

Time	5.00 pm	Public Meeting?	YES	Type of meeting	Executive
Venue	Council Chamber - 4th Floor - Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH				

Membership

Chair	Cllr Ian Brookfield (Lab)
Vice-Chair	Cllr Stephen Simkins (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Chris Burden
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi

Quorum for this meeting is three voting members.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

Contact	Dereck Francis
Tel/Email	Tel: 01902 555835 or dereck.francis@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declaration of interests**
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 3 - 8)
[For approval]

DECISION ITEMS (RED - FOR DECISION BY THE COUNCIL)

- 4 **Capital Programme 2022-2023 to 2026-2027 Quarter Two Review** (Pages 9 - 46)
[To approve the capital programme 2022-2023 to 2026-2027 quarter two review]
- 5 **Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2022-2023**
(Pages 47 - 70)
[To approve the Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2022-2023]

DECISION ITEMS (AMBER - DELEGATED TO THE CABINET)

- 6 **Performance and Budget Monitoring 2022-2023** (Pages 71 - 158)
[To provide an integrated finance and performance update against the Relighting Our City priorities]
- 7 **Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy** (Pages 159 - 498)
[To approve the updated Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy]
- 8 **Stow Heath Primary School - Proposed Resource Base** (Pages 499 - 504)
[To approve consultations on changes at Stow Heath Primary School]
- 9 **Secondary School Expansion Programme 2023** (Pages 505 - 514)
[Detailing schools within the programme and capital scheme]
- 10 **Citywide Non-traditional Property Investment and Regeneration Programme - Procurement of a contractor and progress update** (Pages 515 - 524)
[To provide an update on the phased investment and regeneration programme for the Council's non-traditional housing stock across the City]

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Meeting of the Cabinet Minutes - 26 October 2022
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Attendance

Members of the Cabinet

Cllr Ian Brookfield (Chair)
Cllr Stephen Simkins (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Chris Burden
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi

Employees

Emma Bennett	Executive Director of Families
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Laura Phillips	Deputy Director of People and Change
John Roseblade	Director of City Housing and Environment
Michele Ross	Lead Planning Manager (Sub-Regional Strategy)
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
Jacob Stokes	Democratic Services Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Linda Leach. |
| 2 | Declaration of interests
No declarations of interest were made. |
| 3 | Wolverhampton Local Development Scheme
Councillor Stephen Simkins presented the Wolverhampton Local Development Scheme report for approval. The report outlined the reasons for adopting a Local Development Scheme after Dudley Council's announcement that they would be withdrawing from the Draft Black Country Plan. Councillor Simkins emphasised the importance of having a Local Plan. |

Councillor Stephen Simkins moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Ian Brookfield seconded the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Ian Brookfield commented on Dudley Council's withdrawal from the Draft Black Country Plan and expressed support for the proposed Scheme. He advised Cabinet that Wolverhampton Council, alongside Sandwell and Walsall, would be writing to various authorities to inform them of Dudley's withdrawal and would be seeking means of legal compensation.

Responding to questions, Michele Ross, Lead Planning Manager (Sub-Regional Strategy), clarified that the government housing need under a Wolverhampton Local Plan would be approximately 20,000 homes for the period 2021-2040, compared to approximately 12,000 under the Draft Black Country Plan and that Wolverhampton currently had a shortfall of 8,000 homes.

Resolved:

1. That the Wolverhampton Local Development Scheme (2022-2025) attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved upon formal confirmation that the Draft Black Country Plan is no longer proceeding.
2. That a further report to approve Issues and Preferred Options consultation on a Wolverhampton Local Plan covering the period to 2040, which will build on work already completed through the Draft Black Country Plan, be submitted to a future meeting.
3. That it be noted that the Black Country Plan preparation process has now ceased following the announcement of the intended withdrawal of Dudley Council.

Attendance

Members of the Cabinet

Cllr Ian Brookfield (Chair)
Cllr Stephen Simkins (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Chris Burden
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Linda Leach

Employees

Tim Johnson	Chief Executive
Mark Taylor	Deputy Chief Executive
Emma Bennett	Executive Director of Families
Charlotte Johns	Director of Strategy
Claire Nye	Director of Finance
David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
John Roseblade	Director of City Housing and Environment
Becky Wilkinson	Director of Adult Social Services
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
Dereck Francis	Democratic Services Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Beverley Momenabadi. |
| 2 | Declaration of interests
No declarations of interests were made. |
| 3 | Minutes of the previous meeting
Resolved:
That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 September 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. |

- 4 **Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 to 2025-2026**
Councillor Obaida Ahmed reported on salient points from the report on an update on the draft budget strategy for 2023-2024 the medium term financial strategy (MTFS) 2023-2024 to 2025-2026 since the last report in July. She also reported on next steps that would be taken in order to address financial pressures faced by the Council over the medium term. Councillor Ahmed also placed on record hers and the Controlling Labour Groups thanks for all the efforts of the finance team and the whole of the Council who are working extremely hard to ensure that there is a balanced budget for 2023-2024 and continues to provide excellent services to the residents of Wolverhampton.

Resolved:

1. That the draft budget strategy and medium term financial strategy which underpin Our City, Our Plan, including changes to corporate resource assumptions, growth and inflation and budget reduction and income generation proposals be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, and the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Executive Director of Families, to approve changes to the local funding formula for Schools including method, principles and rules adopted.
3. That it be noted that a number of assumptions have been made with regards to the level of resources that would be available to the Council. It is important to note there continues to be a considerable amount of uncertainty with regards to future income streams for local authorities. Any reduction in Government's allocation of funding to the Council would have a significant detrimental impact and further increase the budget deficit over the medium term.
4. That it be noted that, due to external factors, budget assumptions remain subject to significant change, which could, therefore, result in alterations to the financial position facing the Council.
5. That it be noted that it is forecast that the budget deficit is £7.1 million for 2023-2024, rising to £31.6 million by 2025-2026 and that work would continue to be undertaken to bring forward proposals to set a balanced budget for 2023-2024 and deliver a sustainable medium term financial strategy.
6. That it be noted that the overall level of risk associated with the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 to 2025-2026 is assessed as Red.

- 5 **Bus Services in the City**
Councillor Steve Evans presented the report on a proposal to approve a variation to a regional Enhanced Partnership Scheme made in June 2021 between the Local Transport Authority, the West Midlands Highway Authorities and bus operators, for the purpose of ensuring improved high standards of bus services.

Cabinet commended the report, particularly its consideration of equalities implications and the wide range of travel incentives for specific hard to reach groups and groups who suffer exclusion because they are unable to access transport. It was noted that the Council had two representatives on the West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee that oversees and scrutinises bus services in the city and region. Updates on the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the incentive offers could be obtained through liaison with the two Council representatives.

Resolved:

1. That Variation 002 of the Enhanced Partnership to include the improvements identified in the Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP) be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change to approve Variation 003 of the Enhanced Partnership following the appropriate statutory consultation process.
3. That the need to revoke the Advanced Quality Partnership Scheme (AQPS) for bus services in Wolverhampton be noted.
4. That the proposed Variation 003 of the Enhanced Partnership which would capture the commitments of the AQPS and embed them in the Enhanced Partnership be noted.

6 **Digital Wolverhampton Strategy Update**

Councillor Obaida Ahmed presented the report on a six month update on progress in the delivery of the Digital Wolverhampton Strategy which had been adopted in January 2020. She highlighted some of the key achievements including: connected 170 public sector premises to full fibre broadband through our local full fibre network initiative; broadband Gigabit connectivity had increased from just 2% in 2020 to 93% this year; full fibre connectivity has gone from less than 1% to now at over 30%; CityFibre's commercial roll out had reached 50,000 homes and 800 businesses; both Virgin Media and BT Openreach are upgrading their infrastructure to full fibre; ensuring all residents have access to devices, connectivity and skills to take advantage of what digital has to offer.

Councillor Obaida Ahmed placed on record her thanks to the Council's partners for their valued contributions towards the achievement of the key milestones in the Digital Wolverhampton programme. She gave assurance that the Council would continue to deliver the Digital Wolverhampton Strategy, ensuring the Council is driven by digital to provide better and more efficient services, addresses key challenges across the city, and to make a difference to local people's lives.

Cabinet noted that the strategy was of importance to all citizens of Wolverhampton. Investment in digital would open up opportunities and bring investment and jobs into the City.

Resolved:

- That progress in delivering the priorities of the Digital Wolverhampton Strategy be noted.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 16 November 2022
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Report title	Capital Programme 2022-2023 to 2026-2027 Quarter Two Review	
Decision designation	RED	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Resources and Digital City	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Tim Johnson, Chief Executive	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable employee	Claire Nye	Director of Finance
	Tel	1902 550475
	Email	Claire.Nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board	25 October 2022
	Council	7 December 2022

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet recommend that Council approve:

1. The revised, medium term General Revenue Account capital programme of £338.8 million, an increase of £27.9 million from the previously approved programme, and the change in associated resources.

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the virements for the General Revenue Account capital programme detailed at Appendix 4 to the report for;
 - i. existing projects totalling £2.8 million.
 - ii. new projects totalling £899,000.
2. Approve the virements for the HRA capital programme detailed at Appendix 4 to the report for;
 - i. existing projects totalling £15.3 million.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. That there are two separate reports also on today's agenda, titled as follows:

- Secondary School Expansion Programme 2023
- Stow Heath Primary School Proposed Resource Base

These reports are not currently seeking budget approval, however, they are seeking approval to delegate authority to allocate budgets once further detail is known. Any approvals will be built into future reports to councillors.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update on the 2022-2023 financial performance of the General Fund Account and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programmes whilst also providing a revised forecast for 2022-2023 to 2026-2027 as at quarter two of 2022-2023.
- 1.2 To recommend revisions to the current approved capital programmes covering the period 2022-2023 to 2026-2027.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 20 July 2022, Council approved a General Fund capital programme totalling £285.3 million and a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) totalling £401.8 million for the period 2022-2023 to 2026-2027. Since reporting to Council on 20 July 2022 further reports have been approved, increasing the General Fund Capital Programme by £25.6 million, taking it to £310.9 million, fully funded from external resources. No changes have been made to the HRA Capital Programme since reporting to Council on 20 July 2022.
- 2.2 The capital programme underpins Our City, Our Plan, a new Council Plan building on the Relighting Our City Plan was approved by Full Council on 2 March 2022.
- 2.3 The plan continues to identify an overarching ambition that 'Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives' delivered through six Council Plan priorities:
 - Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential
 - Fulfilled lives with quality care for those that need it
 - Healthy, inclusive communities
 - Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods
 - More local people into good jobs and training
 - Thriving economy in all parts of the city
- 2.4 These priorities together with the associated key outcomes, objectives and activity form a framework to improve outcomes for local people and deliver our levelling up ambitions.
- 2.5 Supporting the six overarching priorities are three cross cutting principles
 - Climate Conscious
 - Driven by Digital
 - Fair and Equal
- 2.6 The capital programme includes significant investment programmes that endeavour to create an environment where new and existing business thrive, people can develop the skills they need to secure jobs and create neighbourhoods in which people are proud to live.

- 2.7 The capital programme also reflects the priorities of the Strategic Asset Management Plan. Individual capital project delivery milestones are set and financial analysis is undertaken over the lifecycle of each project, by project managers in conjunction with Strategic Finance, and is captured in the Council's project management system. Regular project delivery updates are provided through the relevant governance structures (including Project Assurance Group where appropriate) enabling robust governance and challenge. In addition to this, a Capital Projects Member Reference Group provides enhanced project governance and challenge.
- 2.8 Inflation has been at the highest it has been for four decades and there is considerable uncertainty and risk of inflationary pressures across the capital programme, increases in the cost of materials are already being realised, which have resulted in budget increases on a number of projects across the General Fund capital programme. The Council will continue to monitor and report on the ongoing impact of inflation. The impact of inflation on the HRA capital programme will be reported as part of the HRA Business Plan including rent and service charges annual report to Cabinet in January 2023, as detailed in 4.13.
- 2.9 In addition to inflation risks, there are also supply chain delays, which could impact completion dates on projects and result in further cost pressures. The Council continues to assess the potential implications on its wider capital programme in terms of delivery timescales and increases in costs. Project contingency budgets are viewed in light of these pressures in order to mitigate against such cost increases, however these are unprecedented market conditions and the ongoing risk should be noted. The capital programme makes a significant contribution to the shaping of the City and on the economy of the City and therefore will contribute to the Council's plans for Our City, Our Plan.

3.0 Capital Programme – Summary

- 3.1 On 20 July 2022, Council approved a General Fund capital programme totalling £285.3 million for the period 2022-2023 to 2026-2027. Since then, further reports have been approved to increase this amount by £25.6 million to £310.9 million, fully funded from external resources. Full details can be found in Appendix 1 and are summarised below:
- £10.0 million temporary supplementary budget for the Civic Halls refurbishment project to enable to Council to comply with the 'Price for Work Done to Date (PWDD) mechanism in accordance with the contract which is to be repaid through the contract payment mechanism;
 - £1.8 million grant award from the Sustainable Warmth Competition (SWC) for delivery of Local Authority Delivery Phase 3 (LAD3) and Homes Upgrade Grant Phase 1 (HUG1) schemes;

- £10.9 million grant award from the Towns Fund to implement and fund Bilston, Wednesfield and City Centre Public Realm Phase 2 (Queen Square and Lichfield Street) schemes;
- £2.9 million for the Accessing Growth Fund - Major Roads Network projects, fully funded by Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) 2 capital grant as part of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme confirmed in Autumn Budget 2021 from the Department for Transport (DfT).

3.2 In addition to this, reallocation of resources totalling £7.2 million from the Corporate Provision for Future Programmes budget to various individual projects has been approved, details of which can be found in Appendix 2 to the report and are summarised below:

- £5.0 million to cover the costs and the financial pressure of the contract for Civic Halls refurbishment project, if needed;
- £1.4 million to facilitate works required within the Corporate Asset Management capital programme in order that corporate priorities are addressed and met in an agile and timely manner. This allocation is in part due to inflationary pressures on existing projects;
- £704,000 to accommodate the purchase of Battery Electric Precinct Sweepers within the Fleet capital programme in further support of the Council's climate change agenda;
- £42,000 to enable housing adaptation for children and young people in care.

3.3 This report considers further specific changes to budgets. A full list of the proposed capital programme can be found in Appendix 1 to the report.

3.4 Table 1 shows the approved General Fund capital programme budget compared with that proposed, along with the resources identified to finance the proposed change.

Table 1: Summary of the General Fund capital programme

General Fund capital programme	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Budget						
Approved	151,661	88,584	54,061	9,810	6,811	310,927
Variations						
New projects	1,262	9,760	-	-	-	11,022
Existing projects	(38,422)	59,528	(4,247)	-	-	16,859
	(37,160)	69,288	(4,247)	-	-	27,881
Projected	114,501	157,872	49,814	9,810	6,811	338,808
Financing						
Approved						
Internal resources	64,620	29,988	33,953	5,053	2,054	135,668
External resources	87,041	58,596	20,108	4,757	4,757	175,259
	151,661	88,584	54,061	9,810	6,811	310,927
Variations						
Internal resources	(14,176)	29,830	310	-	-	15,964
External resources	(22,984)	39,458	(4,557)	-	-	11,917
	(37,160)	69,288	(4,247)	-	-	27,881
Projected						
Internal resources	50,444	59,818	34,263	5,053	2,054	151,632
External resources	64,057	98,054	15,551	4,757	4,757	187,176
Projected	114,501	157,872	49,814	9,810	6,811	338,808

- 3.5 This report recommends variations to the approved capital programme totalling a net increase of £27.9 million, which brings the total revised programme to £338.8 million.
- 3.6 Details of all projects that have contributed to the overall increase of £27.9 million in the General Fund capital programme can be found in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, however, the key projects are as follows;
- The Corporate Provision for Future Programmes has been revised upwards by £15.0 million over the medium term capital programme to reflect potential future budget requirements, and to ensure ongoing inflationary pressures can be met across the capital programme. This increase has been applied, in part after the reallocation of £7.2 million as highlighted in paragraph 3.2. Budget provision has been incorporated into the Corporate Provision for Future Programmes in order to be prudent at this stage and will be allocated to individual projects using appropriate delegations. Allocations will be reported at each quarterly review. Future requirements across the capital programme remain under review.
 - There is an increase of £9.8 million relating to new High Needs Capital Fund Programme, funded from additional grant that has been secured from the Department for Education (DfE). This will enable the Council to introduce new capital projects within Education;

- An increase of £1.6 million relating to the Active Travel Programme within the Transportation capital programme due to new grant received from the Department for Transport (DfT) via West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA);
- A total increase of £446,000 relating to East Park Improvements (£293,000), taking the total budget of this project to £500,000, and Prouds Lane Playing Field – Open Space (£153,000); both projects within the Parks Strategy and Open Spaces capital programme, funded from a combination of Public Health reserve and through developer contributions;
- An increase of £395,000 is proposed for the Schools Devolved Formula Capital programme within the Education fully funded from a grant allocation in 2023-2024 from the Department for Education (DfE);
- Further to this, there is an increase totalling £250,000 relating to the Public Realm (Westside Link Phase 3) project within the Transportation capital programme, fully funded from the allocation of Highways Reserves;
- Finally, an increase of £241,000 is proposed for the Empty Property Strategy capital programme, fully funded from additional capital receipts.

- 3.7 On 20 July 2022, Council approved a revised HRA capital programme totalling £401.8 million for the period 2022-2023 to 2026-2027.
- 3.8 To reflect the most up to date forecast for the HRA capital projects available at the time of writing this report, it is proposed to re-profile the programme resulting in £6.7 million re-phasing from 2022-2023 into future years. This change has no impact on the overall approved capital budget for HRA.
- 3.9 However, as detailed in paragraph 4.13, high inflationary costs are having an impact on the HRA. The impact will be reviewed as part of the 30 year HRA Business Plan which will be reported to Cabinet in January 2023.
- 3.10 Table 2 shows the approved HRA capital budget compared with that proposed, along with resources identified to finance the proposed change.

Table 2: Summary of the HRA capital programme

Housing Revenue Account capital programme	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Budget						
Approved	86,984	95,958	85,256	66,976	66,606	401,780
Variations						
Existing projects	(6,723)	1,081	2,129	2,510	1,003	-
Projected	80,261	97,039	87,385	69,486	67,609	401,780
Financing						
Approved						
Internal resources	86,968	95,958	85,256	66,976	66,606	401,764
External resources	16	-	-	-	-	16
	86,984	95,958	85,256	66,976	66,606	401,780
Variations						
Internal resources	(6,723)	1,081	2,129	2,510	1,003	-
External resources	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(6,723)	1,081	2,129	2,510	1,003	-
Projected						
Internal resources	80,245	97,039	87,385	69,486	67,609	401,764
External resources	16	-	-	-	-	16
Projected	80,261	97,039	87,385	69,486	67,609	401,780

4.0 Existing projects

- 4.1 The changes proposed for existing projects within the General Fund capital programme total an increase of £27.9 million as outlined in section 3. A more detailed listing of the individual projects can be found in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.
- 4.2 Requests for budget virements between existing projects within the General Fund capital programme total £2.8 million, further details provided in Appendix 4 to the report.
- 4.3 The following paragraphs provide commentary on the key changes to budgets and an update on key projects.

Civic Halls

- 4.4 Progress on the project continues at pace, in the Civic and Wulfrun Halls, all ceilings, resin flooring, new seating installations and the installation of all mechanical and electrical systems are now completed. Throughout the building, isolated minor decoration and snagging is ongoing.
- 4.5 The project team also continue to align the ongoing Civic Hall refurbishment works with the AEG contract and the wider public realm improvement programme to manage and mitigate any risks. The project, design and contracting teams continue to assist AEG with their works interface and have facilitated a number of site visits and meetings.

Interchange

- 4.6 In relation to Interchange, following completion of the Train Station, work is continuing on the completion the Metro Line extension including the establishment of the plaza space outside of the station, the Metro connection and cycle parking as the final components of the multi-modal transport interchange. In collaboration with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), who are delivering the project, a detailed programme of works has been set out to ensure completion of the tramline extension within the coming months.
- 4.7 Following the re-opening of the subway connecting the main station with the lower level station and surrounds, engagement is ongoing with Network Rail and West Midlands Trains to ensure continued improvements to the trackside station facility, treatment of the multi-story car park facade and wider connections to the Station, are agreed and programmed.

City Learning Quarter

- 4.8 City Learning Quarter (CLQ) is one of the Council's top regeneration priorities being fundamental to the levelling up approach for the City. The Council is responsible for the project management and delivery of the City Learning Quarter programme which includes Phase 1, CoWTechC (City of Wolverhampton College Technical Centre) and Phase 2, City Centre which will ultimately provide a new, refurbished and extended College building, integrated and improved Library and Adult Education facilities at land around the existing College's Metro One building at Bilston Street.
- 4.9 The CLQ Programme has successfully secured public funding of approximately £59 million from multiple sources which will now enable implementation. Phase 1, CoWTechC has benefited from Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BCLEP) and West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) grant awards while Phase 2 will be funded by a combination of BCLEP, Council Contribution, Towns Fund, Levelling Up Fund and Department for Education Capital Funding, which has recently been confirmed.
- 4.10 Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 are at procurement stages that will conclude with the identification of preferred contractors for the college build projects in late Autumn.

I54 Western Extension

- 4.11 This is a joint venture construction project with Staffordshire County Council, which reached practical completion stage in Autumn 2021. Financial projections over the last twelve months have indicated that there will be significant savings against the joint venture budget of £38.5 million and the 2021-2022 outturn figures reported support this position. Whilst the project is still incurring residual capital expenditure as it moves through to the final completion and full plot occupation phases, latest estimates (including contingencies) indicate that there will be an overall joint venture project saving in the region of £12.9 million. The project has also secured additional grant support during its life as well as firm interest in the developed plots, both of which will have a positive impact on the Council's capital programme. There are several inter dependencies

between the final project expenditure, final grant secured and the final value of capital receipts achieved which impact on the overall budget requirement for the City of Wolverhampton Council. As a result, the projections in this report continue to reflect the original budgetary position for the Council and will continue to do so until there is greater certainty across these variables as the project nears final completion.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 4.12 The forecast at quarter 2 is for total spend of £80.3 million, which includes reprofiling of £5.7 million from quarter 1 to future years. The reprofiling mainly relates to new build budgets (£6.6 million). Work is progressing on site for the larger developments such as Heath Town and phase 1 will complete in 2023-2024. The small sites programme continues to deliver – phase 5 will complete this year and the procurement for the community led development at Bushbury has now been completed.
- 4.13 Progress on existing refurbishment programmes continues to be good. However, high inflationary costs are having an impact on the programme, as detailed in 2.8, particularly on the costs of materials, and this is likely to increase the overall costs of existing projects. The impact on the capital forecasts is currently being reviewed and will be included in the 30 year HRA business plan which will be reported as part of the HRA Business Plan including rent and service charges annual report to Cabinet in January 2023.
- 4.14 In order to be prudent, there is an intentional ‘over-programming’ of projects to reflect the reality that some projects will inevitably be delayed due to unexpected circumstances or changes to priorities. Over-programming aims to ensure that, as far as possible, the resources available are fully utilised.

5.0 New projects and virements

- 5.1 Table 3 provides a summary of new projects requiring approval, covering the period 2022-2023 to 2026-2027, and identifying where additional funding is required and where the new expenditure can be met from existing resources. A detailed analysis of the individual projects included in this table can be found in Appendix 3 to the report.

Table 3: Summary of new projects requiring approval

Directorate	Forecast outturn	2022-2023 to 2026-2027		Virements from existing projects
		Additional internal resources required	Additional external resources required	
		£000	£000	
General Fund	11,022	260	9,863	899
Total	11,022	260	9,863	899

- 5.2 The new projects requiring approval are funded from a mixture of internal (£260,000) and external (£9.9 million) resources and virements totalling £899,000. Approval is sought to allocate £250,000 contribution from the Public Reserve and £10,000 from schools to

support new projects, this is discussed below whilst a list of the virements can be found in Appendix 4 to the report.

5.3 Of the overall increase of £11.0 million for the General Fund capital programme of which:

- an increase of £9.8 million funded externally relates to new High Needs Capital Fund Programme within the Education. The Council has secured significant external funding from the Department for Education (DfE) which will enable the Council to introduce a new capital programme.
- an increase totalling £60,000 relating to new Ward Street Junction Improvements project within Transportation, funded by developer contributions.
- an increase totalling £293,000 for the new East Park Improvements project within the Parks Strategy and Open Spaces capital programme is funded from a mixture of internal and external resources. Approval is sought to allocate contributions totalling £250,000 from the Public Health reserve and £43,000 of developer contributions to support the new project.
- Finally, an increase of £10,000 relates to three new capital projects within Education funded by contributions from schools.

5.4 New projects created through virements from existing projects within the General Fund relate to Schools Capital Maintenance, Parks Strategy and Open Spaces, Corporate Asset Management and Leisure Centres Enhancement capital programmes and are summarised below. A detailed list of new projects can be found in Appendix 3 to the report.

5.5 In summary, approval for the following General Fund virements is sought in this report:

- £580,000 is required for 17 new projects within the Schools Capital Maintenance programme, which is externally funded by grant from the DfE, to facilitate works across various schools in the City;
- £207,000 is proposed to be reallocated for new East Park Improvements project within the Parks Strategy and Open Spaces capital programme, from the Corporate Provision for Future Programmes;
- £82,000 is required for three new projects within the Corporate Asset Management capital programme to enable priority works ensuring all council assets are statutory compliant and fit for purpose. This virement is from the Corporate Provision for Future Programmes;
- £30,000 is requested for new Bert Williams – Plant Room / Air Handling project within the Leisure Centres Enhancement capital programme for the equipment acquisition and installation. This is also a virement from the Corporate Provision for Future Programmes.

5.6 On 6 July 2022, Cabinet approved the recommendation to delegate authority to the Deputy Director of Assets to approve virements from the Provision for future programmes budget within the Corporate Asset Management capital programme to individual schemes in order that corporate priorities can be addressed in an agile and timely manner. It should be noted that there were four virements totalling £47,000 approved through the delegated authority to support urgent works. These can be seen in Appendix 5 to the report.

5.7 There are two separate reports also on today's agenda, titled as follows:

- Secondary School Expansion Programme 2023
- Stow Heath Primary School Proposed Resource Base

These reports are not currently seeking budget approval, however, they are seeking approval to delegate authority to allocate budgets once further detail is known. Any approvals will be built into future reports.

6.0 Medium term capital programme financing

6.1 Table 4 details the approved financing for the capital programme for 2022-2023 to 2026-2027 and incorporates the requested approvals for projects included in this report.

Table 4: Approved and forecast capital financing 2022-2023 to 2026-2027

General Fund capital programme	2022-2023 to 2026-2027			
	Approved budget	Recommended budget	Variance	Resource as % of expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	310,927	338,808	27,881	
Financing				
Internal resources				
Capital receipts	56,515	57,262	747	16.9%
Prudential borrowing	78,623	93,117	14,494	27.5%
Revenue contributions	530	1,253	723	0.4%
Reserves	-	-	-	0.0%
Subtotal	135,668	151,632	15,964	44.8%
External resources				
Grants & contributions	175,259	187,176	11,917	55.2%
Subtotal	175,259	187,176	11,917	55.2%
Total	310,927	338,808	27,881	100.0%

Housing Revenue Account capital programme	2022-2023 to 2026-2027			
	Approved budget £000	Recommended budget £000	Variance £000	Resource as % of expenditure
Expenditure	401,780	401,780	-	
Financing				
Internal resources				
Capital receipts	25,696	26,507	811	6.6%
Prudential borrowing	266,786	265,975	(811)	66.2%
Revenue contributions	5,279	5,279	-	1.3%
Reserves	104,003	104,003	-	25.9%
Subtotal	401,764	401,764	-	100.0%
External resources				
Grants & contributions	16	16	-	0.0%
Subtotal	16	16	-	0.0%
Total	401,780	401,780	-	100.0%

- 6.2 Capital receipts totalling £57.3 million have been assumed within the General Fund capital programme over the medium term period 2022-2023 to 2026-2027 and can be seen in Table 5. This is an increase of £747,000 when compared to the approved budget, which has arisen due to re-profiling of receipts and capital requirements.
- 6.3 In order to be prudent, a detailed review of the schedule of asset disposals is undertaken to identify only those that are likely to be completed. The planned utilisation of capital receipts will reflect the need to balance the benefit for both the capital programme and the revenue budget and will form part of the ongoing Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 6.4 Whilst the forecast of capital receipts is deemed prudent at this stage, it will continue to be monitored closely throughout the financial year. In the event that capital receipts assumptions change, updates will be provided in future reports to Councillors.

Table 5: Receipts assumed in the revised General Revenue Account capital programme

General Fund	Projected					Total £000
	2022 - 2023 £000	2023 - 2024 £000	2024 - 2025 £000	2025 - 2026 £000	2026 - 2027 £000	
Capital programme receipts	13,500	10,400	18,000	12,400	3,000	57,300

- 6.5 It is the Council's strategy to use capital receipts to reduce the Council's need to borrow to fund the approved capital programme. Capital expenditure has a direct impact upon the Council's revenue budgets and therefore needs to be restricted to projects essential to the Council's priorities. Any proposals to increase the level of the capital programme are considered in accordance with the Capital Strategy.

7.0 Key budget risks

7.1 A key risk currently to the Council's capital programme is the market rate of inflation and the impact this could have on costs to deliver projects. Inflation is at the highest it has been for four decades and there is considerable uncertainty which is impacting contract pricing. In addition to the inflationary risks there are also supply chain delays, which could impact completion dates on projects and result in further cost pressures. The position in relation to these risks, continues to be monitored and to mitigate these risks contingency budgets are being reviewed. The current market conditions are however unprecedented, therefore quantification of the value of risk to the Council at this time is difficult.

7.2 An analysis of the risks associated with the capital programme, along with the details of the risk control measures that are in place in order to manage and mitigate these risks as far as possible can be viewed online on the Council's website by following the link below:

[Capital Programme | City Of Wolverhampton Council](#)

7.3 The overall risk associated with the programme continues to be quantified as amber.

8.0 Evaluation of alternative options

8.1 This report provides an update on progress of capital projects during 2022-2023 and anticipated budget requirement for future years. The evaluation of alternative project options is detailed in individual investment proposals.

9.0 Reasons for decisions

9.1 To seek Cabinet's recommendation to Council to approve the revised capital budgets. This will ensure that the capital programme budget reflects the latest forecasts and requirements.

10.0 Financial implications

10.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of this report. The revenue implications of the new and existing projects seeking approval for additional or changes in resources for the General Fund Revenue Account are fully reflected in the treasury management budget forecasts included in the report 'Treasury Management Activity Monitoring – Mid Year Review 2022-2023' also on the agenda for approval at this meeting.

10.2 Table below represents new capital grant notifications received during quarter two 2022-2023:

Service	Funding body	Name of new grant	£000
School Planning & Resources	Department for Education (DfE)	High Needs Capital Fund	9,760
Transportation	Department for Transport (DfT) via WMCA	Active Travel Fund 3	1,637
School Planning & Resources	Department for Education (DfE)	Devolved Formula Capital	395
School Planning & Resources	Department for Education (DfE)	Healthy Pupil Capital Fund	10
Grand total grant notifications			11,802

[RJ/04112022/V]

11.0 Legal implications

- 11.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.
- 11.2 The Local Government Act 1972 brought in the current regime for capital finance for local authorities. It reduced the level of central control over local authority borrowing and capital expenditure.
- 11.3 Each project mentioned in this report will have its own specific legal implications, raised and tailored in their respective reports.
[DP/08112022/A]

12.0 Equalities implications

- 12.1 There is a range of individual projects delivered through the Council's capital programme that have significant impacts on specific groups and equality implications should be considered when individual capital projects are being developed.
- 12.2 This requirement would also apply if there were to be any redirection of capital funding in year to ensure that the impact of any changes is considered.

13.0 All other implications

- 13.1 A wide range of projects delivered through the capital programme have significant environmental implications and are geared to promote improvements to the physical environment.
- 13.2 Projects funded and delivered through the Council's capital programme typically have significant impact on the Council's property portfolio. Corporate landlord implications must be considered and included in relevant documents and reports when individual capital projects and programmes are being developed.
- 13.3 There is a range of individual projects delivered through the Council's capital programme which could have health and wellbeing implications, these should be considered when individual capital projects are being developed.
- 13.4 The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant international, national and regional impact, and will continue to have, significant financial implications for the Council. Covid-19 has had an impact on development projects internationally, nationally and regionally and also on projects within the City. Specific references are made where appropriate throughout the report.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

- 14.1 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 7 May 2022, exempt - Resource Base Provision – St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School;
- 14.2 Council, 20 July 2022 - [Capital Budget Outturn 2021-2022 and Quarter One Capital Monitoring 2022-2023](#);
- 14.3 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 25 July 2022 - [Sustainable Warmth Competition - Grant approval](#);
- 14.4 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 28 July 2022 - [Corporate Asset Management Fund - Unit 6 Shaw Park Replacement of Windows and Doors](#);
- 14.5 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 28 July 2022, exempt - [Primary School Expansion Programme – Loxdale Primary School](#);
- 14.6 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 15 August 2022, exempt - [Temporary Supplementary Budget](#);
- 14.7 Cabinet, 7 September 2022, exempt - [Amendment to Capital Programme](#);
- 14.8 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 13 September 2022 - [Bell Street Box Space Scheme Demolition Capital Budget](#);
- 14.9 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 15 September 2022, exempt - Corporate Asset Management Fund - Approval of Schemes 2022-23;
- 14.10 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 12 October 2022 - [Allocation of the Corporate Provision for Future Programmes - Fleet Replacement Programme - Electric Sweepers](#);
- 14.11 Cabinet (Resources) Panel, 19 October 2022, exempt - [Acquisition and Redevelopment of 251-253 Tettenhall Road](#);
- 14.12 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 21 October 2022, exempt - Children and Young People in Care – foster carer housing adaptations application;
- 14.13 Individual Executive Decision Notice, 2 November 2022 - Towns Fund Projects - Supplementary Budgets (Bilston, Wednesfield, City Centre Public Realm - Phase 2).

15.0 Appendices

- 15.1 Appendix 1: Detailed projected budget
- 15.2 Appendix 2: Detailed forecast change
- 15.3 Appendix 3: Projects requiring approval
- 15.4 Appendix 4: Virements for approval
- 15.5 Appendix 5: Virements to note

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total £000	Internal resources £000	External resources £000
		2022- 2023 £000	2023- 2024 £000	2024- 2025 £000	2025- 2026 £000	2026- 2027 £000			
General Fund capital programme									
Finance	Corporate Provision for Future Programmes	4,134	18,003	2,544	-	-	24,681	(24,681)	-
	Transformation Development Efficiency Strategy	3,000	5,000	5,000	-	-	13,000	(13,000)	-
	WV Living - Loans	5,000	8,000	11,900	3,000	2,000	29,900	(29,900)	-
Governance	Governance Initiatives	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Webcasting Infrastructure	115	-	-	-	-	115	(115)	-
Strategy	ICT General Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Security Enhancement (ICT Main Prog)	-	40	-	-	-	40	(40)	-
	Software Upgrades (ICT Main Prog)	301	-	-	-	-	301	(301)	-
	Infrastructure Upgrades (ICT Main Prog)	249	-	-	-	-	249	(249)	-
	Data Centres (ICT Main Prog)	98	-	-	-	-	98	(98)	-
	IT Service Management	26	-	-	-	-	26	(26)	-
	Storage Refresh (ICT Main Prog)	155	-	-	-	-	155	(155)	-
	Future Developments	190	-	-	-	-	190	(190)	-
	ICT Disaster Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Disaster Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Desk top refresh	517	-	-	-	-	517	(517)	-
	Service Led ICT Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	IDOX/GIS Cloud Migration	93	-	-	-	-	93	(93)	-
	Fleet management system	75	-	-	-	-	75	(75)	-
	Trade waste CRM	51	-	-	-	-	51	(51)	-
	Migrate Care First to Eclipse_Adults and Finance Module	437	410	-	-	-	847	-	(847)
	Digital Inclusion	150	276	-	-	-	426	(426)	-
Full Fibre Network	149	-	-	-	-	149	(149)	-	
City Assets	Corporate Asset Management	50	-	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
	Wolverhampton Art Gallery - external renovation	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Haymarkets – internal / external renovation works	70	-	-	-	-	70	(70)	-
	Wolverhampton Art Gallery - FRA priority works	80	-	-	-	-	80	(80)	-
	Grand Theatre - FRA priority works	1	101	-	-	-	102	(102)	-
	Lunt Community Centre - new hot water and heating system	22	-	-	-	-	22	(22)	-
	Mortuary at Alfred Squire Road - roof replacement	-	69	-	-	-	69	(69)	-
	Bingley Enterprise Centre - replace roof and insulate and replace 11 windows	79	-	-	-	-	79	(79)	-
	Hickman Avenue Depot – electrical works / emergency lighting	8	-	-	-	-	8	(8)	-
	Newhampton Centre For Arts - FRA / mechanical and engineering / building fabric / electrical / Legionella	8	-	-	-	-	8	(8)	-
	Fordhouse Road Ind. Estate - roof replacement	337	1,009	-	-	-	1,346	(1,346)	-
	Ernest Bold Resource Centre - external lighting and new CCTV (option 1)	4	-	-	-	-	4	(4)	-
	West Park – replace boilers within conservatory	15	-	-	-	-	15	(15)	-
	Parkfields Centre - Plant room alteration and refurbishment	110	329	-	-	-	439	(439)	-
	76 Worcester Street – internal/external refurbishment	3	-	-	-	-	3	(3)	-
	Aldersley Leisure Centre (Hockey Pitches) – external lighting to include electrical controls & lighting columns	111	-	-	-	-	111	(111)	-
	Bingley Enterprise Centre - boiler / mechanical system replacement	4	-	-	-	-	4	(4)	-
	Bradley Resource Centre – fire door replacement	4	-	-	-	-	4	(4)	-
	Bradley Resource Centre – mechanical plant upgrade	178	-	-	-	-	178	(178)	-
	Bradley Resource Centre – replacement of extractor fan and interlock system	6	-	-	-	-	6	(6)	-
	Long Knowle Community Centre – mechanical heating system replacement	5	-	-	-	-	5	(5)	-
	Bilston Town Hall – refurbishment	35	-	-	-	-	35	(35)	-
	St Chads Community Centre – asbestos clearance / removal	2	-	-	-	-	2	(2)	-
	Land at Wednesfield Road – monument / brickwork enhancement	4	-	-	-	-	4	(4)	-
	Molineux Car Park – wall demolition and landscaping	55	-	-	-	-	55	(55)	-
	Ashmore Park Community Hub – new ventilation system	100	-	-	-	-	100	(100)	-
	Former Oxley Day Training Centre - demolition of buildings	142	426	-	-	-	568	(568)	-
	Hickman Avenue - demolition of void buildings	125	375	-	-	-	500	(500)	-
	Priory Green Offices – roof replacement	130	-	-	-	-	130	(130)	-
	Merridale Offices (Youth Offending Team) – installation of new ventilation system	33	97	-	-	-	130	(130)	-
	Former Priestfield Railway retaining wall – removal and reconstruction of wall	63	187	-	-	-	250	(250)	-

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total £000	Internal resources £000	External resources £000
		2022- 2023 £000	2023- 2024 £000	2024- 2025 £000	2025- 2026 £000	2026- 2027 £000			
General Fund capital programme									
City Assets	Former Loxdale School – conversion of site	350	-	-	-	-	350	(350)	-
	Former Oxley Moor House – demolition of buildings	21	61	-	-	-	82	(82)	-
	Former Oxley Day Training Centre Site – development of a modern health, wellbeing facility	108	5,120	3,785	522	-	9,535	(8,591)	(944)
	Former Oxley Day Training Centre Site – development of residential accommodation	97	4,544	3,356	463	-	8,460	(7,169)	(1,291)
	Civic Centre - New hot water system	40	-	-	-	-	40	(40)	-
	Mayoral Garage – installation of new roller shutter door and security system upgrade	-	25	-	-	-	25	(25)	-
	Graiseley Healthy Living Centre - roof works	31	-	-	-	-	31	(31)	-
	Aldersley Leisure Village – replacement of retaining wall	35	-	-	-	-	35	(35)	-
	Parkfields – replacement of upper floor windows	88	262	-	-	-	350	(350)	-
	St Chads Community Centre - replacement of Flue & Boilers	50	-	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
	Shaw Road HWRC - replacement of welfare facilities and installation of CCTV	175	-	-	-	-	175	(175)	-
	Anchor Lane HWRC - replacement of welfare facilities and installation of CCTV	135	-	-	-	-	135	(135)	-
	Bradley Resource Centre - fire door replacement and refurb	110	-	-	-	-	110	(110)	-
	Hickman Avenue Depot (Office) – lighting upgrade	165	-	-	-	-	165	(165)	-
	Eastfield Strengthening Families Hub - roof replacement	25	-	-	-	-	25	(25)	-
	Eastfield Community Centre - roof replacement	53	-	-	-	-	53	(53)	-
	Loxdale Industrial Estate Units 4 and 10 – roof works and electrical upgrade	15	-	-	-	-	15	(15)	-
	Civic Centre - reconfiguration of Customer Services area	104	-	-	-	-	104	(104)	-
	Wolverhampton Art Gallery – upgrade of security systems/CCTV	80	-	-	-	-	80	(80)	-
	Civic Centre – upgrade of CCTV to Ceremonial Car Park	20	-	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	Civic Centre – replacement of heat exchanger	50	-	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
	Civic Centre – upgrade fire alarm	50	-	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
	Civic Centre – replacement of Fire Detection Panels	50	-	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
	Wolverhampton Sea Cadets – demolition of void hall	43	127	-	-	-	170	(170)	-
	Land adjacent to Bilston Town FC – ground clearance and removal of knotweed	65	-	-	-	-	65	(65)	-
	Aldersley Leisure Village – upgrade of BMS system	22	-	-	-	-	22	(22)	-
	Bilston Cemetery – installation of boundary fence	22	-	-	-	-	22	(22)	-
	Bushbury Crematorium – upgrade of fire alarm	45	-	-	-	-	45	(45)	-
	Whitmore Reans Library – upgrade of BMS system	16	-	-	-	-	16	(16)	-
	East Park Pavilion – replacement of main fire doors	6	-	-	-	-	6	(6)	-
	Ernest Bold Centre – landscaping of outdoor areas	9	-	-	-	-	9	(9)	-
	Old Hall Street / The Foyer - installation of security system	50	-	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
	Bantock Park - BMS system	11	-	-	-	-	11	(11)	-
	Springvale Library - roof replacement	100	-	-	-	-	100	(100)	-
	St Chads Community Centre – replacement of flooring	17	-	-	-	-	17	(17)	-
	Lunt Community Centre – new roller shutter	5	-	-	-	-	5	(5)	-
	Bilston Market – installation of CCTV	16	-	-	-	-	16	(16)	-
	Central Baths – installation of CCTV	20	-	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	Wolverhampton Retail Market - installation of CCTV	31	-	-	-	-	31	(31)	-
	The Avenues Family Resource Centre (Low Hill SFH) - boiler replacement	114	-	-	-	-	114	(114)	-
	Tettenhall Paddling Pool - Plant Enclosure / Welfare Facilities	-	250	-	-	-	250	(250)	-
	18/19 Queen Square - window replacement	52	-	-	-	-	52	(52)	-
	Bingley Enterprise Centre – door and window replacements	179	-	-	-	-	179	(179)	-
	Eastfield Community Centre - flooring replacement	13	-	-	-	-	13	(13)	-
	Eastfield Community Centre - boiler and pumps replacement	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Neil Docherty Resource Centre - lighting upgrade	2	-	-	-	-	2	(2)	-
	Neil Docherty Resource Centre - heating pump replacement	1	-	-	-	-	1	(1)	-
	Neil Docherty Resource Centre - replacement of plant room doors	3	-	-	-	-	3	(3)	-
	Neil Docherty Resource Centre - flooring replacement	1	-	-	-	-	1	(1)	-
	Tettenhall Wood Institute - flooring replacement	22	-	-	-	-	22	(22)	-
	The Avenues Family Resource Centre (Low Hill SFH) – replacement of doors	9	-	-	-	-	9	(9)	-
	The Avenues Family Resource Centre (Low Hill SFH) – flooring replacement	29	-	-	-	-	29	(29)	-
	The Avenues Family Resource Centre (Low Hill SFH) – lighting upgrade	4	-	-	-	-	4	(4)	-

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total £000	Internal resources £000	External resources £000
		2022- 2023 £000	2023- 2024 £000	2024- 2025 £000	2025- 2026 £000	2026- 2027 £000			
General Fund capital programme									
City Assets	The Avenues Family Resource Centre (Low Hill SFH) – heating pump replacement	9	-	-	-	-	9	(9)	-
	The Avenues Family Resource Centre (Low Hill SFH) – replacement of plant room doors	2	-	-	-	-	2	(2)	-
	Whitmore Reans SFH – replacement of flooring	9	-	-	-	-	9	(9)	-
	Whitmore Reans SFH – lighting upgrade	2	-	-	-	-	2	(2)	-
	Aldersley Leisure Village - refurbishment of 6 Changing Rooms	113	-	-	-	-	113	(113)	-
	Bradley Resource Centre - upgrade lighting	40	-	-	-	-	40	(40)	-
	Civic Centre - replacement of Water Dosing System	32	-	-	-	-	32	(32)	-
	Wolverhampton Art Gallery – lighting upgrade	25	-	-	-	-	25	(25)	-
	Hickman Avenue Depot - new surface Water Drainage System	9	-	-	-	-	9	(9)	-
	Unit 6 Shaw Park - replacement of windows and doors	51	-	-	-	-	51	(51)	-
	The Children's Village	13	-	-	-	-	13	(13)	-
	Ashmore Park Community Hub - new water heating system	15	-	-	-	-	15	(15)	-
	Brickiln Community Centre – boiler replacement	15	-	-	-	-	15	(15)	-
	Civic Centre – kitchen induction hob	56	-	-	-	-	56	(56)	-
	Newhampton Arts Centre – ventilation chillers	190	-	-	-	-	190	(190)	-
	Queens Building – external stonework	30	-	-	-	-	30	(30)	-
	Hickman Avenue Depot – fire door replacement	5	-	-	-	-	5	(5)	-
	All Saints Community Centre – new electric oven	6	-	-	-	-	6	(6)	-
	Dunstall Hill Community Centre - replacement of kitchen ovens	13	-	-	-	-	13	(13)	-
	The Whitehouse project	888	-	-	-	-	888	(888)	-
	Bob Jones Community Hub - replacement of BMS Controller	6	-	-	-	-	6	(6)	-
	Bilston Retail Market - safe roof access	30	-	-	-	-	30	(30)	-
	Graiseley Brook - stabilisation works	27	-	-	-	-	27	(27)	-
Windsor Avenue Allotments - perimeter fencing	25	-	-	-	-	25	(25)	-	
City Housing and Environment	Disabled Facilities Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	(2,000)
	Small Adaptations Grants	1,413	-	-	-	-	1,413	-	(1,413)
	Stair Lift Maintenance	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Care & Repair Fees	80	-	-	-	-	80	-	(80)
	Social Care Minor Adaptations	90	-	-	-	-	90	-	(90)
	Discretionary Bathrooms Adaptations Grant	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	(1,500)
	Discretionary Top Up Grants	400	-	-	-	-	400	-	(400)
	Contribution assistance grants	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Dual residency grant	60	-	-	-	-	60	-	(60)
	Technology enabled care	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Living well grant	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Home Not Hospital	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Relocation grant	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	DFG Capitalised Salaries	700	-	-	-	-	700	-	(700)
	Rehabilitation Equipment	350	-	-	-	-	350	-	(350)
	Housing General Fund General Schemes - Small Works Assistance (SWA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Small Works Assistance	151	-	-	-	-	151	(151)	-
	Capitalised Salaries	61	-	-	-	-	61	(61)	-
	Housing General Fund General Schemes - Empty Properties Strategy	2	241	-	-	-	243	(243)	-
	Two and a half Clifford Street	80	-	-	-	-	80	(80)	-
	10 Lloyd Street	30	-	-	-	-	30	(30)	-
	46 Mount Pleasant	40	-	-	-	-	40	(40)	-
	Sustainable Warmth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Local Authority Delivery 2: Green Homes	271	-	-	-	-	271	-	(271)
	Local Authority Delivery 3 : Green Homes	1,364	-	-	-	-	1,364	-	(1,364)
	Home Upgrade Grant (phase 1)	457	-	-	-	-	457	-	(457)
	Maintenance of classified roads	-	3,316	3,316	3,316	3,316	13,264	-	(13,264)
	Transport Structural Maintenance - Street Lighting	350	-	-	-	-	350	-	(350)
	Response patching	200	-	-	-	-	200	-	(200)
	Specialist Surface Treatments	50	16	-	-	-	66	(16)	(50)
	Replacement of non-compliant safety fencing	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	(30)
	Development of the Highway Asset Management Plan and Strategy	9	128	-	-	-	137	(128)	(9)
Cambridge Street and Water Street	78	-	-	-	-	78	(66)	(12)	
Woodland Road / Coppice Road Junction – (All junction only)	20	-	-	-	-	20	(10)	(10)	

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total £000	Internal resources £000	External resources £000
		2022- 2023 £000	2023- 2024 £000	2024- 2025 £000	2025- 2026 £000	2026- 2027 £000			
General Fund capital programme									
City Housing and Environment	Purbrook Road	85	65	-	-	-	150	(84)	(66)
	Stafford Street Reinstatement	100	-	-	-	-	100	(50)	(50)
	Deans Road - Entirety	100	400	-	-	-	500	(400)	(100)
	Wynn Road (First 100m from Coalway Road)	28	-	-	-	-	28	-	(28)
	School Road (Phase 2)	200	-	-	-	-	200	-	(200)
	Overfield Drive Island	35	-	-	-	-	35	-	(35)
	Bushbury Road	260	-	-	-	-	260	-	(260)
	Lower Prestwood Road	125	-	-	-	-	125	-	(125)
	Jeffcock Road	360	-	-	-	-	360	-	(360)
	Leybourne Crescent / The Drove Junction	80	-	-	-	-	80	-	(80)
	Kingsway (Cannock Road inc Island)	60	-	-	-	-	60	-	(60)
	Stafford Street (Inbound, Cannock Road to Ring Road inc Ring Road junction)	-	310	-	-	-	310	(310)	-
	Ring Road - Waterloo Road Junction	-	100	-	-	-	100	(100)	-
	Church Hill, Penn	140	-	-	-	-	140	-	(140)
	Highway Improvement Programme	-	1,441	1,441	1,441	1,441	5,764	-	(5,764)
	Integrated Transport - Advance Design	74	-	-	-	-	74	-	(74)
	Integrated Transport - Cannock Road / Cross St North	2	-	-	-	-	2	(2)	-
	UTC - Wireless Communications	100	-	-	-	-	100	-	(100)
	Ring Road & City Centre Signage	301	-	-	-	-	301	-	(301)
	Bus infrastructure improvements	30	-	-	-	-	30	(30)	-
	UTC Expansion ITS/CCTV/Driver Information/ANPR	165	-	-	-	-	165	-	(165)
	Lyndale Drive Culvert - Highways Improvement	39	-	-	-	-	39	(39)	-
	Willenhall Road Culvert - Highways Improvement	20	-	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	UTC Expansion CCTV	125	-	-	-	-	125	-	(125)
	Traffic Signal Maintenance	500	-	-	-	-	500	-	(500)
	UTC upgrade & CCTV link	40	-	-	-	-	40	-	(40)
	Ward Street Junction Improvements (S106)	60	-	-	-	-	60	-	(60)
	Vehicles (Procurement)	4,541	-	-	-	-	4,541	(4,541)	-
	Bowman's Harbour - Former Landfill Sites	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Bowman's Harbour Repository - Tech Investigation	11	-	-	-	-	11	(11)	-
	Markets Bilston Retail Market	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Bilston Market - boiler replacement	32	-	-	-	-	32	(32)	-
	Parks Strategy and Open Space	175	-	-	-	-	175	(175)	-
	Heath Town Park	-	49	-	-	-	49	-	(49)
	Spring Road - (Taylor Road / Hilton PF)	-	34	-	-	-	34	(34)	-
	Fowlers Park	12	-	-	-	-	12	-	(12)
	Land North East of 72 Church Street, Bilston	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	(3)
	Tettenhall Paddling Pool	1	-	-	-	-	1	(1)	-
	Ward Street Neighbourhood Park	94	-	-	-	-	94	-	(94)
	Penk Rise - refurbishment of Open Space	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Bushbury Recreation Ground - open space improvements	-	103	-	-	-	103	-	(103)
	Kingsclere Walk - refurbishment of existing play area	55	-	-	-	-	55	-	(55)
	Northwood Park - refurbishment of existing play area	114	-	-	-	-	114	-	(114)
	Ashmore Park, Wednesfield - open space improvements	94	-	-	-	-	94	-	(94)
	Ward Street railway cutting – gas main diversion works for new open space	-	17	-	-	-	17	-	(17)
	Prouds Lane Open Space Improvements	111	-	-	-	-	111	-	(111)
	Wednesfield Link Open Space Improvements	72	-	-	-	-	72	-	(72)
	Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve Open Space	16	-	-	-	-	16	-	(16)
	Prouds Lane Playing Field - Open Space Improvements	428	-	-	-	-	428	(403)	(25)
	Wednesfield / Coleman Avenue Open Space - Play Area	57	-	-	-	-	57	-	(57)
	Bantock Park - Offsite Open Space Improvements	69	-	-	-	-	69	-	(69)
	Peascroft Wood - Open Space Improvements	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	(3)
	East Park Improvements	500	-	-	-	-	500	(457)	(43)
	Black Country Blue Network Phase 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ward Street Railway Cutting	397	-	-	-	-	397	-	(397)
	Pendeford Park Open Space	206	-	-	-	-	206	-	(206)
	Fowlers Park	99	-	-	-	-	99	-	(99)
	Walsall MBC Parks and Open Space	39	-	-	-	-	39	-	(39)
	Dudley MBC Open Space	205	47	-	-	-	252	-	(252)
	Severn Rivers Trust Cradley Projects	82	-	-	-	-	82	-	(82)
	Canal & Rivers Trust Coseley Canal	39	-	-	-	-	39	-	(39)
	Bereavement Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Bereavement Services Improvement Programme at Bushbury Crematorium site (drainage, pavements)	4	-	-	-	-	4	(4)	-
	Bushbury Crematorium	558	-	-	-	-	558	(558)	-

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total	Internal resources	External resources
		2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027			
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
General Fund capital programme									
City Housing and Environment	Safety Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Local Safety Schemes - TROs/ Signs&Guardrails / Road Markings	224	-	-	-	-	224	-	(224)
	Vehicle actuated speed warning signs	28	8	-	-	-	36	(8)	(28)
	Lunt Road - traffic calming and zebra crossing	-	80	-	-	-	80	(80)	-
	Arterial route – Stafford Road – areas at risk of accidents	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	(1)
	Newhampton Road East & West - local safety improvement	-	50	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
	Dixon Street	44	-	-	-	-	44	(44)	-
	Ettingshall Road/Manor Road	50	-	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
	Barnhurst Lane/Aldersley High School	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	(1)
	Old Heath Road Area Local Safety Scheme	10	36	-	-	-	46	(36)	(10)
	Underhill Lane	60	-	-	-	-	60	-	(60)
	SRTS - Woden Road/St Stephens Primary School	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	SRTS - 20's Plenty Roll Out	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	Network Development - Safer Routes to School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	School Gate Parking	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	(20)
	Active Travel Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Cycling - Cycle Route Improvements	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	(30)
	Wednesfield Road - footway widening and introducing shared cycle route	2,150	-	-	-	-	2,150	(277)	(1,873)
	St Peters Ring Road/ Waterloo Road Cycleway	93	-	-	-	-	93	-	(93)
	National Cycle Routes	297	-	-	-	-	297	-	(297)
	Noose Lane to School Street Active Travel Route - Wolverhampton	300	1,132	-	-	-	1,432	-	(1,432)
	Noose Lane to School Street Active Travel Route - Walsall	-	500	-	-	-	500	-	(500)
	Accessing Growth Fund - Major Roads Network	40	-	-	-	-	40	(40)	-
	A4123 Corridor - A4150 Ring Road to A456 Hagley Road	389	-	-	-	-	389	-	(389)
	A454 Wolverhampton to Neachells Lane, Phases 1,2 and 3	551	-	-	-	-	551	-	(551)
	A449 Stafford Road - M54J2 to A4150 Ring Road	73	-	-	-	-	73	-	(73)
	A449 Stafford Road North Only	398	-	-	-	-	398	-	(398)
	A41 Moxley Gyrotory (grant payment to Walsall)	27	-	-	-	-	27	-	(27)
	A461 Dudley	200	-	-	-	-	200	-	(200)
	A461 Sandwell	320	-	-	-	-	320	-	(320)
	A41 Sandwell	150	-	-	-	-	150	-	(150)
	A461 Rushall Junction Walsall	230	-	-	-	-	230	-	(230)
	A456 Dudley	100	-	-	-	-	100	-	(100)
	M5, J1 Sandwell	250	-	-	-	-	250	-	(250)
	WBHE Sustainable Access Measures - Dudley	667	-	-	-	-	667	-	(667)
	WBHE Sustainable Access Measures - Sandwell	333	-	-	-	-	333	-	(333)
	Street Lighting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Street Lighting replacement programme (Invest to Save)	581	1,168	-	-	-	1,749	(1,749)	-
	Smart Intelligent Infrastructure Investment (ERDF)	1,845	-	-	-	-	1,845	(1,077)	(768)
	Disabled Access (rolling programme)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Disabled Access (rolling programme)	-	20	-	-	-	20	(20)	-
	Highway Structures (bridges, subways, retaining walls)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Moathouse Lane Bridge	30	-	-	-	-	30	(30)	-
	River Embankment and design Bridgnorth Road	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Emergency Structural Maintenance repairs	140	-	-	-	-	140	-	(140)
	Maintenance of unclassified roads	250	750	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
	Carriageway Surfacing Treatment	177	329	-	-	-	506	(470)	(36)
	Public Rights of way improvements	-	25	-	-	-	25	(25)	-
	Wright Avenue Estate	398	-	-	-	-	398	-	(398)
	Castlecroft Road – remove concrete crossings	-	130	-	-	-	130	(130)	-
	Future High Street Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Victoria Street Public Realm (Westside Link Phase 1)	7,609	320	-	-	-	7,929	(250)	(7,679)
	Civic Halls Public Realm (Westside Link Phase 3)	3,704	-	-	-	-	3,704	(250)	(3,454)
	Security Enhancement works	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Improving Pedestrian Safety	12	-	-	-	-	12	(12)	-
	Waste & Recycling Strategy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Garden waste bins	33	-	-	-	-	33	(33)	-
	Commercial Waste Services Bins	81	-	-	-	-	81	(81)	-
	Lighting up the City	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Smart and Accessible City	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ultra Low Emission Bus (ULEB) Pantograph	143	-	-	-	-	143	-	(143)
	ORCS Bid Local Contribution	374	-	-	-	-	374	-	(374)
	SupaTrak system and in-cab Garmin devices	-	10	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Traveller Transit Site	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Traveller Transit Site Phase 1	12	-	-	-	-	12	(12)	-
	Residential Waste Bins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Mobile Weighbridge	24	-	-	-	-	24	(24)	-
	Digital Advertising Boards	15	-	-	-	-	15	(15)	-
	Lockers	10	-	-	-	-	10	(10)	-
	Palladin Bins	47	-	-	-	-	47	(47)	-
	Domestic Bins	108	-	-	-	-	108	(108)	-

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total £000	Internal resources £000	External resources £000	
		2022- 2023 £000	2023- 2024 £000	2024- 2025 £000	2025- 2026 £000	2026- 2027 £000				
General Fund capital programme										
City Housing and Environment	Brewers Yard, Culwell Street Depot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Culwell Street - demolition & remediation	52	-	1,597	602	54	2,305	(2,205)	(100)	
	Wholesale market - demolition	871	-	-	-	-	871	-	(871)	
	Wholesale market & Fleet Depot - new build	43	2,747	2,136	132	-	5,058	(2,268)	(2,790)	
	Fleet Depot - new build	63	4,104	3,316	334	-	7,817	(1,577)	(6,240)	
	Towns Fund Phase 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Bilston Market Redevelopment	146	2,052	2,800	-	-	4,998	-	(4,998)	
	Wednesfield High Street Redevelopment Public Realm Works	167	2,186	531	-	-	2,884	-	(2,884)	
	Public Realm Improvements on Lichfield St/Queens Square and Darlington Street	500	1,250	1,222	-	-	2,972	-	(2,972)	
Communications	Future High Street Fund - City Events	519	4,042	-	-	-	4,561	(4,224)	(337)	
	Cleveland Street - Demolition & Site Preparation	1,221	41	-	-	-	1,262	(752)	(510)	
Regeneration	i54 Access and Infrastructure	67	39	296	-	-	402	(113)	(289)	
	Targeted Disposals Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Disposal of Heath Town Baths	3	-	-	-	-	3	(3)	-	
	Targeted Disposals - Hoardings	-	36	-	-	-	36	(36)	-	
	South Side	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Burdett House Demolition	-	315	-	-	-	315	(315)	-	
	Wolverhampton Interchange Office/Retail Accommodation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	i10 - IGNITE Business Project	67	-	-	-	-	67	(67)	-	
	Bilston Urban Village	41	-	-	-	-	41	(41)	-	
	Black Country Growth Deal – Cultural Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Civic Halls Improvements	20,149	-	-	-	-	20,149	(10,149)	(10,000)	
	Interchange - Ph2 Train Station/MSCP/Metro Extension	3,748	-	-	-	-	3,748	(3,230)	(518)	
	i54 Western Extension	3,593	13,960	-	-	-	17,553	(12,582)	(4,971)	
	City Learning Quarter	4,737	40,355	6,264	-	-	51,356	(2,469)	(48,887)	
	War Memorial Restoration	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	(5)	
Tettenhall War Memorial Restoration	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	(4)		
Strategic Land Acquisitions	-	-	310	-	-	310	(310)	-		
AIM for GOLD - ERDF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	AIM for GOLD - ERDF	1,903	-	-	-	-	1,903	-	(1,903)	
Public Health	Sports Investment Strategy	-	177	-	-	-	177	(175)	(2)	
	Synthetic Pitch at Our Lady & St Chad's School	114	-	-	-	-	114	(114)	-	
	Peace Green sport facilities	3	-	-	-	-	3	(3)	-	
	Leisure Centres Enhancement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	WV Active - Aldersley Leisure Village Enhancement	-	21	-	-	-	21	(21)	-	
	WV Active Leisure Centres - Lockers	96	-	-	-	-	96	(96)	-	
	Bert Williams - Plant Room Filters/Air Handling	30	-	-	-	-	30	(30)	-	
	Bowling provision	-	102	-	-	-	102	-	(102)	
	Grants to other organisations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	NACRO Premises Refurbishment	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	(8)	
Children's Services	Co-Location Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Children's Transformation - Bingley	8	-	-	-	-	8	(8)	-	
	Children and young people in care - extensions/vehicles	3	-	-	-	-	3	(3)	-	
	Extensions Mr and Mrs C	42	-	-	-	-	42	(42)	-	
	Children's Residential Homes	1,135	-	-	-	-	1,135	(1,135)	-	
Education and Skills	Primary Expansion Programme	-	9,357	-	-	-	9,357	-	(9,357)	
	Loxdale Primary Phase 4	110	-	-	-	-	110	-	(110)	
	Spring Vale Primary Phase 4	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)	
	St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School - phase 4	1,156	-	-	-	-	1,156	-	(1,156)	
	Hill Avenue Academy - phase 4	202	1,500	-	-	-	1,702	-	(1,702)	
	Bilston Church of England Primary - caretaker house renovation	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	(7)	
	Loxdale Primary - replacement ovens	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)	
	Schools Devolved Formula Capital	755	395	-	-	-	1,150	-	(1,150)	
	Asbestos Removal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Claregate Primary - asbestos removal for windows replacement	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	(5)	
	Dovecotes Primary - asbestos flooring removal	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	(8)	
	Electrical Works	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Castlecroft Primary - rewiring inc. alarms and emergency lighting	107	-	-	-	-	107	-	(107)	
	Penn Hall Special - electrical upgrade	37	-	-	-	-	37	-	(37)	
	Christ Church Junior - replacement lighting Phase 1	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)	
	Claregate Primary - replacement lighting Phase 1	56	-	-	-	-	56	-	(56)	
	Graiseley Primary - replacement fire alarm	78	-	-	-	-	78	-	(78)	
	Long Knowle Primary - replacement lighting	78	-	-	-	-	78	-	(78)	
	Uplands Junior - replacement lighting	40	-	-	-	-	40	-	(40)	
	Wodensfield Primary - replacement lighting	61	-	-	-	-	61	-	(61)	
	Midpoint PRU - new fire alarm	108	-	-	-	-	108	-	(108)	
	Dovecotes Primary - replacement lighting	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)	
		Contingency for Emergency Works	300	1,006	-	-	-	1,306	-	(1,306)

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total	Internal resources	External resources
		2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027			
General Fund capital programme									
Education and Skills	Building Schools for Future ICT Infrastructure	182	-	-	-	-	182	(182)	-
	Post BSF infrastructure upgrades	155	-	-	-	-	155	(155)	-
	Capital Maintenance - Fire Safety	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Uplands Junior - Fire Safety Work	41	-	-	-	-	41	(4)	(37)
	St Andrews, Church of England Primary - Fire Safety Work	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Eastfield Primary - replace fire escapes	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Uplands Junior - replacement fire doors	70	-	-	-	-	70	(6)	(64)
	Penn Hall Special - replacement fire doors	24	-	-	-	-	24	-	(24)
	Capital Maintenance - heating pipework upgrades	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Springdale Junior - replacement heating pipework	140	-	-	-	-	140	-	(140)
	Rakegate Primary - hot water system	47	-	-	-	-	47	-	(47)
	Colton Hills Secondary - replacement boilers	242	-	-	-	-	242	-	(242)
	Bilston Church of England Primary - boiler plant upgrade	139	-	-	-	-	139	-	(139)
	Christ Church Infants - replacement heating controls	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Claregate Primary - boiler plant upgrade	85	-	-	-	-	85	-	(85)
	St Andrews Church of England Primary - boiler plant	265	-	-	-	-	265	-	(265)
	Lanesfield Primary - replacement heating to KS2	68	-	-	-	-	68	-	(68)
	Capital Maintenance - roof / ceilings replacements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Christ Church, Church of England Infants (TW) - roof covering to link	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Spring Vale Primary - flat roof	36	-	-	-	-	36	-	(36)
	Merridale Primary - replacement roof covering phase 1	24	-	-	-	-	24	-	(24)
	Fallings Park Primary - replacement roof covering phase 1	204	-	-	-	-	204	(24)	(180)
	Ashmore Park Nursery - flat roofing	15	-	-	-	-	15	-	(15)
	Colton Hills Secondary - flat roofing	111	-	-	-	-	111	-	(111)
	Eastfield Primary - corridor roofing	46	-	-	-	-	46	-	(46)
	Lanesfield Primary - replacement hall roof	73	-	-	-	-	73	-	(73)
	Long Knowle Primary - replace roff, gutters & fascias	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	(30)
	Wodensfield Primary - replace roof to KS2	369	-	-	-	-	369	-	(369)
	Springdale Primary - replacement of glazed roofing	60	-	-	-	-	60	-	(60)
	Capital Maintenance - Structural Works	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Christ Church, Church of England, Infant School - timber works to modular classroom	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	(1)
	Kings CE School Priority Remedial Works	-	800	-	-	-	800	-	(800)
	Orchard PRU - security fencing installation	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Dovecotes Primary - replace fascias	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Dovecotes Primary - replace floors	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	(10)
	Rakegate Primary - firestopping works	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Midpoint PRU - fencing	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	(5)
	West Park Primary - replacement fascias and doors	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	(2)
	Colton Hills Secondary - replacement lift	63	-	-	-	-	63	(20)	(43)
	Claregate Primary - resurface paving	32	-	-	-	-	32	-	(32)
	Long Knowle Primary - replace fences Phase 1	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	(30)
	Merridale Primary - install fencing	55	-	-	-	-	55	(4)	(51)
	Springdale Primary - toilets refurbishment	120	-	-	-	-	120	-	(120)
	Uplands Junior - toilets refurbishment	49	-	-	-	-	49	(4)	(45)
	West Park Primary - toilets refurbishment	75	-	-	-	-	75	-	(75)
	Wood End Primary - toilets refurbishment	12	-	-	-	-	12	(1)	(11)
	Green Park Special - edge protection	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Stowlawn Primary - edge protection	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	(25)
	Penn Hall Special - early years bathroom	49	-	-	-	-	49	-	(49)
	Wodensfield Primary - playground fencing	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	(8)
	Graiseley Primary - resurfacing	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	(8)
	Bushbury Nursery - replacement kitchen	11	-	-	-	-	11	-	(11)
	Uplands Junior - resurfacing pathways	18	-	-	-	-	18	(2)	(16)
	Merridale Primary - DDA toilet	23	-	-	-	-	23	(2)	(21)
	Dovecotes Primary - perimeter fencing	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	(50)
	Capital Maintenance - Window Upgrade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Wodensfield Primary - replacement KS2 windows	28	-	-	-	-	28	-	(28)
	Claregate Primary - replacement windows and doors to kitchen	18	-	-	-	-	18	-	(18)
	Bantock Primary - replacement windows	106	-	-	-	-	106	(31)	(75)
	Christ Church Infants - replacement windows	48	-	-	-	-	48	-	(48)
	Dovecotes Primary - replacement windows	11	-	-	-	-	11	-	(11)
	Long Knowle Primary - replacment windows to Nursery	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	(5)
	Springdale Primary - replacement doors & windows	120	-	-	-	-	120	-	(120)
	St Andrews Church of England Primary - replacement windows to quadrangle	62	-	-	-	-	62	-	(62)
	Colton Hills Secondary - replacement windows Phase 2	26	-	-	-	-	26	-	(26)

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total	Internal resources	External resources
		2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027			
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Fund capital programme									
Education and Skills	Secondary School Expansion Programme	-	5,834	-	-	-	5,834	-	(5,834)
	St Edmund's Catholic Academy	1,155	-	-	-	-	1,155	-	(1,155)
	West Midlands University Technical College (UTC)	-	2,000	-	-	-	2,000	-	(2,000)
	Moreton Academy	2,094	-	-	-	-	2,094	-	(2,094)
	SPCF Special Provision Capital Fund	-	247	-	-	-	247	-	(247)
	SPCF Resource base St Michaels Church of England Primary	180	-	-	-	-	180	-	(180)
	Healthy Pupil Capital Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	HPCF Special schools - sports & fitness	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	(3)
	HPCF Primary school - sports & fitness	10	-	-	-	-	10	(2)	(8)
	HPCF PRUs - sports & fitness	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	(2)
	High Needs Capital Programme - Future Schemes	-	9,760	-	-	-	9,760	-	(9,760)
Total General Fund - existing and new projects		114,501	157,872	49,814	9,810	6,811	338,808	(151,632)	(187,176)

