tunnel project. As part of the development of the site sports facilities will be provided on site in the form of a MUGA and tennis courts without a 3G pitch onsite.

It is reported that there are ambitions to develop on the site of The Workhouse Leisure Centre which is where two FA certified pitches are located, serving the local community and the students of Tower Hamlets College. It is believed that any development on the site will result in the loss of the 3G pitches and leisure centre, to be replaced by offices, living space and a community centre. Should the planned development proceed then reprovision of the playing field land either onsite or elsewhere should be sought.

3.3: Quality

The carpet of an AGP is considered to have a recommended surface lifespan of approximately 10 years, though this can be prolonged in some cases where maintenance is of particularly high quality and rigor.

The full sized 3G pitch at Stepney Green Park is rated as good quality through both non-technical assessment and user rating. It is currently three years old and therefore should not require replacement in the short term unless significant damage to the surface occurs as a result of reduced maintenance, high levels of demand or unofficial use. A sinking fund should be in place for all 3G pitches to enable future repairs, refurbishment and eventual resurfacing to take place once recommended lifespans are exceeded.

Table 3.3: Summary of 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Surface type	Pitch Dimensions (metres)	Year built (refurbished)	Quality
4	George Green's School & Sports Centre	1	Medium Pile 3G	60x40	2003 (2016)	Good
5	Haileybury Centre	1	Short Pile 3G	33x17.5	2014	Standard
9	Lucozade Powerleague Soccer Centre (Docklands)	5	Short Pile 3G	25x15	2010	Standard

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Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Surface type	Pitch Dimensions (metres)	Year built (refurbished)	Quality
10	Lucozade Powerleague Soccer Centre (London City)	5	Short Pile 3G	24x15	2013	Standard
		3		25x15		
		2		23x18		
		1		38x20		
		1		36x20		
		1		22x12		
12	Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium	1	Short Pile 3G	50x30	2005	Standard
		3		30x20		
		2		50x30		Poor
		1		30x20		
16	Poplar Baths	1	Short Pile 3G	30x20	2016	Standard
19	Stepney Green Park	1	Medium Pile 3G	106x70	2014	Good
20	Swanlea School	1	Medium Pile 3G	40x22	2012	Standard
22	The Workhouse Leisure Centre	2	Medium Pile 3G	35x20	2000 (2014)	Standard

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

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

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

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

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Conversion to 3G surfaces

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way to replace a worn sand or water based carpet and generate increased revenue from hiring out a 3G pitch to football and rugby clubs and commercial football providers. This has often come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams consequently displaced from their preferred local authority.

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 the applicants will need to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and EH 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.

A 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Providers proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

In Tower Hamlets, given the current shortfall of hockey suitable AGPs to accommodate current and future hockey demand, all three full sized sand dressed pitches should be protected and retained as hockey suitable surfaces as conversion of one or more to 3G would have a detrimental impact on hockey in the Borough.

Availability and usage

Table 3.4 summarises the availability of 3G pitches for community use in Tower Hamlets. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Table 3.4: Summary of 3G availability and usage

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Floodlit	Quality ²⁰	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period
4	George Green's School & Sports Centre	Medium Pile 3G	Yes	Good	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours
5	Haileybury Centre	Short Pile 3G	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours

²⁰ Quality is assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments carried out by KKP but also takes account of user views and opinions.

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Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Floodlit	Quality ²¹	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period
9	Lucozade Powerleague Soccer Centre (Docklands)	Short Pile 3G	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours
10	Lucozade Powerleague Soccer Centre (London City)	Short Pile 3G	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours
12	Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium	Short Pile 3G	Yes	Standard x 4	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours
				Poor x 3	
16	Poplar Baths	Short Pile 3G	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours
19	Stepney Green Park	Medium Pile 3G	Yes	Good	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours
20	Swanlea School	Medium Pile 3G	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekends: Unavailable Total: 13 hours
22	The Workhouse Leisure Centre	Medium Pile 3G	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours

Peak time availability may be limited at some sites where commercial operators run small sided football leagues throughout the week on full sized pitches, reducing the number of hours available for community use by sports clubs. However, commercial football may represent a key part of a sustainable business model at some sites and is important to balance with capacity for club training, for example small sided leagues may occupy capacity at times which are less desirable for club training such as Friday evenings.

The pitches at George Green's School and Sports Centre and The Workhouse Leisure Centre both operate as dual use sites with George Green's School and Tower Hamlets College respectively. The education providers have use during the day with community use managed through the onsite leisure centres. In contrast, all community use at Swanlea School is managed in house by the School.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Local demand

Football

There are five teams from Tower Hamlets recorded as consistently playing home matches on 3G pitches, two adult teams at Stepney Green Park and two youth and one mini team at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium, these teams represent Abohani FC, Wapping Youth FC and Shadwell Youth Organisation in the BFA Veterans and

²¹ Quality is assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments carried out by KKP but also takes account of user views and opinions.

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Tower Hamlets Youth leagues respectively. The Bangladesh FA (BFA) and Inner London Football League (ILFL) also books the Stepney Green 3G pitch for four and two hours, respectively, every week during the winter season and this is reported to increase during its summer season. The BFA and ILFL run various summer and winter leagues including youth, vets and adult men's leagues.

There are also five teams recorded as playing on sand dressed AGPs in Tower Hamlets consisting of one adult men's team; two youth 11v11 teams; one youth 9v9 and a mini 5v5 team; these teams represent Fowlers FC (Thames Football League) and Wapping Warriors (East London & Essex Junior Football League). These teams are listed in Part 2: Football (page 21). All reported that matches are played on 3G pitches as part of league fixtures, therefore it is assumed that respective leagues have approved the use of these pitches. If this is contrary to the case then it is advised that the respective teams contact league representatives and arrange more suitable venues for fixtures to take place.

None of the sand based pitches in Tower Hamlets should support match play as the pitches are not a surface type certified for competitive football. It is key that pitches are subjected to and pass performance testing in order to continue to host competitive football, as without this both clubs and the leagues are in a vulnerable position should an accident or significant injury occur on pitches which are not evidenced as safe to use for matches. Only grass and 3G surfaces are suitable to host competitive football and sand or water based AGPs are not able to meet performance testing criteria, though they are able to serve a role in accommodating team training and recreational play.

The rotational nature of venue allocation by leagues within the Borough means that varying number of teams will utilise the 3G pitches within the Borough each week. It should be recognised that both leagues report this method of pitch allocation as fair to all clubs allowing teams to experience playing on both grass and 3G surfaces.

A number of teams train on small sized pitches, which play an important role in supporting the growth of football within the Borough. Utilising the small sized pitches allows a large number of teams to regularly train in Tower Hamlets, reducing the level of potential exported demand. It should also be noted that sand based AGPs, both full and small sized are also used for training purposes by teams in the Borough.

Access to affordable floodlit training facilities is a key issue for most clubs in Tower Hamlets, particularly those with a large number of youth and mini teams. Access to affordable 3G provision is also a priority for the FA as many multi team junior clubs have various teams training across various venues in Tower Hamlets and neighbouring authorities. Many pitches both full sized and small sized operate commercial small sided football leagues which limit availability for club training.

Rugby union

At present, no teams from Tower Hamlets report using 3G provision for match play or training, whilst no 3G pitches in the Borough are World Rugby compliant. However, there is a need for increased rugby union pitch provision and this shortfall could be reduced or eliminated through increased use of 3G pitches should any new pitches developed in future be built and certified as World Rugby compliant.

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Displaced demand

Displaced demand refers to Tower Hamlets registered teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the Borough for home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. In the same manner, it also refers to demand displaced from other local authorities into Tower Hamlets based on the same reasoning.

There is no explicitly identified demand either imported or exported to access 3G pitch provision, with most football teams exporting demand to access grass pitches for match play rather than 3G pitches. However, it is likely that teams are instead training on small sized or sand dressed AGPs within Tower Hamlets, but many report a desire for increased access to 3G provision.

FA football training scenario

The FA considers high quality third generation artificial grass pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The AGP can support intensive use and as such are great assets for both playing and training. Primarily such facilities have been installed for community use and training, however, are increasingly used for competition which The FA wholly supports.

The FA's long term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. The FA standard is calculated by using the latest Sport England research "AGPs State of the Nation March 2012" assuming that 51% of AGP usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch at peak times. It is estimated that one full sized AGP can service 42 teams.

On the basis there are 110 teams playing competitive football in Tower Hamlets on either natural turf or artificial turf pitches, there is a recommended Borough wide need for two (rounded down from 2.6) full sized 3G pitches. At present, there is one full sized 3G pitch which is floodlit and available for community use, therefore based on this model there is a shortfall of one (rounded down from 1.6) full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting across the Borough.

The model assumes that all pitches are fully available for club use at peak time though in practice pitches may operate commercial small sided leagues as part of the business model. This may potentially reduce capacity available for affiliated and non-affiliated team training but is not the case at Stepney Green Park where there is no commercial league in operation. It also projects all football teams as training on full sized 3G pitches when in practice a proportion of football training demand should be retained on sand based AGPs in order to maintain financial and commercial sustainability of these pitches.

There are 31 smaller sized pitches shown in Table 3.2 that also help to accommodate training demand, for example, from mini teams and for training. However, not all of these serve this function, for example, Lucozade Powerleague centres primarily cater for small sided commercial football leagues.

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Key trends and changes in demand for pitches

Football

Demand from football for 3G pitches has increased in recent years due to demand from clubs for training but also due to a growing acceptance by local leagues of use for competitive matches, where play on 3G pitches is now included within the FA Standard Code of Rule. This considered, the general condition of local authority pitches and increasingly limited budget for regular and adequate maintenance may lead more teams to consider AGPs as a possible alternative should it be financially viable.

A number of leagues around the country now use 3G pitches as central venues where the majority of play takes place. This is especially prominent in Tower Hamlets, particularly from the Tower Hamlets Youth League; with the general format for mini and youth football up to older youth age groups based on a combination of 3G and grass pitches at central venues. Mini soccer leagues especially are increasingly adopting this approach either for whole seasons or a number of months throughout the winter because they can continually offer a high quality playing experience, in many cases beyond that of grass pitches which are generally of comparatively poorer quality. It also allows leagues to continue to run throughout the winter, largely unaffected by poor weather which has disrupted the football season over reason years, causing it to run into summer and clash more often with summer sports. This trend is likely to increase in the future and more mini soccer, Flexi and Vets leagues could be played exclusively on 3G pitches.

Rugby union

Given the inclement weather often experienced throughout the winter months of the rugby union season, more clubs are becoming increasingly receptive towards training on artificial pitches. Clubs traditionally train on match pitches where floodlights are in place or one pitch designated for all training in particular, unless there is a separate floodlight grass training area. It often results in deterioration in pitch quality coupled with decreasing maintenance budgets.

The recent RFU strategy on investment in 3G pitches both at club and community based sites is indicative of the growing acceptance of 3G pitches amongst clubs nationally. There is demand for additional World Rugby compliant 3G capacity through new provision.

Nationally clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost.

Future demand

Population increases anticipated within the Borough are expected to generate additional demand for sports facilities, particularly 3G pitches which are used by a number of different sports for both matches and training. The PPA findings should be used to guide the development of a positive strategy embedded in the council's OSS which in turn should aid the development of any new sporting provision which may include the creation of additional pitches, new ancillary facilities or new sites to best accommodate both the newly generated demand and current requirements.

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The subsequent increased population will create a need for further infrastructure developments which may include additional or extended school provision. Future strategic planning should consider key areas in which 3G pitches can best meet demand for a number of sports where possible and appropriate and should in turn consider the optimal surface type for any potential new development in conjunction with NGBs as part of a joined up approach.

This considered, the changing nature of school provision including transfer of schools to academy status and creation of new privately funded free schools means that the Council and NGBs now have less control over the composition of sports provision at some school sites. Though the Council and NGBs may be able to engage with these schools to make the case for choice of AGP surface, choice is ultimately at the behest of the private funding body and school, so may not align with community sporting need identified through the recommendations and actions to be set out in the Open Space Strategy.

This is potentially problematic with regards to strategic planning of facilities, especially high cost facilities such as AGPs and influence NGB investment opportunities. Though most academies are accessible for community use, this could be withdrawn and consequently security of tenure at academy and free schools may not be considered stable enough to develop sports participation from these sites. Where possible, usage agreements should be established at any new schools to secure community use as best possible.

3.5: Conclusions

Use of 3G pitches in Tower Hamlets mainly extends to football training and some match play. The FA training model when applied Borough wide forecasts a shortfall equating to 1.6 full sized 3G pitches, representing a shortfall in practice of one full sized 3G pitch with floodlighting and full peak period availability, given the remainder of demand should be retained on small sized and sand based pitches to ensure their financial sustainability.

Football clubs report a requirement for increased 3G pitch provision, whilst this may too be able to reduce or eliminate existing and future grass pitch shortfalls for football and rugby union subject to achieving the required performance standard certifications. Additional full sized 3G pitch provision may also see a migration of some football training and recreational play from sand based surfaces, freeing up capacity not presently available to accommodate anticipated growth in hockey participation. It may also provide opportunities for the growth and establishment of sports not presently formally represented in the Borough which are able to play and train on 3G pitches, for example lacrosse or American football.

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3G pitches summary

- ◀ **In summary, supply and demand analysis based on the The FA training model highlights that Tower Hamlets has insufficient supply of full sized floodlit 3G pitches to accommodate football training demand.**
- ◀ **The model highlights a shortfall of one full sized 3G pitch with floodlighting and unrestricted community use.**
- ◀ There is one full sized 3G pitch in Tower Hamlets at Stepney Green Park which has floodlighting and is available for community use.
- ◀ There are a further 31 small sized 3G pitches, all are considered to be available for community use.
- ◀ The full sized 3G pitch in the Borough is FIFA certified to host competitive football match play, whilst likewise two of the small sized pitches at The Workhouse Leisure Centre are FA approved.
- ◀ There are no World Rugby certified 3G pitches in Tower Hamlets suitable to be used for contact match play or practice.
- ◀ There were previously plans submitted by a local Trust to convert a multi-use games area in King Edward VII Memorial Park to a full sized 3G pitch but the planning application was unsuccessful.
- ◀ The full sized pitch at Stepney green Park is rated as good quality and was built in 2014, three years into the ten year recommended surface lifespan period.
- ◀ Use of 3G pitches is mainly for football, with no recorded use for rugby union or any other pitch sports.
- ◀ The FA training model estimates that there is a need for two (rounded down from 2.6) full sized 3G pitches to service football training needs in Tower Hamlets. At present, there is one available for community use, therefore based on this model there is a shortfall of one pitch Borough wide, with small sized and sand based AGPs able to accommodate remaining demand.
- ◀ There are five teams which play competitive club football on 3G pitches in Tower Hamlets, representing Shadwell Youth Organisation, Wapping Youth and Abohani FC in the BFA Veterans and Tower Hamlets Youth leagues respectively.

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PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

Middlesex Cricket (MC) serves as the local governing and representative body for cricket within Tower Hamlets. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricket clubs and other appropriate organisations.

Traditional format senior league cricket is typically played on Saturday afternoons, however; as local league regulations stipulate requirement for play on natural turf wickets, no traditional format senior cricket takes place in the Borough due to a lack of natural turf provision explored later in this section. Shorter format competitions do take place within Tower Hamlets, playing on Sundays and midweek. There are a number of local cricket leagues across Tower Hamlets which service teams in the area. As such, the main cricket league providing opportunities for senior players within Tower Hamlets is the short format Victoria Park Community Cricket League (VPCCL).

The youth league structure Tower Hamlets tends to be club based matches which are played midweek or on Sunday mornings dependant on age group. There is usually no conflict with access to squares and any midweek matches are usually played on different nights or Sunday mornings. The main league for junior cricket teams is the Middlesex Junior Cricket League (MJCL).

There is a large amount of unaffiliated cricket taking place in the Borough which has been captured where possible and factored in to the use of cricket squares. Not all unaffiliated cricket can be accurately captured as it includes recreational play that is, by its nature, difficult to measure.

Consultation

Face to face consultation was carried out with Tower Hamlets CC, the only Tower Hamlets based cricket club. The Victoria Park Community Cricket League (VPCCL) was also consulted; as was London Tigers CC which has close links to Tower Hamlets CC. Contact information was supplied by MC and consultation represents a 100% club response rate. Telephone consultation was also undertaken with the local Last Man Stands (LMS) franchise operator.

4.2: Supply

There are no natural turf cricket squares in Tower Hamlets which represents a key issue for cricket in the Borough. The Middlesex Championship in which Tower Hamlets CC plays stipulates that league matches must be played on natural turf squares. The lack of a natural turf square has directly impacted on the ability of Tower Hamlets CC to play matches in the Borough, prompting it to export demand to other Boroughs to access this specific type of provision. Over recent years Middlesex Cricket has discussed with the Council the potential to create a natural turf cricket square in Victoria Park, though there are issues which would need to be addressed regarding funding, responsibility for maintenance and limiting impact of public access onsite. Middlesex Cricket identifies the lack of a natural turf cricket square as being the key issue for cricket in the Borough.

There are four non-turf pitches (NTPs) located across two sites, of which, none are at school sites. All NTPs are available for community use with three located at Victoria Park and one at Millwall Park. There are no disused NTPs in Tower Hamlets.

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An NTP is considered able to accommodate 60 matches per season although this may include training sessions where on occasions mobile nets may be used as a practice facility. All of the NTPs are standalone wickets and generally available throughout the week and weekend.

The ECB TS6 Guidance on Performance Standards for Cricket Pitches Intended for Outdoor Use sets requirements for NTPs to be used for matches and practice areas, though there are currently no standards for outfielders. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow this guidance are suitable for high level play.

The ECB Get the Game On campaign is focused on increasing participation and reducing the number of matches cancelled in order to keep people interested and playing. During the campaign's inaugural year in 2015 there were 6% more games played nationally with 5% less matches cancelled. Use of NTPs for league cricket may present a way forward to fulfilling more fixtures and use of NTPs for league cricket may increase in future.

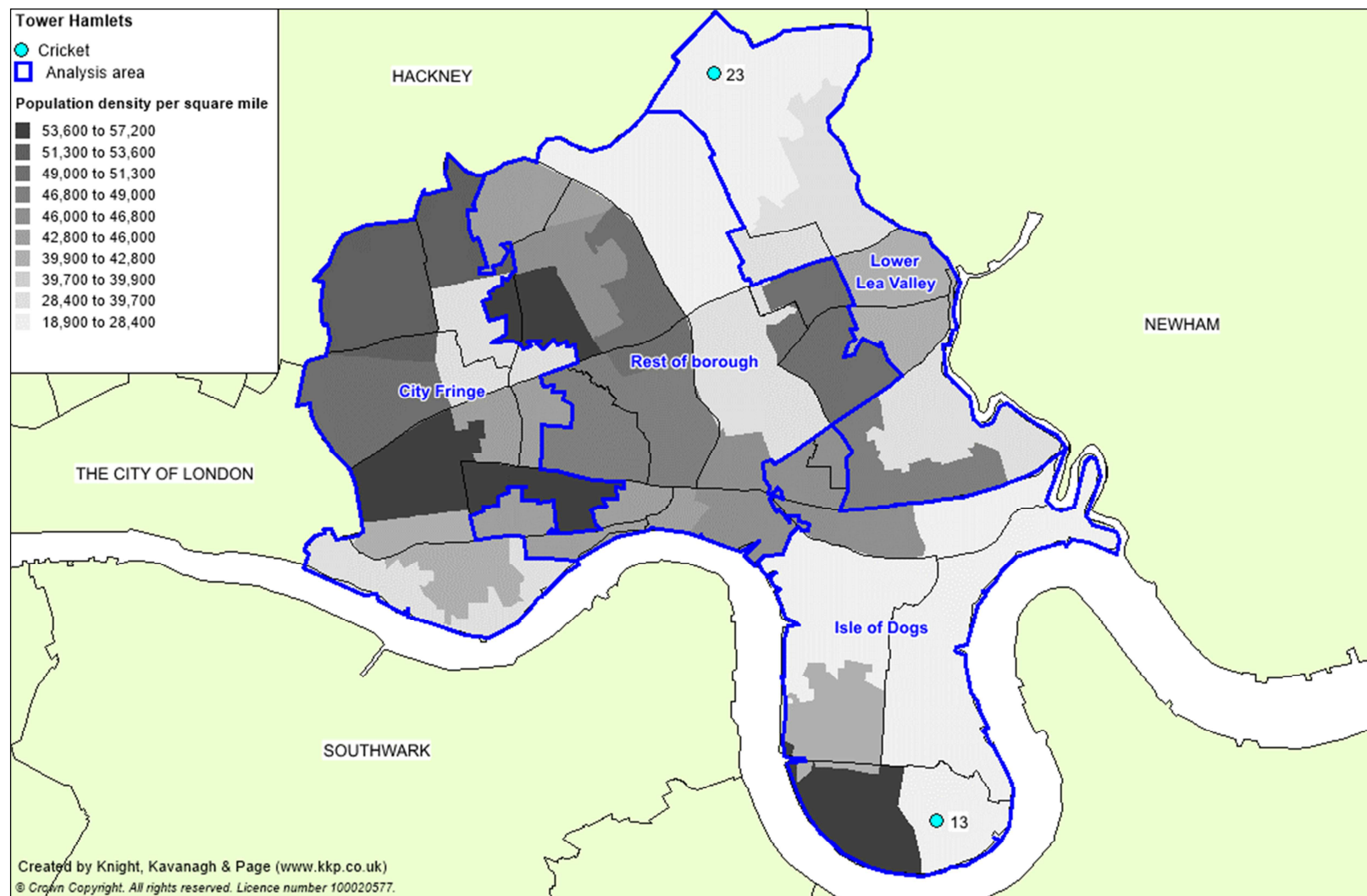
Play on NTPs is not preferred by senior leagues servicing Tower Hamlets, in the causal factor in exported demand. However, for the VPCCL, a shorter format league, NTPs are a suitable surface type to use. Given the current supply and heavy use, Tower Hamlets although well served for NTPs at present, may potentially require additional NTP provision should demand to join the league increase, as predicted by the VPCCL. Senior club match play at weekends is generally not permitted by local leagues to take place on NTPs but they may be used for junior matches or matches in senior short format competitions.

Table 4.1: Summary of non-turf pitches (NTP)s in Tower Hamlets

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of NTPs	Position
13	Millwall Park	Isle of Dogs	1	Standalone
23	Victoria Park	Lower Lea Valley	3	Standalone

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Figure 4.1: Location of non-turf pitches (NTPs) in Tower Hamlets



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Surface quality

Pitch quality ratings determined by non-technical quality assessments and user feedback found three NTPs (75%) at Victoria Park to be of poor quality and one (25%) at Millwall Park to be of standard quality.

The three NTPs at Victoria Park require replacement and not simply resurfacing with significant tears and lifting apparent on each surface. The heavy use of these pitches contributes to a faster rate of deterioration than normal, meaning that initial installation needs to be of an extremely high standard.

All cricket outfielders are marked with either football or rugby union during the cricket off-season and are subject to use by local community clubs. Although not ideal this has not resulted in any issues being reported regarding the outfielders by cricket users.

Future supply

There are no established plans in place to install a grass cricket square within the Borough. However, the ECB and MC recognise the need for a natural grass square in the area and have previously held discussions with the Council regarding the creation of a natural turf square, potentially in Victoria Park given the high volume of demand currently present at the site.

Ancillary facilities

Quality and access to required match day ancillary facilities varies between sites in Tower Hamlets. The extent of ancillary facilities required also differs between times of play; for example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas for junior and senior matches played midweek this is often not required and more emphasis is on access to suitable changing facilities.

Ancillary facilities at Victoria Park recently underwent refurbishment and therefore was previously unusable for last season (2016); however, as work is now completed the facility is fully available to use. Neither Tower Hamlets CC nor the VPCCL reported a lack of available changing rooms to be an issue last season, however, it did cause an issue regarding access to toilet facilities and storage. The VPCCL reports that a lack of storage is the main issue with scoreboards and stumps being kept at a local pub due to a lack of storage at Victoria Park. This present solution is less than ideal and relies on the goodwill of the pub management and owners and is subject to change with minimal notice. It is hoped that once the ancillary facilities at Victoria Park have been refurbished then adequate storage space will be available for the League and clubs of Tower Hamlets.

At Millwall Park there are no ancillary facilities directly serving the pitch, however, the Last Man Stands (LMS) cricket league using the site does not require ancillary provision onsite and therefore this has not been an issue. This may become an issue as demand continues to grow, or if a Club wishes to base itself at the site.

Training facilities, in the form of nets are available for community use at Victoria Park and receive a high level of use. There are also indoor facilities, such as the Play on Centre, which can accommodate some cricket practice, although this facility for training is not ideal it does serve a useful purpose during the winter months when the adverse weather renders outdoor practice impractical. It is understood that this facility is due to close and therefore cannot be relied upon in the longer term.

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Security of tenure

As all pitches within the Borough are Council owned and managed it is considered that the future of all pitches is considered secure as part of the Council's maintained sports and leisure provision offering. Clubs and leagues rent pitches on an annual basis and therefore are not considered to have security of tenure.

4.3: Demand

Demand from Tower Hamlets CC amounts to three senior men's teams and five junior boys' teams. The three senior men's teams playing traditional format cricket are displaced and are detailed later in the section, whilst one of those senior men's team also participates in the VPCCL.

Table 4.2: Summary of team demand based in Tower Hamlets

Club name	Analysis Area	Number of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Tower Hamlets CC	Lower Lea Valley	-	-	5	-
Victoria Park Community Cricket League	Lower Lea Valley	21			
Last Man Stands	Isle of Dogs	12	-	-	-
Total		33	-	5	-

There are 33 senior cricket teams and five junior teams playing competitive matches in Tower Hamlets as shown above, totalling 38 affiliated cricket teams playing within the Borough.

Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years. 8-10% of the Whole Sport Plan funding is focused around women and girls and talent ID. At present there are no women's or girls' cricket teams competing within the Borough or representing clubs from Tower Hamlets.

Leagues

The Victoria Park Community Cricket League (VPCCL) currently uses all three NTPs in Victoria Park for four days of the week. The League currently has 21 teams competing this season, with two teams from Tower Hamlets and London Tigers cricket clubs; but in its 29 year history has previously had 24 teams which is the maximum that the site is able to accommodate. The League plays short format cricket (16 overs) with all teams being categorised as senior men's teams. However, it should be noted that a significant number of junior players participate within these teams; in addition to some players competing for multiple teams.

The organisers of the League run a conference system league and have considered running a cup competition alongside this with the potential of allowing 32 teams to take part. It is reported that many of the teams travel from both Tower Hamlets and Hackney.

Participation costs are used to cover pitch and equipment costs, with a concerted effort made to keep pricing as low as possible in order to continue to provide affordable, competitive cricket to the local community.

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It was reported by the League that should a secondary venue be required due to increased demand, then Hackney Marshes (Hackney) would be the preferred venue, rather than Millwall Park, due to its close proximity to Victoria Park and to the homes of current participants.

Junior teams competing for Tower Hamlets CC compete in the Middlesex Junior Cricket League with matches taking place both midweek and on Sunday mornings. Matches at junior level can take place on NTPs, therefore allowing the junior teams from the Club to play within the Borough. However, the Club did report that there have been situations when teams have reached cup finals and had to travel outside of Tower Hamlets to host a home game, due to the need for a natural grass pitch for competition finals.

Last man stands (LMS)

Last Man Stands (LMS) is a short format of cricket operated on a franchise basis but affiliated to the ECB, where matches are typically played midweek on NTPs. There is currently one LMS league covering the Tower Hamlets area which operates at one venue, Millwall Park.

For the 2017 season, there are two leagues with a total of 12 teams playing, six teams in each. Each league takes place across two evenings at Millwall Park, either Monday and Tuesday or Wednesday and Thursday. The League plays approximately 70 fixtures each season including the local finals.

As Millwall Park has just one NTP play limited to one match per evening, however, if more were available it is felt that there would be an increase in the number of teams competing. Last Man Stands uses the NTP at Millwall Park on Monday to Thursday evenings from the start of May until the end of August.

Consultation with the LMS franchise operator indicates that the league has reduced from 14 teams to 12 over recent years. The league receives requests from teams to join but is not accepting new registrations. This is reported not to be due to a lack of access to facilities, as the league is able to access the NTP at Millwall Park on Fridays too, but through choice to retain Fridays as a reserve night at the end of the week so that any weather affected games postponed earlier in the week can be re-arranged for the Friday evening, so not to create a backlog of fixtures over several weeks. Though the franchise operator does not report actively seeking additional capacity or other venues to grow the league, demand exists if it was to decide to do so. As such, teams which have unsuccessfully approached the league to join are reported to have joined leagues in other Boroughs.

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Future demand

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

Table 4.3: Borough wide team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team generation rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
2021						
Senior Men's (18-55)	103,014	33	3122	123,919	39.7	6
Senior Women's (18-55)	91,731	0	0	111,930	0	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	19,157	5	3831	22,085	5.8	0
Junior Girls (7-18)	18,370	0	0	21,205	0	0
2026						
Senior Men's (18-55)	103,014	33	3122	120,629	38.6	5
Senior Women's (18-55)	91,731	0	0	110,536	0	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	19,157	5	3831	25,249	6.6	1
Junior Girls (7-18)	18,370	0	0	23,605	0	0
2031						
Senior Men's (18-55)	103,014	33	3122	126,589	40.6	7
Senior Women's (18-55)	91,731	0	0	112,318	0	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	19,157	5	3831	24,662	6.4	1
Junior Girls (7-18)	18,370	0	0	23,653	0	0

Table 4.4: Analysis area team generation rates

Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by Analysis Area)				
	City Fringe	Isle of Dogs	Lower Lea Valley	Rest of Borough	Total ²²
2021					
Senior Men's (18-55)	0	2	2	0	4
Senior Women's (18-55)	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Girls (7-18)	0	0	0	0	0
2026					
Senior Men's (18-55)	0	2	2	0	4
Senior Women's (18-55)	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	0	0	1	0	1
Junior Girls (7-18)	0	0	0	0	0

²² When applied Borough wide, team generation rates forecast the total new participants sufficient to create an additional ten teams. However, participation increases are not sufficient to equate to the creation of whole teams in some Areas, for example in practice only four whole teams can be created from increases equivalent to 4.5 teams. Therefore, when team generation rates are applied on an Analysis Area level, in practice it is likely that nine new teams can be created with residual demand from participants additional to this likely to form part of existing squads.

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Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by Analysis Area)				
	City Fringe	Isle of Dogs	Lower Lea Valley	Rest of Borough	Total ²³
2031					
Senior Men's (18-55)	0	2	2	0	4
Senior Women's (18-55)	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	0	0	1	0	1
Junior Girls (7-18)	0	0	0	0	0

Team generation rates based on future population applied by Analysis Area forecast the likely creation of at least four new senior men's teams by 2021, 2026 and 2031 as shown in Table 4.4. It is also predicted that there will likely be an additional junior boy's team by 2026 and 2031.

It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools as part of the Chance to Shine or All Stars Cricket programmes. Nor do the TGRs define which future teams will play traditional format cricket and which teams will be playing shorter format cricket.

Tower Hamlets CC did not express ambitions to create any additional teams. It was felt that the number of playing members will increase but this may not result in the creation of additional teams.

Displaced demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to Tower Hamlets based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. In the same manner, it also refers to demand imported from other local authorities into the Borough based on the same reasoning.

Three teams from Tower Hamlets CC export demand to Hackney driven by the need to access natural turf cricket provision for matches. The displaced teams are all senior men's teams and are displaced due to the lack of a natural grass square within Tower Hamlets.

²³ When applied Borough wide, team generation rates forecast the total new participants sufficient to create an additional ten teams. However, participation increases are not sufficient to equate to the creation of whole teams in some Areas, for example in practice only four whole teams can be created from increases equivalent to 4.5 teams. Therefore, when team generation rates are applied on an Analysis Area level, in practice it is likely that nine new teams can be created with residual demand from participants additional to this likely to form part of existing squads.

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Table 4.5: Summary of displaced team demand

Club	Team	Number of matches displaced per season	Venue	Time
Tower Hamlets CC	Men's first	10	Hackney Marshes	Saturday PM
	Men's second	8	Hackney Marshes	Saturday PM
	Men's third	5	London Fields/ Millfields/Springfields Park	Saturday PM

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. Demand of this type was not expressed by either club or league.

South Asian Communities

The ECB considers the development of cricket within South Asian communities to be a key focus and identifies five focus cities (London, Birmingham, Leicester, Leeds and Bradford) with a high target demographic for investment to develop participation, interest and ability within these populations. Though Tower Hamlets is not one of the five focus areas, the delivery of coaching and increasing opportunities for participants of South Asian background is a key target for both the ECB and MC given the proportion of residents in the Borough from South Asian backgrounds, including a significant Bangladeshi community.

Informal formats of play are preferred amongst most within South Asian communities, primarily because of the 'pick up and play' nature and the flexibility that the lack of constraints on timing, length of play or available facilities brings in comparison with most weekend cricket leagues. For example, there is anecdotal evidence of groups or collections of individuals playing social or knock about cricket on car parks and other non-sporting areas, whilst tapeball (a street version of cricket) is also popular. The preference for short format cricket and flexibility aligns well with LMS because games are able to be arranged on most evenings throughout the week and LMS leagues in Tower Hamlets have many South Asian based teams. It also aligns well with potential for cricket in parks either recreational play or on NTPs, given that there are large open spaces to play on at Victoria Park and Millwall Park.

Time constraints represent one of the most significant barriers to South Asian participation and finding times around worship hours, faith commitments and working times that suit a number of players is difficult. Therefore, one of the key determinants of the parameters of participation is time and in many cases the location, players and process of play are secondary based on what or who is available within the specified time period.