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total	Internal resources	External resources
		2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027			
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Housing Revenue Account capital programme									
Housing Revenue Account	Decent Homes - Stock Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	High Rise M&E Infrastructure Refurbishment	8,834	12,869	13,644	9,250	7,050	51,647	(51,647)	-
	Heath Town Refurbishment of Retained Properties	9,760	14,700	8,018	3,715	1,511	37,704	(37,704)	-
	Internal Decency Works	6,198	5,400	5,171	4,371	2,531	23,671	(23,671)	-
	Bushbury Improvement Programme	302	-	-	-	-	302	(302)	-
	Mid Rise Infrastructure	250	1,824	2,326	4,000	6,100	14,500	(14,500)	-
	Minor Works/Door Entry Rolling Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Door Entry	380	400	420	380	370	1,950	(1,950)	-
	Pathway Improvement and Safety Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Repairs - Pathways/Unadopted Roads	197	200	200	200	200	997	(997)	-
	Adaptations for People with Disabilities	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	710	5,710	(5,710)	-
	WH Service Sales Admin & Capitalised Salaries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sale of Council Houses Admin	60	60	60	60	60	300	(300)	-
	Wolverhampton Homes - Capitalised Salaries	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	9,900	(9,900)	-
	Housing services capitalised salaries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Housing Services Capitalised Salaries	400	400	400	400	400	2,000	(2,000)	-
	Refurbishment of Voids	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Refurbishment of Voids to Decent Homes Standard	7,001	5,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	22,501	(22,501)	-
	Boiler Replacement Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Boiler Replacement	1,200	680	560	560	560	3,560	(3,560)	-
	Heath Town	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Heath Town	543	-	-	-	-	543	(543)	-
	Tap Works site	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Tap works – Showell Road	5	-	-	-	-	5	(5)	-
	Structural works	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Structural works	1,580	900	950	986	985	5,401	(5,401)	-
	Remedial Works to non-traditional properties	366	650	3,026	4,060	8,248	16,350	(16,350)	-
	Jericho House	98	-	-	-	-	98	(98)	-
	Lift and DDA Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Lift Improvements	400	400	400	400	400	2,000	(2,000)	-
	Fire Safety Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Fire Safety Improvements - Medium and Low Rise	2,200	1,440	1,395	-	-	5,035	(5,035)	-
	Roof Refurbishment Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Roofing Refurbishment Programme - City wide	3,947	4,550	2,988	2,988	2,988	17,461	(17,461)	-
	New Build Programme	-	-	1,000	5,000	5,503	11,503	(11,503)	-
	Old Fallings Crescent	200	2,000	2,631	-	-	4,831	(4,831)	-
	Sustainable Estates Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sustainable Estates Programme	1,091	534	507	600	600	3,332	(3,332)	-
	Non Trad Surveys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Non Traditional Surveys	150	200	393	50	50	843	(843)	-
	Commercial Conversions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Bond House conversion to residential	3,533	-	-	-	-	3,533	(3,517)	(16)
	Burton Crescent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Burton Crescent	14	-	-	-	-	14	(14)	-
	Heath Town New Build Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Heath Town New Build Phase 1	5,031	2,000	-	-	-	7,031	(7,031)	-
	Heath Town New Build Phase 2	2,000	11,000	10,000	-	-	23,000	(23,000)	-
	Heath Town Phase 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	WVL Units	-	2,387	5,000	6,000	6,000	19,387	(19,387)	-
	WVL Units - Prouds Lane	194	-	-	-	-	194	(194)	-
	WVL Units - Wednesfield	205	-	-	-	-	205	(205)	-
	WVL Units - Northcote	2,000	2,000	1,048	-	-	5,048	(5,048)	-

Detailed projected budget

Appendix 1

Division	Project	Projected budget					Total	Internal resources	External resources
		2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027			
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Housing Revenue Account capital programme									
Housing Revenue Account	Medium Sites	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Medium Sites	1,000	6,878	-	-	-	7,878	(7,878)	-
	High Rise External Works	-	2,343	6,248	6,466	6,343	21,400	(21,400)	-
	High Rise External Works	500	-	-	-	-	500	(500)	-
	Reedham Gardens	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Reedham Gardens	1,500	2,724	-	-	-	4,224	(4,224)	-
	Additional Social Housing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Additional Social Housing	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	12,500	(12,500)	-
	Small Sites Programme	-	1,000	3,000	2,000	-	6,000	(6,000)	-
	Bushbury Hill Community Housing	1,600	-	-	-	-	1,600	(1,600)	-
	Inkerman Street Community Housing	1,600	-	-	-	-	1,600	(1,600)	-
	Small Sites 5	4,002	-	-	-	-	4,002	(4,002)	-
	Estate Remodelling	-	-	9,000	9,000	9,000	27,000	(27,000)	-
	Estate remodelling - New Park Village	3,520	9,000	-	-	-	12,520	(12,520)	-
	City Wide Non traditional structural repairs	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Total Housing Revenue Account - existing and new projects		80,261	97,039	87,385	69,486	67,609	401,780	(401,764)	(16)

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Detailed forecast change

Appendix 2

Division	Project	Approved budget £000	Proposed budget £000	Total change £000	Comments
General Fund capital programme					
Finance	Corporate Provision for Future Programmes	9,994	24,681	14,687	The Corporate Provision for Future Programmes has been revised upwards by £15.0 million over the medium term capital programme to reflect potential future budget requirements within various service areas including ICT, Corporate Asset Management, Fleet Services and Waste. Budget provision has been incorporated into the Corporate Provision for Future Programmes in order to be prudent at this stage and will be allocated to individual projects using appropriate delegations. Allocations will be reported at each Quarterly Review. Future requirements across the capital programme remain under. This was offset by virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Capitalisation Directives	13,000	13,000	-	
	WV Living	29,900	29,900	-	
Governance	Governance Initiatives	115	115	-	
Strategy	ICT General Programme	1,059	1,059	-	
	ICT Desktop Refresh	517	517	-	
	Service Led ICT Projects	1,492	1,492	-	
	Full Fibre Network	149	149	-	
City Assets	Corporate Asset Management	26,975	27,282	307	The change in this budget reflects virements to existing and new projects for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
City Housing and Environment	Disabled Facilities Grants	6,868	6,868	-	
	Housing General Fund General Schemes - Small Works Assistance (SWA)	151	151	-	
	Housing General Fund General Schemes - Capitalised Salaries	61	61	-	
	Housing General Fund General Schemes - Empty Properties Strategy	242	483	241	The change in this budget reflects revised budget requirement mainly funded from recycled capital receipts.
	Local Authority Delivery 2: Green Homes Grant	2,092	2,092	-	
	Maintenance of classified roads	16,593	16,593	-	
	Highway Improvement Programme	7,160	7,220	60	The change in this budget reflects new project for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Vehicles (Procurement)	4,541	4,541	-	
	Bowman's Harbour - Former Landfill Sites	11	11	-	
	Markets Bilston Retail Market	26	32	6	The change in this budget reflects virement as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Parks Strategy and Open Space	1,364	2,017	653	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4 and new project for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Bereavement Services	562	562	-	
	Safety Programme	734	632	(102)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Active Travel Programme	2,865	4,502	1,637	The change in this budget reflects grant allocation towards the programme.
	Network Development - Safer Routes to School	20	20	-	
	Accessing Growth Fund - Major Roads Network	3,728	3,728	-	
	Street Lighting	3,594	3,594	-	
	Disabled Access (rolling programme)	20	20	-	
	Highway Structures (bridges, subways, retaining walls)	220	220	-	
	Maintenance of unclassified roads	9,905	9,988	83	The change in this budget reflects virements to existing project as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Security Enhancement works	12	12	-	
	Waste & Recycling Strategy	111	114	3	The change in this budget reflects virements to existing projects as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Lighting up the City	10	10	-	
	Smart and Accessible City	517	517	-	
	General Waste Service Improvement	10	10	-	
	Traveller Transit Site	12	12	-	
	Residential Waste Bins	207	204	(3)	The change in this budget reflects virements to existing projects as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Future High Street Fund	7,984	3,704	(4,280)	The change in this budget reflects internal restructure, where part of the Future High Street Fund capital programme related to City Events was reallocated to Communications Division, which was offset by contribution from Highway Management reserve.
	Black Country Blue Network Phase 2	1,114	1,114	-	
	Brewers Yard, Culwell Street Depot	16,051	16,051	-	
	Towns Fund Phase 2	10,854	10,854	-	
Communications	Future High Street Fund - City Events	1,262	5,823	4,561	The change in this budget reflects internal restructure, where part of the Future High Street Fund capital programme related to City Events was reallocated to Communications Division.
Public Health	Sports Investment Strategy	294	294	-	
	Leisure Centres Enhancement	147	147	-	
	Bowling provision	102	102	-	
	Grants to other organisations	8	8	-	

Detailed forecast change

Appendix 2

Division	Project	Approved budget £000	Proposed budget £000	Total change £000	Comments
General Fund capital programme					
Regeneration	i54 Access and Infrastructure	402	402	-	
	Targeted Disposals Programme	39	39	-	
	South Side	315	315	-	
	Wolverhampton Interchange Office/Retail Accommodation	67	67	-	
	Wolverhampton Interchange Block 11	57	-	(57)	The change in this budget reflects virement as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Bilston Urban Village	41	41	-	
	Black Country Growth Deal – Cultural Programme	20,149	20,149	-	
	Interchange - Ph2 Train Station/MSCP/Metro Extension	3,748	3,748	-	
	i54 Western Extension	17,553	17,553	-	
	City Learning Quarter	51,356	51,356	-	
	War Memorial Restoration	9	9	-	
	Strategic Land Acquisitions	310	310	-	
	AIM for GOLD - ERDF	1,903	1,903	-	
Children's Services	Co-Location Programme	8	8	-	
	Children and young people in care - extensions/vehicles	45	45	-	
	Children's Residential Homes	1,135	1,135	-	
Education and Skills	Primary Expansion Programme	12,352	12,352	-	
	Schools Devolved Formula Capital	755	1,150	395	The change in this budget reflects grant allocation to future years.
	Prudential Loans	150	-	(150)	The change in this budget reflects virement as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Asbestos Removal	5	13	8	The change in this budget reflects new project for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Electrical Works	370	640	270	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4 and new projects for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Contingency for Emergency Works	2,453	1,306	(1,147)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Building Schools for Future ICT Infrastructure	337	337	-	
	Capital Maintenance - Fire Safety	77	170	93	The change in this budget reflects School contribution towards the works and virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Capital Maintenance - Heating Pipework Upgrades	952	1,036	84	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4 and new projects for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Capital Maintenance - Roof / Ceilings Replacements	607	978	371	The change in this budget reflects School contribution towards the works, virements as detailed in Appendix 4 new projects for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Capital Maintenance - Structural Works	1,283	1,531	248	The change in this budget reflects School contribution towards the works, virements as detailed in Appendix 4 new projects for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.
	Capital Maintenance - Window Upgrade	370	424	54	The change in this budget reflects School contribution towards the works and virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Secondary School Expansion Programme	10,996	11,083	87	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	SPCF Special Provision Capital Fund	427	427	-	
	Healthy Pupil Capital Fund	3	15	12	The change in this budget reflects School contribution and grant allocation.
High Needs Capital Programme - Future Schemes	-	9,760	9,760	The change in this budget reflects development of new programme within the Education due to new grant award for which approval is now sought in Appendix 3.	
Total General Fund capital programme - existing and new projects		310,927	338,808	27,881	

Detailed forecast change

Appendix 2

Division	Project	Approved budget £000	Proposed budget £000	Total change £000	Comments
Housing Revenue Account					
Housing Revenue Account	Decent Homes - Stock Improvements	128,954	127,824	(1,130)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Minor Works/Door Entry Rolling Programme	1,950	1,950	-	
	Pathway Improvement and Safety Programme	997	997	-	
	Adaptations for People with Disabilities	5,710	5,710	-	
	WH Service Sales Admin & Capitalised Salaries	10,200	10,200	-	
	Housing services capitalised salaries	2,000	2,000	-	
	Refurbishment of Voids	22,501	22,501	-	
	Boiler Replacement Programme	3,110	3,560	450	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Heath Town	543	543	-	
	Tap Works site	-	5	5	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Structural works	21,169	21,849	680	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Lift and DDA Improvements	2,000	2,000	-	
	Fire Safety Improvements	5,035	5,035	-	
	Roof Refurbishment Programme	17,461	17,461	-	
	New Build Programme	19,081	16,334	(2,747)	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.
	Sustainable Estates Programme	3,332	3,332	-	
	Non Trad Surveys	843	843	-	
	Commercial Conversions	3,533	3,533	-	
	Burton Crescent	14	14	-	
	Heath Town New Build Programme	30,031	30,031	-	
	WVL Units	24,834	24,834	-	
	Medium Sites	7,878	7,878	-	
	High Rise External Works	21,900	21,900	-	
Reedham Gardens	4,224	4,224	-		
Additional Social Housing	10,000	12,500	2,500	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.	
Small Sites Programme	12,960	13,202	242	The change in this budget reflects virements as detailed in Appendix 4.	
Estate Remodelling	41,520	41,520	-		
Total Housing Revenue Account - existing projects		401,780	401,780	-	

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Projects requiring approval

Appendix 3

New projects created from virements and additional resources	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027	Total	Virement	Additional resources		
A full set of virements can be found in Appendix 4	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	Internal	External	
General Fund capital programme								£000	£000	
Schools Capital Maintenance Programme										
Approval is sought for capital maintenance works across the following schools:										
Loxdale Primary - replacement ovens	10	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	
Dovecotes Primary - asbestos flooring removal	8	-	-	-	-	8	8	-	-	
Uplands Junior - replacement fire doors	70	-	-	-	-	70	64	6	-	
Penn Hall Special - replacement fire doors	24	-	-	-	-	24	24	-	-	
Lanesfield Primary - replacement heating to KS2	68	-	-	-	-	68	68	-	-	
Springdale Primary - replacement of glazed roofing	60	-	-	-	-	60	60	-	-	
Green Park Special - edge protection	25	-	-	-	-	25	25	-	-	
Stowlawn Primary - edge protection	25	-	-	-	-	25	25	-	-	
Penn Hall Special - early years bathroom	49	-	-	-	-	49	49	-	-	
Wodensfield Primary - playground fencing	8	-	-	-	-	8	8	-	-	
Graiseley Primary - resurfacing	8	-	-	-	-	8	8	-	-	
Bushbury Nursery - replacement kitchen	11	-	-	-	-	11	11	-	-	
Uplands Junior - resurfacing pathways	18	-	-	-	-	18	16	2	-	
Merridale Primary - DDA toilet	23	-	-	-	-	23	21	2	-	
Dovecotes Primary - perimeter fencing	50	-	-	-	-	50	50	-	-	
Midpoint PRU - new fire alarm	108	-	-	-	-	108	108	-	-	
Dovecotes Primary - replacement lighting	25	-	-	-	-	25	25	-	-	
Schools High Needs Capital Programme										
Approval is sought for development of new capital programme within the Education fully funded by new grant allocation from the Department for Education (DfE).										
High Needs Capital Programme - Future Schemes	-	9,760	-	-	-	9,760	-	-	9,760	
Parks Strategy and Open Spaces										
Approval is sought for the improvement works in East Park, partly funded from the Public Health Reserve and developer contribution, and existing resources.										
East Park Improvements	500	-	-	-	-	500	207	250	43	
Highway Improvement Programme										
Approval is sought to progress with the following project fully funded through developer contributions.										
Ward Street Junction Improvements (S106)	60	-	-	-	-	60	-	-	60	
Leisure Centres Enhancement										
Approval is sought for acquisition and installation of the following equipment fully funded from the existing resources.										
Bert Williams - Plant Room Filters/Air Handling	30	-	-	-	-	30	30	-	-	
Corporate Asset Management Fund										
Approval is sought to progress with the following priority projects ensuring all council assets are statutory compliant and fit for purpose.										
Bilston Retail Market - safe roof access	30	-	-	-	-	30	30	-	-	
Graiseley Brook - stabilisation works	27	-	-	-	-	27	27	-	-	
Windsor Avenue Allotments - perimeter fencing	25	-	-	-	-	25	25	-	-	
Total General Fund capital programme new projects	1,262	9,760	-	-	-	11,022	899	260	9,863	
Financing										
Internal resources	579	-	-	-	-	579	319	260	-	
External resources	683	9,760	-	-	-	10,443	580	-	9,863	
Grand total financing	1,262	9,760	-	-	-	11,022	899	260	9,863	

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Virements for approval

Appendix 4

Capital project	Virement		Comments	
	Existing project	New project		
General Fund	£000	£000		
Re-allocation virements to new projects				
Corporate Provision for Future Programmes Parks Strategy and Open Spaces	(207)	-	Virement is proposed to allocate resources from the Corporate Provision for Future Programmes to support new East Park Improvements project within the Parks Strategy and Open Spaces capital programme.	
East Park Improvements	-	207		
Leisure Centres Enhancement Aldersley Leisure Village Enhancement	(30)	-	Virement is proposed to allocate underspent resources from the Aldersley Leisure Village Enhancement project to new Bert Williams - Plant Room Filters/Air Handling project within the Leisure Centres Enhancement capital programme.	
Bert Williams - Plant Room Filters/Air Handling	-	30		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Emergency works Provision for future programmes	(570)	-	Virements are proposed to allocate resources to new projects to facilitate various works across schools in the City.	
Schools Primary Expansion Programme Loxdale Primary phase 4	(10)	-		
Loxdale Primary - replacement ovens	-	10		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Asbestos Removal Dovecotes Primary - asbestos flooring removal	-	8		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Rewiring / Electrical works Midpoint PRU - new fire alarm	-	108		
Dovecotes Primary - replacement lighting	-	25		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Fire Prevention Uplands Junior - replacement fire doors	-	64		
Penn Hall Special - replacement fire doors	-	24		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Boilers / Pipeworks Lanesfield Primary - replacement heating to KS2	-	68		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Roof / Ceiling Springdale Primary - replacement of glazed roofing	-	60		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Structural / Demolition / Ext.works / Security Dovecotes Primary - perimeter fencing	-	50		
Penn Hall Special - early years bathroom	-	49		
Green Park Special - edge protection	-	25		
Stowlawn Primary - edge protection	-	25		
Merridale Primary - DDA toilet	-	21		
Uplands Junior - resurfacing pathways	-	16		
Bushbury Nursery - replacement kitchen	-	11		
Wodensfield Primary - playground fencing	-	8		
Graiseley Primary - resurfacing	-	8		
Corporate Provision for Future Programmes Corporate Asset Management	(82)	-		Virements are proposed to reflect an allocation of the Corporate Provision for Future Programmes to new Corporate Asset Management projects to enable the completion of priority works ensuring all council assets are statutorily compliant and fit for purpose.
Bilston Retail Market - safe roof access	-	30		
Graiseley Brook - stabilisation works	-	27		
Windsor Avenue Allotments - perimeter fencing	-	25		
Re-allocation virements to existing projects				
Schools Capital Maintenance - Emergency works Provision for future programmes	(577)	-	Virements are proposed to allocate resources to individual projects to accommodate works across schools in the City.	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Roof / Ceiling Wodensfield Primary - replace roof to KS2	249	-		
Merridale Primary - replacement roof covering phase 1	24	-		
Eastfield Primary - corridor roofing	20	-		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Rewiring / Electrical works Castlecroft Primary - rewiring inc. alarms and emergency lighting	63	-		
Long Knowle Primary - replacement lighting	58	-		
Claregate Primary - replacement lighting phase 1	16	-		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Windows Wodensfield Primary - replacement KS2 windows	11	-		
Bantock Primary - replacement windows	25	-		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Structural / Demolition / Ext.works / Security West Park Primary - toilets refurbishment	35	-		
Merridale Primary - install fencing	26	-		
Springdale Primary - toilets refurbishment	23	-		
Uplands Junior - toilets refurbishment	15	-		
Orchard PRU - security fencing installation	10	-		
Schools Capital Maintenance - Boilers / Pipeworks St Andrews Church of England Primary - boiler plant upgrade	2	-		
School IT Loans Provision for future programmes	(150)	-		Virement is proposed to reallocate unspent resources to Corporate Provision for Future Programmes as budget is no longer required for Schools IT Loans capital programme.
Corporate Provision for Future Programmes	150	-		
Corporate Provision for Future Programmes Corporate Asset Management Fund	(265)	-	Virement is proposed to reallocate resources to individual projects within the Corporate Asset Management capital programme to enable the completion of priority works ensuring all council assets are statutorily compliant and fit for purpose.	
Anchor Lane HWRC - replacement of welfare facilities and installation	35	-		
Shaw Road HWRC - replacement of welfare facilities and installation	55	-		
Bingley Enterprise Centre - door and window replacements	85	-		
Central Baths - installation of CCTV	4	-		
Civic Centre - reconfiguration of Customer Services area	39	-		
Provision for future programmes	47	-		

Virements for approval

Appendix 4

Capital project	Virement		Comments
	Existing project £000	New project £000	
General Fund			
General Fund Housing - Empty Properties Strategy			
Provision for future programmes	(160)	-	Virements are proposed to reallocate resources from Provision for future programmes to individual projects within the Empty Properties Strategy capital programme.
10 Lloyd Street	30	-	
1 Clarendon Street	90	-	
46 Mount Pleasant	40	-	
Healthy Pupil Capital Fund			
Provision for future programmes	(10)	-	Virements are proposed to individual projects within the Schools Healthy Pupil Capital Fund capital programme.
HPCF Primary school - sports & fitness	8	-	
HPCF PRUs - sports & fitness	2	-	
Corporate Provision for Future Programmes	(6)	-	Virement is proposed to reallocate resources to individual project within the Markets capital programme.
Markets Bilston Retail Market			
Bilston Market - boiler replacement	6	-	
Project to project virements			
Schools Primary Expansion Programme			Virement is proposed to reallocate unspent resources to the Provision for future programmes within the Schools Primary Expansion Programme.
Bilston Church of England Primary - caretaker house renovation	(20)	-	
Provision for future programmes	20	-	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Rewiring / Electrical works			Virements are proposed to reallocate resources within the Schools Capital Maintenance programme to utilise savings for various works within the Education capital programme.
Penn Hall Special - electrical upgrade	(19)	-	
Uplands Junior - replacement lighting	(10)	-	
Graiseley Primary - replacement fire alarm	(2)	-	
Wodensfield Primary - replacement lighting	31	-	
Long Knowle Primary - replacement windows to Nursery	(5)	-	
St Andrews Church of England Primary - replacement windows to quadrangle	(3)	-	
Christ Church Infants - replacement windows	18	-	
Dovecotes Primary - replacement windows	1	-	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Fire Prevention			
Uplands Junior - Fire Safety Work	(1)	-	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Boilers / Pipeworks			
Claregate Primary - boiler plant upgrade	(65)	-	
Colton Hills Secondary - replacement boilers	(58)	-	
Christ Church Infants - replacement heating controls	(10)	-	
Rakegate Primary - hot water system	(5)	-	
St Andrews Church of England Primary - boiler plant upgrade	113	-	
Bilston Church of England Primary - boiler plant upgrade	39	-	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Windows			
Colton Hills Secondary - replacement windows phase 2	(24)	-	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Roof / Ceiling			
Merridale Primary - replacement roof phases 2 and 3	(41)	-	
Ashmore Park Nursery - flat roofing	(25)	-	
Long Knowle Primary - replace roff, gutters and fascias	(10)	-	
Spring Vale Primary - flat roof	(6)	-	
Fallings Park Primary - replacement roof covering phase 1	69	-	
Lanesfield Primary - replacement hall roof	13	-	
Schools Capital Maintenance - Structural / Demolition / Ext.works / Security			
Kings CE School Priority Remedial Works	(87)	-	
Wood End Primary - toilets refurbishment	(9)	-	
Claregate Primary - resurface paving	(8)	-	
Springdale Primary - toilets refurbishment	17	-	
Secondary School Expansion Programme			
Provision for future programmes	87	-	
ICT General Programme			Virements are proposed to reflect reallocation of resources across the projects within ICT Capital programme. Regular rescheduling of works is required to ensure that current corporate priorities are met and reflected.
Storage Refresh (ICT Main Prog)	(70)	-	
Security Enhancement (ICT Main Prog)	(40)	-	
Data Centres (ICT Main Prog)	(40)	-	
Future Developments	150	-	
General Fund Housing - Disabled Facilities Grants			Virements are proposed to reallocate resources within the Disabled Facilities Grant capital programme.
Discretionary Bathrooms Adaptations Grant	(269)	-	
Discretionary Top Up Grants	(250)	-	
Home Not Hospital	(150)	-	
Dual Residency Grant	(140)	-	
Care & Repair Fees re: DFG's	(59)	-	
Contribution Assistance Grant	(34)	-	
Stair Lift Maintenance	(11)	-	
Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants	500	-	
Small Adaptations Grants	413	-	
Corporate Asset Management			Virement is proposed to reallocate underspend resources to the Corporate Provision for Future Programmes.
Bushbury Crematorium – Fire Alarm System	(40)	-	
Corporate Provision for Future Programmes	40	-	
Wolverhampton Interchange Block 11			Virement is proposed to reallocate underspend resources to the Corporate Provision for Future Programmes.
Provision for future programmes	(57)	-	
Corporate Provision for Future Programmes	57	-	

Virements for approval

Appendix 4

Capital project	Virement		Comments
	Existing project £000	New project £000	
General Fund			
Project to project virements			
Maintenance of classified roads			
Woodland Road / Coppice Road Junction – (All junction only)	(25)	-	
Wynn Road (First 100m from Coalway Road)	(12)	-	
Cambridge Street and Water Street	37	-	
Safety Programme			
GF - Old Heath Road Area Local Safety Scheme	(44)	-	Virements are proposed to reallocate resources across the projects within the Transportation capital programme to ensure that priorities are met and reflected.
Vehicle actuated speed warning signs	(2)	-	
Arterial route – Stafford Road – areas at risk of accidents	1	-	
Barnhurst Lane/Aldersley High School	1	-	
Future High Street Fund			
Civic Halls Public Realm (Westside Link Phase 3)	31	-	
Maintenance of unclassified roads			
Victoria Street Public Realm (Westside Link Phase 1)	13	-	
Residential Waste Bins			
Digital Advertising Boards	(15)	-	Virements are proposed to utilise underspend within the Waste capital programme.
Lockers	(2)	-	
Mobile Weighbridge	14	-	
Waste & Recycling Strategy			
Garden Waste Bins	2	-	
Commercial Waste Service Bins	1	-	
Total General Fund capital programme	(899)	899	

Capital project	Virement		Comments
	Existing project £000	New project £000	
Housing Revenue Account			
Re-allocation virements to existing projects			
New Build Programme			
Provision for future programmes	(2,747)	-	Virements are proposed to reallocate resources to individual projects within the HRA capital programme.
Additional Social Housing	2,500	-	
Tap works – Showell Road	5	-	
Small Sites Programme			
Bushbury Hill Community Housing	121	-	
Inkerman Street Community Housing	121	-	
Estate Remodelling			
Provision for future programmes	(11,000)	-	
New Park Village	11,000	-	
WVL Units			
Provision for future programmes	(399)	-	
WVL Units - Prouds Lane	194	-	
WVL Units - Wednesfield	205	-	
Project to project virements			
Decent Homes - Stock Improvements			
Internal Decency Works	(1,130)	-	Virement is proposed to reallocate resources to Structural Works and Refurbishment of Voids to Decent Homes Standard capital projects within the HRA capital programme.
Structural works programme			
Structural works	680	-	
Refurbishment of Voids			
Refurbishment of Voids to Decent Homes Standard	450	-	
Total Housing Revenue Account capital programme	-	-	
Grand total	(899)	899	

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Virements to note

Appendix 5

Capital project General Revenue Account	Virement to note Existing project £000	Comments
Corporate Asset Management Fund		
Provision for future programmes	(47)	
The Children's Village - replacement of hot water system	13	Virements to individual projects to support urgent works were approved through delegated authority.
Ashmore Park Community Hub - new water heating system	15	
Dunstable Hill Community Centre - replacement of kitchen ovens	13	
Bob Jones Community Hub - replacement of BMS Controller	6	
Total General Fund virements to note	-	

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 16 November 2022
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Report title	Treasury Management Activity Monitoring – Mid Year Review 2022-2023	
Decision designation	RED	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Resources and Digital City	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Tim Johnson, Chief Executive	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable employee	Claire Nye	Director of Finance
	Tel	01902 550478
	Email	Claire.Nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board	25 October 2022
	Council	7 December 2022
	Resources and Equality Scrutiny Panel	2 February 2023

Recommendations for decision:

That Cabinet recommend that Council is asked to note:

1. That a mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement has been undertaken and the Council has operated within the limits and requirements approved in March 2022.
2. That a revenue underspend of £3.4 million for the General Fund and a revenue overspend of £996,000 for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) are forecast from treasury management activities in 2022-2023.

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. That the outcome of the CIPFA consultation on proposals to update the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting for infrastructure assets is still to be finalised.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The report provides a monitoring and progress report on treasury management activity for the second quarter of 2022-2023 as part of the mid-year review, in line with the Prudential Indicators approved by Council in March 2022.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The treasury management activities of the Council are underpinned by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management. For further information on the requirement of the Code please refer to the Treasury Management Strategy 2022-2023 report which can be accessed online on the Council's website by following the link:

[Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 23rd February, 2022, 5.00 pm :: Wolverhampton City Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

- 2.2 Treasury management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, including its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

- 2.3 The system of controls on local authority capital investment is based largely on self-regulation by local authorities themselves. At its heart is CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance.
- 2.4 Cabinet / Cabinet (Resources) Panel receive quarterly reports throughout the year to monitor performance against the strategy and Prudential Indicators that have previously been approved by Council.
- 2.5 The Council continues to use Link Group as its treasury management advisors throughout 2022-2023. Link provides market data and intelligence on which the Council can make decisions regarding all aspects of treasury management activities and in particular, managing the risks associated with investing surplus cash.
- 2.6 As reported to Councillors in previous treasury management reports during 2021-2022, new revised Treasury Management and Prudential Codes were published by CIPFA and Councils must have regard to the new Codes from the date of publication. However, due to the timing of the release of the new Codes, CIPFA has allowed reporting on the Codes to be deferred until 2023-2024, including changes to the capital strategy, prudential indicators and investment reporting.
- 2.7 Where possible the changes to the Codes have been implemented in the appendices attached to this report. However, due to timescales, some areas will be implemented during 2022-2023. To enable this, at its meeting on 2 March 2022, Council approved

delegated authority to Cabinet to approve updates to the Treasury Management Strategy and corresponding practices.

- 2.8 It should be noted that the Council does not undertake commercial investments, that is those held primarily for financial return. However, to be compliant with the Code, commercial investments will be referenced where required.
- 2.9 In the 'Treasury Management – Annual Report 2021-2022 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2022-2023' report to Cabinet on 6 July 2022, it was reported that CIPFA had recently consulted on proposals to update the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting for infrastructure assets. In response to the issues being considered by CIPFA, the Council was reviewing its accounting policy and would discuss the findings with the Council's external auditors. This may have resulted in additional charges being made in respect of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the General Fund for 2021-2022 onwards. At the time of writing this report, the outcome of the CIPFA consultation is still to be finalised and therefore the position remains unchanged. Once the outcome of the consultation has been published any potential changes will be reported to Cabinet.
- 2.10 The Council has built up a strong track record of managing its finances well and, in order to reduce interest payment costs, will only undertake external borrowing when cashflows require. The Council has not had to undertake any external borrowing during 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, the last time the Council carried out external borrowing was March 2019. The Council external borrowing therefore remains at £720.4 million at 30 September 2022.
- 2.11 Our City: Our Plan was approved by Full Council on 2 March 2022 and sets out how the Council will continue to work alongside its local, regional and national partners to improve outcomes for local people.
- 2.12 The plan continues to identify an overarching ambition that 'Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives' delivered through six Council Plan priorities:
- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential
 - Fulfilled lives with quality care for those that need it
 - Healthy, inclusive communities
 - Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods
 - More local people into good jobs and training
 - Thriving economy in all parts of the city
- 2.13 These priorities together with the associated key outcomes, objectives and activity form a framework to improve the outcomes for local people and deliver our levelling up ambitions. Supporting the six overarching priorities are three cross cutting principles – Climate Conscious, Driven by Digital, Fair and Equal.

3.0 2022-2023

3.1 The forecast outturn for treasury management activities in 2022-2023 compared to budget is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Treasury management budget and forecast outturn 2022-2023

	Approved Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance at Quarter Two £000
General Fund	40,265	36,825	(3,440)
Housing Revenue Account	10,238	11,234	996
Total	50,503	48,059	(2,444)

3.2 Overall, an underspend of £3.4 million for the General Fund and an overspend of £996,000 for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) are projected for the year 2022-2023.

3.3 In the main, the General Fund underspend is due to; no borrowing being undertaken in 2021-2022, a reduced borrowing need in year arising as a result of re-phasing of the capital programme and, following a review of the draft balance sheet for 2021-2022, a forecast change in the proportion split for interest between the General Fund and HRA.

3.4 The approved Medium Term Financial Strategy assumes a release of £1.7 million of the Treasury Management Equalisation Reserve in 2022-2023. This release isn't included in the above table as the treasury management budget needs to be monitored without this release for management purposes. However, the Performance and Budget Monitoring report on this same agenda, assumes this draw down of reserve for 2022-2023.

3.5 On 6 July 2022, it was reported to Cabinet in the Treasury Management Activity Monitoring Quarter One report, there were early indications suggesting there were pressures on the HRA budget. The HRA forecast overspend highlighted above, is mainly due to the corresponding increase in the interest proportion split. The Performance and Budget Monitoring report on this same agenda refers to the updated forecast position on the HRA.

3.6 Upon the completion of the audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2021-2022 the balance sheet will be reviewed again to see if there are any further changes to the proportion split for interest between the General Fund and HRA.

3.7 Due to the uncertain economic climate and the increase in interest rates the forecast outturn is difficult to project, and the position will continue to be monitored and updates provided over the remainder of 2022-2023 financial year.

3.8 The forecast positions will be considered and incorporated in the Performance and Budget monitoring report to Cabinet also on the agenda for this meeting.

- 3.9 The Council's strategy is to continue to use cash balances to finance capital expenditure rather than external borrowing. Borrowings are actively managed to achieve savings wherever possible.
- 3.10 Appendix 1 to this report shows a comparison of the latest estimates of Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators over the medium term period with the equivalent figures which were approved by Council in March 2022.

4.0 Borrowing forecast for 2022-2023

- 4.1 The Council's need to borrow and the rates available continue to be monitored in order to achieve optimum results. The Council's medium term forecast is regularly updated to reflect actual borrowing that takes place along with any revisions to future anticipated borrowing.
- 4.2 Table 2 shows the average rate of interest payable in 2021-2022 and forecast for 2022-2023.

Table 2 – Average interest rate payable in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023

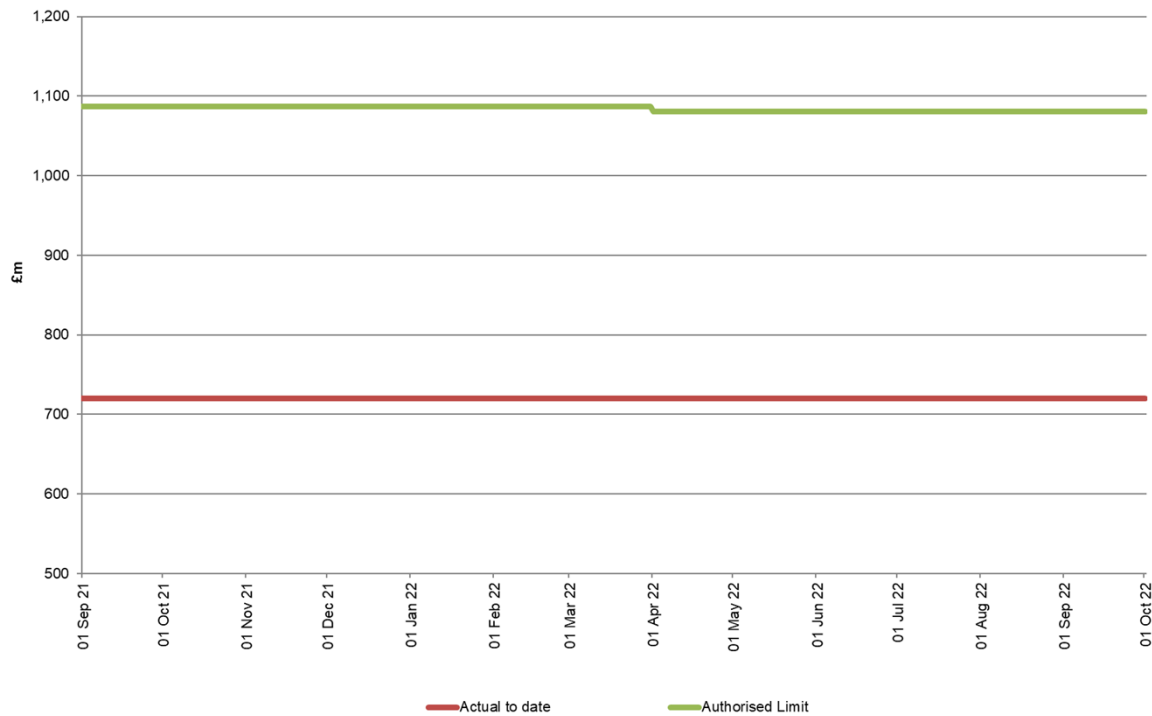
	2021-2022	2022-2023
	Actual	Forecast
Average Interest Rate Payable	3.79%	3.78%

- 4.3 The average interest rate payable for 2022-2023 in Table 2 includes the latest rates forecast provided by Link on 28 September 2022. Although interest rates have been rising, due to maturing loans in 2022-2023 being a higher rate than those available now, a slightly lower weighted average rate is forecast.
- 4.4 Each year it is usually necessary to raise new loans to finance capital expenditure and to replace existing maturing borrowing. The Council's policy is to prioritise the use of capital receipts to finance capital expenditure. Balances which are set aside to meet credit liabilities (i.e. to repay borrowing) are used to reduce the external borrowing requirement.
- 4.5 Decisions to take borrowing will be made by the Director of Finance when it is judged that rates are likely to be at their lowest levels, and probably about to rise according to market indications, and only when an inflow of funds is required to meet imminent cash flow commitments. This will keep overall surplus cash balances to a minimum, in line with the current strategy. Appendix 2 to this report shows the maturity profile of external borrowing.
- 4.6 As always, the Council needs to be mindful that the opportunity to secure short term efficiencies by postponing longer term borrowing requirements takes into account the risk of long term rates increasing in the future. Appendix 3 to this report includes the Link interest rate forecast for quarter two 2022-2023 which forecasts that interest rates across all periods could increase before gradually decreasing towards the end of the 2022-2023

financial year. This forecast done in September 2022 showed the base rate could potentially increase to a 5% high.

- 4.7 Following the increase of the bank rate to 3% on 3 November 2022, the Bank of England has reported that it doesn't expect interest rates to rise by as much as predicted with analysts thinking it could now peak at 4.75% next year. The Director of Finance will continue to keep actual and forecast rates under close review.
- 4.8 The Council's borrowing profile continues to operate within the overall limits previously approved by Council, as shown in Chart 1.

Chart 1 – Comparison of borrowing within approved borrowing limits over the previous 12 months



- 4.9 The level of borrowing at 30 September 2022 is £720.4 million, Appendix 4 to the report shows a summary of this position. During quarter two no new loans or repayments have occurred, £10.2 million of existing borrowing is due to be repaid between quarters three to four. There was also no debt rescheduled during quarter two.
- 4.10 In March 2022, Council approved a net borrowing requirement for 2022-2023 of £112.0 million. The forecast net borrowing requirement for 2022-2023 is £94.2 million, as shown in Appendix 5, due to re-phasing in the capital programme. This appendix also shows the details for the disclosure for certainty rate, which enables the Council to access discounted borrowing at 0.20% below normal PWLB rates.

5.0 Investment forecast for 2022-2023

- 5.1 The approach during the year is to continue to use cash balances to finance capital expenditure so as to keep cash balances low.
- 5.2 Table 3 shows the total amount of surplus funds invested as at 31 May 2022 and 30 September 2022.

Table 3 – Total amounts invested 2022-2023

	31 May 2022 £000	30 September 2022 £000
Business Reserve Accounts	306	360
Debt Management Account Deposit Facility	-	10,565
Money Market Funds	52,770	60,300
Total invested	53,076	71,225
Average cash balance for the year to date	71,288	72,353

- 5.3 Money Market Funds and Business Reserve Accounts are the main investments used as these have high credit ratings and instant access.
- 5.4 The Council's cash flow balance for the second quarter of the current financial year has moved between a low of £55.6 million and a maximum of £85.0 million. The average cash balance for the quarter being £71.9 million.
- 5.5 Table 4 shows the budgeted average rate of interest receivable in 2022-2023 and the forecast for the year.

Table 4 – Average interest rate receivable in 2022-2023

	2022-2023 Budget	2022-2023 Forecast
Average Interest Rate Receivable	0.10%	1.70%

- 5.6 At the time the budget was set a prudent percentage was used for budgeting purposes as the Covid-19 pandemic had seen interest rates available for investments decrease significantly. As the Bank of England have been increasing the base rate since February 2022 the rates achieved on investments has been increasing. With the current uncertainties it is still increasingly difficult to forecast future investment rates that could be achieved therefore, a prudent rate is forecast based on the increased rates achieved to the 30 September 2022.
- 5.7 While investment rates continue to be below long term borrowing rates, the Council can minimise its overall net treasury costs in the short term by continuing to avoid new external borrowing and by using internal cash balances to finance new capital expenditure or to replace maturing external borrowing (this is referred to as internal borrowing).

- 5.8 The Council manages its investments in-house and invests only in the institutions listed in the Council's approved lending list, which is reviewed each time a counterparty is subject to a credit rating amendment. The Council's strategy allows for investments for a range of periods from overnight to five years, depending on the Council's cash flows, its interest rate view and the interest rates on offer. However, in order to maintain sufficient liquidity whilst total investment levels are relatively low, investments have been place for shorter durations.
- 5.9 The Council's approved Treasury Management Practices sets out the criteria to be used for creating and managing approved counterparty lists and limits. As a result of any changes to credit criteria, the Director of Finance is authorised to make changes to the list of approved counterparties. In the event that any of these counterparties fall below the Council's minimum lending criteria, activity in that account will temporarily cease and any balance withdrawn immediately. Appendix 6 to this report shows the Council's current specified investments lending list.
- 5.10 In quarter two 2022-2023 the Director of Finance has not been required to use her discretion to temporarily exceed any upper limits with approved counterparties. In addition, no institutions in which investments were made had any difficulty in repaying investments or, interest in full, during the quarter and no arrangements had to be made to prematurely withdraw funds from any investments, as a result of a downgrade in their respective credit rating.

6.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 6.1 As this is a monitoring report on treasury management activities undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2022-2023, there are no alternative options available.

7.0 Reasons for decisions

- 7.1 This report provides an update on treasury management activities undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2022-2023.

8.0 Financial implications

- 8.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of this report.
[SH/03112022/Y]

9.0 Legal implications

- 9.1 The Council's treasury management activity must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003. In addition, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out requirements for local authorities in respect of capital controls, borrowing and credit arrangements. The Council is also required to comply with the Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

9.2 Treasury management relates to the management of the Council's cash flow, borrowing and cash investments. This involves seeking the best rates of interest for borrowing, earning interest on investments, whilst managing risk in making financial decisions and adopting proper accounting practice.

9.3 The area is heavily regulated. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 regulates the operation of the Housing Revenue Account. The 'CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services', contains treasury management indicators and advice on treasury management strategy. Investment strategy is regulated by 'MHCLG Guidance on Local Government Investments' issued initially in 2004 and reissued in 2010 and 2018. Part 2 of this Guidance is statutory guidance.
[TC/02112022/A]

10.0 Equalities implications

10.1 Whilst there are no direct equalities implications arising from treasury management activity, the Council's capital programme of individual projects can have significant impact on specific groups and equality implications. These implications are considered when the individual capital projects are being developed.

11.0 All other implications

11.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

12.1 [Treasury Management Strategy 2022-2023](#), Report to Cabinet, 23 February 2022

12.2 [Treasury Management – Annual Report 2021-2022 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2022-2023](#), Report to Cabinet, 6 July 2022

12.3 [Performance and Budget Monitoring 2022-2023](#), Report to Cabinet, 16 November 2022

13.0 Appendices

13.1 Appendix 1: Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators

13.2 Appendix 2: Borrowing maturity profile

13.3 Appendix 3: Link interest rate forecasts

13.4 Appendix 4: Borrowing type, borrowing and repayments

13.5 Appendix 5: Disclosure for certainty rate

13.6 Appendix 6: Lending list

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Prudential Indicators (PI) required by The Prudential Code

PI for Prudence - Ensuring that external debt is sustainable and compliance with good professional practice are essential features of prudence.

PI 1 - Estimates and actual capital expenditure.

Full details of capital expenditure plans and funding can be found in the quarter two capital budget monitoring 2022-2023 report.

	Approved by Council 2 March 2022			As at 30 September 2022		
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000
General Fund *	139,412	59,970	36,048	114,501	157,872	49,814
HRA	84,663	88,488	84,560	80,261	97,039	87,385
	224,075	148,458	120,608	194,762	254,911	137,199
* Service investments included in General Fund figure. These relate to areas such as capital expenditure on investment properties and loans to third parties etc. for service and regeneration delivery purposes.	13,057	10,000	4,900	5,067	8,000	11,900

PI 2 - Estimates and actual capital financing requirement General and HRA.

The capital financing requirement measures the authority's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose.

	Approved by Council 2 March 2022			As at 30 September 2022		
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000
General Fund *	723,620	707,006	691,987	694,029	720,194	719,661
HRA	316,145	359,879	396,978	310,908	367,536	412,029
	1,039,765	1,066,885	1,088,965	1,004,937	1,087,730	1,131,690
* Service investments included in General Fund figure. These relate to areas such as capital expenditure on investment properties and loans to third parties etc. for service and regeneration delivery purposes.	45,165	40,730	34,206	37,474	39,680	42,821
Movement in capital financing requirement represented by:						
New borrowing for capital expenditure	109,302	68,029	70,016	85,322	119,243	86,682
Less minimum revenue provision/voluntary minimum revenue provision	(37,391)	(40,909)	(47,936)	(34,855)	(36,450)	(42,722)
Movement in capital financing requirement	71,911	27,120	22,080	50,467	82,793	43,960

PI 3 - Authorised limit for external debt.

These limits apply to the total external debt gross of investments and separately identify borrowing from other long term liabilities such as finance leases including Private Finance Initiatives (PFI). This is a self determined level reviewed and set each budget setting cycle.

	As at 30 September 2022		
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Limit £000	Limit £000	Limit £000
Borrowing	1,080,693	1,139,076	1,208,188
Other Long Term Liabilities	82,628	79,660	76,416
Total Authorised Limit	1,163,321	1,218,736	1,284,604
Forecast External Debt as at 30 September 2022:			
Borrowing	804,484	928,245	1,001,749
Other Long Term Liabilities	76,928	73,960	74,416
	881,412	1,002,205	1,076,165
Variance (Under) / Over Authorised limit	(281,909)	(216,531)	(208,439)
Authorised limit for service investments included in the above figures			
Authorised Limit	66,049	63,600	62,176
Forecast External Debt as at 30 September 2022:			
	42,428	44,633	47,774
Variance (Under) / Over Authorised limit	(23,621)	(18,967)	(14,402)

Prudential Indicators (PI) required by The Prudential Code

PI 4 - Operational boundary for external debt.

This is based on the same estimates as the authorised limit but directly reflects the Director of Finance's estimate of the most likely, prudent but not worst case scenario, without the additional headroom included. This is a self determined level reviewed and set each budget setting cycle.

	As at 30 September 2022		
	2022-2023 Limit £000	2023-2024 Limit £000	2024-2025 Limit £000
Borrowing	1,054,388	1,122,138	1,191,978
Other Long Term Liabilities	80,628	77,660	74,416
Total Operational Boundary Limit	1,135,016	1,199,798	1,266,394
Forecast External Debt as at 30 September 2022:			
Borrowing	804,484	928,245	1,001,749
Other Long Term Liabilities	76,928	73,960	74,416
	881,412	1,002,205	1,076,165
Variance (Under) / Over Operational Boundary Limit	(253,604)	(197,593)	(190,229)
Operational boundary for service investments included in the above figures			
Operational Boundary Limit	65,035	63,600	62,176
Forecast External Debt as at 30 September 2022:	42,428	44,633	47,774
Variance (Under) / Over Operational Boundary Limit	(22,607)	(18,967)	(14,402)

PI 5 - Gross debt and the capital financing requirement.

"In order to ensure that over the medium term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years".

	Approved by Council 2 March 2022			As at 30 September 2022		
	2022-2023 Forecast £000	2023-2024 Forecast £000	2024-2025 Forecast £000	2022-2023 Forecast £000	2023-2024 Forecast £000	2024-2025 Forecast £000
Forecast Capital Financing Requirement at end of Second Year	1,088,964	1,088,964	1,094,833	1,131,690	1,131,690	1,131,690
Gross Debt	953,239	1,018,359	1,070,439	881,412	1,002,205	1,076,165
Capital Financing Requirement Greater than Gross Debt	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

PI for Affordability - These indicators are used to ensure the total capital investment of the Council is within a sustainable limit and the impact of these decisions are considered with regard to acceptable council tax and housing rent levels.

PI 6 - Estimates and actual ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream.

This represents the cost of financing capital expenditure as a % of net revenue for both General Fund and HRA.

	Approved by Council 2 March 2022			As at 30 September 2022		
	2022-2023 Forecast	2023-2024 Forecast	2024-2025 Forecast	2022-2023 Forecast	2023-2024 Forecast	2024-2025 Forecast
General Fund *	18.1%	18.6%	18.4%	16.7%	18.0%	18.6%
HRA	31.4%	31.7%	32.2%	31.7%	34.0%	34.7%
* Service investments included in General Fund figure. These relate to areas such as capital expenditure on investment properties and loans to third parties etc. for service and regeneration delivery purposes.	1.1%	1.2%	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%

PI 7 - Estimates and actual ratio of net income from commercial and service investments to net revenue stream.

This represents the financial exposure of the Council to the loss of income from commercial and service investments. Only costs directly attributable to the investments are netted off, so unlike PI 6, the costs of borrowing (interest and MRP) cannot be deducted as they are not directly attributable to managing the investments and will continue regardless of the existence or performance of the investments.

	Approved by Council 2 March 2022			As at 30 September 2022		
	2022-2023 Forecast	2023-2024 Forecast	2024-2025 Forecast	2022-2023 Forecast	2023-2024 Forecast	2024-2025 Forecast
Commercial	-	-	-	-	-	-
Service	0.6%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%

Treasury Management Indicators (TMI) required by The Treasury Management Code

TMI 1 - Upper limits for long-term treasury management investments (previously called 'upper limits to the total of principal sums invested over 365 days').

This details the maximum amount which can be invested for up to 5 years (as per paragraph 1.5 of the Annual Investment Strategy). It has been determined that a maximum of 50% of total investments with a cap of £35.0 million could be prudently committed to long term investments should the Director of Finance decide it is appropriate to.

	As at 30 September 2022		
	2022-2023 Limit £000	2023-2024 Limit £000	2024-2025 Limit £000
Upper limit for long-term treasury management investments	35,000	35,000	35,000
Actual and Forecast Invested at 30 September 2022	-	-	-
Variance (Under) / Over Limit	(35,000)	(35,000)	(35,000)

TMI 2 - Upper and lower limits to the maturity structure of its borrowing.

These limits relate to the % of fixed and variable rate debt maturing.

	Approved by Council 2 March 2022		As at 30 September 2022
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	2022-2023 Forecast Borrowing
Under 12 months	25%	0%	2.12%
12 months and within 24 months	25%	0%	-
24 months and within 5 years	40%	0%	3.44%
5 years and within 10 years	50%	0%	10.46%
10 years and within 20 years	50%	0%	11.70%
20 years and within 30 years	50%	0%	28.51%
30 years and within 40 years	50%	0%	23.33%
40 years and within 50 years	50%	0%	20.44%
50 years and within 60 years	50%	0%	-

Non-treasury management investment indicators

The statutory guidance on local government investments encourages local authorities to develop qualitative indicators that allow the reader to assess the Council's total risk exposure as a result of commercial investment decisions.

NTM 1 - Estimates and actual non-treasury management investment expenditure.

This identifies the level of any non-treasury management investments (e.g. service and commercial investments).

	Approved by Council 2 March 2022			As at 30 September 2022		
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Service investments	13,057	10,000	4,900	5,067	8,000	11,900
Commercial investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
	13,057	10,000	4,900	5,067	8,000	11,900

NTM 2 - Estimates and actual net debt for service and commercial investment to net service expenditure ratio.

This indicator measures the level of net debt for service and commercial investments in comparison to the Council's forecast net service expenditure, where net service expenditure is a proxy for the size and financial strength of a local authority.

	Approved by Council 2 March 2022			As at 30 September 2022		
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Net debt for service and commercial investments	45,165	40,730	34,206	37,474	39,680	42,821
Net service expenditure	267,150	268,326	277,311	267,159	268,326	277,311
Debt to net service expenditure ratio	16.9%	15.2%	12.3%	14.0%	14.8%	15.4%

NTM 3 - Estimates and actual service and commercial income to net service expenditure ratio.

This indicator measures the level of service and commercial investment generated income in comparison to the Council's net service expenditure, where net service expenditure is a proxy for the size and financial strength of a local authority. The % indicates the Council's financial resilience and how reliant on the service/commercial investment income it is. A low % indicates the Council is not heavily reliant on service/commercial investment income.

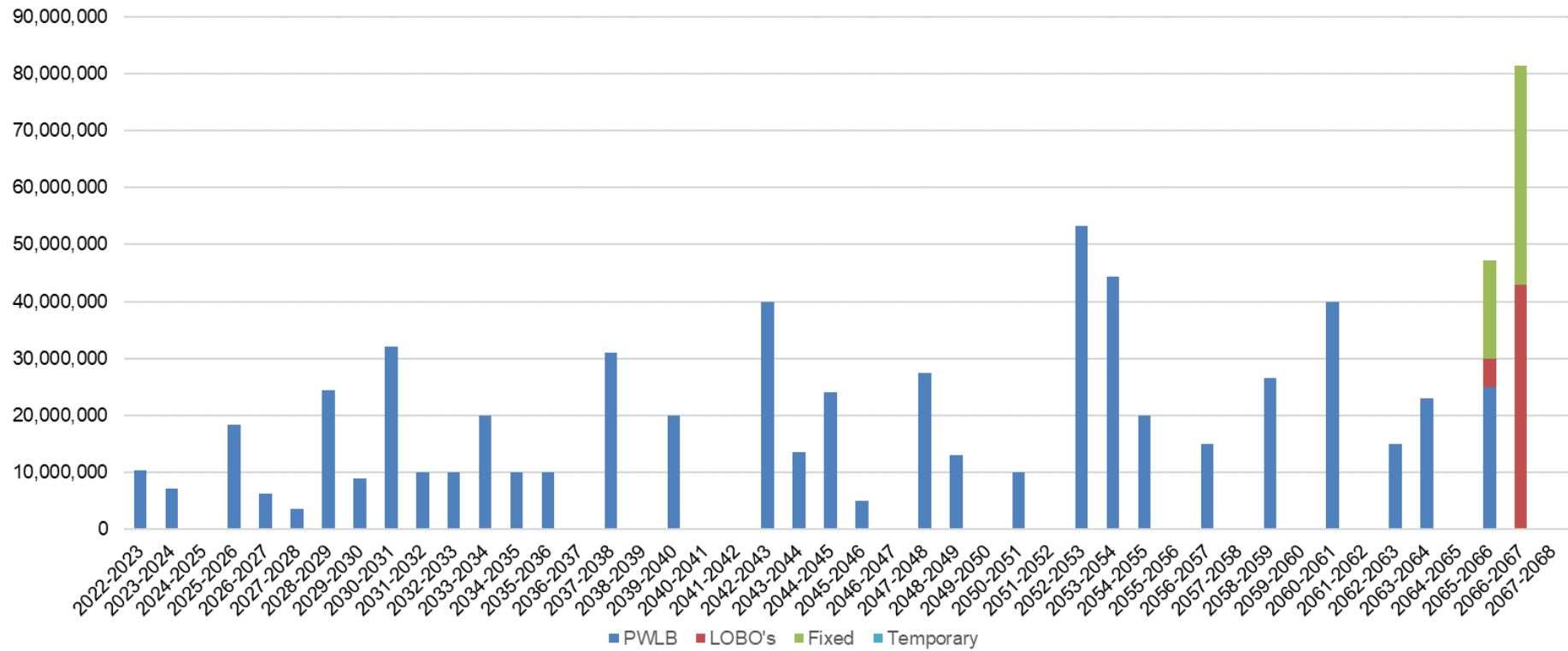
	Approved by Council 2 March 2022			As at 30 September 2022		
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Service and commercial investment income	1,819	2,115	2,033	1,643	1,756	2,013
Net service expenditure	267,150	268,326	277,311	267,159	268,326	277,311
Service and commercial income to net service expenditure ratio	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%

NTM 4 - Estimates and actual loan to value ratio

This indicator measures the net debt for service and commercial investments compared to the forecast total asset value. A decrease in the ratio over the medium term indicates a reducing level of borrowing due to repayments, whereas an increase indicates an increase in the level of borrowing due to new loans being issued.

	Approved by Council 2 March 2022			As at 30 September 2022		
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Loan to value ratio	72.1%	68.3%	62.7%	70.1%	70.3%	70.9%

Borrowing Maturity Profile at 30 September 2022



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Link interest rate forecasts

The Council's treasury advisor, Link Group, provided the following forecasts on 28 September 2022 (PWLB rates are certainty rates, gilt yields plus 80bps):

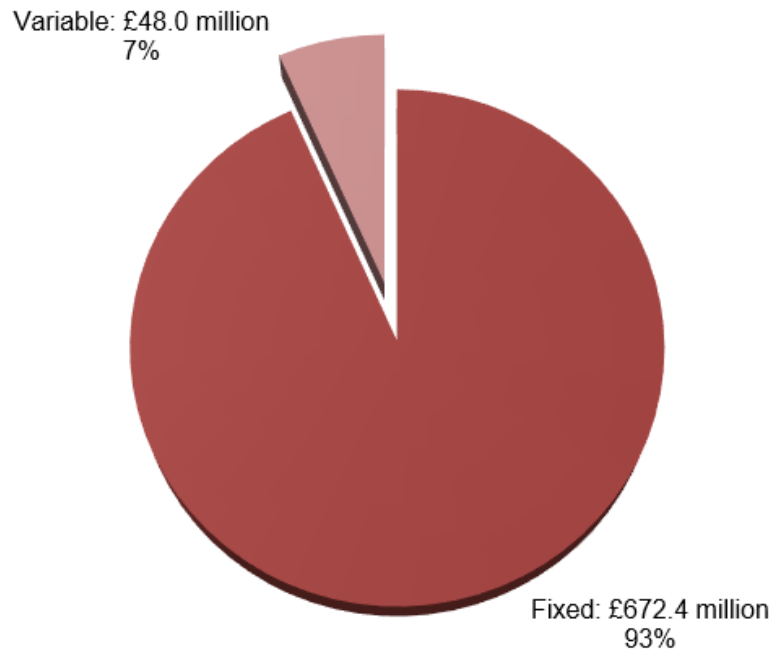
Link Group Interest Rate View	27.09.22											
	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25
BANK RATE	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.75	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.75	2.50
3 month ave earnings	4.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	2.80	2.80	2.50
6 month ave earnings	4.70	5.20	5.10	5.00	4.60	4.10	3.90	3.40	3.10	3.00	2.90	2.60
12 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.00	4.70	4.20	4.00	3.50	3.20	3.10	3.00	2.70
5 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.20	3.90	3.70	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20
10 yr PWLB	4.90	4.70	4.60	4.30	4.10	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20
25 yr PWLB	5.10	4.90	4.80	4.50	4.30	4.10	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.40
50 yr PWLB	4.80	4.60	4.50	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.20	3.10

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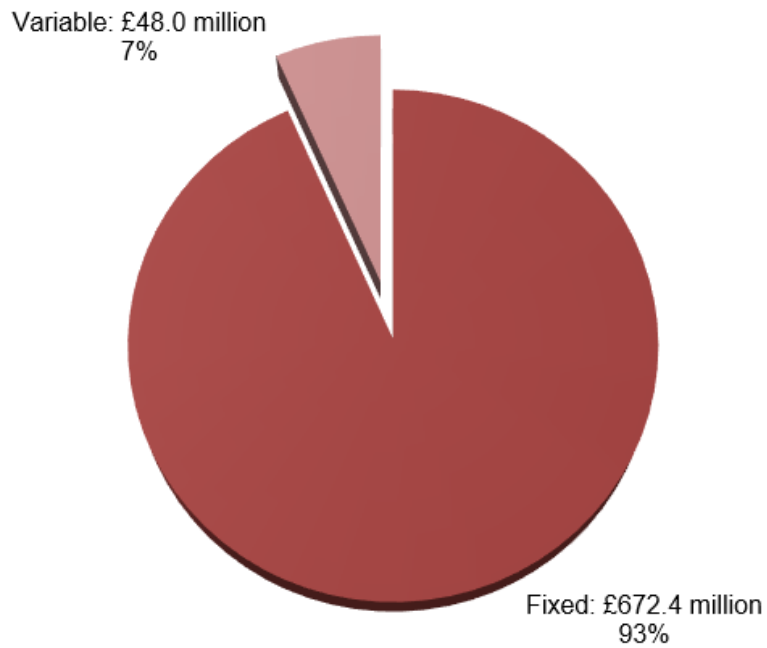
Borrowing: Graphical Summary

Borrowing by Type

As at 30 June 2022



As at 30 September 2022



Borrowing and Repayments in 2022-2023

	Start Date	Maturity Date	Amount £000	Length	Interest Rate	Full Year Interest £000
2022-2023 Borrowing						
PWLB Fixed Maturity:						
No activity in quarter 2						
Sub total for PWLB			-			-
Temporary Loans:						
No activity in quarter 2						
Sub total for Temporary Loans			-			-
Grand total borrowing			-			-

	Start Date	Maturity Date	Amount £000	Length	Interest Rate	Full Year Interest £000
2022-2023 Repayments						
PWLB Fixed Maturity:						
No activity in quarter 2						
Sub total for PWLB			-			-
Temporary Loans:						
No activity in quarter 2						
Sub total for Temporary Loans			-			-
Grand total repayments			-			-
Net movement			-			-

Disclosure for Certainty Rate

Certainty Rate						
This table details the information that is required to enable the Council to submit a return for 2022-2023						
	Approved by Council 2 March 2022			As at 30 September 2022		
	2022-2023 Forecast £000	2023-2024 Forecast £000	2024-2025 Forecast £000	2022-2023 Forecast £000	2023-2024 Forecast £000	2024-2025 Forecast £000
Net Borrowing Requirement:						
Borrowing to finance planned capital expenditure	105,219	67,750	69,840	84,939	118,964	82,806
Existing maturity loans to be replaced during the year	41,071	95,095	70,000	41,071	45,095	80,000
Less:						
Minimum Revenue Provision for debt repayment	(19,817)	(21,121)	(22,316)	(19,557)	(20,285)	(22,281)
Voluntary debt repayment	(14,493)	(16,541)	(22,200)	(12,217)	(12,918)	(17,021)
	(34,310)	(37,662)	(44,516)	(31,774)	(33,203)	(39,302)
Loans replaced less debt repayment	6,761	57,433	25,484	9,297	11,892	40,698
Net Advance Requirement	111,980	125,183	95,324	94,236	130,856	123,504
Analysed by:						
Service delivery	28,743	8,374	2,503	27,339	23,934	2,563
Housing	58,821	57,275	54,199	49,449	72,546	65,414
Regeneration	17,655	2,101	13,138	8,151	22,484	14,829
Preventative action	-	-	-	-	-	-
Treasury Management	6,761	57,433	25,484	9,297	11,892	40,698
Primarily for yield	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	111,980	125,183	95,324	94,236	130,856	123,504

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Lending List

2022-2023 Specified Investments as at 30 September 2022

Institution	Country (Sovereign Rating)	Limit £000	Term Limit
Bank Nederlandse Gemeenten	Netherlands (AAA)	20,000	12 mths
Bank of Montreal	Canada (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
Bank of Nova Scotia	Canada (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	Canada (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
DBS Bank Ltd	Singapore (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
HSBC Bank plc	UK (AA-)	5,000	3 mths
Landwirtschaftliche Rentenbank	Germany (AAA)	20,000	12 mths
National Bank of Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi (U.A.E) (AA)	5,000	3 mths
Nordea Bank Abp	Finland (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
NRW.BANK	Germany (AAA)	20,000	12 mths
Oversea Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd	Singapore (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Royal Bank of Canada	Canada (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB	Sweden (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Svenska Handelsbanken AB	Sweden (AAA)	20,000	12 mths
Swedbank AB	Sweden (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Toronto Dominion Bank	Canada (AA+)	10,000	6 mths
United Overseas Bank Ltd	Singapore (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Wells Fargo Bank NA	USA (AAA)	10,000	6 mths
Nationalised Banks			
Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc			
National Westminster Bank plc	UK (AA-)	10,000	3 mths
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	UK (AA-)	10,000	3 mths
AAA Rated and Government Backed Securities			
Debt Management Office	UK (AA-)	20,000	30 mths
Money Market Funds		Fund Rating	
Invesco STIC Account	Fitch AAmmf	20,000	Instant Access
Aberdeen Liquidity Fund (LUX) Class 2	Fitch AAmmf	20,000	Instant Access
Federated Short-Term Sterling Prime Fund	Fitch AAmmf	20,000	Instant Access
Black Rock Sterling Liquidity Fund	Moody's Aaa-mf	20,000	Instant Access

Non-rated Institutions

County Councils, London Boroughs, Metropolitan Districts and Unitary Authorities - limits £6m and 12 months.
Shire District Councils, Fire and Civil Defence Authorities, Passenger Transport Authorities and Police Authorities
- limits £3m and 12 months.

NB: This is a list of institutions that could be used if the Council wished to do so, as they meet the Council's minimum credit criteria.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 16 November 2022
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Report title	Performance and Budget Monitoring 2022-2023	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Resources and Digital City	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Tim Johnson, Chief Executive	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable employee	Claire Nye	Director of Finance
	Tel	01902 550478
	Email	Claire.Nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk
	Charlotte Johns	Director of Strategy
	Tel	01902 554240
	Email	Charlotte.Johns@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board	25 October 2022

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the establishment of supplementary expenditure budgets for 2022-2023 as detailed in section 7.0.
2. Approve the use of £380,000 from the Budget Contingency Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.4 and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets.
3. Approve the use of £80,800 from the Regeneration Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.5 and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets.
4. Approve the use of £95,000 from the Digital Inclusion Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.6 and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets.

5. Approve the contribution of £285,800 to the Licencing Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.7.
6. Approve the use of £116,000 from the Our Technology Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.8 and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets.
7. Approve the use of £64,000 from the Private Sector Housing- Civil Penalties Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.9 and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets.
8. Approve the use of £2.0 million from the Public Health Reserve as detailed in paragraph 8.10 and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets.
9. Approve the write-off of one sundry debt totalling £13,160.87 as detailed in Appendix 8.
10. Approve the write-off of two Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) debts totalling £19,511.33 as detailed in Appendix 9.
11. Approve 31 virements totalling £154.6 million, for transfers within directorates, as detailed in Appendix 10.
12. Approve the Strategic Risk Register which is shown at Appendix 3
13. Approve that authority is delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Housing and Assets and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, in consultation with the Director of City Housing and Environment and the Director of Finance to negotiate and finalise any changes required to the 2022-2023 management fee payable to Wolverhampton Homes and approve any necessary virements.
14. Approve that authority is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City in consultation with the Director of Finance to approve any necessary virements required to support the pay award and allocation of the Efficiency target and Vacancy factor held corporately.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. That the General Fund projected outturn for 2022-2023 is currently forecast to be an overspend of £1.5 million due to the forecast impact of the proposed pay award for 2022-2023 as detailed in section 4.
2. The forecast outturn position for the year for the HRA shows a pressure against the approved budget of £3.2 million, as shown at Table 2 and in detail at Appendix 5.
3. That 393 Council Tax accounts totalling £256,204.26, as detailed in Appendix 7, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
4. That 18 Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) debts totalling £148,382.50, as detailed in Appendix 7, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

5. That 11 housing benefit overpayments totalling £2,487.92 as detailed in Appendix 7, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
6. That one sundry debt account totalling £168.00, as detailed Appendix 7, have been approved for write-off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
7. The performance against the key indicators as set out in Appendix 1.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an integrated finance and performance update against the Our City, Our Plan priorities.
- 1.2 This is the second report of the financial year detailing the likely outturn projection for 2022-2023.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 2 March 2022, Council approved Our City: Our Plan, a new Council Plan building on the Relighting Our City Plan and providing the strategic framework for delivering the ambition that 'Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives'. Reporting against this framework for both performance and budget will take place from 2022-2023 onwards.
- 2.2 Within Our City: Our Plan, the Council has published a robust performance framework to track progress against key indicators and to encourage scrutiny of its key decisions. Performance information will be published quarterly alongside analysis and business commentary to give context.
- 2.3 The City of Wolverhampton Council has built up a strong track record over many years of managing its finances well and consistently setting a balanced budget. Our approach to strategic financial management, aligning budgets to service priorities and improving services, and investing in transformation priorities, continues to put us in a strong financial position.
- 2.4 On 2 March 2022, the Council approved the net budget requirement for 2022-2023 of £267.2 million for General Fund services. This report details the forecast outturn projection for 2022-2023.
- 2.5 This report brings together performance against our Our City, Our Plan priorities, and the financial performance for quarter 2.

3.0 Performance Update

- 3.1 The Council continues to use a variety of means in which to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of operations against organisational strategic priorities and statutory requirements.
- 3.2 Critically it continues to manage resources effectively, consistently setting a balanced budget, and delivering against the Medium Term Financial Strategy, despite significant funding reductions and high levels of uncertainty.
- 3.3 External verification of performance is also undertaken through external audit of the council's accounts, and key inspections such as Ofsted and other regulatory bodies. Risks continue to be managed through the strategic risk register which is reported to Audit and Risk Committee on a regular basis. Please see Appendix 3 for most recent risk register.

3.4 Internally, the Council is evolving the way it performance manages services, with the creation of a centralised Data and Analytics team which is ensures performance data and intelligence is readily available to all staff and is analysed and reviewed regularly by operational and strategic management.

Our City: Our Plan Performance

3.5 Our City: Our Plan sets out the six overarching priorities which will guide the Council's approach to ensure Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier lives, with an additional priorities looking at how the Council operates. These are;

- Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential
- Fulfilled Lives for All With Quality Care For Those Who Need It
- Healthy, Inclusive Communities
- Good Homes in Well-Connected Neighbourhoods
- More Local People into Good Jobs & Training
- Thriving Economy in all Parts of the City
- Our Council

3.6 A performance framework has been created to monitor performance against these priorities and includes two different types of indicators, city indicators and impact indicators.

3.7 City indicators are high level indicators which although the council can influence, may not be able to directly affect. Data on these indicators is published nationally, to enable a comparison against regional, statistical, and national averages. City indicators are high level indicators which although the council can influence, may not be able to directly affect. Data on these indicators is published nationally, to enable a comparison against regional, statistical, and national averages. Impact indicators demonstrate how council interventions are working to improve outcomes for residents against key priorities.

3.8 In total there are currently 56 KPI's in the Our City: Our Plan performance framework. Of these;

- 33 have shown improvement or have seen similar performance
- 17 are yet to be update in the YTD (8 of these in Healthy Communities)
- 6 saw a decrease in performance

3.9 This report sets out a summary of performance against city and impact indicators, relevant financial information, and key areas of activity. A dashboard of the performance against impact indicators is included at Appendix 1.

Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential

3.10 Our ambition is that children and young people have the best possible opportunities to fulfil their potential. As a result, we are investing to connect young people to

opportunities, support our schools to improve standards, ensure education provision is inclusive whilst continuing to support our most vulnerable young people.

- 3.11 Supporting our young people, especially those that need support is a strength of the Council, as seen through the recent 'Good' rated OFSTED inspection for our Childrens Services, that included an 'Outstanding' judgement for leadership and management.
- 3.12 The Council has seen decreasing numbers of children open to the services against a backdrop of increasing numbers regionally and nationally. This performance reflects the outcome of targeted work, to ensure that children are supported in line with their assessed needs and are receiving services at the right level for as long as is necessary to their safety and wellbeing.
- 3.13 Referrals into Social Care have fluctuated during the last 12 months with an average of 320 referrals a month. At the end of the quarter the rolling twelve month period reflected a re-referral rate of 21.8%, slightly higher than the rate of 20.9% reported at the end of the last quarter.
- 3.14 Against decreasing numbers of Child Protection cases, the percentage that are repeat cases has increased in the quarter however is still below national and regional comparators.
- 3.15 Placement stability of our children in care remains an area of strength for the Council. 5.3% of our children and young people in care had 3 or more placements in the year. This performance is stronger than national, regional and statistical averages and Wolverhampton is in the top quartile of national performance. Wolverhampton also performance favourably against the long-term stability of placements. When older young people leave care, the Council support them to find suitable accommodation. 94% of our care leavers are currently in suitable accommodation, substantially above national and regional averages.
- 3.16 The Strategic Risk Register recognises the risk associated with our responsibilities for Safeguarding Children and the mitigations in place, details of Risk 2 on this area can be found in Appendix 3.
- 3.17 The percentage of Wolverhampton's care leavers aged 19-21, in education, training or employment saw a significant decrease in the 2020-2021 year, a reduction of 11% to 46% from the previous year's performance. This drop in performance was linked to the effect of the pandemic. However, current performance at the end of Quarter 2 shows Wolverhampton with a rate of 57.1%, a higher percentage of care leavers in EET than the latest published percentage for the West Midlands, statistical neighbours, and the national average.
- 3.18 The impact of 'DIVERT' and the use of Outcome 22 on Wolverhampton's First Time Entrants into the youth justice system has already shown significant impact. At the end of Quarter 2 the rate per 100,000 youths aged 10 -17 years had reduced from 201 at the end of the last financial year to 116. We expect this trend to continue, and if young

people successfully complete their Outcome 22 interventions, this will have a significant impact on the formal decriminalisation of young people in Wolverhampton.