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4.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than weekly basis. This is due to playability (i.e. only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening). Wickets are traditionally rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and allow repair. Therefore, it is more accurate to assess capacity seasonally rather than weekly. The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section presents the current square stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

An NTP is considered able to take 60 matches per season although this may include training sessions where on occasions mobile nets may be used as a practice facility. All of the NTPs are standalone wickets and generally available throughout the week and weekend.

To help calculate square capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality natural turf wicket should be able to take five matches per season per grass wicket (adults). This information is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

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Table 4.6: NTP cricket square capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Security of tenure	Available for community use?	User clubs/groups	Quality rating ²⁴	No. of pitches	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
13	Millwall Park	Isle of Dogs	Secure	Yes	Last Man Stands	Standard	1	70	60	10
23	Victoria Park	Lower Lea Valley	Secure	Yes	Tower Hamlets CC VPCCL	Poor	3	288	180	108

The current level of use at Victoria Park accounts for teams in the VPCCL playing three fixtures-a-day for four days a week from the start of April until the end of August. Similarly, the current amount of use at Millwall Park has been taken directly from the website of Last Man Stands.

²⁴ As derived from the non-technical site assessments

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4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual spare capacity' by which it is considered available at peak time. 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 training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

There is currently no spare capacity within London Borough of Tower Hamlets, with all NTPs currently overplayed.

Overplay

The NTP at Millwall Park is overplayed by ten match sessions per season and is solely used by Last Man Stands leagues. This level of overplay is significantly less than that which is present at Victoria Park, which has three NTPs that are all overplayed by an accumulative 108 match sessions. This level of overplay could potentially increase should the VPCCL create a cup competition to run alongside the current round robin structure, whilst there is likely to be cumulative social and recreational use which is infrequent and as such is not captured within this analysis.

Conclusions

Overall there is insufficient supply of cricket provision at present to cater for demand from clubs and leagues within Tower Hamlets at peak times. Reasoning for insufficient cricket provision are threefold:

- ◀ **Absence of a natural turf cricket square** – directly influences export of demand. Requirement for at least one natural turf cricket square (with five or more wickets) to accommodate displaced demand from Tower Hamlets CC.
- ◀ **Poor quality of existing NTPs** – three poor quality NTPs at Victoria Park which accommodate significantly high levels of competitive and recreational demand. These are in need of resurfacing in the immediacy to not be suitable to accommodate existing levels of demand but also future growth.
- ◀ **Potential for growth** – both the VPCCL and LMS leagues believe there is potential to grow to include more teams, however this requires more venues. The VPCCL reports investigating potential additional venues whilst LMS reports that league size is limited by being able to play just one match per evening. Consideration should be given feasibility of other sites where additional NTP provision could be installed to accommodate future growth in both short format and recreational play.

It is important to acknowledge the popularity of midweek leagues in the Borough and the large amount of unaffiliated and social play which takes place that is unquantifiable. It is subsequently difficult to ascertain the exact amount of cricket taking place and what proportion of it is played on pitches in Tower Hamlets. Though this audit determines the picture for registered and affiliated cricket in the Borough, it should be stressed that given a national increase in interest in short formats of the game, increases in demand in Tower Hamlets are most likely to be reflected as midweek short format play given the preference within the Borough.

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Cricket summary

- ◀ **Overall across the Borough there is insufficient supply of pitches at present, to cater for demand from clubs and leagues within Tower Hamlets. With future and displaced demand factored in insufficient supply is exacerbated.**
- ◀ In total, there are three NTPs and no natural green squares in Tower Hamlets. All NTPs are available for community use and are heavily used.
- ◀ Three NTPs are located in the Lower Lea Valley Analysis Area with one located in the Isle of Dogs Analysis Area.
- ◀ The three NTPs in Victoria Park are poor quality whilst the NTP in Millwall Park is standard quality.
- ◀ There are currently two LMS leagues Tower Hamlets and matches are played at Millwall Park.
- ◀ Tower Hamlets CC rent Victoria Park on a seasonal basis.
- ◀ It is felt by both Tower Hamlets CC and VPCCL that the current unavailability of changing facilities at Victoria Park is not an issue, but rather a lack of toilet facilities and storage are the main concerns with scoreboards and wickets being kept in local pubs.
- ◀ There is one affiliated cricket teams playing competitive matches in Tower Hamlets made up of three senior men's cricket teams and five junior boys' teams. The three senior men's teams are displaced in order to play traditional format cricket.
- ◀ Future demand projections from TGRs predicts an increase of four senior men's teams by 2021 and one additional junior boy's team by 2026.
- ◀ MCB is actively trying to engage with South Asian Communities in London in order to increase opportunities for participation and development for participants from these communities. These groups generally prefer easily accessible and less formal variations of play and there is a need to explore ways in which to maximise opportunity and participation.
- ◀ There are a number of midweek leagues playing short format cricket. Some of these leagues and teams are not affiliated and subsequently demand has not been recorded in the analysis unless where known.
- ◀ There is no spare capacity available in the Borough.
- ◀ All NTPs are overplayed with the three NTPs at Victoria Park having an accumulative overplay of 108 matches.

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PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into six areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. Tower Hamlets falls within Area Three, with a Rugby Development Officer (RDO) and a team of community rugby coaches that deliver core programmes in schools and clubs.

Their variety of programmes, which include 15 aside, 10 aside, 7 aside, Tag and the O2 Touch programme, all aim to increase and retain participation within the game. In order to sustain and increase participation in the game facilities need to be appropriate, affordable and accessible.

Club consultation

Face to face consultation was undertaken with the only rugby union club playing in Tower Hamlets equating to a 100% response rate. The results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

5.2: Supply

There is only one rugby union pitch in Tower Hamlets, located at Millwall Park (Isle of Dogs Analysis Area), which is of senior size and is used by Millwall RFC for all match play (it is also subject to some curricular and extra-curricular use from George Green's School). The site is owned and managed by the Council.

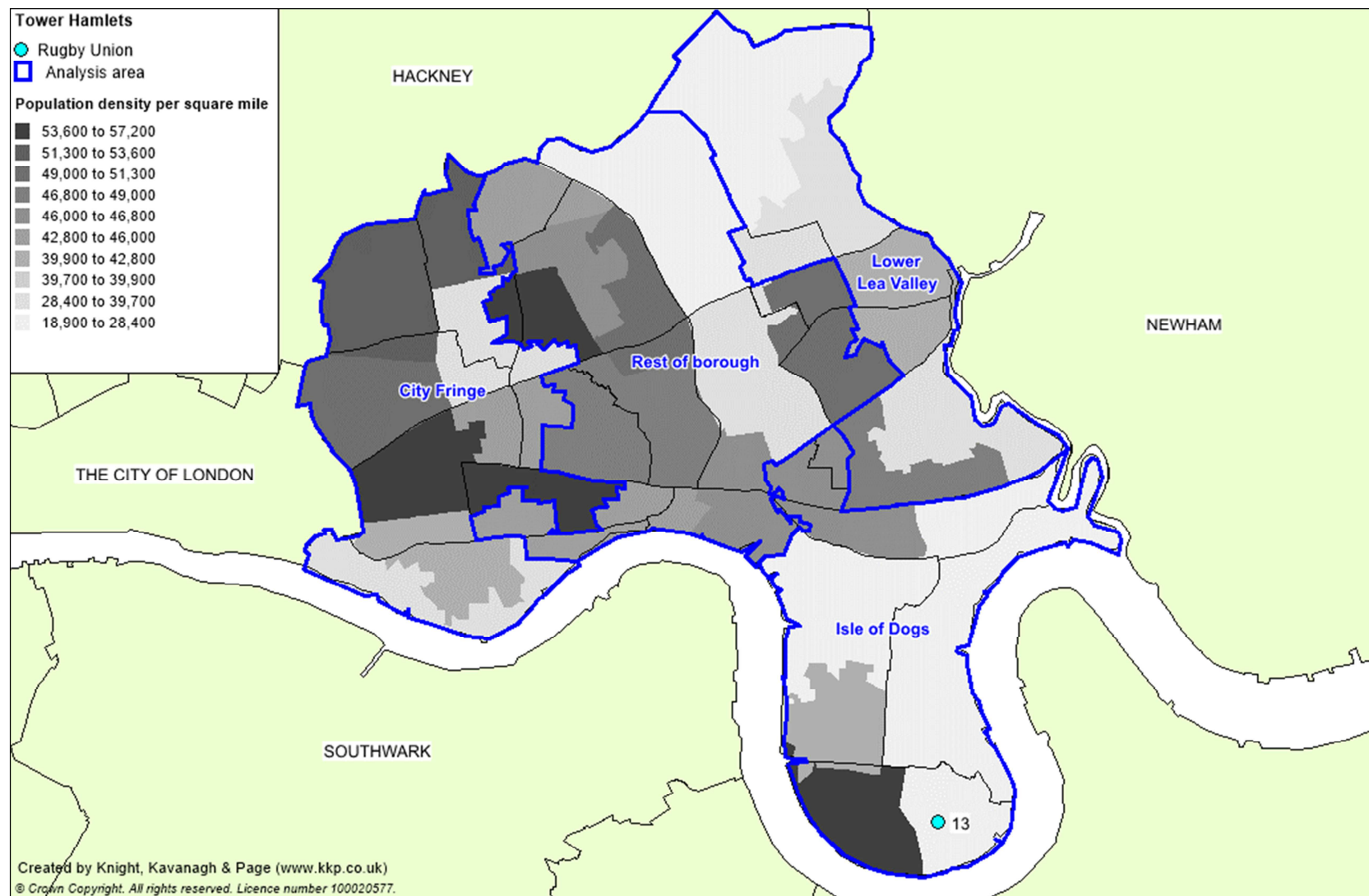
NB: The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to the RFU guidelines; 'Grass Pitches for Rugby' at www.rfu.com

Disused pitches

There was previously a senior rugby union pitch at Victoria Park, in the Lower Lea Valley Analysis Area. The pitch was available for community use and did accommodate some demand from Millwall RFC. However, following the London 2012 Olympics and the growth in size of major events and festivals held in the park, the pitch is no longer marked. This resulted in Millwall RFC having to base all match play at Millwall Park or, on occasion, having to export demand to Hackney Marshes (Hackney).

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Figure 5.1: Location of grass rugby union pitches in Tower Hamlets



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Ownership/management

Millwall RFC has a seasonal rental agreement with the Council, with the caveat that match slots can be cancelled within a weeks' notice. This rental agreement does not provide the Club with security of tenure and restricts the Club' eligibility to apply for many external sources of funding.

Pitch quality

The criteria 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 5.1: Definition of maintenance categories

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

Table 5.2: Definition of drainage categories

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

Table 5.3: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

Table 5.4 overleaf shows quality ratings for each of the sites in Tower Hamlets based on non-technical site assessment scores and club feedback.

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Table 5.4: Rugby union pitch quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership/ management	Community use	Pitch type	Non-technical assessment rating	Associated quality rating
13	Millwall Park	Isle of Dogs	Local Authority	Yes	Senior	M1/D0	Poor

The pitch quality is rated as poor with minimal maintenance and inadequate drainage contributing to the limited capacity of the pitch. It is also reported by users of the site that there is a significant issue with flint rising through the surface, creating a danger to users. It is believed that the issues with flint and drainage stem from the installation of the pitch which was established following extension of the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) line which runs along Millwall Park. The site is also subject to major events throughout the year which render maintenance impossible, thus making pitch improvements an ongoing problem.

Ancillary facilities

Millwall RFC has access to ancillary facilities located around Millwall Park. The Club has a ten year lease on an arch underneath the DLR line, in agreement with the Council. This part of the Club's ancillary provision contains a bar and social area, toilets and officials changing room. It should be noted that this provision does not have direct gas or electric provision, with gas bought by the bottle and electricity linked to the neighbouring business to which the Club pays an annual contribution dependent on usage.

Team changing rooms are located in the North East corner of Millwall Park, in a separate purpose built building for changing rooms servicing sports pitches on the park. These ancillary facilities have been rated as adequate by the Club.

The arch next to the Club's current ancillary provision is vacant; which could be used to provide club dedicated changing facilities, provided that funding, security of tenure and utilities were sourced and secured first.

5.3: Demand

Competitive play

Millwall RFC is the only rugby union club in the Borough and has a total of eight teams. All three senior men's teams compete in county leagues, with matches taking place on Saturday afternoons. The senior women's team competes in a regional league with fixtures taking place on Sunday afternoons.

The Club also has four mini teams which play friendly fixtures against other local clubs, providing young players and opportunity to both play rugby union matches, whilst learning and developing skills alongside.

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Training

Training generally takes place off the match pitch as Millwall RFC purchased portable floodlighting at the start of the 2016/17 season and recognises the potential damage that training can contribute to pitch quality. Training takes place three nights a week with senior men's training on Tuesdays and Thursday; senior women training on Tuesday evenings and mini teams training on Wednesday evenings.

Table 5.5: Summary of team demand

Team play	Number of rugby union teams				
	Senior		Juniors		Mini
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Millwall RFC	3	1	-	-	4
Total	4		-		4

Use of artificial pitches

Nationally clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for rugby training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost. Only World Rugby compliant 3G pitches can be used for contact training or match play. Non-accredited pitches can only cater for non-contact training sessions. Further detail on use of 3G pitches can be found in Part 3: Third Generation Artificial Pitches.

In December 2015 the RFU announced plans to increase the supply of available World Rugby (WR) certified pitches across the country as part of its Investment Strategy, including investment into 100 3G pitches over a four year period. This is to be made up of 60 pitches on rugby club sites which will be used by the resident club and other local clubs for both match play and training, with a further 40 pitches on other community based sites with usage agreements securing capacity for use by local rugby clubs and groups.

The RFU believes increased investment into 3G pitches will allow it to sustain and grow participation in the game given increasing pressure on grass pitches, changing player expectations, competition from other sports investing in artificial pitches and changing weather conditions.

There are no WR compliant 3G pitches²⁵ in Tower Hamlets, either full or half sized, with no plans to create one in the foreseeable future.

²⁵<http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/artificial-surfaces/artificial-grass-pitches>

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Future demand

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.

Table 5.6: Team generation rates (Borough-wide)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
2021						
Senior Men's (19-45)	87,104	3	29035	103,839	3.6	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	78,824	1	78824	95,775	1.2	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	8,866	0	0	9,995	0	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	8,422	0	0	9,757	0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	20,240	4	5060	23,536	4.7	0
2026						
Senior Men's (19-45)	87,104	3	29035	99,124	3.4	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	78,824	1	78824	91,829	1.2	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	8,866	0	0	12,155	0	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	8,422	0	0	11,352	0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	20,240	4	5060	25,360	5	1
2031						
Senior Men's (19-45)	87,104	3	29035	97,169	3.3	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	78,824	1	78824	86,660	1.1	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	8,866	0	0	11,471	0	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	8,422	0	0	11,011	0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	20,240	4	5060	25,833	5.1	1

Table 5.7: Team generation rates (by Analysis Area)

Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by Analysis Area)				
	City Fringe	Isle of Dogs	Lower Lea Valley	Rest of Borough	Total ²⁶
2021					
Senior Men's (19-45)	0	0	0	0	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	0	0	0	0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	0	0	0	0	0

²⁶ When applied Borough wide, team generation rates forecast the total new participants sufficient to create an additional six teams. However, participation increases are not sufficient to equate to the creation of whole teams in some Areas, for example in practice only four whole teams can be created from increases equivalent to 4.5 teams. Therefore, when team generation rates are applied on an Analysis Area level, in practice it is likely that three new teams can be created with residual demand from participants additional to this likely to form part of existing squads.

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Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by Analysis Area)				
	City Fringe	Isle of Dogs	Lower Lea Valley	Rest of Borough	Total ²⁷
2021					
Senior Men's (19-45)	0	0	0	0	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	0	0	0	0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	0	0	0	0	0
2031					
Senior Men's (19-45)	0	0	0	0	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	0	0	0	0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	0	1	0	0	1

Team generation rates (TGRs) based on future population growth indicate that participation is anticipated to increase at senior and mini age groups. When broken down by analysis area it is likely to create at least the number of teams per age category shown in Table 5.7. This equates to one mini rugby union team (0.25 senior match equivalent sessions²⁸) of additional need for pitch capacity.

It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as CRC coaching activity within schools linking to local clubs.

The RFU is focused on developing junior participation within Tower Hamlets, based on a model of coaching sessions delivered in schools and local communities. As such, the Club is working to ensure the creation of a new mini team each season allowing the mini and junior sections to have teams at each age group. The Club recognises that for this progression of the Club's mini and junior sections is to come to fruition then at least one additional senior pitch will be required to accommodate all demand. Ideally this would be at Millwall Park due to the Club's longstanding presence on the site.

Further to this, the Club recognises that it has a high turnover of senior players, due in part to the transient nature of the population; therefore, the Club does not expect to create any additional senior teams.

Unmet and displaced demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates

²⁷ When applied Borough wide, team generation rates forecast the total new participants sufficient to create an additional six teams. However, participation increases are not sufficient to equate to the creation of whole teams in some Areas, for example in practice only four whole teams can be created from increases equivalent to 4.5 teams. Therefore, when team generation rates are applied on an Analysis Area level, in practice it is likely that three new teams can be created with residual demand from participants additional to this likely to form part of existing squads.

²⁸ Based on mini rugby play equating to 0.25 match sessions per week per team, i.e. using half of a senior pitch.

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a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering its growth. Millwall RFC does not report any unmet demand, at either senior, junior or mini levels.

Displaced demand refers to Tower Hamlets based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. In the same manner, it also refers to demand displaced from other local authorities into Tower Hamlets based on the same reasoning.

Millwall RFC reports that there are occasions when it's third senior men's team must travel outside of the Borough to play at Hackney Marshes (Hackney), however, this is often avoided by the league and opposition granting special dispensation for the match to start earlier than the scheduled time, resulting in two senior matches often being played on the sole rugby union pitch in the Borough, during the peak period.

Queen Mary University displaces its student teams out of the Borough to Bromley due to a combination of a lack of facilities within Tower Hamlets and owning sports pitches outside of the Borough. The University would prefer to have pitches within Tower Hamlets, closer to the university campuses, as this would be more convenient for the students encouraging increased participation.

The University also displaces its recreational touch rugby demand outside of the Borough to West Ham due to a lack of available pitches within Tower Hamlets. It is reported that not only is the lack of a pitch an issue but also a lack of floodlighting rendering the recreational touch rugby offered by the University unable to be accommodated within the Borough.

There is no reported imported demand outside of Tower Hamlets.

Casual/unofficial use

Some sites which are leased or rented to clubs or are expansive, publicly accessible sites and are subsequently subject to casual use by residents on a daily basis. The rugby union pitch at Millwall Park is owned by the Council and the site is accessible to the public, with some reported unofficial use.

It is reported that an American football team occasionally uses the pitch for training on a Saturday morning, though it is not known which club. This use is often without the pitch having been booked through the Council, causing damage to the pitch prior to match play by Millwall RFC's senior men's teams.

This unofficial use, along with dog walking, residents playing football and general misuse of the of the surface contribute to the pitch requiring a significant amount of maintenance work for it to improve.

The site is also subject to use for events and festivals throughout the year. These contribute significantly to the pitch damage whilst concurrently making maintenance difficult.

Education

Rugby union is traditionally a popular sport within independent schools, however, it is also growing participation in local authority secondary schools, as is the case at George Green's School. The School offers rugby union as part of its curricular and extra-curricular

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activity, utilising the rugby union pitch at the adjacent Millwall Park. The School reports that it uses the site for five match equivalent sessions per week; this includes both curriculum use for physical activity lessons and extra-curricular rugby team practice and matches.

The RFU is also actively developing rugby union in local state schools through the All Schools programme launched in September 2012 which aims to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union. These schools link to a local team of RFU Rugby Development Officers (RDOs) which delivers coaching sessions and supports schools to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme.

4.4: 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 affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. 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. 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. All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
- ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 15v15 and use a full pitch. Where mini pitches are not provided, mini (U7-12) teams play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior 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, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played across half of one senior pitch, based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.
- ◀ All male adult club league rugby takes place on a Saturday afternoon. U13-18 rugby generally takes place on a Sunday morning. 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 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate. Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and the club survey as follows:

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

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

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This guide should only be used as a very general measure of potential pitch capacity and does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

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 completed in the last five years.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time for senior rugby union matches in Tower Hamlets is Saturday afternoons although junior and mini teams play on senior pitches on Sunday mornings. Therefore, the peak time for requirement of senior pitches is actually Sundays, as the majority of demand comes from junior and mini teams, but for senior rugby it is Saturday afternoons.

Senior peak time

Millwall RFC has three senior men's teams playing on Saturday afternoons, demand equivalent to 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week at this time. As such, on the basis that one match can be played at peak time, the Club has a requirement for two pitches on Saturday afternoons which is presently unable to be met.

The Club has one women's team which plays on Sunday afternoons. The pitch at Millwall Park is available at this time, however as shown in Table 5.9 is significantly overplayed.

Junior peak time

Millwall RFC has four junior age groups at U7, U8, U10 and U12. The Club currently utilise both the match pitch and areas surrounding to accommodate sessions on Sunday mornings for mini teams. The Club is aware that should it continue to grow there will be demand for an additional pitch to accommodate junior play, however, at present this is not a reported issue.

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Table 5.9: Rugby union provision and level of current use within Tower Hamlets

Site ID	Site name	Available for community use	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Floodlighting	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
13	Millwall Park	Yes	Unsecure ²⁹	Senior	Poor	1	No	9 ³⁰	1.5	7.5	Pitch is overplayed by 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week and accommodates all match play from Millwall RFC, in addition to curricular and extra-curricular demand from George Green's School.

All mini and junior play takes place on adult pitches and this has been added where applicable to calculate the actual play on sites. Team equivalents for training sessions taking place on match pitches have also been added if applicable. George Green School uses the rugby union pitch at Millwall Park for curricular and extra-curricular demand, this amounts to five match equivalent sessions per week and has been added accordingly. The pitch is also subject to use for touch rugby during the rugby union off-season, thus the level of demand in the table is consistent year round, not allowing time for essential remedial work to take place to aid pitch improvement. The majority of pitch use is by George Green's School with remaining use by Millwall RFC for match play.

- ◀ Club match play – 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Club training demand – no pitch use.
- ◀ Curricular & extra-curricular demand – five match equivalent sessions.

²⁹ Unsecure by technical definition, though the Council operates a priority booking system that gives long-term users such as Millwall RFC a degree of security

³⁰ Inclusive of school use by George Green's School

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Irregular, ad-hoc, use of the site is a common occurrence with it reported that some American football teams use the pitch for training purposes on a Saturday morning. However, the irregular nature of this use means that this could not be accurately quantified and therefore has not been included in the above figures.

5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Actual 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.

There is currently no actual spare capacity available on Saturday afternoons within Tower Hamlets.

Overplay

The pitch in Millwall Park is overplayed by 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week, excluding unquantifiable casual and use not booked through the correct procedure. It is considered to be significantly overplayed without being subject to club training demand; however, it does receive regular curricular demand.

5.6: Conclusions

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for senior rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on team generation rates (TGRs) which are driven by population increases as well as club development plans.

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Table 5.10: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ³¹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
2021					
City Fringe	-	-	-	-	-
Isle of Dogs	-	7.5	7.5	0.25	7.75
Lower Lea Valley	-	-	-	-	-
Rest of Borough	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	7.5	7.5	0.25	7.75
2026					
City Fringe	-	-	-	-	-
Isle of Dogs	-	7.5	7.5	0.5	8
Lower Lea Valley	-	-	-	-	-
Rest of Borough	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	7.5	7.5	0.5	8
2031					
City Fringe	-	-	-	-	-
Isle of Dogs	-	7.5	7.5	0.5	8
Lower Lea Valley	-	-	-	-	-
Rest of Borough	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	7.5	7.5	0.5	8

Overall there is a requirement for an additional 7.5 match equivalent sessions on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand. This is further exacerbated when considering future demand from Millwall RFC and from population based forecasts, creating a requirement for 7.75 match equivalent sessions in 2021 and eight match equivalent sessions in 2026 and 2031; to meet both current and future demand.

The Isle of Dogs Analysis Area is the area where the pitch is located and as such is the source of all current overplay. The lack of pitch capacity within the Borough significantly impacts on the level of overplay as all rugby union play takes place on one poor quality pitch.

One solution to reduce the level of overplay may be to improve the quality of the pitch. This would then increase pitch capacity, however, significant improvements in the maintenance and installation of pipe and slit drainage would not eliminate the current levels of overplay and additional capacity in the form of more grass or World Rugby compliant 3G pitches is required.

³¹ In match equivalent sessions per week

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Rugby union summary

- ◀ **Existing supply is insufficient to cater for the level of demand expressed in Tower Hamlets at present, totalling a need for a further 7.5 match equivalent sessions on senior pitches.**
- ◀ **This is further exacerbated to create a future requirement for an additional 7.75 match sessions (2021) and eight match equivalent sessions (2026 and 2031).**
- ◀ There is only one rugby union pitch in Tower Hamlets at Millwall Park. The pitch is of senior size and is available for community use. It is owned and managed by the Council.
- ◀ The pitch is located in the Isle of Dogs analysis area, with no other analysis areas having a rugby union pitch.
- ◀ The pitch is of poor quality, draining poorly and is subject to flint coming through the surface soil.
- ◀ Tenure for Millwall RFC is considered to be unsecure as the Club rents the pitch on a seasonal basis. However, the Club leases ancillary provision (not including changing) with ten years term remaining.
- ◀ Club training does not take place on the match pitch with the Club having purchased portable floodlighting, enabling training to be located away from the match pitch.
- ◀ There is one rugby union club in Tower Hamlets, providing a total of eight teams. There are three senior teams, one senior women's team and four mini squads.
- ◀ Team generation rates forecast the likely creation of at least one additional mini team by 2026 and 2031, but no additional teams by 2021. However, Millwall RFC plans to add one mini squad for the 2017/18 season.
- ◀ Millwall RFC recognises that it has a high turnover of players and therefore is focusing on establishing new mini teams each season to fill the mini and junior sections of the Club.

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PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

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

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

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

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

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For senior teams, a full-sized 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 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 that the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek and requires access to a pitch and floodlights.

Consultation

There are four hockey clubs based or playing within Tower Hamlets. Consultation was carried out with all four clubs, equating to a club response rate of 100%. The four clubs are:

- ◀ East London HC
- ◀ London Royals HC
- ◀ Tower Hamlets HC
- ◀ Wapping HC

6.2: Supply

In total there are three full sized hockey suitable AGPs in Tower Hamlets. Two are sand dressed surfaces whilst one is sand filled; all are floodlit and available for community use in some way.

Table 6.2: Hockey suitable AGPs by location

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use	No. of Pitches	Floodlit	Surface type
6	John Orwell Sports Centre	City Fringe	Yes	1	Yes	Sand dressed
12	Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium	Rest of Borough	Yes	1	Yes	Sand filled
18	St Paul's Way Trust School	Rest of Borough	Yes	1	Yes	Sand dressed

Two thirds of hockey suitable AGPs are located in the Rest of Borough analysis area,) whilst the remaining third is located in the City Fringe Analysis Area. There are no full sized hockey suitable AGPs in either the Isle of Dogs or Lower Lea Valley areas.

In addition to the full sized pitches there are a number of small sized sand based AGPs within Tower Hamlets, mainly located at school sites. Five of these smaller sized pitches are available for community use and are floodlit.

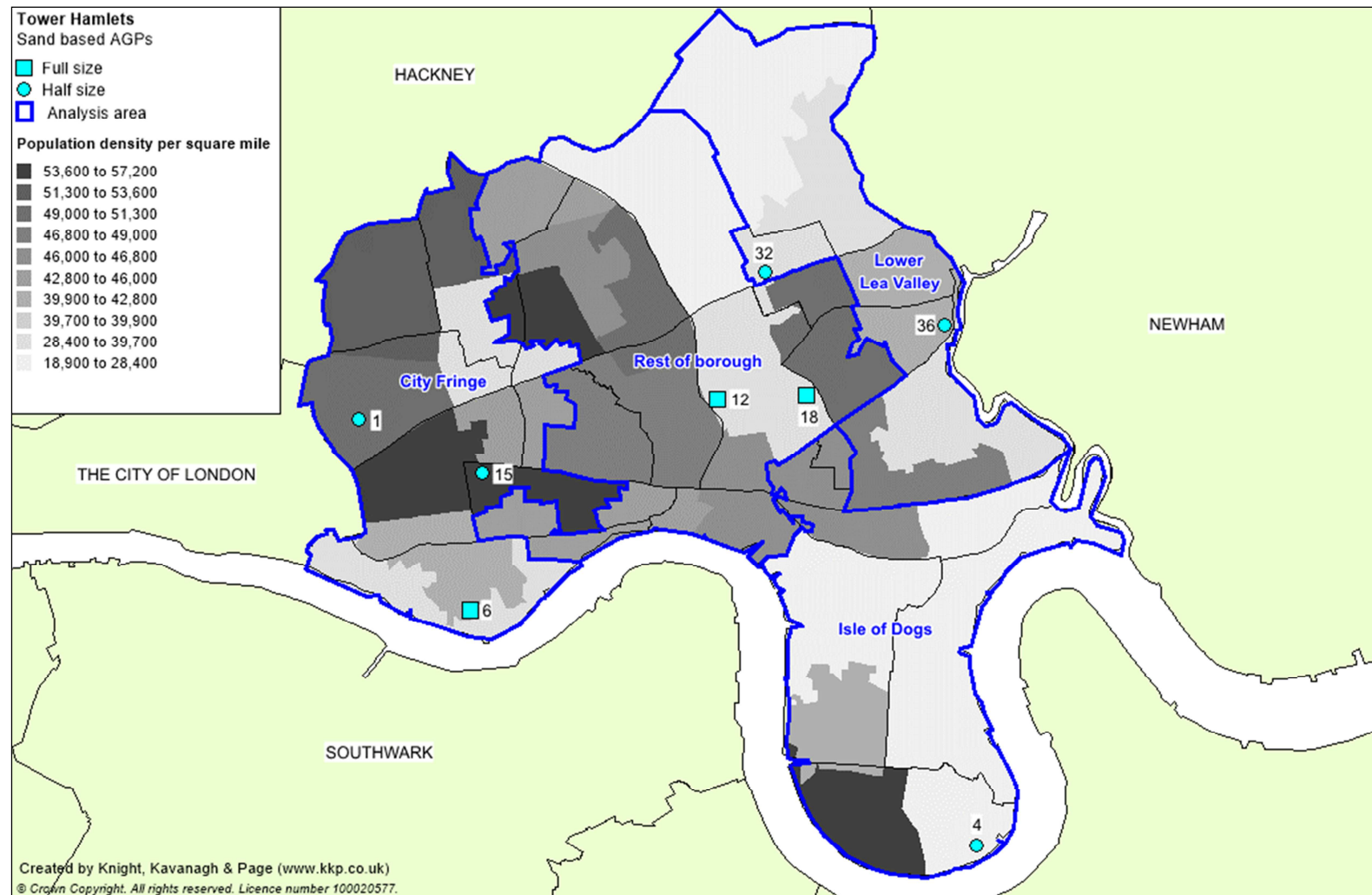
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Table 6.3 Small sized sand based AGPs by location

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use	No. of Pitches	Floodlit	Surface type	Dimensions (metres)
1	Attlee Youth And Community Centre	City Fringe	Yes	1	Yes	Sand dressed	30 x 20
4	George Green's School & Sports Centre	Isle of Dogs	Yes	1	Yes	Sand dressed	45 x 20
15	Mulberry Sports & Leisure Centre	City Fringe	Yes	3	Yes	Sand dressed	36 x 18
32	Central Foundation Girls' School	Rest of Borough	No	1	No	Sand dressed	18 x 10
36	Bow School	Lower Lea Valley	No	3	No	Sand dressed	30 x 12

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Figure 6.1: Location of full sized hockey suitable AGPs in Tower Hamlets



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Quality

Two of the three AGPs (67%) are rated as standard quality, with one poor quality pitch at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium, which is due to be refurbished in summer 2017.

Table 6.4: Summary of hockey AGP quality in Tower Hamlets

Site ID	Site	Number of AGPs	Surface	Quality	Year built (refurbished)
6	John Orwell Sports Centre	1	Sand dressed	Standard	1980 (2016)
12	Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium	1	Sand filled	Poor	1990 (2002)
18	St Paul's Way Trust School	1	Sand dressed	Standard	2011

It is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately 10 years (depending on levels of use), though its lifespan can be prolonged in some cases where maintenance is of particularly high quality and rigor. As shown in Table 6.3, the AGP at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium is in excess of the recommended ten year lifespan and is scheduled to be resurfaced over the summer and will be completed prior to the commencement of the 2017/18 season. It should also be noted that despite the AGP at John Orwell Sports Centre being resurfaced in 2016 the pitch is rated standard quality due to the quality of the work carried out on the surface. The shock pad requires replacing, however, it was patched in places rather than fully replaced, leaving an uneven surface which is less than ideal for higher level hockey.

Conversion to 3G surfaces

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way to replace a worn sand or water based carpet and generate increased revenue from hiring out a 3G pitch to football and rugby clubs and commercial football providers. This has often come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams consequently displaced from their preferred local authority.

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 the applicants will need to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and EH 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.

A 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Providers proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

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Ownership/management

Two of the three AGPs in Tower Hamlets are owned by the Borough Council, namely those at John Orwell Sports Centre and Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium. These pitches are managed on behalf of the Council by a charitable leisure social enterprise which is also responsible for maintenance of the pitches. The AGP at St Paul's Way Trust School is owned and managed by the School, which takes on all responsibility for maintenance and managing bookings.

Wapping HC has a user agreement in place at John Orwell Sports Centre agreed with the Council and leisure provider. Tower Hamlets HC and London Royals HC also use the pitch at this site but access is agreed on a match by match basis which means that unlike Wapping HC, the presence of both of these clubs at this site is considered unsecure.