- 3.19 There has been a steady and sustained improvement in education outcomes across the City. The Education Excellence Strategy was launched September 2021 and built on the previous School Improvement Strategy. The new Strategy brought a similar response to Early Years settings as for schools.
- 3.20 The city continues to see an increase in the percentage of schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted, and at quarter end was at 88%, above the national average. Ensuring inclusivity in access to this high standard of education remains a key priority. At quarter end, 89.9% of children and young people from an ethnic minority background were attending a good or outstanding school. The percentage of early years and childcare settings rated good or outstanding is slightly higher than the school's rate at 92%, consistent with the previous quarter end and slightly lower than statistical neighbours (96%).
- 3.21 There has been a sustained improvement in the percentage of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education in the last 12 months by 11%, however this remains lower than west midlands, statistical neighbours and national average. Since 2019 the direction of travel has been increasing.
- 3.22 The percentage of 16 – 17 year olds who are EET has decreased, this has been linked to the end of the school term and changes in education settings creating a lag in recording of new settings. Data will be tracked through October and November to track ensure expected improvements are seen.
- 3.23 However, 16 – 17 year old EET levels for those with SEND has improved. This is linked to targeted work through Connexions Improvement Advisors so the pathways are smoother during transition between settings and in turn recording of data is improved.
- 3.24 The authority is working on a new Education and Skills strategy to ensure opportunities are maximised across both areas and to support better outcomes for young people.
- 3.25 Educational attainment data is expected to be released in time for Q3 report.
- 3.26 Regarding financial performance, Children's Services and Education is currently forecasting an underspend of £1.1 million, due to strong financial management and transformative projects and programmes which have achieved significant and positive changes for children and young people living and learning in Wolverhampton. To date, Wolverhampton has not seen a significant increase in demand on children's social care as a result of the pandemic, however, as with adult services, there continues to be significant uncertainty over the impact of Covid-19 on this service over the short to medium term, and more recently the increased cost of living. Work will continue to model the potential financial effects of the pandemic and the impact of the increase in the cost of living on the service. Further financial analysis is included at Appendix 2

- 3.27 There are currently no specific savings targets for this service area built into the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 to 2025-2026 which was reported to Cabinet on 19 October 2022, however, based on current projections it is forecast that the budget could be reduced in future years without impacting on service delivery. This will be kept under review and updates provided to Cabinet in future reports.
- 3.28 Maintained schools are required to submit budget plans detailing their expected income and planned spending levels at two points in the year; 31 May and 31 October. At the end 2021-2022, maintained schools had balances totalling £15.6 million. 40 schools were identified as having balances above recognised thresholds detailed in the local scheme. In addition, there are three schools with anticipated deficits at the end of 2022-2023. Actual end of year balances for 2021-2022 and the latest projected balances in those submitted budget plans for 2022-2023 are shown at Appendix 6, along with details of the processes in place to review deficit and surplus balances.

Fulfilled lives with quality care for those that need it

- 3.29 The Council continues to provide support to those facing hardship, working with our partners to keep our city safe and build resilience to ensure all our communities can thrive.
- 3.30 Social care performance remains an area of strength in the city. Current performance, taken from the initial results of the 2021-2022 statutory returns for Adults Social Care, shows improvements or sustained strong performance against all key indicators.
- 3.31 At the end of October 2022, the NHS released the latest results from the Adult Social Care SALT return. Performance from this return showed Wolverhampton had seen strong improvements across services.
- 3.32 Wolverhampton Adult Social Care adopt a strengths-based approach to social work, supporting young people and adults to be as in control of their own lives as much as possible. This was advocated by 81.6% of residents in the most recent Adults Social Care Survey. This result saw Wolverhampton move from 120th to 14th ranked Authority and in the top quartile of national performance.
- 3.33 A focus of Adult Social Care is ensuring people access the right support at the right time to keep or regain their independence. People are always asked about what is important to them to make them feel safe and secure. This is reflected during the most recent survey where the indicator demonstrated strong performance at 88.3%, reporting improvements since the last survey. This increase saw Wolverhampton move from 111th to 48th highest ranked Authority.
- 3.34 The Council has seen an increase in performance in terms of reablement, with 77% of residents aged 65 or over remaining at home 91 days after discharge from hospital at quarter end. Although this indicator shows much improvement, Wolverhampton is behind the most recently published data for statistical neighbours, West Midlands, and the

national average. Work continues with health colleagues to continue the upwards trend in performance to ensure progress against comparator averages.

- 3.35 The percentage of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment has experienced a slight drop in performance to 5.1% from 5.4%, it does however compare favourably to the most recently published data for the West Midlands and national average. A new In House Supported Employment Team has been established which will target improved performance in this area.
- 3.36 The risk associated with our responsibilities for Safeguarding Adults can be found in risk 3 of the Strategic Risk Register in Appendix 3.
- 3.37 During the budget setting process for 2022-2023, significant cost pressures were forecast for Adult Social Care and, as a result, growth totalling £9.2 million was approved. Appendix 2 provides detail of current forecasts which indicate that, overall, the service is currently forecasting an underspend of £1.2 million. However, there continues to be uncertainty on the forecast position of Adult Services in 2022-2023 and over the medium term, as the service adjusts to the post-covid environment and also the recent increases in inflation. The redesign of Adult services has commenced and with the aim of addressing any longer term alignment of staffing resources, as well as stabilising the care market. Further information is provided in Appendix 2.
- 3.38 During the winter months each year, we see an increase in the cost of providing social care, referred to as 'Winter Pressures'. It was announced in September that the government would be making available a grant of £500 million to free up hospital beds and bolster the Social Care workforce, when the Council's allocation is known this will be used to fund additional services across Adult's through the remainder of 2022-2023. Current assumptions assume any additional costs will be fully funded from grant.
- 3.39 The Performance and Budget Monitoring report reported to Cabinet on 7 September 2022, provided details on the Government's white paper 'People at the Heart of Care – Adults Social Care Reform' and the implications of Wolverhampton agreeing to be a 'trailblazer'.
- 3.40 The Council is currently undertaking a fair cost of care exercise, as prescribed by the Government, with the resulting report to be submitted to Government and published in some form for the local market. The stated aim of this exercise is to ensure local authorities are paying a 'fair' cost of care and also to ensure the market is compensated for the changes that charging reform will bring. The guidance states the Council needs to move 'significantly' towards paying the fair cost of care over the next 3 years.
- 3.41 Work is going to forecast the potential cost of these reforms, however, local authorities are concerned that the proposed level of funding will not be sufficient to cover the associated costs.
- 3.42 Due to the uncertainty surrounding public sector spending, in particularly health and social care reforms it is not yet clear whether additional funding will still be made

available in the next financial year for the fair cost of care implementation in which case CWC would have to fully fund any fee uplifts for providers in 2023-2024. This will be kept under review and updates provided in Cabinet in future reports.

- 3.43 Risks 5 and 18 of the Strategic Risk Register recognise the pressures in our provider market, details can be found in Appendix 3. In addition, the risk of grant funding not being sufficient to cover the costs of the reform is flagged as a risk in the General Fund Budget Risk 2022-2023 at Appendix 4.

Healthy, Inclusive Communities

- 3.44 Much of the data captured for the Healthy, Inclusive Communities indicators date back to 2020. During the pandemic, Public Health England were understandably unable to produce updates non-Covid related health indicators. This means although these are key priorities for the authority with many interventions in place, we are currently unable to fully reflect their effect against the national landscape. As it remains unclear when the national data will be available for release and comparison, measures are being introduced so that this data can be collected at a local level that shows the impact of interventions.
- 3.45 It is also important to note that the indicators within the section require a whole City approach to ensure positive outcomes. As city level indicators, we understand that the Council can influence improved performance but is not fully able or responsible to do so without the work and support of wider partners and stakeholders.
- 3.46 The Council has continued to work with partners to support the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccination. At quarter end 73.4% of the adult population of Wolverhampton were vaccinated, a plateauing of the figure. Further to this, almost 94% of our residents aged 80 or above, 89% of our most clinically vulnerable residents and 96% of our care home residents are vaccinated ensuring protection to those most vulnerable.
- 3.47 The data for the over 40 health check works on a rolling 5-year average. A slow uptake in the City at the start of the first year is lowering the 5-year average value to just below a quarter (25.8%) of over 40 year olds attending for the offered health check. Data for the individual quarter (Q2 2022/23) shows Wolverhampton's performance above national averages. In forthcoming quarters, the Wolverhampton five year average will show a significant improvement as the early years take up will no longer be included in the calculation. Increasing NHS health check activity to return to pre-pandemic, top quartile levels is an ambition of the One Wolverhampton Living Well Group. The latest quarterly activity demonstrates positive progress, with current uptake above the England average.
- 3.48 Regarding the financial performance, current forecasts indicate that Public Health and Wellbeing is forecasting a net overspend of £807,000. £225,000 of this pressure across Leisure services due to reduced income from catering services and inflationary pressures on the leisure PFI contract in relation to utility costs. £573,000 is due to costs associated with temporary housing accommodation which will be considered in paragraph 3.60.

3.49 Further financial analysis can be found in Appendix 2.

Good home and well-connected neighbourhoods

- 3.50 At the end of September 2022 there had been 530 new builds completed within the city, a reduction on the previous period. It is anticipated that the number of new build completions will fluctuate across the period due to the nature of the construction sector, as there will be times when large new build projects are in development and will not contribute to each quarter's data. The service remains on target to achieve the three year completion rate and are currently in the process of developing a solution to track their progress against the longer plan, rather than reporting the variations across the period.
- 3.51 Net additional dwellings within the city have also reported a reduction to 614 when compared to 818 during the previous period, linked to an increase in the number of Right to Buy applications reducing the council stock and some small-scale demolitions.
- 3.52 The indicator for housing affordability uses data on house prices and annual earnings to understand the affordability ratios for different areas. The higher the ratio, the less affordable the house prices were when compared to the earnings of residents. At the end of Q1 Wolverhampton's ratio increased from 5.7 to 6.2 indicating that housing has become less affordable. This trend is likely to be seen in many local authorities across the country as house prices are increasing faster than salaries are. Wolverhampton is currently ranked 276th for this indicator, showing that comparatively housing is more affordable in the city.
- 3.53 Wolverhampton's percentage of dwelling stock vacant in the city remain consistent at 3.1%. between 2020 and 2021. It is slightly higher than the statistical neighbour average with Wolverhampton recording more vacant dwellings than the average for other statistical neighbours. Work continues to reduce the void turnaround time and the number of long-term empty privately owned properties.
- 3.54 The indicator for the energy efficiency of housing stock shows an increase of ten when compared to the previous year. The score for this indicator is generated based on data about a building's energy features, with 100 being the most efficient. Wolverhampton is currently at a rate of 65, lower than statistical neighbours. Continuing the same trajectory will see Wolverhampton reach the next quartile rate of 69. The energy performance of privately homes may have affected this increase as homeowners do not always have the means to invest in energy efficiency improvements to their homes, therefore affecting the energy performance of the property. The Council has secured funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to support fuel poverty households with retrofit measures to increase the energy performance of the property.
- 3.55 The percentage of major planning application decisions made within 13 weeks or agreed timescales was 100% in Quarter 2 2022/23. Planning applications increased nationally by around 20% over the past two years. Whilst this presented challenges the service has managed the increased workload and is processing planning applications effectively,

focusing on quality customer service with applicants (developers), those impacted by proposed development and local Councillors.

- 3.56 Wolverhampton's total crime recorded per 1,000 population decreased from 132 to 95 over the past year. This reduction sees Wolverhampton ranking lower than its statistical neighbours. The focus remains on reducing crime types with the highest risk and impact, with the figures adversely affected by volume crime which has increased across the West Midlands following the easing of Covid restrictions.
- 3.57 Current performance for the percentage of fly tipping incidents resolved in five working days has increased by 1.5% to 77.5%. A joint project group with environmental health and public health based officers has been created to explore additional ways to reduce the levels of fly tipping across the City, whilst continuing to respond to reports from residents. For those streets and locations where, fly tipping is most prevalent, the promotion of the new walk in household waste and recycling centres and the bulky waste collections as an alternative to fly tipping continues. The development of more reactive CCTV placement is currently underway as part of the smart city agenda.
- 3.58 The percentage of carriageways classed as high quality continues to increase. When a carriageway is assessed as high quality it is given a green rating with the percentage of carriageways in the city assessed as high quality improving across all road types with the largest increase of 5% for C Roads. A and B roads increased by 1%.
- 3.59 Regarding financial performance, City Housing and Environment overall are projecting a net overspend of £371,000. This is mainly as a result of cost pressures within Fleet Services, Transportation, Markets and Highway maintenance. Cost pressures are being seen within Transportation mainly due to increasing demand on passenger transport services for client transport and additional vehicle hire. Services are mitigating these pressures by continuing to drive efficiencies in delivering this statutory service and minimising the reliance on hire vehicles and external providers. These costs pressures are being offset, in part by underspends within Waste Services as a result of increased income, reduced costs of waste disposal, along with a reduction in costs within Street lighting.
- 3.60 During the last financial year the council saw budget pressures in relation to temporary and supported accommodation. Wolverhampton Homes have seen a large increase in the number of homeless people being placed in temporary accommodation due to a number of factors including an increase in the cost of living, increase in people being evicted from the private sector and increased numbers of families being asked to leave due to relationship breakdowns. An action plan is being developed that looks at increasing the amount of local authority stock utilised as temporary accommodation, increased preventative work and increased access to the private sector which will assist in mitigating the number of people requiring temporary accommodation as well as the increase in cost of this provision. The impact was specifically felt in relation to net Housing Benefit costs which are held under the Finance Directorate. In quarter 1,

£750,000 growth built into Corporate Contingency in anticipation of ongoing pressures was vired to the service to cover these costs. However, updated projection indicate that these costs have increased, and at quarter 2 an overspend of £394,000 is forecast within Finance due to an increase in temporary, supported and exempt accommodation where full subsidy grant is not received. In addition to Housing Benefit costs, we are also seeing a cost pressure in temporary housing budgets (held under Public Health and Well Being) of £573,000. Further financial analysis is included in Appendix 2.

- 3.61 As reported to Cabinet on 19 October 2022 in the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 to 2025-2026, there continues to be a number of emerging pressures, including that in relation to legislation around environmental protection which could result in additional costs within our energy for waste plant. Work is ongoing to determine these potential costs and updates will be provided to Councillors in future reports.
- 3.62 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is forecasting a pressure against the approved budget of £3.2 million, this result in a forecast redemption of debt. The Performance and Budget Monitoring report presented to Cabinet on 7 September 2022, reported the uncertainty around the cost of inflation and the impact of the proposed pay award for 2022-2023 on the managing agents. Wolverhampton Homes in particular, having a substantial workforce and repairs budget have reported pressures. Work has been ongoing to estimate the extent of the potential cost increases, and it is currently forecast that these costs are in the region of £2.0 million. Further detail is included in section 6 and Appendix 5.

More local people into good jobs and training

- 3.63 Historically Wolverhampton has had consistently higher unemployment claimant count rates than the national average. These rates have been exacerbated by the pandemic and subsequent period.
- 3.64 A whole city approach is needed to improve outcomes for our residents in this area. Whilst the Department of Work and Pensions are the lead agency in this area, the Council are working hard to influence improved processes and performance across the system.
- 3.65 The Council has played a leading role in bringing together key stakeholders in this area including the Department for Work and Pension, education provides, schools, City of Wolverhampton College and local businesses and employers.
- 3.66 Since March 2021, Wolverhampton has seen a 3.20% reduction in the number of people claiming unemployment benefits (16-64). However, at quarter end Wolverhampton had the 2nd highest rate for overall unemployment. Between Q1 2022 and Q2 2022, the rate in Wolverhampton has remained at 7.4% against a small decrease in the national trend.

- 3.67 Wolverhampton has the highest Claimant Count rate for 18-24 year olds nationally. The number of 18-24 year olds claiming unemployment related benefits has reduced over the last 12 months, although has seen small increases in the last quarter.
- 3.68 However, there continues to be an increase in the number of jobs created or safeguarded by the city investment team. Successes in this period include Goldilock (50 jobs) and Nant (60+ jobs) whilst Salisbury Poultry and Compton Care are also creating more jobs.
- 3.69 The Council continues to increase its numbers of apprentices and graduates, with a new cohort of graduates starting in September, including the first 'Change 100' placements for graduates with special educational needs.
- 3.70 The Strategic Risk Register details the risk of high unemployment in the City and the work in place to mitigate this, Risk 9 can be found in Appendix 3.
- 3.71 The Council wants to ensure that all staff have access to ongoing training and development through the apprentice levy. Last year the Council were able to spend 84% of its levy an increase from 68% during the previous period. The apprenticeship levy can only be spent on qualifications and not employment, funding the continuous development and the upskilling of staff. The Council has also run many dedicated programmes to aid the progression of minority groups within the local authority.
- 3.72 Regarding financial performance, the Regeneration Directorate, which includes the Skills service, is projecting a net overspend of £155,000. Further analysis is shown at Appendix 2.

Thriving Economy in all part of the City

- 3.73 Post-pandemic, it is more important than ever to deliver against our ambitious plans to transform and reimagine our city, conscious of the changes in how we work, live, travel and spend our leisure time. We continue to deliver our plans to be an events city building on our strong cultural offer and drive investment into our communities, particularly focussed on our council's climate change commitment to be next carbon neutral by 2028.
- 3.74 Latest published data shows that Wolverhampton is in the second highest quartile of performance for businesses that survive over one year. Latest data shows that over 91% of businesses in Wolverhampton survive over one year and Wolverhampton is very close to being in the highest quartile of performance. Comparative data does, however, relate back to data collated pre Covid in 2019, though, a recent study by the School of Marketing named Wolverhampton as one of the top three places in the country to launch a new business.
- 3.75 The city has continued to see high numbers of new business start up in the city and the council's support for this includes the launch of Ignite, a free to use business and enterprise hub, and a commission with Access 2 Business who support people some of whom have previously been unemployed and struggling to find a route to start their businesses.

- 3.76 In the last quarter the Council supported 98 businesses through a combination of business support, tailored programmes and business reviews, remaining comparable to performance during the previous quarter. Current business support is undergoing significant transformation as EU funded programmes come to a close. The council is working with key partners and stakeholders including the WMCA to establish a new business support programme, which will meet the needs of the businesses in the city.
- 3.77 Risks 1 and 8 of the Strategic Risk Register in Appendix 3 identify the specific risks associated with businesses closing and the city wide regeneration.
- 3.78 Throughout the quarter, 11 new investment opportunities were generated. The successes in this period include Goldilock who have recently located at Wolverhampton Science Park who have relocated 25 staff and will create an additional 25. Goldilock are receiving support from the City Investment Team alongside the West Midlands Growth Company. Another investor at the Science Park during this period is Nant, a specialist provider of water safety services, whose HQ has moved from Bilston. This investment sees the safeguarding of 52 jobs in the city and the creation of 10 new posts.
- 3.79 There has been a decrease in year on year activity in retail and recreational settings. However, with travel restriction still in place last summer, this decrease is potentially linked to holidays, data shows more people went abroad in 2022 than 2021. This data comes to an end in October 2022.
- 3.80 An additional 4 rapid charging electric car points have been installed across the City during Quarter 2 increasing the number to 47. Further to this there has been the introduction of two 150kw rapid charge points offering higher levels of charge. Plans are also being finalised to procure an operator to deliver 80 charge points to cover the infrastructure requirements up to 2025 as defined in the Black Country Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy.
- 3.81 Wolverhampton's full fibre coverage has increased significantly since last year from 6% to 30.2% following a series of initiatives such as Local Full Fibre Network, barrier busting activity and initiatives such as block wayleaves to support the rollout on housing estates. This indicates positive performance, however compared to other local authorities it is still low. The deployment of a new full fibre network (to be completed by 2025) and upgrades to existing networks to full fibre by other infrastructure providers is rapidly improving performance and puts the city on track to significantly improve its quartile position. Gigabit coverage in the city is now at 93%.
- 3.82 Regarding financial performance, as mentioned above, the Regeneration Directorate which includes Enterprise, is projecting a net overspend of £155,000. Further analysis is shown at Appendix 2.

Our Council

- 3.83 To deliver against our key city priorities, the Council continues to become more efficient and effective through ongoing improvements in relation to assets, use of data, technology and digital, our people and money.
- 3.84 There has been a 0.09% reduction in sickness absence (excluding Covid) during between Quarter 2 2021-2022 and Quarter 2 2022-2023, with mental health and musculoskeletal issues recording the highest issues. Preventative support is offered through a wide range of methods such as practical, emotional and mental wellbeing support, including financial wellbeing via our employee assistance programme, confidential counselling, and access to our 60 Mental Health First Aid practitioners. Other training and support includes manual handling, Toolbox talks, Workstation and Homeworking risk assessments supported with reasonable adjustments to working arrangements and the provision of specialist equipment. Access to Occupational Health practitioners and Physiotherapists is available quickly and health benefits such as subsidised gym membership and cycle to work schemes are also promoted
- 3.85 The Employee Turnover rate for 2022-23 Quarter 2 was 3.54%, an increase of 0.78 percentage points when compared to the previous quarter. Published data available for other local authorities across England shows that the turnover rate for Wolverhampton in 2021-2022 Quarter 4 was lower than the national average. The service continues to take proactive measures to address the national issues associated with recruitment and retention with the creation of a HR jobs site that showcases the careers, rewards, benefits, people offer and culture of the council, engaging with the workforce to review the our people offer including different ways of working, continuously reviewing the health and wellbeing offer and continuing to embed a culture of fairness and inclusivity.
- 3.86 The Mean Gender Pay Gap for Council Employees as of March 2021 decreased by 0.20 percentage points from the previous year. The largest pay gap occurred within the upper pay quartile with a negative pay gap shown in the lower middle pay quartile. The Gender pay gap for March 2021 remains below that of some other local authorities in the region.
- 3.87 The Mean Ethnicity Pay Gap for Council Employees as of March 2021 decreased by 0.42 percentage points from the previous year, with employees from ethnic minority groups earning on average 76p less per hour than white employees. The pay gap between employees from ethnic minority groups and white employees continues to be more prominent for female employees than for male employees. There is no direct comparison to other local authorities at this time as there is currently no statutory requirement to publish this.
- 3.88 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is at the heart of everything the council does. HR monitor workforce equalities across all areas of employment on a continuous basis and will continue to work in partnership with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team, the appointed equalities officer, and in consultation with our people and the employee forum for Race, Religion and Belief to develop future actions to address inequalities.

- 3.89 The average customer services wait time decreased by 33 seconds between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 2022-2023. During this period Customer Services reopened face to face services, including surgeries for Schools and Blue Badges. At the same time extra resources were allocated to Taxi Licensing calls, one of Wolverhampton's highest call volume lines, which has had a direct impact in lower waiting times.
- 3.90 The Council is due to launch its own ongoing survey based upon the regional LGA Resident Satisfaction Polling so that the satisfaction of residents can be assessed and analysed against regional and national averages.
- 3.91 In line with our commitment to the Wolverhampton Pound, the number of local businesses the council spent with increased to 467 Wolverhampton based companies from 451 between Quarter 4 2021-2022 and Quarter 2 2022-2023.

4.0 Quarter Two 2022-2023 Budget Performance

- 4.1 On 2 March 2022, the Council approved the net budget requirement for 2022-2023 of £267.2 million for General Fund services.
- 4.2 Overall, the General Fund projected outturn for this year is currently forecasting an overspend of £1.5 million, mainly due to the forecast in-year cost implication of the potential pay award. Since reporting to Cabinet on 7 September, work has been ongoing to identify efficiencies and underspends to fund the projected costs pressures of the 2022-2023 pay award and mitigate the need to use reserves.

Pay Award

- 4.3 The Performance and Budget Monitoring report presented to Cabinet on 7 September 2022, reported that negotiations were ongoing in respect of the 2022-2023 pay award, and the current proposal, if accepted, was forecast to cost in the region of £9.0 million in year. The approved budget for 2022-2023 includes a provision of 2% amounting to £2.8 million, we therefore reported at quarter 1 that the forecast in year cost pressure was in the region of £6.2 million. On 1 November 2022, it was announced that the pay award had been accepted.
- 4.4 Work has been ongoing to identify in-year efficiency to mitigate against these costs. Since reporting to Cabinet in September, our focus on has been identifying in-year underspends and efficiencies, including the review of budgets held corporately to support new initiatives aligned to corporate priorities. As a result of this review, the forecast overspend as at quarter 2 has reduced from £5.4 million to £1.5 million. However, it should be noted that some of the underspend across services, is in part, due to staff vacancies. A number of services are experiencing difficulties in recruiting to some positions, which is resulting in this one-off underspends. Delays in recruitment could also impact on service delivery and present some risk if delays in recruitment continue.
- 4.5 Work will continue to identify efficiencies and underspends in order to manage these costs within the approved budget. As a last resort we will consider the use of reserves.

- 4.6 This report seeks approval to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City in consultation with the Director of Finance to approve the necessary virements to fund the pay award. In addition, the 2022-2023 budget includes a staff turnover efficiency target of £1.2 million and a general efficiency target of £1.5 million. These savings targets are currently held within Corporate Budgets. Approval is therefore also sought in this report to delegate authority to action any virements required to re-allocate these targets across directorates.

Inflation

- 4.7 In addition, inflation in the UK is at the highest it has been for four decades, which means the country is facing an increase in the cost of living, with food, petrol and energy bills all increasing. Current projections are forecasting cost pressures of around £1.7 million in 2022-2023, these have been reflected in this forecast outturn position. However, it is not yet known what the full extent this will have on direct costs of the Council and the impact this will have on our contracts, as well as our residents and businesses.
- 4.8 We are tracking the impact of inflation carefully, gathering information from a number of sources to build up an accurate picture however we recognise that the impact will continue to emerge throughout the year.
- 4.9 The current forecast includes projected inflationary costs where they are known, and these are incorporated into the projects detailed in Appendix 2. This will continue to be monitored and updates will be provided in future reports. Inflation is a significant risk and as such is included in the Strategic Risk Register at Appendix 3.
- 4.10 The 2022-2023 approved budget also incorporates a number of approved budget reduction and income generation targets. Recurrent savings targets total £4.6 million, progress against these targets, where appropriate is detailed in Appendix 2.
- 4.11 Table 1 below summarises the projected outturn position for 2022-2023. Further detail on the most significant variances against the budget are reported on a service-by-service basis in Appendix 2.

Table 1 – 2022-2023 General Fund Revenue Budget Projected Outturn

	Net Controllable Budget 2022-2022	Projected Outturn 2022-2023	Projected Variation	
			Over/(Under)	
	£000	£000	£000	%
Commissioning and Transformation	3,161	3,161	-	-
Adult Services	79,625	78,443	(1,182)	(1.48%)
Children's Services and Education	50,679	49,627	(1,052)	(2.08%)
Public Health and Wellbeing	5,428	6,235	807	14.87%
City Housing and Environment	30,642	31,013	371	1.21%
City Assets	10,709	10,592	(117)	(1.09%)
Regeneration	2,999	3,154	155	5.17%
Finance	15,633	15,586	(47)	(0.30%)
Governance	13,651	13,645	(6)	(0.04%)
Strategy	10,572	9,759	(813)	(7.69%)
Communications and Visitor Experience	2,409	2,409	-	-
Corporate Budgets	41,651	38,960	(2,691)	(6.46%)
Net forecast impact of pay award	-	6,119	6,119	-
Net Budget Requirement	267,159	268,703	1,544	0.58%
Council Tax (including Adult Social Care Precept)	(118,072)	(118,072)	-	-
Enterprise Zone Business Rates	(1,422)	(1,422)	-	-
Top Up Grant	(27,399)	(27,399)	-	-
Business Rates (net of WMCA growth payment and Collection Fund deficit)	(64,000)	(64,000)	-	-
New Homes Bonus	(1,632)	(1,632)	-	-
Section 31 Grant - Business Rates Support	(21,170)	(21,170)	-	-
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit	1,781	1,781	-	-
Services Grant	(5,492)	(5,492)	-	-
Social Care Grants	(16,305)	(16,305)	-	-
Improved Better Care Fund	(14,761)	(14,761)	-	-
Lower Tier Funding	(487)	(487)	-	-
Contribution to / from reserves	1,800	1,800	-	-
Total Resources	(267,159)	(267,159)	-	-
Net Budget (Surplus) / Deficit	-	1,544	1,544	0.58%

5.0 Risk Management

- 5.1 The Council is no different to any other organisation and will always face risks in achieving its objectives and priorities. Sound risk management can be seen as the clear identification and management of such risks to an acceptable level.
- 5.2 The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed in conjunction with risk owners, reviewed by SEB and presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on a regular basis. The Strategic Risk Register was presented to Audit and Risk Committee on 26 September 2022 and is showed at Appendix 3. A further update will be presented to Audit and Risk Committee in November.
- 5.3 In addition to the Medium Term Financial Strategy being incorporated in the Strategy Risk Register, there is also a separate General Fund budget risk register. The overall level of risk associated with the budget 2022-2023 is assessed as Amber. As detailed in section 4 it is forecast that the Council is currently forecasting an overspend for 2022-2023, mainly due to the 2022-2023 pay award which was accepted on 1 November 2022. The Council will continue to work to identify in-year efficiencies in order to mitigation against this overspend and provide updates in future reports.
- 5.4 Inflation and the increasing cost of living is considered to be a significant risk, not only the direct costs of the council but on our businesses and residents. This will continue to be monitored and updates provided in future reports. Inflation is incorporated in the Strategic Risk Register and the General Fund budget risk register.

6.0 Housing Revenue Budget Monitoring

- 6.1 The paragraphs and the table below detail the latest forecast revenue outturn against budget for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The cost pressures identified in the following paragraphs result in a projected reduction in the provision for debt redemption of £3.2 million.

Table 2 – Housing Revenue Account Projected Outturn 2022-2023

	Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variation
	£000	£000	£000
Total income	(99,833)	(99,631)	202
Total expenditure	72,219	74,249	2,030
Net cost of HRA services	(27,614)	(25,382)	2,232
Interest payments etc.	10,233	11,234	1,001
Contribution to capital financing	2,990	2,990	-
Provision for redemption of debt	14,391	11,158	3,233
Balance for the year	-	-	-

- 6.2 Income from rents and service charges is forecast to be £202,000 lower than budgeted. When setting the budget, assumptions were made about the level of empty properties , this level is currently higher than anticipated resulting in reduced income.
- 6.3 Expenditure on repairs and maintenance is currently forecast to be £261,000 above budget, this is as a result of the cost of Section 11 legal claims – these are compensation claims made by tenants for repairs not carried out.
- 6.4 In addition, as detailed in the Treasury Management Activity Monitoring Mid Year Review 2022-2023 report on this same agenda, there is currently a forecast overspend of £996,000 on the HRA due to higher interest payable costs.
- 6.5 The Performance and Budget Monitoring Report presented to Cabinet on 7 September 2022, reported the uncertainty around the cost of inflation and the impact of the proposed pay award for 2022-2023 on managing agents. In particular Wolverhampton Homes are reporting cost pressures as due to their substantial workforce and increasing costs due to repairs demands. It is currently forecast that these increased costs associated could be in the region of £2.0 million. The repairs costs pressures being experienced are due to inflation, increasing costs of works to address damp and mould issues and new burdens due to compliance and regulation. At the time of writing this report negotiations are still ongoing with Wolverhampton Homes to understand the financial position and the impact on their MTFS. This report therefore seeks approval to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Housing and Assets and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, in consultation with the Director of City Housing and Environment and the Director of Finance to negotiate and finalise any changes required to the 2022-2023 management fee payable to Wolverhampton Homes and approve any necessary virements.

6.6 The impact of the pressures referred in the paragraphs above has resulted in a forecast reduction of £3.2 million provision for the redemption of debt. The impact of reducing its redemption of debt will be considered in the development of the 30 year business plan.

6.7 Further detail is shown in Appendix 5

7.0 Changes to Grant Funded Expenditure

7.1 It is not always possible to reflect all grant funded or externally funded expenditure in the budget approved by Full Council prior to the start of the financial year. This is due to the late notification from grant awarding bodies of grant amounts, use of historic grants and proactive grant applications during the year and confirmation of other external funding.

7.2 Approval is sought from Cabinet to establish supplementary budgets within the 2022-2023 approved budget as set out in the table below, and in accordance with the funding terms and conditions. This will have no effect on the Council's net revenue budgets as the expenditure is fully funded from the grant / external income.

Table 3 – Supplementary budget approvals sought from Cabinet

Grant Name / Funding source	Description of the Activities this grant will fund	Awarding Body	Expenditure 2022-2023 £000
Youth Offending Team (YOT) Grant additional funding relating to Turnaround Programme 2022-2025	To improve the outcomes and prevent offending for children who are on the cusp of the youth justice system but do not meet the need for statutory support.	Ministry of Justice	57
Reducing Parental Conflict	To promote improved outcomes for children, with a focus on disadvantaged families	Department for Work and Pensions	47
One Public Estate Opportunity Development Fund	To develop a pipeline of investable public sector property opportunities in their area, helping to address social justice outcomes around housing, health, education and children.	West Midlands Combined Authority	142
Black Country Transport WMCA Revenue Grant	To support the development of the Black Country Transport Capital Programme for scheme development and Black Country Programme Management.	West Midlands Combined Authority	400
COVID-19 Test and Trace Support Payments - Self Isolation Payments (Administration)	Supporting additional agency staff within Revenues and Benefits.	Department of Health and Social Care	96

Grant Name / Funding source	Description of the Activities this grant will fund	Awarding Body	Expenditure 2022-2023 £000
Grant Name / Funding source	Description of the Activities this grant will fund	Awarding Body	Expenditure 2022-2023 £000
New Burdens Council Tax Rebate Scheme Administration	Supporting additional agency staff within Revenues and Benefits.	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	138
Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) grant	To fund a project officer temporarily to provide additional support around social worker training needs in their first year.	Department of Education	46
Supplementary Substance Misuse Grant	Drug and alcohol abuse support	Department of Health and Social Care	727

8.0 Reserves

- 8.1 Reserves play a vital role in the financial sustainability of the Council. The Council's General Fund Balance stands at £13.7 million. This represents approximately 5% of the net budget for 2022-2023 and is in line with recommended good practice.
- 8.2 In addition to the General Fund balance, the Council also holds a number of earmarked reserves. Earmarked reserves balances that have been set aside by the Council to fund future estimated liabilities and planned expenditure. At the end of 2021-2022 these earmarked reserves were £55.9 million. In addition, the Council is also required to hold a number of earmarked reserves due to either specific criteria associated with funding, legal requirements or accounting practice. A sub group of the Resources and Equalities Scrutiny Panel will be undertaking a review of reserves which will feed into the budget process for 2023-2024.

Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves

- 8.3 Approval is sought for a number of transfers to/from earmarked reserves, as set out in the following paragraphs and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets in 2022-2023.

Budget Contingency Reserve

- 8.4 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £380,000 from the Budget Contingency Reserve and the establishment of associated supplementary budgets to fund to support expenditure on major projects.

Regeneration Reserve

- 8.5 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £80,800 from the Regeneration Reserve and the establishment of associated budgets to fund the Employer Work Coach Wolves at Work programme.

Digital Inclusion Reserve

- 8.6 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £95,000 from the Digital Inclusion Reserve and the establishment of associated budgets to fund the ongoing delivery of Wolverhampton's Digital Infrastructure Strategy.

Licencing Reserve

- 8.7 Approval is sought from this meeting for the contribution of £285,000 to the Licencing Reserve from Licencing Service.

Our Technology Reserve

- 8.8 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £116,000 from the Our Technology Reserve and the establishment of associated budgets to fund the development of the Agresso system.

Private Sector Housing- Civil Penalties Reserve

- 8.9 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £64,000 from the Private Sector Housing – Civil Penalties Reserve and the establishment of associated budgets to fund the employment of a Graduate Environmental Health Officer for a fixed term of two years at £32,000 per annum to aid the service in the administration and enforcement of Civil Penalty notices.

Public Health Reserve

- 8.10 Approval is sought from this meeting for the use of £2.0 million from the Public Health Reserve and the establishment of associated budgets as detailed below:

Purpose	Amount £000
Contribution to Prouds Lane Open Space Capital project. It was approved in "Capital Budget Outturn 2021-2022 including Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring 2022-2023" report to Council 20 July 2022.	250
Contribution to Prouds Lane Open Space Capital project. Approval is being sought on "Capital Programme 2022-2023 to 2026-2027 Quarter Two Review" report to Cabinet 16 November 2022.	153
Contribution to East Park Capital Project - Approval is being sought on "Capital Programme 2022-2023 to 2026-2027 Quarter Two Review" report to Cabinet 16 November 2022.	250
To support a 'fluid sexual health budget' and to re-direct spend and respond to the changing needs of the population. To support innovation including future initiatives and pilots.	170

Purpose	Amount £000
To support a 'fluid sexual health budget' and to re-direct spend and respond to the changing needs of the population. To support innovation including future initiatives and pilots.	201
To support the Health Pregnancy programme	80
To fund Place based infrastructure	200
To fund Continuing Professional Development/ Masters in Public Health programme	125
To fund Early years first 1001 days programme	75
To fund Henry Randomised Control Trial (RCT) programme	56
To fund Head 4 Health Offer programme	50
To fund Health Checks programme	200
To support Wolverhampton Half marathon and 10k	12
To fund adult mental health- Starfish programme	107
To support operational policing capacity - Op Adage	23
To support Tuberculosis and homelessness programme - Bond House	33
To fund Black country indoor sports facility strategy	30
Total	2,015

9.0 Debt Write offs

- 9.1 Debts are only written off as a last resort, when all feasible recovery action has been exhausted. If the situation surrounding an individual case changes in the future, steps would be taken to pursue the debt, despite the debt having been written off.
- 9.2 This report seeks approval to a number of debts write offs in relation to Sundry Debtors and Non-Domestic Rates. The details of these write-offs are provided in Appendix 7, Appendix 8 and Appendix 9.

10.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 10.1 In accordance with the Council's financial procedures rules, all virements in excess of £50,000, or those that result in a transfer between employees and other controllable expenditure headings, require the approval of Cabinet. Contributions to and from reserves and the creation of supplementary budgets also require Cabinet approval. The write-offs, virements, use of reserves and creation of supplementary budgets detailed in this report which seek the approval of Cabinet are all considered prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance.

11.0 Reasons for decisions

- 11.1 In accordance with the Council's financial procedures rules, all virements in excess of £50,000, or those that result in a transfer between Employees and Other Controllable Expenditure headings, require the approval of Cabinet. Contribution to and from reserves also requires the approval from Cabinet. The write-offs, virements and use of reserve requests detailed in this report which seek the approval of Cabinet are all considered to

be prudent in the opinion of the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital.

12.0 Financial implications

- 12.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of the report.
[EM/04112022/S]

13.0 Legal implications

- 13.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs. It is a legal requirement under s25 of the Local Government Act 2003 to set a balanced budget and monitor the financial position throughout the year.
[DP/08112022/B]

14.0 Equalities implications

- 14.1 The method by which the Budget is developed is governed by Our City, Our Plan priorities, which itself is guided by consultation and equality analysis. The development of various budget proposals includes an initial equalities screening for each proposal and, where necessary, a full equalities analysis which will provide for an initial understanding of the equality impact of the draft proposals. All of this will enable Councillors to pay, “due regard” to the equalities impact of their budget decisions at that point in the budget development process. The resulting and final report to Cabinet and Council will contain a supporting equality analysis that will offer information across the whole range of proposals and in doing so will enable Councillors to discharge their duty under Section 49 of the Equality Act 2010.
- 14.2 Fairness and inclusion is a key cross cutting theme within Our City, Our Plan. As part of performance reporting, there is ongoing work to ensure that where possible data is collected and able to be analysed by protected characteristic, to ensure that the Council is meeting its responsibilities and commitments in relation to equality and diversity.

15.0 All other implications

- 15.1 There are no other implications.

16.0 Schedule of background papers

- 16.1 Relighting Our City: City of Wolverhampton Council Recovery Commitment, report to Full Council on 16 September 2020
- 16.2 Relighting Our City Recovery Commitment Refresh, report to Cabinet on 17 March 2021
- 16.3 2021-2022 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2025-2026, report to Cabinet on 23 February 2022 and Full Council on 2 March 2022

16.4 Our City Our Plan, report to Cabinet on 23 March 2022 and Full Council on 2 March 2022

16.5 Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 to 2025-2026, report to Cabinet on 27 July 2022

16.6 Performance and Budget Monitoring, report to Cabinet on 7 September 2022

17.0 Appendices

17.1 Appendix 1 - Performance Update

17.2 Appendix 2 - Budget Monitoring

17.3 Appendix 3 – Strategic Risk Register

17.4 Appendix 4 - General Fund Budget Risks 2022-2023

17.5 Appendix 5 - Housing Revenue Account

17.6 Appendix 6 - School Balances

17.7 Appendix 7 - Debt Write Offs

17.8 Appendix 8 – Sundry Debt Write offs

17.9 Appendix 9 - Non-domestic Rates Write offs

17.10 Appendix 10 – General Fund Budget Virements

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Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential

Indicator	Source	Lowest performance rate by English authority	Highest performance rate by English authority	Stat neighbour average rate	Latest Wolverhampton Performance	Is Performance Improving?
% of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education	LAIT	34.00	88.00	62.50	65	Y
% of 16 and 17 year-olds in education, employment or training	LAIT	87.40	100.00	92.40	95.6	
% of 16 and 17 year-olds with SEND in education, employment or training	LAIT	66.00	100.00	82.50	88.5	Y
% of care leavers in education, employment or training	LAIT	46.00	91.00	50.00	57.1	Y
% of children and young people in care who have had 3 or more placements in the year	LAIT	16.00	0.00	8.00	5.3	Y
% of Children in year 6 with excess weight	LAIT	44.50	23.10	40.10	42.5	
% of Early Years and Childcare settings rated Good or Outstanding	OFSTED	89.00	100.00	96.00	92	Y
% of repeat referrals into Children's Social Care with 12 months	LAIT	35.60	10.60	22.50	21.8	
% of schools in the city that are rated Good or Outstanding	OFSTED	71.00	100.00	84.00	89	Y
Average Attainment 8 score per pupil - disadvantaged pupils	LAIT	32.10	52.30	38.70	Data due November 2022	
Average Attainment 8 score per pupil - non disadvantaged pupils	LAIT	43.60	65.10	51.70	Data due November 2022	
First time entrants into the Youth Justice System per 100,000 10-17yrs population	LAIT	348.00	57.00	173.00	116	Y
Rate of children open to social care per 10,000 population under 18	LAIT	885.00	173.20	399.49	290.8	Y

Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it

Indicator	Source	Lowest performance rate by English authority	Highest performance rate by English authority	Stat neighbour average rate	Latest Wolverhampton Performance	Is Performance Improving?
% of adults in receipt of long-term services who are in control of their own lives	ASC User Survey	65.6	89.3	77.50	81.60	Y
% of adults who use services who say social care services help them to feel safe and secure	ASC User Survey	62.8	94.9	87.10	88.30	Y
% of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment	SALT	0.3	21.8	3.60	5.10	Y
% of older people (aged 65 and older) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services	SALT	31.9	99.5	71.50	71.00	Y

Internal Indicator	2021/22 Performance	Current Performance	Is Performance Improving?
% of social care users supported to remain in their own homes	73.00	73.00	Y

Healthy, inclusive communities

Indicator	Source	Lowest performance rate by English authority	Highest performance rate by English authority	Stat neighbour average rate	Latest Wolverhampton Performance	Is Performance Improving?
% of 40-74 years attending offered health checks	PHOF	1.70	65.20	30.30	25.80	Y
% of adult residents in the city who have received their COVID-19 vaccination	NHS England	62.60	90.50		73.40	Y
% of physically inactive adults	PHOF	33.50	9.70	29.24	28.00	Y
% Personal well-being estimates by local authority - High Anxiety	PHOF	32.40	15.90	24.80	24.60	Y
% Personal well-being estimates by local authority - Low Happiness	PHOF	14.90	6.20	10.20	8.90	
% Personal well-being estimates by local authority - Low Life satisfaction	PHOF	10.40	3.80		5.60	Y
% Personal well-being estimates by local authority - Low Worthwhile	PHOF	8.30	4.00		3.70	Y
Years of life lost - Alcohol specific mortality per 100,000	PHOF	29.30	5.50	19.90	29.30	
Years of life lost - Coronary heart disease mortality rates per 100,000	PHOF	1,519.80	584.20	1,153.20	1,058.40	
Years of life lost - Infant deaths per 1,000	PHOF	6.60	1.70	5.00	6.30	Y

Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods

Indicator	Source	Lowest performance rate by English authority	Highest performance rate by English authority	Stat neighbour average rate	Latest Wolverhampton Performance	Is Performance Improving?
%of dwelling stock that is vacant in the city	LG inform	5.1	0.7	3.00	3.10	
Energy efficiency of housing stock	ONS	45 (Isles of Scilly)	77	66.30	65.00	Y
Housing affordability ratio	DCLG	2.7	36.5	7.60	6.20	
Number of additional dwellings in the city	DCLG	0	4024	654.00	614.00	
Number of new builds completed in the city	DCLG	0	2530	586.00	643.00	
Total crime recorded per 1000 population	ONS	225	25	127.00	132.00	

Internal Indicator	2021/22 Performance	Current Performance	Is Performance Improving?
% fly tipping incidents resolved in 5 working days	74	78	Y
% of carriageways in city assessed as high quality	A Road 78% B Road 72% C Road 74% Unclassified 65%	A Roads 79% B Roads 73% C Roads 79% Unclassified 66%	Y
% of planning application decisions made with 13 weeks or agreed timescales	92.1	100	Y

More local people into good jobs and training

Indicator	Source	Lowest performance rate by English Authority	Highest performance rate by English Authority	Stat neighbour average rate	Latest Wolverhampton Performance	Is Performance Improving?
% of working age adults (16-64) claiming unemployment benefits	nomis	8.4	0.8	5.40	7.40	
% of young adults (18-24) claiming unemployment benefits	nomis	9.8	0	7.10	9.80	

Internal Indicator	2021/22 Performance	Current Performance	Is Performance Improving?
Local Authority spend on apprenticeship levy	68	84.00	Y
Number of apprentices and graduate placements within the council	40	58.00	Y
Number of jobs created / safeguarded in the city through the Investment Team	N/A	226.00	Y

Thriving economy in all parts of the city

Indicator	Source	Lowest performance by English authority	Highest performance by English authority	Stat neighbour average rate	Latest Wolverhampton Performance	Is Performance Improving?
% change in activity in city retail & recreational settings – Google Analytics	Google - Community Mobility Reports	148	-49.00	-9.10	-14.00	Y
% of premises in the city with full fibre coverage	Ofcom - Connected Nations Update Spring 2022	1.1	97.60	34.30	30.20	Y
% of dwelling stock that is vacant in the city	LG inform	5.1	0.70	3.00	3.10	Y
Business that survive one year in city	ONS - Business Demography	62.5	100.00	89.40	91.20	Y

Internal Indicator	2021/22 Performance	Sum of Current Performance	Is Performance Improving?
New businesses supported by commissioned service Access to Business	13	19	Y
New of new investment opportunities generated	N/A	11	Y
Number of rapid charging electric car points in the city	27	47	Y
Wolverhampton based businesses supported by the Council	161	98	

Our Council

Indicator	Previous Performance	Current Performance	Is Performance Improving
Customer Service call wait times (average call wait time)	00:05:33 (2022-23 Q1)	00:05:00 (2022-23 Q2)	Y
Employee Turnover rate	2.72% (2021-22 Q2)	3.54% (2022-23 Q2)	
Ethnicity Pay Gap for Council Employees	5.13% (2019-20)	4.71% (2019-20)	Y
Gender Pay Gap for Council Employees	4.2% (2019-20)	4.0% (2020-21)	Y
Sickness absence rates (non covid)	3.88% (2021-22 Q2)	3.79% (2022-23 Q2)	Y
Spend With Local Businesses	463 Wolverhampton bases companies	467 Wolverhampton bases companies	Y

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General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Quarter Two 2022-2023 Budget Performance

Summary

On 2 March 2022, the Council approved the net budget requirement for 2022-2023 of £267.2 million for General Fund services.

Overall, the General Fund projected outturn for 2022-2023 is currently forecasting an overspend of £1.5 million, mainly due to the forecast in-year cost implication of the proposed pay award which is currently out for consultation. The Performance and Budget Monitoring Report presented Cabinet on 7 September 2022, reported that negotiations were ongoing in respect of the 2022-2023 pay award, and the current proposal, if accepted, was forecast to cost in the region of £9.0 million in year. The approved budget for 2022-2023 includes a provision of 2% amounting to £2.8 million, we therefore reported at quarter 1 that the forecast in year cost pressure was in the region of £6.2 million. On 1 November 2022, it was announced that the pay award has been accepted.

Work has been ongoing to identify in-year efficiency to mitigate against these costs. Since reporting to Cabinet in September, our focus has been identifying in-year underspends and efficiencies, including the review of budgets held corporately to support new initiatives aligned to corporate priorities. As a result of this review, the forecast overspend as at quarter 2 has reduced from £5.4 million to £1.5 million. However, it should be noted that some of the underspend across services, is in part, due to staff vacancies. A number of services are experiencing difficulties in recruiting to some positions, which is resulting in this one-off underspends. Delays in recruitment could also impact on service delivery and could present some risk if delays in recruitment continue.

Work will continue to identify efficiencies and underspends in order to manage these costs within the approved budget. As a last resort we will consider the use of reserves

The tables below provide an analysis by directorate and service.

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Adult Services					
<p>Overall Adult Services is projecting a small underspend of £1.2 million (-1.48%). During the budget setting process for 2022-2023, significant cost pressures were forecast for Adult Social Care and, as a result, growth totalling £9.2 million was approved. Appendix 2 provides detail of current forecasts which indicate that, overall, the service is managing costs within the increased budget available. However, there continues to be uncertainty of the forecast position of Adult Services in 2022-2023 and over the medium term, as the service adjusts to the post-covid environment and also the recent increases in inflation. The redesign of Adult services has commenced and with the aim of addressing any longer term alignment of staffing resources, as well as establishing the care market.</p> <p>During the winter months each year, we see an increase in the cost of providing social care, referred to as 'Winter Pressures'. It was announced in September that the government would be making available a grant of £500 million to free up hospital beds and bolster the Social Care workforce, when the Council's allocation is known this will be used to fund additional services across Adult's through the remainder of 2022-2023. Current assumptions assume any additional costs will be fully funded from grant.</p> <p>Due to the uncertainty surrounding public sector spending, in particularly health and social care reforms it is not yet clear whether additional funding will still be made available in the next financial year for the fair cost of care implementation in which case CWC would have to fully fund any fee uplifts for providers in 2023-2024.</p> <p>The Strategic Risk Register incorporate this risk, in addition, it is also flagged as a risk in the General Fund Budget Risk 2022-2023 at Appendix 4. Further analysis is provided below.</p>					
Adults Assessment and Care Management	5,650	5,641	(9)	(0.16%)	
Adults Safeguarding	1,123	881	(242)	(21.55%)	The forecast underspend is mainly due to the delay in the introduction of new Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards legislation (Liberty Protection

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General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
					Safeguards) which will require the forecast staffing costs to meet the new statutory duties required of the local authority.
Carer Support	769	666	(103)	(13.39%)	The forecast underspend is mainly due to Carer Support care purchasing and also staffing underspend due to vacant posts. This is offset in part by the online carer support pilot.
Community Financial Support	1,629	1,613	(16)	(0.98%)	
Community Support	142	142	-	-	
Director of Adults services and Additional Monies	(6,878)	(6,878)	-		
Emergency Duty Team	-	-	-	-	
Independent Living Service	1,731	1,729	(2)	(0.12%)	
Learning Disabilities Care Purchasing	27,155	26,874	(281)	(1.03%)	This budget was allocated considerable growth for 2022-2023 (net uplift £2.5 million) to cover fee uplifts and increased demand, and to date is showing a small underspend against this growth.
Learning Disability Provider	4,984	4,903	(81)	(1.63%)	The forecast underspend is due to staffing.

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Mental Health Assessment & Care Management	7,690	7,690	-	-	
Older People Care Purchasing	26,117	25,744	(373)	(1.43%)	This budget was allocated considerable growth for 2022-2023 (net increase £4.2 million), due to changes such as the fee review and ending of the government's Homefirst Discharge funding, as well as increased spot placement costs due to pressures related to inflation. To date it is forecast that this growth will be sufficient and will result in a small underspend. There is however risk around this position due to the continuing impacts of inflation, and the potential changes brought about by charging reform.
Older People Provider Services	3,866	3,791	(75)	(1.94%)	The forecast underspend is due to staffing vacancies.
Physical Disabilities Care Purchasing	5,647	5,647	-	-	
Total Adult Services	79,625	78,443	(1,182)	(1.48%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<p>Children's and Education Services</p> <p>Overall Children's and Education Services is projecting an underspend of £1.1million (-2.08%), due to strong financial management and transformative projects and programmes which have achieved significant and positive changes for children and young people living and learning in Wolverhampton. To date, Wolverhampton has not seen a significant increase in demand on children's social care as a result of the pandemic, however, as with adult services, there continues to be significant uncertainty over the impact of Covid-19 on this service over the short to medium term, and more recently the increased cost of living. Work will continue to model the potential financial effects of the pandemic and the impact of the increase in the cost of living on the service. Savings targets totalling £100,000 have been incorporated into the 2022-2023 budget for Children's and Education Services, these are currently projected to be delivered in full.</p> <p>There are currently no specific savings targets for this service area built into the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2024 to 2025-2026 which was reported to Cabinet on 19 October 2022, however, based on current projections it is forecast that the budget could be reduced in future years without impacting on service delivery. This will be kept under review and updates provided to Cabinet in future reports. Further analysis is provided below of the forecast in year position</p>					
Children & Young People In Care	31,600	31,473	(127)	(0.40%)	The forecast underspend is against placement budgets as a result of the robust oversight and management of demand across the service. The number of placements are continuing to reduce, however complexity of the mix has resulted in a number of higher cost placements. Children with disabilities demand has continued to increase year on year with a full review of the service to understand anticipated future demand progressing.

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Director of Children's Services	614	528	(86)	-	The forecast underspend is mainly due to lower than anticipated support costs to be spent to support various projects across Children's Services.
Head of Children's Improvement	1,393	1,384	(9)	(0.67%)	
Headstart	-	-	-	-	
Regional Adoption Agency Consortium	-	-	-	-	
Safeguarding	297	290	(7)	(2.47%)	
Specialist Support	4,117	3,357	(760)	(18.47%)	The forecast underspend is mainly due to one-off, in year savings from the closure of Key to Inspiration. Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 6 July 2022, received a report on the strategy to develop two new Children's Homes within the City.
Strengthening Families	10,080	10,020	(60)	(0.59%)	The forecast underspend mainly relates to the one-off in year staff vacancies. This is offset in part by an increase in demand over the summer months for no recourse of public funds and an increase projected professional fees.
Youth Offending	1,167	1,159	(8)	(0.71%)	
Central Education	(740)	(740)	-	-	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Director of Education	153	153	-	-	
Early Years	315	315	-	-	
Inclusion Support	885	903	18	2.03%	
Schools	-	-	-	-	
Education Excellence	770	750	(20)	(2.60%)	
Special Educational Needs	(428)	(428)	-	-	
School Business and Support Services	456	463	7	1.54%	
Total Children's and Education	50,679	49,627	(1,052)	(2.08%)	

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General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
City Assets					
Overall, a net underspend of £117,000 (-1.09%) is projected for City Assets, mainly due to projected lower running costs for the Civic Centre and one-off staff vacancies. Further analysis is provided below.					
Catering	(117)	(62)	55	(47.01%)	This overspend is due to reduction income with regards to civic centre café and Tea Room (West Park).
Cleaning	1,268	1,254	(14)	(1.10%)	
Corporate Asset Management	9,353	9,368	15	0.16%	
Estates and Valuations	(4,884)	(4,870)	14	(0.29%)	
Facilities Management	1,497	1,282	(215)	(14.36%)	The forecast underspend is primarily due to the lower running costs for the Civic Centre, along and various staffing vacancies.
Project and Works Team – Capital Programmes	166	194	28	16.87%	
Project and Works Team – Maintenance Programme	3,426	3,426	-	-	
Total City Assets	10,709	10,592	(117)	(1.09%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
City Housing & Environment					
<p>Overall, a net overspend of £371,000 (1.21%) is projected for City Housing and Environment. This forecast overspend is mainly as a result of pressures within Fleet Services, Transportation, Markets and Highways maintenance. This is being offset in part by underspends within Waste Services as a result of increased income, reduced costs of waste disposal, along with a reduction in costs within Street Lighting. City Housing and Environmental Services have a savings target of £250,000 for 2022-2023, of which based on the original plan, around £75,000 currently being reported to be at risk of delivery, this will be kept under review. Further analysis is provided below.</p>					
Bereavement Services	(2,050)	(2,117)	(67)	(3.27%)	The forecast underspend is due to on cemeteries is due to staff vacancies and additional income. This is offset in part by a reduction in income from the crematorium.
Black Country Transport	-	-	-	-	
Coroners Service	364	395	31	8.52%	The forecast overspend is as a result of increased inflationary costs of the Coroners Service. This is offset in part by underspends on professional fees for Digital Autopsy services.
Director City Environment	284	236	(48)	(16.90%)	A forecast underspend has arisen mainly due to a vacant post awaiting recruitment.
Energy and Sustainability	200	200	-	-	

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General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Environmental Services	6,772	6,709	(63)	(0.93%)	
Fleet Services	1,698	2,350	652	38.40%	The projected overspend is due to increase in cost of hire vehicles, and professional fees. This is offset in part by underspends due to staff vacancies, and additional income. There is a planned fleet replacement programme in delivery to mitigate increasing hire costs in the future.
Highways Maintenance	1,579	1,738	159	10.07%	An overspend is forecast due to an increase in value of contracts as a result of an increase in demand.
Housing	(379)	(383)	(4)	1.06%	
Landscaping	49	49	-	-	
Licensing	54	54	-	-	
Markets	(198)	(38)	160	(80.81%)	The forecast overspend is mainly due to an increase in interim staff incurred whilst implementing a restructure, covering staff sickness and an increase in waste costs.

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Operation & Maintenance of Existing Network	844	685	(159)	(18.84%)	The forecast underspend is mainly as a result of vacancies held pending a restructure.
Private Sector Housing	543	535	(8)	(1.47%)	
Parking Services	(1,712)	(1,627)	85	4.96%	The forecast overspend is mainly due to additional costs for the Ringo system being higher than originally estimated.
Public Protection	1,884	1,932	48	2.55%	The forecast overspend is mainly as result of a reduction in income from fines within Environmental Crime, along with increase costs within Environmental Protection due to professional fees. This is offset in part by underspends due to staff n staff vacancies within Environmental Crime.
Street Lighting	3,109	2,982	(127)	(4.8%)	The forecast underspend is mainly due to the reduction in budgeted energy costs following the introduction of LED lighting.
Transportation	6,097	6,789	692	11.35%	The forecast overspend is mainly due to the pressure of increased demand on passenger transport services for client transport costs,

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
					agency costs and additional vehicle hire costs. This is offset in part by one-off savings due to staff vacancies.
Waste and Recycling	11,504	10,524	(980)	(8.52%)	The forecast underspend is due to increased income, reduced costs of waste disposal. This is offset in part by increased fuel costs due to rising inflation.
Total City Housing and Environment	30,642	31,013	371	1.21%	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Commissioning and Transformation					
The previous Strategic Commissioning service was shown within Adult and Children's services. The Deputy Director for Commissioning and Transformation has now been appointed. The Commissioning and Transformation directorate is currently forecasting a break- even position.					
Commissioning and Transformation	3,161	3,161	-	-	
Total Commissioning and Transformation	3,161	3,161	-	-	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Communications and Visitor Experience					
Overall, Communications and Visitor Experience is forecast to breakeven position with the underspend on Arts and Cultural of £19,000 offset by an overspend of £19,000 in Communications.					
This service includes a saving target of £50,000 for 2022-2023, which is currently being forecast at risk of delivery based on the original plan. This will be kept under review.					
Further analysis is provided below					
Director of Communications and Visitor Experience	158	158	-	-	
City Events	641	641	-	-	
Arts and Culture	911	892	(19)	(2.09%)	
Communications	699	718	19	2.72%	
Total Communications and Visitor Experience	2,409	2,409	-	-	

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General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
<p>Finance</p> <p>Overall an underspend totalling £47,000 (-0.30%) is forecast for the year against Finance. This is as a result of forecast underspends within Audit Services due to staff vacancies, a reduction in enhanced pension costs within Central Corporate Budgets and additional income from recovery action within Revenues and Benefits. This is offset in part by overspends within Procurement due to the appointment of agency staff covering vacancies whilst recruitment is ongoing and increased pressures within Housing Benefit Payments & Subsidy due to an increase in temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Finance includes a savings target of £150,000 for 2022-2023, which is on target to be delivered in full.</p> <p>Further analysis is provided below:</p>					
Audit Services	1,811	1,551	(260)	(14.36%)	The forecast underspend is as a result of in-year savings against staffing due to unfilled vacancies within internal audit and insurance services.
Central Corporate Budgets	3,055	2,794	(261)	(8.54%)	The forecast underspend is due to a reduction in enhanced pension costs, combined with other less underspends against a range of corporate budgets. This service includes a savings target of £150,000 for 2022-2023, which is on target for delivery.
Commercial Services	393	393	-	-	
Finance Director	167	167	-	-	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Procurement Services	857	1,182	325	37.92%	The forecast overspend is due to continued reliance on agency staff as the service experiences difficulties in recruiting to permanent posts. This challenge is faced by procurement teams across the region. The current forecast is based on a successful recruitment of four Procurement Manager vacancies which will be shortly advertised. If this campaign is unsuccessful the reliance on these current interims in post will continue and this could lead to an additional overspend by year end in the region £110,000. The budget position is kept under continuous review and assumptions updated regularly.
Housing Benefit Payments & Subsidy	1,498	1,892	394	26.30%	The forecast overspend is due to continued increase in temporary, supported and exempt accommodation where full subsidy grant is not received for this type of accommodation. This forecast overspend is after a virement of £750,000 was actioned at quarter 1.
Revenues & Benefits	2,900	2,660	(240)	(8.28%)	The forecast underspend is as a result of increased income from recovery action.
Strategic Finance	3,168	3,248	80	2.53%	The forecast overspend is due to the appointment of agency staff in vacancies

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
					pending recruitment. Recruitment to vacant posts is currently ongoing.
The Hub	1,784	1,699	(85)	(4.76%)	The forecast underspend is due to being unable to fill several vacant positions, either through recruitment or use of agency. Although work is being done to optimise appointment to positions, it is unknown if the inability to fill vacant posts will be longer term or might be addressed short term, due to the nature of the current recruitment market. Therefore, the budget is forecasting that positions will not be filled immediately but will be filled within the next few months. This means the actual outturn might be higher or lower, dependent on appointment success. This position will be kept under review through regular budget monitoring.
Total Finance	15,633	15,586	(47)	(0.30%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Governance					
Overall a small underspend £6,000 (-0.04%) is forecast for the year against Governance. The Governance Directorate includes a saving target, this is currently being forecast to be on target for delivery from efficiencies across the directorate within 2022-2023. Further analysis is provided below					
Deputy Director of People and Change	133	133	-	-	
Chief Operating Officer	179	179	-	-	
Governance Services	3,282	3,282	-	-	A contribution of £123,000 towards an overall savings target of £393,000, predominantly delivered through one off vacancies that have emerged across a range of services through the year.
Health and Safety	266	251	(15)	(5.64%)	A contribution of £50,000 towards an overall savings target of £393,000, delivered through one off vacancies. There have been difficulties in recruiting to three vacancies. Interviews for two of the health and safety adviser positions are now taking place in November. The final posts funding has received approval to be used for funding two fixed term Level 3 apprenticeships within the

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
					team. Interviews for planned for December 2022, and the other in January 2023.
Human Resources	1,764	1,764	-	-	
Organisational Development	1,152	1,132	(20)	(1.74%)	A contribution of £47,000 towards an overall savings target of £393,00, delivered through one off vacancies and additional external income. Vacancies have arisen as graduate trainees have moved onto permanent positions prior to the end of their scheme. AYSE grant income received when the Council brings in year one social workers and incentive funds associated with apprenticeship recruitment are also offsetting expenditure, the former ringfenced to expenditure incurred in the provision of training for year one social workers.
Legal Services	1,898	1,955	57	3.00%	
Ward Funds	200	200	-	-	
Projects and Change	428	390	(38)	(8.88%)	
Equalities	170	180	10	5.88%	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Support Services	4,179	4,179	-	-	
Governance Savings Target	-	-	-	-	
Total Governance	13,651	13,645	(6)	(0.04%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Public Health & Wellbeing					
Overall an overspend totalling £807,000 (14.87%) is projected for the year against Public Health & Wellbeing which is mainly due to an increase in the number of referrals for bed and breakfast accommodation and inflationary pressures within Leisure services. Further analysis is provided below.					
Business Continuity & Emergency Planning	8	8	-	-	
Commissioning	-	-	-	-	
Community Safety & Community Cohesion	697	698	1	0.14%	
Healthier Places Service	-	-	-	-	
Healthy Ageing	-	-	-	-	
Healthy Life Expectancy	-	-	-	-	

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General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Homelessness and New Communities	1,792	2,365	573	31.98%	The forecast overspend is due to an increase in the number of referrals for bed and breakfast accommodation.
Leisure Services	1,430	1,655	225	15.73%	The forecast overspend as a result of a reduction in income from catering services at Bert Williams café. In addition, there are costs pressures on the Leisure PFI scheme due to increasing utilities costs. This is offset in part by vacancies in business support due to staff changes.
Public Health Business Management	-	-	-	-	
Starting and Developing Well	-	-	-	-	
Local Economy	1,501	1,509	8	0.53%	
System Leadership	-	-	-	-	
Total Public Health & Wellbeing	5,428	6,235	807	14.87%	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Regeneration					
Overall an overspend of £155,000 (5.17%) is projected for the year against Regeneration mainly due to , variation in planning application fee income and also forecast non achievement of savings in Director Regeneration.					
In total Regeneration have savings targets totalling £665,000 in 2022-2023, of which in the region of £150,000 is off risk of delivery					
Further analysis is provided below					
Adult Education	(399)	(399)	-	-	A breakeven position forecast although the service is funding £30,000 saving target by use of carry forward of previous years grant balance.
City Development	541	501	(40)	(7.39%)	
City Planning	868	975	107	12.33%	The forecast overspend due to variation in planning application fee outside of our control partially offset by underspends against staffing due to unfilled vacancies.
Director Regeneration	495	583	88	17.78%	The forecast overspend is as a result of non-achievement of the savings target, which is in part offset by underspend on non-salary budgets.
Enterprise	570	570	-	-	
Skills	924	924	-	-	
Visitor Economy	-	-	-	-	
Total Regeneration	2,999	3,154	155	5.17%	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023 £000	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023 £000	Q2 Variance £000	Q2 Variance %	Reason for Variance Q1
<p>Strategy Overall an underspend totalling £813,000 (-7.69%) is projected for the year against Strategy, mainly as a result of budget efficiencies within ICTS. In total Strategy have savings targets totalling £200,000 across ICT and Data and Analytics, these are reported to be on target for delivery in full in 2022-2023 Further analysis is provided below</p>					
Customer Services	2,166	2,130	(36)	(1.66%)	
ICTS	6,609	6,183	(426)	(6.45%)	The forecast underspend is as a result of part year vacant positions and additional income from printing. This service also includes a savings target of £150,000 for 2022-2023 which is forecast to be delivered in full.
Data and Analytics	937	889	(48)	(5.12%)	This service includes a savings target of £50,000 for 2022-2023, which is forecast to be on target for delivery.

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General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-20223	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q1
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Policy and Strategy	450	185	(265)	(58.89%)	The forecast underspend is as a result of part year vacancies and underspend on professional fees.
Register Officer	(38)	(64)	(26)	68.42%	The forecast underspend is as a result of additional income following backlog of ceremonies following ending of lockdown rules.
External Funding and Digital Projects	277	265	(12)	(4.33%)	
Strategy	156	156	-	-	
West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership	15	15	-	-	
Total Strategy	10,572	9,759	(813)	(7.69%)	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Corporate Accounts					
<p>Overall an overspend totalling £3.4 million (8.23%) is forecast for the year. This is mainly as a result of the projected impact of the 2022-2023 pay award, which was accepted on 1 November, which is forecast to cost in the region of £9.0 million in 2022-2023. The approved budget for 2022-2023 includes a provision of 2% amounting to £2.8 million, we therefore reported at quarter 1 that the forecast in year cost pressure was in the region of £6.2 million. Work has been ongoing since reporting to Cabinet on 7 September to identify underspends to support the forecast in year cost pressure.</p> <p>In addition, there are savings targets totalling £2.7 million, of which £1.2 million relates to a staff vacancy factor and £1.5 million for efficiencies held within corporate budgets. Excluding the potential impact of the pay award, it is currently forecast that these targets can be delivered in full from across the council.</p> <p>Further analysis is provided below</p>					
Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive	397	397	-	-	
Corporate Adjustments	2,197	2,194	(3)	(0.14%)	
Corporate Budgets	(13,510)	(12,778)	732	(5.42%)	This service includes savings targets totalling £2.7 million, of which £1.2 million is for a staff vacancy factor and £1.5 million for general efficiencies. This is forecast to be delivered from efficiencies and vacancies held across the Council. However, the impact of the 2022-2023 pay award creates a corporate pressure.
Apprenticeship Levy	540	560	20	3.70%	
West Midlands Transport Levy	10,523	10,523	-	-	

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring

Service/Budget	Net Controllable Revised Budget 2022-2023	Net Controllable Forecast 2022-2023	Q2 Variance		Reason for Variance Q2
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Environment Agency Levy	78	78	-	-	
Birmingham Airport – Rent	(69)	(69)	-	-	
Treasury Management	38,614	35,174	(3,440)	(8.91%)	An underspend is forecast against the Treasury Management budget as a result of rephasing of the capital programme.
Central Provision Pay Award costs	2,881	9,000	6,119	212.39%	On 1 November, it was confirmed that the pay award for 2022-2023 was accepted. The pay award is in excess of the 2% provision built into the 2022-2023 budget. The Council has identified a number of in-year efficiencies in order to mitigate against this cost pressure. Work will continue over the coming months to further identify efficiencies and underspends to mitigation against this cost in 2022-2023. Updates will be provided in future reports.
Total Corporate Accounts	41,651	45,079	3,428	8.23%	

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City of Wolverhampton Council – Strategic Risk Register

(Risks reviewed by risk owners as reported to the Audit and Risk Committee on 26 September 2022)

Risk Ref	Risk title and description	Our City Our Plan	Previous Risk Score	Current Risk and Target Score	Direction of Travel	Update position and further actions to take to mitigate risks	Sources of Assurance
1	<p>Businesses Closing Loss of businesses within the City, potentially impacting on regeneration and the achievement of the Council Plan.</p> <p>Risk Owner: Richard Lawrence Cabinet Member: Cllr S Simkins</p>	Thriving economy in all parts of the city	8 Amber	8 Amber Target 4 Amber	↔	<p>Across all sectors reports are coming in about difficulties to recruit staff. This is impacting on services and production in the local economy. The cost of inflation fuel prices and the impact on the war in Ukraine are also creating challenges for business around affordability and managing global supply chains, construction and food businesses have been particularly affected by the challenges in the supply chain.</p> <p>All covid support grants closed on 31 March 2022 and the Council has now returned to delivery of existing programmes of support, the main one being AIM for GOLD. This is an EU funded programme and comes with criteria around the sector and type of business who can be supported.</p> <p>The team is 70% funded by EU money which is going to come to a close on 31 March 2023. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) doesn't offer the same level of funding. Currently a review and plan for future of business support including the role of the Council is being prepared.</p> <p>With the announcement of Levelling Up and the focus towards Business Support the Council is taking steps to have a clear proposition for the City to be included in regional asks through the West Midlands Combined Authority. This takes in to account the work Metro Dynamics has helped inform the council on key focus areas and provided a framework for taking forward the immediate and longer-term business support model for the council and the city</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk The Council is continuing to support local businesses to adapt and invest in new ways of working and strengthen areas which the pandemic has highlighted as weakness in their business through existing programmes and with partners including the Chamber of Commerce. This includes IGNITE, a recently opened business and enterprise hub to support small businesses in the city.</p> <p>Working with key partners such as WMCA, and other business support delivery partners to ensure Wolverhampton businesses can access relevant support.</p>	<p>Regeneration have commissioned an external consultancy group (Metro Dynamics) to review the City's strategic priorities, the economic/ business context and current business support offer and develop an approach to business support that will help deliver the City's ambitions for future success. This work is to be captured in the City's investment plan for Levelling up and Shared Prosperity funds</p> <p>Internal audit review planned for 2022-2023 of the IGNITE business and enterprise hub.</p>
	<p>Safeguarding Children Failure to safeguard the City's most vulnerable children.</p> <p>Risk Owner: Emma Bennett Cabinet Member: Cllr B Momenabadi</p>	Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their potential	8 Amber	8 Amber Target 8 Amber (being met)	↔	<p>Referral rates have consistently been higher than the previous two years and is slightly higher than pre-pandemic levels. This has resulted in higher numbers of children in Assessment over the summer period 2022. It is anticipated that referrals are likely to remain at pre-pandemic levels going forward.</p> <p>There has been an increase in social work turnover, although the annual turnover rate remains below national levels. Additionally, in line with the national and regional position there is a shortage of suitable agency social workers to back fill temporary vacancies we have created by secondment opportunities, and maternity leave. This does mean that we have seen an increase in caseloads for social workers, particularly in the Disabled Children and Young People's team and in the Strengthening Families Service.</p> <p>A newly established peripatetic team of nine permanent social workers will be deployed into teams where there are uncovered vacancies as they are appointed. Recruitment to these posts continues but the current focus remains appointing to permanent positions within the teams.</p> <p>MASH24 is now embedded as an operating model and a recent 12-month review of the new arrangements has taken place and has found that it is operating effectively and in line with the objectives set out to achieve including offering a service out of hours that was consistent with our daytime service.</p> <p>The Leader/Cabinet Member/SEB and CYP Scrutiny panel are briefed every 6 months to offer reassurance regarding safeguarding of the children in the city.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions are being taken to try to attract experienced agency workers locally and regionally to cover short term vacancies whilst we also recruit to vacant permanent posts. Actions to support this include: • The regional memorandum of understanding regarding the use of agency workers within the West Midlands has been updated • Recruitment is ongoing to recruit permanent social workers, both newly qualified and experienced social workers. Recruitment processes have been adapted to speed up start dates for new employees. • Rebranding of recruitment material is underway • A review of progression opportunities for experienced social workers is taking place • A review of pay opportunities offered by neighbouring authorities is being undertaken to ensure Wolverhampton remain competitive in the market. <p>A recent increase in violent crime involving young people continues to be monitored and responded to. Whilst numbers in Wolverhampton are lower than regional neighbours, the level of harm seems to be higher. A robust multi-agency response including the council, West Midlands Police and the Violence Reduction Partnership is delivered in response to each incident but plans are also in place to look at the long term response with all partners in the City in October.</p>	<p>Internal Quality Assurance report, alongside monthly analysis of performance information offers Senior Leadership Team reassurance regarding practice.</p> <p>Quality assurance and performance information is shared with SEB, Cabinet Member and the Leader regularly, together with Ofsted on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Monthly data continues to be submitted to the DfE and is being closely monitored.</p> <p>Although referral rates are higher, overall, they appear to remain in line with the England/West Midland average.</p> <p>Senior leaders have regular oversight of caseloads and have responded by ensuring social work resource and capacity is utilised across the service</p> <p>Positive outcome of Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services, (21 March - 1 April 2022) with services rated overall as Good offering external reassurance that children and families are supported and safeguarded well in Wolverhampton.</p> <p>Assurance provided to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Partnership through a number of mechanisms including scrutiny of practice through priority groups and specific activity such as the Covid response group and Multi-agency casefile audits. Reviews of the impact of learning from Children's Safeguarding Practice Reviews is also assured through the One Panel.</p> <p>Appropriate serious incident referrals are made to the Safeguarding Partnership to consider if a learning review needs to be undertaken into specific incidents. This ensures where appropriate, practice is independently scrutinised and lessons learned.</p>

Risk Ref	Risk title and description	Our City Our Plan	Previous Risk Score	Current Risk and Target Score	Direction of Travel	Update position and further actions to take to mitigate risks	Sources of Assurance
3	<p>Safeguarding Adults Failure to safeguard the City's most vulnerable adults.</p> <p>Risk Owner: Becky Wilkinson Cabinet Member: Cllr L Leach</p>	Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	↔	<p>An increase in contacts into Adult MASH and Adult Social Care is being experienced; higher than pre-pandemic levels. This has resulted in higher numbers of adults being connected to a social worker. It is anticipated that contacts into teams will remain high into the winter period. Challenges in the health and social care system are anticipated in winter months.</p> <p>Workforce challenges and quality issues in care homes can have an impact on the response required of work teams and Adult MASH. This can be challenging to plan for.</p> <p>Our 24 hour AMHP Hub was fully launched in September 2021, this has improved our response time and consistency for requests for Mental Health Act Assessments</p> <p>Current risks related to resources through sickness, staff vacancies and increase in workloads will be addressed through the Adult Social Care redesign. The redesign work is now underway.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk The long-term plan to manage the increase in demand is being considered through the Adult Social Care redesign. A peripatetic team will be considered as part of our redesign – better able to respond as needed. Updated recruitment adverts and templates are now available for recruiting managers to use. The benefits of working for our Council are highlighted, demonstrating our strengths-based approach to social work and the vibrancy and diversity of our city.</p>	<p>Additional short-term measures including increased staff in the MASH and locality teams to manage workloads.</p> <p>Quality Assurance & Compliance Team work closely with ICB Quality Nurse Advisors to monitor quality in care homes.</p> <p>Monthly Information Sharing meetings take place with Care Quality Commission and partner agencies to share concerns and plan actions.</p> <p>Regular safeguarding updates, quality assurance and performance data shared with SEB, Cabinet Member, Council Leader.</p> <p>Practice weeks, practice observations, case file audits, dip sample audits give managers better oversight of practice and recognise themes and improvements</p> <p>Appropriate referrals are made to WST One Panel for consideration for Safeguarding Adult Reviews, to ensure lessons are learnt and any learning is shared across partnership. Action plans are scrutinised at Adult Leadership Team.</p>
4	<p>Reputation / Loss of Public Trust There is a risk that the Council loses public trust and confidence by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • failing to respond to the needs of local people, especially those most vulnerable • failure to inform the public about delivery of key City priorities. <p>Risk Owner: Ian Fegan Cabinet Member: Cllr I Brookfield</p>	Our Council	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 10 Amber	↔	<p>As the City continues its recovery from the pandemic, new challenges have emerged such as the national cost of living crisis. The Council is also delivering a number of key City priorities including delivering opportunities for young people, regeneration and investment projects, a high-quality events programme and tackling health inequalities.</p> <p>Strategic Executive Board (SEB) and Council Cabinet are aware of the issues and challenges facing local people and developed Our City: Our Plan – the new Council plan, which launched in May 2022 and provides a framework on how we will deliver our objectives to ensure Wulfrunians live longer, healthier lives.</p> <p>The plan aims to demonstrate that we are dealing with the things that matter to local residents and businesses. Proactive and sustained communication with residents, businesses and key stakeholders will inform and engage with the aim of demonstrating that we are dealing with the things that matter, thereby building trust and confidence in, as well as support for the Council's work.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk Comprehensive targeted and regular communications with residents and other key stakeholders on all council priorities will play a key role supporting specific plan and priority objectives. In July 2022 the council launched its Financial Wellbeing Strategy which will have a bespoke communications strategy and delivery plan for the winter.</p>	<p>National youth employment figures</p> <p>Supportive data provided by Insight and Performance</p>
5	<p>Social Care Providers Adults There is a risk that we may lose service providers and not be able to maintain adequate service provision.</p> <p>Risk Owner: Becky Wilkinson Cabinet Member: Cllr L Leech</p>	Fulfilled lives for all with quality care for those that need it	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market pressures – fragility of the care market and increased risk of provider failure/ sufficiency of provision • Cost of living crisis (inflation and increase in fuel prices) • Financial impact of COVID/sick pay • Workforce pressures - challenges with recruitment and retention of staff • Specific challenges affecting care homes – covid outbreaks and required improvements in quality of care following CQC inspections <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk Risks to sustainability are being mitigated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust outbreak management processes and robust QAC visits • Use of the CQC Capacity tracker for updates from provider organisations • ASC exploring interim financial support measures for providers to mitigate against key risks to care delivery • Procurement of a new Homecare framework is in progress to include more providers to add sufficiency and provide resilience for the local authority <p>Risk is amber due to resource and cost of living pressures. Provider support call has been stood up due to these challenges National Level 4 emergency stood down.</p>	<p>Daily capacity tracker provides daily information on outbreaks, sickness levels and staff turnover – this provides the necessary data for commissioning to act to support outbreaks or protect residents and intelligence on available capacity</p> <p>Regular updates to SEB/Cabinet Member are provided with respect to home care.</p>
6	<p>Employee Wellbeing There is a potential impact on the health and wellbeing of the Council's staff due to unprecedented levels of service demand and changes to working practices.</p> <p>Risk Owner: Laura Phillips Cabinet Member: Cllr P Brookfield</p>	Our Council	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	↔	<p>Employee well-being continues to be a Council priority, a number of initiatives have been embedded for employees which include (but are not limited to) the Council's Our People Portal, access to mental health first aiders, access to face to face well-being checks and work-outs led by WV-Active, the introduction of Council wide wellbeing leads and the creation of wellbeing pledges. Further directed work has been undertaken to promote financial wellbeing support to support employees with the cost of living rises.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk Organisational Development (OD) are continuing to work with Human Resources and Health and Safety to monitor, analyse and proactively respond to sickness absence data (both Covid and non-Covid) to ensure appropriate support is provided for employee health and wellbeing.</p> <p>We continue to monitor the health and wellbeing of our employees and the effectiveness of Our People support offer.</p> <p>Targeted work is continuing with our frontline workers and there has been increased engagement initiatives and communications regarding health and wellbeing across the organisation.</p> <p>The OD team will be creating more opportunity to meet with employees face to face to ensure they are getting information on Wellbeing and understand where to access all the support that is available to them.</p>	<p>Operational Health & Wellbeing Group</p> <p>Our People Board</p> <p>Employee Surveys</p> <p>Professional Conversations which include discussions around well-being</p> <p>SafeSpace Reporting Line</p> <p>Mental Health Support App for employees (My Possible Self)</p> <p>OD Wellbeing roadshows out to sites across the City.</p>

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						Organisational Development (OD) have carried out 21 site visits to provide support, information and signpost the current offer around health and wellbeing for our employees. The Wellbeing@work pages on the Our People portal are updated weekly to ensure employees have access to the most up to date wellbeing information. Currently OD and Public Health (PH) are working together to provide an employee head for health programme which focusses on sport to combat issues around mental and physical health. OD are also working with PH to audit what support is provided for women's health which links to the Menopause training we have made available for employees. We continue to support employees with the cost-of-living crisis by providing resources and support on financial wellbeing. We promote the support and resources available on a regular basis through a range of communication channels, including City People, toolbox talks, site visits and employee forums to ensure people are signposted to the support available.	
7	<p>Education Provision There is a risk to the consistent provision of education to all children and young people in Wolverhampton due to Covid-19 outbreaks in schools, children and young people not regularly being in school and parents' confidence that children are safe in schools due to the pandemic</p> <p>Risk Owner: Emma Bennett Cabinet Member: Cllr C Burden</p>	Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential	8 Amber	6 Amber Target 4 Green	↓	<p>School attendance has improved, however, there are higher numbers of children and young people with persistent absenteeism than pre-pandemic and school attendance overall is still below pre-pandemic levels, particularly in the secondary sector.</p> <p>Formal examinations and assessment tests have recommenced in schools (the first since 2019) and there are concerns that the performance and outcomes may be negatively impacted as a result of the lockdowns as well as the absence of staff and students affected by Covid.</p> <p>Increasing numbers of referrals are being made through the Special Needs Early Years' Service and for Education Health and Care Plan assessments following the lockdown periods.</p> <p>Electively home education numbers have increased throughout the pandemic although there is now a significant number applying for a school place.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</p> <p>The Inclusion service has undertaken an analysis of school attendance across the city and work is ongoing with targeted schools to increase the focus on attendance. Statutory powers have been reinstated to ensure parents and carers understand their responsibilities in respect of ensuring their children access learning.</p> <p>Proactive engagement between parents and the local authority is ongoing. Extensive support is also being made available by the Education Psychology Service to address emotional and mental health and well-being issues that are emerging for pupils and school staff. This is being well-received by schools with take-up at a high level.</p> <p>A graduated response toolkit to support children in schools with Special Educational Needs (who are not at the level of need to require an Education Health and Care Plan) will be launched in September 2022.</p>	<p>Regular updates to Lead Member/SEB and CYP Scrutiny panel on attendance and attainment of pupils in schools although data from this year's formal assessments will not be available until end of Autumn term 2022.</p> <p>Each school has had School Improvement Advisor support, guidance and challenge to mitigate the impact of Covid on outcomes.</p> <p>As more young people are vaccinated the numbers contracting the virus are reducing.</p>
	<p>City Wide Regeneration There is a potential impact on the City if the Council do not take effective action to regenerate and repurpose. In addition, there are risks to ongoing Council managed and operated capital projects and programmes in terms of costs, timings and ensuring that original business cases continue to align with the Council's strategic aims.</p> <p>Risk Owner: Richard Lawrence Cabinet Member: Cllr S Simkins</p>	<p>Thriving economy in all parts of the city</p> <p>Good homes in well connected neighbourhoods</p>	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	↔	<p>With regards to the Council's major capital projects work is underway at pace to ensure we secure Levelling Up funding for rounds 2. Bids were successfully submitted by the deadline date and appropriate consultation, advocacy, assurance and management processes have been put in place to deliver upon any successful funding award.</p> <p>An interim Transformation Programme Management Office (TPMO) function has been established up to deliver Towns Fund and this will incorporate Future High Street Fund, Levelling Up Funding to address constituent project delivery and implementation and development for a wider Levelling Up agenda for the City in delivering regeneration and infrastructure objectives.</p> <p>A Levelling Up Board has been established with senior Directors to align City wide regeneration and Levelling Up agenda to Our City Our Plan objectives.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</p> <p>Support will be in place within the next 6-9 months to take to mitigate any additional risk and to co-develop and implement projects across all funding sources and service areas from RIBA stage 1 through to RIBA stage 4. The TPMO function will support and complement existing activities and resources to ensure successful project delivery and implementation.</p> <p>The Council is pro-actively working with partners and stakeholders to mitigate risk and continue operations in accordance with Government guidelines.</p> <p>Inflation is at the highest it has been for four decades and there is considerable uncertainty and risk of inflationary pressures across the capital programme, increases in the cost of materials are already being realised. Project contingency budgets are viewed in light of these pressures in order to build in and mitigate against such cost increases, however these are unprecedented market conditions, and the ongoing risk should be noted</p>	<p>Key city centre project pipeline subject to alignment to Council project management principles and quality assurance process.</p> <p>Internal audit review planned for 2022-2023 regarding the principles, reporting process and implementable processes of the new TPMO.</p>
9	<p>High Unemployment (previously Rising Unemployment) There is a risk that high levels of unemployment caused by historic trends and more recently the impact of Covid will persist and the gap between Wolverhampton and other areas will continue to grow without focused action.</p> <p>Risk Owner: Richard Lawrence Cabinet Member: Cllr S Simkins</p>	<p>Thriving Economy in all parts of the city</p> <p>More local people into good jobs and training</p>	16 Red	16 Red Target 15 Red	↔	<p>Unemployment levels continue to be high within Wolverhampton, a summary of the July 2022 provisional data is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 12,070 (7.4%) claimants in the working age group (16+), a decrease of 315 compared to last risk register publication (May 2022 data). This remains the 2nd highest claimant rate in England. Over the past 12 months there has been a decrease of 3,500 claimants. There are 2,895 (6.1%) claimants in the 50+ age group, a decrease of 105 compared to last risk register publication (May 2022 data). This remains the 14th highest claimant rate in England. Over the past 12 months there has been a decrease of 655 claimants. There are 1,990 (9.6%) claimants in the 18-24 age group, which is a slight increase on the last risk register publication (May 2022 data). This is reflective of the end of the academic year, with leavers from school, college and university entering the jobs market (temporarily for the majority). This is the highest claimant rate in England, with Blackpool (previously 1st highest) dropping slightly, which is reflective of the seasonal nature of work in a seaside town like Blackpool. Over the past 12 months there has been a decrease of 890 claimants. <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</p>	<p>The Insights team provide detailed monthly analysis of the unemployment data in the City and have provided comprehensive analysis of the historical picture and present trends – which show a general improvement from pandemic peaks. This data monitoring work is now firmly embedded into the ongoing Wolves at Work 18-24 Programme arrangements. Although it is important to this the analysis is undertaken, and reported against, all age groups.</p> <p>The Wolves at Work 18-24 Programme has now been established and there is a pipeline of planned activity with a focus on partnership collaboration and actively engaging with those directly impacted. This is all regularly reported to SEB, the Leader and the Cabinet Member.</p> <p>Internal audit review planned for 2022-2023 of the Wolves at Work 18-24 Programme (Youth Employment Scheme).</p>

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						<p>Wolves at Work continues to offer its employment support service for job seekers of all ages. Regular "Let's Talk Jobs" sessions are held, focusing on either vacancies in a particular sector or for specific employer, to which all those organisations who advise job seekers are invited, to hear about the opportunities in detail.</p> <p>Drop-in information/screening sessions, to support Strategic Employers and other large scale vacancies operate weekly/bi-weekly dependent on employer need.</p> <p>The Council £3 million Wolves at Work 18-24 Programme is well underway, with a number of initiatives, including the City Ideas Fund, which has awarded over £212,000 to local organisations to implement a wide range of activities, to help young people access the world of work. The Youth Summits continue to take place across the city, bringing young people together with employers and training providers to understand the barriers facing the young people, and to find ways to collectively work together to create opportunities. Vacancies are being promoted to a wider audience via Wolves Workbox and its regular newsletters, whereby job seekers are able to apply for jobs directly.</p> <p>Black Country Impact (BCI) continues to deliver support to those aged 16-29 across Wolverhampton and will continue to do so until the funding ends in mid-2023. Currently there is £1.31 million available to support this age group, with a heavy focus on upskilling the workforce via vocational and L3 upwards qualifications in order to provide sustainability. Activity to date has seen 749 BCI participants offered employment, with a view to this increasing to 1,200 in the next 11 months (the remainder of contract).</p> <p>The Restart Scheme was rolled out in June 2021, and referrals to programme will continue until June 2024 at the earliest. Currently the council has £1.64 million in funding to support residents, across Wolverhampton. As of July 2022, 2,526 Wolverhampton residents have started on the Restart Scheme, with 388 being supported by the council's Wolves at Work team.</p> <p>All those involved in helping to tackle this agenda through the agreed One City approach (Council and partners) continue to explore opportunities to secure positive destinations for those currently unemployed, using a data and evidence led approach.</p> <p>Specific new actions: additional resource in the Connexions team to provide 121 careers advice and guidance to young people with SEND; a new Supported Employment service for residents with learning disabilities.</p>	
10	<p>Information Governance</p> <p>If the Council does not put in place appropriate policies, procedures and technologies to ensure the handling and protection of its data is undertaken in a secure manner and consistent with relevant legislation then it may be subject to regulatory action, financial penalties, reputational damage and the loss of confidential information.</p> <p>Risk Owner: David Pattison Cabinet Member: Cllr P Brookfield</p>	Our Council	6 Amber	6 Amber Target 4 Green	↔	<p>Five newly approved level-1 IG policies were being rolled out to employees during May 22. A review of the internal procedures and guidance documents (level 2) that underpin the new policies continues, with rollout being incremental between now and September 2022. Mandatory training levels (level 1) continue to be monitored through quarterly leadership team updates; a refresh and reset of IG priorities within each leadership area has commenced to maintain compliance at service level. Meetings between the Caldicott Guardian (CG) and the Data Protection Officer (DPO) have recommenced and are scheduled quarterly to provide an update on performance in key areas such as information requests, breaches and training for teams falling under the Caldicott function and to discuss any potential or current risks identified within Caldicott linked projects so that they are flagged to the CG and mitigating actions agreed. Key corporate projects continue to be supported to ensure IG compliance and to ensure privacy by design is initiated in a timely manner. Collaborative working between IG and Digital and IT continues to maintain technical and cyber compliance and to mitigate associated risks; collaborative work has commenced between IG and Data & Analytics with monthly meetings scheduled. Information incidents reported during the period have been contained, investigated with mitigating actions put in place locally with relevant teams. An additional temporary resource has been successfully recruited and will support the IG team for a 12-month period in terms of the delivery of statutory functions and work programme activities.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to progress the review and creation of level two procedures and guidance to support level one policies Progress the development and rollout of Level 2 and level 3 training for specialist roles Progress the collaboration with Audit Services to support the DPO reporting function and ongoing corporate compliance assurance. <p>August 2022</p> <p>Risk and target score remain the same – no downward movement until all policy and procedures are in place and level 2-3 training is implemented.</p> <p>Work on the IG Policy Framework is progressing: five new policies are now live and 26 internal procedure and guidance documents that underpin the policies are currently being written as part of an incremental implementation rollout. It is anticipated that 75% of these procedures will be live by the end of September 22, with the remaining more complex procedures being live by the end of Q3 December 22. Mandatory training levels are being monitored, with emphasis being made on managers to be responsible for the monitoring of take up with their teams – status reporting will be provided to the SIRO and Leadership teams each quarter to help support and promote the take up within individual areas. Take up will also be reviewed quarterly with the Caldicott Guardian along with an update on key performance for all areas that fall under that function. Collaborative working between IG and Digital and IT continues to maintain technical and cyber compliance and to mitigate associated risks; collaborative work is also progressing between IG and Data & Analytics with monthly meetings scheduled; there is an appetite for strategic roadmaps to be aligned with all three areas and these will be developed and presented to for approval in future months. Incidents reported during the period have been contained, investigated with mitigating actions put in place locally with relevant teams.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to progress the implementation and rollout of level two procedures and guidance to support level one policies Robustly monitor the mandatory training levels to ensure above 95% take up in any given period. Progress the development and rollout of Level 2 and level 3 training for specialist roles Progress collaborative working; formulate and agree combined deliverables alignment with strategic roadmaps, particularly around the digital arena in relation to data and records management. Progress the collaboration with Audit Services to support the DPO reporting function and ongoing corporate compliance assurance 	<p>E-learning take up and ongoing training development</p> <p>Privacy by design – DPIA, IG Impact Assessments</p> <p>Quarterly updates and regular touch points with Leadership teams</p> <p>Robust breach management procedures in place with assessment and monitoring at service level (leadership feedback)</p> <p>SEB/IG Board and Caldicott function to continue to monitor, challenge, support and champion IG compliance initiatives</p>
11	Medium Term Financial Strategy	Our Council	20 Red	20 Red	↔	<p>On 16 December 2021, the Government announced the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022-2023. The announcement was for one year only.</p>	<p>Regular budget monitoring at all levels.</p> <p>A local more detailed risk register is maintained within Finance.</p>

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	<p>If the Council does not manage the risks associated with the successful delivery of its in year budget and medium term financial strategy then this may exhaust reserves, result in the potential loss of democratic control and the inability of the Council to deliver essential services and discharge its statutory duties.</p> <p>Specific risks include the impact of Covid-19, rising inflation, demand pressures and the effective management of the key MTFS programmes.</p> <p>Risk Owner: Claire Nye Cabinet Member: Cllr Obaida Ahmed</p>			Target 12 Amber		<p>The 2022-2023 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 report (Cabinet 23 February and Council 2 March) presents a balanced budget for 2022-2023 without the use of general reserves.</p> <p>The report notes that the Council is now faced with finding further projected budget reductions estimated at £12.6 million in 2023-2024, rising to £25.8 million over the medium-term period to 2025-2026. Work to develop budget reduction and income generation proposals for 2023-2024 onwards in line with the Five-Year Financial Strategy will continue, with an update on progress to be reported to Cabinet in July 2022.</p> <p>The level of uncertainty over future funding levels continues to be a significant risk. A prudent approach has been taken to forecasting resources over the MTFS period and all assumptions are detailed in the report.</p> <p>On 27 July 2022 and update on the budget and MTFS was presented to Cabinet. The report noted that progress had been made towards balancing the budget for 2023-2024 and that the projected deficit was approximately £1 million. It was also noted that there are several risks and uncertainties including future funding, pay award, inflation and interest rates. The report also highlights the financial risks of delivering the requirements of Fair Cost of Care and Charging Reform in Adults, a new risk has been added to the Strategic Risk Register.</p> <p>The Quarter One report to Cabinet on 7 September provides details of the current position in relation to inflation. It is anticipated that further inflation pressures will emerge when current contracts expire and are relet and through the pressures put on our providers and suppliers.</p> <p>The report also notes that there the pay award continues to be negotiated on but that the current proposals would give us a budget pressure of approximately £6.2 million. There is a strategy in place to mitigate the impact on the current year's budget however it should be noted that this puts a recurring pressure on the MTFS.</p> <p>Work is underway to determine how to address the emerging pressures for 2023-2024 and for future years.</p> <p>On 28 June 2022 the Secretary of State announced that there will be a 2 year settlement and that a consultation will be launched shortly. At the time of writing no further information has been provided.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk The assumptions underpinning the MTFS will continue to be reviewed throughout 2022-2023 and updates will be reported to Cabinet, with the next update to Cabinet on 19 October 2022.</p> <p>External advice will be sought where appropriate to support financial modelling as an when further information is available on a 2-year settlement and or fair funding review.</p> <p>Regular monitoring of the delivery of MTFS programmes is undertaken and reported to Strategic Executive Boar</p>	External Audit Annual Report
	<p>Cyber Security Failure to maintain a high level of cyber security (technology, processes and awareness) throughout the Council may result in cyber-attacks and theft or loss of confidential data leading to financial penalties, reputational damage and a loss in public confidence.</p> <p>Risk Owner: Charlotte Johns Cabinet Member: Cllr Obaida Ahmed</p>	Our Council / Driven by Digital	9 Amber	9 Amber Target 6 Amber	↔	<p>Nationally there has been an increase in cyber security threats to local government and the wider public sector, with high profile cyber incidents impacting on some local authorities and other agencies. Cyber security at CWC is externally verified though both PSN accreditation and Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation.</p> <p>Digital and IT continue to deploy enhancements to further improve security, key activity undertaken includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of key projects such as multi factor authentication and Windows Defender Advance threat protection, user risk detection and mitigation. Continuous review of the council's policies including password and network access. Working with the LGA to delivery against a £10,000 grant to further invest in cyber security enhancements. Roll out of training, development and business continuity work. <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk There is a continued work programme to address cyber threats which continue to evolve. Quarterly assurance updates are provided to SEB and the Cabinet Member.</p>	<p>The Council has achieved external accreditation of its cyber security, through achievement of Cyber Essentials Plus and PSN compliance.</p> <p>Internal Audit review of Cyber Security and Disaster Recovery completed.</p> <p>Quarterly updates provided to SEB and Cabinet Member.</p> <p>More detailed update provided to Audit & Risk Committee in July 2022.</p>
13	<p>Civic Halls There is a significant reputational and financial risk to the Council and to the City's wider visitor economy if the revised Civic Halls refurbishment programme is not effectively managed in terms of project timings, costs, and scope.</p> <p>Risk Owner: Richard Lawrence Cabinet Member: Cllr S Simkins</p>	Thriving economy in all parts of the city	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	↔	<p>The professional team continues to provide ongoing scrutiny and monitoring of the project. Work is progressing in preparation for AEG taking the lease of the site and providing final fit out ahead of the recommencement of commercial events. The Council continues to work closely AEG and has regular sessions with them to oversee the final works ahead of opening.</p> <p>AEG are a world class operator that are bringing forward exciting and ambitious plans for the venue with bigger and better acts and events. The project will also benefit local businesses, see new jobs created in the evening economy and raise the city's profile. The public realm works are progressing well and are on schedule to complete in time for the opening of the building.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk The Civic Halls Restoration Board takes place monthly to ensure assurance on the project. This is supported by weekly operational group meetings, end user operator and public realm meetings, which all feed into the overall programme board. Directors are also supplied with weekly project updates and meet weekly to oversee progress. There are bi-weekly meetings with AEG to manage their transition into the building and over see the final fit out programme</p>	<p>Project Assurance Group</p> <p>Civic Halls Restoration Board</p> <p>AEG Contract</p> <p>Specialist external advice – project and risk management</p> <p>Internal Audit representation on Civic Hall's Operational Group</p>
14	<p>Climate Change Failure to achieve the Council's commitments in relation to Climate Change, including the pledge to make Council activities net-zero carbon by 2028 may result in significant reputational damage and a loss in public confidence.</p> <p>Risk Owner: John Roseblade Cabinet Member: Cllr S Evans</p>	Climate conscious	6 Amber	6 Amber Target 3 Green	↔	<p>The Council's Climate Change Action Plan was approved by Cabinet in July 2021. The action plan clearly sets out all activity needed to meet the Council's net zero ambitions by 2028 as well as setting out the framework for the 2041 target for the whole City.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk Resource requirements identified – certain posts have been created and have/are being recruited to. Additional graduate support for sustainable staff travel policy has been secured. SEB update with draft structure approved and supported. External resource identified for support in delivering 2041 strategy – additional internal resource identified – training for Carbon Literacy identified and being rolled out across organisation.</p>	<p>Governance and action plan monitoring arrangements being established.</p> <p>Quarterly update to SEB and Member reference panel.</p> <p>Internal audit review planned for 2022-2023 of the Climate Change Action Plan.</p>

Risk Ref	Risk title and description	Our City Our Plan	Previous Risk Score	Current Risk and Target Score	Direction of Travel	Update position and further actions to take to mitigate risks	Sources of Assurance
15	<p>Related Parties</p> <p>The Council has a number of bodies that it either owns or has a potential liability for. There is a risk that poor performance of these bodies could adversely impact on the Council both financially and reputationally.</p> <p>Risk Owner: Claire Nye Cabinet Member: Cllr Obaida Ahmed</p>	Our Council	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	↔	<p>A detailed financial review of each company was undertaken as part of the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, this included the going concern position of each party. It was concluded that there is currently no material financial impact on the Council. Regular monitoring is undertaken and there are no areas of concern.</p> <p>The Council is currently undertaking a review of Yoo Recruit Ltd which will in turn inform a refreshed business plan being prepared by the Company. The review will be considered by the Resources and Equalities Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>WV Living presented an updated Business Plan which was approved by Cabinet on 27 April 2022.</p> <p>Wolverhampton Homes presented an updated Delivery Plan which was approved by Full Council on 6 April 2022.</p> <p>On 29 June the Resources and Equality Scrutiny Panel received a report from the Chief Operating Officer on the arrangements in place to monitor linked bodies, further reports are being taken on the approach to each specific body to the relevant Committee/Panel.</p> <p>On 14 July the Residents, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel received a report from the Chief Operating Officer on WV Living Governance and Linked Companies.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk Regular monitoring of the related parties is undertaken, and monthly reports are provided to the Executive Team.</p> <p>Financial implications of our related parties have been referenced in the Quarter One Performance and Budget report where appropriate and will continue to be considered in future budget reports.</p>	The Annual Governance Statement incorporates related parties. External audit of each related party.
16	<p>Safeguarding Ukrainian refugees from exploitation.</p> <p>Risk to Ukrainian refugees ability to access safe and appropriate local accommodation.</p> <p>Risk Owner: John Denley Cabinet Member: Cllr J Jaspal</p>	Healthy Inclusive Communities	9 Amber	6 Amber Target 4 Amber	↓	<p>Continued work with the residents and the Strategic Migration Partnership. Processes have been developed; specialist staff appointed. We will be moving to business as usual shortly.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk Ongoing consultation with the Department for Levelling Up, Home Office and local and national multi-agency Homes for Ukraine forums.</p>	Department for Levelling Up, Home Office and local and national multi-agency Homes for Ukraine forums.
17	<p>Financial wellbeing and resilience</p> <p>Risk that the financial wellbeing strategy does not address the impact of the cost-of-living crisis for residents of the city</p> <p>Risk owner: Alison Hinds/ Emma Bennett Cabinet members: Councillor B Momenabadi, Councillor L Leach and Councillor J Jaspal</p>	<p>Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential</p> <p>Healthy, inclusive communities</p>	12 Amber	12 Amber Target 8 Amber	↔	<p>The Council's Financial Wellbeing Strategy was approved by Cabinet in March 2022.</p> <p>The strategy details our partnership approach to tackling the cost-of-living crisis in the city though our graduated response offering essential support when required, responding to emerging need and offering an early intervention approach to support resilience in the city.</p> <p>Further actions to take to mitigate risk Partnership approach to delivery of the strategy Supporting our faith, community, and voluntary sector to build resilience Continued distribution of any Department of Work and Pension or government grants to ensure those in need are supported by those closest to them, maintaining dignity and choice wherever possible.</p>	<p>Strong governance arrangements, with Health and Wellbeing Board being responsible for the implementation of the strategy, monitoring the progress of the partnership cost of living action plan</p> <p>Robust implementation plan with clear impact measures.</p> <p>Ongoing consultation and engagement with residents and the wider partnership to ensure the cost of living plan continues to address local and emerging issues.</p>
18	<p>Charging Reform and Fair cost of care</p> <p>There are a number of uncertainties associated with how these reforms will impact upon the Council, both financially and resource wise</p> <p>Risk Owners: Becky Wilkinson/Emma Bennett and Claire Nye (section 151 officer) Cabinet Member: Councillor Linda Leach</p>	Fulfilled lives for all, with quality care for those that need it	New risk	25 Red Target 12 Amber	Not Applicable	<p>Under the new Fair cost of care reforms (FCOC) our initial analysis has highlighted that there is likely to be a significant budget pressure if the Council was to meet the fair cost of care in full. At this stage details around the levels of any Government funding has yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>This is also likely to result in workforce resource pressures, in particular around recruitment in order to implement the charging reform, with an additional estimated 1,500 new people introduced to adult social care.</p> <p>There are also current uncertainties around the cost of increased means testing and the care cap.</p> <p>Similarly, the lack of details at this time means that the Council is unclear on its IT and Digital readiness. Particularly within the given timescales of the Trailblazer work and other system commitments across the Council.</p>	<p>Affordability raised by all LA Trailblazers with the DHSC.</p> <p>Some amendments to statutory guidance and legislation being considered.</p> <p>Some initial recruitment has taken place.</p> <p>Financial modelling currently underway.</p> <p>Council Task and Finish group monitoring and shared solutions being sought with other LA Trailblazers.</p>

General Fund Budget Risks 2022-2023

Risk	Description	Level of Risk
Medium Term Forecasting	Risks that might materialise as a result of interest rates, energy costs, non-pay inflation and pay awards, uptake of pension auto enrolment, and National Living Wage.	Red
Service Demands	Risks that might materialise as a result of demands for statutory services outstretching the available resources. This particularly applies to adults and children's social care.	Red
	Risks that might materialise as a result of demands for non-statutory services outstretching the available resources.	Amber
Identification of Budget Reductions	Risks that might materialise as a result of not identifying budget reductions due to limited opportunity to deliver efficiencies.	Amber
Budget Management	Risks that might materialise as a result of the robustness of financial planning and management, in addition to the consideration made with regards to the loss of key personnel or loss of ICTS facilities	Green
Transformation Programme	Risks that might materialise as a result of not delivering the reductions incorporated into the budget and not having sufficient sums available to fund the upfront and one-off costs associated with delivering budget reductions and downsizing the workforce.	Amber
Reduction in Income and Funding	Risks that might materialise as a result of income being below budgeted levels, claw back of grant, or increased levels of bad debts.	Amber
	The risk of successful appeals against business rates.	
Third Parties	Risks that might materialise as a result of third parties and suppliers ceasing trading or withdrawing from the market.	Amber

General Fund Budget Risks 2022-2023

Risk	Description	Level of Risk
Government Policy	Risks that might materialise due to structural uncertainties including the impact of exiting the European Union.	Amber
	Risk that the cost pressures from the implementation of the polices outlined in the Adult Social Care Reform White paper are greater than Government Grant Funding	Red
	Risks that might materialise as a result of changes to Government policy including changes in VAT, taxation rules and economic measures	Red
Covid 19	Risk that the financial implications of Covid 19 including the Council's recovery will exceed the grant allocations awarded by Government and place further financial pressures on the council financial position.	Amber

Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget Monitoring

	2022/2023 Budget £000	2022/2023 Forecast Outturn £000	2022/2023 Forecast Variance £000
Income			
Gross rents – dwellings	(93,126)	(93,007)	119
Gross rents – non dwellings	(564)	(564)	-
Charges to tenants for services and facilities	(6,143)	(6,060)	83
Total income	(99,833)	(99,631)	202
Expenditure			
Repairs and maintenance	27,530	29,291	1,761
Supervision and management	21,501	22,010	509
Rents, rates and taxes	800	760	(40)
Increase in provision for bad debts	2,000	1,800	(200)
Depreciation of fixed assets	20,388	20,388	-
Total expenditure	72,219	74,249	2,030
Net cost of HRA services	(27,614)	(25,382)	2,232
Interest payable	10,234	11,532	1,298
Interest and investment income	(1)	(298)	(297)
Contribution to capital financing	2,990	2,990	-
Provision for redemption of debt	14,391	11,158	(3,233)
Balance for the year	-	-	-

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Schools' Budgets

1.0 Revenue Budget Monitoring – Schools' Budgets

- 1.1 Maintained schools are required to submit budget plans detailing their expected income and planned spending levels at two points in the year; 31 May and 31 October. Table 1 shows the schools' actual end of year balances for 2021-2022 and the latest projected balances in those submitted budget plans for 2022-2023.

Table 1 – Projected Movement on Schools' Balances 2022-2023

Sector	Balances as at 31 March 2022 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Forecast Use of Balances in 2022-2023 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Forecast Balances as at 31 March 2023 Surplus / (Deficit) £000
Secondary	2,523	(1,120)	1,403
Primary	8,271	(2,097)	6,174
Junior	284	(153)	131
Infant	495	(162)	333
Nursery	1,202	(873)	329
Special	2,239	(636)	1,603
Pupil Referral Units	601	(368)	233
Total	15,615	(5,409)	10,206

Schools with Surplus Balances

- 1.2 At the end of 2021-2022 maintained schools had balances of £15.6 million. 40 schools were identified as having balances above recognised thresholds detailed in the local scheme (5% for secondary schools and 8% for primary, special and nursery schools).

Schools' Budgets

Table 2 - Number of Schools as at 31 March 2022 with Surplus Balances

Sector	Total Number of Schools	Schools with Excess Surplus
Secondary	3	2
Primary	35	25
Junior	2	1
Infant	2	2
Nursery	7	5
Special	4	3
Pupil Referral Units	3	2
Total	51	40

- 1.3 All schools that have balances above these criteria are requested to provide plans for the intended use of the excess. We recognise this year schools are likely to see increasing costs associated with inflation and this, alongside the impact of any pay award in excess of budgets, will mean schools with surplus balances are likely to require using these excesses to support the Teachers' Pay Award. However, Local Authority Officers will scrutinise the school plans and may have meetings with their headteachers. A decision will then be made whether any of these schools should be moved forward into the arbitration process as detailed below, and an update on this will be included in the 2022-2023 Revenue Budget Outturn report to Councillors.
- 1.4 The Scheme for Financing Schools establishes an arbitration process to review the Authority's decision and determine if, and to what level, any excess balances should be recovered.

Schools in a deficit balance position

- 1.5 As part of its overview of schools in deficit, a Schools at Financial Risk Board (SFR) chaired by the Head of Service for School Organisation, reviews the financial information from schools in deficit to evaluate the financial position of the schools. The chair of Schools Forum is also a member of the board. The current position of schools that had anticipated a deficit position at the end of 2021-2022 is as follows:

Schools' Budgets

Table 2 – Schools with anticipated deficits in 2022-2023

Name	Actual Balance at end of 2021-2022 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Anticipated Balance at end of 2022-2023 Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Status
The King's Church of England	(104)	(163)	Licensed deficit application has been received and approved. The school's deficit has reduced considerably this year.
Lanesfield Primary	(4)	(8)	Planned deficit is lower than the threshold for a licensed deficit application. School's balance will continued to be monitored.
Phoenix Nursery	(34)	(86)	School has an approved licensed deficit and are submitting progress reports.
Windsor Nursery	(14)	11	School has been asked to submit a licensed deficit request.

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Debt Write Offs

- 1.1 Debts are only written off as a last resort, when all feasible recovery action has been exhausted. If the situation surrounding an individual case changes in the future, steps would be taken to pursue the debt, despite the debt having been written off.

Sundry Debtors

- 1.2 Income is due to the Council for a wide range of services provided to individuals and businesses. To reflect the fact that, despite the Council's best efforts, not all of this income will actually be collected, the Council makes provision for bad and doubtful debts, which it charges directly to the General Fund.
- 1.3 Overall, two debt write offs totalling £13,328.87 have been incurred. All but one valued at £13,160.87, which require approval of Cabinet (see Appendix 8), have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedures Rules.

The Collection Fund

- 1.4 The City of Wolverhampton Council acts as billing and collecting authority for council tax and non-domestic rates income. The Council administers a separate Collection Fund account for this purpose. The Collection Fund accounts for the receipt of council tax and business rates (non-domestic rates) income and payments to precepting authorities such as the Fire Authority and the Police. Within this account, provisions are made for bad and doubtful debts and any write offs are charged to the council tax or business rates provision as appropriate.
- 1.5 **Council Tax** – Overall, 393 debt write offs totalling £256,204.26 have been incurred. All have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
- 1.6 **Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)** – Overall, 20 debt write offs totalling £167,893.83 have been incurred. All but two valued at £19,511.33, which require approval of Cabinet (see Appendix 9), have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedures Rules

Housing Benefits

- 1.7 Housing benefit overpayments occur when rent rebate or rent allowance awards exceed a recalculated entitlement. Whilst the Council aims to limit the incidence of overpayments, they may occur for a number of reasons including as a result of fraud or error. In general, overpaid benefit is written off in line with

Debt Write Offs

Government guidance where recovery would cause hardship, where the debtor has died or cannot be traced.

- 1.8 The Council receives Government subsidy in respect of overpaid housing benefit at rates of between 40% and 100% according to the circumstances in which the overpayment arose. The unsubsidised element of any overpayment is charged to the General Fund.
- 1.9 Overall, 11 overpayments totalling £2,487.92 have been incurred. All have been approved for write off by the Director of Finance in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

**Sundry Debtors Write Offs to be approved by
Cabinet**

Account Ref	Write-off Reason	Write-Off Amount £
16004493	Deceased (no estate)	13,160.87
	Total	13,160.87

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**Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Write Offs to be approved by
Cabinet**

Account Ref	Write-off Reason	Write-Off Amount £
5053364	Recovery prohibited by statute	5,287.33
5129364	Recovery prohibited by statute	14,224.00
	Total	19,511.33

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General Fund Budget Virements

From		To		£000	Reason for Virement
Division	Service	Division	Service		
Education and Skills	Inclusion Support	Education and Skills	Inclusion Support	389	Realignment of budgets within same service area
Education and Skills	Inclusion Support	Education and Skills	Inclusion Support	113	Realignment of budgets within same service area
Communications and External Relations	Visitor Economy	Communications and External Relations	Visitor Economy	363	Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations Exhibitions 2022-2023 budgets
Education and Skills	Educational Excellence	Education and Skills	Educational Excellence	98	Realignment of budgets within same service area
Adults	Older People Care Purchasing	Adults	Physical Disabilities Care Purchasing	128	Realignment of growth across care purchasing budgets to reflect updated forecast demand
Adults	Older People Care Purchasing	Adults	Mental Health Assessment & Care Management	168	Realignment of growth across care purchasing budgets to reflect updated forecast demand
City Housing & Environment	Environmental Services	City Housing & Environment	Environmental Services	187	Realignment of budgets within same service area
City Housing & Environment	Fleet Services	City Housing & Environment	Fleet Services	95	Realignment of budgets within same service area
Public Health & Wellbeing	Public Health Business Management	Public Health & Wellbeing	Public Health Business Management	75	Realignment of budgets within same service area
Public Health & Wellbeing	Commissioning	Public Health & Wellbeing	Commissioning	75	Realignment of budgets within same service area
Communications	City Events	Communications	City Events	351	Realignment of Aldersley Leisure Village Darts budget 2022-2023
Public Health & Wellbeing	Starting and Developing Well	Public Health & Wellbeing	Starting and Developing Well	60	Early Help navigator post budget realignment
Public Health & Wellbeing	Community Safety & Community Cohesion	Public Health & Wellbeing	Community Safety & Community Cohesion	207	Realignment of Safer Street allocation
Regeneration	Skills	Regeneration	Skills	62	Realignment of budgets in Skills service
Education and Skills	various	Education and Skills	Central Education	104,934	Realignment of Dedicated School Grant Budgets
Education and Skills	various	Education and Skills	Special Educational Needs	17,949	Realignment of Dedicated School Grant Budgets
Education and Skills	various	Education and Skills	Early Years	20,450	Realignment of Dedicated School Grant Budgets

General Fund Budget Virements

From		To		£000	Reason for Virement
Division	Service	Division	Service		
Education and Skills	Inclusion Support	Education and Skills	Central Education	270	Transfer Education Welfare element of Central School Service Block Grant to Education and Skills Service
Strategy	Digital and IT	Strategy	Digital and IT	108	Realignment of budgets within same service area
Corporate Accounts	Corporate Accounts	Corporate Accounts	Corporate Accounts	100	Realignment of budget within same service area
Education and Skills	Special Educational Needs	Education and Skills	Special Educational Needs	7,117	Realignment of budgets across Special Education Needs
Governance	Human Resources	Corporate Accounts	Corporate Accounts	99	Allocation of funds to Corporate Accounts
Children's Services	various	Children's Services	Head of Children's Improvement	68	Realignment of budgets within Children's Services to allocate savings and investments
Children's Services	various	Children's Services	Children & Young People In Care	251	Realignment of budgets within Children's Services to allocate savings and investments
Children's Services	various	Children's Services	Strengthening Families	193	Realignment of budgets within Children's Services to allocate savings and investments
Children's Services	various	Children's Services	Specialist Support	378	Realignment of budgets within Children's Services to allocate savings and investments
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Adjustments	Governance	Governance Services	75	Allocation to cover the increased costs of the revised member allowances
Corporate Budgets	Corporate Budgets	City Assets	Corporate Asset Management	67	Growth to support business rates
Education and Skills	Central Education	Regeneration	Adult Education	65	Teachers pay/pension contributions from DSG
Education and Skills	Central Education	Education and Skills	Special Educational Needs	59	Teachers pay/pension contributions from DSG

General Fund Budget Virements

From		To		£000	Reason for Virement
Division	Service	Division	Service		
Education and Skills	Central Education	Education and Skills	Educational Excellence	40	Teachers pay/pension contributions from DSG

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 16 November 2022
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Report title	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Stephen Simkins Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Richard Lawrence, Director of Regeneration	
Originating services	Planning & Public Health Partnerships	
Accountable employee	Ric Bravery	Strategic Health Lead
	Tel	07713 189238
	Email	Ric.bravery@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Regeneration Leadership Team	3 October 2022
	City Housing and Environment Leadership Team	4 October 2022
	Public Health Leadership Team	4 October 2022
	Strategic Executive Board	18 October 2022

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Adopt the City of Wolverhampton Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy and Action Plan (2022).
2. Delegate authority to the Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration, to agree the final version of the Overarching Strategic Framework for the Black Country (2022).

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The supporting Wolverhampton Playing Pitch Assessment Report (2022).

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval to adopt an up-to-date City of Wolverhampton Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) (Appendix 1) and to advise of the supporting Playing Pitch Assessment Report for Wolverhampton and the Overarching Strategic Framework for the Black Country (Appendices 2 and 3). The PPOSS will direct investment and planning decisions on playing pitches and outdoor sports across the city in future years, help the Council to secure external funding (including developer contributions) and release surplus assets to maximise local community and regeneration benefits.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Well managed and located playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and other open spaces make a vital contribution to the quality of life and health of individuals, families and communities across Wolverhampton. The Council owns and manages a significant number of the playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and other open space in the city, providing a range of recreational opportunities for sport, exercise, play, contact with nature and growing produce. A good quality network of playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and open space is vital to help deliver the Council's Vision for Public Health 2030, the Wolverhampton Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2023, the Wolverhampton Health Inequalities Strategy 2021-2023 and the Our Council Plan 2019-24.
- 2.2 In 2016 Cabinet approved a new Playing Pitch Strategy (PSS) for Wolverhampton, which was updated in 2018. Both were produced by Knight Kavanagh Page (KKP) in line with Sport England requirements. An update of the complementary Open Space Strategy and Action Plan (OSSAP), also produced by KKP, was approved by Cabinet in 2018.
- 2.3 The PPS and OSSAP were produced with the intention that the strategies and action plans would be subject to regular review to ensure their relevance. A review of both is now due.
- 2.4 Both documents direct investment and planning decisions on the city's playing pitches, other outdoor sports facilities and wider open spaces. They also help the Council, sports clubs and other organisations to secure outside funding and to identify which assets are surplus and can be released for wider community and regeneration benefits.
- 2.5 Since 2018 Wolverhampton has experienced population and employment growth as well as the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The latter has highlighted the inequalities within our society in access to open space and has emphasised the importance of open spaces, including playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities, to health and wellbeing. These developments, plus future predictions of growth, are placing increased pressure on the city's playing pitches and open spaces.
- 2.6 A review of the OSSAP and the development of a Built Facilities Strategy and Action Plan are being undertaken and will be reported to Cabinet in due course. These studies are overseen by the Council's Open Space Steering Group which has representatives

from all relevant service areas within the Council. Wider work on increasing physical inactivity and on tackling health inequalities is also being undertaken, involving Public Health, the wider Council and Health and Wellbeing Together.

- 2.7 Paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework, 2021, states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
- A. An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
 - B. 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; or
 - C. The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.
- 2.8 Policy ENV6 of the Black Country Core Strategy (2011) states that developments that would reduce the overall value of the open space, sport and recreation network will be resisted and that each Local Authority will develop its own standards, policies and proposals for such facilities. The Wolverhampton Unitary Development Plan, 2006 offers, in policies R3 and R5, further protection from loss of open space, sport and recreation facilities unless it can be justified by a needs assessment.
- 2.9 An up-to-date PPOSS provides a robust needs assessment against which to assess development proposals, direct investment, manage outdoor sports facilities and seek funding.
- 2.10 In late 2020 it was agreed to carry out a joint review of the Playing Pitch strategies for the four Black Country Authorities. This would provide part of the evidence base for the emerging Black Country Plan and an opportunity to consider cross-boundary issues. The approach was supported by Sport England, Active Black Country and the National Governing Bodies of the main pitch based sports. KKP were appointed to carry out the four reviews and commenced work in April 2021. The commission included an Assessment report plus Strategy and Action Plan for each Black Country Authority plus an Overarching Strategic Framework for the Black Country to address Black Country-wide and cross-boundary issues. The Overarching Strategic Framework remains in draft pending agreement of the final wording in light of Dudley Council's decision to withdraw from the Black Country Plan. Cabinet is being asked to delegate approval to agree this Overarching Framework which will guide cross-boundary working but will not be formally adopted by the Council.
- 2.11 The recent decision by Dudley Council to withdraw from the Black Country Plan means that Wolverhampton will now produce its own plan. This does not, however, alter the need for the review; the revised Playing Pitch Strategy will instead form part of the evidence base for the new Wolverhampton Strategic Plan and the finalised Overarching

Strategic Framework for the Black Country will still identify cross-boundary issues and opportunities for joint working with other Black Country Authorities.

- 2.12 The Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan (the Study) consider provision for the following sports:
- A. Athletics
 - B. Bowls
 - C. Cricket
 - D. Cycling
 - E. Football (including 3G pitches)
 - F. Golf
 - G. Hockey
 - H. Netball
 - I. Rugby union (including 3G pitches)
 - J. Rugby league (including 3G pitches)
 - K. Tennis
 - L. Water sports
 - M. Other grass pitch sports where they occur (e.g. Gaelic football)
- 2.13 The Study identifies current levels of provision in the city, split across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors, and compares them with likely future levels of demand.
- 2.14 As part of the Study, consultation was carried out with Sport England, Active Black Country, sports clubs and National Governing Bodies of sport.
- 2.15 Pitch assessments were undertaken using a variety of methods including site visits, non-technical assessments and user feedback. Pitch quality influences the carrying capacity of a site; for example poor drainage and poor maintenance may lead to a pitch being assessed as poor, thereby limiting the number of games that can be played.
- 2.16 The key objectives of the study for City of Wolverhampton are to ensure the provision of a range of good quality and accessible outdoor sports facilities which:
- A. Meet the needs of the city;
 - B. Maximise the strengths of the voluntary sports sector;
 - C. Support an increase in sport participation and physical activity; and
 - D. Contribute to an overall increase in health and wellbeing across the city.

3.0 Aims, Key Findings and Recommendations

3.1 The PPOSS contains the following vision: 'Provide a network of good quality outdoor sports provision to increase participation and promote a healthier lifestyle for all participants.'

3.2 Its aims and strategic recommendations are as follows:

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

Recommendations:

- d. Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- g. Secure developer contributions.

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.
- i. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

3.3 The headline findings from the Assessment Report, and from the Action Plan which shows how these recommendations can best be delivered, are outlined below for each sport studied.

Football (including 3G pitches)

- 3.4 There are 203 grass football pitches in Wolverhampton across 106 sites, with 137 pitches available at some level for community use across 58 sites. Of those available for community use, 57 are assessed as poor quality, 65 as standard quality and just 15 as good.
- 3.5 There is a current shortfall of capacity on grass pitches to accommodate adult football matches, which will be exacerbated in the future. This is a change from the previous Playing Pitch Strategy due to a more robust method of assessing pitch quality. There is some current capacity on youth pitches which continues in the future for all but youth 11v11 pitches. The shortfall is not distributed evenly across the city and can be accommodated by: pitch improvements to increase capacity; pitch reconfiguration; negotiating community use of currently closed sites and reinstating currently disused pitches. Future demand can therefore be met by better management of existing pitches rather than the provision of new pitches.
- 3.6 There are four full-sized floodlit third generation turf (3G) pitches in Wolverhampton plus eight smaller pitches. Not all are available for community use. All pitches available for community use are at capacity and used for football. There is an identified existing shortfall which will increase to 4.5 pitches due to future demand, with some interest in developing 3G pitches from existing community providers such as Bilston Town FC.

Cricket

- 3.7 There are 13 grass cricket squares in Wolverhampton, with 11 available for community use. In addition there are 15 standalone non turf wicket pitches. There is a current and future shortfall of provision for Saturday cricket but spare capacity for Sunday and midweek cricket. Some issues of overplay can be addressed through improved maintenance although there remains a shortfall of supply for Saturday peak time cricket.

Rugby (including 3G pitches)

- 3.8 There are 11 grass rugby union pitches across the city; six senior, three junior and two mini pitches. Eight of these pitches are assessed as poor quality with the two assessed as standard and one as good being located at Wolverhampton Rugby Club. Overall there is a current and future shortfall of rugby union pitches. This can largely be accommodated by improving pitch quality and floodlighting at Wolverhampton Rugby Club.
- 3.9 There are no rugby league pitches in Wolverhampton and no identified demand since Wolverhampton RLFC folded.

Hockey

- 3.10 There are five full size artificial grass pitches in the city which are suitable for hockey. All are floodlit and available for the community. Provided they are protected for hockey they can meet demand.

Tennis

- 3.11 There are 125 tennis courts in Wolverhampton across 28 sites. Club sites are adequate to meet their own demand and public courts can be improved to meet demand for informal play. Use of public courts in parks is more common in Wolverhampton than in other local authorities.

Netball

- 3.12 There is a large supply of 69 outdoor netball courts in the city which is considered adequate to meet demand.

Bowls

- 3.13 There are 21 crown green bowling greens in Wolverhampton, across 18 sites, the majority of which are good quality. These are considered adequate to meet existing and future demand.

Cycling and Athletics

- 3.14 Cycling and athletic tracks are adequate to meet existing and future demand provided the facilities at WV Active are maintained and improved as required.

Golf

- 3.15 Supply of golf clubs, both within and outside Wolverhampton, is adequate to meet demand provided provision within the city is protected.

Water Sports

- 3.16 Despite not having a large outdoor water sports facility, Wolverhampton has three active clubs whose needs are met by use of canals and nearby facilities outside the city boundary.

Other Grass Sports

- 3.17 There are no facilities or identified demand for American football provision within the city. Baseball provision at Colton Hills School requires protection. The existing Gaelic football provision at Aldersley School requires improving with long term aspirations for a dedicated home venue.

Conclusions

- 3.18 Although there are some shortfalls in provision of pitches for football, cricket and rugby union, these are limited and can largely be met by improvement of existing facilities, including the provision of a small number of new 3G pitches. This puts Wolverhampton in a good position relative to some other Black Country Authorities. Wolverhampton is helped by having facilities in South Staffordshire, outside but adjacent to the boundary, in football, cricket, rugby union and golf, which complement facilities within the city.

- 3.19 The priority actions in the Action Plan tie in well with existing projects such as: the development of the former Wolverhampton United FC ground by New Park Village FC; planned developments at Bilston Town FC.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 Option 1 was to not carry out the Study. This would have left the Council without current information with which to inform decisions on disposal, investment in and management of outdoor sports facilities. It would also have not met the Council's obligations under national and local planning policy and guidance.
- 4.2 Option 2 was to carry on the Study for Wolverhampton only. This would have provided a less robust evidence base to support local decision making and would not have addressed potential cross-boundary issues with other Black Country Authorities.
- 4.3 Option 3 was to carry out a Black Country-wide Study as outlined. This provides a robust evidence base for joint working and identifies cross-boundary issues where collaboration between Black Country Authorities could better meet identified demand.

5.0 Reasons for decision(s)

- 5.1 The reason for the decision is to allow the Strategy and Action Plan to be used as a basis for decision-making on investment in, management of and potential disposal of outdoor sports facilities. If Cabinet do not approve the adoption of the PPOSS, the Council will not have an approved accurate and up to date evidence base and action plan to inform decisions. It will not be compliant with national planning guidance and local planning policy and will not have an evidence base for applications for external funding.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 There are no immediate financial implications for the Council from this report.
- 6.2 The Action Plan contains recommended priorities for action. The PPOSS is, however, a strategic document intended to inform disposal, management and investment decisions by the Council and external partners. Any projects which fall under Council responsibilities will follow the appropriate governance procedure for approval on an individual basis.
- 6.3 The information contained in the PPOSS will be used to inform future requests for planning contributions and funding applications by the Council and its partners.
[MH/290922/I]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report, however Sport England recommends that Local Authorities should have a Playing Pitch strategy in place.
[TC/28092022/A]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 Considering equalities is a mandatory requirement in any decision. The Study aims to reduce inequalities in access to quality playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities both at a spatial level across the city and for different social groups. For example it identifies opportunities to increase women's and girls' participation in sports. The PPOSS is therefore intended to have an overall positive effect on the city's residents, employees and visitors. All organisations involved with playing pitches within the identified sports were consulted. City of Wolverhampton Council, Sport England, Active Black Country and the National Governing Bodies of the sport studied all have a commitment to promoting equalities in their funding and sport development programmes.
- 8.2 Individual projects identified in the Action Plan will be assessed for their equalities implications as part of their detailed project development. This will include consultation with relevant groups, where appropriate.

9.0 All other implications

- 9.1 The PPOSS has considered, as part of its scope, the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on demand for outdoor sports facilities.
- 9.2 The Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan is intended to protect, maintain and improve the provision of outdoor sports facilities across the city and to increase sport participation. It is therefore intended to improve health and wellbeing within the city.
- 9.3 The PPOSS is a strategic document intended to inform disposal, management and investment decisions by the Council and external partners. The implications of any projects which it is proposed to pursue for asset management will be addressed on an individual basis as they are developed.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 None.

11.0 Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1: Wolverhampton Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy and Action Plan
- 11.2 Appendix 2a and 2b: Wolverhampton Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy Assessment Report
- 11.3 Appendix 3: Black Country Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy Overarching Strategic Framework

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Appendix 1

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

OCTOBER 2022

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BAFA	British American Football Association
BC	Bowls Club
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
BFA	Birmingham County FA
CFA	County Football Association
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
EN	England Netball
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facilities Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
SCB	Staffordshire Cricket Board
SFA	Staffordshire County FA
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

A Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) has been commissioned by the Black Country authorities of Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall, together with the Black Country Consortium, to assess playing pitch and outdoor sport facility needs across the individual local authority areas. The output is provision of four separate needs assessments and strategies across the aforementioned authorities as well as one additional overarching framework.

This report provides the Strategy for Wolverhampton. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2039, in line with the previously proposed Black Country Plan. However, it must be noted four separate local plans are now to be developed instead, with Wolverhampton's expected to cover the period to 2040.

The PPOSS has been developed to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sport facility stock.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a site-by-site basis.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, 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

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is regularly kept up to date.

A PPOSS delivers the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future outdoor sport requirements. Its robust evidence base should inform and be implemented into planning policy and other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively. It is capable of:

- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch and outdoor sport providers, including the public, private and third sectors.
- ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, picking up on particular local demand issues.
- ◀ Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas.
- ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision.

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- ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision.
- ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study.
- ◀ Supporting funding applications.
- ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends several priority projects for Wolverhampton which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, this strategy will help to identify and secure potential partners and possible sources of external funding which can assist.

Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary provision are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), sports organisations and education establishments. In many instances, the Council will not be the agency which delivers these actions or recommendations as the PPOSS is not just for the Council to act upon. It applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

Scope

A wide range of playing pitch and outdoor sports and associated facilities have been agreed for inclusion in the PPOSS in Wolverhampton and across all four Black Country authorities. In full, the study covers:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ◀ Athletics | ◀ Bowls |
| ◀ Cricket | ◀ Cycling |
| ◀ Football (including 3G pitches) | ◀ Golf |
| ◀ Hockey (sand/water based AGPs) | ◀ Netball |
| ◀ Rugby union (including 3G pitches) | ◀ Rugby league (including 3G pitches) |
| ◀ Tennis | ◀ Water sports (e.g. sailing and water skiing) |

In addition, other grass pitch sports are included where identified as having a presence.

Study area

The study area for the Wolverhampton PPOSS is the City of Wolverhampton Council boundary area. Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas have been used to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of supply and demand at a local level. For this purpose, Wolverhampton is split into the following five areas:

- ◀ Bilston
- ◀ Central & South
- ◀ North
- ◀ Tettenhall
- ◀ Wednesfield

These are shown in the figure overleaf.

NB: A number of sites that fall just outside of the Wolverhampton boundary have also been included in the analysis as they are considered to be key sites that form part of the supply that services Wolverhampton residents. Such inclusion also allows for cross boundary issues to be further highlighted and the potential for co-ordinated working with neighbouring authorities.

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Figure 1.1: Analysis areas



1.1: Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for the pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Football (grass pitches)	Bilston	Adult	Spare capacity of 1	At capacity
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity

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Sport	Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
	Central & South	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	North	Adult	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 8	Spare capacity of 8
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
	Tettenhall	Adult	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 4.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Wednesfield	Adult	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
Outside	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 2.5	
	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1	
	Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity	
	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2	
	Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity	
Football (3G pitches) ^[2]	Bilston	Full size	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
	Central & South		Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
	North		Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.75
	Tettenhall		Shortfall of 0.75	Shortfall of 1.25
	Wednesfield		Shortfall of 0.75	Shortfall of 1.25
Cricket	Bilston	Saturday	At capacity	At capacity
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 18	Spare capacity of 18
	Central & South	Saturday	At capacity	At capacity
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 36	Spare capacity of 36
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 54	Spare capacity of 36
	North	Saturday	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 5
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 7
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 7
	Tettenhall	Saturday	Spare capacity of 24	Spare capacity of 24
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 48	Spare capacity of 48
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 84	Spare capacity of 84
	Wednesfield	Saturday	At capacity	At capacity
		Sunday	At capacity	At capacity
Midweek		At capacity	At capacity	
Outside	Saturday	Shortfall of 44	Shortfall of 44	

^[2] Based on accommodating 38 teams on one full size pitch

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Sport	Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
		Sunday	Shortfall of 44	Shortfall of 52
		Midweek	Shortfall of 44	Shortfall of 50
Rugby union	Bilston	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Central & South		At capacity	At capacity
	North		At capacity	At capacity
	Tettenhall		At capacity	At capacity
	Wednesfield		At capacity	At capacity
	Outside		Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3.5
Rugby league	Wolverhampton	Senior	No demand so no provision required	No demand so no provision required
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Wolverhampton	Full size	Sufficient supply.	Sufficient supply.

For non-pitch sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal club activity. The current and future picture for each sport is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings (non-pitch sports)

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	Club demand is being met, although the recreational offer requires improvement.	Future club demand can be met, although the recreational offer requires improvement.
Netball	The good quality courts provided at WV Active Aldersley adequately service the Wolverhampton City Netball League and Back to Netball sessions. Whilst there is a large quantity of other netball courts provided, the large majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand.	The good quality courts provided at WV Active Aldersley adequately service the Wolverhampton City Netball League and Back to Netball sessions. Whilst there is a large quantity of other netball courts provided, the large majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand.
Bowls	Three sites are operating above the recommended capacity threshold, whilst no sites are operating below the required membership to be sustainable.	Three sites are operating above the recommended capacity threshold, whilst no sites are operating below the required membership to be sustainable.
Athletics	Existing supply is sufficient to meet demand.	Provision for athletics remains sufficient on the basis quality improvements are undertaken, when needed, in the future.
Cycling	Focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is remains sufficient to accommodate requirements.	Focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is remains sufficient to accommodate requirements.
Golf	With three golf clubs in Wolverhampton, and four facilities just outside of the City boundary, supply is reasonable for the area, particularly given the variance of the facilities with standard-hole courses, Par 3 courses and driving ranges all being supplied. This suggests that all types of golfers can be catered for.	With three golf clubs in Wolverhampton, and four facilities just outside of the City boundary, supply is reasonable for the area, particularly given the variance of the facilities with standard-hole courses, Par 3 courses and driving ranges all being supplied. This suggests that all types of golfers can be catered for.

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Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Water sports	Outdoor water facilities within Wolverhampton are catered for through the use of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal. Given the areas landlocked location, and available facilities within the other Black Country regions, supply is able to be catered for.	Outdoor water facilities within Wolverhampton are catered for through the use of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal. Given the areas landlocked location, and available facilities within the other Black Country regions, supply is able to be catered for.
Other sports	Given baseball/softball use of Colton Hill High School and the expanding demand for baseball in the region, the provision requires protection. The provision of an over marked and undersized Gaelic football pitch at Aldersley High School is insufficient to meet the demand from St Mary's Gaelic Football Club.	Given baseball/softball use of Colton Hill High School and the expanding demand for baseball in the region, the provision requires protection. The provision of an over marked and undersized Gaelic football pitch at Aldersley High School is insufficient to meet the demand from St Mary's Gaelic Football Club.

Conclusions

From a quantitative perspective, the existing position for each sport is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the creation of shortfalls for new pitch types in some areas where demand is currently being met, as well as the exacerbation of existing shortfalls. Some level of current and/or future shortfall is identified for all football pitch types, 3G pitches, cricket squares and rugby union pitches.

Where demand is being met, this does not necessarily equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered to be a solution to overcoming current or future shortfalls. There is a resultant need to protect all existing outdoor sport provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

For the most part, the shortfalls identified can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, re-configuration, installing additional floodlighting, improving ancillary facilities and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites.

Notwithstanding the above, there is a shortfall of 3G pitch that can likely only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, particularly at sites managed by the Council, an increase in such provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, which in turn can reduce overplay and aid pitch quality improvements.

It should also be noted that, for rugby union and for cricket, most shortfalls are situated outside of Wolverhampton, most commonly in South Staffordshire. In such instances, cross-authority working is recommended to alleviate the capacity issues.

PART 2: VISION

Vision

This study has been developed on the basis of the above strategic drivers in order to ensure that it reflects the Council's wider ambitions. A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Wolverhampton Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy:

'Provide a network of good quality outdoor sports provision to increase participation and promote a healthier lifestyle for all participants.'

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PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes. It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and partners to enable delivery of the overall PPOSS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

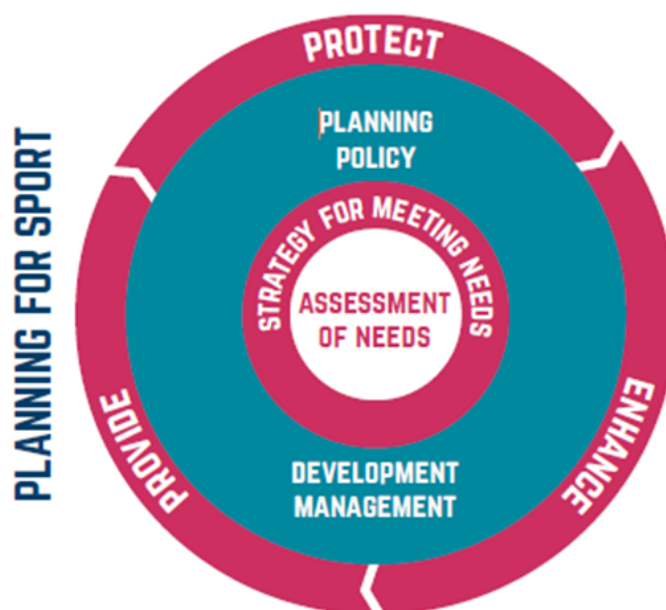
AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Figure 3.1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (June 2019)

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for each playing pitch sport, resulting in sport specific recommendations.

4.1: Football – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Actual spare capacity totals 40 match equivalent sessions per week across football pitches in Wolverhampton, which is a significant amount.**
- ◀ **A total of 18 pitches across 11 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 23 match equivalent sessions per week.**
- ◀ **There is a current shortfall of adult match equivalent sessions, whilst some capacity exists on youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.**
- ◀ **After factoring in future demand, shortfalls on adult pitches are exacerbated and a shortfall emerges on youth 11v11 pitches. There is a sufficient capacity on the remaining pitch types.**
- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 203 grass football pitches within Wolverhampton across 106 sites, with 137 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 58 sites.
- ◀ As a breakdown, there are 63 adult, 23 youth 11v11, 28 youth 9v9, 18 mini 7v7 and five mini 5v5 pitches that are available for community use.
- ◀ Lapsed/disused pitches are identified at the former Northicote School, Wolverhampton United Football Club, City of Wolverhampton College playing fields, the former school St Lukes Junior School playing fields, Goodrich (now Collins) Stafford Road and John Harpers Playing Fields on Hawkswell Drive.
- ◀ Wolverhampton United FC is expected to come back into formal use with NPV FC set to be the main user of the site.
- ◀ The Council and schools are the predominant supplier of football pitches.
- ◀ There are 65 community available pitches assessed as standard quality, with 57 assessed as poor and just 15 assessed as good.
- ◀ Quality of ancillary provision is an issue at sites such as East Park, Fowlers Playing Field, Cottage Ground and Bilston Town Football Club.
- ◀ Through the audit and assessment, 253 teams from within 87 clubs are identified as playing within Wolverhampton, consisting of 86 adult, 147 youth and 20 mini teams.
- ◀ There is a trend of significant growth across Wolverhampton in recent years.
- ◀ There are high levels of imported and exported demand, with a large number of teams playing in neighbouring authorities due to the close proximity of the boundary between Wolverhampton, South Staffordshire, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley.
- ◀ No club reports unmet demand in that it has teams that are unable to play due to a lack of pitch provision.
- ◀ A total of 11 clubs expresses latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitch capacity was available to them.
- ◀ Based on population growth, an increase of five adult and 12 youth teams is projected (to 2039), whilst 11 clubs report aspirations to grow by a combined total of 33 teams.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

In total there are 17 pitches overplayed in Wolverhampton across 10 sites, with overplay equating to 22 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of such provision (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls.