Similarly, East London HC have unsecure tenure at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium, with the Club having a seasonal agreement to use the venue for match play and training demand.

It should be noted that the Council and leisure providers operate a priority booking process for existing pitch users which does provide some security of match and training times for all current teams using pitches within the Borough.

Ancillary provision

Access to ancillary facilities can vary depending on the site, with school sites often having restricted access for security reasons. This is generally not the case for clubs using facilities in London Borough of Tower Hamlets with no clubs using the one pitch available at St Pauls Way Trust School.

East London HC reports that the changing facilities at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium are unsuitable for the Club's higher level teams due to their proximity from the match pitch. Though the AGP is also marked for football use, the unsuitability of changing facilities serving it is solely a hockey issue and due to the requirements of the hockey league in which the top East London HC teams play. The location of the changing rooms from the AGP is not an issue for football use which should only extend to training and does not carry the same stipulated requirement, nor does it affect use of the grass football pitch within the track either which lies adjacent to the changing facilities approximately 30 metres away, as opposed to the AGP which is about 150 metres away for hockey teams. Also, issues can arise when the grass football pitch onsite is being used for competitive matches, with priority given to the football teams. This often means that visiting teams have to arrive and leave already changed in match kit. The Club also reports that it utilises a local pub for post-match activities, which it feels is not an issue at present but it is aware that once the junior teams become more consistent then this may need to change. Its aspiration is to own its facility; however, it recognises that due to the nature of the site and the Borough in general, that this remains an unrealistic prospect.

Wapping HC did not report any issues regarding ancillary facilities at John Orwell Sports Centre, with changing facilities being available for teams both before and after matches. The Club does not have concerns regarding access to said facilities and did not report any other concerns. However, similar to East London HC, Wapping HC do have issues relating to a social space for

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post-match activities or general club events with a lack of a current space impeding the club's development.

Tower Hamlets did not report issues regarding ancillary facilities, but London Royals HC do not have a dedicated social space to accommodate club activities; however, this is not as large an issue as those for Wapping and East London hockey clubs due to London Royals HC not having any junior teams.

6.3: Demand

Tower Hamlets has four hockey clubs providing 38 hockey teams using AGPs within the Borough.

Table 6.5: Summary of teams representing Tower Hamlets based clubs

Name of club	Senior Men's	Senior Women's	Senior Mixed	Junior Boys'	Junior Girls'
East London HC	9	9	2	2	2
London Royals HC	1	1	1	-	-
Tower Hamlets HC	1	-		-	-
Wapping HC	11	9	2	1	-
Total	22	19	5	3	2

Table 6.6: Summary of teams playing in London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Name of club	Senior Men's	Senior Women's	Senior Mixed	Junior Boys'	Junior Girls'
East London HC	6	7	-	2	2
London Royals HC	-	-	1	-	-
Tower Hamlets HC	1	-		-	-
Wapping HC	8	8	2	1	-
Total	15	15	3	3	2

Senior men's teams compete in the East Men's Hockey League and the senior women's teams compete in the East Hockey Women's League or Essex Women's League. Mixed senior teams compete in the Essex Mixed League with matches taking place on Sundays. In total 33 senior teams play competitive fixtures in Tower Hamlets and compete in respective regional divisions. Both Wapping HC and East London HC have teams competing in national level leagues, with both clubs noting that the quality of surfaces available within Tower Hamlets influences displacement of the higher level teams.

Junior teams in the Borough, at present, do not take part in regular fixtures, rather utilising timeslots to train or travel out of the Borough for tournaments. It is hoped that over time the quality of junior teams will continue to improve which will then allow for consistent matches to take place.

Displaced demand

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Displaced demand refers to Tower Hamlets based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. In the same manner, it also refers to demand displaced from other local authorities into Tower Hamlets based on the same reasoning.

East London HC is a Tower Hamlets based club which has some of its teams playing in Waltham Forest at the Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre. Three senior men's teams, three senior women's teams and two mixed teams all play matches at the venue due to the better quality facility and a lack of pitch availability within Tower Hamlets. It should be noted that the Club would only consider moving its teams back to the Borough if a facility of equal or better quality was available. Some training demand for the displaced senior men's and women's teams also takes place at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre with secure timeslots agreed between the Club and the provider.

Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre was established as part of the London 2012 Olympic legacy, with Tower Hamlets based clubs securing use of the facility for match play and training demand. As previously mentioned, East London HC bases eight senior teams at the site for match play demand. Wapping HC, as well as using the John Orwell Sports Centre, in Tower Hamlets, also bases seven teams at the site for match play, namely five senior men's teams and two senior women's teams. The Club also utilises the site for some training demand, with pitch bookings on three consecutive nights during the week; plus a second full pitch booked on a Wednesday evening.

Both Wapping HC and East London HC rely on access to Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre to accommodate some demand due to a lack of pitch availability within the Borough; with Wapping HC not wishing to base all teams within Tower Hamlets due to the better quality facility available at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre. It should be acknowledged that there is likely an element of prestige influencing club decisions to access this facility given it is a world class venue for hockey and that the appeal of good quality facilities is coupled with the appeal of playing at a venue nationally renowned for hockey.

London Royals HC has three senior teams displaced outside of Tower Hamlets, two men's and one women's, which play at City of London Academy in Southwark. The Club reports that these teams are displaced due to a lack of pitch availability within the Borough and it would prefer to play at a site within Tower Hamlets should appropriate match slots become available. It is also concerned that its current pitch at City of London Academy may be resurfaced as a 3G pitch, which would result in the Club having to again look elsewhere for a suitable pitch. All training demand also takes place outside of Tower Hamlets and therefore this would need to be accommodated should the current pitch be resurfaced. A seasonal rent between the Club and the School means that tenure is considered unsecure and this needs to be considered in case future agreements cannot be sought.

Though much demand is exported from the Borough to those neighbouring, there is no hockey demand reported as being imported to access facilities in Tower Hamlets.

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Availability and usage

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 35 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this calculation, all three of the hockey suitable AGPs in London Borough of Tower Hamlets are readily available to the community, with two pitches available for the full 35 hours during the peak period. It should be noted that although Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium is available for eight hours of the peak period on Sundays, East London HC does not access the pitch after 1pm due to ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour.

The table below shows all available sites with full sized hockey suitable AGP provision and a summary of use at each. Both East London HC and Wapping HC are based at venues within the Borough and have displaced teams playing at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre; whilst Wapping HC accommodates a large amount of training demand outside of the Borough as well as at John Orwell Sports Centre. In both instances the displacement is as a result of the number of teams at the respective clubs and the quality of facilities available.

Table 6.7: Usage of full sized sand based AGPs (available for community use)

Site ID	Site	Number of AGPs	Floodlit	Analysis area	Community use hours in the peak period (per AGP)	Clubs/groups using the pitch (teams)	Training capacity	Match capacity	Comments
6	John Orwell Sports Centre	1	Yes	City Fringe	Weekdays: 19 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 35 hours	London Royals HC (1) Tower Hamlets HC (1) Wapping HC (19)	The site accommodates all training demand from Tower Hamlets HC and some demand from Wapping HC. Wapping HC requires additional training slots due to the number of players.	No spare match capacity available on a Saturday for matches, accommodating teams from Wapping and Tower Hamlets hockey clubs. At least three matches per week are played on a Sunday by the Club.	Tower Hamlets HC has been authorised by the league and the provider to play competitive matches outside of the usual peak period of 5pm.
12	Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium	1	Yes	Rest of Borough	Weekdays: 19 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 35 hours	East London HC (17)	This site accommodates all training demand from East London HC both during the week for senior teams and juniors on Saturday mornings. The Club requires additional training slots but has been advised that the pitch is at capacity.	Used by East London HC for at least 10 hours during peak period, although the Club reports that it is often used more.	The home venue of East London HC which uses the site for the majority of match play and all training demand. The Club's remaining match play takes place at Lea Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre. The Club reports that it does not access this site after 1pm on Sundays due to ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour.
18	St Paul's Way Trust School	1	Yes	Rest of Borough	Weekdays: 15.5 hours Weekends: Unavailable Total: 15.5 hours	No club hockey users	Able to accommodate some training demand from 5.30-9pm Monday to Friday. The site is currently unused by hockey clubs. The is currently an agreement in place with Queen Mary's University which has priority use of the pitch; this limits the availability of community use.	Unavailable for match play as the pitch is unavailable for community use at the weekend, reportedly due to staffing and access issues, particularly site security. Access to the pitch is possible through an external entry gate on Shelmerdine Close however changing facilities are located within the main school building.	The School is keen for the pitch to remain as a hockey suitable surface and has held discussions with EH regarding community use of the site.

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EH Player Pathway

The Player Pathway (PP) is the junior talent development pathway. It encompasses the whole of the hockey landscape which includes club and school activity as well as the PP Development Centres (DCs). The purpose of the PP is to provide development opportunities for young people, which is fair, equitable and consistent. It is to ensure that a suitable level of coaching and competition is offered for people at the appropriate stage of their development and to maximise the chance they have of fulfilling their potential whether that potential is as a club or International player, coach or official. The PP can be accessed by playing at school, a local club or attending one of the local centres. There is one entry point into the PP centres which is at DC level. The first time a player accesses the player pathway they must enter at DC level.

Development Centres (DCs) and Academy Centres (ACs)

DCs and ACs are local training centres for the U13 to U17 age groups. DCs are open to any hockey player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach, with ACs open to any player who has been nominated by a DC coach. After attending a DC, an AC is the next step on the player pathway. Included in the DCs/ACs are Goalkeeper (GK) Academies, which provide specific coaching sessions for goalkeepers.

Performance Centre (PC)

A PC is a training centre for the U15 and U17 age groups. There are 14 PCs in England providing further progression as part of the Player Pathway.

Future demand

Growing participation is the number one aim within EH's strategic plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Growth in participation will not only come from the traditional 11 aside game but from the informal, recreational ways to play hockey such as small sided hockey, which can be played at any time during the week or at weekends.

Team Generation Rates (TGRs)

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

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Table 6.8: Team generation rates (Borough wide)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2026)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
2021						
Senior Men's (16-55)	105,876	18 ³²	5882	127,093	21.6	3
Senior Women's (16-55)	94,365	15	6291	114,970	18.3	3
Junior Boys (11-15)	7,675	3	2558	8,909	3.5	0
Junior Girls (11-15)	7,303	2	3651	8,428	2.3	0
2026						
Senior Men's (16-55)	105,876	18 ¹	5882	124,510	21.2	3
Senior Women's (16-55)	94,365	15	6291	114,181	18.2	3
Junior Boys (11-15)	7,675	3	2558	10,446	4.1	1.
Junior Girls (11-15)	7,303	2	3651	9,727	2.7	0
2031						
Senior Men's (16-55)	105,876	18 ¹	5882	130,317	22.2	4
Senior Women's (16-55)	94,365	15	6291	115,856	18.4	3
Junior Boys (11-15)	7,675	3	2558	9,838	3.8	0
Junior Girls (11-15)	7,303	2	3651	9,390	2.6	0

Table 6.9 Team generation rates (by Analysis Area)

Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by Analysis Area)				
	City Fringe	Isle of Dogs	Lower Lea Valley	Rest of Borough	Total ³³
2021					
Senior Men's (16-55)	2	0	0	1	3
Senior Women's (16-55)	1	0	0	1	2
Junior Boys (11-15)	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Girls (11-15)	0	0	0	0	0
2026					
Senior Men's (16-55)	2	0	0	1	3
Senior Women's (16-55)	1	0	0	1	2
Junior Boys (11-15)	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Girls (11-15)	0	0	0	0	0
2031					
Senior Men's (16-55)	2	0	0	1	3
Senior Women's (16-55)	1	0	0	1	2
Junior Boys (11-15)	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Girls (11-15)	0	0	0	0	0

³² Incorporates mixed teams for the purposes of team generation rates

³³ When applied Borough wide, team generation rates forecast the total new participants sufficient to create an additional six teams. However, participation increases are not sufficient to equate to the creation of whole teams in some Areas, for example in practice only four whole teams can be created from increases equivalent to 4.5 teams. Therefore, when team generation rates are applied on an analysis area level, in practice it is likely that three new teams can be created with residual demand from participants additional to this likely to form part of existing squads.

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Team generation rates (TGRs) based on future population growth indicate that participation is anticipated to increase at all age groups. When broken down by Analysis Area it is likely to create at least the number of teams per age group shown in Table 6.8. This equates to the following additional need for pitch capacity:

- ◀ Senior Men - three teams
- ◀ Senior Women - two teams
- ◀ Junior Boys - no teams
- ◀ Junior Girls - no teams

Future population projections forecast an increase in demand at the senior age format for both men and women, though no new junior teams are likely to be created based on population increases alone. Any increased participation that will not lead to the creation of a new team will be accommodated within existing playing squads.

It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups.

Club demand

Wapping HC reports plans to continue to develop the junior section of the Club, with this section still in its infancy having started in January 2016. At present the Club has 38 primary aged children and hopes that this will continue to strengthen. The Club also hopes to begin offering hockey for disabled participants, however, this is subject to capacity being available at John Orwell Sports Centre. Wapping HC also reports that due to there being no capacity it would be difficult to increase the number of senior teams, but the Club will continue to take on any prospective players.

East London HC has doubled in size in the last three years and hopes to continue this development by adding its Vets teams to leagues next season. The Club hopes to also add a ninth senior men's team, with a view to a maximum of ten senior men's and ten senior women's teams to be consistently representing the Club in the future. The Club plans to formalise the youth teams forming U14 and U16 boys' and girls' teams, as opposed to the current training squads. Similar to Wapping HC, East London HC also hopes to make hockey available to disabled participants which will run concurrently with the youth programme.

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.

Given the strength of established hockey clubs in Tower Hamlets, much of this delivery to increase non-traditional forms of participation is likely to be driven and delivered from clubs which have existing coaching resource and are subsequently able to transition new participants into traditional league hockey if desired.

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Though there remains a desire from EH to increase participation within the club/league based game, not all future demand may be realised entirely as new formalised teams playing at peak time. Increased demand from new participants will lead to a requirement for increased capacity on available AGPs at peak time, but also midweek and on Sundays to deliver other formats of hockey activity. At present, it is not necessarily clear as to what format this may take or when it is likely to take place, however it is clear that there will be a requirement for access to increased capacity on AGPs across the Borough. This should be considered when assessing demand for AGPs in the future, as not only will they be needed for peak match play times and midweek training to accommodate increased participation within the formalised hockey environment, but also throughout the week and at non-peak times to offer wider opportunities for play.

Some clubs may decide to offer pay and play opportunities to participants or offer small sided formats such in a bid to increase participation and club memberships by providing a different hockey offer.

Peak time demand

Most men's and women's teams currently play their matches on a Saturday. Some mixed gender teams compete on Sundays, along with single-sex senior teams which could not be accommodated on a pitch on Saturdays. At present no junior teams play regular competitive matches, however, should the current junior teams start to play matches this will likely be in the form of friendly matches or tournaments which can be played on a variety of days, with Sunday being the most common.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

Currently there is no spare capacity for additional match play at weekends. Through consultation, Tower Hamlets HC reports having to request special dispensation from its respective league to play matches, which cannot be incorporated within Wapping Hockey Club's match slots, outside of the peak period at 5pm on a Saturday. This has also resulted in some single-sex teams that usually compete on Saturday afternoons having to play matches on Sundays due to a lack of capacity.

However, it is not just capacity on Saturdays which is at its maximum but also on Sundays which is used for match play by mixed senior teams, some single-sex senior teams and some junior training demand. This use will also increase as the junior sections of both Wapping HC and East London HC formalise, playing more consistent matches throughout the season.

Two of the three available AGPs are accessed by hockey clubs in Tower Hamlets during the week for training. However, both Wapping HC and East London HC report that there is demand for an increased number of training slots which cannot be accommodated at current venues due to a lack of capacity.

The AGP at St Paul's Way Trust School could accommodate some training demand from community clubs during the week, however, there is minimal capacity available at present with current bookings limiting availability. The School and EH are in discussions to reintroduce community hockey to the site and therefore capacity could be made available to accommodate some training demand from clubs.

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The current supply of AGPs is insufficient to accommodate current demand for both senior and junior match play, training and recreational hockey, as demonstrated by the amount of displaced demand which currently utilises pitches outside of the Borough. Future demand from TGRs and clubs both indicate that there will be an increase in the number of teams, with clubs particularly indicating that junior play will increase in the next few years. Should all new participants be realised as formal teams then the current deficiency in supply will be further exacerbated.

All three AGPs should be protected as hockey suitable surfaces to allow for continued and new hockey use. Protecting these pitches would also accommodate some, but not all, of the anticipated future demand from clubs.

As not all sites are available for community use throughout the peak period for match play, some sites are more heavily relied upon than others, particularly John Orwell Sports Centre and Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium.

The creation of an additional full sized hockey suitable AGP in the City Fringe or Rest of Borough analysis areas could accommodate some of the presently exported match play and training demand. However, with future growth also factored in there will be an increased demand for two additional AGPs across the Borough as a whole.