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To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights the current levels of overplay that would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

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 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating ¹	Good quality capacity rating ²
3	Bantock Park	Adult	2	Poor	0.5	3.5
7	Bilbrook Junior Football Club	Adult	1	Standard	2	1
		Adult	1	Poor	3	1
		Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	2	1
9	Bilston Town FC	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
15	Colton Hills Community School	Youth (11v11)	2	Poor	0.5	5.5
33	Heath Town Park	Adult	1	Poor	3	1
34	Highfields School	Adult	1	Poor	6	4
36	Hilton Road Playing Fields	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
112	Wolverhampton United FC	Adult	2	Standard	1.5	0.5
117	WV Active Aldersley	Adult	3	Poor	1.5	4.5

As seen, most overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality improved to good. The only sites that would continue to accommodate some level of overplay are Bilbrook Junior Football Club, Heath Town Park and Highfields School (all other pitches would have some form of spare capacity).

Given the above, some play at Bilbrook Junior Football Club, Heath Town Park and Highfields School could be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity or to an existing or additional 3G pitches. Alternatively, if space and other usage allows, pitch re-configuration at the sites could also be considered.

Overall, only seven match equivalent sessions of overplay would remain across Wolverhampton, compared to 22 match equivalent sessions currently, and this would also only exist on four adult pitches. The impact this would have on the supply and demand balance across the City is shown in the table below, with all shortfalls being alleviated apart from on adult pitches.

¹ Match equivalent sessions

² Match equivalent sessions

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Table 4.2: Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Current actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current total	Potential overplay	Potential total
Adult	17.5	19	1.5	7	12
Youth 11v11	4.5	2	2.5	-	2.5
Youth 9v9	13.5	2	11.5	-	11.5
Mini 7v7	2	-	2	-	2
Mini 5v5	2.5	-	2.5	-	2.5

Given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G for competitive matches, which can not only alleviate overplay of grass pitches but can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use.

Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

As improving the quality of all overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving strategic sites. To that end, the LFFP identifies one site for grass pitch improvements that is in need of investment and that is key for football across Wolverhampton.

The table below identifies what the impact would be on the supply and demand balance of pitches at this site if quality was improved to good.

Table 4.3: Impact of LFFP quality improvements

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Number of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Good capacity rating
107	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	2.5
		Adult	5	Poor	2.5	12.5

Improving quality as set out in the table above would create 11 match equivalent sessions of additional capacity (equating to six match sessions in the peak period). The impact improvements would have on the current supply and demand balance is shown in the table below, with spare capacity created on adult pitch types (other pitch types are unaffected as only adult provision is in place at the site).

Table 4.4: Impact on current supply and demand if quality improved at LFFP sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	1.5	5.5

The impact is similar when factoring in future demand.

Table 4.5: Impact on future supply and demand if quality improved at LFFP sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential total
Adult	3	2

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As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up-to-date PPOSS, it is recommended that the priority list is updated on the back of this study to account for changes in demand since the project was completed. Given that Windsor Avenue Playing Fields has significant quality issues identified in the PPOSS, and given the number of pitches provided, it remains a recommendation to improve the site and it should therefore be retained with the LFFP.

In addition, additions to the LFFP should also be sought given the quality issues and shortfalls evidenced across Wolverhampton. In that regard, the following sites should be considered given the number of pitches supplied and the quality/overplay issues identified:

- ◀ Bantock Park - Two adult pitches
- ◀ Bilbrook Junior Football Club – Three adult pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch
- ◀ Heath Town Park – One adult pitch
- ◀ Highfields School – One adult pitch

The impact of also improving these sites is shown in the table below. Note that at present the LFFP only accounts for one site (Windsor Avenue Playing Field) which accommodates six adult pitches. Inclusion of the above sites would see a reduction of overplay equating to seven match sessions of these sites, improving the City's overall supply vs demand balance.

Table 4.6: Impact of adding pitch improvement sites to the LFFP (adult pitches)

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Existing LFFP total	Potential LFFP total
Adult	5.5	12.5

Table 4.7: Impacting of adding pitch improvement sites to LFFP (youth 9v9 pitches)

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential LFFP total
Youth 9v9	11.5	13.5

Loss of sites without secure tenure

The table below identifies the total amount of demand that would need to be replaced if access was to be lost at all existing sites with unsecure tenure. This amounts to 30 match equivalent sessions of demand.

Table 4.8: Summary of demand at unsecure sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
			Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
15	Colton Hills Community School	Central & South	-	2.5	-	-	-
16	Coppice Performing Arts School	Wednesfield	0.5	0.5	-	-	-
23	East Park Academy	Bilston	-	0.5	-	-	-
34	Highfields School	Tettenhall	7	-	-	-	-
56	Ormiston New Academy	North	4	-	0.5	-	-
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	Bilston	1	-	0.5	-	-
69	Smestow School	Tettenhall	-	1.5	0.5	-	-
81	St Matthias School	Bilston	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
			Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
86	St. Edmund's Catholic Academy	Central & South	1	0.5	0.5	-	-
90	Tettenhall College	Tettenhall	-	0.5	-	-	-
93	The King's CE School	Tettenhall	0.5	0.5	-	-	-
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	Central & South	0.5	-	-	0.5	-
97	The Wolverhampton Grammar School	Tettenhall	0.5	-	0.5	-	-
103	Wednesfield High Academy	Wednesfield	-	1	0.5	1.5	-
104	Wednesfield High School Sports Centre	Wednesfield	0.5	0.5	-	-	-
Total			16	8	3.5	2.5	0

If access to these sites was lost, it would have a significant impact on the overall supply and demand analysis of football pitches across Wolverhampton, as indicated in the table below. Shortfalls would become evident on youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches where they currently do not exist.

Table 4.9: Summary of supply and demand comparison without unsecure sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Current supply and demand					
Adult	17.5	19	1.5	1.5	3
Youth 11v11	4.5	2	2.5	3.5	1
Youth 9v9	13.5	2	11.5	3.5	8
Mini 7v7	2	-	2	1.5	0.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	-	2.5	6.5	4
Supply and demand excluding sites with unsecure tenure					
Adult	17.5	35	17.5	1.5	19
Youth 11v11	4.5	10	5.5	3.5	9
Youth 9v9	13.5	5.5	8	3.5	4.5
Mini 7v7	2	2.5	0.5	1.5	2
Mini 5v5	2.5	-	2.5	6.5	4

Based on this information, it is important to attempt to secure tenure at these sites in order ensure current and future pitch shortfalls are minimised, although it is noted that this may not be possible at all venues. Priority should be placed at sites with the highest demand, or with the most provision.

Whilst not always possible, creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the longer-term. Where there is external investment on sites e.g., by an NGB or Sport England, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. Furthermore, external investment would likely be dependent on security of tenure being provided, with a lack of security of tenure a barrier to securing such funding.

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Providing access to unavailable/unsecure sites

Currently, 66 pitches across 49 sites are unavailable for community use in Wolverhampton. The table below shows the impact if all these pitches were opened to the community through secure usage agreements. Of these 66 pitches, 50 are either standard or good quality and therefore can theoretically contribute to the supply and demand balance. Note that the training ground and stadia of Wolverhampton Wanderers FC are discounted from these figures below due to these being unrealistic to access.

Table 4.10: Impact on current supply and demand by opening unavailable sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	1.5	2.5
Youth 11v11	2.5	12.5
Youth 9v9	11.5	23.5
Mini 7v7	2	10
Mini 5v5	2.5	6.5

As seen in the table above, overplay of adult pitches would be alleviated and additional capacity would be generated on remaining pitch types.

Whilst not always possible, opening sites to the community and creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the longer-term. As mentioned above, where there is external investment on sites e.g., by an NGB or Sport England, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. Note that opening up facilities will add an increase level of demand onto existing provision and this should be monitored to ensure sites have sufficient capacity for both curricular and any level of community demand.

This also applies to new schools or for existing schools seeking changes to provision that requires planning permission as, via planning consent, the Council can seek a community use agreement.

In addition to sites that are unavailable for community use, there are 48.5 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity discounted due to tenure issues, of this 32.5 match equivalent sessions are on pitches which are good or standard quality. Gaining secure access to these would reduce overplay of adult pitch types and create capacity on the remaining pitches.

Table 4.11: Impact on current supply and demand through securing access to unsecure sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	1.5	8.5
Youth 11v11	2.5	8.5
Youth 9v9	11.5	22.5
Mini 7v7	2	6.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	3.5

Shortfalls on adult pitches would remain alleviated in the future, with just shortfalls on mini 5v5 pitch types remaining.

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Table 4.12: Impact on future supply and demand through securing access to unsecure sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential total
Adult	4	6
Youth 11v11	3	3.5
Youth 9v9	11.5	22.5
Mini 7v7	2	6.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	3.5

As it is not deemed possible to gain secured access to all provision, sites that are currently unavailable but that provide a large quantity of pitches should be a priority.

Reintroducing lapsed/disused sites

A total of three sites are disused or lapsed in Wolverhampton. A further two at Northcote School and St Lukes Junior School meet this criterion but are not included in this scenario as compensation for the loss of provision at each site has already been agreed. The three sites, are listed in the table below:

Table 4.13: Lapsed/disused provision

Site name	Lapsed/disused	Pitch type	Number of pitches
John Harpers Playing Field	Lapsed	Adult	1
City of Wolverhampton College Playing Field	Disused	Adult	2
		Youth 9v9	2
Goodrich (now Collins)	Disused	Adult	2

As seen in the table above, reinstating lapsed/disused pitches would provide an additional five adult, and two youth 9v9 pitches. There would no change to the supply of youth 11v11 or mini pitch types (notwithstanding opportunities for reconfiguration).

Table 4.14: Impact on current supply and demand through reinstating lapsed/disused pitches

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	1.5	3.5
Youth 9v9	11.5	13.5

The table above shows that reintroducing lapsed/disused football pitches in Wolverhampton would alleviate current shortfalls on adult pitches and create additional capacity on youth 9v9 pitches.

When considering future demand, the anticipated shortfall would also be alleviated. There would be no change to the position on youth 9v9 pitches.

Table 4.15: Impact on future supply and demand through reinstating lapsed/disused pitches

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential total
Adult	4	1
Youth 9v9	11.5	13.5

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Unmarked pitches

In Wolverhampton there are two sites which could theoretically accommodate an increase in the number of marked pitches that they currently provide, with these previously hosting more provision. Both Bantock Park and Claregate Playing Field could provide one additional adult pitch (or adult pitch equivalent).

Quality of both sites is currently poor and therefore these will not reduce the existing shortfalls identified without quality improvements also taking place (as any spare capacity will be discounted due to the quality issues). Providing one standard/good quality adult pitch on each site would create two additional match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.

Further to the above, there are three sites which do not already accommodate football provision but could do so moving forward. These are:

- ◀ Hickman Park
- ◀ Greenway Playing Fields
- ◀ Woodcross Lane Open Space

None of the sites have changing rooms or parking facilities and to that end would be unsuited to adult football. They may however provide a resource for mini and youth football in the future if needed.

Future demand

In the proceeding Assessment Report, future demand derived from population growth has been considered to determine the future supply and demand of pitches, with club aspirations not included as these are thought to be less likely to be achieved.

However, this scenario considers the impact such aspirations would have if the growth predicted by clubs was to be realised.

Table 4.16: Incorporating future demand expressed by clubs into supply and demand analysis

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week		
	Current future supply/demand balance	Additional future demand (from clubs)	Potential future supply/demand balance
Adult	1.5	1.5	3
Youth 11v11	2.5	3.5	1
Youth 9v9	11.5	3.5	8
Mini 7v7	2	1.5	0.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	6.5	4

If clubs' future demand aspirations are realised, there will be an increased level of shortfalls on adult pitch types and new shortfalls on youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches. Capacity on youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches would also be reduced.

When compared to growth derived from team generation rates (population changes), both forecasts predict shortfalls on adult and youth 11v11 pitches. Only club aspirations forecast shortfalls on mini 5v5 pitches. In both sets of data there is a sufficient supply of youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches.

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Providing changing rooms

As there is a shortfall of adult pitches on both now and in the future, it is important to distinguish what opportunities are available for this pitch type to resolve capacity issues, outside of pitch improvements. For adult football, in most league competitions, there is a requirement that changing rooms are provided for home vs away teams. There are several key sites with adult pitches in Wolverhampton which do not provide such provision and are these are unable to be used for competitive adult football. This scenario explores what benefits would be created through the development of changing rooms.

The sites fitting this criterion are:

- ◀ Bee Lane Playing Field (one adult pitch)
- ◀ Dixon Street Playing Fields (one adult pitch)
- ◀ Heath Town Park (one adult pitch)
- ◀ Northwood Park (two adult pitches)
- ◀ Springvale Park (one adult pitch)
- ◀ Tettenhall Upper Green (one adult pitch)

Providing changing rooms at all of these sites would create an additional seven match sessions of theoretical capacity. The overall impact of this can be seen in the table below.

Table 4.17: Impact of providing new changing rooms on adult pitches

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	1.5	5.5

Providing changing rooms at these sites provides the same benefit as pitch improvements on adult pitches (as identified in Table 4.2, Table 4.3 and Table 4.4).

On this basis, its not recommended that any available capital resource is spent on the development of changing rooms (when the similar results can be gathered through pitch improvements). However, where there are wider opportunities to develop provision, at larger sites, where higher usage outcomes can be ascertained i.e. at Northwood Park then this could be considered.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches, including lapsed and disused provision, until all demand is being met (unless replacement provision meets Sport England requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes (taking account of any short term disruption in maintenance due to Covid-19) to ensure they are of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Use the LFFP as a guide to determine suitable sites for grass pitch investment and update the priority projects within it following this study.
- ◀ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Consider pitch re-configuration where capacity of one pitch type can be used to reduce shortfalls of another, and where it can better accommodate what demand is received.
- ◀ Consider creation of additional pitches at sites where the space allows and if the demand exists.

- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity (or 3G provision), or to sites which are not currently available for community use, including sites which are currently disused/lapsed subject to the feasibility of reinstating provision at each site.
- ◀ Work to accommodate exported, latent and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Look to secure tenure for those clubs accessing unsecure sites. The key sites for this are Colton Hills Community School, Highfields School, Ormiston New Academy and Ormiston SWB Academy.
- ◀ Seek to gain access to sites not currently available for community use, particularly where a large quantity of pitches is provided, such as Aldersley High School.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.

4.2: Third Generation turf (3G) pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Priority should be placed on the creation of new 3G pitches to meet the identified shortfalls for football training demand.**
- ◀ **Meeting the 3G pitch shortfall for training will also help alleviate grass pitch shortfalls and quality issues, providing that the transfer of play is pursued as and when more pitches are established.**
- ◀ **In addition, it is important to sustain the current pitch stock to ensure that the existing shortfalls are not exacerbated.**
- ◀ There are four full size 3G pitches in Wolverhampton, of which all are floodlit.
- ◀ Two are available to the community at City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy and two are not at Heath Park School and Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground.
- ◀ There are also eight smaller sized 3G pitches across six sites, all of which are floodlit and available for community use apart from a pitch at Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton, which is neither.
- ◀ Bilston Town FC and Highfields School both have aspirations to develop 3G pitches, whilst Wolverhampton Olympic FC has plans to convert a disused tennis court into a smaller sized 3G AGP.
- ◀ The full size 3G pitches at City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic School are currently FIFA/FA approved and can therefore host competitive matches, as is the smaller sized pitch at The Way Youth Zone.
- ◀ The full-size pitch at Heath Park Academy is not accredited and though it is good quality it will not be available for competitive match play unless it undergoes accreditation. This is the same for the pitch at the Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground.

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- ◀ None of the pitches are World Rugby compliant, although there is no current known use for this purpose in the City.
- ◀ The pitch at the City of Wolverhampton College is at the end of its lifespan, as are the smaller sized pitches Coppice Performing Arts School and Ormiston NEW Academy will also require resurfacing.
- ◀ All remaining pitches are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ The existing 3G provision is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, with all current community activity being football-based.
- ◀ With 253 football teams currently playing in Wolverhampton, there is a calculated shortfall of 3.2 full size 3G pitches to meet training needs.
- ◀ When accounting for future demand for an additional 50 teams (based on population increases and latent/future demand expressed by clubs), the shortfall increases to 4.5 pitches.
- ◀ There are currently 43 football teams using the 3G pitch stock for matches; whilst the number needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training, maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.
- ◀ No demand has been identified from other sports for access to 3G provision.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

As evidenced in the preceding Assessment Report, in order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for 6.25 full size 3G pitches, meaning a current shortfall of 3.5. How this is split on an analysis area basis can be seen in the table below.

Table 4.18: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement ³	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Bilston	57	1.5	1	0.5
Central & South	38	1	0	1
North	66	1.75	1.25	0.5
Tettenhall	45	1	0.25	0.75
Wednesfield	45	1	0.25	0.75
Wolverhampton	251	6.25	2.75	3.5

Potential site options to alleviate this shortfall are identified in the table below. Note this table is a starting point for discussion and should be updated as part of the Stage E process.

Analysis area	Current shortfall	Site ID	Site name
Bilston	0.5	9	Bilston Town FC (Stadia Pitch)
		23	East Park Academy
		81	St Matthias School
Central & South	1	15	Colton Hills Community School
		77	St Judes C of E Academy
		86	St Edmunds Catholic Academy
North	0.5	1	Aldersley High School
		7	Bilbrook Junior Football Club

³ Rounded to the nearest 0.25

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Analysis area	Current shortfall	Site ID	Site name
Tettenhall	0.75	49	Moreton School
		56	Ormiston New Academy
		34	Highfields High School
		62	Penn Fields School
		69	Smestow School
Wednesfield	0.75	103	Wednesfield High Academy
		112	Wolverhampton United FC

After factoring in future demand (defined through population increases), the overall shortfall increases to 4.5 full size pitches, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.19: Future demand for 3G pitches in Wolverhampton for affiliated football team training

Analysis area	Future number of teams	3G requirement ⁴	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
Bilston	60	1.5	1	0.5
Central & South	41	1	0	1
North	70	2	1.25	0.75
Tettenhall	48	1.5	0.25	1.25
Wednesfield	48	1.5	0.25	1.25
Wolverhampton	267	7.5	2.75	4.5

As seen, all analysis areas have a current and future shortfall. They should all therefore be the focus for providing new provision, with a focus on those with a shortfall of at least one full pitch (Central & South, Tettenhall and Wednesfield analysis areas).

Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

The LFFP for Wolverhampton identifies one full size 3G pitch project for Highfield School which is in the Tettenhall Analysis Area. This is for the creation of one full size pitch and should continue to be pursued given the shortfall identified.

Notwithstanding the above, the table below shows that the LFFP requires review based on the PPOSS findings. This is because a shortfall will remain in all areas, even if the pitch at Highfield School is delivered.

Table 4.20: Impact of delivering current LFFP 3G projects (based on future demand requirement)

Analysis area	Potential 3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall	No. of proposed pitches	Shortfall if delivered
Bilston	1.5	1	0.5	-	0.5
Central & South	1	0	1	-	1
North	2	1.25	0.75	-	0.75
Tettenhall	1.5	0.25	1.25	1	0.25
Wednesfield	1.5	0.25	1.25	-	1.25
Wolverhampton	7.5	2.75	4.5	1	3.75

⁴ Rounded to the nearest 0.25

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Moving council match play demand to 3G pitches

To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on Council pitches be transferred. The following table therefore calculates the number of teams currently using council facilities in Wolverhampton for each pitch type.

Table 4.21: Number of teams currently using council pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	33
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	13
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	4
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	1
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	1
Total			52

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of full size 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.22: 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No. of teams at peak time	No. of matches at peak time	3G units required per match	Total 3G units required	3G pitches required
Adult	33	16.5	32	588	8.25
11v11	13	6.5	32	208	3.25
9v9	4	2	10	20	0.31
7v7	1	0.5	8	4	0.06
5v5	1	0.5	4	2	0.03

A total of 12 (rounded up from 11.90) 3G pitches would be required to accommodate all matches currently played on council pitches. As there are currently only 2.75 full-size 3G pitches provided, this represents a significant shortfall.

As a considerable shortfall would also remain even if 3G training shortfalls were alleviated, it is not thought to be feasible to accommodate all demand from council pitches on the 3G provision.

This is because creating more 3G pitches than are required to meet training demand would result in stock that is unsustainable (as midweek usage would not be sufficient for the pitches to be economically viable). It would also be unrealistic for a local authority to manage such an increase in specialist provision.

An alternative to utilising 3G pitches for the transfer of demand from grass council pitches is the transfer of particular formats of play.

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Moving formats of play demand to 3G pitches

The FA is particularly keen on enabling 3G match usage for mini teams given the high volume of matches that can be played at one time. The table below therefore tests a scenario to permit all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches within Wolverhampton based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

Table 4.23: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

Based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for six full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 21 teams playing mini 5v5 football requiring three pitches (rounded up from 2.65) and 34 teams playing mini 7v7 football requiring three pitches (rounded up from 2.83). It is therefore not considered feasible that all mini football could be accommodated on the existing 3G stock at this time, although it could if the requirement for training demand is met.

The table below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football.

Table 4.24: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – Noon	2 x 9v9	2/4
Noon – 2pm	2 x 9v9	2/4
2pm – 4pm	2 x 9v9	2/4

Three full size pitches would be required to accommodate all existing youth 9v9 demand. This could therefore also be met if the requirement for training demand is met and it is not far from being met on the current stock.

There is also a possibility that, if all youth 9v9 football was moved to a Saturday (or all mini demand), all three formats could transfer to 3G provision. Six full size pitches would be required to enable this. It is noted that it would be unrealistic for most councils to fund provision to meet this level of shortfall solely

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

World Rugby produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union.

The RFU investment strategy for AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments.

There is no World Rugby compliant 3G provision within Wolverhampton, meaning none of the existing 3G pitches can be used to accommodate contact rugby training activity and match play.

Shortfalls at Wolverhampton RUFC are not significant enough to warrant a compliant 3G pitch, with existing shortfalls able to be eradicated through other solutions. Therefore, the future delivery of a pitch should not be a priority for the RFU.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ To alleviate identified competitive and training demand shortfalls, look to create additional 3G provision in all analysis areas.
- ◀ Carry out feasibility work on suggested site options for providing new 3G pitches with the relevant County FA's and the Football Foundation as well as Sport England and other relevant NGBs.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches.
- ◀ Ensure that all other full size and larger smaller sized pitches remain on the FA register are re-tested when required to sustain certification.
- ◀ Ensure all current and future providers have in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions and quality performance standards.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are priced competitively against the cost of hiring grass pitches and are aimed at local grassroots clubs.

4.3: Cricket pitches

Assessment report summary

- ◀ **There is both a current and future shortfall of provision to accommodate Saturday cricket.**
- ◀ **Overall spare capacity exists in relation to Sunday and midweek cricket, although shortfalls exist at the sites included that are outside of Wolverhampton.**
- ◀ In total, there are 13 grass cricket squares in Wolverhampton, with 11 available for community use (unavailable provision is located at Wolverhampton Grammar School).
- ◀ In addition, squares outside of Wolverhampton at Old Wulfrunians Sports & Social Club, Springhill Cricket Club and Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club are included due to their close proximity to the Wolverhampton boundary.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at five sites and there are standalone NTPs at 15.
- ◀ All clubs have secure tenure arrangements.
- ◀ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares identifies five as good quality, seven as standard quality and one as poor quality (at Claregate Park).
- ◀ Springvale CC previously had an aspiration to expand its social space and its changing rooms, the Club has been playing home matches at Elford and Penn CC whilst its home venue was being renovated. New changing rooms and club house were completed in 2022.
- ◀ Whilst the provision servicing Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC requires modernisation.
- ◀ Four clubs report a demand for new, improved, or additional training facilities (Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton, Fordhouses and Springhill cricket clubs).
- ◀ There are eight clubs in Wolverhampton which collectively provide 29 senior men's, three senior women's and 29 junior teams (including Old Wulfrunians, Springhill and Wightwick & Finchfield cricket clubs).

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- ◀ Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton and Springhill cricket clubs report that demand has increased over the previous three years, whilst Fordhouses CC reports a decline in senior participation.
- ◀ Similarly, Wightwick & Finchfield has also seen a decline of one senior and two junior teams due to the impacts of Covid. Though it feels it can recover these teams in the 2022 season.
- ◀ Fordhouses, Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall, Wightwick & Finchfield and Wolverhampton cricket clubs in Wolverhampton form part of the All-Stars initiative, whilst three clubs (Wolverhampton, Fordhouses and Springhill cricket clubs) are running Dynamo's sessions.
- ◀ One club takes part in women's softball activities (Wolverhampton CC).
- ◀ In addition to affiliated activity, Chance to Shine Street activity and Last Mans Stands operate weekly sessions in Wolverhampton.
- ◀ Future demand for one senior men's and one junior teams is predicted via population growth, whilst six clubs indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation, equating to five senior men's, two senior women's and seven junior teams.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time. In Wolverhampton, overplay is identified at Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club, Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club and Springhill Cricket Club, with all three squares assessed as standard quality.

Improving the quality of the square at Old Wulfrunians CC from standard quality to good quality would alleviate all overplay and create spare capacity equating to eight match equivalent sessions per season.

In contrast, overplay at Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club and Springhill Cricket Club would remain, albeit reduced. Improving the quality of the square at Wightwick & Finchfield CC would reduce overplay from 28 match sessions a season to 16 match sessions per season, whilst the same approach at Springhill CC would reduce overplay from 12 match sessions to four.

Neither Wightwick & Finchfield and Springhill cricket clubs currently have an NTP installed. As such, installing one on these sites at each site would enable the transfer of demand from the grass wickets, particularly for junior teams. It could therefore further relive any capacity issues.

Accommodating future demand

Junior demand

Of the six clubs that express aspirations to increase their number of junior teams, five (Fordhouses CC, Penn CC, Springvale CC, Whitmore Reans CC and Wolverhampton CC) have capacity to do so on their current facility stock. However, Springhill CC is unable to accommodate an increase in demand at its home venue, although the installation of an NTP, as referenced above, would allow for the growth to be suitably accommodated.

Senior demand

Five clubs indicate a desire to field additional senior teams (playing either Saturday or Sunday) and of these, only Wolverhampton CC has theoretical capacity to do so on their current facility stock.

Fordhouses CC, Penn CC, Springvale CC and Whitmore Reans CC can accommodate an increase of senior demand outside of peak time, on Sundays, but not on Saturdays without needing to access an alternative site. Quality improvements would not provide a capacity benefit for accommodating this demand, with an increase in Saturday cricket being a programming issue, rather than a capacity issue.

For clubs which aspire to develop further Saturday cricket teams, the feasibility of using the recently installed NTPs at Council sites should be considered by all relevant partners, although this would be subject to the level of play and league rules. If grass wickets are required, new provision may be needed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Improve quality at sites assessed as standard and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good. Improvements would theoretically solve overplay issues at Old Wulfrunians CC.
- ◀ Address overplay via quality improvements, an increase in NTPs accompanying grass wickets and increased utilisation of existing NTPs.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future senior demand through partnership engagement around Council owned NTPs throughout the City.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place, such as for Wolverhampton CC at Tettenhall College.
- ◀ Improve the changing facilities where there is a need to do so. Currently, Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC requires modernisation.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities.
- ◀ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g., through ball-strike issues).
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning (i.e., via a sports needs assessment/feasibility study/assessment of need) on an individual basis.
- ◀ Consider pooling S106 receipts to strategically provide new provision to meet future theoretical shortfalls for Saturday peak time cricket.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.

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4.4: Rugby union - grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Overplay of 4.5 match equivalent sessions is identified at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, although one pitch has actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.**
- ◀ **For the five school sites located within Wolverhampton, whilst no demand exists, they are not considered to provide any actual spare capacity due to poor quality.**
- ◀ **The site also has actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions, caused by one of the senior pitches being used for first team fixtures only.**
- ◀ **Wolverhampton Rugby Club has a current shortfall of three match equivalent sessions per week, largely down to midweek training pressures.**
- ◀ **When factoring in future demand, the shortfall increases to six match equivalent sessions.**
- ◀ There are four school sites containing a total of three senior pitches and one junior rugby pitch within Wolverhampton, all of which, are available for community use.
- ◀ Each of the five pitches within Wolverhampton across as many sites have been assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Wolverhampton RUFC has security of tenure outside of the City, through freehold ownership of its site.
- ◀ The site consists of three senior, two junior and two mini pitches.
- ◀ No affiliated rugby union demand is located in Wolverhampton.
- ◀ Wolverhampton RUFC are based just over the border, in South Staffordshire, but are considered to be a Wolverhampton club.
- ◀ In total, Wolverhampton RUFC field three senior men's, one senior women's, seven junior boys', and six mini teams.
- ◀ The Club trains on its dedicated training area, as well as on two of its senior pitches that are floodlit.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by Wolverhampton RUFC for a fourth senior men's team as well as a junior girls' team.
- ◀ Team generation rates forecast the growth of an additional junior boys' team.

Scenarios

Improving pitch maintenance and drainage

Maintenance and drainage solutions are an integral method in improving pitch quality at rugby union sites, ensuring that pitches can accommodate demand through the season. Currently, there are two overplayed pitches at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, equating to 4.5 match equivalent sessions of overplay per week.

The table below looks at what capacity benefits would be seen if maintenance at the site was undertaken to an M2 specification and pipe drainage (D2) was installed on each overplayed pitch.

Table 4.25: Improving drainage on overplayed rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Improved quality	New capacity rating
157	Wolverhampton Rugby Club	1	M1/D1	2	M2/D2	0.75
		1	M1/D1	2.5	M2/D2	1.25

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Improving the baseline maintenance regime and improving the onsite drainage package on the two senior pitches would leave overplay remaining on site equating to two match equivalent sessions per week.

An improved drainage offer to D3 on both pitches would further reduce overplay by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, although a total of 1.5 match equivalent session would remain. As such, all overplay cannot be alleviated through quality improvements alone.

Increased levels of floodlighting

Wolverhampton Rugby Club has one senior and two junior pitches on site with capacity for further use. Providing floodlighting on some of this provision would enable training demand to be spread across more areas, which, in collaboration with quality improvements, would fully alleviate overplay. There are 2.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity across the three pitches, with overplay able to be reduced to 1.5 match equivalent sessions via quality improvements.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect the pitches at Wolverhampton Rugby Club.
- ◀ Continue to develop strong relationships between Wolverhampton Rugby Club and local schools and protect the school-based pitches for this purpose and to meet curricular and extra-curricular demand.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, foremostly through improved maintenance and drainage at Wolverhampton Rugby Club.
- ◀ Work to increase the overall supply of floodlighting at Wolverhampton Rugby Club to reduce concentrated midweek training demand pressures.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby union provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby union provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.

4.5: Rugby league – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **As no demand has been identified within Wolverhampton, there is no need at this time for any provision to be established.**
- ◀ **Focus should be placed on ensuring that any demand that does exist can be accommodated within clubs outside of Wolverhampton.**
- ◀ **Should any aspirations come forward in the future for the reformation of Wolverhampton RLFC (or an alternative club), this may need to be revisited.**
- ◀ There are no rugby league pitches in Wolverhampton.
- ◀ The closest provision is provided in Bromsgrove.
- ◀ No current demand has been identified for rugby league in Wolverhampton.
- ◀ The area was formerly home to Wolverhampton RLFC; however, this club has recently folded.

- ◀ Locally, Telford Raiders RLFC has been awarded a grant of £6,314 to contribute towards kit and equipment to create new junior teams, with Wolverhampton being one focus area.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure any current and future demand within Wolverhampton can be sufficiently accommodated at rugby league clubs in neighbouring authorities.

4.6: Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Current supply of AGPs within Wolverhampton can accommodate the existing demand for hockey within the City.**
- ◀ **There is a need for all of the existing pitches to be protected for hockey in Wolverhampton.**
- ◀ There are five full size hockey suitable AGP's in Wolverhampton, provided at Ormiston SWB Academy, The Royal Wolverhampton School, Wolverhampton Grammar School and WV Active Aldersley (x2).
- ◀ All five pitches are floodlit and available to the community.
- ◀ There is one smaller size pitches, at Colton Hills Community School which is not large enough to accommodate some form of hockey demand.
- ◀ All pitches are good or standard quality.
- ◀ There are four affiliated hockey clubs identified as playing within Wolverhampton (Dudley Ladies, Wolverhampton, Finchfield and Old Wulfrunians hockey clubs).
- ◀ These four hockey clubs provide 24 teams, consisting of 16 senior men's, six senior women's and two junior teams.
- ◀ Dudley Ladies HC previously accessed The Dell Stadium, in Dudley, before its conversion to 3G in 2016 (imported demand).
- ◀ All clubs express future demand, although this is not quantified.
- ◀ Walking Hockey takes place at WV Active Aldersley
- ◀ A large proportion of usage for the hockey suitable AGP's in Wolverhampton is from other activities, most notably in terms of football, whether that be through formal training or via informal social use.

Scenarios

Requirement for hockey suitable AGPs

There is a need for all the existing pitches to be protected for hockey in Wolverhampton. This is evidenced through existing competitive play as well as unquantified latent and future demand from clubs that may need to maximise use to existing provision, including access to the currently unused pitch at WV Aldersley.

If a pitch was to be lost, or become unusable, a replacement facility would be required to ensure there is no displacement of Wolverhampton based clubs to neighbouring authorities, where there is already established shortfalls.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect all sand-based AGPs for continue hockey use.
- ◀ Ensure all hockey suitable AGPs have a sinking fund in place for their eventual refurbishment.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for clubs.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site hockey provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site hockey provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

4.7: Tennis courts

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **No club sites have known capacity issues.**
- ◀ **As no non-club courts are identified as having any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites hosting multiple courts.**
- ◀ There are 125 tennis courts identified in Wolverhampton across 28 sites. Of the courts, 74 are categorised as being available for community use at 17 sites compared to 51 that are unavailable at 12 sites.
- ◀ Most courts are operated by schools, although only 34% of these are available for community use.
- ◀ The majority of courts have a macadam surface, with 106 being of this type.
- ◀ Of the courts, 51 are assessed as good quality, 51 as standard quality and 26 as poor quality.
- ◀ There are six tennis clubs in Wolverhampton, with Wolverhampton TC being a particularly large club.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by three clubs and amounts to 230 additional members (170 senior and 60 junior).
- ◀ Clubspark is utilised at numerous sites in Wolverhampton, although not at any sites operated by the Council

Scenarios

Accommodating current and future demand

No clubs in Wolverhampton are currently known to be facing any capacity issues. As such, there is no requirement for any increased or enhanced provision.

Increasing participation

The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities to grow the use of park tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access and can be used individually or in combination. The products are used to provide a remote booking and access system.

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Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing their courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of a fob system following payment of a small yearly fee. Not only does this deter unofficial use of courts but it also allows official use to be tracked, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed. In addition, it provides income generation that can go towards ongoing maintenance of the courts.

The LTA and Government have also in 2021 announced a £30 million package to refurbish more than 4,500 public tennis courts in poor or unplayable condition at more than 1,500 venues in the most deprived parts of the UK⁵.

The LTA has identified Wolverhampton Cricket Club, WV Active Aldersley, Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club, Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club and Woodfield Social & Sports Club as key sites across Wolverhampton for the development of informal tennis. In order to facilitate this demand, it is likely that floodlights would have to be provided, where not already the case, in addition to quality improvements and the potential provision or improvement of supporting ancillary facilities.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs or that are (or could be) well used for recreational demand.
- ◀ Linked to the above, improve park courts as a priority to create a year-round recreational tennis option to meet local demand.
- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark) to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision at club sites, where it is required.

4.8: Netball courts

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **The supply of netball courts in Wolverhampton is considered to be sufficient to meet demand.**
- ◀ **Priority should be placed on protecting the provision at WV Active Aldersley for continued and long-term netball use.**
- ◀ **There also remains a need to ensure programmes provided by England Netball have suitable provision from which to be run and that curricular and extra-curricular needs are being met.**
- ◀ There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across Wolverhampton, with 69 identified across 19 sites; however, only 35 courts at 10 sites are available for community use.
- ◀ All but seven outdoor netball courts in Wolverhampton are operated by a school (the remaining courts are operated by the Council at WV Active Aldersley and by a club Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club).
- ◀ Most outdoor netball courts have a macadam surface, with 68 being of this type (the remaining one court has an artificial surface).

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-package-to-refurbish-4500-public-tennis-courts-in-deprived-parts-of-uk-announced>

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- ◀ A total of 63 netball courts are over marked, with the only standalone courts provided at Pine Green Academy and Tettenhall College.
- ◀ Only 29 of the courts are serviced by floodlighting, although this represents a high percentage than the national rate.
- ◀ 20 courts are assessed as good quality, 48 as standard quality and three as poor quality; of the community available courts, 15 are rated as good quality, with 20 being standard and none being poor.
- ◀ The Wolverhampton Netball League uses WV Active Aldersley as a central venue for all matches.
- ◀ The Club currently caters for 52 teams within five divisions.
- ◀ Back to Netball sessions have been run, mainly at WV Active Aldersley.
- ◀ No other initiatives are identified within the City.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect quantity of courts.
- ◀ Ensure continued use of WV Active Aldersley by the Wolverhampton City Netball League and ensure that quality is sustained.
- ◀ Seek to improve poor quality courts across Wolverhampton.
- ◀ Explore options to increase floodlighting.
- ◀ Open discussions with sites providing a large number of courts to determine whether provision could be opened for community use.
- ◀ Look to continue and expand the use of courts for England Netball initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball.
- ◀ Facilitate improved engagement between England Netball and schools.

4.9: Bowling greens

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **No clubs are operating below the level of membership required to ensure sustainability.**
- ◀ **Express & Star, Pavilion CES and Penn Bowls club are all operating above the recommended capacity threshold; however, none of these report any capacity issues.**
- ◀ There are 21 crown green bowls greens in Wolverhampton provided across 18 sites.
- ◀ There are four disused green, provided at Newhampton Inn Bowling Club, Oaklands BC, Goodrich (now Collins) Aerospace and Chubb BC and there are three lapsed greens at Rolls Royce Sports Ground, The Summer House and Severn Trent.
- ◀ Of clubs which responded to consultation requests, three own their greens, two have lease arrangements in place and three rent their greens.
- ◀ Overall, 18 greens are assessed as good quality, two as standard quality and one as poor quality.
- ◀ Ashmore Park is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.
- ◀ 13 greens are serviced by floodlighting, which is a comparably high number.
- ◀ There are 18 clubs using bowling greens in Wolverhampton.
- ◀ Where membership is known, across nine clubs, there are a total of 718 members.
- ◀ The average membership across the responsive clubs is 56.

- ◀ Despite a national trend of declining membership, only four of the clubs that responded to consultation report that membership has decreased in recent years, although a number of clubs have also folded.
- ◀ Due to a predicted increase in persons aged 65 and over (to 2039), demand is likely to increase for greens over the coming years.
- ◀ Only Express & Star, Ashmore Park and Wednesfield Conservative bowls clubs report future demand to increase membership, with this collectively equating to 17 senior and 14 junior members.
- ◀ All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision and that no potential members are being turned away, suggesting that there is no latent or unmet demand.

Scenarios

Accommodating demand

Express & Star, Pavilion CES and Penn bowls clubs are all currently operating above the recommended capacity threshold. Whilst none of these clubs report any capacity issues, demand requires monitoring to ensure that this remains the case.

Unused provision

With four unused greens and with no clubs requiring additional access, consideration could be given to repurposing or developing those that are not needed. Alternatively, they could be held as strategic reserve should there be any growth in demand or the formation of new clubs.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of in use greens and, as a minimum, sustain quality.
- ◀ Ensure demand from Express & Star, Pavilion CES and Penn bowls clubs can continue to be accommodated.
- ◀ Assist clubs, where possible, with any future ancillary provision improvements
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.
- ◀ Ensure that any potential development of greens considered as disused/lapsed are mitigated in line with planning policy.

4.10: Cycling tracks

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Wolverhampton features a high demand for cycling as evidenced by the several dedicated clubs across the area.**
- ◀ **Sites such as WV Active Aldersley and the two cycle speedway tracks should continue to be well maintained to ensure the area continues to be serviced by good quality facilities.**
- ◀ Wolverhampton is serviced by several cycling facilities across the area.
- ◀ There are two cycle speedway tracks located at East Park and Ashmore Park.
- ◀ WV Active Aldersley features an asphalt track with a 22.5° banking
- ◀ Finally, Wolverhampton is also serviced by pump tracks at BilstonPump Park and Hilton Road Playing Fields.
- ◀ There are several local clubs which offer opportunities for recreational and competitive cyclists across the City, with membership relatively high. Clubs such as Wednesfield

Aces, Wolverhampton Wheelers, Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club and East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club all represent cycling clubs across Wolverhampton.

- ◀ HSBC Go-Ride is being implemented in Wolverhampton via East Park Wolves CSC, Wednesfield Aces CSC and the Wolverhampton Wheelers as well as School-based delivery.
- ◀ Finally, Let us play cycling sessions are delivered to people with disabilities aged 5 to 19 at WV Active Aldersley.

Scenarios

British Cycling Recommendations

The British Cycling 2022 Commonwealth Games Needs Assessment provides a recommendation to investigate options for covering the tracks at Halesowen and Aldersley Velodromes with a simple canopy structure to reduce the impact of bad weather on track conditions and help extend track usage and capacity to meet the competition and training. In relation to Wolverhampton, this is specific to the WV Aldersley

Recommendations

- ◀ Look to continue and expand British Cycling programmes such as HSBC UK Go-Ride and HSBC UK Breeze.
- ◀ Ensure any current and future demand for dedicated facilities within Wolverhampton can be sufficiently accommodated at WV Active Aldersley, the two-cycle speedway track or similar sites or alternatively in neighbouring authorities.

4.11: Athletics tracks

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **The supply of dedicated athletics facilities is sufficient to meet demand.**
- ◀ **Priority should be placed on supporting activity being accommodated by the various running clubs in Wolverhampton and the events that are being held.**
- ◀ There are two purpose-built athletics tracks, a 400-metre track WV Active Aldersley and a 200-metre track at The King's Church of England School.
- ◀ The track at WV Active Aldersley is floodlit and available for community use; the track at The King's Church of England School is neither.
- ◀ Both facilities are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ Four clubs as well as a few programmes have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity in Wolverhampton with only Wolverhampton and BilstonAthletics Club having a requirement for a purpose-built facility.
- ◀ Wolverhampton and BilstonAthletics Club has a waiting list in place for some sessions, although this is due to a lack of coaches rather than a lack of facilities.
- ◀ Park Run is held each week at West Park and East Park, with a junior Park Run held at Wednesfield Park.
- ◀ Annual events in Wolverhampton include the Wolverhampton Half Marathon & 10K.
- ◀ Heathfield Park Runners forms part of the Run Together initiative.
- ◀ Most clubs express an aspiration to grow membership, whilst England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Park Run.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure the track and supporting facilities at the WV Active Aldersley and at The King's Church of England School are retained and remain in adequate condition.
- ◀ Work to secure community access to the facility at The Kings School as a potential secondary offer for the region, particularly for recreational demand or a facility providing a safe option for youth activity.
- ◀ Support clubs, running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Park Run and pursue increased participation, where possible.
- ◀ Continue to increase participation both within affiliated clubs and the wider running market, signposting potential club members from the likes of Parkrun events and other health initiatives.

4.12: Golf courses

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Supply of golf provision in Wolverhampton is relatively high and well varied.**
- ◀ **Demand is also seemingly high, with most of the sites operating at a demand level that is closely aligned to the national average.**
- ◀ **With significant latent demand also identified, emphasis should be placed on protecting the facilities that are provided and to maximise usage across the sites to ensure continued sustainability.**
- ◀ There are currently seven golf sites servicing Wolverhampton (including four facilities outside of the City, close to the boundary).
- ◀ Five provide a standard 18-hole courses one provides a nine hole course and whilst 3 Hammers provides an 18-hole Par 3 course.
- ◀ There are dedicated driving ranges within Wolverhampton at South Staffordshire, Wergs and Perton Park golf clubs as well as 3 Hammers.
- ◀ Oxley Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club, Wergs Golf Club, Perton Park Golf Club and Penn Golf Club are members clubs and a proprietary course exists in the form of 3 Hammers (there are no municipal courses provided).
- ◀ Oxley Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club, Perton Golf Club and Penn Golf Club operate above the national average membership pricing figure, whilst Wergs Golf Club operates slightly below it.
- ◀ In terms of quality, it is good across Wolverhampton with no significant issues identified at any of the sites.
- ◀ Pay and play is likely highest at 3 Hammers due to the nature of the provision.
- ◀ England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally by 3.85%, which would represent an increase of members across the clubs, although relatively minimal.
- ◀ England Golf's mapping tool identifies a significant amount of potential demand, with Oxley Park Golf Club shown to have a particularly high population base.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain all existing golf provision unless separate needs assessments are completed that evidence that a facility can be lost or reduced without it impacting upon demand.
- ◀ Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.

4.13: Water sports

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Despite not having a large outdoor water sports facility like that provided elsewhere within the Black County, Wolverhampton still features three clubs each participating in different outdoor water sports.**
- ◀ **Continued access to the canals in Wolverhampton should be ensured.**
- ◀ Staffordshire and Worcester Canal provides facilities that are compatible with a number of water sports and other water-related activities.
- ◀ Scuba diving also takes place in a location bordering the City; however, this utilises indoor provision.
- ◀ Wolverhampton Canoe Club utilises Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, a canal running through Wolverhampton, for its sessions.
- ◀ Wolverhampton Boat Club utilise the Shropshire Union Canal for their three times a week boating sessions.
- ◀ Chillington Divers partake in scuba diving and snorkelling sessions within Codsall Leisure Centre in South Staffordshire.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure existing provision is retained and supporting facilities remain of sufficient quality.
- ◀ Support clubs to maximise demand and fully utilise the unique facilities offered.

4.14: Other grass pitch sports

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **There are no existing American football facilities within Wolverhampton and with no demand existing it should not be seen as a priority.**
- ◀ **The baseball provision at Colton Hills High School requires protection, with an agreement required to secure use for Wolverhampton Baseball Club.**
- ◀ **St Marys Gaelic Football Club aspires to develop a dedicated home venue. It is current based at Aldersley High School. Provision at the site is undersized for competitive play.**
- ◀ There are no dedicated American football pitches within Wolverhampton.
- ◀ There is one baseball/softball diamond in Wolverhampton, located at Colton Hills (Academy).

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- ◀ There are no dedicated Gaelic football pitches provided in the City, with St Mary's Gaelic Football Club utilising an overmarked football pitch at Aldersley High School which is undersized.
- ◀ There is no current American football demand within Wolverhampton following the disbandment of Wolverhampton Outlaws a number of years ago.
- ◀ Wolverhampton Baseball Club uses Colton Hills High School, whereas the site is also used by Stourbridge Titans Baseball Club (imported demand).
- ◀ St Mary's Gaelic Football Club fields a senior men's team and a small junior section, utilising Aldersley High School.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Support aspirations from St Marys Gaelic Football Club for a dedicated home venue with sufficient provision to be established. In the interim, support the Club with ensuring the facility stock at Aldersley High School is sufficient for competitive need.
- ◀ Ensure baseball/softball demand can continue to be accommodated at Colton Hills High School.
- ◀ Support any new increases in sports which are not currently played in the City or ensure demand can be appropriately catered for in neighbouring authorities.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across playing pitch facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders. NPPF paragraph 99 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ 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; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

The PPOSS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field used within the last five years and will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy. Sport England will oppose the loss of playing field unless it complies with one of more of the following policy exceptions:

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Policy Exception E1:

'A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport'.

Where the PPS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

Policy Exception E2

'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use'.

Policy Exception E3

The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- ◀ Reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- ◀ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
- ◀ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality;
- ◀ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- ◀ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site'.

Policy Exception E4:

'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

- ◀ of equivalent or better quality and
- ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity;
- ◀ in a suitable location and;
- ◀ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

Policy Exception E5

'The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field'.

Lapsed and disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. Any disused/lapsed playing fields are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger and better venues (hub sites). It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost.

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Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.

A number of education sites are being used in the City for competitive play, predominately for football. The following schools are already used for community use at varying levels but have no secure community usage:

- ◀ Ormiston NEW Academy
- ◀ City of Wolverhampton College
- ◀ Colton Hills Community School
- ◀ Highfields School
- ◀ Oak Meadow Primary School
- ◀ Ormiston SWB Academy
- ◀ Smestow School
- ◀ St Edmunds Catholic Academy
- ◀ St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy
- ◀ Wednesfield High Academy

Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time. Securing community use at such as will help to create additional pitch capacity and could help to address deficiencies as demonstrated within the Football Scenarios.

Further partnership working with NGBs should be carried out to encourage schools to put in place community use agreements including access to changing provision where required.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as the Active Black Country and the Football Foundation can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of any agreement.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced significant public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council or NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be support and clubs should be encouraged to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities.

All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)⁶. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

Each club interested in leasing a council site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations.

⁶ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits> Page 210

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An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below.

Table 5.1: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have NGB accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Local Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a City-wide significance) but that offer development potential.</p> <p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.</p> <p>Sites should acquire capital investment to improve or be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p>

The Council could establish core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate are assigned sites. Outcomes may, for example, include:

- ◀ Increasing participation.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or at minimum retaining existing standards.

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the site, to some degree, remains available for other purposes or for other users.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain to improve security of tenure and aid the attraction of funding; clubs with fewer than 25 years remaining on a lease agreement are unlikely to be eligible for external funding.

Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where needed

To maximise community use a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Wolverhampton, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from schools to open up provision is also an issue, especially at some private schools and academies.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for school provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

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In some instances, facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these facilities sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

Although there are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential for facility provision to be made within the developments, if appropriate. An example of this is ensuring the provision of adult, youth 11v11 and/or youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as court that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity.

As detailed earlier, NGBs, Active Black Country and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

Recommendations:

- d. Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- g. Secure developer contributions

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of councils' face reducing budgets it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g. the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest). The action plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality site and/or sites that are overplayed.

With such pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into pitch quality is challenging and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

Addressing quality issues

Quality across Wolverhampton is variable but generally most pitches are assessed as poor or standard quality. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality sites is also essential.

Based upon an achievable target, using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard. For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer facilities tend to become, especially if no drainage systems are in place or if existing drainage systems are inadequate. This also means that quality can vary, year on year, dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.

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If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites (thus reducing capacity issues).

In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised, especially by adults and female users who have more of a requirement. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies to women's and girls' demand.

For football, The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The tool is available across mobile apps and desktop and is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund.

For cricket and the ECB, the equivalent is the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GaNTIP), which is jointly funded by the ECB, FA, Football Foundation and the GMA. Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots sports clubs across England Wales.

Specifically for tennis, the LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities. The LTA is working with the Council to access the funding for improvements in Wolverhampton.

For the improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces: www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).

The FA, the RFU, the ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

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Table 5.2: Capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		
Hockey	Full size AGP	4 per day	4 per day	4 per day

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a floodlit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). For bowls, a green is considered at capacity if it has over 80 members, whilst a membership of under 20 could be unsustainable.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares.

For rugby union, additional floodlighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative, as is the installation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch (albeit there is no identified need for such provision in Wolverhampton)

Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in the City, these are generally centred at either club or council managed sites.

Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports should be prioritised for improvements, whilst there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance. For example:

- ◀ Bilston Town FC
- ◀ Cottage Ground
- ◀ East Park
- ◀ Dixon Street
- ◀ Tettenhall Upper Green
- ◀ Fowlers Playing Field
- ◀ Heath Town Park
- ◀ Old Wulfrunians CC
- ◀ Wolverhampton United FC (NPV FC)

Recommendation (e) – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites

To allow for facility developments to be programmed on a phased basis the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities.

To address community need, target priority areas and reduce provision duplication, a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group directs and leads a co-ordinated approach to facility development whether made at/by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to ensure that the extent to which it addresses community need is optimised and duplication is avoided.

One of sport's key contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development.

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality. This should form part of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sports pitch type contained within the Assessment Report and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport. That percentage is then applied to the population growth. The additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions and associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) then given. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required.

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Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused. The preference is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, which consider the potential for future AGP development. Such sites should be supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities and be accessible by public transport and active travel modes. Such sites are preferred over single-pitch facilities which are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings, which should take place regularly following adoption of the study as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. It is recommended that these take place every 6-12 months and inform the annual review/update (see Part 8 for further information).

Guidance from the PPS Steering Group, alongside the PPOSS, should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions. These should cover provision, enhancement and/ or maintenance of playing pitches and supporting infrastructure such as changing rooms. S106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition of the pitches, in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

For further information, please see Part 7 of this report.

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.
- i. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

Recommendation (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision both for now and in the future. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation of facilities e.g. converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ◀ Securing community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality, or unused sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome.

Recommendation (i) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision.

Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 4, although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except for 3G pitches, the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.

Large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the School with the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the school as well as the wider community.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

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PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is separated by analysis area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

Site hierarchy

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in an authority-wide context i.e., they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the authority. Priority sites for NGBs. Accessible by public transport.	Strategically located within the analysis area. Accessible by public transport.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport provision but may cater for two.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools, clubs and other providers.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms, car parking and bike storage facilities to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms car parking and bike storage facilities to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.

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Hub sites are of authority-wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

Key centres are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider); however, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports (e.g., bowling green sites).

For local authority sites local sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council venues).

Priority

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have a **high** priority actions, as they have wide importance, these have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

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The **low** priority actions tend to be for single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

Costs

The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on cost. The brackets are:

- ◀ (L) -Low - less than £50k
- ◀ (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k
- ◀ (H) -High £250k and above

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:
<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

Timescales

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period and the information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

- ◀ (S) -Short (1-2 years)
- ◀ (M) - Medium (3-5 years)
- ◀ (L) - Long (6+ years)

Aim

Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three Sport England aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect.**

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

BILSTON

Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2039)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions	Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions
Football (grass pitches)	Bilston	Adult	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Wolverhampton	Adult	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Shortfall of 3
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 11.5	Spare capacity of 11.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 0.2
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
Football (3G pitches)	Bilston	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
Football (3G pitches)	Wolverhampton	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4.5
Cricket	Bilston	Saturday	At capacity	At capacity
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 18	Spare capacity of 18
	Wolverhampton	Saturday	Shortfall of 25	Shortfall of 25
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 59	Spare capacity of 59
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 81	Spare capacity of 81
Rugby union	Bilston	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Wolverhampton	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Wolverhampton	Full size, floodlit	One pitch at Ormiston SWB Academy. Issues with changing room access for community users.	One pitch at Ormiston SWB Academy. Issues with changing room access for community users. Future need for carpet replacement.

Summary non-pitch sports

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	None of the six tennis clubs access any existing provision based within the Bilston analysis area. The five poor quality clay courts provided at East Park are utilised by a Local Tennis League.	Provision at East Park is outlined for the installation of LTA initiatives such as ClubSpark, Gate Access and Rally. The site has also been targeted for re-surfacing of provision.

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Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Netball	Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.	Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.
Bowls	Demand is being met.	Future demand is being met.
Athletics	No provision within catchment area.	No provision within catchment area.
Cycling	The Bilston analysis area is home to the 95-metre East Park cycle speedway track, accessed by Wolves Cycle Speedway Club. Focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is sufficient to accommodate requirements.	The Bilston analysis area is home to the 95-metre East Park cycle speedway track, accessed by Wolves Cycle Speedway Club. Focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is sufficient to accommodate requirements.
Golf	No provision within catchment area.	No provision within catchment area.
Water sports	Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members.	Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members.
Other sports	No provision within catchment area.	No provision within catchment area.

Overarching recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality at sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Prouds Lane Playing Fields. ◀ Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites. ◀ Consider asset transfer/long term lease of sites to clubs or extension of existing leases such as Bilston Town FC whose lease is set to expire as of 2022. ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required, such as the ancillary offer provided at East Park.
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches. ◀ Look to replace the current surface of provision provided at City of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus) when needed in the future. ◀ Look to provide an increase of provision locally to alleviate known shortfall at sites suggested in Part 4.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required. ◀ Undertake necessary ancillary provision improvements, such as expanding the existing changing rooms provided at Springvale CC.
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Prepare for the need to replace current provision provided at Ormiston SWB Academy given that nine years have passed since its installation. ◀ Explore the possibility of improving the ancillary provision offer at Ormiston SWB as to provide Dudley Ladies HC with accompanying changing facilities.
Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision.

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Sport	Priority recommendations
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Seek to improve provision of courts such as East Park ◀ Seek to install LTA initiatives such as Rally, ClubSpark and Gate Access at East Park.
Netball	◀ Protect provision and explore increased community access/activity.
Cycling	◀ No action required.
Athletics	◀ Protect provision.
Water sports	◀ No action required.
Other sports	◀ No action required.

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁷	Cost ⁸	Aim
8	Bilston Church of England Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular use.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
9	Bilston Town Football Club	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed with the current lease for the site set to expire as of 2022. The Club currently operates at a Step 6 level and aspires to develop its stadia site into a 3G pitch.	Look to secure a longer-term lease for the site as to ensure stability and open opportunities for investment. Following obtaining a lease, explore the feasibility of converting existing provision into a 3G pitch (working to alleviate known 3G shortfall in the analysis area).	Sports Club CFA FF Sport England	Key site	M	L	H	Protect Provide
11	City of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus)	3G	School	One standard quality FIFA/FA approved 100x65 metre pitch which is floodlit and available to the community. Pitch has exceeded its lifespan but remains a satisfactory quality.	Ensure pitch is resurfaced in the future, when required.	School CFA FF Sport England	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance
22	East Park	Football	Council	Three standard quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Changing facilities were condemned recently by the council.	Utilise actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Explore the possibility of re-introducing ancillary provision at the site following its recent condemnation.	CFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		The site has one standalone NTP that was installed in 2018.	Protect existing provision.	SCB ECB		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Five poor quality, non-floodlit clay tennis courts that are open to community use. Courts are used in a local tennis league.	Explore the possibility of re-surfacing existing poor-quality courts. Courts should be prioritised given their park location making them highly accessible to the community.	LTA		M	M	M	
		Cycling		One 95-metre cycle speedway tracks used by East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club.	Protect existing provision.	British Cycling		L	L	L	
23	East Park Academy	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
24	Eastfield Primary School (Wolverhampton)	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
27	Field View Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
37	Holy Rosary Catholic Primary Academy	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
38	Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School (Bilston)	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

⁷ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁷	Cost ⁸	Aim
40	John Harpers Playing Fields	Football	Council	Lapsed site that has space to accommodate for an adult football pitch.	The site should be protected from development unless it is demonstrated, through a robust and up-to-date assessment, that the loss of the site would accord with relevant Local Plan policy, Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exceptions and paragraph 99 of the NPPF	FA Sport England	-	-	-	-	-
41	Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton	3G	School	One 45x32 metre, non-floodlit 3G pitch with no community use.	Protect existing provision as to service curricular demand. Explore the feasibility of installing floodlights and opening the surface to community use.	School CFA FF SE	Local	M	M	L	Protect Provide
46	Loxdale Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular demand	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
50	Moseley Park School Sports Centre	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Four standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts with no community use.	Improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.						
		Netball		Two standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts with no community use.	Improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.						
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	Football	School	Two adult and one youth 9v9 pitch all of which are of a standard quality and have actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand. Given the site already takes lettings and that it holds three pitches, explore the possibility of utilising spare capacity.	School CFA FF	Key Centre	H	S	H	Enhance Protect Provide
		Cricket		One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Protect existing provision for curricular use.						
		AGP		One standard quality 91x55 metre, floodlit sand filled AGP that is accessed by Wolverhampton and Tettenhall HC from 10:00-15:00 and Dudley Ladies from 15:00 onwards. The pitch is nearing the end of its lifespan after being installed in 2013. Dudley Ladies HC report issues of not being able to access the on-site changing rooms and stressed desires to relocate back to Dudley if provision were to be provided.	Given its lifespan, explore the possibility of replacing existing provision with a new hockey surface. If additional suitable AGP provision were to be provided within Dudley, Dudley Ladies HC could return back to its home region, thus freeing up greater pitch access for Wolverhampton and Tettenhall HC. Explore opportunities to access changing offer on site.	School England Hockey		M	L	L	
		Tennis		One good quality, non-floodlit macadam tennis court that is serviced by good quality ancillary provision and open to community use.	Protect existing provision as to service curricular and community use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Two good quality, non-floodlit macadam netball courts that are open to community use.	Protect existing provision as to service curricular and community use.	School EN		L	L	L	

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁷	Cost ⁸	Aim
66	Prouds Lane Playing Fields	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
74	Springvale Sports	Football	Sports Club	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are of a standard quality and have actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session.	Utilise actual spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand.	Sports Club CFA FF	Key Centre	H	M	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality square used by Springvale CC, who have a lease for the site until 2046. Site has actual spare capacity of 22 sessions per season for Sunday and Midweek use. Club report the need to expand the changing rooms	Utilise actual spare capacity for Sunday and Midweek play. Explore the means of expanding the existing changing rooms.	Sports Club SCB ECB		L	L	L	
		Lawn Bowls		One standard bowling green that is accessed by Springvale BC who have a long-term lease agreement of 50-years. Green is operating within recommended capacity range.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support club demand.	Sports Club BCGBA		L	L	L	
79	St Martin's CE Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
81	St Matthias School	Football	School	One adult, one youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches, all of which are of a standard quality. Site has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Given its number of pitches, explore the feasibility of opening site to community use as to service Club demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
88	Stow Heath Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
89	Stowlawn Primary School	Cricket	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
101	Villiers Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
134	Bilston Town BC	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green accessed by Bilston Town BC who have no capacity issues.	Sustain current maintenance regimes is to keep green quality to a good standard.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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CENTRAL AND SOUTH

Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2039)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions	Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions
Football (grass pitches)	Central and South	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Wolverhampton	Adult	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Shortfall of 3
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 11.5	Spare capacity of 11.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 0.2
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5		
Football (3G pitches)	Central and South	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
	Wolverhampton		Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4.5
Cricket	Central and South	Saturday	At capacity	At capacity
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 36	Spare capacity of 36
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 54	Spare capacity of 54
	Wolverhampton	Saturday	Shortfall of 25	Shortfall of 25
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 59	Spare capacity of 59
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 81	Spare capacity of 81
Rugby Union	Central and South	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Wolverhampton	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Wolverhampton	Full size, floodlit	Sufficient supply across four sites currently available for community use. Quality improvements are required at WV Active Aldersley.	Supply provided at WV Active Aldersley should see pitch improvements in order to accommodate for future demand.

Summary non-pitch sports

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	Home to Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club and Linden Tea TC. Wolverhampton TC is in need of ancillary facility development, with a focus on improved disabled access. Recreational offer broadly poor to standard quality.	Future club-based demand can be met. West Park has been outlined for court improvements as well as the installation of LTA initiatives such as ClubSpark, Gate Access and Rally.

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Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Netball	Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.	Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.
Bowls	Five greens with no quality or capacity issues identified. Stile BC needs renewing its lease for the site with Marston's Brewery. The Club also report parking being an issue at the site.	Five greens with no quality or capacity issues identified. Stile BC needs renewing its lease for the site with Marston's Brewery. The Club also report parking being an issue at the site.
Athletics	Adequate provision within catchment which requires protection.	Protect existing provision at WV Aldersley and seek community use at The King's School to meet potential future increase in demand.
Cycling	BMX pump track at Hilton Roads Playing Fields and is accessed by Hilton Hall Community association. This requires protection.	BMX pump track at Hilton Roads Playing Fields and is accessed by Hilton Hall Community association. This requires protection.
Golf	Relatively high demand and provision within catchment, although four of seven courses serving the City are outside city boundary.	Existing provision within city boundary requires protection.
Water sports	Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members.	Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members.
Other sports	No provision within catchment.	No provision within catchment.

Overarching recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Colton Hills Community School and Springvale Park. ◀ Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites such as Colton Hills Community School. ◀ Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs if appropriate. ◀ Improve changing the quality of ancillary provision at key sites such as Dixon Street Playing Field and Springvale Park,.
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches. ◀ Look to provide an increase of provision locally to alleviate known shortfall at sites suggested in Part 4.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve existing provision at to enhance square quality and reduce overplay. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required. ◀ Look to address drainage issues at Newbridge Playing Fields, accessed by Whitmore Rains CC.

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Sport	Priority recommendations
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect existing provision. ◀ Improve quality of existing provision.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect existing provision ◀ Ensure the additional Saturday pitch allocation at the Royal Wolverhampton School is preserved for the future demand of Finchfield HC.
Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Explore the means of improving the parking at Stile BC.
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Seek to improve park courts such as West Park that are utilised in a local league ◀ Improve ancillary provision at Wolverhampton TC, specifically regarding its disabled accessibility.
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision and explore increased community access/activity.
Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision.
Water sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Other sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁹	Cost ¹⁰	Aim
15	Colton Hills Community School	Football	School	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches open to community use and overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to alleviate overplay.	School CFA FF	Key site	L	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance
		Cricket		One standalone NTP with no community use.	Protect existing provision.	School SCB ECB		L	L	L	
		AGP		One 39x24 metre sand filled, floodlit AGP that is open to community use.	Protect existing provision and ensure allocation is maximised wherever possible as to service football training demand.	School England Hockey		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Eight standard quality, non-floodlit macadam tennis courts with no community use. Courts are overmarked by netball	Consider long term opportunities to provide floodlighting aligned to LTA/England Netball participation programmes. Need to secure access for the community.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Eight standard quality, non-floodlit macadam netball courts with no community use. Overmarked by tennis.		School EN		L	L	L	
		Baseball/ Softball		One diamond that is used by Wolverhampton Baseball Club and Stourbridge Titans Baseball Club for match and training purposes.	Protect existing provision as to service Wolverhampton and Stourbridge Titans Baseball Clubs.	School		L	L	L	
20	Dixon Street Playing Field	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch that has minimal spare capacity discounted due to it being poor quality. The pitch is available for community use but has no accompanying ancillary provision, following its condemnation by the Council.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand. Seek the possibility of bringing back the condemned ancillary provision, as to service adult football, on the basis demand warrants this investment.	CFA FF	Local	M	S	H	Enhance Provide
30	Goldthorn Park Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch and one standard quality 5v5 pitch, both unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
36	Hilton Road Playing Fields	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with an overmarked mini 7v7, all of which are available for community use. Adult pitch is overplayed whilst the 9v9 has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Sustain current maintenance regime and try and maximise use of the site.	CFA FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect
		Cycling		One BMX pump track used by Hilton Hall Community Association.	Protect existing provision.	British Cycling		L	L	L	
44	Lanesfield Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
45	Lawnswood Campus	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
47	Manor Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

⁹ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁹	Cost ¹⁰	Aim
51	Newbridge Playing Fields	Football	Council	One adult and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of which are of a poor quality.	Maximise use of the site.	CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with accompanying NTP accessed by Whitmore Rains CC on a rolling annual agreement. Club report drainage issues on the square and outfield. Site has spare capacity for Sunday and Midweek play.	Explore the possibility of improving the reported drainage issues on site. Utilise actual spare capacity for Sunday and Midweek.	SCB ECB		L	L	L	
60	Former Bilston United Sports Ground	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch with no community use.	Retain for future demand. Potential site to accommodate a new football club.	Sports Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
61	Penn Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square with accompanying NTP that is accessed by Penn CC who have tenure of the site until 2039. Site has actual spare capacity for Sunday and Midweek play.	Utilise actual spare capacity for Sunday and Midweek play. Sustain quality of provision.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Enhance Protect
68	Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground	Football	Sports Club	Three adult, four youth 11v11 and three mini 7v7 pitches all of which are of a good quality and have no community use.	Continue current maintenance as to ensure quality.	Sports Club CFA FF	Hub site	L	L	L	Protect
		3G		One good quality full-size 3G pitch which services the use of Wolverhampton Wanderers FC and has no community use. Highest performing team in Wolverhampton, currently playing in the Premier League, Wolverhampton Wanderers, own and manage the site.	Protect existing provision for elite sport purposes.						
70	Southside Sports	3G	Sports Club	Three small-sized (38x18 metre), floodlit 3G open to community use.	Ensure capacity is maximised as to service training demand. Financially prepare for a sinking fund to replace existing provision once it has passed its lifespan.	Sports Club CFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect
71	Spring Vale Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
73	Springvale Park	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch open to community use. Site has no accompanying ancillary provision, making it unfit for adult match play.	Consider pitch reconfiguration to youth formats to enable it for match play (without requiring changing facilities)	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
75	SS Peter And Paul Catholic Primary Academy And Nursery	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
77	St Judes C Of E Academy	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
78	St Lukes C Of E Primary School (Wolverhampton)	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
85	St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁹	Cost ¹⁰	Aim
86	St. Edmund's Catholic Academy	Football	School	Two adult, two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch all of which are of a poor quality and open to community use. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand. Given the quantity of provision available, explore the means of opening site to community use.	School CFA FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis		Three good quality, floodlit macadam tennis courts with no community use.	Ensure maintenance of courts remains to a good level as to sustain current quality for as long as possible. Seek possibility of opening courts to community use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
87	St. Peter's Collegiate School	Cricket	School	One standalone NTP with no community use.	Protect existing provision for curricular demand.	School SCB ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		Eight standard quality, non-floodlit macadam tennis courts, four of which are open to community use. Courts are overmarked by netball.	Sustain for curricular demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Six standard quality, non-floodlit macadam netball courts, three of which are open to community use. Courts are overmarked by tennis.	Sustain for curricular demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch and four poor quality mini 7v7 pitches all of which are open to community use. Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standalone NTP that is open to community use.	Protect existing provision for community use.	School SCB ECB		L	L	L	
		AGP		One good quality 90x60 metre, floodlit AGP that is open to community use. Site is accessed by Finchfield HC for training and match play purposes. Club access the site for free having provided financial support in its resurfacing in 2019. Site has spare capacity for one additional team on Saturdays.	Protect existing provision. Ensure that training allocation is utilised as much as possible as to service hockey training purposes. Seek the means of utilising the additional available Saturday match slot for hockey purposes.	School EH		L	L	L	
		Rugby Union		One poor quality junior pitch which is available for community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Four standard quality, non-floodlit macadam tennis courts with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		One standard quality, non-floodlit macadam netball courts with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
96	The Way Youth Zone	3G	Charitable Enterprise	One small-sized (36x18 metre), floodlit pitch that is open community use. Pitch is FA approved and can host mini football matches. Site is open for community use from 16:00-22:00 Monday-Friday.	Protect existing provision. Given its FA accreditation maximise usage for mini fixtures as to alleviate the strain on grass pitches.	CFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁹	Cost ¹⁰	Aim
105	West Park Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
111	Wolverhampton Girls' High School	Cricket	School	One standalone NTP with no community use.	Protect existing provision.	School SCB FF	Local site	L	L	L	
		Tennis		Four good quality, non-floodlit macadam tennis courts with no community use. Courts are overmarked by netball.	Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime as to service curricular demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Four good quality, non-floodlit macadam netball courts with no community use. Courts are overmarked by tennis.	Sustain court quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
113	Wolverhampton Wanderers FC (Molineux Stadium)	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch which is unavailable for community use. Highest performing team in Wolverhampton, currently playing in the Premier League, Wolverhampton Wanderers, own and manage the site.	Protect existing provision for Premier League Wolverhampton Wanderers use.	Sports Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
115	Woodcross Park	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is open to community use and has with actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session.	Utilise actual spare capacity and sustain quality.	CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
125	West Park	Tennis	Council	Six poor quality, non-floodlit macadam tennis courts that are open to community use. Site is used in a local tennis league and has been prioritised by the LTA for the installation of ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access as well as resurfacing existing surfaces.	Seek the means of resurfacing sites existing provision given its importance within Wolverhampton.	LTA BCGBA	Local site	H	M	M	Protect Enhance
		Lawn Bowls		One good quality bowling green accessed by West Park BC.	Sustain quality.	Sports Club BCGBA		BCGBA	L	L	
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Site has five macadam, three clay, one artificial turf and three grass courts, all of which are floodlit and open to community use. The three clay courts are of a poor quality, whilst the remaining provision is all of a good quality. Club have freehold ownership of the site and report having available capacity to accommodate for future demand. Club has ambitions to develop its ancillary provision, with a focus on improved disabled access.	Explore the means of improving the quality of existing clay courts. Improve ancillary provision where required, specifically regarding disabled access of the site.	Sports Club LTA	Key Centre	M	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Netball		One non-floodlit good quality netball court that is open to community use.	Explore the feasibility of installing floodlights for existing provision.	Sports club EN		L	L	L	
		Lawn Bowls		One floodlit bowling green with no known capacity issues.	Protect existing provision.	Sports Club BCGBA		L	L	L	
128	44 Bowls Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green accessed by 44 Bowls Club who are operating within the BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines.	Sustain current maintenance for the green as to ensure quality does not deteriorate.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁹	Cost ¹⁰	Aim
129	Stile Bowls Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality floodlit bowling green accessed by Stile BC. The Club have an intermediate length of time left on its lease for the site with Marston's Brewery. There is reportedly an insufficient amount of parking for site.	Improve current maintenance for the green as to enhance quality.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
133	Penn Bowls Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality floodlit bowling green accessed by Penn BC who have freehold ownership of the site. The club is currently operating above the recommended capacity threshold.	Sustain current maintenance for the green as to ensure quality does not deteriorate. Ensure club demand can continue to be accommodated.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
146	Linden Lea Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Three good quality, floodlit macadam tennis courts that are available for community use.	Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime as to service community demand.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
152	Phoenix Park	Cricket	Council	One poor quality standalone non-turf wicket which is available for community.	Seek the means of replacing current provision with a new surface as to improve quality.	ECB	Local	M	L	M	Protect Enhance
-	Former St Luke's Primary School Playing Field	*	-	Lapsed playing field .	This facility has been replaced at the new St Luke's Primary School and its loss may therefore be acceptable if there is no alternative demand identified.	Sport England	-	-	-	-	-
-	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	-	-	Lapsed playing field (cricket pitch and bowling green). Planning permission has been granted for development of the site subject to compensatory payment for the loss of the playing field.	Should the development not proceed, and payment not be received, the site should be protected from development unless it is demonstrated, through a robust and up-to-date assessment, that the loss of the site would accord with relevant Local Plan policy, Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exceptions and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	Sport England	-	-	-	-	-
-	Newhampton Inn Bowling Club	-	-	Disused site. Club folded.	The green should be protected from development unless an exception can be made in line with Local Plan policy and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	Sport England	-	-	-	-	-
-	Oaklands Bowling Club	-	-	Disused site. Club folded recently.	The green should be protected from development unless an exception can be made in line with Local Plan policy and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	Sport England	-	-	-	-	-
-	Summer Public House	-	-	Lapsed bowling green to the back of the pub.	The green should be protected from development unless an exception can be made in line with Local Plan policy and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	Sport England	-	-	-	-	-
-	City of Wolverhampton College	-	-	Disused education playing field which is no longer used for formal sport and has fallen out of use.	The site should be protected from development unless it is demonstrated, through a robust and up-to-date assessment, that the loss of the site would accord with relevant Local Plan policy, Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exceptions and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	Sport England	-	-	-	-	-

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NORTH

Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2039)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions	Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions
Football (grass pitches)	North	Adult	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 8	Spare capacity of 8
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
	Wolverhampton	Adult	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Shortfall of 3
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 11.5	Spare capacity of 11.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 0.2
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5		
Football (3G pitches)	North	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.75
	Wolverhampton		Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4.5
Cricket	North	Saturday	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 5
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 7
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 7
	Wolverhampton	Saturday	Shortfall of 25	Shortfall of 25
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 59	Spare capacity of 59
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 81	Spare capacity of 81
Rugby Union	North	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Wolverhampton	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Wolverhampton	Full size, floodlit	Sufficient supply across four sites currently available for community use. Quality improvements are required at WV Active Aldersley.	Supply provided at WV Active Aldersley should see pitch improvements in order to accommodate for future demand.

Summary non-pitch sports

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	No club-based demand and limited recreational activity identified.	Sites such as Goodyear Neighbourhood Park could be prioritised for recreational tennis given the standard quality of provision and community use agreement.
Netball	Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.	Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.
Bowls	There are three bowling greens, two with accompanying clubs but with no capacity	Future demand can be met.

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Sport	Current picture	Future picture
	issues. The Green at Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses CC) is poor quality.	
Athletics	No provision within catchment.	No provision within catchment.
Cycling	No provision within catchment.	No provision within catchment.
Golf	An 18-hole course at Oxley Park golf club and a 9-hole course at Greenfield Golf Club which requires protection as well as a par 3 course with accompanying driving range provided at 3 Hammers in South Staffordshire (adjacent to Wolverhampton boundary).	An 18-hole course at Oxley Park golf club and a 9-hole course at Greenfield Golf Club, as well as a par 3 course with accompanying driving range provided at 3 Hammers in South Staffordshire.
Water sports	Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members.	Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members.
Other sports	St Mary's Gaelic Football Club accesses a youth 11v11 football pitch at Aldersley High School Sports Centre but require dedicated provision.	St Mary's Gaelic Football Club accesses a youth 11v11 football pitch at Aldersley High School Sports Centre but require dedicated provision, unless its current position changes.

Overarching Recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as The Pavilion. ◀ Consider re-configuring layout at overplayed sites such as Bilbrook Junior Football Club. ◀ Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs where appropriate. ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required, such as Bee Lane Playing Field and Northwood Park .
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches. ◀ Look to provide an increase of provision locally to alleviate known shortfall at sites suggested in Part 4. ◀ Replace existing provision provided at Ormiston NEW Academy that has long since passed its lifespan.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve quality of practice nets provided at Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses CC). ◀ Improve changing facilities where required.
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision at Oxley Park and Greenfield Golf Clubs
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision.

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Sport	Priority recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Improve quality of the green at Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground which represents the only poor-quality provision within Wolverhampton.
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Seek to improve park courts such as provision provided at Goodyear Neighbourhood Park.
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision and explore increased community access/activity.
Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision.
Water sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Other sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Seek the possibility of creating a purpose-built Gaelic Football pitch for St Mary's Gaelic Football Club. ◀ Explore the feasibility of granting tenure of a site to St Mary's Gaelic Football Club

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹¹	Cost ¹²	Aim
1	Aldersley High School Sports Centre	Football	School	Two youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches all of which are of a poor quality an unavailable for community use. Site has spare capacity discontinued due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality offer if community access of pitches can be achieved,	School CFA FF	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis		Four standard quality floodlit tennis courts with no community use. Courts are overmarked by netball.	Retain for curricular demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Four standard quality floodlit netball courts with no community use. Courts are overmarked by tennis.	Retain for curricular demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
		Gaelic Football		Site is accessed by St Mary's Gaelic Football Club which play on an overmarked youth 11v11 football pitch. The club are limited in ability to operate at the site given the available provision and desire a long-term lease for some suitable land.	Work with the Club with the relevant partners to explore its aspirations for site acquisition and long term developmental aspirations.	School Sports Club Britain GAA		M	M	L	
4	Bee Lane Playing Field	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch with no accompanying ancillary provision. Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. The pitch and overall site over is set to be improved due to the loss of provision at Northcote School.	Improve quality of offer for adult football. Ensure mitigation work for the loss of Northcote School is undertaken to a suitable standard.	CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
6	Berrybrook Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
7	Billbrook Junior Football Club	Football	Sports Club	Two adult pitches, one of which is overmarked by a youth 9v9. Site also has two mini 7v7 pitches and two mini 5v5 pitches. The non-overmarked adult pitch is of a standard quality, whilst remaining provision is poor quality. Site is overplayed by seven match equivalent sessions on the adult and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst the mini pitches have spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Sports Club CFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
21	Dovecotes Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
26	Fallings Park Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

¹¹ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹² (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹¹	Cost ¹²	Aim
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground	Football	Sports Club	Two standard quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions.	Utilise actual spare capacity.	Sports Club CFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Two good quality squares, one of which has an accompanying NTP. One of the squares has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek play, whilst the other square has overplay of five match equivalent sessions. Site is accessed by Fordhouses CC who aspire to refurbish the outdoor practice nets.	Explore the possibility of refurbishing the outdoor practice nets. Re-distribute usage of the two squares if possible, as to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club SCB EC B		M	L	L	
		Lawn Bowls		One poor quality green accessed by Fordhouses BC who are at risk of operating below the BCGBA recommended guidelines of sustainability.	Improve current maintenance for the green as to enhance quality.	Sports Club BCGBA		M	S	L	
43	Kingston Centre	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Enhance Protect
49	Moreton School	Football	School	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are of a poor quality and unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local site	M	L	M	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis		Six poor quality, floodlit macadam courts with no community use.	Explore the possibility of resurfacing existing provision.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Three poor quality, floodlit macadam courts with no community use.	Following this, given the courts have accompanying floodlights, explore the feasibility of opening to community use.	School EN		L	L	L	
52	Northicote School	Football	-	The school closed in 2014, was demolished in 2018 and formerly accommodate one adult pitch. It now has permission granted for the development of 178 dwellings subject to funding to improve the pitches at Bee Lane as mitigation for the loss of this playing field	Ensure mitigation works are appropriate undertaken. Should the development not proceed, and payment not be received, the site should continue be protected from development unless it is demonstrated, through a robust and up-to-date assessment, that the loss of the site would accord with relevant Local Plan policy, Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exceptions and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Enhance Protect
53	Northwood Park	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions. Site has no accompanying ancillary provision meaning it is not suitable for adult match play.	Utilise actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions. Seek the possibility of installing accompanying ancillary provision on site as to enable adult match play.	CFA FF	Local	L	L	H	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹¹	Cost ¹²	Aim
					Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.						
54	Northwood Park Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
56	Ormiston NEW Academy	Football	School	Three adult and four youth 9v9 pitches all of which are of a good quality. Site has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain current maintenance of the site as to maintain good quality. Given the quantity and quality of provision, seek the possibility of granting tenure as to enable more match play.	School CFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		3G		One 65x33 metre floodlit 3G that is open to community use. Provision was installed in 1999 meaning it has long since exceeded its lifespan.	Consider short term opportunities to secure sufficient funding to replace pitch surface.	School CFA FF		H	S	M	
		Tennis		Three good quality floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.	Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime as to service curricular and community demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Two good quality floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.	Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime as to service curricular and community demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
58	Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with actual spare capacity.	Utilise actual spare capacity. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
		3G		One good quality full size, floodlit 3G pitch with FIFA/FA certification.	Sustain current maintenance of the surface as to prolong good quality for as long as possible. Ensure pitch availability is maximised as to maximise revenue and service the need for training demand. .	School CFA FF		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Four good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. Courts are overmarked by netball.	Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime as to service curricular and community demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Four good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. Courts are overmarked by tennis.	Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime as to service curricular and community demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
65	Pine Green Academy	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use. .	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
		Netball		Four standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. One of two sites within Wolverhampton with standalone netball courts.	Explore options for an increase in netball use.	School EN		L	L	L	
67	Rakegate Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
84	St Paul's Church of England Aided Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹¹	Cost ¹²	Aim
94	The Pavilion	Football	Sports Club	One poor quality adult pitch with spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Sports Club CFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standalone NTP.	Protect existing provision	Sports Club SCB ECB		L	L	L	
		Lawn Bowls		One good quality, floodlit bowling green accessed by Pavilion CES who have freehold ownership of the site. The Club report the accompanying toilets are of a poor quality and in need of refurbishment.	Sustain current maintenance of the green as to ensure quality does not deteriorate. Explore options to improve ancillary offer for users.	Sports Club BCGBA		L	L	L	
100	UTC Collins Sports Ground	-	Collins Aerospace	Disused stadia football pitch and training pitch plus bowling green due to Collins operating a secure site	The site should be protected from development unless it is demonstrated, through a robust and up-to-date assessment, that the loss of the site would accord with relevant Local Plan policy, Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exceptions and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	Collins Aerospace CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
106	Whigreave Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
120	Oxley Park Golf club	Golf	Members	One 18-hole members golf course that has circa 480 members. Good quality offer and only one of two 18 hole courses in the City.	Protect existing provision. Explore the current situation regarding membership figures.	England Golf	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
139	E.C.C Bowls Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green accessed by ECC Bowls Club.	Sustain current maintenance of the green as to ensure quality does not deteriorate.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
140	Goodyear Neighbourhood Park	Cricket	Council	One standalone NTP that was installed in 2018 with a joint scheme between the ECB and the Council.	Protect existing provision.	ECB	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Two standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.	Protect existing provision.	LTA		L	L	L	
147	Barnhurst Lane Football Pitches	Football	Council	Eight good quality pitches comprising of three adult, one youth 11v11, three youth 9v9 and one mini pitch. Spare capacity on most pitch types. Ancillary offer accompanying the site is good quality.	Sustain good quality pitch and ancillary offer.	CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
159	Greenfield Golf Club	Golf	Proprietary	Site is an 9 hole golf course.	Protect existing provision.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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TETTENHALL

Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2039)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions	Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions
Football (grass pitches)	Tettenhall	Adult	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 4.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Wolverhampton	Adult	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Shortfall of 3
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 11.5	Spare capacity of 11.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 0.2
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
Football (3G pitches)	Tettenhall	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 0.75	Shortfall of 1.25
	Wolverhampton		Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4.5
Cricket	Tettenhall	Saturday	Spare capacity of 24	Spare capacity of 24
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 48	Spare capacity of 48
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 84	Spare capacity of 84
	Wolverhampton	Saturday	Shortfall of 25	Shortfall of 25
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 59	Spare capacity of 59
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 81	Spare capacity of 81
Rugby Union	Tettenhall	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Wolverhampton	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Wolverhampton	Full size, floodlit	Sufficient supply across four sites currently available for community use. Quality improvements are required at WV Active Aldersley.	Supply provided at WV Active Aldersley should see pitch improvements in order to accommodate for future demand.

Summary non-pitch sports

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	Four clubs (Tettenhall TC, Hanbury TC, Albert TC and Woodfield Sports and Social TC) with no capacity issues. The courts provided at Claregate Park are accessed by a Local Tennis League.	Future club-based demand can be met. The three poor quality courts at Claregate Park have been outlined for re-surfacing as well as the installation of Gate Access, Rally and ClubSpark.
Netball	The six courts provided at WV Active Aldersley in Tettenhall service the	Courts at WV Active Aldersley require protection to ensure continued utilisation

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Sport	Current picture	Future picture
	Wolverhampton Netball League as well as hosting Back to Netball sessions.	for league/club-based netball and the various initiatives.
Bowls	There are six lawn bowling greens across four sites, with demand being met. All provision is assessed as of a good quality. These require protection.	There are six lawn bowling greens across four sites, with demand being met. All provision is assessed as of a good quality. These require protection.
Athletics	WV Active Aldersley hosts a 400-metre, floodlit athletics track that is open to community use, whilst the Kings C of E School provides a 200-metre non-floodlit track that is not open to community use. Demand is being met.	Future demand can be met; track at WV Active Aldersley requires protection, whilst community use could be explored at Kings C of E School.
Cycling	Within Tettenhall, WV Active Aldersley provides an asphalt cycle track with a 22.5° banking that is accessed by Wolverhampton Wheelers, which has 287 members. British Cycling recommends the facility would benefit from the development of a simple canopy structure to reduce the impact of bad weather on track conditions and help extend track usage and capacity to meet competition and training needs.	Expected to be a moderate increase in demand due to local initiatives.
Golf	South Staffs Golf Club provides an 18-hole courses and operates under a membership management model. Wergs Golf Club and Perton Park Golf Club, outside but close to the city boundary, provide the same facilities. All three clubs have over 380 members meaning there are no capacity issues.	Future demand can met; South Staffs Golf Club requires protection.
Water sports	Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members.	Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members.
Other sports	No provision in catchment.	No provision in catchment

Overarching recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Bantock Park, Claregate Park and Windsor Avenue Playing Fields. ◀ Where pitches remain overplayed, seek the transfer of demand. ◀ Improve security of tenure at key sites such as Highfields School. ◀ Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs. ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required.
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.

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Sport	Priority recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches. ◀ Look to provide an increase of provision locally to alleviate known shortfall at sites suggested in Part 4.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Protect NTP at Gamesfield Green Playing Fields utilised as a secondary site by Penn CC. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required. ◀ Utilise spare Saturday capacity at Tettenhall College.
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Explore the feasibility of increasing floodlighting at the sites as and when needed.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Resurfacing of the sand dressed pitch at WV Active Aldersley following its recent condemnation. ◀ Protect existing provision provided at Wolverhampton Grammar School and WV Active Aldersley. ◀ Explore the possibility of improving the Sunday offering at Wolverhampton Grammar School as to better service Old Wulfrunians HC.
Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision.
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Seek to improve park courts such as Claregate Park that are utilised in a local league.
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision at WV Active Aldersley and explore increased community use of other sites.
Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Undertake minor track maintenance as to address reports of wear and tear on the surface. ◀ Explore community use at the Kings C of E School
Water sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Other sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹³	Cost ¹⁴	Aim
3	Bantock Park	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and alleviate overplay.	CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
10	Castlecroft Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
12	Claregate Park	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	CFA FF	Key Centre	M	L	M	Enhance Protect
		Cricket		One poor quality square with an accompanying NTP. Square has no spare capacity for additional play.	Improve current maintenance the square receives as to improve quality. Utilise on site NTP for training purposes wherever possible as to reduce demand on the grass wickets.	SCB ECB		M	M	L	
		Tennis		Three poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. Site has been prioritised for the installation of ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access	Seek the possibility of resurfacing existing provision and installing ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access.	LTA		M	M	M	
13	Claregate Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
19	Danescourt	Football	Commercial	One youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch both of which are of a poor quality. Spare capacity has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	CFA FF BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Lawn Bowls		One good quality bowling green accessed by Express and Star BC who are currently operating marginally above the BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines.	Sustain current green maintenance as to ensure quality does not deteriorate, especially considering the high demand the green sees.	Sports Club BCGBA		L	L	L	
29	Gamesfield Green Playing Field	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with actual spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		One standalone NTP accessed by Penn CC as a secondary ground.	Protect existing provision as to service Penn CC.	SCB ECB		L	L	L	
34	Highfields School	Football	School	Three poor quality adult pitches, one of which are open to community use. Community use pitch is overplayed by six match equivalent sessions. Site is outlined in the LFFP for the potential installation of a 3G facility.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand.	School CFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		One standard quality standalone NTP.	Protect for curricular demand.	School SCB ECB		L	L	L	

¹³ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹³	Cost ¹⁴	Aim
		Rugby Union		One poor quality, non-floodlit senior pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Three standard quality, floodlit macadam courts with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Three standard quality, floodlit macadam courts with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
48	Merridale Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
59	Palmers Cross Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
62	Penn Fields School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
69	Smestow School	Football	School	Two youth 11v11 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch that are all overmarked by a grass athletics track in easter, open to community use and of a poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand.	School CFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby Union		One poor quality, non-floodlit senior pitch that is open to community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School RFU					
		Tennis		Six standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Six standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
72	Springdale Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality youth 11v11 with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
82	St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy And Nursery	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
83	St Michaels CE Aided Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
90	Tettenhall College	Football	School	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand	School CFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Enhance Protect
		3G		One 53x33 metre, floodlit 3G that is open to community use. Site is only open to community use on weekends.	Ensure site is used as near to capacity as possible as to service training demand across Wolverhampton. Financially prepare for a sinking fund as to ensure long term stability is secured.	School CFA FF		M	L	L	
		Cricket		Two standard quality squares accessed by Wolverhampton CC with spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday and Midweek play. This represents the only Cricket site in Wolverhampton with	Sustain current maintenance of each square as to improve quality.	School SCB ECB		L	L	L	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹³	Cost ¹⁴	Aim
				spare capacity for Saturday play for which it can accommodate an additional three teams.	If possible utilise the spare capacity identified, particularly that shown on a Saturday.						
		Netball		Four standard quality floodlit courts that are open to community use.	Sustain for curricular demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
91	Tettenhall Upper Green	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity.	Utilise actual spare capacity.	CFA FF	Local site	L	L	L	Enhance Protect
		Cricket		One standard quality square accessed by Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC. The site has spare capacity for midweek play.	If feasible utilise spare capacity for midweek play.	SCB ECB		L	L	L	
93	The King's CE School	Football	School	One adult and two youth 11v11 all of which is of a standard quality. Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand. Given the quantity and quality of provision, seek the possibility of opening to community use for match play purposes.	School CFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Four non-floodlit macadam courts with no community use. Three courts are of a standard quality, whilst one is assessed as good.	Retain for curricular demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Three non-floodlit macadam courts with no community use. Two courts are of a standard quality, whilst one is assessed as good.	Retain for curricular demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
		Athletics		One non-floodlit, 200-metre track with no community use. Track was re-surfaced in 2012 and has been assessed as standard.	Explore the means of opening provision to general public use aligned to any increases for formal demand for athletics and/or participation programmes.	School England Athletics		M	M	L	
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Football	School	Two adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are of a standard quality, open to community use and overmarked by a grass athletics track as well as a junior and senior cricket square.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand.	School CFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Two standard quality squares with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School SCB ECB		L	L	L	
		Rugby Union		One poor quality, non-floodlit senior pitch that is open community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		AGP		One good quality full sized floodlit AGP that is open to community use. Site is accessed by Old Wulfrunians HC for both training and matchday purposes. The site does not open to community use on Sundays, forcing the Club to access The Royal School Wolverhampton as a secondary site.	Protect existing provision. Ensure allocation is maximised as to service hockey and football demand. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to guarantee the long-term sustainability of the site. Seek the possibility of opening the site for Sunday usage as to service Old Wulfrunians HC.	School EH		H	S	L	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹³	Cost ¹⁴	Aim
99	Uplands Junior School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
102	Warstones Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
107	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields	Football	Council	Six adult pitches, one of which is standard, and the remaining are poor quality Site has actual spare capacity of 3.5 match equivalent sessions.	Work to improve overall quality of natural turf pitches on site and maximise use.	CFA FF	Local	H	S	L	Enhance Protect
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Football	Sports Club	One adult and two 9v9 pitches, all of which are of a poor quality and overmarked by senior cricket squares. Adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and alleviate overplay. If feasible, seek the means of reconfiguring layout as to reduce overplay.	Sports Club CFA FF	Key Centre	M	L	L	Enhance Protect
		Cricket		Two good quality cricket squares both of which have an accompanying NTP. Club have freehold ownership of the site and have spare capacity for two additional Sunday teams on one of the squares.	Utilise spare capacity identified on the site. Ensure on site NTP's are used for training purposes as to reduce demand on the grass wickets.	Sports Club SCB ECB		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Three good quality, floodlit macadam courts accessed by Tettenhall TC who have a long term lease with Wolverhampton CC for the site. The Club state the ancillary provision needs modernisation.	Seek the possibility of improving the outdated on-site ancillary provision as part of a multi partner/sport development.	Sports Club LTA		M	L	M	
116	Woodfield Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
117	WV Active Aldersley	Football	Council	Three poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and reduce overplay.	CFA FF	Hub Site	M	M	L	Protect Provide Enhance
		AGP		One full size sand-dressed AGP and a full size sand-filled AGP, both of which are floodlit and of a standard quality. Opportunity exists to increase hockey participation on sand filled pitch. Notts Sport has produced a technical report (provided to the Council) with specific recommendations about keeping the surfaces fit for use.	Ensure provision remains fit for the long term benefit of local hockey. Explore options to increase hockey demand on sand filled pitch.	EH		H	S	H	
		Tennis		Six good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.	Sustain current maintenance levels of to ensure quality remains of a good standard for as long as possible.	LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Six good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. Site has been used previously for back to netball sessions and is a central venue for the Wolverhampton City Netball League	Sustain quality and protected for continued community demand. Ensure a sinking fund is put in place as to ensure long term sustainability of the courts.	EN		L	L	L	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹³	Cost ¹⁴	Aim
		Athletics		One floodlit 400-metre athletics track that is open to community use. The site is TrackMark accredited, was installed in 2005 and is deemed satisfactory with some wear and tear issues.	Ensure good maintenance of the provision takes place as to prolong its lifespan for as long as possible. Address any identified wear and tear issues as required.	England Athletics		L	L	L	
		Cycling		One 400-metre asphalt cycling track utilised by Wolverhampton Wheelers. British Cycling recommends the facility would benefit from the development of a simple canopy structure to reduce the impact of bad weather on track conditions and help extend track usage and capacity to meet competition and training needs.	Protect existing provision. Support any development work which aligns to existing recommendation from British Cycling.	British Cycling		M	L	L	
118	Bradmore Recreation Ground	Tennis	Council	Three poor quality non floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. Site does not have ClubSpark, Gate Access or Rally in place	Seek the possibility of re-surfacing existing provision as to better service curricular demand, something the LTA has outlined as a priority given its accessibility and park location. Seek the possibility to add ClubSpark, Gate Access and Rally to the site.	LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
		Lawn Bowls		One good quality bowling green accessed by Bradmore BC who are operating within the BCGBA recommended guidelines.	Continue current maintenance levels as to ensure green quality does not deteriorate.	BCGBA		L	L	L	
119	Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Two good quality, non-floodlit artificial turf tennis courts that are accessed by Hanbury TC who have freehold ownership of the site and no known capacity issues.	If possible, explore the feasibility of installing floodlights on site as to improve the offering of the site.	Sports Club LTA	Local	M	L	M	Protect Provide
122	The Albert Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Six good quality floodlit tennis courts, four of which are a macadam surface with the remaining two being an artificial surface. Club have freehold ownership of the site.	Ensure demand of the site is distributed evenly given that they Club are operating above LTA membership guidelines.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
123	South Staffs Golf Club	Golf	Members	One 18 hole golf course with no accompanying driving range.	Protect existing provision.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Four good quality, floodlit artificial courts that are open to community use.	Protect existing provision and ensure maintenance is robust as to keep quality to a good standard for as long as possible.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
		Lawn Bowls		Two good quality bowling greens accessed by Woodfield Social BC.	Protect existing provision and ensure maintenance is robust as to keep quality to a good standard for as long as possible.	Sports Club BCGBA		L	L	L	
132	Pennfields Bowls Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	Site has two good quality bowling greens that are accessed by Pennfields BC.	Sustain quality.	Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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WEDNESFIELD

Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2039)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions	Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions
Football (grass pitches)	Wednesfield	Adult	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 5.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 3
	Wolverhampton	Adult	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Shortfall of 3
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 11.5	Spare capacity of 11.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 0.2
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
Football (3G pitches)	Wednesfield	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 0.75	Shortfall of 1.25
	Wolverhampton		Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4.5
Cricket	Wednesfield	Saturday	At capacity	At capacity
		Sunday	At capacity	At capacity
		Midweek	At capacity	At capacity
	Wolverhampton	Saturday	Shortfall of 25	Shortfall of 25
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 59	Spare capacity of 59
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 81	Spare capacity of 81
Rugby Union	Wednesfield	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Wolverhampton	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Wolverhampton	Full size, floodlit	Sufficient supply across four sites currently available for community use.	Sufficient supply across four sites currently available for community use.

Summary non-pitch sports

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	No club-based demand and minimal recreational activity identified.	Sites required to host recreational tennis.
Netball	Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.	Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.
Bowls	There are four lawn bowling greens across three sites identified within Wednesfield, all of good quality and all meeting demand.	Future demand can be met.
Athletics	No provision within catchment.	No provision within catchment.

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Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Cycling	Ashmore Park hosts a floodlit cycle speedway track accessed by Wednesfield Aces.	Ashmore Park hosts a floodlit cycle speedway track accessed by Wednesfield Aces.
Golf	No provision in area.	No provision in area.
Water sports	Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members.	Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members.
Other sports	No provision in area.	No provision in area.

Overarching recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Ashmore Park, Fowlers Playing Fields and Bellamy Lane Playing Fields. ◀ Where pitches remain overplayed, seek the transfer of demand. ◀ Improve security of tenure at key sites such as Wednesfield High Academy. ◀ Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required, such as the Cottage Ground accessed by Wednesfield Town FC.
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place, such as that provided at Heath Park School. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches. ◀ Look to provide an increase of provision locally to alleviate known shortfall at sites suggested in Part 4. ◀ Explore the possibility of replacing the current surface at Coppice Performing Arts School that has now passed its lifespan.
Cricket	◀ No action required
Rugby union	◀ Protect provision.
Hockey	◀ No action required.
Golf	◀ No action required.
Bowls	◀ Protect provision.
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Identify sites for increase of recreational demand.
Netball	◀ Protect provision and explore increased community use of sites.
Cycling	◀ Protect provision.
Athletics	◀ No action required.
Water sports	◀ No action required.
Other sports	◀ No action required.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁵	Cost ¹⁶	Aim
2	Ashmore Park	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches with spare capacity discounted due to pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	CFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
		Lawn Bowls		Two good quality bowling green accessed by Ashmore Park BC. Club report the clubhouse is extremely dated and not fit for purpose.	Explore the means of improving the poor-quality ancillary provision.	BCGBA		M	M	M	
		Cycling		Site has one of the two cycle speedways within Wolverhampton and is accessed by Wednesfield Aces.	Protect existing provision.	British Cycling		L	L	L	
5	Bellamy Lane Playing Fields	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
14	Colman Avenue Neighbourhood Park	Football	Council	Two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches with actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions.	Utilise actual spare capacity. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
16	Coppice Performing Arts School	Football	School	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are of a standard quality and have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		3G		One floodlit 62x42 metre 3G pitch that is open to community use that has exceeded its recommended lifespan.	Protect provision and ensure the carpet on the pitch is replaced when required.	School CFA FF		L	L	L	
		Cricket		One poor quality standalone NTP that has no community use.	Protect existing provision.	School SCB ECB		L	L	L	
17	Corpus Christi Catholic Primary Academy	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that has no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
18	Cottage Ground	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are of a standard quality and accessed by Wednesfield Town FC. Accompanying ancillary provision in need of renovation.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Improve on site ancillary provision as changing rooms currently receive high volume of demand from the large scale of the Club.	Sports Club CFA FF	Local	M	M	M	Provide Enhance
25	Edward The Elder Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

¹⁵ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁵	Cost ¹⁶	Aim
28	Fowlers Playing Fields	Football	Council	Four poor quality adult pitches with spare capacity discounted due to quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	CFA FF	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standalone NTP that was provided in 2018 by a joint scheme between the council and the ECB.	Protect existing provision.	SCB ECB		L	L	L	
31	Heath Park School	3G	School	One good quality full size floodlit 3G that was installed in 2016 and has no community use.	Protect existing provision and ensure a sinking fund is in place to financially prepare for a replacement surface. Explore the possibility of opening the site to community use as to serve training demand and act as a revenue stream for the school.	School CFA FF LTA EN	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis		Four standard quality non floodlit macadam courts that have no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Three standard quality non floodlit macadam courts that have no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
33	Heath Town Park	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch with no accompanying ancillary provision making it unfit for match play.	Consider reconfiguration to a junior pitch offer as to then allow match play opportunities.	CFA FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
42	King George V Playing Fields (Wednesfield)	Football	Council	Three poor quality adult pitches with spare capacity discounted due to pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Following this, utilise available spare capacity.	CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standalone NTP.	Protect existing provision.	SCB ECB		L	L	L	
55	Oak Meadow Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that has no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
64	Perry Hall Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that has no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
76	St Albans CE Academy (Wolverhampton)	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
80	St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that has no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
98	Trinity Church Of England Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that has no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁵	Cost ¹⁶	Aim
103	Wednesfield High Academy	Football	School	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch all of which are overmarked by a grass athletics track and of a poor quality. Youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to pitch quality.	Explore opportunities to improve pitch quality to accommodate curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standalone NTP with no community use.	Protect existing provision.	School SCB ECB		L	L	L	
		Rugby Union		One poor quality senior pitch that is open to community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Four standard quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open for community use.	Improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Three standard quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open for community use.	Improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
104	Wednesfield High School Sports Centre	Football	School	One adult and two youth 11v11 pitches all of which are to a standard quality.	Sustain existing quality.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
108	Woden Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
109	Wodensfield Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
112	Wolverhampton United FC (Prestwood Road West)	Football	Council	Two adult football pitches which are currently disused. NPV FC is expected to take the site on as an asset transfer from the Council. It aspires to develop a 3G pitch on the site as part of ground improvements.	Ensure NPV FC has the suitable support structure in place to suitably manage the site. Development of a 3G pitch would work to alleviate known local shortfalls.	CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
114	Wood End Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
136	Wednesfield Conservative Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality floodlit bowling green accessed by Wednesfield Cons BC who are operating within BCGBA recommended membership guidelines	Continue current maintenance levels as to ensure green quality does not deteriorate.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
137	Wednesfield Park	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green accessed by Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC King who are operating within BCGBA recommended membership guidelines.	Continue current maintenance levels as to ensure green quality does not deteriorate.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
-	Chubb, Woden Road	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	Disused bowling green. Club folded.	The green should be protected from development unless an exception can be made in line with Local Plan policy, and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	Sports Club Sport England	-	-	-	-	-

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OUTSIDE

Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2039)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions	Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions
Football (grass pitches)	Outside	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Wolverhampton	Adult	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Shortfall of 3
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 11.5	Spare capacity of 11.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 0.2
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
Cricket	Outside	Saturday	Shortfall of 44	Shortfall of 44
		Sunday	Shortfall of 44	Shortfall of 44
		Midweek	Shortfall of 44	Shortfall of 44
	Wolverhampton	Saturday	Shortfall of 25	Shortfall of 25
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 59	Spare capacity of 59
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 81	Spare capacity of 81
Rugby Union	Outside	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3
	Wolverhampton	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3

Overarching recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Sustain quality of existing provision. ◀ Explore long term opportunities to improve ancillary offer at Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Improve quality of squares and outfielders at Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club, Wightwick & Finchfield CC and Springhill CC. ◀ Consider installation of NTPs at above sites to reduce and alleviate overplay through a transfer of demand off natural turf wickets.
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Improve pitch quality and explore opportunities to provide additional floodlighting at Wolverhampton RUFC
Lawn green bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required (provision privately owned and located in adjacent authorities)

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸	Aim
135	Nordley Liberals BC	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	Home to Willenhall Nordley BC. The green is good quality, and no issues identified with ancillary facilities.	Sustain quality of green for existing and future use.	Sports Club BGCGA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
142	Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A 12 wicket natural turf square which is overplayed by four match equivalent sessions per season. Club house is adequate but requires modernisation.	Quality improvements to the square will alleviate all site overplay.	Sports Club SCB ECB	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
143	Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A 12 wicket natural turf square which is overplayed by 28 match equivalent sessions per season. Ancillary provision standard quality.	Quality improvements to the square will reduce overplay by 12 match equivalent sessions. Remaining overplay can be alleviated through installation and usage of an NTP.	Sports Club SCB ECB	Local	M	M	L	Protect Provide Enhance
144	Springhill Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	An eight wicket natural turf square which is overplayed by 12 sessions per season. Ancillary provision standard quality.	Quality improvements will broadly reduce most overplay. Utilisation of an NTP will alleviate all remaining overplay.	Sports Club SCB ECB	Local	M	M	L	Protect Provide Enhance
147	Old Wulfrunians Sports & Social Club	Football	Sports Club	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and two mini pitches which are all standard quality. Spare capacity on all pitch types.	Sustain pitch quality and maximise use.	Sports Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
153	Wergs Golf Club	Golf	Members	One 18 hole members golf club with an accompanying driving range.	Protect existing provision. Seek methods to maximise usage of driving range as to increase club revenue.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
154	Perton Park Golf Club	Golf	Members	One 18 hole members golf club with an accompanying driving range.	Protect existing provision. Seek methods to maximise usage of driving range as to increase club revenue.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
155	Penn Golf Club	Golf	Members	One 18-hole golf course with a total of 418 members.	Protect existing provision.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
156	3 Hammers	Golf	Proprietary	Site is an 18-hole par 3 course with accompanying driving range.	Protect existing provision.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
157	Wolverhampton Rugby Club	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Three senior pitches on site. First team pitch minimal spare capacity which is protected for 1 st xv fixtures. Remaining two floodlit pitches are cumulatively overplayed by 4.5 match sessions per week. Ancillary provision is good quality.	Pitch improvements are required through an enhanced maintenance regime. Drainage solutions should also be explored as an option for further alleviating shortfalls. Additional floodlighting on the site will also aid a transfer of training demand of currently overplayed pitches .	Sports Club RFU	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
158	The CKW Stadium	Football	Sports Club	One good quality stadia pitch. Home venue of AFC Wulfrunians which play at Step 5 within the NLS. Ground currently meets appropriate FA Ground Grading requirements.	Sustain pitch quality and ensure future ground grading requirements can be met if the Club gains promotions in the future.	Sports Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

¹⁷ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2039 (in line with the previously proposed Black Country Plan, although four separate local plans are now to be produced). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

Experience shows that housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For such large scale developments, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). If this is not the case, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

The scenarios below are provided as a guide to show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in Wolverhampton, thus showing how the calculator works and what it provides. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches (rugby).

The scenarios are based on two individual developments that are already planned in Wolverhampton. These are as follows:

- ◀ **Scenario One** – WOH259 – 532 dwellings which form strategic allocation CSA1
- ◀ **Scenario Two** – WOH263 – 303 dwellings which form strategic allocation CSA2

For reference, the indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.3¹⁹ per dwelling.

¹⁹ The occupancy rate of 2.3 is in line with figures used in the 2011 Census.
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Scenario One – WOH259 – 532 dwellings which form strategic allocation CSA1

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 532 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 per household is 1,223 people. This population increase equates to 0.61 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.05 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP and 2.52 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 1.16 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.17 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 532 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 532 dwellings	
	Match demand per week ²⁰	Training demand ²¹
Adult football	0.20	1.16 hours
Youth football	0.26	
Mini soccer	0.13	
Rugby union	0.03	0.03 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.05	0.15 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.00	0.02 hours
Cricket	2.52	-

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²²	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²³	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.20	£18,665	£3,938	0.39	£64,393
Youth football	0.26	£19,447	£4,084	0.34	£55,413
Mini soccer	0.13	£2,984	£627	0.00	£0
Rugby union	0.03	£3,798	£813	0.06	£9,359
Rugby league	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	0.06	£15,550	£3,141	0.11	£18,185
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£9,909	£307	0.03	£4,119
3G	0.03	£28,756	£1,120	0.06	£9,971

Overall, an additional 0.62 grass football pitches, 0.06 cricket squares, 0.01 sand based AGPs and 0.03 full-size 3G pitches will be required to accommodate increased demand from the allocation CSA1. This would require an expected capital cost of £99,109 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £14,030. To facilitate the increased provision, 0.99 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £161,440.

²⁰ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

²¹ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

²² Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2021 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

²³ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents

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As none of these figures represent full pitch or changing room developments, contributions to improve existing facilities within the vicinity of the development should be sought.

Scenario Two – WOH263 – 303 dwellings which form strategic allocation CSA2

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 303 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 per household is 696 people. This population increase equates to 0.35 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.03 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP and 1.44 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 0.66 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.10 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 303 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 303 dwellings	
	Match demand per week ²⁴	Training demand ²⁵
Adult football	0.11	0.66 hours
Youth football	0.15	
Mini soccer	0.07	
Rugby union	0.02	0.02
Rugby league	0.00	0.00
Adult hockey	0.03	0.09
Junior & mixed hockey	0.00	0.01
Cricket	1.44	-

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²⁶	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²⁷	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.11	£10,622	£2,241	0.22	£36,647
Youth football	0.15	£11,070	£2,325	0.19	£31,550
Mini soccer	0.07	£1,698	£357	0.00	£0
Rugby union	0.02	£2,162	£463	0.03	£5,327
Rugby league	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	0.03	£8,850	£1,788	0.06	£10,350
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£5,639	£175	0.01	£2,344
3G	0.02	£16,367	£637	0.03	£5,675

Overall, an additional 0.35 grass football pitches, 0.03 cricket squares, 0.01 sand based AGPs and 0.02 full-size 3G pitches will be required to accommodate increased demand from the allocation CSA1.

²⁴ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

²⁵ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

²⁶ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2021 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

²⁷ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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This would require an expected capital cost of £56,408 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £7,986. To facilitate the increased provision, 0.54 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £161,440.

As none of these figures represent full pitch or changing room developments, contributions to improve existing facilities within the vicinity of the development should be sought.

Conclusion

For the scenarios above, the tables show that, through housing growth relating to the developments, demand will be generated for football, rugby union, hockey and cricket. However, the level of demand generated for each sport, for the allocations, is unlikely to require new provision to be made.

As the demand generated from the housing growth does not equate to a whole pitch for any of the sports, contributions would be better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPOSS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g., to select suitable sites).

This is particularly the case for football, rugby union and cricket as there is a lack of supply to meet current and future demand. With housing growth in the area expected to exacerbate these shortfalls, off-site contributions should be sought to increase capacity for these sports, whether that be through pitch quality improvements or ancillary improvements to ensure underused sites can be fully utilised.

To provide the greatest impact, contributions from housing developments could be pooled together to improve key sites. The action plan identifies high priority sites which would likely provide the most benefit from investment. Key sites which would benefit from capacity and ancillary improvements are provided below, by analysis area.

Table 7.5: Site contribution options

Analysis Area	Site	Potential need
Bilston	Bilston Town FC	Changing room upgrade, pitch improvements
Central & South	Colton Hills Community School	Pitch improvements
North	Bilbrook JFC	Pitch improvements
	WV Active Aldersley	Pitch improvements, cycle track cover (per British Cycling recommendation).
Tettenhall	Bantock Park	Pitch improvements
	Highfields School	Pitch improvements
	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields	Pitch improvements
Wednesfield	Ashmore Park	Ancillary upgrade for bowling club
	Fowlers Park	Changing room replacement
	King George V Playing Field	Pitch improvements
	Wolverhampton United (NPV FC)	Changing room upgrade
Outside	Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club	Cricket square improvements
	Springhill CC	Cricket square improvements, NTP
	Wightwick & Finchfield CC	Cricket square improvements, NTP
	Wolverhampton RUFC	Pitch improvements, floodlights

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Outside of specific site suggestions, for cricket it is known that Fordhouses CC, Penn CC, Springvale CC and Whitmore Reans CC may require additional provision for peak time cricket on Saturdays in the future. The option to pool contributions to create new, dedicated cricket provision should also be considered by all relevant partners and stakeholders to meet this need.

Note, sites for 3G pitches are not included in Table 7.5 above. This is because the full feasibility of a site to accommodate this provision type needs to be fully determined prior to specific sites being referenced. For 3G site location options, please refer to Part 4 of this report.

Lastly, this table should be updated as part of the PPOSS Stage E process to capture changes in the local sport landscape.

PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

The section below is a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up to date. However, a more tailored approach should also be considered and designed for Wolverhampton based on the requirements and priorities of the Steering Group.

Delivery

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Wolverhampton. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the City can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

The creation of this document should be regarded as part of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. In order for this to be achieved, the Steering Group needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of completing the PPOSS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the steering group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the steering group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

It is agreed that the Council (potentially via consultants e.g., KKP) is responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up to date in order that area-by-area action plans can be updated. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

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As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

An annual review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g., the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- ◀ How the PPOSS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g., the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Alongside regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships is to hold sport specific meetings with the NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings.

The NGBs are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

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Checklists

In order for this Strategy to be signed off by the steering group, a Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy, is signed off.

Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan	✓	
1. Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions?	✓	
2. Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information?	✓	
3. Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work?	✓	
4. Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them?	✓	
5. Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions?	✓	
6. Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented?	✓	
7. Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overplayed?	✓	
8. Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand?	✓	
9. Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided?	✓	
10. Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches?	✓	
11. Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented?	✓	
12. Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented?	✓	
13. Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches?	✓	
14. Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use?	✓	
15. Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)?	✓	
16. Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17?	✓	
17. Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver?	✓	
18. Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects?	✓	
Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy	✓	
1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?	✓	

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2.	Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve?	✓	
3.	Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?	✓	
4.	Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?	✓	
5.	Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area?	✓	
6.	Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?	✓	

To help ensure the PPS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the steering group can refer to the new methodology Stage E Checklist: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date:

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 9: Apply & deliver the strategy		
1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
2. Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence?		
3. Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied?		
Step 10: Keep the strategy robust & up to date		
1. Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date?		
2. Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3. Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4. Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5. Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

For more information, see: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport>

Appendix 2a



CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT OCTOBER 2022

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance
ASAN	All Saints Action Network
BAFA	British American Football Association
BC	Bowls Club
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
BSUK	Baseball Softball United Kingdom
CFA	County Football Association
CONGU	Council of National Golf Unions
COWC	City of Wolverhampton Council
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facilities Plan
Lms	Last Man Stands
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
SCB	Staffordshire Cricket Board
T20	Twenty20
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned by the Black Country authorities of Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall, together with the Black Country Consortium, to assess playing pitch and outdoor sport facility needs across the individual local authority areas. The output is provision of four separate needs assessments and strategies across the aforementioned authorities as well as one additional overarching framework.

This is the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) Assessment Report for Wolverhampton. It presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) (for "non-pitch" sports). The PPS Guidance details a 13-stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (1, 2 & 3)
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (4 & 5)
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (6, 7 & 8)
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy (9 & 10)
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (11, 12 & 13)

Stages A to C are detailed in this report, with stage D covered in the succeeding strategy document and Stage E ongoing once the work has been adopted. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is kept up to date. As part of the Stage E process, the PPOSS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off. Such a review will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up during its development.

1.1: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the strategy is being developed

The PPOSS for Wolverhampton will replace the existing study, which is now considered to be out of date having been originally completed in 2015 (and updated in 2018).

A key driver for undertaking the Study across the four authorities was to support the preparation of a joint Black Country Plan and to provide an important evidence base for its development. The intention was for this to replace the Black Country Core Strategy, which was adopted in 2011; however, separate local plans are now to be produced by the four local authorities instead.

Notwithstanding the above, the joint framework will still enable the four authorities to ensure that each PPOSS is carried out to same degree of detail and quality and for the reports to identify compatible outcomes across the sub-region. It will also help the authorities identify areas of deficits and surpluses in provision as well as helping to identify and capitalise on cross-boundary opportunities.

Each will identify current levels of provision across each authority and will compare this with current and likely future levels of demand. The primary purpose is therefore to provide a strategic framework that can ensure that the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities can meet the local and community needs of existing and future residents. As such, it will provide the evidence required to help protect provision and will ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future requirements.

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The strategies will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future sporting provision throughout the Black Country. One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), updated in 2021, is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Paragraph 98 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.

Paragraph 99 discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. Paragraph 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sports facilities.

Management arrangements

A project team from the Council, as well as the other relevant councils, has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available so that project stages and milestones are delivered on time. In addition, a strong and effective steering group has and will continue to lead the PPOSS during its development and will be responsible for the delivery of its recommendations and actions. The membership of this group is balanced and representative of the different parties and key drivers behind the work; it is made up of representatives from the councils, Active Black Country, Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

The steering group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective and for supporting and checking and challenging the work of the project team. It will be important for the steering group to continue once the PPOSS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ◀ Be a champion for provision in the area and promote the importance of the PPOSS.
- ◀ Support implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the study.
- ◀ Ensure that the work is kept up to date and refreshed when necessary.

Agreed scope

A wide range of playing pitch and outdoor sports and associated facilities have been agreed for inclusion in the PPOSS in Wolverhampton and across all four Black Country authorities. In full, the study covers:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ◀ Athletics | ◀ Bowls |
| ◀ Cricket | ◀ Cycling |
| ◀ Football (including 3G pitches) | ◀ Golf |
| ◀ Hockey (sand/water based AGPs) | ◀ Netball |
| ◀ Rugby union (including 3G pitches) | ◀ Rugby league (including 3G pitches) |
| ◀ Tennis | ◀ Water sports (e.g. sailing and water skiing) |

In addition, other grass pitch sports are included where identified as having a presence. This can include, but is not limited to, sports such as American football, baseball/softball, Gaelic football and lacrosse.

Sport England’s PPS guidance applies to football, rugby union, rugby league, cricket and hockey, as well as any other grass pitch sports, whereas the ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are “non-pitch”).

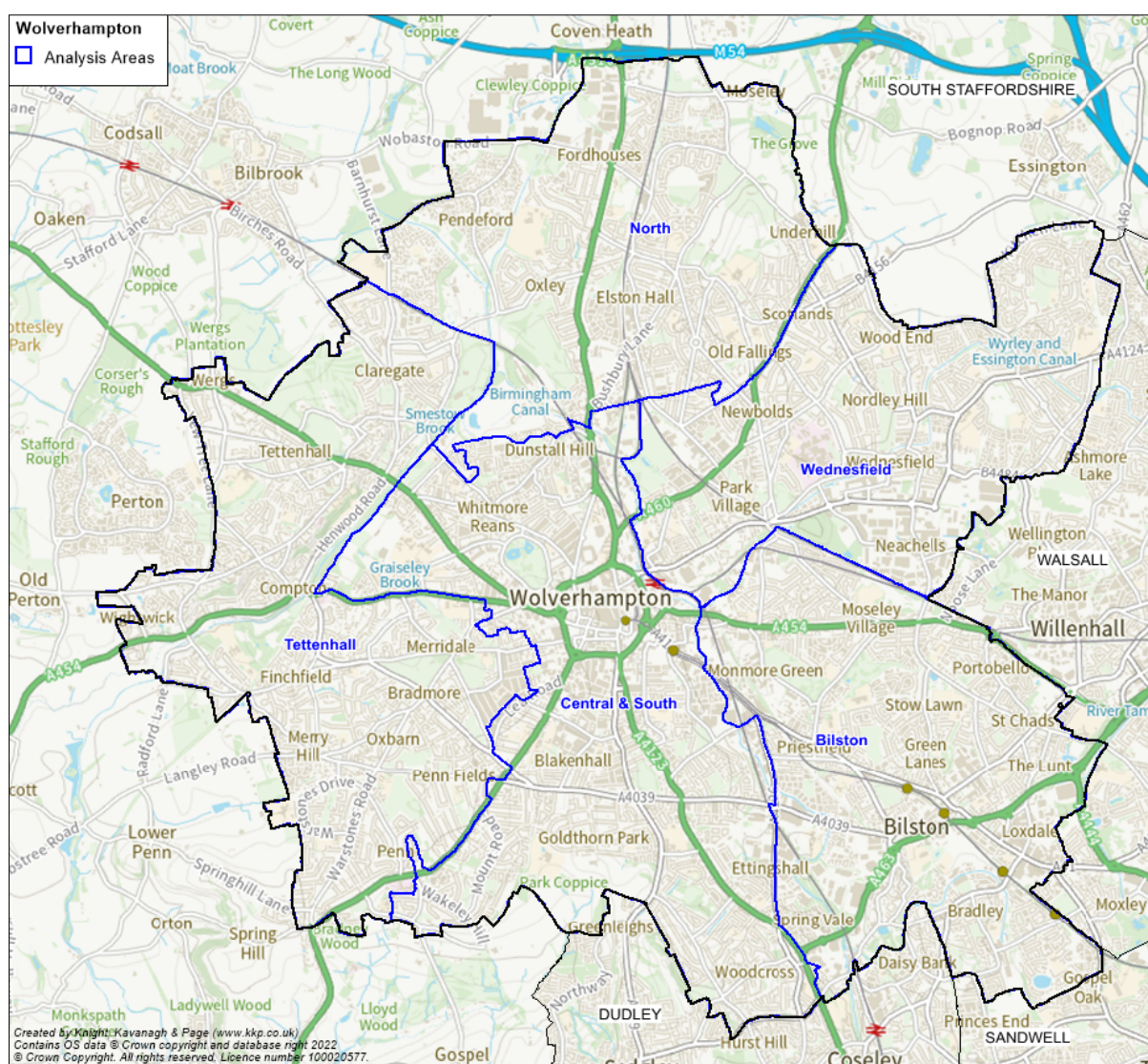
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Study area

The study area for the Wolverhampton PPOSS is the City of Wolverhampton Council boundary area. Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas have been used to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of supply and demand at a local level. For this purpose, Wolverhampton is split into the following five areas:

- ◀ Bilston
- ◀ Central & South
- ◀ North
- ◀ Tettenhall
- ◀ Wednesfield

Figure 1.1: Analysis areas



NB: A number of sites that fall just outside of the Wolverhampton boundary have also been included in the analysis as they are considered to be key sites that form part of the supply that services Wolverhampton residents. Such inclusion also allows for cross boundary issues to be further highlighted and the potential for co-ordinated working with neighbouring authorities. This is explored within the sport-by-sport sections of this report.

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in Wolverhampton needs to be provided to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This is achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field; these are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'¹:

- ◀ ***Playing pitch*** – a delineated area of 0.2ha or more which is used for 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 sets out a minimum size, this PPOSS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha. The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible, this report aims to capture all of the playing pitches and relevant outdoor sport facilities within Wolverhampton; however, there may be instances that have led to omissions, such as unused school sites where access was not possible (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included within the study where provision is known to exist from other sources e.g. affiliation data or club/league consultation). Where provision has not been recorded within the report, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so. Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Quantity

Where known, all playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting the process by checking and updating this initial data as well as supplying their own. This was also verified against club and league information supplied through consultation and any affiliation processes.

For each site, the following details are recorded in the project database:

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Community availability
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of provision
- ◀ Usage levels

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

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Accessibility

Not all facilities offer the same level of access to the community and the ownership and accessibility of provision also influences actual availability for demand. As such, each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** – facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams/members/individuals (depending on the sport).
- ◀ **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used externally; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire or particularly poor quality.
- ◀ **No community use** - facilities which are, as a matter of policy, unavailable for external hire. This includes professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team of the host club.
- ◀ **Disused** – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either (often being unmarked). 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 99 of the NPPF; Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty as to whether a facility will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and any provision adjudged not be available for this length of time is considered to be “insecure” (as opposed to “secure”).

Quality

The capacity of provision 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 provision affects the playing experience and people’s enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances, it can result in a facility 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 pitches themselves which have an effect on capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the playing provision and the ancillary facilities will determine whether sites are able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

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

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect this i.e. an “agreed quality rating”.

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Gather demand information and views

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

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

Current and future demand for provision is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section.

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision; it is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in 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. In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available. Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call due to Covid-19 restrictions) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues (as identified by the Steering Group) from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.

As key providers and users of the sports facilities, educational establishments have also been consulted. This involved face-to-face meetings with secondary schools and colleges and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. Using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections (2019 Mid Year Estimates) and proposed housing growth, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for the relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication as to how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group). This ratio is then applied to predicted population growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future. Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

- ◀ Recent trends in the participation.
- ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- ◀ Feedback from clubs on plans to develop additional teams or attract additional members.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets.

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In line with the previously proposed Black Country Plan, future demand projections across the PPOSS cover the period up until 2039. However, it must be noted that separate local plans are now to be produced, with Wolverhampton's proposed to cover the period to 2040.

1.3: Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision in Wolverhampton and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative ratings are linked to a capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions a pitch could accommodate. This is then 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.	

As a guide, the NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football, rugby union and rugby league, per day for hockey and per season for cricket.

Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a floodlit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit hard court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

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Develop the current picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a Borough-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand. This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity on provision or whether there is a shortfall.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity), or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. Often, spare capacity is discounted due to site specific issues such as those relating to quality, availability and security of tenure.

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing the aforementioned steps, it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision. This report therefore seeks to identify and present such key information on a sport-by-sport basis prior to the development of the Strategy and Action Plan.

Each included sport has its own section within this Assessment Report, detailing key findings and featuring a supply and demand analysis. In addition, a separate 3G pitch section is also included to take into account the variety of sports that can utilise such provision (e.g. football, rugby union and rugby league).

Develop the future picture of provision (scenario testing)

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, latent, exported and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. As such, most of the scenario testing generally occurs in the Strategy report that succeeds this document and therefore does not form part of the Assessment Report.

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Birmingham and Staffordshire County FAs are the primary organisations responsible for the development of football in Wolverhampton. These 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.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation, which is a charity, linked to the Premier League, the FA, and the Government, that helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding. It is committed to improving the experience of playing football for everyone involved in the game.

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 is the preferred artificial surface type for football. There is a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, in addition to training needs, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

For grass football pitches, formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to this.

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

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

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of the FA National Games Strategy, the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which has now been completed. As part of this, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) has been produced for every local authority across England, with each plan being unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (the FA, Premier League and Department for Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS) and is delivered through the Football Foundation to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP builds upon PPOSS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game as well as including strategic priorities for investment across small-sided football (including recreational and indoor activity). The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities.

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This includes those which may be key partners with regards to using football for behavioural change, plus groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

The LFFP is a 'live' document that can be updated following the completion of a PPOSS, if required, as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPOSS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The LFFP for Wolverhampton was produced in 2018 and identifies numerous priority projects for investment. These are discussed in greater detail in both this section and Part 3 of the report.

Consultation

Consultation requests were sent to all football clubs based in Wolverhampton via Birmingham FA and Staffordshire FA. In total, a team response rate of 42% has been achieved. The responsive clubs are detailed below:

- ◀ AFC Wulfrunians
- ◀ Ashmore FC
- ◀ Bilston Town FC
- ◀ Bridge Tavern FC
- ◀ Castlecroft ECT FC
- ◀ Dynamo 50 FC
- ◀ Essington AFC
- ◀ Fordhouses Juniors FC
- ◀ Liddar Sports FC
- ◀ New Park Village (NPV) FC
- ◀ Old Wulfrunians FC
- ◀ Penn Colts FC
- ◀ Penn Warriors FC
- ◀ Pilot FC
- ◀ St John United FC
- ◀ T.T Elite FC
- ◀ Wednesfield FC
- ◀ Wolverhampton Olympic FC
- ◀ Wolverhampton Sports GNST FC
- ◀ WV United FC

In terms of the large clubs which were unresponsive, these are as follows; Billbrook FC, Creswell Wanderers FC and Wolverhampton Wanderers FC. To help aid responses, Birmingham FA incentivised clubs to respond with vouchers for football kit and boots. The survey was distributed multiple times and non-responsive clubs were chased via telephone by the Club Development Officer as well as by KKP where details were available online.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 203 grass football pitches within Wolverhampton across 107 sites, with 137 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 58 sites. Most of the unavailable pitches are located at school sites.

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The distribution of the community available pitches is shown in the following table. As can be seen, they are well spread across Wolverhampton, with the Tettenhall Analysis Area containing the most (34) and the Bilston Analysis Area containing the least (19). Adult pitches are the most common (63), whilst mini 5v5 pitches are the least (5).

In addition, six pitches across two sites (Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club and CKW Stadium) are included within the audit which are outside Wolverhampton. This is due to them being located just outside of the boundary, in South Staffordshire, whilst servicing Wolverhampton-based demand. They are as key to Wolverhampton as pitches within the City.

Table 2.2: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

Analysis area	No. of pitches available for community use					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Bilston	7	2	4	6		19
Central & South	7	5	2	5	1	20
North	14	1	12	2	3	32
Tettenhall	18	8	6	1	1	34
Wednesfield	15	6	4	1	-	26
Outside	3	1		2		6
Wolverhampton	64	23	28	17	5	137

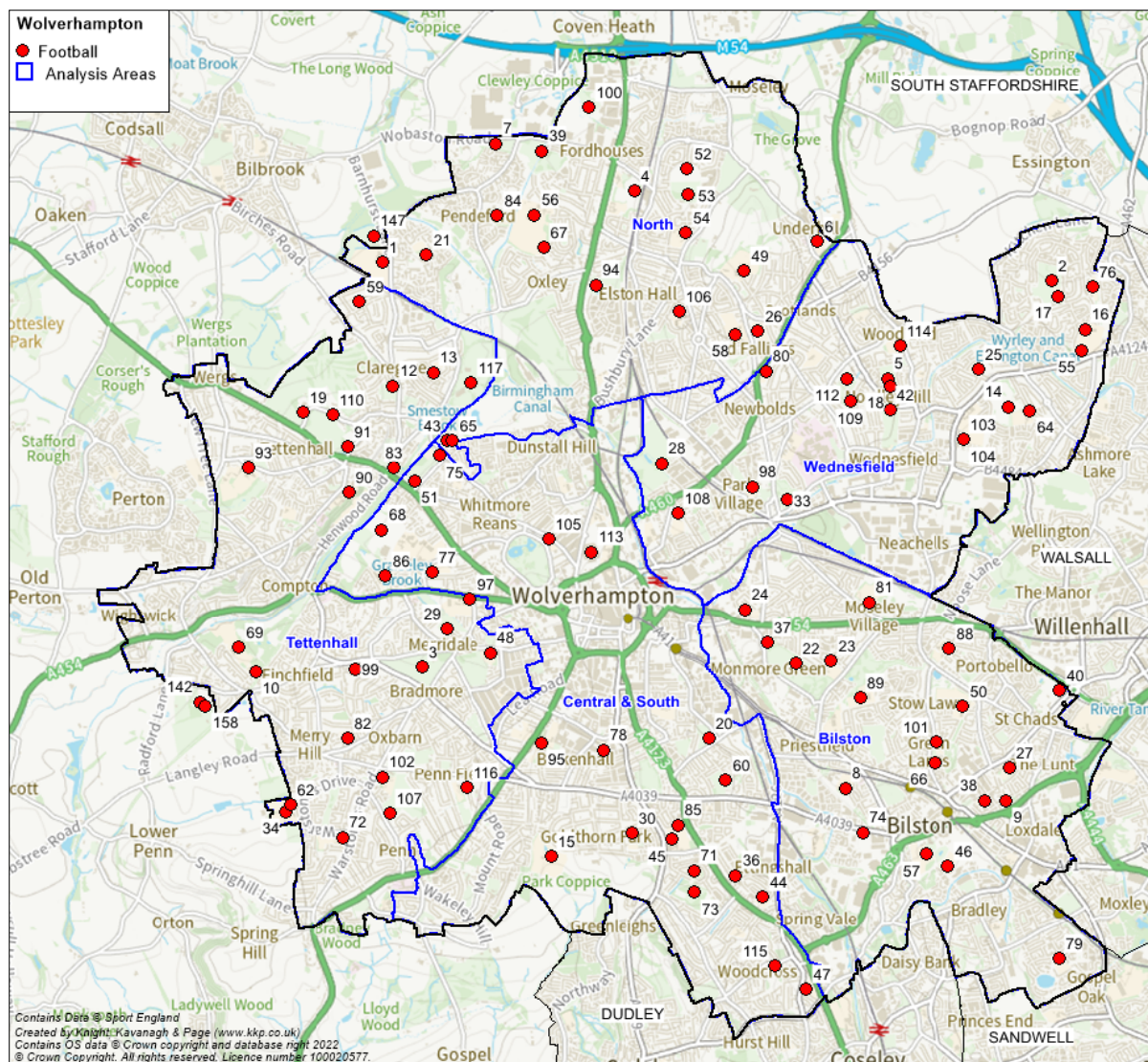
There being more adult pitches across Wolverhampton is reflective of high demand for this format of play. However, youth 11v11 demand is actually higher, meaning that the low supply of youth 11v11 pitches does not correlate. This leads to many youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, which, whilst sometimes preferable for clubs, is not ideal for players at U13-U16 level and is not in line with the FA Youth Review.

It is worth noting that compared to the reported supply in the 2018 PPS refresh, whilst the overall number of pitches has remained constant, the number of community available pitches has decreased from 161 to 137, with a significant reduction in the number of adult pitches from 90 to 64. This is however due to school sites not allowing as much community access as they did previously.

Figure 2.1 below identifies the location of all football pitches in Wolverhampton, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, please see Table 2.15.

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Figure 2.1: Location of grass football pitches in Wolverhampton



Lapsed/disused provision

There are three lapsed playing field sites identified in Wolverhampton. The first is located at the site of the former Northcote School on Northwood Park Road (WV10 8ER). The School closed in 2014, was demolished in 2018 and formerly accommodated one adult pitch. It now has permission granted for the development of 178 dwellings with funding agreed for the Council to improve the pitches at Bee Lane as mitigation for the loss of this playing field. The second lapsed site is the former St Luke's Junior School Playing Fields to rear of houses in Goldthorn Road/Grange Road (to south of the Royal School site). This has become lapsed since the school closed and compensation for its loss was provided at the new St Luke's Primary School, Blakenhall. The final lapsed site which needs mentioning is John Harpers Playing Fields on Hawkswell Drive.

In addition to this, there are two disused sites, the first of which is the City of Wolverhampton College playing fields adjacent to St Peters Collegiate Academy (WV3 9DU). The second disused site is Goodrich (now Collins), Stafford Road which has a stadia pitch as well as a training pitch.

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Security of tenure

The table below details the management of football sites in Wolverhampton. As seen, the main operators are the Council and educational establishments. Additionally, there are two pitches that are managed privately or commercially.

Table 2.3: Football pitch sites by management type

Club	Number of sites		
	Council	Education	Other
9	30	65	2

With schools being the most common provider of pitches, it is worth noting that they are also the least likely to offer community use. In total, 46 educational providers do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches, with reasons for not allowing access varying. The most common example is that the schools want to protect pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes due to existing quality issues, whilst other reasons include staffing issues, health and safety issues and a perceived lack of profitability. However, of these 46 unavailable to the community, it is worth noting that 34 are primary schools. These sites often have smaller playing fields and therefore the reason why they are unavailable is their unsuitability to provide adequate pitches for users.

Moreover, some schools that do provide community access do so without providing security of tenure, meaning that they can stop the external use at any point devoid of any warning. This applies to 16 additional schools, some of which provide a multitude of pitches such as Colton Hills Community School, Ormiston NEW Academy and Ormiston SWB Academy. To prevent future issues, it is recommended that users enter into community use agreements with the schools that they access, where possible.

Away from schools, tenure is generally considered to be secure, including at Council sites where it is assumed that pitches will continue to be offered as part of the Council's commitment to providing sports and leisure facilities.

Two clubs are known to have lease arrangements in place, with these being Bilston Town and Wednesfield football clubs, whilst others have ownership such as AFC Wulfrunians.

Wolverhampton Olympic FC shares its primary home venue with Wolverhampton CC via an annual rental agreement. However, it reports that it would ideally like to permanently move to the adjacent site, Danescourt, which is where some of its teams play. As a result, discussions have reportedly taken place over this relocation with the site owner (Chris Jewkes Fitness Centre). The main reason for this aspiration is due to the football and cricket pitches overmarking each other, which causes issues when the seasons overlap at both the start and end of each campaign. Furthermore, the Club wants to expand its provision, which is not possible with the cricket square in place.

In addition to the clubs with lease agreements already in place, NPV FC is due to be taking on an asset transfer of Wolverhampton United Football Club (the site is currently disused).

Having security of tenure is crucial for clubs/organisations, especially those that will be seeking significant investment and external funding from partners such as the Football Foundation.

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Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Wolverhampton has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard, and poor. The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments are: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%).

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

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use in Wolverhampton. Most are considered to be standard quality, with 65 assessed as this, although there is also a large quantity assessed as poor (57). Only 15 pitches are assessed as good.

Table 2.4: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
6	28	30	8	27	16	1	10	11

Most of the poor-quality pitches are located at council sites. Such provision often receives limited amounts of dedicated maintenance due to budgetary restraints and can be open access which can lead to further damage from unofficial use. The following community available sites accommodate at least one poor quality pitch:

- ◀ Bee Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Bellamy Lane Playing Fields
- ◀ Bilbrook Junior Football Club
- ◀ Claregate Park
- ◀ Colton Hills Community School
- ◀ Danescourt
- ◀ Dixon Street Playing Field
- ◀ Fowlers Playing Fields
- ◀ Heath Town Park
- ◀ Highfields School
- ◀ King George V Playing Fields
- ◀ Newbridge Playing Fields
- ◀ Smestow School
- ◀ Springvale Park
- ◀ St. Edmund's Catholic Academy
- ◀ The Royal Wolverhampton School
- ◀ Wednesfield High Academy
- ◀ Windsor Avenue Playing Fields
- ◀ Wodensfield Primary School
- ◀ Wolverhampton Cricket Club
- ◀ WV Active Aldersley

Where poor quality is identified, a basic level of maintenance and drainage issues are the most common factors. Conversely, where better quality is identified, a better maintenance regime is often cited, as is investment by the Football Foundation.

Where quality issues are prevalent, it is recommended that sites engage with the Football Foundation's PitchPower app (see below).

The good quality pitches identified in Wolverhampton are at Ormiston NEW Academy and Barnhurst Lane Football Pitches. There are also good pitches at Sir Jack Hayward Training Centre and at the Molineux Stadium, however, both are unavailable for wider community use. All use is reserved for the professional club, Wolverhampton Wanderers FC.

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Of clubs that responded to consultation, only 14% report that quality has worsened over the last 12 months, whilst 29% report that quality has improved (57% report no change). The most common issue cited by clubs reporting a deterioration is a lack of maintenance, followed by the impact of unofficial use.

For a full breakdown of the quality ratings at each site, see Table 2.12. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Local Football Facility Plan

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

One site in the LFFP was identified for pitch improvements in Wolverhampton; Windsor Avenue Playing Fields.

This site is identified as being poor quality in the PPOSS, however, there are many more sites within the PPOSS which are also poor quality, and also accommodate high levels of demand, and should be considered for future inclusion within the LFFP.

Pitch improvement

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

Linked to this, the FA has a general pitch improvement strategy, in partnership with the GMA. As part of this, it has a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice and practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. This is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise local authority-maintained sites.

The Football Foundation and the FA have also recently developed a new Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF) that allows clubs and sports organisations to apply for funding for maintenance assistance, consumables and/or equipment. Whilst local authorities are currently ineligible applicants through this fund, clubs, leagues and/or charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

Funding is awarded over a ten-year period for up to 66% of the total cost required to bring the pitches up to an appropriate standard, following a site assessment. The level of funding then decreases year on year, with the expectation that clubs are able to take on the works independently by the end of the term. This fund was initially available until the end of March 2020, although it has since been extended indefinitely due to ongoing circumstances surrounding Covid-19.

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Overmarked pitches

Overmarking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini pitches may be marked onto senior pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches.

This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch.

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, but it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

Additionally, it can be common for football pitches to be marked onto or overlapping cricket outfields, which, as previously mentioned, is the case at Wolverhampton Cricket Club as well as at Springvale Sports Club. This creates availability issues at multi-sport sites as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing, and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played.

The table below highlights all sites containing over marked pitches in Wolverhampton.

Table 2.5: Sites containing over marked pitches

Site ID	Site	Comments
7	Bilbrook Junior Football Club	Adult pitch is overmarked by a youth 9v9 pitch.
36	Hilton Road Playing Fields	A youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch overmark each other.
50	Moseley Park School Sports Centre	Both the youth 11v11 and the youth 9v9 are overmarked by an athletics track.
69	Smestow School	All pitches: two youth 11v11 and a youth 9v9 are overmarked by an athletics track.
74	Springvale Sports	Both the youth 11v11 and the 9v9 pitch overmark the cricket square.
97	The Wolverhampton Grammar School	The two adult pitches are overmarked by athletics track and a senior and a junior cricket square.
103	Wednesfield High Academy	All pitches: youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 are overmarked by an athletics track.
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	All pitches: Adult, and two youth 9v9 are overmarked by senior cricket squares.

Ancillary facilities

As with pitches, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing football sites across Wolverhampton has been assessed based on identifying good, standard and poor quality provision. Ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking and boundary fencing.

Changing rooms in Wolverhampton are a particular issue at numerous sites, with many being serviced by facilities that are poor quality, basic, and that do not provide sufficient space in relation to the number of pitches on site.

As an example of the above, Fowlers Park has changing facilities that have been closed by the Council for the foreseeable future and can therefore can no longer be accessed. Similarly, sites such as Heath Town Park and Dixon Street Playing Field are without purposeful provision.

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Furthermore, it is identified that there are seven sites in Wolverhampton which contain adult pitches but do not contain changing facilities (which is still the case in 2022), and, as such, cannot be used to accommodate competitive adult football matches. League requirements for adult football stipulates that there has to be changing facilities on site to accommodate competitive fixtures. The sites fitting this criterion are:

- ◀ Bee lane Playing Field (one adult pitch)
- ◀ Dixon Street Playing Fields (one adult pitch)
- ◀ Heath Town Park (one adult pitch)
- ◀ Northwood Park (two adult pitches)
- ◀ Springvale Park (one adult pitch)
- ◀ Tettenhall Upper Green (one adult pitch)

Fowlers Playing Field, Cottage Ground and Wolverhampton United Football Club all have provision that needs upgrading, especially given the volume of demand that is received at the sites. A lease for the Wolverhampton United FC ground has recently been granted to New Park Village (NPV) FC.

The changing facilities and the social space at Bilston Town Football Club are also considered to be poor quality, predominately due to the age of the provision. The Club reports that it has aspiration to develop the facilities but has no financing in place.

Conversely, some sites are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, including Bantock Park and Barnhurst Lane Football Pitches, where new pavilions have recently been provided.

Local Football Facility Plan

As with grass pitch improvements, the LFFP for Wolverhampton identifies sites considered as priority sites for clubhouse and changing facility improvements, although there may again be a need to amend and/or add to this list based on the findings of this study. It recommends that the following four sites should be a priority for refurbishment/ replacement:

- ◀ All Saints Action Network (ASAN)
- ◀ Ashmore Park Community Hub
- ◀ WV Active Aldersley (Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation)
- ◀ Windsor Avenue Playing Fields

Whilst most of these sites will still require improvement, as with the grass pitch projects, there may be a need to amend and/or add to this list based on the findings of the PPOSS.