6.5: Conclusion

Both AGPs used by local clubs should be protected and retained as hockey suitable surfaces in order to continue to accommodate current hockey users, as should the pitch at St Paul's Way Trust School currently unused for community hockey. The current supply of AGPs is insufficient to accommodate current demand from Tower Hamlets based clubs for both senior and junior match play, with the large amount of exported demand from Wapping, East London and London Royals hockey clubs out of Tower Hamlets to other Boroughs. Notwithstanding the need to secure community use at St Paul's Way Trust School which is presently unavailable due to access and site security issues, there is a present need for at least one additional hockey suitable AGP with floodlighting in the City Fringe or Rest of Borough analysis areas to accommodate some of the exported demand, given all hockey clubs in the Borough are presently based in either of these two areas.

As well as increased capacity currently required in the Borough, in light of future demand there will be future requirement for access to increased AGP capacity across the Borough as a whole as clubs drive participation increase from presently used sites. Increases in participation should be re-evaluated through maintenance of a subsequent strategy to determine in what format these increases are reflected in, as increased demand is likely for both formalised play and training and less formalised participation. This will inform the need for exactly when additional capacity is required and for what format of activity, including requirement for floodlit capacity.

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Increased capacity may in part be made available through a transfer of football demand from sand dressed pitches to 3G surfaces in line with increases in full sized 3G pitch provision to create greater capacity for hockey use. However, this may not necessarily be the case at club sites such as John Orwell Sports Centre which is already heavily used by hockey clubs and removing non-hockey use may not free up sufficient usable capacity. Notwithstanding additional demand potentially in the Borough through a return of exported demand it is likely that at least a proportion of future participation increases will be reflected in increased number of teams playing at peak time. There is limited spare capacity presently available at peak time and therefore the current need for additional AGPs is exacerbated further.

Hockey summary

- ◀ **All three hockey suitable AGPs should be protected and retained as hockey suitable surfaces.**
- ◀ **Overall, there is a present need for at least one new hockey suitable AGP with floodlighting in the Borough to accommodate current exported demand as well as potential future demand, preferably located accessible to the City Fringe and Rest of Borough areas where presently all clubs are based.**
- ◀ **This is notwithstanding access issues rendering St Paul's Way Trust School unavailable at weekends, which if resolved would generate additional capacity to accommodate peak time match play.**
- ◀ **In light of limited capacity available both at weekends and midweek, increases in demand may in turn exacerbate the requirement for additional pitches dependent on what format and times growth in participation is realised.**
- ◀ There are currently three full sized sand dressed AGPs in Tower Hamlets, all of which are available for community use in some capacity and have floodlighting.
- ◀ Of the three pitches available, two are currently accessed by teams in Tower Hamlets. The pitch at St Paul's Way Trust School is available for community use but is currently unused by community hockey clubs as there is limited capacity midweek while community use is not made available at weekends due to staffing and site access issues.
- ◀ Two of the three AGPs are rated as standard quality and one at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium is rated as poor quality. This pitch is in excess of the recommended lifespan of 10 years and is considered to require resurfacing.
- ◀ Only one hockey suitable AGP is located at an education site but is not accessed by clubs. With the exception of Wapping HC which has secure use through agreement at John Orwell Sports Centre, security of tenure for all other clubs is considered unsecure through seasonal rental.
- ◀ There are four hockey clubs currently playing in Tower Hamlets generating a total of 38 teams; 33 senior teams and five junior teams. In addition to this there are 19 senior teams from Tower Hamlets based community clubs that are exported outside of the Borough.
- ◀ Team Generation Rates (TGRs) predict the creation of an additional three senior men's and three senior women's teams, should participation increase be entirely realised as formalised teams playing traditional format hockey. Junior participation will increase; however, this is likely to be accommodated within current playing squads.
- ◀ Club demand forecasts the creation of an additional senior men's team next season, along with the formalisation of junior sections for both Wapping and East London hockey clubs, allowing junior participants to compete more regularly than at present. Both clubs also report plans to establish opportunities for disabled participants.

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PART 7: TENNIS

7.1: Introduction

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

Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with Tower Hamlets Tennis, which is responsible for the organisation and management of select community use courts and outreach activity; in order to inform the assessment with regards to background information and specific NGB focuses for the area.

7.2: Supply

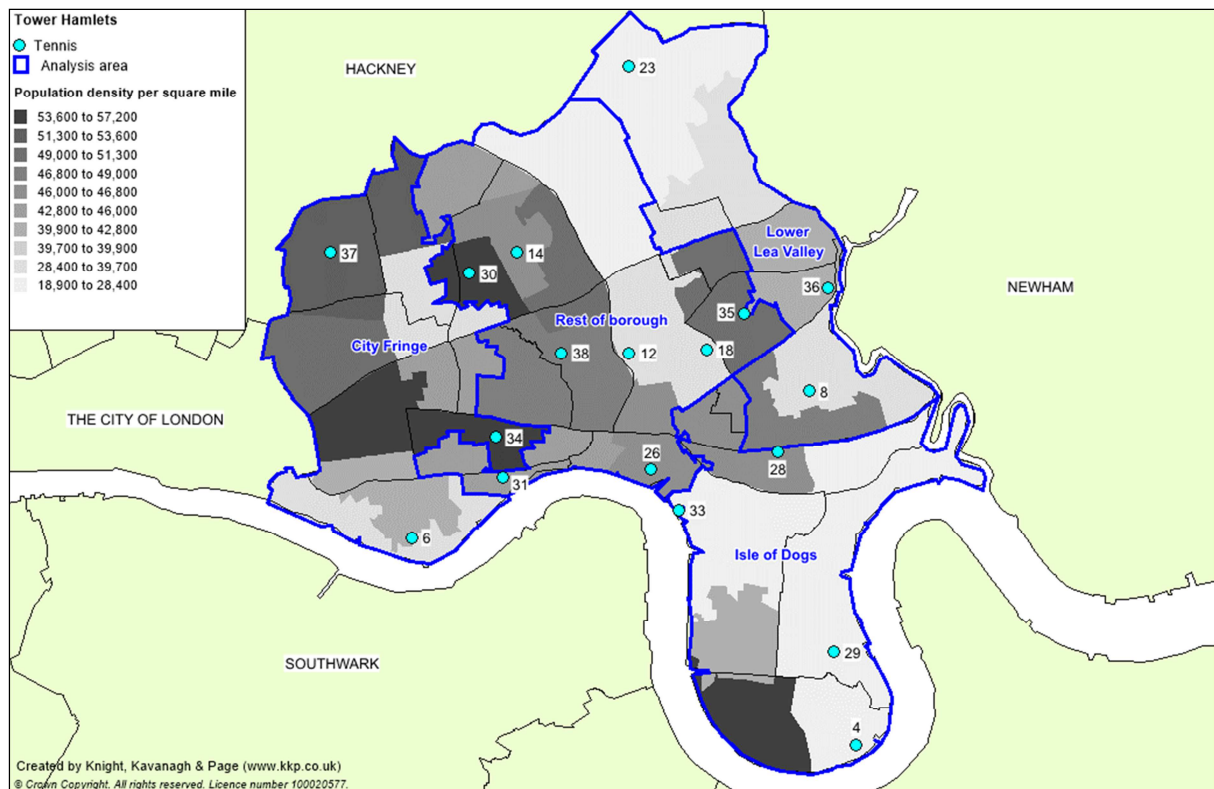
There is a total of 47 tennis courts identified in Tower Hamlets, of which, 23 are unavailable for community use, most of which, are located at school sites. The courts are located across 16 sites including private sports clubs, parks, schools and leisure centres. There are no single court sites in the Borough.

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.

There are 27 floodlit courts in Tower Hamlets (57% of supply) across eight sites. There are currently two disused courts located in King Edward VII Memorial Park, with the site currently under development as part of the Thames Tideway Tunnel scheme which will consequently mean that the site is completely redeveloped and the courts will be replaced on the site as part of the master plan.

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Figure 7.1: Location of tennis courts in Tower Hamlets



Please refer to Table 7.1 for a key to the map.

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Table 7.1: Summary of provision site by site

Site ID	Site name	Management	Analysis area	Availability for community use?	No. of courts	No. of floodlit courts	Court type	Court quality ³⁴
4	George Green's School & Sports Centre	School	Isle of Dogs	Yes	3	3	Artificial Grass	Standard
8	Langdon Park School	School	Lower Lea Valley	No	6	6	Macadam	Standard
12	Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium	Leisure Trust	Rest of Borough	Yes	3	3	Macadam	Poor
14	Morpeth School	School	Rest of Borough	No	2	-	Tarmac	Standard
18	St Paul's Way Trust School	School	Rest of Borough	Yes	2	-	Tarmac	Poor
23	Victoria Park	Tower Hamlets Tennis	Lower Lea Valley	Yes	4	-	Macadam	Standard
26	Ropermaker's Field	Local Authority	Isle of Dogs	Yes	2	-	Macadam	Poor
28	Poplar Recreation Ground	Tower Hamlets Tennis	Isle of Dogs	Yes	2	-	Macadam	Standard
29	St John's Park	Tower Hamlets Tennis	Isle of Dogs	Yes	2	2	Macadam	Good
30	Bethnal Green Gardens	Tower Hamlets Tennis	City Fringe	Yes	4	4	Macadam	Standard
31	King Edward VII Memorial Park	Tower Hamlets Tennis	City Fringe	Yes	2	-	Macadam	Poor
34	Bishop Calloner Catholic Federation of Schools	School	City Fringe	No	4	-	Macadam	Standard
35	Clara Grant Primary School	School	Rest of Borough	No	2	-	Tarmac	Poor
36	Bow School	School	Lower Lea Valley	No	3	3	Artificial Grass	Standard
37	Green Spring Academy	School	City Fringe	No	3	3	Tarmac	Standard
38	Stepney Green Maths	School	Rest of Borough	No	3	3	Macadam	Standard

³⁴ Assessed using a non-technical site assessment pro-forma and also takes account of user comments.

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Quality

The majority of courts were assessed as standard quality (34 courts – 72%), whilst the remaining courts were assessed as either good (two courts – 4%) or poor (11 courts – 24%) quality.

Table 7.2: Summary of the quality of courts by surface type

Surface type	Good	Standard	Poor	Total
Macadam	2	23	7	32
Artificial Turf	-	6	-	6
Clay	-	-	-	-
Grass	-	-	-	-
Tarmac	-	5	4	9
Total	2	34	11	47

Issues affecting court quality include evidence of moss, loose gravel, poor grip underfoot, and/or poor line markings. Some sites are unsuitable for club tennis, whilst courts at school sites are often also used as general playground areas and are therefore subject to regular use, which often impacts on quality.

Court quality at Council managed sites are poor quality (five); whilst those courts managed by Tower Hamlets Tennis Courts are generally standard quality (ten), with the same number rated poor quality as good quality (two).

The majority of courts located at school sites are standard quality (24), whilst there are none that are good quality and four poor quality courts. It is usual to find that courts that are over marked are often poor quality, particularly those at school sites, due to the high volume of use that the courts are subject to. However, in Tower Hamlets all over marked courts located at school sites are standard quality.

The current LTA Facilities Strategy is focused on developing tennis participation from park sites and as such is seeking to improve and invest in improving the quality of tennis courts in parks. Tower Hamlets Tennis is a social enterprise that was originally started as a project in conjunction with the LTA, the Council, the Tennis Foundation and local community members. As such Tower Hamlets Tennis is responsible for the management of five park sites, totalling 14 courts. The sites act as hubs for tennis within the Borough, they are:

- ◀ Bethnal Green Garden (City Fringe)
- ◀ King Edwards VII Memorial Park (City Fringe)
- ◀ Poplar Recreation Ground (Isle of Dogs)
- ◀ St John's Park (Isle of Dogs)
- ◀ Victoria Park (Lower Lea Valley)

Tennis park hub sites host community coaching sessions and have programmed activity throughout the week, whilst they will remain available to book by members of the public and park league players using an online booking system overseen by Tower Hamlets Tennis.

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Ancillary provision

Tower Hamlets Tennis report that there is demand for small storage and toilet facilities at each of the sites it manages. At Victoria Park, recent refurbishment of the ancillary facilities meant that there was a lack of office and storage space on site. This has since been remedied following completion of the refurbishment.

There is neither toilets nor storage at multiple sites which it is felt negatively affects participation, particularly during children's holiday camps and for female coaches; these sites are King Edwards VII Memorial Park, Poplar Recreation Ground and St John's Park. The courts at St John's Park are floodlit, however, Tower Hamlets Tennis, which manages the site does not have access to the floodlighting and therefore the floodlighting has remained unused.

Bethnal Green Gardens does have storage, in the form of a shipping container; and there are toilet facilities. However, the toilet facilities are only available until 6:30pm and unavailable on Sundays, which causes significant issues during the tennis season when daylight hours extend beyond the closing time of the toilets.

For courts located at educational sites ancillary facilities are often inaccessible due to schools needing to secure buildings outside of school hours. Some school sites, such as George Green's School & Sports Centre, operate at sports centres outside of educational hours; this often means that toilet and changing facilities are accessible to members of the public that have paid to use the courts.

Ownership and management

Management of sites with outdoor tennis provision varies from publicly accessible park sites which form part of Tower Hamlets Tennis through to school operated sites, with most in Tower Hamlets being located at the latter. Tennis courts at the five main park sites are available to book online and are therefore easily accessible for members of the public seeking pay and play, infrequent or occasional play.

Tenure of Tower Hamlets Tennis is secured through a three year contract with the Council. The contract contains an optional one year mutual extension clause and commenced this year. Despite the agreement in place, the short-term nature of this agreement deems tenure unsecure.

7.3: Demand

It is reported by Tower Hamlets Tennis that there are up to 13,000 participants booking to use courts it manages per year. It should be noted that this number did reduce whilst the aforementioned agreement was being reached but it is expected to increase again. The organisation offers pay-and-play, along with individual coaching programmes, group coaching sessions, junior tennis and women only sessions.

There are no traditional tennis clubs in Tower Hamlets and as such there is limited competitive tennis. It is offered in the form of internal competitions this has been actively embraced by junior members with a group of 30 players regularly competing. It is expected that this number will continue to increase as the programmes offered progress.

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The Docklands Tennis League also offers competitive tennis in the form of a mixed, singles tournament and groups players dependent on ability. This enables players to have competitive matches without too many one-sided matches. Players within the League are provided with other member's contact details and it is dependent on them then organising an appropriate time and venue for matches to take place. The League offers incentives such as points and prizes if a player completes all of its matches before the League's midway point. The aim of this is to encourage continued participation without the usual participation drop off.

There is a regular reduction in participation numbers once junior players reach the age of 14. Overall this has not affected participation numbers as those that cease playing tennis are often replaced by younger players, with low cost, drop-in, coaching sessions on offer to children from five years old upwards.

Tower Hamlets Tennis report that as participation increases then its ability to hire coaches has also improved. The current coaching team consists of ten coaches of varying levels, in addition to volunteers to assist with running the various programmes. It is hoped that the number of coaches will continue to increase as membership numbers rise, strengthening the programme as whole.

Parks tennis

Tower Hamlets Tennis is a pilot initiative, with a view to encouraging and growing use of tennis courts located in park sites. Traditionally parks tennis is less formal and offers greater flexibility than a traditional tennis club and therefore, due to the transient nature of the population in Tower Hamlets it is hoped that by encouraging use of the park sites then tennis participation will grow.

Informal tennis

Courts on education sites are largely unavailable for community use, likely due to the access issues and because of this there is increased demand on courts located at council owned sites.

It is likely that demand for recreational play increases annually following events such as Wimbledon. Although it is hard to measure casual use at some courts, it is found that they are generally busy throughout the summer months when the weather is favourable and longer daylight hours reduce the requirement for floodlighting.

School tennis

It is hoped that a link between Tower Hamlets Tennis and local schools will expand the use of courts in Tower Hamlets.

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7.4: Conclusions

In conclusion, there is sufficient supply of tennis courts in Tower Hamlets to cater for current demand and casual use, including the delivery of participation schemes, leagues, coaching sessions and informal bookings. It should be noted, however, that should participation increase as envisaged by Tower Hamlets Tennis then greater use of courts at educational sites may be required. There does not to be an immediate issue regarding access to additional courts or floodlit courts, however this should be monitored throughout the course of the agreement in place between Tower Hamlets Tennis and the Council. It should also be recognised that, as mentioned earlier, recreational demand often increases after events such as Wimbledon and therefore an increase in the number of courts may be necessary to manage this increased demand.

The LTA is focused on developing community tennis in public spaces and parks as it has already begun to do in Tower Hamlets and the five park sites currently used for matches are of sufficient quality to meet that need, although ancillary facilities should be made available to ensure that unofficial use does not result in damage to equipment.

Tennis summary

- ◀ There is sufficient supply of tennis courts in Tower Hamlets to cater for current demand from casual use, coaching sessions and leagues. This means that courts in use should be protected to maintain current supply.
- ◀ There are a total of 47 tennis courts identified in Tower Hamlets, of which 23 courts are not available for community use.
- ◀ There are 27 floodlit courts in the Borough spread across eight sites.
- ◀ The majority of courts were rated as standard quality (34 courts – 72%), whilst the remaining courts were rated as either good (two courts – 4%) or poor (11 courts – 24%) quality.
- ◀ The majority of courts are macadam surfaces, representing 68% of existing supply.
- ◀ Tower Hamlets Tennis is responsible for managing tennis within the Borough and offers pay and play, individual programmes and group training sessions.
- ◀ The organisation currently has a three year agreement in place with the Council, meaning that tenure cannot be considered secure.
- ◀ It was reported that the number of individuals booking courts reduced during negotiations between the Council and Tower Hamlets Tennis, however it is expected to increase with the increased selection of programmes on offer.
- ◀ There is no reported demand for greater access to floodlit provision. However, there is demand for ancillary provision to be made available or improve at council owned sites.
- ◀ It is likely that demand for recreational play increases annually following events such as Wimbledon and publicly accessible Council managed sites are generally assumed to be busier during the summer when the light allows for more evening play.

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PART 8: BOWLS

8.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Tower Hamlets are flat greens. Bowls England (BE) is the governing body responsible for ensuring effective governance of outdoor flat green bowls across the Country. More locally the sport is run and administered by County bowling associations and Tower Hamlets clubs generally affiliate to the Middlesex Bowling Association (MBA).

Consultation

There are four clubs identified as using bowling greens in Tower Hamlets, all of which, were sent a survey to register their views. Contact information for affiliated clubs was provided by Bowls England; and all clubs responded representing a response rate of 100%.

8.2: Supply

There are three crown bowling greens in Tower Hamlets located across three sites. There are no artificial surfaces and all are natural turf greens. There are no crown bowling greens located in the Borough.

There is one reported disused green in Tower Hamlets located at King Edwards VII Memorial Park, this site is to be developed as part of the Thames Tideway Tunnel (TTT) scheme and as such this bowling green will cease to exist. There may be additional disused greens attached to public houses which have not been located.

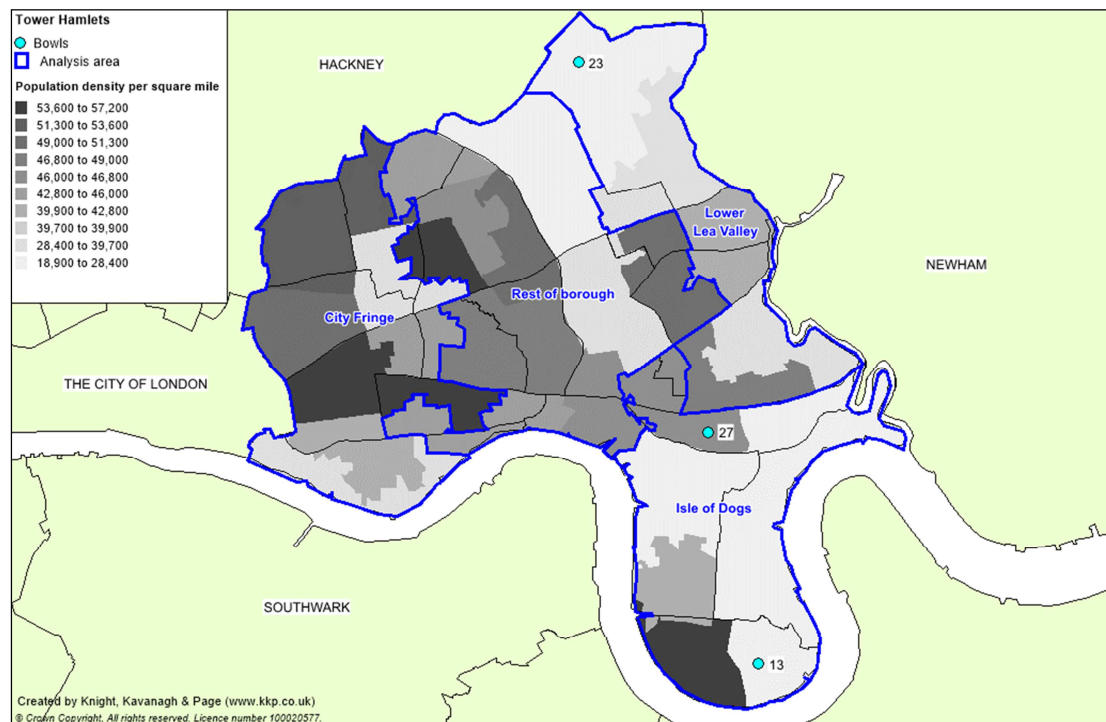
Table 8.1: Current supply of bowling greens in Tower Hamlets

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of greens	Quality ³⁵	Management
13	Millwall Park	Isle of Dogs	1	Standard	Local Authority
23	Victoria Park	Lower Lea Valley	1	Poor	Local Authority
27	Hale Street Bowling Green	Isle of Dogs	1	Poor	Local Authority

³⁵ Determined via non-technical assessment and club feedback

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Figure 8.1: Distribution of bowling greens across Tower Hamlets



Please refer to Table 8.1 for a key to the map.

Table 8.2: Summary of bowling greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor	Total
City Fringe	-	-	-	-
Isle of Dogs	-	1	1	2
Lower Lea Valley	-	-	1	1
Rest of Borough	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1	2	3

Two greens are located in the Isle of Dogs Analysis Area (67%), with one green located in the Lower Lea Valley Analysis Area (33%).

Quality

Quality ratings determined through non-technical assessments and club feedback show most crown greens in poor quality (two greens – 67%), with the remaining green assessed as standard (33%). All greens are managed and maintained by the Council and used by local clubs.

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North Greenwich BC believes that there has been an increase in quality over the past three years due to an improved maintenance regime. However, the opposite is felt to be true by Victoria Park BC which feels that quality has decreased in the past three years; it is felt that bare patches and the watering system frequently breaking has caused this.

Poplar BC report that although the green it uses is of poor quality, this has remained the same over the past three years. It is felt by the Club that even with the improved maintenance regime that has occurred the quality has not yet improved. It is hoped that through continued works the quality will increase over the next three years.

Ancillary facilities

Security and the presence of fencing help protect against inappropriate and unofficial use of all greens in the Borough. The disused green at King Edward VII Memorial Park is not fenced and this was a contributing factor to City of London BC not relocating to the site when the green was available. The ancillary facilities at Victoria Park and Hale Street Bowling Green have been subject to vandalism in the last year. There was a break-in at Hale Street Bowling Green but since this event CCTV has been installed and there has not been a repeat event.

All clubs report that the ancillary facilities on respective sites are owned and managed by the Council; and highlight that once an issue is reported it is quickly fixed before getting worse.

It should be noted that only North Greenwich BC report that there is disabled access for participants which it values as aiding the playing membership. The three other clubs reported that there was no disabled access for participants on to the green at respective home venues. One solution to this problem could be the provision of ramps at each venue to enable those participants who are unable to walk or move freely to access the greens to participate; as suggested by one of the Clubs.

Ownership and management

All greens are owned and managed by the Council and are rented by clubs. Clubs are charged an annual fee for use of Council managed greens based on the number of members playing.

The Council is the sole funder and provider of bowling greens in Tower Hamlets, however, this may potentially be subject to change as it faces continuing budget pressures. Bowling green quality is heavily dependent on the quality of maintenance but this is often proportionally expensive in relation to the number of greens when compared to the supply of other sports pitches the Council maintains. It is important to highlight the potential for budgetary pressures to impact on the ability of the Council to maintain and sustain the current level of bowling green provision it manages.

The economic climate over recent years and increased pub closures has meant that the number of bowling greens at pub sites has also decreased. Some pubs have chosen to stop maintaining adjoining bowling greens and where resident clubs have been unable to take over maintenance responsibilities greens have either been left to become overgrown or converted for other uses such as social areas or beer gardens.

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There may be opportunities for clubs to take greater responsibility and to seek new investment which could both alleviate financial pressures and give clubs more autonomy in preparing and providing a facility which is able to meet their requirements. Further to this, the feasibility of long-term leasing could present opportunities to both reduce Council costs whilst allowing clubs to continue to maintain and ensure the viability of provision. This may see clubs taking on responsibility and costs of maintenance if they wished and were realistically able to do so to the required standard. However, should there be a change in approach consideration should be given as to whether the club or clubs in question are realistically equipped to assume greater responsibility for the site and whether they have the right resources and personnel base to sustain the asset to the required standard.

8.3: Demand

Clubs typically have several teams which play on multiple days of the week as part of different leagues. The main leagues servicing the area are:

- ◀ Cribbs League
- ◀ Lea Valley League
- ◀ Middlesex League

There are four bowling clubs identified in Tower Hamlets, most with multiple teams playing various evenings and afternoons throughout the week. Many clubs, teams and bowlers may play in a number of leagues simultaneously throughout the week and so although there may be a large number of teams; many are made up of the same players, thus representing a smaller player base. The analysis below summarises information where known, gathered from consultation with clubs:

- ◀ The level of membership of clubs varies from 14 to 38 members.
- ◀ Victoria Park BC has the fewest with 12 members.
- ◀ Poplar BC has the most with 38 members.
- ◀ Three junior members are recorded, all playing at North Greenwich BC.

City of London BC was traditionally based outside the Borough in Islington. However, as a result of construction work the Club was displaced from its home venue and now operates on a nomadic existence. The Club currently utilises greens across Central London, including Tower Hamlets and previously considered relocating to King Edward VII Memorial Park. This opportunity was not taken on by the Club due to its disused state meaning that the green needed replacing. This, coupled with its distance from the Club's current membership meant that the option was not taken up.

Bowling has experienced an overall decline in participation nationally which may be due to access to facilities in some cases; however, most clubs acknowledge a lack of interest in the sport amongst the local community, with few new bowlers taking up the sport. This adds to a player base which is largely drawn from the elderly community and in most cases the fall in numbers has been attributed to ageing players, with a lack of younger players coming through. That said North Greenwich BC report that there has been an increase in memberships in the past three years for both senior and junior members.

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Pay and play

Council managed greens are available for pay and play but little demand for this type of recreational use is reported. There are a number of reasons that contribute to this. Many Council greens are fenced which discourages the public from accessing the greens. There is a lack of advertising and promotion which also makes it difficult to attract the public on a 'pay and play' basis whilst access is generally operated by key holders from the resident club at most greens, with nobody onsite to operate pay and play other than when club members are using the green themselves.

Future demand

Using ONS projections (2017-2036) the number of persons aged 65 and over in London Borough of Tower Hamlets is likely to increase from 18,567 in 2017 to 28,719 in 2036. This represents an increase of 54.7%.

Sport England Market Segmentation shows that the majority of people who play bowls in London Borough of Tower Hamlets are Elsie/Arnolds (retired singles) or Franks (retired twilight year gents). In total the tool shows segments representing retired participants (additionally including Normas and Ralphs/Phyllis') to account the majority of people playing bowls in London Borough of Tower Hamlets. As people of retirement age in the 65+ age band are the most likely to play bowls, future population increases suggest demand for bowling greens is likely to increase. However, this is based solely on population forecasts and does not take into account the decline in playing numbers nationally, whilst people may not necessarily take up bowling just because they are increasing in age.

Victoria Park BC reports ambitions to increase the number of male and female players but acknowledges that the appeal to the local population is declining. This is similarly reported by Poplar BC with finding new members increasingly difficult.

North Greenwich BC did not report issues attract more members and stated that it plans to add eight new male members, five new female members and three juniors. The Club hope that the diverse quality of competitions in which it competes will appeal to a broad spectrum of potential members.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

Capacity is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league is operating but may be empty for the rest of the week. However, in many cases greens are used during the afternoons by club members who bowl socially.

It is generally considered by Bowls England that a green accommodating less than 60 playing members is considered to have spare capacity for further play. Consideration should also be given to the sustainability of greens which operate with a playing membership of less than 20.

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Based on this guidance and known membership figures from club responses, all three bowling greens are considered to have capacity for further play. Of identified concern, would be the recorded club use at Victoria Park by just 14 members and consideration should be given to the viability of the green moving forward.

In addition to the demand in Table 8.3, City of London BC is currently a nomadic club with 30 members. The Club is searching for a site from which to base itself and did previously consider locating at King Edwards VII Memorial Park, however, the disused nature of the green meant that it needed replacing and it is reported by the Club that accessing this site would not have been convenient for its current membership.

Table 8.3: Club membership use of bowling greens (where known)

Site ID	Site name	Number of greens	Clubs	No of members
13	Millwall Park	1	North Greenwich BC	32
23	Victoria Park	1	Victoria Park BC	14
27	Hale Street Bowling Green	1	Poplar BC	38

8.5: Conclusions

There is sufficient supply of outdoor bowling greens to accommodate current demand across Tower Hamlets, including demand from City of London BC which currently acts nomadically within the Borough. Existing provision is also enough to cater for the likely level of demand in future given a national trend of decline in participation and an ageing membership demographic.

Of greater significance is the need to ensure the viability of Council managed bowling green provision in order to realise a sustainable spread of bowling greens across the Borough which can efficiently cater for demand given the relatively high cost of maintenance.

Bowling greens summary

- ◀ **There is sufficient supply of outdoor bowling greens to accommodate current demand across Tower Hamlets. Existing provision is also enough to cater for the likely level of demand in future given a national trend of decline in participation and an ageing membership demographic.**
- ◀ There are three flat bowling greens in Tower Hamlets provided and there are no flat greens in London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- ◀ The majority of greens are located in Isle of Dogs analysis area (67%) with Lower Lea Valley having one (33%).
- ◀ Most crown greens in London Borough of Tower Hamlets are rated as poor quality (two greens), with the remaining green assessed as standard (one green).
- ◀ All greens are owned and managed by the Council and are rented by clubs.
- ◀ There are four clubs using bowling greens in Tower Hamlets and membership of responding clubs ranges from 14 to 38 members.
- ◀ All sites are considered to have spare capacity whilst consideration should be given to the viability of continuing to provide a green at Victoria Park due to the low membership.

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PART 9: ATHLETICS

9.1: 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 (EA) via a team consisting of an area manager and coach/club support officers.

Consultation

Victoria Park Harriers & Tower Hamlets Athletic Club is the only affiliated track and field athletics club in the Borough. The Club were consulted with via the telephone and by completing and returning a survey which was used to inform this section of the report.

9.2: Supply

There is one athletics track in Tower Hamlets used by Victoria Park Harriers & Tower Hamlets Athletic Club, owned by Tower Hamlets Council and managed by GLL. It is a “County” track with a synthetic surface and is partially floodlit.

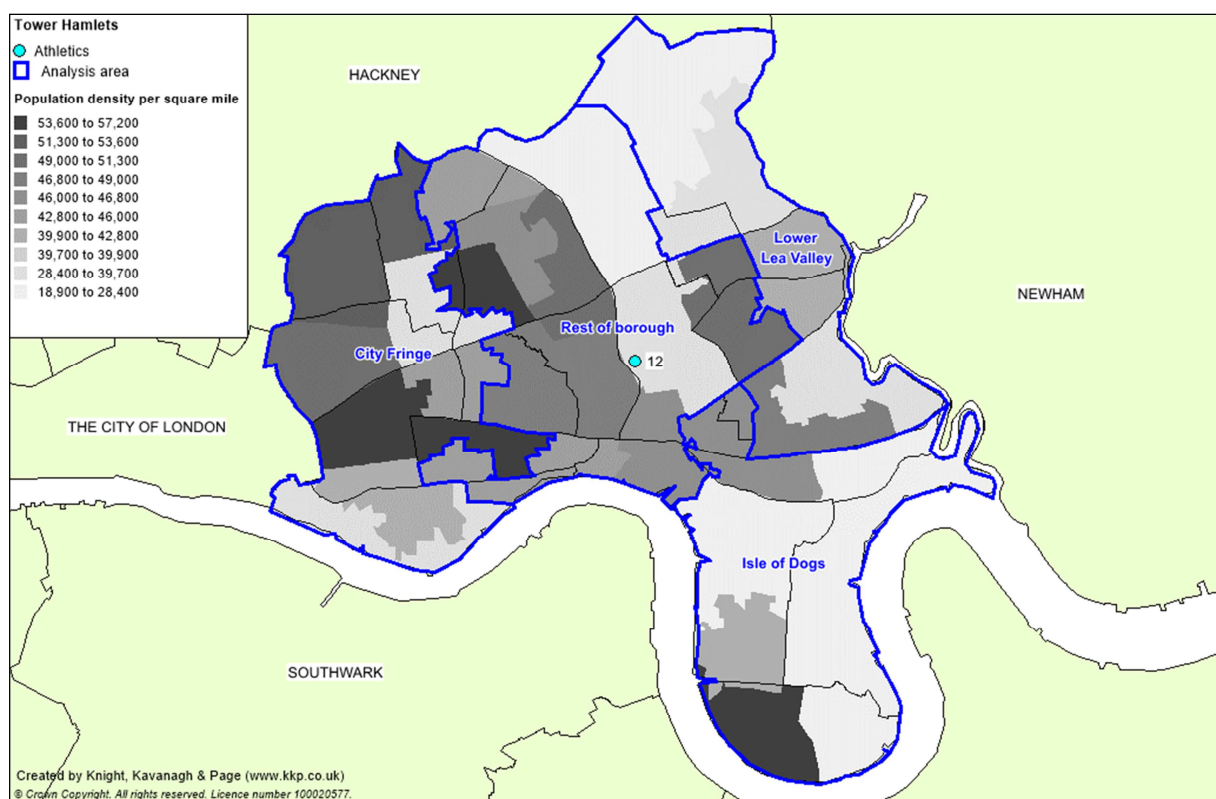
Table 9.1: Supply of athletics tracks in Tower Hamlets

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Built	Refurbished	Number of lanes	Surface	Quality
12	Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium	Rest of Borough	1990	2011	8	Synthetic	Standard

There was previously a second athletics track at Victoria Park which is now disused with regards to formal athletics practice, now functioning as a pathway, cycleway or recreational running route.