Football pyramid demand

The football pyramid consists of a hierarchal format with the highest tier being the Premier League (Tier 1), the leagues below are professional reaching to League 2. These are governed by the Premier League or the English Football League (EFL). Below this, sits the National League (Tier 5/Step 1). This league in recent years (2020) has been recognised as professional alongside the tier below (Tier 6/Step 2). All leagues below this are recognised as semi-professional or amateur.

The National League comprises seven steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

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Clubs within the step system (tier 5 and below) must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA². The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirements for Step 1 clubs.

Wolverhampton Wanderers FC men's first team is the highest performing team in Wolverhampton, playing in the professional system (Premier League) and therefore above the non-league pyramid. Below this, there are then three clubs that play within the football pyramid, as shown in the table below.

Table 2.6: Football pyramid clubs/teams in Wolverhampton

Team	League	Level
AFC Wulfrunians	Midlands Football League, Premier Division	Step 5
Wolverhampton Casuals FC	Midlands Football League, Premier Division	Step 5
Bilston Town FC	Midlands Football League, Division One	Step 6

In addition to the clubs within the pyramid, there are five clubs that play in regional feeder leagues (Bilbrook, Old Wulfrunians, Warstones Wanderers, Willenhall Town, and Wolverhampton Sporting Community football clubs). These play in leagues that were formerly recognised as Step 7 within the structure, but this has changed in recent years. Clubs competing in regional feeder leagues still have some ground grading requirements but generally require investment to bring grounds up to an adequate standard for Step 6 football in the event of a promotion.

Women's National League System

There is also a Women's National League System like the adult men's football pyramid, providing structure to the women's game. Although women's clubs are still required to meet ground requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C, each with differing minimum requirements. Steps 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to steps 3 and 4 of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same.

Table 2.7: Summary of ground grading for women's football

Level	League	Grading category
Tier 1	FA Women's Super League	Step S1
Tier 2	FA Women's Championship	Step S2
Tier 3	FA Women's National League Premier Division (Northern and Southern)	Step W1
Tier 4	FA Women's National League Division 1 North / Midlands / South East / South West	Step W2
Tier 5	Regional Premier Division	Step W3
Tier 6	Regional Division One	-
Tier 7	County Leagues	-

Locally, there are three clubs in Wolverhampton competing within the Women's system, including Wolverhampton Wanderers Women's FC (Tier 3), which plays at the CKW Stadium (AFC Wulfrunians).

² <https://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

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There are also Creswell Wanderers Ladies FC and City of Wolverhampton College Ladies FC, which both compete in the Staffordshire Girls and Ladies League (Tier 7). There are no specific ground grading requirements required for this level of play.

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, 253 teams from within 87 clubs are identified as playing within Wolverhampton. This consists of 86 adult, 112 youth and 55 mini teams and includes six adult women's teams as well as eight youth girls' teams.

The most prominent playing format is adult football (86 teams), whereas the least common is mini 5v5 football (21 teams). The largest number of teams are found in the North Analysis Area (66 teams), despite the Tettenhall Analysis Area supplying more pitches. The area with the least demand is the Central & South Analysis Area (38 teams).

In addition, three teams are identified as playing on sites included outside of Wolverhampton. These are from AFC Wulfrunians FC and Old Wulfrunians FC.

It is also worth noting that the reported team numbers have grown significantly since those reported in the 2018 PPS refresh, they have risen from 178 to 253 overall, with growth seen in all age groups and in all sub areas.

Table 2.8: Summary of teams currently playing in Wolverhampton

Analysis area	No. of teams							Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11 Boys	Youth 11v11 Girls	Youth 9v9 Boys	Youth 9v9 Girls	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Bilston	33	5	-	6	-	8	4	56
Central & South	5	18	2	7	1	4	1	38
North	19	20	1	9	1	7	9	66
Outside	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Tettenhall	13	10	2	4	1	11	4	45
Wednesfield	15	14	-	9	-	4	3	45
Wolverhampton	86	69	5	35	3	34	21	253

Participation trends

There has been a considerable growth in football demand in recent years in Wolverhampton, with significantly more teams existing now when compared to previous seasons. This is predominately due to the growth of large clubs such as Penn Colts FC and AFC Wulfrunians, and Bilbrook Juniors FC.

Aligned to the above, just over half (52%) of consulted clubs report a growth in demand over the previous three years, whilst only three clubs report a reduction. These are Penn Warriors FC, Dynamo 50 FC, and St John United FC, which all report that they have lost an adult team. The former relates this to a lack of pitch capacity, whilst the latter two relate it to the impact of Covid-19.

Most clubs reporting an increase in demand have seen increases in the number of mini and junior teams. The reasons for the growth vary, but include a general increase in demand, the impact of initiatives and coaching sessions, increased access to secondary venues, and the acquisition of additional coaches.

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Exported/ imported demand

Given the fluid cross boundary movement in Wolverhampton with South Staffordshire, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley, there are several Wolverhampton based clubs which play just over the boundary and vice versa. Several clubs play in Wolverhampton despite being based outside the City. This affects clubs such as Wyrley FC and AFC Willenhall which access facilities within the City dependent on availability of provision within Walsall.

Moreover, St John United FC is currently renting the Council owned facility (Bantock Park), which represent imported demand into Wolverhampton. The reason for this is because the Club cannot find any suitable pitch provision in Essington, South Staffordshire, where most of its players are from. It therefore aspires to relocate back to South Staffordshire.

Unmet demand

No clubs express unmet demand, although some do identify a level of latent demand and are subsequently having to turn players away.

Latent demand

Several clubs in Wolverhampton report latent demand, stating that they could field more teams if more pitches were available. This applies to the following:

- ◀ AFC Wulfrunians
- ◀ Ashmore FC
- ◀ Bilston Town FC
- ◀ Castlecroft ECT FC
- ◀ Essington AFC
- ◀ Liddar Sports FC
- ◀ NPV FC
- ◀ Penn Warriors FC
- ◀ T.T Elite FC
- ◀ Wednesfield FC
- ◀ Wolverhampton Olympic FC

Whilst not all clubs quantify their potential increases, it is significant for those that do. For example, AFC Wulfrunians reports that it could field up to nine additional teams if it had access to a dedicated home venue which can offer a more substantive pitch offer than its current venue at Old Wulfrunians Sports Club. Essington AFC suggests that it could accommodate five more teams with similar reasons stated.

In addition to the requirement for more pitch capacity, some of the clubs also identify that a lack of other facilities also limit activity, including 3G pitches for training, and changing rooms. Wednesfield FC also cites a lack of qualified coaches and volunteers.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing developments within Wolverhampton.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used in the following table to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2039)³ based on population growth. Using this, there is a predicted increase of five adult and 12 youth 11v11 teams. The represents significant growth from population increases alone.

³ Data Source: ONS Mid-2019 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

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Table 2.9: Wolverhampton-wide team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2039)	Predicted future number of teams (2039)	No. of teams that may be generated
Senior Men (18-45)	49,108	73	1:673	52,654	78	5
Senior Women (18-45)	46,967	4	1:1174	49,474	4	0
Youth Boys (12-17)	9,491	71	1:134	10,949	82	11
Youth Girls (12-17)	9,124	8	1:1141	10,516	9	1
Youth Boys (10-11)	3,651	43	1:85	3,665	43	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	3,358	3	1:1119	3,538	3	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	7,485	7	1:1069	7,333	7	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	7,596	15	1:506	7,383	15	0

When broken down by analysis area, the increase in adult and youth 11v11 participation is expected to be split relatively equally. This is summarised below and translates the demand to match equivalent sessions (0.5 match equivalent sessions represents one team, based on teams playing on a home and away basis).

Table 2.10: Summary of future demand through team generation rates by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Bilston	1	0.5	-	-	-	1.5
Central & South	-	1.5	-	-	-	1.5
North	0.5	1.5	-	-	-	2
Tettenhall	0.5	1	-	-	-	1.5
Wednesfield	0.5	1	-	-	-	1.5
Wolverhampton	2.5	5.5	0	0	0	8

Participation increases

A total of 11 clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide in the future. This equates to a sizeable growth of 33 teams, as seen below.

Table 2.11: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand (teams)	Pitch size	Match equivalents
AFC Wulfrunians	Tettenhall ⁴	2	Mini 5v5	1
		2	Youth 9v9	1
		5	Youth 11v11	2.5
Ashmore FC	Wednesfield	1	Adult	0.5
Bilston Town FC	Bilston	1	Adult	0.5
		2	Mini 5v5	1
Castlecroft ECT FC	Wednesfield	1	Adult	0.5
Essington AFC	Wednesfield	2	Mini 5v5	1
		3	Youth 9v9	1.5
Liddar Sports FC	Wednesfield	2	Mini 5v5	1

⁴ AFC Wulfrunians FC is based in the Outside Analysis Area. Its junior teams however play within the Tettenhall Analysis Area and future demand for these is therefore attributed to this area catchment.

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Club	Analysis area	Future demand (teams)	Pitch size	Match equivalents
NPV FC	Wednesfield	2	Youth 11v11	1
Penn Warriors FC	North	2	Mini 5v5	1
		1	Mini 7v7	0.5
T.T Elite FC	North	1	Mini 7v7	0.5
		1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Wednesfield FC	Wednesfield	2	Mini 5v5	1
		1	Mini 7v7	0.5
Wolverhampton Olympic FC	Tettenhall	1	Mini 5v5	0.5
		1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Total				16.5

Included within the future demand expressed by clubs is demand for the creation of female teams by AFC Wulfrunians, Bilston Town FC, Essington AFC, and Wolverhampton Olympic FC. Increasing female demand is currently a priority area for the FA.

Related to the above, Wildcats centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, providing opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment. All organisations delivering Wildcats centres receive a £900 start-up grant and 30 branded footballs in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl's participation. Through this, it is likely that the growth in affiliated female demand will exceed that shown through team generation rates and club aspirations, although to what extent is not currently quantifiable.

The total future demand expressed by the clubs amounts to 16.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Most of this is identified in the Wednesfield Analysis Area (seven match equivalent sessions) and on mini 5v5 pitches (three match equivalent sessions). However, some level of future demand is identified on every pitch type and in every analysis area apart from the Central & South Analysis Area, as summarised in the table below.

Table 2.12: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Bilston	0.5	-	-	-	1	1.5
Central & South	-	-	-	-	-	0
North	-	-	0.5	1	1	2.5
Tettenhall	-	2.5	1.5	-	1.5	5.5
Wednesfield	1	1	1.5	0.5	3	7
Wolverhampton	1.5	3.5	3.5	1.5	6.5	16.5

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, future demand from both club aspirations and participation increases are included to calculate the potential future supply and demand of/for grass pitches. However, it must be noted that some of the demand from participation increases could be absorbed by club aspirations.

Future Demand Summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only future demand identified through population increases are included due to the large increases expressed by clubs. This demand is considered more aspirational, and it is unlikely that it will all be achieved.

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However, the preceding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if the growth was realised.

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. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

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

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 2.14 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

Match equivalent sessions

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate 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 pitch usage may, for example, include training sessions and informal use.

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches, the current usage of such sites needs to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all, and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP (as this can result in less grass pitch use).

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking. As such, where not overplayed as a result of community use, many school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extra-curricular activity.

For school sites which are available for community use, current play has been enlarged on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

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Informal use

Several football pitches in the area are on open access sites such as East Park. As such, these pitches are subject to informal use in the form of, for example, dog walkers, unorganised games of football and exercise groups. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded, and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time, which can differ for each pitch type depending on when leagues operate for each format of play. In Wolverhampton, peak time for all types of football is Sunday AM, based on current demand levels.

On occasion, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed, or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than the overall spare capacity that exists. This is because most or all use on those pitches occurs outside of the peak period. Where this is the case, given that peak time usage should not be utilised over and above overall capacity, adjustments have been made.

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 play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

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

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Instead, any identified spare capacity should be retained to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecured tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.

The table below identifies the way actual spare capacity is represented in Table 2.14.

Table 2.13: Spare capacity examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.

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Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
-	If the cell has a dash in it, this means that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it was to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.

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Table 2.14: Football grass pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Site capacity	Current play	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
1	Aldersley High School Sports Centre	WV8 1RT	North	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
2	Ashmore Park	WV11 2LT	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	2	2	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
3	Bantock Park	WV3 9BH	Tettenhall	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	2	2	2.5	0.5	0	Overplayed.
4	Bee Lane Playing Field	WV10 6LF	North	Yes-unused	Council	Secure	Adult	-	Poor	1	2	0	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
5	Bellamy Lane Playing Fields	WV11 1LN	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
6	Berrybrook Primary School	WV10 8NZ	North	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
7	Bilbrook Junior Football Club	WV9 5HQ	North	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	4	2	0	Overplayed.
							Adult		Poor	1	1	4	3	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	3	2	0	Overplayed.
							Mini	(7v7)	Poor	2	4	2.5	1.5	0.5	Played to capacity at peak time.
							Mini	(5v5)	Poor	2	4	3.5	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
8	Bilston Church of England Primary School	WV14 0HU	Bilston	Yes	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	8	0.5	7.5	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
9	Bilston Town FC	WV14 7EX	Bilston	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	2.5	0.5	0	Overplayed.
10	Castlecroft Primary School	WV3 8HS	Tettenhall	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
12	Claregate Park	WV6 9PZ	Tettenhall	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	1	0	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
13	Claregate Primary School	WV6 9JU	Tettenhall	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	4	0.5	3.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
14	Colman Avenue Neighbourhood Park	WV11 3RS	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	4	0	4	2	Actual spare capacity.
15	Colton Hills Community School	WV4 5DG	Central & South	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	2	2	2.5	0.5	0	Overplayed.
16	Coppice Performing Arts School	WV11 2QE	Wednesfield	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
17	Corpus Christi Catholic Primary Academy	WV11 2LT	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
18	Cottage Ground (Wednesfield Town FC)	WV11 1ND	Wednesfield	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	2	0	0	At capacity.
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	1	1	1	1
19	Danescourt	WV6 9BH	Tettenhall	Yes	Commercial	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
							Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	2	1	1	1	1
20	Dixon Street Playing Field	WV2 2BJ	Central & South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
21	Dovecotes Primary School	WV8 1TX	North	No	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Site capacity	Current play	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
22	East Park	WV1 2BS	Bilston	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	3	6	4.5	1.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity.
23	East Park Academy	WV1 2DS	Bilston	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
24	Eastfield Primary School	WV1 2QY	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
25	Edward The Elder Primary School	WV11 3DB	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
26	Fallings Park Primary School	WV10 8BN	North	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
27	Field View Primary School	WV14 7AE	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
28	Fowlers Playing Fields	WV10 9AW	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	4	4	3.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
29	Gamesfield Green Playing Field	WV3 9RA	Tettenhall	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	0	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
30	Goldthorn Park Primary School	WV4 5ET	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
33	Heath Town Park	WV10 0LU	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	1	4	3	0	Overplayed.
34	Highfields School	WV4 4NT	Tettenhall	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Poor	1	1	7	6	0	Overplayed.
				No						2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
36	Hilton Road Playing Fields	WV4 6DR	Central & South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	2.5	0.5	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Actual Spare Capacity
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	4	2	2	0	Spare capacity discounted due to only having one pitch at 7v7 size.
37	Holy Rosary Catholic Primary Academy	WV1 2BS	Bilston	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	4	0.5	3.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
38	Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School (Bilston)	WV14 7PG	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)	WV9 5HH	North	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	2	4	0.5	3.5	2	Actual spare capacity.
42	King George V Playing Fields (Wednesfield)	WV11 1NQ	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	3	3	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
43	Kingston Centre	WV6 0UA	North	No	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
44	Lanesfield Primary School	WV4 6BZ	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
45	Lawnswood Campus	WV4 6SR	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
46	Loxdale Primary School	WV14 0AU	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
47	Manor Primary School	WV14 9UQ	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
48	Merridale Primary School	WV3 0UP	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
49	Moreton School	WV10 8BY	North	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.

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50	Moseley Park School Sports Centre	WV14 6LU	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
51	Newbridge Playing Fields	WV6 0JX	Central & South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	1	0	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
							Mini	(5v5)	Poor	1	2	0	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
53	Northwood Park	WV10 8EU	North	Yes-unused	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	2	4	0	4	2	Actual spare capacity.
54	Northwood Park Primary School	WV10 8DS	North	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
55	Oak Meadow Primary School	WV11 2QQ	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
56	Ormiston NEW Academy	WV10 6SE	North	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Good	3	9	4	5	3	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(9v9)	Good	4	16	0.5	15.5	4	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	WV14 0QE	Bilston	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	2	4	1	3	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
58	Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy	WV10 8BL	North	Yes	School	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
59	Palmers Cross Primary School	WV6 9DF	Tettenhall	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
60	Former Bilston United Sports Ground	WV2 2DN	Central & South	No	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
62	Penn Fields School	WV4 4NT	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
64	Perry Hall Primary School	WV11 3RT	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
65	Pine Green Academy	WV6 0UB	North	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
66	Prouds Lane Playing Fields	WV14 6QA	Bilston	No	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
67	Rakegate Primary School	WV10 6US	North	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	4	0.5	3.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
68	Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground	WV3 9BF	Central & South	No	Club	Secure	Adult		Good	3	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Youth	(11v11)	Good	4	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Mini	(7v7)	Good	3	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
69	Smestow School	WV3 8HU	Tettenhall	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	2	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
71	Spring Vale Primary School	WV4 6SD	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
72	Springdale Primary School	WV4 4NJ	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
73	Springvale Park	WV4 6TA	Central & South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	1	0	1	1	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
74	Springvale Sports Club	WV14 0QR	Bilston	Yes-unused	Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	0	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0	2	1	Actual spare capacity.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Site capacity	Current play	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
75	SS Peter And Paul Catholic Primary Academy & Nursery	WV6 0HR	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
76	St Albans CE Academy (Wolverhampton)	WV11 2PF	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
77	St Jukes C Of E Academy	WV6 0DT	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
78	St Lukes C Of E Primary School (Wolverhampton)	WV2 3AE	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
79	St Martin's CE Primary School	WV14 8BS	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
80	St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy	WV10 8PG	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
81	St Matthias School	WV1 2BH	Bilston	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	8	0.5	7.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
82	St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy & Nursery	WV3 7LE	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
83	St Michaels CE Aided Primary School	WV6 9AF	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
84	St Paul's Church of England Aided Primary School	WV9 5NR	North	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
85	St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy	WV4 6AW	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
86	St. Edmund's Catholic Academy	WV3 9DU	Central & South	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Poor	2	2	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(11v11)	Poor	2	2	0.5	1.5	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
88	Stow Heath Primary School	WV13 3TT	Bilston	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
89	Stowlawn Primary School	WV14 6EH	Bilston	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	4	0.5	3.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
90	Tettenhall College	WV6 8QX	Tettenhall	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	4	0.5	3.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
91	Tettenhall Upper Green	WV6 9AX	Tettenhall	Yes-unused	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
93	The King's CE School	WV6 8XG	Tettenhall	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	4	0.5	3.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
94	The Pavilion	WV10 6AJ	North	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	0	1	1	1	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Site capacity	Current play	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	WV3 0EG	Central & South	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Mini	(7v7)	Poor	4	8	0.5	7.5	4	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
97	The Wolverhampton Grammar School	WV3 9RB	Tettenhall	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	2	4	0.5	3.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
98	Trinity Church of England Primary School	WV10 0UB	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
99	Uplands Junior School	WV3 8BA	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
100	UTC Collins Sports Ground	WV10 7EH	North	No	Commercial	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
101	Villiers Primary School	WV14 6PR	Bilston	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
102	Warstones Primary School	WV4 4LU	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
103	Wednesfield High Academy	WV11 3ES	Wednesfield	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
104	Wednesfield High School Sports Centre	WV11 3ES	Wednesfield	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	4	0.5	3.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
105	West Park Primary School	WV1 4BE	Central & South	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
106	Whitgreave Primary School	WV10 9JP	North	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
107	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields	WV4 4EP	Tettenhall	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
							Adult		Poor	5	5	2.5	2.5	2.5	Actual spare capacity.
108	Woden Primary School	WV10 0LH	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
109	Wodensfield Primary School	WV11 1PW	Wednesfield	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	WV6 9BJ	Tettenhall	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Poor	1	1	1.5	0.5	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	2	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
112	Wolverhampton United FC	WV11 1HN	Wednesfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	2	4	5.5	1.5	0	Overplayed.
113	Wolverhampton Wanderers FC (Molineux Stadium)	WV1 4QR	Central & South	No	Club	Secure	Adult		Good	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
114	Wood End Primary School	WV11 1YQ	Wednesfield	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Site capacity	Current play	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
115	Woodcross Park	WV14 9BW	Central & South	Yes-unused	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	0	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
116	Woodfield Primary School	WV4 4AG	Tettenhall	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
117	WV Active Aldersley	WV6 9NW	Tettenhall	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	3	3	4.5	1.5	0	Overplayed.
142	Old Wulfrunians Sports & Social Club	WV3 8NA	Outside	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	2	4	0	4	2	Actual spare capacity.
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	8	0	8	2	Actual spare capacity.
147	Barnhurst Lane Football Pitches	WV8 1RT	North	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Good	3	9	4.5	4.5	4.5	Actual spare capacity.
							Youth	(11v11)	Good	1	4	3.5	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
							Youth	(9v9)	Good	3	12	2	10	9	Actual spare capacity.
							Mini	(5v5)	Good	1	6	0.5	5.5	2.5	Actual spare capacity.
158	The CKW Stadium	WV3 8NA	Outside	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.

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Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Wolverhampton. It totals 40 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 36 pitches at 14 sites.

Table 2.15: Summary of actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (sessions)
14	Colman Avenue Neighbourhood Park	Wednesfield	Youth (9v9)	2	2
22	East Park	Bilston	Adult	3	1.5
29	Gamesfield Green Playing Field	Tettenhall	Youth (11v11)	1	1
36	Hilton Road Playing Fields	Central & South	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses)	North	Adult	2	2
53	Northwood Park	North	Adult	2	2
58	Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy	North	Youth (9v9)	1	1
74	Springvale Sports	Bilston	Youth (11v11)	1	1
			Youth (9v9)	1	1
91	Tettenhall Upper Green	Tettenhall	Adult	1	1
107	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields	Tettenhall	Adult	6	3.5
115	Woodcross Park	Central & South	Youth (11v11)	1	1
142	Old Wulfrunians Sports & Social Club	Outside	Adult	2	2
			Youth (11v11)	1	1
			Mini (7v7)	2	2
147	Barnhurst Lane Football Pitches	North	Adult	3	4.5
			Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
			Youth (9v9)	3	9
			Mini (5v5)	1	2.5
158	The CKW Stadium	Outside	Adult	1	1
Total				36	40

The North Analysis Area provides the largest amount of actual spare capacity, with 21.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas only 1.5 is identified in the Central & South Analysis Area. Furthermore, match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exist on each type, with the most identified on adult pitches (18.5 match equivalent sessions). It is also worth noting that since the 2018 PPS refresh, the actual spare capacity has reduced significantly across adult pitches from 38 to 20 match sessions.

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Table 2.16: Summary of actual spare capacity by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Bilston	1.5	1	1	-	-	3.5
Central & South	-	1	0.5	-	-	1.5
North	8.5	0.5	10	-	2.5	21.5
Outside	3	1	-	2	-	6
Tettenhall	4.5	1	-	-	-	5.5
Wednesfield	-	-	2	-	-	2
Wolverhampton	17.5	4.5	13.5	2	2.5	40

In addition, it must be noted that an additional 13 match equivalent sessions per week of potential spare capacity have also been discounted due to poor quality, which is minimal. However, 48.5 match equivalent sessions per week have been discounted due to unsecure tenure, which is significant.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In Wolverhampton, 18 pitches across 11 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 23 match equivalent sessions per week. It is worth noting that overplay now seems to be a much more significant issue that it was reported in 2018 PPS refresh. The overplay is summarised in the table below.

Table 2.17: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (sessions)
3	Bantock Park	Tettenhall	Adult	2	0.5
7	Bilbrook Junior Football Club	North	Adult	2	5
			Youth (9v9)	1	2
9	Bilston Town FC	Bilston	Adult	1	0.5
15	Colton Hills Community School	Central & South	Youth (11v11)	2	0.5
33	Heath Town Park	Wednesfield	Adult	1	3
34	Highfields School	Tettenhall	Adult	1	6
36	Hilton Road Playing Fields	Central & South	Adult	1	0.5
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall	Adult	1	0.5
112	Wolverhampton United FC	Wednesfield	Adult	2	1.5
117	WV Active Aldersley	Tettenhall	Adult	3	1.5
147	Barnhurst Lane Football Pitches	North	Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
Total				18	23

In total, there are 19 match equivalent sessions per week of overplay on adult pitches, two on youth 11v11 pitches, two on youth 9v9 pitches and none on either mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. Each analysis area is experiencing some level of overplay, most prominently in the North & Tettenhall analysis areas (8.5 match equivalent sessions combined).

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Table 2.18: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Bilston	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5
Central & South	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	1
North	5	1.5	2	-	-	8.5
Tettenhall	8.5	-	-	-	-	8.5
Wednesfield	4.5	-	-	-	-	4.5
Wolverhampton	19	2	2	0	0	23

Of the overplayed pitches, 14 are assessed as poor quality, where improvements would relieve issues. Additionally, three are located at education sites, where curricular and extra-curricular use adds to the capacity issues.

Further to the overplayed pitches, it should be noted that four pitches across Wolverhampton are currently played to capacity. Any further use of these, without quality improvements, would result in further overplay developing.

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the current supply and demand balance (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type. The future demand balance is then also calculated based on team generation rates.

Adult pitch analysis

Overall, there is currently a shortfall of adult capacity in Wolverhampton, amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week, with shortfalls in the Central & South, Tettenhall and Wednesfield analysis areas.

When accounting for future demand, the overall shortfall increases to four match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.19: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions (per week)				Total
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	
Bilston	1.5	0.5	1	1	-
Central & South	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
North	8.5	5	3.5	0.5	3
Outside	3	-	3	-	3
Tettenhall	4.5	8.5	4	0.5	4.5
Wednesfield	-	4.5	4.5	0.5	5
Wolverhampton	17.5	19	1.5	2.5	4

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Youth 11v11 pitch analysis

There is currently spare capacity across Wolverhampton on youth 11v11 pitches totally 2.5 match equivalent sessions. Small shortfalls are identified in the Central & South, North and Wednesfield analysis areas. When accounting for future demand, of 5.5 match equivalent sessions, shortfalls emerge totalling three match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions (per week)				Total
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	
Bilston	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Central & South	1	0.5	0.5	1.5	1
North	0.5	1.5	1	1.5	2.5
Outside	1	-	1	-	1
Tettenhall	1	-	1	1	-
Wednesfield	-	-	-	1	1
Wolverhampton	4.5	2	2.5	5.5	3

Youth 9v9 pitch analysis

There is a current sufficient supply of youth 9v9 capacity in Wolverhampton amounting to 11.5 match equivalent sessions per week. No future demand is identified through team generation rates.

Table 2.21: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions (per week)				Total
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	
Bilston	1	-	1	-	1
Central & South	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
North	10	2	8	-	8
Outside	-	-	-	-	-
Tettenhall	-	-	-	-	-
Wednesfield	2	-	2	-	2
Wolverhampton	13.5	2	11.5	-	11.5

Mini 7v7 pitch analysis

Across Wolverhampton, there is a spare capacity on mini 7v7 pitches totalling two match equivalent session per week. This is solely due to spare capacity on the pitches included outside of Wolverhampton, with all analysis areas within the City considered to be at capacity.

No future demand is identified through team generation rates.

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Table 2.22: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions (per week)				Total
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	
Bilston	-	-	-	-	-
Central & South	-	-	-	-	-
North	-	-	-	-	-
Outside	2	-	2	-	2
Tettenhall	-	-	-	-	-
Wednesfield	-	-	-	-	-
Wolverhampton	2	0	2	-	2

Mini 5v5 pitch analysis

Currently, there is overall spare capacity on mini 5v5 pitches in Wolverhampton totalling 2.5 match equivalent session. No future demand is identified through team generation rates.

Table 2.23: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions (per week)				Total
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	
Bilston	-	-	-	-	-
Central & South	-	-	-	-	-
North	2.5	-	2.5	-	2.5
Outside	-	-	-	-	-
Tettenhall	-	-	-	-	-
Wednesfield	-	-	-	-	-
Wolverhampton	2.5	0	2.5	-	2.5

Overall supply and demand analysis

Using the supply and demand analysis tables above, it is determined that there is currently a shortfall of adult match equivalent sessions in Wolverhampton and sufficient capacity on youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches, albeit minimal on certain pitch types.

After factoring in future demand, the existing shortfalls are projected to worsen, and a shortfall is set to be created on youth 11v11. This means that there is capacity available, both currently and in the future, on youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 2.24: Summary of supply and demand

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				Total
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	
Adult	17.5	19	1.5	2.5	4
Youth 11v11	4.5	2	2.5	5.5	3
Youth 9v9	13.5	2.5	11.5	-	11.5
Mini 7v7	2	0	2	-	2
Mini 5v5	2.5	0	2.5	-	2.5

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Football – grass pitch supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity totals 40 match equivalent sessions per week across football pitches in Wolverhampton, which is a significant amount.
- A total of 18 pitches across 11 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 23 match equivalent sessions per week.
- There is a current shortfall of adult match equivalent sessions, whilst some capacity exists on youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- After factoring in future demand, shortfalls on adult pitches are exacerbated and a shortfall emerges on youth 11v11 pitches. There is a sufficient capacity on the remaining pitch types.

Football – supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 203 grass football pitches within Wolverhampton across 106 sites, with 137 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 58 sites.
- As a breakdown, there are 63 adult, 23 youth 11v11, 28 youth 9v9, 18 mini 7v7 and five mini 5v5 pitches that are available for community use.
- Lapsed/disused pitches are identified at the former Northcote School, Wolverhampton United Football Club, City of Wolverhampton College playing fields, the former school playing fields to St Lukes Primary School, Goodrich (now Collins) Stafford Road and John Harpers Playing Fields on Hawkswell Drive.
- The Council and schools are the predominant supplier of football pitches.
- There are 65 community available pitches assessed as standard quality, with 57 assessed as poor and just 15 assessed as good.
- Quality of ancillary provision is an issue at sites such as East Park, Fowlers Playing Field, Cottage Ground and Bilston Town Football Club.

Football – demand summary

- Through the audit and assessment, 253 teams from within 87 clubs are identified as playing within Wolverhampton, consisting of 86 adult, 147 youth and 20 mini teams.
- There is a trend of significant growth across Wolverhampton in recent years.
- There are high levels of imported and exported demand, with a large number of teams playing in neighbouring authorities due to the close proximity of the boundary between Wolverhampton, South Staffordshire, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley.
- No clubs report unmet demand in that it has teams that are unable to play due to a lack of pitch provision.
- A total of 11 clubs expresses latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitch capacity was available to them.
- Based on population growth, an increase of five adult and 12 youth teams is projected (to 2039), whilst 11 clubs report aspirations to grow by a combined total of 33 teams.

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

3.1 Introduction

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

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the required standard, meaning full contact activity can take place.

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to meet its Performance Standard. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, meaning World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements, subject to passing an additional RFL performance standard test.

Other sports that are known to use 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse. Many test contractors are able to offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity.

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

3.2 Current provision

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100 x 64 metres (106 x 70 metres including run offs); however, for the purposes of this report, all pitches measuring over 100 x 60 metres (inclusive of run offs) are considered to be full size due to the amount of demand they can accommodate. It is common for such pitches to be slightly undersized, especially when sand-based pitches have been converted as the size requirement for hockey is generally smaller than for football.

As seen in the table below, there are currently four full size 3G pitches within Wolverhampton across the same number of sites. Pitches at City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy are available to the community, whilst pitches at Heath Park School and Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground are unavailable. The former does not let out its provision to protect quality for its students, whereas the latter forms part of a professional training ground for Wolverhampton Wanderers FC.

Further to outdoor full size provision, there is an indoor full size 3G pitch located at Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground and an indoor 9v9 3G pitch at WV Aldersley.

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Table 3.1: Full size 3G pitches in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
11	City Of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus)	Bilston	Yes	Yes	100 x 65
31	Heath Park School	Wednesfield	No	Yes	102 x 62
58	Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy	North	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
68	Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground	Central & South	No	Yes	103 x 66

There is a single pitch located within each of the Bilston, North, Central & South and Wednesfield analysis areas. This means that no full size pitches are provided in the Tettenhall Analysis Area.

In addition to the full size 3G pitches in Wolverhampton, there are also six sites containing eight smaller sized pitches that could theoretically help to accommodate some demand. Five of are available for community use and floodlit (the pitch at Khalsa Academy is neither).

Table 3.2: Additional supply of 3G pitches in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Number of pitches	Size (metres)
16	Coppice Performing Arts School	Wednesfield	Yes	Yes	1	62 x 42
41	Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton	Bilston	No	No	1	45 x 32
56	Ormiston NEW Academy	North	Yes	Yes	1	65 x 33
70	Southside Sports	Central & South	Yes	Yes	3	38 x 18
90	Tettenhall College	Tettenhall	Yes	Yes	1	53 x 33
96	The Way Youth Zone	Central & South	Yes	Yes	1	36 x 18

Nationally, whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller sized provision can be used to host youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are FA approved. Whilst some of the pitches in Wolverhampton are too small to accommodate any form of demand (as minimum area of 37 x 27 metres is required for mini 5v5 football) most are able to accommodate a level of midweek training demand. This is particularly the case at Coppice Performing Arts School, Ormiston NEW Academy and Tettenhall College.

Future provision

In the LFFP for Wolverhampton, two priority projects are identified; a new full-size, floodlit 3G pitch at Highfields School and the refurbishment of the indoor 9v9 FTP at WV Active Aldersley (Wolverhampton Foundation). The latter proposal has been completed.

Due to growth in football demand since the LFFP was produced, it is likely that 3G requirements have now considerably increased, whilst additional aspirations are now also known. The demand section of this report therefore further explores this and whether amends and/or additions are required to the project list.

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Linked to the LFFP, Highfields School continues to investigate the creation of a 3G pitch. This, however, has not progressed as a consequence of issues with gaining a suitable football user that could assume responsibility for it in terms of managing the provision. It is also yet to gain adequate funding.

Away from the LFFP, Bilston Town FC aspires to convert the surface of its stadia grass pitch to a 3G pitch. The Club has held talks with the City of Wolverhampton Council and Staffordshire FA regarding the possibility of proceeding with this in the hope of being able to train and conduct more matches on site.

Similarly, Wednesfield High Academy is exploring funding opportunities for the conversion of its netball courts to a 3G surface. The current surface is poor with the lines fading and the floodlights not working. However, this is being held back as the School has a lack of investment.

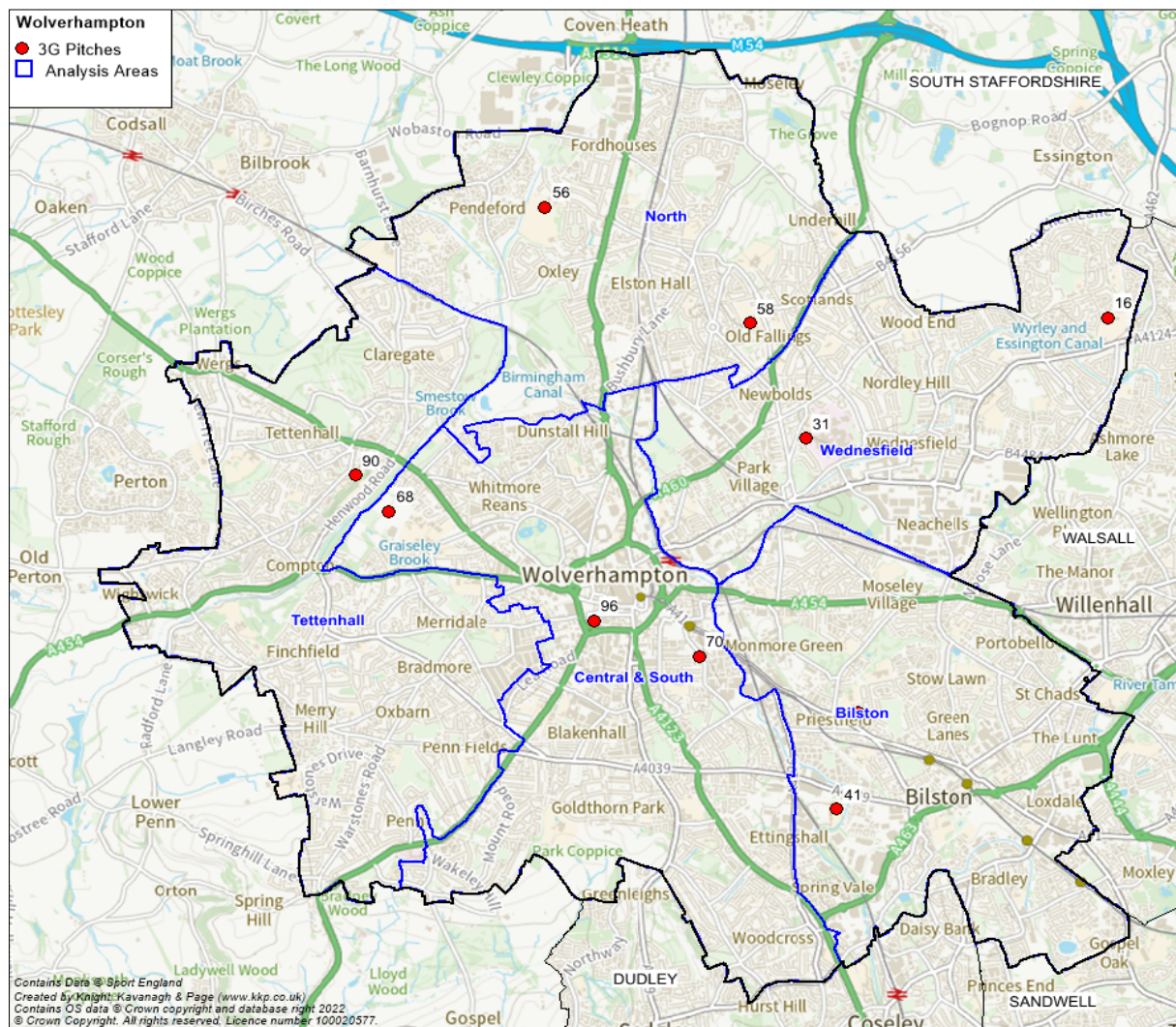
Wolverhampton Olympic FC aspires to install a smaller sized 3G pitch at Danescourt, where an old tennis court lies disused at the back of the facility. The courts share a space with a bowling facility used by Express & Star Bowls Club and has existing floodlights in place.

Lastly, NPV Football Development has an aspiration to develop a 3G pitch (size yet to be determined) at the former Wolverhampton United FC site which it is expected to gain on an asset transfer from the City Council.

The map below identifies the location of 3G pitches currently servicing Wolverhampton, regardless of size.

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Figure 3.1: Location of 3G pitches in Wolverhampton



FA/FIFA approved pitches

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

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed, and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard. Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours.

To remain accredited, pitches must be re-assessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the football pyramid (steps 1-6).

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In Wolverhampton, the full size 3G pitches at City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy are currently FIFA/FA approved and can therefore host competitive matches. Likewise, the indoor 9v9 3G pitch at WV Aldersley is also on the register. In addition, the smaller sized pitch at The Way Youth Zone is FA approved and could therefore accommodate competitive mini football matches.

The full-size pitch that is not currently accredited is provided at Heath Park School.

World Rugby compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces can replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

There is no full-size World Rugby compliant 3G pitch within Wolverhampton. Therefore, none of the pitches can be used to accommodate rugby training activity and match play.

Management

The pitches at City of Wolverhampton College, Heath Park School and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy are operated by their respective education providers, whilst Wolverhampton Wanderers FC owns and manages the 3G pitch at Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground.

The majority of the smaller size pitches are also operated by educational establishments, with the only exceptions being the pitches at Southside Sports and The Way Youth Zone. Both of these are charitable enterprises.

Availability

The table below summarises the availability for community use at sites in Wolverhampton providing full size 3G pitches. Two pitches are readily available for community access throughout peak periods, whereas the pitches at Heath Park School and Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground provide no availability.

The peak period is based on Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM), which applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

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Table 3.3: Summary of availability of full size 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Availability	Hours available in the peak period (and overall)
11	City of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus)	Reserved for curricular use until 17:00 then available to the community from 17:30-22:30 during the week. It is not open for usage on Saturdays or Sundays.	15.5 (25)
31	Heath Park School	Unavailable to the community. Used for curricular use until 17:00 Monday to Friday.	-
58	Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy	Reserved for curricular use until 16:30. Available to the community from 17:00-21:00 during the week and from 09:00-16:00 during weekends.	32 (38)
68	Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground	Unavailable to the community. Used for Wolverhampton FC use from 09:00 until 18:00 every day.	-

The picture is similar for the smaller sized pitches, with non-school pitches available throughout each day and school-based pitches having good availability outside of curricular times (except for those unavailable for community use). Only the pitch at Khalsa Academy is unavailable.

Table 3.4: Summary of smaller sized 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Availability	Hours available in the peak period (and overall)
16	Coppice Performing Arts School	Reserved for curricular use until 17:00 then available to the community from 17:00-21:00 during the week and from 09:00-21:00 at weekends.	34 (44)
41	Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton	Unavailable for community use. Used for curricular use from 08:45-16:30 Monday to Friday.	-
56	Ormiston NEW Academy	Reserved for curricular use until 18:00 then available to the community from 18:00-22:00 during the week and from 08:00-16:00 at weekends.	28 (36)
70	Southside Sports	Available every day from 09:00-21:30.	34 (84)
90	Tettenhall College	Reserved for curricular use Monday to Friday but available to the community from 09:00-18:00 on Saturday and Sunday.	16 (18)
96	The Way Youth Zone	Available Monday to Friday from 16:00-22:00.	18 (30)

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Quality

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

For the PPOSS, each 3G pitch has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard, or poor following site assessments.

This rating is most commonly linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, as well as surrounding hard areas and maintenance that is undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

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

Table 3.5: Summary of quality of the full size 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
11	City of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus)	Bilston	2010	Standard
31	Heath Park School	Wednesfield	2016	Good
58	Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy	North	2015	Good
68	Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground	Central & South	2014	Good

As seen, three of the four pitches have been installed or resurfaced in the last seven years and are considered to be in good condition, whilst the pitch at City of Wolverhampton College has exceeded its recommended lifespan and should therefore be prioritised for future refurbishment. It is assessed as standard quality.

Of the smaller size pitches, the pitches at Coppice Performing Arts School (2009) and Ormiston NEW Academy (1999) have both exceeded their recommended lifespans. The remaining are within their lifespan, with no significant issues identified.

Ancillary facilities

All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate and no major issues have been discovered via site assessments or through consultation.

3.3: Demand

The available 3G pitches currently servicing Wolverhampton are operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of floodlighting). This applies not only to midweek capacity but also to weekend capacity on account of all the community available full size pitches being FA approved to host competitive matches.

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Currently, it is considered that all community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, with no other sporting usage identified. The large majority of capacity is being taken up by clubs for training and match play purposes, although there is also a strong presence of recreational football activity taking place (i.e., via unaffiliated groups).

Across the Country, there are often small-sided commercial leagues operating on 3G provision. In Wolverhampton, Soccer Sixes operates at Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy on Monday evenings.

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets on account of being able to support intensive use and use during inclement weather.

Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly being used for competition, which the FA wholly supports.

Training demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at floodlit facilities, with 3G provision preferred by the FA and most clubs.

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every England Accredited Club through a partnership agreement. As such, it has established a model to calculate the required number of pitches to meet demand, with one full size pitch being required to service every 38 teams within a local authority. This is based on peak time access being Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings (Mondays and Fridays are discounted as it is considered that teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match, and it also allows for other forms of access such as for commercial leagues and recreational play).

For the model, in addition to full size pitches being included, some smaller size pitches are also incorporated as many are suitable for accommodating training demand, three pitches are included in this methodology, which are; Coppice School, Ormiston NEW Academy and Tettenhall College. 0.25 of a pitch has been attributed for each of these in the supply analysis to account for demand each pitch accommodates within their respective analysis areas.

On this basis the current level of supply equates to two full size pitches at the City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chads Catholic Academy as well as the three aforementioned small sided pitches. This totals a current supply of 2.75 full size pitches.

The full size pitches at Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground and Heath Park School are also discounted from the modelling due to being unavailable for community use. However, whilst future access is always going to be unlikely at Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground, it could be explored at Heath Park as it is unusual for school-based pitches not to be made available.

Using the above, with 253 teams currently playing in Wolverhampton, there is a calculated need for 6.75 full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 6.65). As such, with 2.75 full size pitch equivalents currently provided (including smaller size provision but discounting those unavailable for community use), a shortfall of four full size pitches is identified. This is a larger shortfall than that identified in Wolverhampton's LFFP, and larger than the 2018 PPS refresh which reported a shortfall of 1-2 3G's, evidencing its need to be updated.

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

Current number of teams	3G requirement ⁵	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
251	6.75	2.75	4

When considering future demand for an additional 16 teams (based on population increases), there is demand for seven full size pitches, which means a future shortfall of 5.25 pitches.

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

Future number of teams	3G requirement ⁶	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
267	7	2.75	4.25

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. This not only identifies where the needs exist across Wolverhampton, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

Table 3.8: Current demand for 3G pitches in Wolverhampton by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement ⁷	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Bilston	57	1.5	1	0.5
Central & South	38	1	0	1
North	66	1.75	1.25	0.5
Tettenhall	45	1	0.25	0.75
Wednesfield	45	1	0.25	0.75
Wolverhampton	251	6.25	2.75	3.5

As seen, a shortfall of one full size pitch is identified in the Central & South Analysis Area. Both the Tettenhall and Wednesfield analysis area have a shortfall of 0.75 full size pitch equivalents each and both the Bilston and North analysis areas have a shortfall of 0.5 full size pitch equivalents each.

When accounting for future demand, there is an overall shortfall of 4.75 full size 3G pitches. Increases in demand are aligned to the North, Tettenhall and Wednesfield analysis areas.

Table 3.9: Future demand for 3G pitches in Wolverhampton by analysis area

Analysis area	Future number of teams	3G requirement ⁸	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
Bilston	60	1.5	1	0.5
Central & South	41	1	0	1
North	70	2	1.25	0.75
Tettenhall	48	1.5	0.25	1.25
Wednesfield	48	1.5	0.25	1.25
Wolverhampton	267	7.5	2.75	4.5

⁵ Rounded to the nearest 0.25

⁶ Rounded to the nearest 0.25

⁷ Rounded to the nearest 0.25

⁸ Rounded to the nearest 0.25

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Match play demand

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

Two existing community available pitches in Wolverhampton are FA approved to host competitive fixtures and there is relatively high demand for the provision, with 43 teams currently accessing a 3G facility as their home pitch and with each accredited pitch being in use for this purpose. This is 43 teams that would otherwise be using grass pitches, adding to capacity and quality issues, or alternatively they would not exist at all due to having nowhere suitable to play.

As the number of 3G pitches increases in line with meeting training demand shortfalls, so should the number of teams utilising the provision for matches, which in turn should relieve grass pitches of use. As such, whilst the number of 3G pitches needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training (as they would not be sustainable without midweek usage), maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported. This will be further explored in the proceeding strategy document via a range of scenarios for transferring play.

The use of 3G provision for matches also emphasises the importance of maintaining good quality pitches. Should pitches become poor quality, they will likely lose accreditation to accommodate fixtures. This will then result in all teams using the provision needing to transfer to grass pitches, adding to their usage, reducing their capacity, and further diminishing their quality.

Other sports

No other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches in Wolverhampton (outside of some school activity). Furthermore, with limited rugby union and rugby league demand identified in the City, and with limited presence of other relevant sports (e.g., American football and lacrosse), no demand for access has been uncovered.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is limited spare capacity on the present supply of 3G pitches when teams require access for training purposes, leading to several clubs reporting a need for increased provision. With the FA model suggesting that there is a current and future shortfall of at least four full size 3G, priority should therefore be placed on the creation of new provision. To that end, precedence should be given to areas with identified shortfalls. It is worth noting that this shortfall would be theoretically reduced if access could be gained at Heath Park School in the Wednesfield Analysis Area.

Meeting the 3G pitch shortfall for training will also help alleviate grass pitch shortfalls and quality issues identified in Part 2 of this report, providing that the transfer of play is pursued as and when more pitches are established. Potential options for the creation of new provision will therefore be explored in the proceeding strategy document.

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In addition, it is important to sustain the current pitch stock to ensure that the existing shortfalls are not exacerbated. In that regard, providers should be encouraged to put sinking funds in place, and it is also recommended that all new and existing pitches undergo FA testing every three years to remain or become FA approved. This is particularly key in relation to the standard quality pitch at City of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus) given that it has reached the end of its lifespan.

3G – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Priority should be placed on the creation of new 3G pitches to meet the identified shortfalls for football training demand.
- ◀ Meeting the 3G pitch shortfall for training will also help alleviate grass pitch shortfalls and quality issues, providing that the transfer of play is pursued as and when more pitches are established.
- ◀ In addition, it is important to sustain the current pitch stock to ensure that the existing shortfalls are not exacerbated.

3G – supply summary

- ◀ There are four full size 3G pitches in Wolverhampton, of which all are floodlit.
- ◀ Two are available to the community at City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy and two are not at Heath Park School and Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground.
- ◀ There are also eight smaller sized 3G pitches across six sites, all of which are floodlit and available for community use apart from a pitch at Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton, which is neither.
- ◀ Bilston Town FC, NPV Football Development and Highfields School all have aspirations to develop 3G pitches, whilst Wolverhampton Olympic FC has plans to convert a disused tennis court into a smaller sized 3G AGP.
- ◀ The full size 3G pitches at City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic School are currently FIFA/FA approved and can therefore host competitive matches, as is the smaller sized pitch at The Way Youth Zone.
- ◀ The full size pitch at Heath Park School is not accredited and though it is good quality it will not be available for competitive match play unless it undergoes accreditation. This is the same for the pitch at the Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground.
- ◀ None of the pitches are World Rugby compliant, although there is no current known use for this purpose in the City.
- ◀ The pitch at the City of Wolverhampton College is at the end of its lifespan, as are the smaller sized pitches Coppice Performing Arts School and Ormiston NEW Academy will also require resurfacing.
- ◀ All remaining pitches are assessed as good quality.

3G – demand summary

- ◀ The existing 3G provision is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, with all current community activity being football-based.
- ◀ With 251 football teams currently playing in Wolverhampton, there is a calculated shortfall of 3.5 full size 3G pitches to meet training needs (when analysed by analysis area)
- ◀ When accounting for future demand for an additional 16 teams (based on population increases), the shortfall increases to 4.5 pitches.
- ◀ There are currently 43 football teams using the 3G pitch stock for matches; whilst the number needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training, maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.
- ◀ No demand has been identified from other sports for access to 3G provision.

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PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

The Staffordshire Cricket Board (SCB) is the main governing and representative body for Cricket within Wolverhampton. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women, and children within the City. It is currently working with the ECB on delivering its Strategy, "Inspiring Generations", which has been live since 2020.

For adult cricket in Wolverhampton there are three main offerings; Saturday, Sunday, and midweek cricket. The youth league structure tends to be club-based matches which are played mid-week, although some matches are also played on Sunday mornings.

Consultation

In total, eight cricket clubs are identified as playing within Wolverhampton. All eight have responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 100%. A full breakdown is provided in the table below.

Table 4.1: Cricket club response rate

Club name	Club response?
Fordhouses CC	Yes
Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC	Yes
Penn CC	Yes
Springhill CC	Yes
Springvale CC	Yes
Whitmore Reans CC	Yes
Wightwick & Finchfield CC	Yes
Wolverhampton CC	Yes

4.2: Supply

In total, 13 grass cricket squares are identified in Wolverhampton across nine unique sites. Of these, 11 squares are available for community use across eight sites. The two unavailable squares are located at Wolverhampton Grammar School. In addition, there are three squares outside of Wolverhampton that require inclusion due to their proximity to the boundary and the demand catered for. These are located at Old Wulfrunians Sports & Social Club, Springhill Cricket Club and Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club. All of these are based South Staffordshire but are sited close to the Wolverhampton boundary.

Table 4.2: Summary of grass wicket squares available for community use

Analysis area	Number of Squares
Bilston	1
Central & South	2
North	2
Tettenhall	6
Wednesfield	-
Outside	3
Total	14

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In terms of the distribution of the provision, the Tettenhall Analysis Area provides the largest number of squares, with six, whilst the Wednesfield Analysis Area has no community available squares.

Non-turf pitches

There are non-turf pitches (NTPs) accompanying five grass wickets squares. These are at the following sites:

- ◀ Claregate Park
- ◀ Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)
- ◀ Newbridge Playing Fields
- ◀ Penn Cricket Club
- ◀ Wolverhampton Cricket Club

In addition, there are 15 standalone NTPs currently provided across as many sites. These are located at the following locations:

- ◀ Colton Hills Community School
- ◀ East Park
- ◀ Gamesfield Green Playing Field
- ◀ Highfields Secondary School
- ◀ Ormiston SWB Academy
- ◀ Royal Wolverhampton School
- ◀ Wednesfield High Academy
- ◀ Wolverhampton Grammar School
- ◀ Coppice Performing Arts School
- ◀ Fowlers Park
- ◀ Goodyear Neighbourhood Park
- ◀ King George V Playing Field
- ◀ Phoenix Park
- ◀ St Peters Collegiate School
- ◀ Wolverhampton Girls High School

Of the above, six were provided in 2018 through a joint scheme between the ECB and the Council. This applies to the wickets at Claregate Park, East Park, Fowlers Playing Fields, Goodyear Neighbourhood Park, King George V Playing Fields and Newbridge Playing Fields.

Of the standalone NTPs, nine are available for community use. Unavailable provision is located at Colton Hills Community School, Coppice Performing Arts School, St Peters Collegiate School, Wednesfield High Academy and Wolverhampton Girls High School.

NTPs, particularly when located at club sites, aid with training and practice and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs are frequently used for junior matches across the Country. In Wolverhampton, two clubs; Springvale and Whitmore Reans, use NTP's for match play. For the former this is for its U14 team and for the latter this is for both its senior men's teams.

Disused and lapsed provision

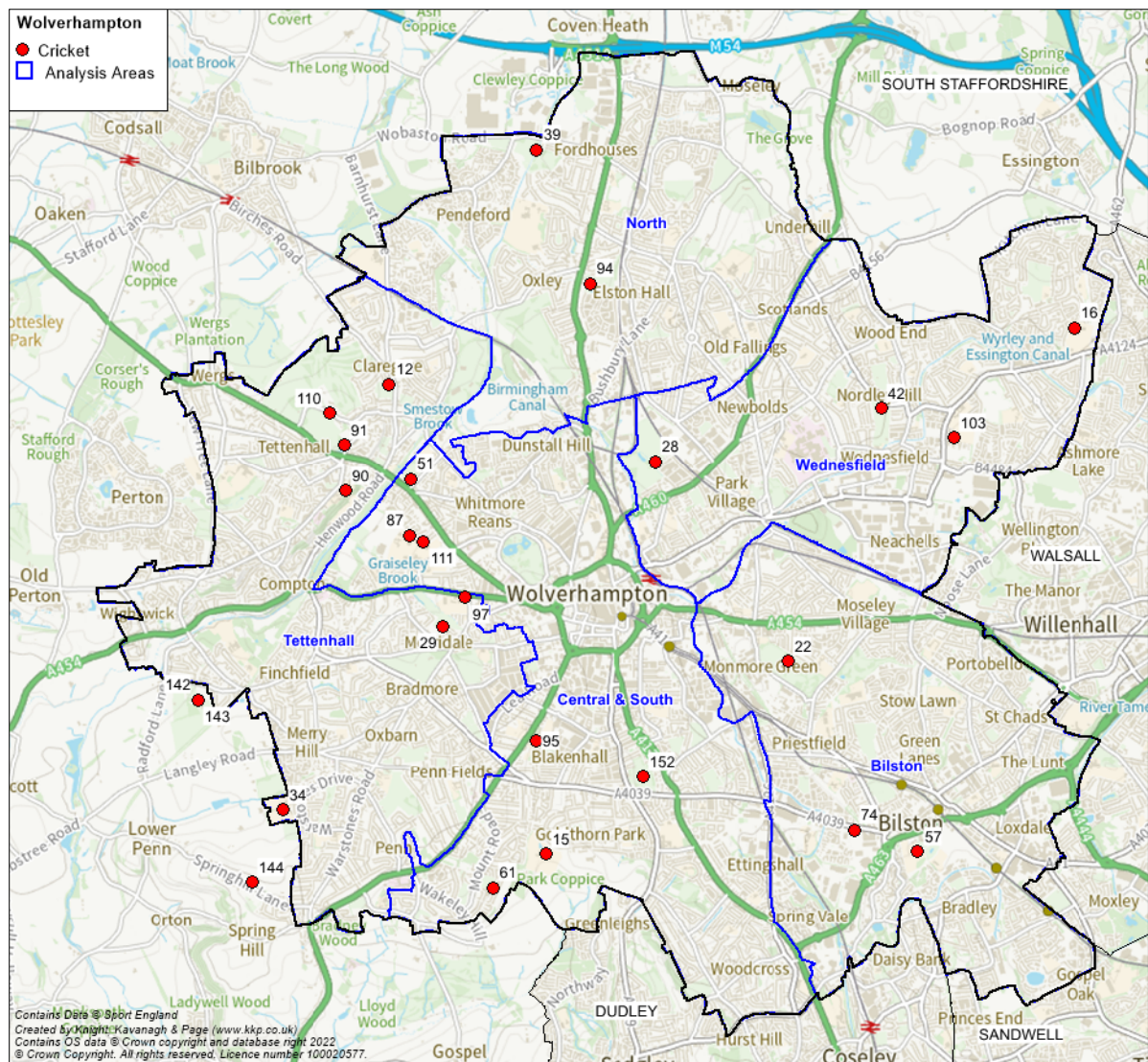
Playing field sites which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

There are no disused sites identified in Wolverhampton which contained cricket pitches. However, there is one which is lapsed. This is the Rolls Royce Sports Ground on Spring Road.

The map below shows the location of all cricket squares currently servicing Wolverhampton. For a key to the map, see Table 4.3.

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Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches within Wolverhampton



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Table 4.3: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
						Grass	Non-turf
12	Claregate Park	WV6 9PZ	Tettenhall	Yes	1	7	1
15	Colton Hills Community School	WV4 5DG	Central & South	No	-	-	1
16	Coppice Performing Arts School	WV11 2QE	Wednesfield	No	-	-	1
22	East Park	WV1 2BS	Bilston	Yes	-	-	1
28	Fowlers Playing Fields	WV10 9AW	Wednesfield	Yes	-	-	1
29	Gamesfield Green Playing Field	WV3 9RA	Tettenhall	Yes	-	-	1
34	Highfields School	WV4 4NT	Tettenhall	Yes	-	-	1
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)	WV9 5HH	North	Yes	2	11	1
						8	1
42	King George V Playing Fields (Wednesfield)	WV11 1NQ	Wednesfield	Yes	-	-	1
51	Newbridge Playing Fields	WV6 0JX	Central & South	Yes	1	11	1
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	WV14 0QE	Bilston	Yes	-	-	1
61	Penn Cricket Club	WV4 5RS	Central & South	Yes	1	11	1
74	Springvale Sports	WV14 0QR	Bilston	Yes	1	11	-
87	St. Peter's Collegiate School	WV3 9DU	Central & South	No	-	-	1
90	Tettenhall College	WV6 8QX	Tettenhall	Yes	2	12	-
						10	-
91	Tettenhall Upper Green	WV6 9AX	Tettenhall	Yes	1	8	-
94	The Pavilion	WV10 6AJ	North	Yes	-	-	1
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	WV3 0EG	Central & South	Yes	-	-	1
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	WV3 9RB	Tettenhall	No	2	12	-
						8	1
103	Wednesfield High Academy	WV11 3ES	Wednesfield	No	-	-	1

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
						Grass	Non-turf
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	WV6 9BJ	Tettenhall	Yes	2	19	1
						11	1
111	Wolverhampton Girls' High School	WV6 0BY	Central & South	No	-	-	1
140	Goodyear Neighbourhood Park	WV10 6DB	North	Yes	-	-	1
142	<i>Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club</i>	<i>WV3 8NA</i>	<i>Outside</i>	Yes	1	12	-
143	<i>Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club</i>	<i>WV3 8NA</i>	<i>Outside</i>	Yes	1	12	-
144	<i>Springhill Cricket Club</i>	<i>WV4 4TJ</i>	<i>Outside</i>	Yes	1	8	-
152	Phoenix Park	WV2 3JU	Central & South	Yes	-	-	1

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Management and security of tenure

All clubs in Wolverhampton have secure tenure, provided through a mixture of freehold, lease arrangements and rental agreements. A breakdown of club's tenure positions is identified in the table below.

Note that where rental agreements are in place with the Council, tenure is considered secure as it is expected that the provision will be provided over the lifespan of the PPOSS.

Table 4.4: Summary of security of tenure for clubs

Club	Primary site	Agreement
Fordhouses CC	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground	Leased until 2111
Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC	Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club	Freehold
Penn CC	Penn Cricket Club	Leased until 2039
Springhill CC	Springhill Cricket Club	Freehold
Springvale CC, Staffs	Springvale Sports	Leased until 2046
Whitmore Reans CC	Newbridge Playing Fields	Yearly rental from the Council.
Wightwick & Finchfield CC	Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club	Freehold
Wolverhampton CC	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Freehold

Penn CC states that its existing lease runs to 2039 from the Council. However, it aspires to re-negotiate this for a longer term period to offer longer term security and to allow it to be able to apply for grant funding in the future (many funding pots require lease arrangements longer than 25 years).

Wightwick & Finchfield CC are one of the clubs known to have freehold of their respected site. The Club did participate in consultations and confirmed that it has freehold of its site. As such, tenure is considered to be secure.

The agreements for the remaining leased sites are also secure, with Springvale CC having 25 years left on its lease from the Mid Counties Co-Op and Fordhouses CC having 90 years remaining on its 99-year lease from the Council.

In addition to the primary venues used by the clubs, Wolverhampton CC also uses Tettenhall College as a secondary venue. This is via an unsecure rental agreement. Likewise, Penn CC uses Gamesfield Green Playing Fields as its secondary venue. This site is owned by the local authority therefore tenure is regarded to be secure.

Pitch quality

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

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%). For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

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Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to players.

The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares in Wolverhampton found five to be of good quality, seven to be of standard quality and one assessed as poor. The site-by-site breakdown of this is shown in the following table.

Table 4.5: Quality ratings for community available grass wicket squares (site-by-site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Square quality
12	Claregate Park	Tettenhall	Poor
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses CC)	North	Good
			Good
51	Newbridge Playing Fields	Central & South	Standard
61	Penn Cricket Club	Central & South	Good
74	Springvale Sports	Bilston	Standard
90	Tettenhall College	Tettenhall	Standard
			Standard
91	Tettenhall Upper Green	Tettenhall	Standard
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall	Good
			Good
142	Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club	Outside	Standard
143	Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club	Outside	Standard

There is one poor quality natural turf square identified in Wolverhampton located at Claregate Park. The non-technical audit found that there was little evidence of preparation work on the wickets and that it has ultimately not been prepared for competitive play this season. It is unlikely this square will be prepared for further play in the future, with the newly installed NTP now anticipated to take all formats of recreational demand on the site.

Of the squares assessed as standard quality, there are concerns in relation to Newbridge Playing Fields from Whitmore Reans CC due to the level of cricket demand accommodated. Drainage is also an issue, with waterlogging issues reportedly occurring on the outfield and square.

On the other hand, Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club's grass wicket square was identified as standard, the Club has indicated through consultation that this has improved and it now classes it as good quality. The reason for this change is down to the Club claiming that they have hired a professional groundsman. As a result, the square gets a higher standard of maintenance as well as this being more frequent.

Despite being assessed as good quality, Fordhouses CC, Penn CC and Wolverhampton CC all report issues at their sites with dogs/foxes walking and fouling on their sites. This results in officials and players having to do a pitch inspection before play to ensure that the provision is clean and safe.

No other significant problems are raised by clubs, with the majority indicating that quality has improved over recent years.

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This applies to Springvale, Wolverhampton and Fordhouses cricket clubs, whilst only Whitmore Reans CC implies that quality has worsened (Penn, Springhill and Old Wulfrunians cricket clubs report no change). Whitmore Reans CC attributes the deterioration to a combination of limited maintenance (from CWC), whereas clubs reporting an improvement generally point to improved maintenance regimes as a key factor.

To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the required standards, which are benchmarked by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA).

Clubs can contact the SCB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports (comprehensive, mini, or verbal) that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

Table 4.6: Performance Quality Standard ratings

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

Of the standalone NTPs available to the community, the wickets at both Colton Hills Community School and Coppice Performing Arts School are poor quality. The remaining facilities are either standard or good quality; those provided in 2018 are all good quality.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Wolverhampton have access to changing room facilities at their home ground, although quality varies. However, all provision is regarded as fit for purpose, with six clubs rating their facilities as good quality and two rating theirs as standard.

Notwithstanding the above, Springvale CC previously stated, that it required an expansion to its social space and the changing rooms at Springvale Sports. Linked to this, it wanted to improve its compliance to accommodate disability cricket as at the time provision available to the Club was dated. The Club has been playing its home matches at either Elford or Penn CC whilst its home ground was redeveloped. It currently has a brand-new square and recently completed improved changing/ social space.

The provision servicing Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC is also dated and in need of modernisation.

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Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. In Wolverhampton, of the clubs that responded to consultation, only Springvale, Penn and Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall cricket clubs report no demand for new, improved, or additional training facilities.

Whitmore Reans CC states that there is a need for permanent practice nets as well as a mobile cage at its site, whilst, similarly, Wolverhampton CC reports a requirement for an extra mobile cage and an artificial wicket.

Fordhouses CC aspires to refurbish its existing outdoor practice nets at Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground, whereas Springhill CC wants to install practice nets in order for it to be able to train more effectively.

Moreover, it is worth noting that there are community lanes available at Ward Street Park and Peace Green. These are predominately for use by the local community and Peace Green is managed by local community organisations. Clubs could also apply to use these facilities if they needed to, so long as they offer support to the local community and continue to feedback to local groups.

In addition to the above, whilst falling out of the scope of this study, Wolverhampton CC and Fordhouses CC report a further need for greater access to indoor training facilities, with Whitmore Reans CC also reporting that it struggles to access facilities for winter training. It is quite clear from this information that accessing indoor facilities is an issue, with availability being limited and quality being poor. This is often a problem across the Country, with many clubs unable to access facilities at desired times due to capacity being taken up by block bookings that are given priority through accessing the provision year-round.

4.3: Demand

There are eight clubs in Wolverhampton which collectively provide 29 senior men's, three senior women's and 29 junior teams. Of these eight clubs, Wolverhampton CC has the high level of participation, operating 17 teams, whilst Whitmore Reans CC and Springvale provide just two teams each.

Included within the clubs are Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC, Wightwick & Finchfield CC and Springhill CC, despite them accessing squares outside of Wolverhampton. They have been incorporated due to the proximity of their sites to the border and the level of Wolverhampton based demand that is being catered for. As a reminder, these clubs are based in South Staffordshire. However, the nearest analysis area to Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC and Wightwick & Finchfield CC is Tettenhall. Likewise, the nearest analysis area to Springhill CC is Central & South.

Table 4.7: Summary of teams by club

Club	Analysis area	No. of teams		
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior
Fordhouses CC	North	4	-	6
Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC	Outside	4	-	4
Penn CC	Central & South	3	-	-
Springhill CC	Outside	5	-	-
Springvale CC	Bilston	2	-	-
Whitmore Reans CC	Central & South	2	-	-

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Club	Analysis area	No. of teams		
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior
Wightwick & Finchfield CC	Outside	4	1	9
Wolverhampton CC	Tettenhall	5	2	10
Total		29	3	29

As seen in the table below, most teams are based in the Tettenhall Analysis Area (22 teams), whereas none are based in the Wednesfield Analysis Area (with no squares provided). In total, 19 of the teams are catered for by the clubs that fall outside of Wolverhampton.

Table 4.8: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams		
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Bilston	2	-	-
Central & South	5	-	-
North	4	-	6
Tettenhall	5	2	10
Wednesfield	-	-	-
Outside	13	1	13
Total	29	3	29

Participation trends

Two clubs; Whitmore Reans and Springhill cricket clubs, report that demand has increased over the previous three years in relation to their senior teams, with each adding an additional team to their ranks. In contrast, Fordhouses CC reports a decline in senior participation, with it now fielding one team fewer. Similarly, Wightwick & Finchfield has also seen a decline of one senior and two junior teams due to the impacts of Covid. Though it feels it can recover these teams in the 2022 season.

Springvale, Penn and Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall cricket clubs report no changes in demand, whilst Wolverhampton CC reports an increase in junior demand.

Where there has been growth, most clubs attribute this to the success of initiatives such as All Stars Cricket, which has increased junior participation, and Softball Cricket, which has increased female participation. Other factors include an increased online presence and advertising.

Latent demand

No latent demand has been expressed during consultation. That is, no clubs report that teams are unable to play due to a lack of facilities.

Imported demand

There are no identified teams importing demand into Wolverhampton to access cricket facilities.

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Exported demand

Other than Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC and Wightwick & Finchfield CC, both of which are included within this study, there are no identified teams exporting demand outside of Wolverhampton to access cricket facilities.

Additional activity

The ECB is currently running a number of initiatives across the Country which results in additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfield, making squares unusable for matches during these periods. This can mean no availability on one or two nights a week. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfield, making squares unusable during these periods.

All Stars Cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, cricket clubs can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ◀ Increase cricket activity for 5–8-year-olds in the school and club environment.
- ◀ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition.
- ◀ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle.
- ◀ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment.
- ◀ Use fun small-sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game.

As of 2021, Fordhouses CC, Old Wulfrunians CC, Wolverhampton, Penn CC and Springhill CC operate successful All Star sessions. Wightwick and Finchfield began operating these sessions in 2019 but has since stopped following a reduction in interest in the programme.

Dynamos Cricket

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos Cricket programme for 8–11-year-olds, which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars and will develop the pathway to retain juniors who progress.

Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamo's seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified softball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket. The programme will be strongly linked to The Hundred, a new short format competition which also aimed to launch in 2020 (pre-Covid-19).

In Wolverhampton, Fordhouses and Springhill cricket clubs are signed up to deliver Dynamo's, with 37 participants registered across the clubs.

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Softball Cricket

Softball Cricket is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase female participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, or a heavy bat, and with limited rules. Sessions are generally played on the outfield of a square and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

Wolverhampton CC is the only identified club taking part in the women's softball activities in Wolverhampton.

Chance to Shine

Chance to Shine is a national charity that aims to give all children the opportunity to play, learn and develop through cricket. It believes that cricket can help to develop the personal, social, and physical skills of the 500,000 children that are worked with every year.

It works in schools to provide children with their first experience of cricket, whilst it has also developed Chance to Shine Street. This is a format of the sport played with a tapeball, targeting children and young adults in inner-city areas and with matches lasting just 20-minutes.

SCB operates one Chance to Shine session per week in Wolverhampton at Worcester Street.

Last Man Stands

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

LMS in Wolverhampton is a popular midweek offer and is the primary home of the Wolverhampton Social League, with fixtures generally played on non-turf wickets throughout the cricket season. The League normally consists of over six teams, making it clear that the recreational offer for cricket in Wolverhampton is regular and has growth opportunities.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy & Action Plan that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development plans within Wolverhampton.

Population forecasts

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2039) based on population growth. Using this, it is predicted that there will be a growth of two senior men's and two junior teams (as seen in the table below).

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Table 4.10: Team generation rates based on population growth (2039)

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
Senior Men's (18-55)	66,545	29	1:2377	71,689	30	1
Senior Women's (18-55)	64,769	2	1:32308	68,106	2	0
Junior (7-18)	39,788	27	1:20224	43,162	28	1

When applied on an analysis area basis, the growth does not equate to a whole team in any of the analysis areas. As such, the overall predicted growth estimated across Wolverhampton may not be realised. It is more likely that additional population growth will join existing, established teams.