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Figure 9.1: Location of athletics tracks in Tower Hamlets



Quality

The estimated lifespan of a synthetic track is ten years depending on usage and maintenance levels.

The track at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium is rated as standard quality having been refurbished in 2011 in the run up to the London 2012 Olympics and is fully certified by UK Athletics to host high level competition, offering a full range of athletics facilities. Victoria Park Harriers & Tower Hamlets AC report the pitch to be poor quality and to have reduced in quality in the past three years due to the high amount of wear it has received; from a non-technical site assessment, it was decided that the track was of standard quality.

It should be noted that the track infield also serves as an adult sized football pitch used to meet Step 5 league requirements for two senior men's football teams and Step 2 for one senior women's football team. This was accommodated by the removal of the throwing cage and shot putt circle, increasing the length to allow senior football to be played in the stadium.

Due to the presence of the football pitch neither hammer throw nor shot putt practice may take place during the winter months as the impact will cause damage to the playing surface, though the track remains available throughout the year.

The venue is well equipped for all track and field events with the Athletics club reporting that there are no significant issues regarding quality.

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Ancillary provision

Changing facilities for the athletics track are located in the adjoining buildings, with separate male and female changing rooms. There is also a spectator stand along one side and a surrounding fence which prevents unauthorised access. As a result of this there has been no reported vandalism to the site. Overall the ancillary facilities are of a good quality with no significant areas of concern. It is reported that there are plans to increase the size of the gym at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium, which the Club feel should have a positive impact on athletic performance and attracting new members.

While Victoria Park Harriers and Tower Hamlets AC uses the track at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium, it considers its base to a former school hall it owns in Victoria Park, nearby to where the old athletics track was located. This clubhouse has changing and showering facilities, a weights room, a meeting room and a hall for indoor training.

Ownership/management

The track is owned by the Council and is managed by a subcontracted leisure operator (GLL) which is responsible for managing maintenance and bookings for the site. Users of the track feel that the booking system could be improved if there was an option of booking in track side.

9.3: Demand

Victoria Park Harriers and Tower Hamlets AC is the only club in Borough, formed from the merger of the two clubs within its name when the former cinder athletics track in Victoria Park became disused. The Club caters for both adult and junior athletes. It is important to note that clubs do not register junior athletes under the age of 11 years old as affiliated members as per England Athletics affiliation procedure.

The Club reports to have approximately 270 senior and 310 junior members and has plans to continue to increase these numbers, noting that it does not turn any interested participant away.

Members of the Club have links with local schools from which it has previously benefitted. There is an issue with a lack of paid coaches which means that the Club is unable to host courses for the schools as it wishes.

Demand for running extends further than athletics tracks and the wider recreational running and fitness market has grown over recent years. A number of new running groups continue to be established; all with different focuses and aims. As groups grow, some have begun to offer track training sessions and even branch into track and field competitions.

National context

England Athletics highlights the following with regards to athletics nationally:

- ◀ No new athletics tracks are planned to be constructed and instead the retention of current athletics track stock is a priority.

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- ◀ Development of innovations such as partial tracks or compact facilities are to be explored and may be able to provide a suitable alternative to creating entire new tracks.
- ◀ The focus for England Athletics is new participation programmes, such as Park Run and Run England.
- ◀ Another priority is to create time trails around pitches or open spaces with 3-2-1 routes added to help all new running groups and affiliated clubs.
- ◀ Workforce development is a priority to increase the number of new coaches and volunteers.

Parkrun & Great Run Local

Parkrun is a series of weekly five kilometre (5k) runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of parks and open space across. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. The 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.

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 only the Mile End Parkrun operates in Tower Hamlets based at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium, beginning and ending at the entrance to the Leisure Centre. The event is free and is used instead as an opportunity to generate revenue following the event through the sale of food and refreshments and outreach to prospective new members. There is also a Junior Parkrun event in Tower Hamlets, also located at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium.

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 an 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.

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Run England

Run England is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. The role of Run England includes:

- ◀ Enabling people to join registered Run England groups.
- ◀ Supporting affiliated clubs and other partners in the provision of running groups for an increasing range of people.
- ◀ Training more people to qualify as running group leaders through the Leadership in Running Fitness qualification.
- ◀ Signposting people to their local Run England 3-2-1 routes that have been created by local providers.

There are currently 11 Run England groups operating in Tower Hamlets, they are:

- ◀ A Mile in Her Shoes (Crisis)
- ◀ GA Joggers Group (Victoria Park)
- ◀ Home Run: Canary Wharf to Stratford (Canary Wharf)
- ◀ QMUL Runners (Queen Mary University Student Union)
- ◀ Ready 2 Run (Victoria Park)
- ◀ Royal Caribbean Runners (Canary Wharf Play On Centre)
- ◀ Run in Canary Wharf (Limehouse DLR Station)
- ◀ Sport4women Running Group (Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium)
- ◀ St Rungos (Thomas More Square)
- ◀ Tiller Runners (Tiller Leisure Centre)

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. There is currently one 3-2-1 route in Tower Hamlets, commencing in Victoria Park. There are other routes in neighbouring boroughs which will serve part of the Tower Hamlets population.

Future demand

It is likely that demand for use of athletics tracks may increase in future, either through an increase in participation at athletics clubs or a continued increase in the number of running clubs and groups which may seek track time for more structured sessions.

Peak time demand

Peak time demand for use of athletics tracks is midweek evenings for club training, often held on different nights of the week varying between clubs and some may have different nights for different training disciplines, specialities or groups. The nature of competition dictates that track meetings operate on a series basis, with clubs hosting one home league event per season.

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9.4: Conclusions

England Athletics guidance states that for a running track to be sustainable it should be hosting at least 200 members. As Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium accommodates significantly more than this via Victoria Park Harriers and Tower Hamlets Athletics Club (580 members) it should be retained and protected, with priority focused on ensuring that quality is sustained and improved to continue accommodating the demand.

In addition, precedence should be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the Park Run event as well as supporting the various running clubs and disability groups that are providing for the population of Tower Hamlets.

The site also, has potential to establish additional community use by wider groups such as local schools and adapted cycling groups which don't presently operate in the Borough, providing a broader range of participation opportunities.

Athletics summary

- ◀ **In conclusion, supply of athletics tracks in Tower Hamlets is considered able to sufficiently cater for current and future demand.**
- ◀ There are currently one athletics track in Tower Hamlets, located at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium, it is of standard quality having been refurbished in 2011.
- ◀ There was previously a cinder athletics track within Victoria Park which is now disused for athletics purposes.
- ◀ The track at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium is a licensed competition track.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities are located on the same site as the athletics track, including a surrounding fence which prevents unauthorised use of the surface, limiting potential damage.
- ◀ The track is owned by the Council, with a subcontracted leisure operator responsible for management of the site and maintenance.
- ◀ Victoria Park Harriers and Tower Hamlets AC is the only athletics club in the Borough with approximately 580 members.
- ◀ The hammer cage and shot putt circle were removed from the athletics track in order to accommodate an adult football pitch on the infield. This also means that neither hammer nor shot putt training takes place onsite during the winter months in order to prevent damaging the surface for the football season.
- ◀ A number of other running initiatives such as Parkrun, 3-2-1 routes and Run England are likely to develop further demand for running. This should in turn lead to increased membership at athletics clubs or increased demand for track access from other running groups which form part of the wider fitness and exercise market.
- ◀ Of key priority is the need to retain the tracks and to maintain its quality through rigorous maintenance and remediation.

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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.
- ◀ 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

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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.

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- ◀ 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>). 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*

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The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

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 remain 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

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)

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.

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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

England Hockey Strategy

Vision: For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission: More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

We currently have over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) We need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively).

The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

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The research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable Hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

2015-2018 British Tennis Strategy

The new strategy is presented in a concise one page framework that includes key strategies relating to three participation "focus" areas, six participation "drivers" and three participation "enablers". To achieve success, the 12 strategy areas will need to work interdependently to stem the decline and unlock sustainable growth:

The three participation "focus" areas are where tennis is consumed:

- ◀ Deliver great service to clubs
- ◀ Build partnerships in the community, led by parks
- ◀ Enhance the tennis offer in education

The six participation "drivers" are the areas that will make the biggest difference where tennis is consumed. They must all be successful on a standalone and interconnected basis and include:

- ◀ Becoming more relevant to coaches
- ◀ Refocusing on recreational competition
- ◀ Providing results orientated facility investment
- ◀ Applying best in class marketing and promotion
- ◀ Jump starting the peak summer season
- ◀ Establishing a "no compromise" high performance programme with focus

The final layer is comprised of three participation "enablers" that underpin our ability to be successful. These enablers are rooted in how the LTA will get better; how the entire network of partners must be harnessed to work together and the need to raise more financial resources to fund our sport's turnaround. They include:

- ◀ Becoming a more effective and efficient LTA
- ◀ Harnessing the full resource network
- ◀ Generating new revenue

For further information and more detail on the framework please go to <http://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/structure-vision>

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.

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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.
- ◀ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- ◀ 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.

England Athletics: Whole Sport Plan 2013-2017

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.

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UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)

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 our 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

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

DRAFT PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 2: STEERING GROUP CONTACTS

Organisation	Contact	Designation
Sport England	Mark Furnish	Planning Manager
Tower Hamlets Council	Tracy Stanley	Interim Senior Strategy, Policy & Performance Officer
Tower Hamlets Council	James Baigent	Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer
Tower Hamlets Council	Keiko Okawa	Senior Strategy Policy & Performance Officer
Tower Hamlets Council	Tim Clee	Participation & Partnership Manager
Tower Hamlets Council	Lisa Pottinger	Head of Sport & Physical Activity
Tower Hamlets Council	Rosica Kolarova	Strategic Planning
The Football Association	Mark Liddiard	Facilities & Investment Manager
London Football Association	Natalie Doyle	Head of Engagement & Support
England & Wales Cricket Board	Chris Whitaker	Facilities Manager
Middlesex Cricket	Katie Berry	Director of Participation
Rugby Football Union	Rick Bruin	Area Facilities Manager
England Hockey	Steve Turner	Relationship Manager
London Sport	Ellie Chapman	Relationship Manager

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

DRAFT PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 3: CONSULTEE LIST

Organisation	Contact	Designation	Consultation Method
Clubs/Leagues			
Abohani FC	Kolil Miah	Secretary	Survey
Ace 05	Shamiur Rahman	Secretary	Survey
Acorn FC	Darrell Isles	Chair	Survey
Bangladesh Football Association	Aroz Miah	Chair	Telephone
Beaumont Athletic FC	Rashid	Secretary	Survey
Bromley by Bow FC	Abdul Hamid	Manager	Survey
City of London BC	Sheila Newman	Secretary	Telephone
Clissold Park Rangers FC	Mark Thompson	Secretary	Telephone
East London Hockey Club	Dan Goodacre	Chairman	Face-to-face
East London Ladies FC	Pallavi Patel	Secretary	Telephone
East One FC	Jamal Hussain	Chair	Telephone
FC Hamlets	Senie Emmanuel	Manager	Survey
Fowlers FC	Duncan Melville	Secretary	Survey
Inner London Football League	Kamruz Zaman	Chair	Telephone
Limehouse Girls Youth FC (<i>Limehouse Laces FC</i>)	Sarah Lang	Chair	Survey
London Royals HC	Cleo Lyn	Secretary	Telephone
London Tigers CC	Ratan Shahidul Alam	Chairman	Face-to-face
Mile End Park Rangers	Oliver Senior	Captain	Telephone
Millwall Albion FC	Ronnie Bender	Chair	Telephone
Millwall Rugby Club	Mike Beech	Fixtures Secretary	Face-to-face
Mohammedan Sporting Club FC	Aroz Miah	Chair	Telephone
North Greenwich BC	Howard Shearing	Secretary	Survey
Poplar BC	Janice Fortune	Secretary	Survey
Poplar Boys FC	Sam	Secretary	Telephone
Robin Hood Tigers FC	Abdul Hasnath	Chair	Survey
Senrab FC	Tony Carroll	Secretary	Telephone
Shadwell Youth Organisation FC	Towsif Jahan	Secretary	Survey
Sporting Bengal United FC	Aroz Miah	Chair	Telephone
St Katharines FC	Martin Miah	CEO	Telephone
Tower Hamlets CC	Ratan Shahidul Alam	Vice Chair	Face-to-face
Tower Hamlets FC	Adam Richardson	Secretary	Survey
Tower Hamlets HC	Shuhel Malique	Chair	Telephone
Tower Hamlets Tennis	Peter Smith	Director	Telephone
Tower Hamlets Womens FC	Kate Warner	Chair	Survey
Vallance FC	Junel Uddin	Manager	Survey
Victoria Park BC	Terry Downey	Secretary	Survey
Victoria Park Community Cricket League	Rizwan Siddiqui	Chairman	Face-to-face

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS DRAFT PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Organisation	Contact	Designation	Consultation Method
Victoria Park FC	Quam Agboola	Chairman	Telephone
Victoria Park Harriers & Tower Hamlets Athletics Club	Alf Vickers	Development Officer	Telephone/Survey
Wapping Hockey Club	Stuart Burnside	Chairman	Telephone
Wapping Warriors FC	Simon Blewett	Secretary	Survey
Wapping Youth FC	Nahimul Islam	Director	Face-to-face
Westward Boys FC	Adewale Abayomi	Secretary	Telephone
Schools			
Bishop Challoner Catholic Federation of Schools	Rebecca Pulizzi	Head of PE	Survey
Central Foundation Girl's School	Joseph Dawson		Telephone
City Gateway	Steve Moore	Facilities Manager	Telephone
George Green's School	Carl Kemp	Site Manager	Telephone
London Enterprise Academy	Alex Rowe	Head of PE	Telephone/Survey
Mulberry School for Girls	Stephen Beadle	Director of Estates	Face-to-face
Oaklands School	Howard Shearing	Head of PE	Telephone/Survey
Queen Mary University	Andrew Parkinson	Community Sports/Club Sports Manager	Telephone
Raines Foundation School	David Patten	Head of PE	Telephone
St Paul's Way Trust	Karla Parker	Business Manager	Telephone
Swanlea School	Andy Donaldson	Facilities Manager	Face-to-face
The Workhouse Leisure Centre	Keith Glynn	Sports Facilities Manager	Face-to-face
Tower Hamlets College	Tanya Blake	Enrichment & Mentoring Coordinator	Face-to-face
Wapping High School			Telephone/Survey
Ben Jonson Primary School	-	-	Survey
Bigland Green Primary School	-	-	Survey
Blue Gate Fields Infant School	-	-	Survey
Blue Gate Fields Junior School	-	-	Survey
Bygrove Primary School	-	-	Survey
Canary Wharf College East Ferry	-	-	Survey
Canon Barnett Primary School	-	-	Survey
Clara Grant Primary School	-	-	Survey
Cubitt Town Junior School	-	-	Survey
Cyril Jackson Primary School	-	-	Survey

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS DRAFT PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Organisation	Contact	Designation	Consultation Method
Elizabeth Selby Infants' School	-	-	Survey
English Martyrs Primary School	-	-	Survey
Globe Primary School	-	-	Survey
Hague Primary School	-	-	Survey
Hermitage Primary School	-	-	Survey
John Scurr Primary School	-	-	Survey
Kobi Nazrul Primary School	-	-	Survey
Lansbury Lawrence Primary School	-	-	Survey
Lawdale Junior School	-	-	Survey
Manorfield Primary School	-	-	Survey
Marnier Primary School	-	-	Survey
Osmani Primary School	-	-	Survey
Shapla Primary School	-	-	Survey
Smithy Street Primary School	-	-	Survey
St Lukes Primary School	-	-	Survey
St Mary & St Michael Primary School	-	-	Survey
St Paul's Way Foundation	-	-	Survey
St Paul's Whitechapel Church Of England Primary School	-	-	Survey
St Paul's With St Luke's	-	-	Survey
St Peter's London Docks Cofe Primary School	-	-	Survey
Stewart Headlam Primary School	-	-	Survey
Virginia Primary School	-	-	Survey
Wellington Primary School	-	-	Survey
William Davies Primary School	-	-	Survey
Woolmore Primary School	-	-	Survey