Although no women and girls' teams are predicted to be created via population growth alone, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of female cricket in Wolverhampton is likely as it is currently a national priority to increase women's and girls' participation. It is therefore important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies to increase the number of teams in some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would ordinarily suggest. This also applies to a likely growth in junior cricket, linked to the abovementioned All Stars and Dynamo's initiatives.

In addition, the ECB's five-year media rights deal, from 2020-2024, includes a continuation of its relationship with Sky Sports. This now extends beyond broadcasting and acts as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and a commitment to increase participation and engagement. This could therefore see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPS, meaning the impact should be reviewed over coming years.

Participation increases

Of the responding clubs, six indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation. This amounts to a total predicted growth of 14 teams, equating to five senior men's, two senior women's and seven junior teams.

Table 4.11: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
Fordhouses CC	North	1	-	1
Penn CC	Central & South	1	-	1
Springhill CC	Outside	-	1	1
Springvale CC	Bilston	1	-	1
Whitmore Reans CC	Central & South	1	1	2
Wolverhampton CC	Tettenhall	1	-	1
Total		5	2	7

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Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only future demand identified through participation increases are included due to the large increases expressed by clubs. This demand is considered more aspirational, and it is unlikely that it will all be achieved. However, the preceding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if the growth was realised.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Wolverhampton is Saturday, although a good proportion of teams are also fielded on a Sunday including senior women's teams. As such, both require consideration.

For junior cricket, peak time is midweek albeit some Sunday cricket is also recorded.

4.4: Capacity analysis

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

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report therefore presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive match equivalent sessions per season per square that is available and that currently takes place.

For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.

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

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets potentially used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to a boundary, especially for senior matches. The idea of this is to showcase what the capacity is or could be if best practice is followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.

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Please note that NTPs have been discounted from the analysis by means of not distorting the findings. This is because NTP usage is only recorded for one team in the City (which has been accounted for in the below table) meaning none are being used more than their recommended capacity, which is 60 match equivalent sessions per season (0 match equivalent sessions when poor quality). With no NTPs being overused, this translates to overall actual spare capacity for junior play, where the provision is more commonly used and where matches can be played on a variety of days. However, this is not considered to be actual spare capacity for senior cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage.

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Table 4.12: Capacity analysis of community available grass cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club users	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Saturday)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Sunday)	Potential spare capacity for junior cricket? (Midweek)
12	Claregate Park	Tettenhall	-	1	Poor	7	28	-	-	No	No	No
16	Coppice Performing Arts School	Wednesfield	-	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	East Park	Bilston	-	1	Good	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Fowlers Playing Fields	Wednesfield	-	1	Good	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Gamesfield Green Playing Field	Tettenhall	-	1	Good	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	Highfields School	Tettenhall	-	1	Standard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground	North	Fordhouses CC	2	Good	11	55	43	12	No	Yes	Yes
						8	40	45	5	No	No	No
42	King George V Playing Fields (Wednesfield)	Wednesfield	-	1	Good	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	Newbridge Playing Fields	Central & South	Whitmore Reans CC	1	Standard	11	44	22	22	No	Yes	Yes
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	Bilston	-	1	Standard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
61	Penn Cricket Club	Central & South	Penn CC	1	Good	11	55	15	40	No	Yes	Yes
74	Springvale Sports	Bilston	Springvale CC	1	Standard	11	44	22	22	No	Yes	Yes
90	Tettenhall College	Tettenhall	Wolverhampton CC	2	Standard	12	48	11	37	Yes	Yes	Yes
						10	40	11	29	Yes	Yes	Yes
91	Tettenhall Upper Green	Tettenhall	Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC	1	Standard	8	32	22	10	No	No	Yes
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Tettenhall	-	2	Standard	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
					Standard	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
103	Wednesfield High Academy	Wednesfield	-	1	Standard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall	Wolverhampton CC	2	Good	19	80	56	24	No	Yes	No
						11	70	56	14	No	No	No
111	Wolverhampton Girls' High School	Central & South	-	1	Standard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
140	Goodyear Neighbourhood Park	North	-	1	Good	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
142	Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club	Outside	Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC	1	Standard	12	48	52	4	No	No	No
143	Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club	Outside	Wightwick & Finchfield CC	1	Standard	12	48	76	28	No	No	No
144	Springhill Cricket Club	Outside	Springhill CC	1	Standard	8	32	44	12	No	No	No
152	Phoenix Park	Central & South	-	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Actual spare capacity

Although a large amount of spare capacity is identified, it is not as simple as to aggregate this into a general oversupply of cricket squares. Despite nine squares displaying some form of spare capacity, only the two squares at Tettenhall College offer spare capacity for further use.

Table 4.13: Summary of actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated
90	Tettenhall College	Tettenhall	2	66	3

All remaining squares are used to capacity on Saturdays, either because two teams are already assigned to them as a home venue or because the level of spare capacity is insufficient to accommodate an additional team without overplay being created or exacerbated (at least 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are required).

In total, actual spare capacity on a Saturday equates to a total of 66 match equivalent sessions per season, all of which is in the Tettenhall Analysis Area.

Table 4.14: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Bilston	-
Central & South	-
North	-
Tettenhall	66
Wednesfield	-
Outside	-
Total	66

For Sunday cricket, actual spare capacity is provided across seven sites.

Table 4.15: Summary of actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground	North	1	12	1
51	Newbridge Playing Fields	Central & South	1	22	1
61	Penn Cricket Club	Central & South	1	40	2
74	Springvale Sports	Bilston	1	22	1
90	Tettenhall College	Tettenhall	2	66	4
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall	1	24	2

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This amounts to total actual spare capacity of 186 match equivalent sessions and is evident in the Bilston, Central & South, North and Tettenhall analysis areas.

Table 4.16: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Bilston	22
Central & South	62
North	12
Tettenhall	90
Wednesfield	-
Outside	-
Total	186

Sunday provides capacity for additional senior men's demand to be accommodated outside of the peak period but still within a competitive format. Moreover, it provides peak time availability for senior women's cricket (both hardball and softball) and for some junior demand, particularly older age groups.

For junior midweek cricket, seven squares have actual spare capacity.

Table 4.17: Summary of actual spare capacity for junior cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground	North	1	12	2
51	Newbridge Playing Fields	Central & South	1	22	3
61	Penn Cricket Club	Central & South	1	40	6
74	Springvale Sports	Bilston	1	22	3
90	Tettenhall College	Tettenhall	2	66	6
91	Tettenhall Upper Green	Tettenhall	1	10	1

This totals 172 match equivalent sessions and is also found in the Bilston, Central & South, North and Tettenhall analysis areas.

Table 4.18: Actual spare capacity for junior cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Bilston	22
Central & South	62
North	12
Tettenhall	76
Wednesfield	-
Outside	-
Total	172

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The reason for midweek capacity being higher than the capacity for Saturday cricket is because fixtures can be split across numerous days, meaning more than two home teams can be assigned to a square. In addition, junior teams can utilise NTPs where they are provided. It is therefore only clubs with a significant junior membership base that struggle for capacity, such as Fordhouses, Wightwick & Finchfield and Wolverhampton cricket clubs.

Actual spare capacity analysis

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that spare capacity across Saturday, Sunday and midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising the spare capacity across different days may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity theoretically has capacity for one additional senior team and two additional junior teams; however, it does not have capacity for both. As such, this needs to be taken into consideration on a site-by-site basis as and when demand grows.

Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square. On this basis, four sites in Wolverhampton are overplayed by a total of 49 match equivalent sessions, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.19: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground	North	5
142	Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club	Outside	4
143	Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club	Outside	28
144	Springhill Cricket Club	Outside	12
Total			49

As evidenced, all three sites included outside of Wolverhampton are overplayed. Inside Wolverhampton, only the square at Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground is overplayed. The highest level of overplay is seen at Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club.

No overplay is evident in the Bilston, Central & South, Tettenhall and Wednesfield Analysis Areas.

Table 4.20: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (sessions per season)
Bilston	-
Central & South	-
North	5
Tettenhall	-
Wednesfield	-
Outside	44
Total	49

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

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. This section therefore looks at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and identified future demand. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for senior men's teams, eight for senior women's teams and between four and eight matches for junior teams, depending on age), although note that no future demand is identified through population increases for either senior or junior cricket. Club aspirations will be explored in the proceeding PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan.

Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Saturday)

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday). For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified above to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per square that is available). The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time.

Table 4.21: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday)

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Bilston	-	-	-	-	-
Central & South	-	-	-	-	-
North	-	5	5	-	5
Tettenhall	24	-	24	-	24
Wednesfield	-	-	-	-	-
Outside	-	44	44	-	44
Wolverhampton	24	49	25	-	25

As seen in the table above, there is an overall shortfall of cricket squares for Saturday cricket amounting to 25 match equivalent sessions per season. Current shortfalls are identified in the North Analysis Area and at the sites outside of Wolverhampton. Note that no future demand is identified through population changes (team generation rates).

Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Sunday)

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams.

The existing picture, as shown in the table below, is that sufficient capacity exists to accommodate existing demand, although a shortfall is identified at the sites outside of Wolverhampton. Note that no future demand is identified through population changes (team generation rates).

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Table 4.22: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Sunday)

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Bilston	12	-	12	-	12
Central & South	36	-	36	-	36
North	12	5	7	-	7
Tettenhall	48	-	48	-	48
Wednesfield	-	-	-	-	-
Outside	-	44	44	-	44
Wolverhampton	108	49	59	-	59

Junior cricket supply and demand analysis (midweek)

For the junior supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams), multiplied by six (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because junior demand at peak time is not limited to one day, although some capacity should be reserved for activity such as All Stars and Dynamo's Cricket.

Note that no future demand is identified through population changes (team generation rates).

Table 4.23: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for junior cricket

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Bilston	18	-	18	-	18
Central & South	54	-	54	-	54
North	12	5	7	-	7
Tettenhall	46	-	84	-	84
Wednesfield	-	-	-	-	-
Outside	-	44	44	-	44
Wolverhampton	120	49	81	-	81

There is currently a sufficient capacity of provision to accommodate the existing level of junior demand, notwithstanding the identified overplay at the sites outside of Wolverhampton.

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Cricket – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is both a current and future shortfall of provision to accommodate Saturday cricket.
- ◀ Overall spare capacity exists in relation to Sunday and midweek cricket, although shortfalls exist at the sites included that are outside of Wolverhampton.

Cricket – supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are 13 grass cricket squares in Wolverhampton, with 11 available for community use (unavailable provision is located at Wolverhampton Grammar School).
- ◀ In addition, squares outside of Wolverhampton at Old Wulfrunians Sports & Social Club, Springhill Cricket Club and Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club are included due to their close proximity to the Wolverhampton boundary.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at five sites and there are standalone NTPs at 15.
- ◀ All clubs have secure tenure arrangements.
- ◀ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares identifies five as good quality, seven as standard quality and one as poor quality (at Claregate Park).
- ◀ Springvale CC previously had an aspiration to expand its social space and its changing rooms, the Club has been playing home matches at Elford and Penn CC whilst its home venue was being renovated. Though work has not been fully complete it is much improved.
- ◀ Whilst the provision servicing Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC requires modernisation.
- ◀ Four clubs report a demand for new, improved, or additional training facilities (Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton, Fordhouses and Springhill cricket clubs).

Cricket – demand summary

- ◀ There are eight clubs in Wolverhampton which collectively provide 29 senior men's, three senior women's and 29 junior teams (including Old Wulfrunians, Springhill and Wightwick & Finchfield cricket clubs).
- ◀ Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton and Springhill cricket clubs report that demand has increased over the previous three years, whilst Fordhouses CC reports a decline in senior participation.
- ◀ Similarly, Wightwick & Finchfield has also seen a decline of one senior and two junior teams due to the impacts of Covid. Though it feels it can recover these teams in the 2022 season.
- ◀ Fordhouses, Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall, Wightwick & Finchfield and Wolverhampton cricket clubs in Wolverhampton form part of the All-Stars initiative, whilst three clubs (Wolverhampton, Fordhouses and Springhill cricket clubs) are running Dynamo's sessions.
- ◀ One club takes part in women's softball activities (Wolverhampton CC).
- ◀ In addition to affiliated activity, Chance to Shine Street activity and Last Mans Stands operate weekly sessions in Wolverhampton.
- ◀ Future demand for one senior men's and one junior teams is predicted via population growth (although this is not expected to be realised when reviewed on an analysis area by analysis area basis), whilst six clubs indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation, equating to five senior men's, two senior women's and seven junior teams.

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PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. As part of this, club developers and a team of community rugby coaches deliver programmes in schools and clubs across Wolverhampton.

The RFU governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as the Touch Union programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

Disused and lapsed provision

Playing field sites which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

There are no disused or lapsed sites identified in Wolverhampton which contained rugby pitches.

Consultation

No affiliated rugby union clubs are identified as playing within Wolverhampton. However, Wolverhampton RUFC, whilst based in South Staffordshire, sits just adjacent to the Wolverhampton boundary. Due to this and its player base predominately comprising of residents of Wolverhampton, it has been included within this report.

The Club was consulted via telephone to inform this report.

5.2: Supply

There is a total of 11 rugby union pitches identified in Wolverhampton. This consists of six senior, two junior and two mini pitches and includes provision at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, situated in South Staffordshire. The Club has the bulk of provision with a total of seven pitches located at the site, with the remaining pitches located at education sites across the City.

As a breakdown, the Tettenhall Analysis Area has two senior pitches, and both the Central & South and Wednesfield analysis areas have one pitch. Comparatively, both the Bilston and North analysis areas contain no rugby union provision.

The Outside Analysis Area has three senior pitches, two junior pitches and two mini pitches, all of which are located at Wolverhampton RUFC.

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

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. of mini pitches
Bilston	-	-	
Central and South	-	1	
North	-	-	

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Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. of mini pitches
Outside	3	2	2
Tettenhall	2	-	
Wednesfield	1	-	
Wolverhampton	6	3	2

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches, with recommended dimensions shown in the table below. However, nationally, it is common for junior and mini matches to be played on senior pitches via the use of cones, particularly at sites used by clubs. Nevertheless, this does not apply to the pitches located at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, which has dedicated junior and mini pitches on site.

Table 5.2: Pitch dimensions

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ⁹
U7	Mini	20 x 12
U8	Mini	45 x 22
U9	Mini	60 x 30
U10	Mini	60 x 35
U11	Mini	60 x 43
U12	Mini	60 x 43
U13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70 ¹⁰

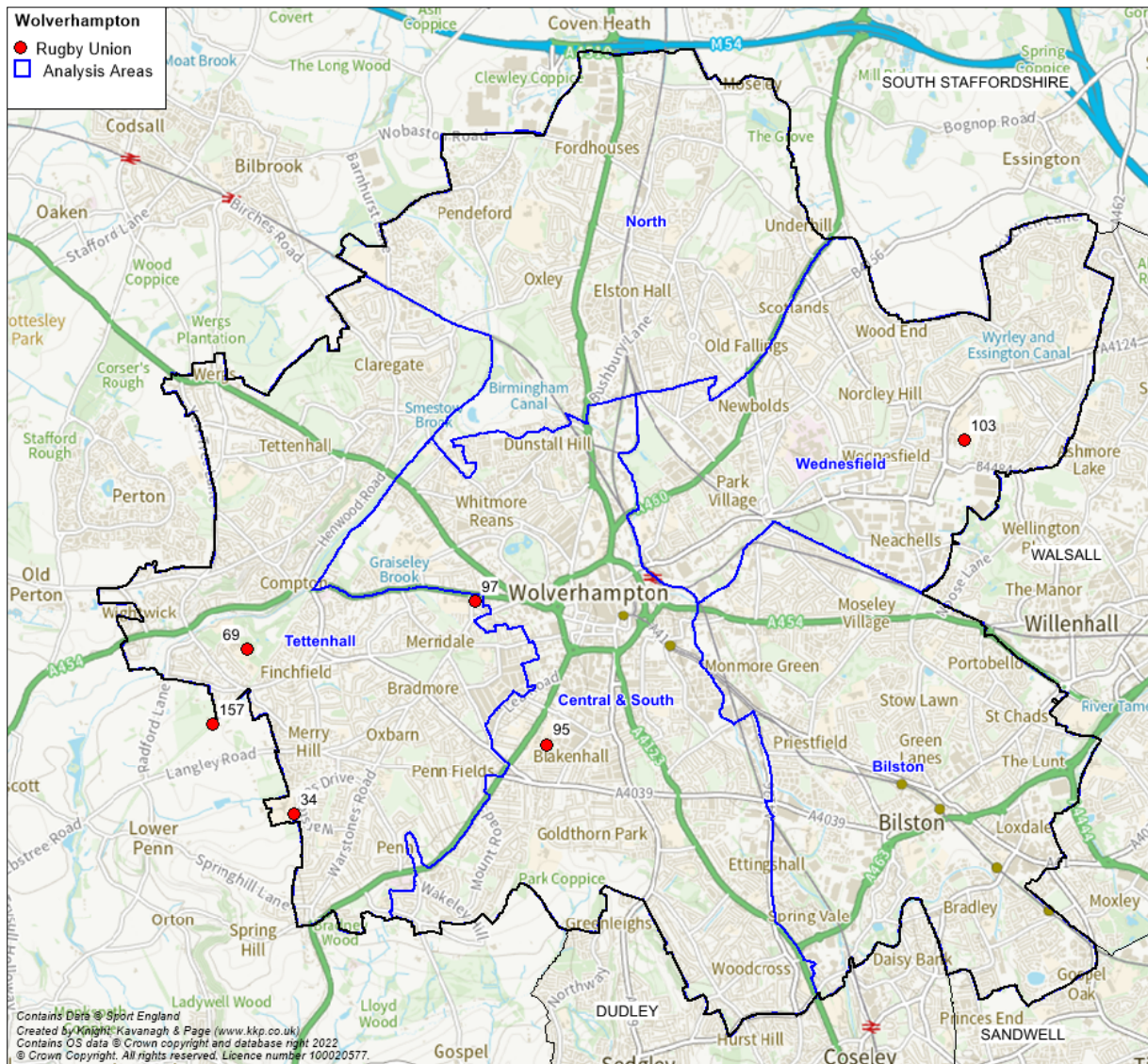
Figure 5.1 highlights all rugby union pitches currently within Wolverhampton, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 5.3.

⁹ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

¹⁰ Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.

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Figure 5.3: Location of rugby union pitches within Wolverhampton



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Security of tenure

Wolverhampton RUFC has freehold of its pitches and ancillary provision. Its tenure position is therefore secure.

The remaining provision at education sites in the City is unsecure, which is due to no formal community use agreements being in place to secure access to potential users. However, no community demand currently exists, meaning that this does not represent an issue.

Future provision

No future proposals or aspirations are in place relating to provision within Wolverhampton, including any from Wolverhampton RUFC.

Pitch quality

The quality of rugby pitches across Wolverhampton has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by RFU) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor.

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements: the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated. The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Table 5.3: 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 5.4: 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 5.5: 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

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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.

In terms of pitch quality, all provision outside of that provided at Wolverhampton RUFC is poor quality. This is due to basic maintenance regimes at education sites which do not meet the technical criteria to achieve an M1 score.

The good and standard quality pitches are based at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, with the Club offering an intensive maintenance regime via outsourcing to DW Shotton Landscapes Ltd. The company provides weed-killing, seeding and verti-draining on every pitch at the site on a yearly basis. It also levelled the then sloping training area in 2021.

The senior pitches at the site have a drainage score of D2, which is result of the Club having pipe drainage installed. In the case of the junior and mini pitches on site, which have a D1 rating, the Club plans to install pipe drainage following an RFU grant received during 2021. This project is scheduled to start in April 2022 and upon completion shall improve the capacity of the provision.

Table 5.6: Quality of pitches available for community use

Senior pitches			Junior pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
1	2	3	-	-	3	-	-	2

See Table 5.8 overleaf for the agreed quality ratings for each of the pitches.

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Table 5.7: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Tenure	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
34	Highfields School	Tettenhall	No	Unsecure	1	1 Senior	No	M0/D0	Poor
69	Smestow School	Tettenhall	Yes	Unsecure	1	1 Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor
95	Royal Wolverhampton Junior School	Central and South	Yes	Unsecure	1	1 Junior	No	M0/D1	Poor
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Tettenhall	Yes	Unsecure	1	1 Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor
103	Wednesfield High Academy	Wednesfield	Yes	Unsecure	1	1 Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor
157	Wolverhampton Rugby Club	OUTSIDE	Yes	Secure	7	1 Senior	No	M2/D1	Good
						2 Senior	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
						2 Junior	No	M1/D0	Poor
						2 Mini	No	M1/D0	Poor

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Ancillary facilities

As there is no community rugby union demand within Wolverhampton, there is no specific ancillary facility requirements in the City. Therefore, pitches only need to be serviced by changing facilities to adequately accommodate curricular use.

In the case of Wolverhampton RUFC, the Club has aspirations to relocate its kitchen and to extend it by six metres.

In 2015, the Club invested £215,000 to upgrade its changing rooms. The on-site clubhouse now features six RFU spec changing rooms all with integrated showers and toilets, as well as a dedicated referee changing room and a new boiler. The site also features a large bar and function room which is let out to the public.

5.3: Demand

As mentioned previously, no affiliated rugby union demand is located in Wolverhampton. However, as Wolverhampton RUFC traditionally draws a large proportion of its player base from Wolverhampton, the Club is considered in the section below.

Competitive play

Wolverhampton RUFC draws players from Wolverhampton and sits just outside the border. The Club currently consists of three senior men's, one senior women's, 12 junior boys and one colt's team.

Table 5.8: Summary of demand

Club	Local Authority	No. of rugby union teams				
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini mixed
Wolverhampton RUFC	South Staffordshire	3	1	7	0	6
Total		3	1	7	0	6

Training

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

With no club-based pitches in Wolverhampton, none of the provision is floodlit, meaning none would be suitable for training demand if such demand existed.

Elsewhere, Wolverhampton RUFC utilises its home site for training demand. The Club has a dedicated floodlit training area which it utilises, with incandescent floodlights for the training space installed 15 years ago. It is considering upgrading these.

Training for the Club takes place on both the floodlit training area as well as the second and third team pitches at the site every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 19:00 to 21:00. Both the second and third team pitches are serviced by LED floodlights that were installed in 2010.

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In total, midweek training demand equates to five match equivalent sessions per week. This derives from three senior teams training twice (Tuesdays and Thursdays), a senior ladies team training on Wednesday evenings and four of its seven junior teams also training on Wednesdays.

Exported/imported demand

As Wolverhampton RUFC is technically located within South Staffordshire, Wolverhampton exports all of its demand. However, this is not considered to be an issue due to the close proximity of its site.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. In addition, the succeeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing developments within Wolverhampton.

Population forecasts

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. However, as there is no current rugby union demand in Wolverhampton, no teams are expected to be generated through population growth alone.

Table 5.9: Team generation rates (2039)

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
Senior Mens (19-45)	47,596	3	15865	50,861	3.2	0
Senior Womens (19-45)	45,605	1	45605	47,762	1.0	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	9,380	7	1340	10,929	8.2	1
Junior Girls (13-18)	8,758	0	0	10,462	0.0	0
Mini Mixed (7-12)	21,650	6	3608	5,257	1.5	0

As seen, team generation rates forecast to potential growth of one additional junior boys' team.

Participation increases

Based on consultation feedback, Wolverhampton RUFC aspires to develop an additional senior men's team and a dedicated junior girls' team.

Table 5.10: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Local Authority	No. of rugby union teams				
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini mixed
Wolverhampton RUFC	South Staffordshire	1	-	-	1	-
Total		1	1	0	1	0

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Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only future demand identified through participation increases are included (meaning the growth of a singular junior boys team). This demand is considered more aspirational, and it is may not be achieved. However, the preceding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if the growth was realised.

5.4: Capacity analysis

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

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to the site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are or could be 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 and known to be used as standard practice).
- ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v 15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U6-U12) play on half of a senior pitch, meaning two matches and four teams can be accommodated at any one time; this means that play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.
- ◀ 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).
- ◀ Senior men’s rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Senior women’s rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Unless known otherwise, capacity on school pitches is limited due to internal usage.
- ◀ Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.

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. 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.

Table 5.11: 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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Table 5.12. Rugby union pitches and level of community use

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Play (sessions per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
34	Highfields School	Tettenhall	1	Senior	Poor M0/D0	No	0.5	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
69	Smestow School	Tettenhall	1	Senior	Poor M0/D0	No	0.5	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
95	Royal Wolverhampton Junior School	Central & South	1	Junior	Poor M0/D0	No	0.5	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Tettenhall	1	Senior	Poor M0/D0	No	0.5	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
103	Wednesfield High Academy	Wednesfield	1	Senior	Poor M0/D0	No	0.5	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
157	Wolverhampton Rugby Club	Outside	2	Senior	M1/D1	Yes	4	2	2	The second team pitch is used for three two-hour training sessions per week, one senior ladies training session and one second team fixture, giving a capacity rating of 2 MES of overplay.
							4.5	2	2.5	The third team pitch is used for three two-hour training sessions per week and one junior training session, as well as one third team and one women's team fixture, giving a total capacity rating of 2 MES of overplay.
			1		M2/D1	No	1.5	3	1.5	The pitch is used for first team fixtures and some colts/junior demand on Sundays and therefore has a capacity rating of 1.5.
			2	Junior	M1/D1	No	1.5	2	0.5	The first junior pitch is used by the U13's, 14's and 15's for fixtures, giving a capacity rating of 0.5.
							1.5	2	0.5	The second junior pitch is used by the U16's, 17's and Colts for fixtures, giving a capacity rating of 0.5.
			2	Mini	M1/D1	No	1.5	2	0.5	The first mini pitch is used by the U7's, 8's and 9's for fixtures, giving a capacity rating of 0.5
							1.5	2	0.5	The second mini pitch is used by the U10's, 11's and 12's for fixtures, giving a capacity rating of 0.5

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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 actual 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 regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Furthermore, there are four rugby union pitches in Wolverhampton at education sites that are unused by clubs despite being reported as available. Whilst these may theoretically provide some spare capacity, all pitches in question are deemed to be of a poor quality and therefore do not offer any level of spare capacity due to existing curricular use utilising all capacity.

In the case of Wolverhampton Rugby Club, only one pitch has potential spare capacity, with this being the first team pitch at the site. This is being retained to ensure a high-quality pitch for the level of demand received.

Table 5.13: Spare capacity summary

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Potential capacity	Actual spare capacity	Comments
157	Wolverhampton Rugby Club	Outside	1.5	1.5	Site has spare capacity for 1.5 MES on the first team pitch.

For mini and junior rugby, ascertaining actual spare capacity can be unclear with regards to the programming of matches as it can vary from week to week. This is because junior and mini sections tend to enter cup competitions or play organised friendly fixtures, with clubs arranging for several of their age groups to play those from another club all at once, either at home or away.

Given the above, it is generally assumed that no pitches used by mini or junior teams have significant actual spare capacity for an increase in demand (over and above what actual spare capacity has been identified for senior play). However, it is acknowledged that some capacity does exist during weekends when the pitches are not in use.

Overplay

Two pitches at Wolverhampton Rugby Club are overplayed by a total of 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This takes place on the second and third team pitch at the site, largely as a result of midweek training taking place due to the presence of floodlighting.

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Table 5.14: Overplay summary

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
157	Wolverhampton Rugby Club	Outside	Senior	2	4.5

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5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay in each of the analysis areas for rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week.

The position of actual spare capacity and overplay for all five of the analysis areas across Wolverhampton is that there is no spare capacity or overplay. This is due to all sites located within the City not providing any actual spare capacity and no demand being identified.

For Wolverhampton Rugby Club, there is spare capacity for 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week on the first team pitch on site. However, the remaining two pitches are overplayed by a total of 4.5 match equivalent sessions. Therefore, overall, the site has a shortfall of three match equivalent sessions per week, largely down to midweek training pressures.

Future demand equates to one junior team from team generation rates. This exacerbates shortfalls by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 5.15: Supply and demand analysis of senior grass rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current demand	Future demand	Future total
Bilston	-	-	-	-	-
Central and South	-	-	-	-	-
North	-	-	-	-	-
Outside	1.5	4.5	3	0.5	3.5
Tettenhall	-	-	-	-	-
Wednesfield	-	-	-	-	-
Wolverhampton	1.5	4.5	3	0.5	3.5

Based on the above, the broad position is that there is an insufficient supply of provision for rugby union to accommodate Wolverhampton RUFC.

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Rugby union supply and demand summary

- ◀ Overplay of 4.5 match equivalent sessions is identified at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, although one pitch has actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ For the five school sites located within Wolverhampton, whilst no demand exists, they are not considered to provide any actual spare capacity due to poor quality.
- ◀ Wolverhampton Rugby Club also has actual spare capacity of 1.5 MES, caused by one of the senior pitches being used for first team fixtures only.
- ◀ Wolverhampton Rugby Club has a current shortfall of three match equivalent sessions per week, largely down to midweek training pressures.
- ◀ When factoring in future demand, the shortfall increases to 3.5 match equivalent sessions.

Rugby union supply summary

- ◀ There are four school sites containing a total of three senior pitches and one junior rugby pitch within Wolverhampton, all of which, are available for community use.
- ◀ Each of the five pitches within Wolverhampton across as many sites have been assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Wolverhampton RUFC has security of tenure outside of the City, through freehold ownership of its site. The site consists of three senior pitches, two junior and two mini. The first team pitch is good quality, the remaining two standard quality and the remaining junior and mini pitches poor quality.

Rugby union demand summary

- ◀ No affiliated rugby union demand is located in Wolverhampton.
- ◀ Wolverhampton RUFC are based just over the border, in South Staffordshire, but are considered to be a Wolverhampton club.
- ◀ In total, Wolverhampton RUFC field three senior men's, one senior women's, seven junior boys', and six mini teams.
- ◀ The Club trains on its dedicated training area, as well as on two of its senior pitches that are floodlit.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by Wolverhampton RUFC for a fourth senior men's team as well as a junior girls' team.
- ◀ Team generation rates forecast the growth of an additional junior boys' team.

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PART 6: RUGBY LEAGUE

6.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in England. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the UK.

Most community club rugby league is played throughout the summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is considered as a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training is also required throughout the winter months.

Senior rugby league is played on a field measuring 100 x 68 metres. The preferred pitch size for U7s, U8s and U9s is 60 x 40 metres, whereas for U10s and U11s it is 80 x 30 metres, with U12s and above generally playing on senior pitches. Teams from U7s to U11s are known as primary teams, with teams from U12s to U18s known as junior teams.

Disused and lapsed provision

Playing field sites which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

There are no disused or lapsed sites identified in Wolverhampton which contained rugby league pitches.

6.2: Supply

There are no rugby league pitches in Wolverhampton.

The area was formerly home to Wolverhampton RLFC, which formed in 2010 through a merger of the then existing Wolverhampton Warlords RLFC and Wolverhampton Wizards RLFC. However, this club has recently folded due to issues with regularly fielding teams and through lack of volunteers to support administration and coaching. The club did not have a formal rugby pitch, instead it used one of Wolverhampton RUFC's senior pitches during the summer season.

6.3: Demand

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No current demand has been identified for rugby league in Wolverhampton following the loss of Wolverhampton RLFC. In effect, any residual need will now be likely to travel to form part of clubs based in neighbouring authorities. The nearest known clubs locally are Bromsgrove Bulldogs RLFC and Telford Raiders RLFC.

Future demand

The Rugby League World Cup (RLWC) will take place in England during 2022 following postponement in 2021 due to Covid-19. In total, there will be 61 matches played across venues in Bolton, Coventry, Doncaster, Hull, Kirklees, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Preston, Sheffield, St Helens, Tees Valley, Trafford, Warrington, Wigan & Leigh and York.

Following the World Cup, the RFL plans to identify opportunities for investment and facility development through the Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme. This comprises of three key strands; volunteers, facilities and community engagement and will look to use the tournament as a catalyst to develop the game.

Locally, Telford Raiders RLFC (based in Telford) has been awarded a grant of £6,314 to contribute towards kit and equipment to create new junior teams in the West Birmingham area, specifically in Telford, Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton. This may therefore result in increased interest in the City.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

As no demand has been identified within Wolverhampton, there is no need at this time for any provision to be established. Instead, the focus should be placed on ensuring that any demand that does exist can be accommodated within clubs outside of the City.

Should any aspirations come forward in the future for the reformation of Wolverhampton RLFC (or an alternative club), this may need to be revisited.

Rugby league – supply and demand summary

- ◀ As no demand has been identified within Wolverhampton, there is no need at this time for any provision to be established.
- ◀ Focus should be placed on ensuring that any demand that does exist can be accommodated within clubs outside of the Borough.
- ◀ Should any aspirations come forward in the future for the reformation of Wolverhampton RLFC (or an alternative club), this may need to be revisited.

Rugby league – supply summary

- ◀ There are no rugby league pitches in Wolverhampton.

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- ◀ The closest provision is provided in Bromsgrove.

Rugby league – demand summary

- ◀ No current demand has been identified for rugby league in Wolverhampton.
- ◀ The area was formerly home to Wolverhampton RLFC; however, this club has recently folded.
- ◀ Locally, Telford Raiders RLFC has been awarded a grant of £6,314 to contribute towards kit and equipment to create new junior teams, with Wolverhampton being one focus area.

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PART 7: HOCKEY

7.1: Introduction

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

Table 7.1: 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
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	EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
England Hockey Category 4	All 3G surfaces	Essential None	Desirable Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

In addition to the above pitch types, EH reports that it is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2¹, is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it will be a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

For senior teams, a full-size pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run-off areas, which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends.

¹ <http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=26&subsection=26§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

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EH's preference is for four-metre side and five-metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres, though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek and also requires access to a pitch with floodlights.

Consultation

There are four affiliated hockey clubs identified as playing within Wolverhampton. These are; Finchfield HC, Old Wulfrunians HC, Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC and Dudley Ladies HC, all of which successfully responded to consultation resulting in a 100% response rate.

Table 7.2: Summary of Hockey club response rate

Club name	Club response?
Finchfield HC	Yes
Old Wulfrunians HC	Yes
Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC	Yes
Dudley Ladies HC	Yes

7.2: Supply

The audit identifies five hockey suitable AGPs within Wolverhampton across five sites (two are located at WV Active Aldersley), all of which are floodlit and available for community use. Tettenhall is the Analysis Area featuring the most AGPs, with three (60% of the overall supply), whilst both the Bilston and Central and South analysis areas have one AGP each.

In the case of both the North and Wednesfield analysis areas, there is no identified full size supply.

Table 7.3: Summary of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit ?	Size (metres)
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	WV14 0QE	Bilston	Yes	Yes	91 x 55
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	WV3 0EG	Central & South	Yes	Yes	90 x 60
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	WV3 9RB	Tettenhall	Yes	Yes	102 x 58
117	WV Active Aldersley	WV6 9NW	Tettenhall	Yes	Yes	102 x 63
					Yes	102 x 63

Smaller size provision

In addition to the full size AGPs, there is also one smaller size pitch provided in Wolverhampton, at Colton Hills Community School. This is available to the community, however, only in favourable conditions as the pitch is unplayable during inclement weather spells. It is serviced by floodlights and is most commonly used for football as opposed to hockey, likely due to the smaller, 39m x 24m dimensions.

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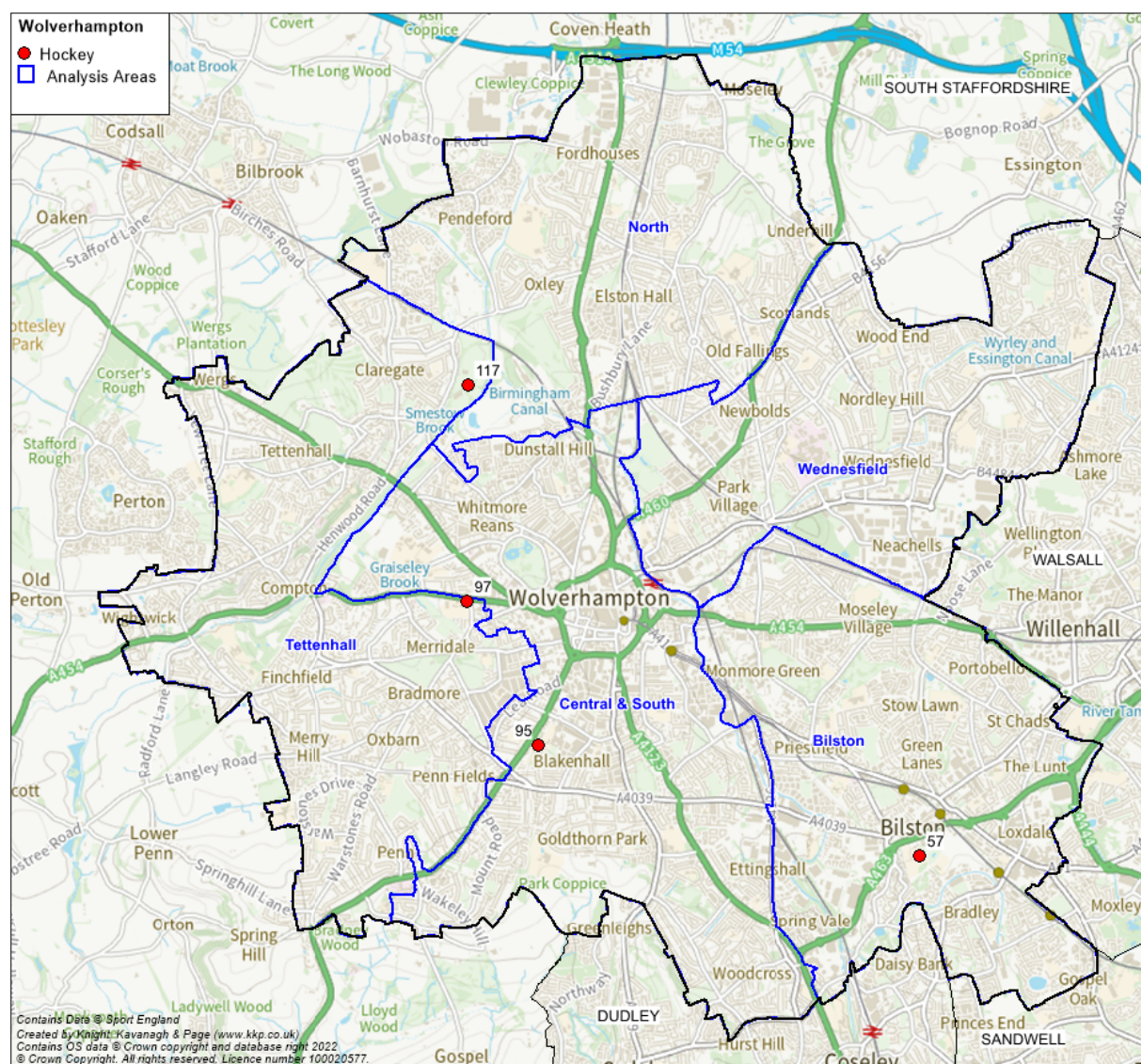
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Given the size of the pitch deeming it too small to accommodate any purposeful hockey demand, it is discounted in the forthcoming analysis.

Table 7.4: Smaller size AGPs in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Surface	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
15	Colton Hills Community School	Central & South	Yes	Sand filled	Yes	39 x 24

Figure 7.1: Location of full size hockey AGPs



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Future supply

Consultation with all four Wolverhampton based hockey clubs within the area failed to identify any cases of sites or clubs intending to develop any further hockey provision.

EH indicates concerns about the lack of hockey-suitable facilities within Wolverhampton and the three accompanying Black Country Authorities. As such, it is currently searching for a site where new suitable hockey provision can be provided to secure the long term future of clubs in the region.

Management and ownership

The pitch at Ormiston SWB Academy is under the Ormiston Academy Trust ownership and is managed by the school during curricular hours and by the WV Active Bilston-Bert Williams Leisure Centre for out of school hours. Similarly, the WV Active Aldersley pitch is under ownership of WV Active Aldersley and forms one of the three BC academy centres servicing the Black Country community.

The pitches located at the Royal Wolverhampton School and Wolverhampton Grammar School are both managed in house by the schools.

Security of tenure

Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC, which currently plays at WV Active Aldersley, accesses the provision on a yearly rental basis. The Club has been located at this site for over ten years and hope to remain here for the foreseeable future, although this is without a long-term guarantee (unsecure tenure).

Finchfield HC is based at the Royal Wolverhampton School for both training and fixtures. The Club has a free rental agreement in place having provided financial support in the re-surfacing of the pitch on site in 2019. This agreement is in place until the pitch development has been reimbursed.

Similarly, Old Wulfrunians HC is based at Wolverhampton Grammar School, which it shares good relations with having provided financial support for the re-surfacing of the facility in 2016. This pitch development support has provided the Club with a long-term agreement for the site.

Dudley Ladies HC utilises the pitch at Ormiston SWB Academy, following the loss of the Club's previous pitch located at the Dell Stadium in Dudley. This means that it is a Dudley Club importing demand into Wolverhampton due to a lack of facilities within its home authority. It rents the pitch on a weekly basis and is therefore without security of tenure.

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

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Table 7.5: AGP opening hours

Site ID	Site	Availability	Hours available in the peak period (and overall)
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	Reserved for curricular use until 17:00 then available to the community under WV Active Bilston-Bert Williams Leisure Centre management from 17:00-22:00 during the week and from 09:00-17:00 at weekends.	34 (41)
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	Reserved for curricular use until 17:00 then available to the community from 17:00-22:00 during the week and from 08:30-22:00 at weekends.	34 (38.5)
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Reserved for curricular use until 18:00 then available to the community from 18:00-22:00 during the week and from 08:00-16:00 at weekends.	27 (38)
117	WV Active Aldersley	Available and open to the general public weekdays from 09:00-22:00 and on weekends the site is open from 09:00 to 17:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 until 16:00 on Sundays.	33 (80)
117	WV Active Aldersley	Available and open to the general public weekdays from 09:00-22:00 and on weekends the site is open from 09:00 to 17:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 until 16:00 on Sundays.	33 (80)

Based on these opening times, all pitches, with the exception of Wolverhampton Grammar School are available for the full 34 hours per week in the peak window. Wolverhampton Grammar School is open 27 hours per week in the peak window (due to not being available until 18:00 midweek).

Quality

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

In Wolverhampton, two of the full size pitches are assessed as good quality and three are standard quality.

As it stands, all pitches are within their recommended lifespans. Based on a technical report (produced by Notts Sport) for both pitches at WV Aldersley, it is determined that each has a minimum of four years left prior to a resurface being needed to be considered.

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Table 7.6: Summary of full-size AGP quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	Bilston	2013	Standard
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	Central and South	2004/ 2019	Good
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Tettenhall	1996/ 2016	Good
117	WV Active Aldersley	Tettenhall	1994/2013	Standard
		Tettenhall	1994/2013	Standard

Ancillary provision

Changing facilities at Ormiston SWB Academy have been flagged as an issue for Dudley Ladies HC as it does not have access to the on-site changing rooms for Saturday fixtures, meaning only external portable toilets are available.

No other issues regarding changing rooms were highlighted during consultations.

7.3: Demand

There are four affiliated hockey clubs across Wolverhampton, each of which has varying scales of members and number of teams. A summary of hockey demand can be found below in Table 7.6.

In total, the four hockey clubs collectively provide 24 teams which, as a breakdown, totals 16 senior men's, six senior women's and two junior teams. Three of the clubs are large clubs with a variety of teams, whilst Dudley Ladies HC fields just one senior side.

Table 7.7: Summary of demand

Name of Club	No. of competitive teams			No. of members
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior	
Dudley Ladies HC	-	1	-	54
Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC	4	4	1	205
Finchfield HC	6	1	1	146
Old Wulfrunians HC	6	-	-	100
Total	16	6	2	505

Dudley Ladies HC

Dudley Ladies HC fields one senior women's team, consisting of 15 senior members and one junior member. The Club previously had as many as three teams playing at The Dell Stadium; however, this reduced to one team when the Club relocated due to the conversion of the 3G pitch.

The Club now plays and trains at Ormiston SWB Academy, in Wolverhampton, as it reports a distinct lack of available facilities across its home borough. The Club accesses a third of the pitch for a training slot every Wednesday due to having to balance football demand in the area. The AGP does not feature a net divider or divide pads, meaning the Club lays down cones to cordon themselves away from football users.

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The changing and toilet facilities are also closed on Saturdays, meaning it can only access portable toilets on matchdays. The Club fears that it is at risk of folding completely and has previously trialled combining with other local clubs, but this has not been successful.

Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC

Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC represents the largest club within the City, with four senior men's, four senior ladies teams and one junior team. However, the Club reports a recent loss of its fifth ladies team, caused by a lack of demand. It also delivers junior sessions every Sunday for which it has circa 50 members in attendance.

The Club report that it has issues with utilisation of both pitches at WV Aldersley due to quality concerns on the sand filled pitch and as such has relocated a proportion of its demand at Ormiston SWB Academy. However, this is not evidenced by the technical report produced by Notts Sport.

Finchfield Hockey Club

Finchfield HC uses The Royal Wolverhampton School for fixtures and training, for which it pays no fee due to having provided financial support in the schools resurfacing of the sand dressed AGP in 2019.

The Club has access to the site on Saturdays as lead bookers and train on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which it states is ample for its training needs.

Old Wulfrunians HC

Old Wulfrunians HC uses Wolverhampton Grammar School for its training and fixtures. The Club has a two-hour training slot every Tuesday which must conclude before 21:00 due to a curfew on the floodlights. Consultation identifies that both the pitch and changing room quality offered at Wolverhampton Grammar School is of a good quality; however, the School does not open to the general public on Sundays, which forces the Club to use The Royal Wolverhampton School as a secondary venue.

Imported/exported demand

As already discussed, Dudley Ladies HC import demand from Dudley into Wolverhampton due to the lack of facilities available within the borough. The Club lost its facility in 2016 after the Dell Stadium was converted into a 3G surface. Previously the Club tried a merger with a Club based in Bilston; however this failed to work.

Latent demand

Whilst no formal latent demand is identified by the clubs, it is generally considered that those based at a single site can recruit new members more effectively. Therefore, it is likely that Finchfield HC and Wolverhampton and Tettenhall HC are in the strongest positions to increase membership, as the remaining two clubs are either scattered across several venues or are based outside of their home authority, in the case of Dudley Ladies HC.

Future demand

Dudley Ladies HC has no plans to increase its membership, instead focusing on retaining the single senior women's team that it currently fields and ensuring that it remains viable.

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Conversely, the remaining three clubs all aspire to increase demand in the future, although none quantify this.

In addition to the above, growing participation is a key 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. Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years.

EH initiatives

There are several initiatives supported by EH that operate across the Country, including:

- ◀ Back to Hockey
- ◀ Hockey Heroes
- ◀ Walking Hockey

When ran, these initiatives add to the demand picture for hockey and are likely to result in future growth within the affiliated clubs. Only Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC currently deliver Back to Hockey sessions, which take place before its weekly training sessions. No clubs referred to delivering Hockey Heroes but Walking Hockey sessions are delivered at WV Aldersley.

Peak time demand

For matches, senior hockey activity typically takes place on a Saturday, whereas junior activity generally occurs on a Sunday. For training, peak time is midweek evenings, although preference is generally given for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Usage

The pitch at Ormiston SWB Academy is used for both hockey and football purposes, with Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC taking the primary booking slot on Saturday from 10:00 till 15:00, giving the Club time for three games if required. Following this, Dudley Ladies HC has a two-hour Saturday slot for its fixtures.

The pitches at both The Royal Wolverhampton School and Wolverhampton Grammar School are both also used extensively for football purposes, in addition to hockey demand.

The two pitches available at WV Active Aldersley have a measured approach to balancing hockey and football usage by having the sand filled AGP predominantly used for football during the week, whilst the sand dressed AGP is more hockey focused. However, that's not to say that there is not an opportunity for an increased level of competitive hockey use on the sand filled pitch for local teams.

A pitch-by-pitch summary of usage is provided overleaf.

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Table 7.8: Capacity Review

Site ID	Site name	Pitch quality	Availability in the peak period (hours) ²	% of hockey usage	% of other usage (e.g. football)	Comments	Capacity for hockey
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	Standard	34	25% 3 hours 30 mins	75%	Used by Dudley Ladies HC where it accesses one third of the pitch for an hour and a half every Wednesday for training. The remaining two thirds of the pitch the Club share with football use, which the site is predominantly used for during midweek. For fixtures the Club is allocated two hours on a Saturday afternoon, giving time for one fixture to take place. Also currently used by Wolverhampton Hockey club as an overspill site.	Spare capacity for Saturday six additional teams per week (or three matches in peak period) No midweek capacity for further hockey use.
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	Good	31	19% 8 hr hockey usage	81%	Used by Finchfield HC where it has two training sessions, once on a Tuesday and once on a Thursday. The Club state this is ample for its needs. The Club has seven senior teams which equates to 3.5 match equivalent sessions in addition to its two training sessions midweek. Therefore, the site is operating at capacity for hockey.	Spare capacity for one additional Saturday senior team (0.5 matches in the peak period). Minimal availability for midweek training for remaining community clubs.
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Good	34	21% 7 hr hockey usage	79%	Used by Old Wulfrunians HC who have a two-hour training slot every Tuesday. The Club has six senior men's teams within its remit, which equates to three match equivalent sessions.	Spare capacity for two additional Saturday senior team (one match in peak period). No midweek capacity for further hockey use.
117	WV Active Aldersley (sand dressed)	Standard	34	30% 6 hours 30 mins	70%	The pitch is used by Wolverhampton Hockey Club for fixtures and training. The Club train Wednesday evenings from 19:00-21:00 and the eight teams within the club access the pitch on Saturdays for fixtures from 10:00 till 15:00. This gives the pitch six match equivalent sessions.	No spare capacity for matches or training
117	WV Active Aldersley (sand filled)	Standard	34	0%	Unknown	Predominately used for recreational football, however, has scope for further hockey use. Local clubs perceive quality of the pitch as unsuitable for competitive use, however, based on a technical report produced by Notts Sport, this is not the case.	Spare capacity for four additional Saturday senior. Likely to be small amount of capacity for midweek hockey use when balanced against football programming. .

² Based on data from Sport England's Active Places

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7.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is suggested that a floodlit pitch is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' pitch).

In Wolverhampton there are 22 senior teams which require access to a AGP on Saturdays to compete in league competitions. As such, based on a single pitch being able to accommodate four matches in the peak period (the demand of eight teams), there is a theoretical need for full access to three full size pitches (rounded up from 2.75).

For junior hockey matches, the need for pitches is generally less than it is for senior hockey. This is because younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time) and because there are also fewer junior teams provided for all clubs in Wolverhampton than senior teams. Therefore, a sufficient stock of pitches for senior hockey would also be considered sufficient for junior demand.

In terms of the existing supply, there are five pitches which can accommodate demand, which could suggest a potential oversupply of pitches. Four of the five pitches are in active use, and capacity does not exist to consolidate this onto fewer pitches, especially due to the presence of football demand. For the unused pitch (the sand filled at WV Aldersley) there is scope for increased use. This does not translate to the pitch being surplus to requirements as it should be considered as a strategic reserve for an increase in hockey demand, both for local Wolverhampton based clubs, but also those in the wider Black Country locality.

Conclusion

There is a need for all the existing pitches to be protected for hockey in Wolverhampton. This is evidenced through existing competitive play as well as unquantified latent and future demand from clubs that may need to maximise use to existing provision, including access to the currently unused pitch at WV Aldersley.

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Hockey supply and demand summary

- ◀ Current supply of AGPs within Wolverhampton can accommodate the existing demand for hockey within the City.
- ◀ There is a need for all of the existing pitches to be protected for hockey in Wolverhampton.

Hockey supply summary

- ◀ There are five full size hockey suitable AGPs in Wolverhampton, provided at Ormiston SWB Academy, The Royal Wolverhampton School, Wolverhampton Grammar School and WV Active Aldersley (x2).
- ◀ All five pitches are floodlit and available to the community.
- ◀ There is one smaller size pitches, at Colton Hills Community School which is not large enough to accommodate some form of hockey demand.
- ◀ All pitches are good or standard quality.

Hockey demand summary

- ◀ There are four affiliated hockey clubs identified as playing within Wolverhampton (Dudley Ladies, Wolverhampton, Finchfield and Old Wulfrunians hockey clubs).
- ◀ These four hockey clubs provide 24 teams, consisting of 16 senior men's, six senior women's and two junior teams.
- ◀ Dudley Ladies HC previously accessed The Dell Stadium, in Dudley, before its conversion to 3G in 2016 (imported demand).
- ◀ All clubs express future demand, although this is not quantified.
- ◀ Walking Hockey takes place at WV Aldersley.
- ◀ A large proportion of usage for the hockey suitable AGPs in Wolverhampton is from other activities, most notably in terms of football, whether that be through formal training or via informal social use.

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PART 8: TENNIS

8.1: Introduction

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

Consultation

There are six tennis clubs in Wolverhampton, of which five responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 83%. The unresponsive clubs are Linden Lea and Woodfield Sports and Social tennis clubs, with a full breakdown provided in the table below.

Table 8.1: Tennis club response rate

Club name	Club response?
Albert TC	Yes
Hanbury TC	Yes
Linden Lea TC	No
Tettenhall TC	Yes
Wolverhampton TC	Yes
Woodfield Sports and Social TC	No

Disused and lapsed provision

Playing court sites which have previously accommodated formal court provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing court which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

There are two lapsed courts located on Danescourt Rd (WV6 9BQ) these are owned by a private fitness company.

8.2: Supply

There are 125 tennis courts identified in Wolverhampton across 28 sites. Of the courts, 74 are categorised as being available for community use at 17 sites compared to 51 that are unavailable at 12 sites.

The Tettenhall Analysis Area contains the highest number of available courts (30), whereas the Bilston and Wednesfield Analysis Areas provides the fewest (four).

Table 8.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

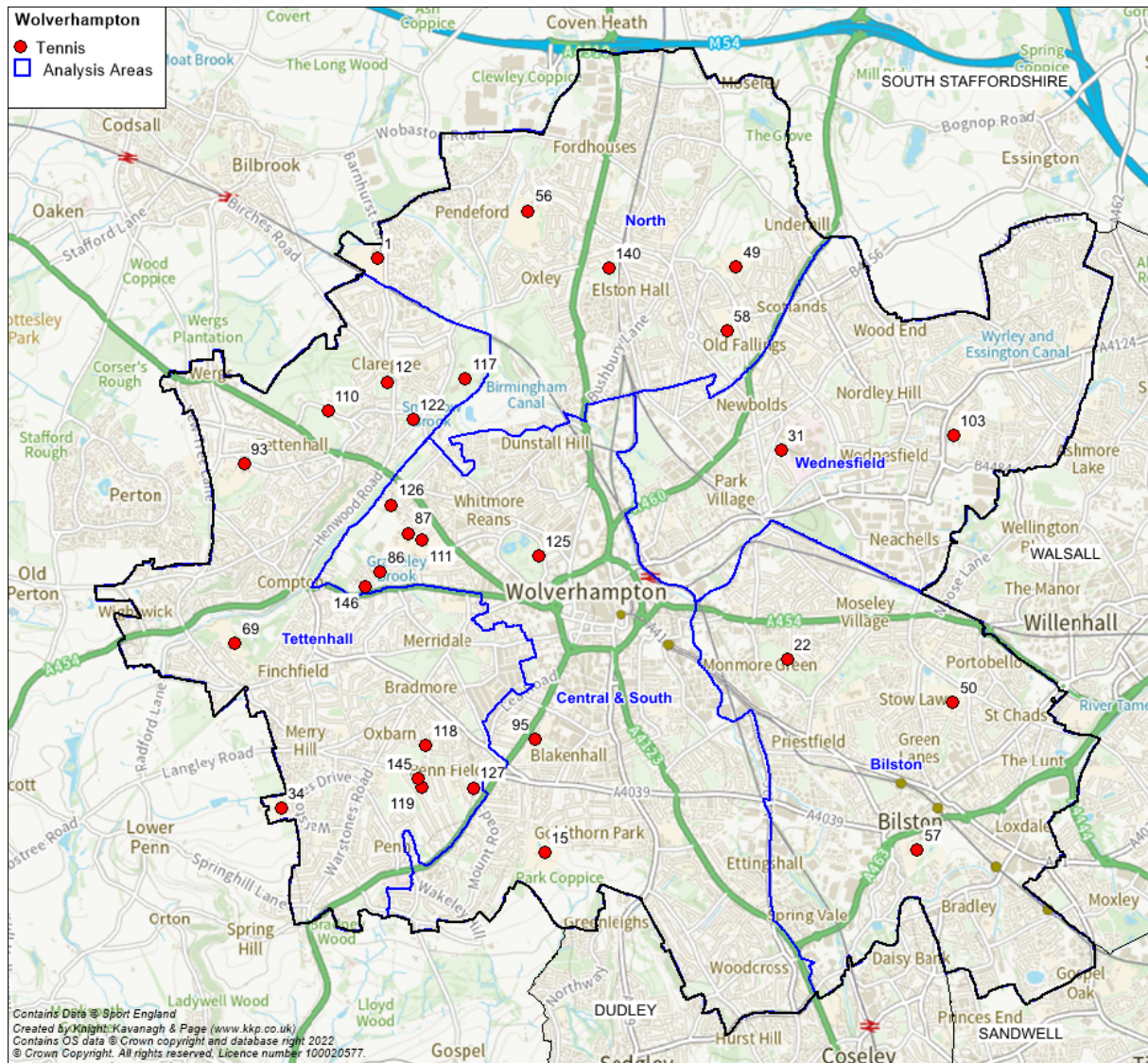
Analysis area	Courts available for community use	Courts unavailable for community use
Bilston	6	4
Central & South	25	23
North	9	10
Tettenhall	30	10
Wednesfield	4	4
Wolverhampton	74	51

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Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both). All unavailable courts in Wolverhampton are located at education sites.

Figure 8.1 shows the location of the courts servicing Wolverhampton, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 8.3.

Figure 8.1: Location of tennis courts in Wolverhampton



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Table 8.3: Tennis courts in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Court quality
1	Aldersley High School Sports Centre	WV8 1RT	North	School	No	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
						2	Yes	Macadam	
12	Claregate Park	WV6 9PZ	Tettenhall	Council	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Poor
15	Colton Hills Community School	WV4 5DG	Central & South	School	No	8	No	Macadam	Standard
22	East Park	WV1 2BS	Bilston	Council	Yes	5	No	Clay	Poor
31	Heath Park School	WV11 1RD	Wednesfield	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Standard
34	Highfields School	WV4 4NT	Tettenhall	School	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
49	Moreton School	WV10 8BY	North	School	No	6	Yes	Macadam	Poor
50	Moseley Park School Sports Centre	WV14 6LU	Bilston	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Standard
56	Ormiston NEW Academy	WV10 6SE	North	School	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	WV14 0QE	Bilston	School	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Good
58	Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy	WV10 8BL	North	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
69	Smestow School	WV3 8HU	Tettenhall	School	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Standard
86	St. Edmund's Catholic Academy	WV3 9DU	Central & South	School	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
87	St. Peter's Collegiate School	WV3 9DU	Central & South	School	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Standard
					No	4	No	Macadam	
93	The King's CE School	WV6 8XG	Tettenhall	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Good
						3	No	Macadam	Standard
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	WV3 0EG	Central & South	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Standard
103	Wednesfield High Academy	WV11 3ES	Wednesfield	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	WV6 9BJ	Tettenhall	Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
111	Wolverhampton Girls' High School	WV6 0BY	Central & South	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Good
117	WV Active Aldersley	WV6 9NW	Tettenhall	Council	Yes	6	Yes	Macadam	Good
118	Bradmore Recreation Ground	WV3 7EN	Tettenhall	Council	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Poor
119	Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club	WV4 4BW	Tettenhall	Club	Yes	2	No	Artificial turf	Good
122	The Albert Lawn Tennis Club	WV6 9NA		Club	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Court quality
			Tettenhall			2	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
125	West Park	WV1 4QA	Central & South	Council	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Poor
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	WV6 0LH	Central & South	Club	Yes	5	Yes	Macadam	Good
						3	Yes	Clay	Poor
						1	No	Artificial turf	Good
						3	No	Grass	Good
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	WV4 4AF	Tettenhall	Club	Yes	4	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
140	Goodyear Neighbourhood Park	WV10 6DB	North	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
146	Linden Lea Tennis Club	WV3 9DU	Central & South	Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good

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Indoor courts

In addition to its outdoor court stock, there are three indoor courts provided at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club. Although these fall out of the scope of this study, consideration must be given the provision given the added capacity benefits they provide.

Management and security of tenure

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Wolverhampton. Most are operated by schools, although only 27 (34%) of these are available for community use, with local authority operated courts more accessible.

Table 8.4: Tennis courts by management type

Community use?	Number of courts			
	Club	Council	Education	Other
Available	25	27	25	-
Unavailable	-	-	48	-
Total	25	27	73	-

The table below outlines what the position of each of the tennis clubs in Wolverhampton.

Table 8.5: Clubs home venue and tenure position

Site ID	Site	Club	Tenure position
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall TC	Long term lease from Wolverhampton CC
119	Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club	Hanbury TC	Freehold
122	The Albert Lawn Tennis Club	Albert TC	Freehold
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	Wolverhampton TC	Freehold
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	Woodfield Sports and Social TC	<i>Unknown</i>
146	Linden Lea Tennis Club	Linden Lea TC	<i>Unknown</i>

Woodfield Sports & Social and Linden Lea tennis clubs have been unresponsive to consultation requests, therefore it is unknown what their tenure position is.

Court type

Most outdoor tennis courts in Wolverhampton have a macadam surface, with 106 (83%). The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

Grass courts, whilst much sought after by players, are becoming increasingly rare across the Country, in part due to them requiring higher levels of maintenance and being able to accommodate less usage. They are generally reserved for summer use, with bad weather at other times of the year making them unusable.

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Floodlighting

Floodlit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that floodlights allow for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In Wolverhampton, 57 of the 125 tennis courts are serviced by floodlights, representing 47% of the provision. This is a relatively high amount when compared to other local authorities nationally.

The floodlit courts are located at:

- ◀ Aldersley High School Sports Centre
- ◀ Highfields School
- ◀ Linden Lea Tennis Club
- ◀ Moreton School
- ◀ Ormiston NEW Academy
- ◀ Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy
- ◀ St. Edmund's Catholic Academy
- ◀ Wednesfield High Academy
- ◀ The Albert Lawn Tennis Club
- ◀ Wolverhampton Cricket Club
- ◀ Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club
- ◀ Woodfield Social & Sports Club
- ◀ WV Active Aldersley

Of the floodlit courts, 41 are available for community use. The 16 that are unavailable are at Aldersley High School Sports Centre (four), Highfields School (three), Moreton School (six) and St. Edmund's Catholic Academy (three).

A lack of floodlighting at many of the school sites presents a key reason as to why many of the courts are unavailable for community use. Many of the providers state that making them available for lettings would not be financially viable as usage would be limited, although the LTA does offer solutions to help overcome this including initiatives such as Clubspark and Gate Access (detailed further on). Just over half (53%) of non-floodlit courts are accessible to the community compared to 73% of floodlit courts.

Access to floodlit courts is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for more usage of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members. To that end, it must be noted that seven of the eight clubs have access to floodlit courts, although for Hanbury TC and Wolverhampton LTC only some of their courts are floodlit rather than all.

Over markings

Tennis courts, particularly within schools, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football courts. Courts which are over marked tend to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

In Wolverhampton, 49 courts are overmarked by netball/basketball provision, with the majority of these located at school sites where curriculum activity makes this necessary. For more information, see Part 9 of this report.

Quality

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering).

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For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the courts in Wolverhampton, 48 are assessed as good quality, 51 as standard quality and 26 as poor quality. Most good quality courts are available for community use, with only 12 out of the 51 unavailable, which is like poor quality courts, where 20 of the 26 are available for community use. In contrast, fewer than half of the standard quality courts are accessible (16 of 51).

Table 8.6: Quality of community available tennis courts

Community use?	Quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	36	16	20
Unavailable	12	35	6
Total	48	51	26

The courts assessed as poor quality are located at the following sites:

- ◀ Bradmore Recreation Ground
- ◀ Claregate Park
- ◀ East Park
- ◀ Moreton School
- ◀ West Park
- ◀ Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club

Issues recorded during site assessments include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel. In addition, maintenance is also considered to be basic and infrequent at most of the sites, which leads to further deterioration in quality.

Four of the sites containing poor quality courts are operated by the Council (at Claregate Park, East Park, Bradmore Recreation Ground and West Park). Improving such courts is currently a national priority for the LTA, with a focus on suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so. This is especially the case if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities and floodlighting, whereby a sustainable tennis programme could be supported. It is noted that park facilities in Wolverhampton close at dusk, and therefore, floodlighting surfaces at these relevant sites would not provide a benefit to users.

Of particular concern are the poor quality courts at Bradmore Recreation Ground and Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club given that the sites are used by clubs. However, it must be noted that only the clay courts at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club are assessed as poor, with the remaining court types rated as good quality.

Ancillary provision

Wolverhampton TC states that its provision is in poor condition. It therefore has plans to improve its clubhouse, with a focus on making it accessible for disabled users.

All remaining clubs are serviced by adequate provision, although it is noted that modernisation is required at Wolverhampton Cricket Club for Tettenhall TC.

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For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic, although good quality ancillary facilities are provided at WV Active Aldersley, Ormiston NEW Academy and Ormiston SWB Academy. Whilst most of the other sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used.

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of such provision would be to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

8.3: Demand

It is reported that demand for tennis provision during the Covid-19 pandemic has increased compared to prior levels when court restrictions have not been in place (potentially linked to tennis being one of the first sports to be allowed to resume). This should therefore be monitored moving forward to ensure that any growth can be accommodated for if the increases are sustained.

Competitive tennis

There are six tennis clubs in Wolverhampton which, where known, collectively cater for 1,359 members. It is, however, not clear what the membership figures are at Linden Lea TC and Woodfield Sports and Social Club due to these clubs not responding to consultation requests.

Across the responsive clubs, there are currently 995 senior and 364 junior members. Within this, Wolverhampton TC is a particularly large club, catering for 1,000 members. The Club having access to indoor provision will be a key factor for this.

Table 8.7: Summary of tennis club demand

Club	No. of members	
	Senior	Junior
Albert LTC	110	114
Hanbury LTC	25	10
Tettenhall TC	60	40
Wolverhampton LTC	800	200
Linden Lea TC	Unknown	Unknown
Woodfield Sports & Social TC	Unknown	Unknown
Total	995	364

Participation trends

Both Hanbury TC and Tettenhall TC report that their demand has increased at the junior level over recent years. The former attributes this to increased support received from local stakeholders, whilst the latter states that its 10% increase is due to the introduction of a family membership package.

In contrast, Albert TC reports that its senior membership has decreased in recent years, although this partially offset by a slight increase in its junior membership. It attributes the loss of members to a lack of demand and its growth in demand to a new junior coach being employed. They have implemented a better programme with various coaching sessions and initiatives being held.

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All remaining responsive clubs state that both senior and junior membership has remained static.

Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low-quality facilities were addressed. As such, there is a potential opportunity in Wolverhampton for the Council and other providers to address such barriers, whilst also bettering understanding of court usage.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 3,933 people within Wolverhampton, which is a comparably low figure; by way of comparison 5,375 people are identified in Dudley, 4,852 in Sandwell and 4,180 in Walsall.

In relation to clubs, Wolverhampton LTC reports unmet demand in that it believes that it would be able to accommodate more junior members if it had a greater number of courts. An increase in its number of courts would allow more coaching sessions to be run along with additional matches being played (the Club states that it would be able to put together two additional junior teams if capacity was not limited).

No other clubs report any latent or unmet demand.

Future demand

Three out of the four respondent clubs report future growth aspirations, with total future demand amounting to 230 potential additional members (160 senior and 70 junior). The majority of this is identify by Wolverhampton LTC (with hopes to grow by 200 members).

Table 8.8: Summary of future tennis club demand

Club	Future demand (members)	
	Senior	Junior
Albert LTC	-	-
Hanbury LTC	-	-
Tettenhall TC	10	20
Wolverhampton LTC	150	50
Total	160	70

Informal tennis

It is considered that all local authority courts available for community use in Wolverhampton have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not always recorded due to the open access nature of many sites.

Most of the current use is assumed to take place throughout the summer months although it is also accepted that many courts are accessed unofficially for activities unrelated to tennis.

The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities to grow the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access, which are further detailed below.

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In Wolverhampton, these products are currently utilised at Wolverhampton Cricket Club, WV Active Aldersley, Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club, Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club and Woodfield Social & Sports Club.

In addition, Bradmore Recreation Ground is also being considered for implementation. It is not currently in place at any sites operated by the Council.

In relation to education providers, three (Ormiston NEW Academy, Ormiston SWB Academy and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy) report regular demand from the community for tennis. It is believed by many that a lack of demand overall for education providers could be a direct result of quality issues and/or a lack of floodlighting, as well as other courts being available for free. This results in the community being less likely to pay a hire charge for their provision.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◀ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◀ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- ◀ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ◀ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package
- ◀ Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◀ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- ◀ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

RALLY

Rally is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Rally provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

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Gate Access

The LTA has developed two gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four-digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

Additional demand

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which result in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

Local Tennis Leagues

Recreational Tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are available to all aged 18 years and above and are run by an organisation called Local Tennis Leagues, which affiliates to the LTA.

Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

In Wolverhampton, a league is in operation, with primary venues considered to be Bradmore Recreation Ground, Claregate Playing Fields, East Park and West Park. In addition, venues in Walsall and Sandwell are also utilised.

LTA Youth Start

This is a six-week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

Tennis for Free

Tennis for Free is a community sports charity that works in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly coaching sessions for all ages and abilities in local communities across the UK, especially those in low-income areas.

Tennis for Free offers a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support. Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the charity have recently launched 'Tennis for Free Lite', available to clubs that wish to open their doors to non-members.

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Through its offer, Tennis for Free aims to:

- ◀ Reinvigorate under-used public facilities
- ◀ Make tennis a sport for all
- ◀ Make tennis more financially accessible in the UK
- ◀ Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local communities through tennis

LTA Big Tennis Weekend

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts three dedicated weekends a year (in May, July and September) that are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow-on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

Mini tennis

Although, no dedicated mini tennis courts have been identified in Wolverhampton, mini tennis can provide children with opportunities to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age.

Designed for children aged between 4-10, mini tennis utilises smaller courts, nets, and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques. The game is split out into three levels, with the LTA stating that each stage there are key aims and goals:

- ◀ Red (Stage 3): 4-8 year olds – serve, rally and score
- ◀ Orange (Stage 2): 8-9 year olds – develop a rounded game
- ◀ Green (Stage 1): 10 year olds – put skills to the test

Paddle tennis

Paddle tennis (also referred to as Padel) is a form of tennis that is easy to play, fun and sociable. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve underhand and the walls are used as part of the game, with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

One of the fastest growing sports across continental Europe, it has gained increasing popularity over recent years, particularly in Spain with over six million people currently playing. As of 2021, there are around 6,000 active paddle tennis players across Great Britain, with 107 courts provided at 52 clubs. This is predicted to grow substantially in future years.

There are currently no paddle tennis courts in Wolverhampton. The nearest are located in Walsall at the Streetly Academy and in Birmingham at Sutton Coldfield Tennis Club.

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8.4: Supply and demand analysis

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate 40 members whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. In addition, indoor courts can accommodate 200 members, which is relevant to Wolverhampton TC. Using these figures, the table below analyses whether or not courts currently in use by clubs are sufficient to meet current and future demand.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that the capacity figures are just used as a guide. In reality, many clubs operating above recommended capacity limits will not see this as an issue and will be able to function without a problem.

Table 8.9: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Club users	Current demand (members)	Future demand (members)	No of courts	Floodlit?	Capacity (members)	Current capacity balance	Future capacity balance
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall TC	100	30	3	Yes	180	80	50
119	Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club	Hanbury TC	35	-	2	No	80	45	45
122	The Albert Lawn Tennis Club	Albert TC	224	-	6	Yes	360	136	136
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	Wolverhampton TC	1,000	200	5	Yes	300	240	40
					3	Yes	180		
					1	No	40		
					3	No	120		
					3 ³	Yes	600		
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	Woodfield Sports and Social TC	Unknown	Unknown	4	Yes	240	Unknown	Unknown
146	Linden Lea Tennis Club	Linden Lea TC	Unknown	Unknown	3	Yes	180	Unknown	Unknown

³ Capacity added through the provision of indoor courts

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Wolverhampton TC seemingly has sufficient capacity for growth at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, consideration must be given to its expressed latent and unmet demand. If a substantial level of its membership base has demand for access to its outdoor courts during summer months, which is likely to be the case, it is understandable that it faces issues.

It is uncertain what the capacity picture is for Woodfield Sports & Social and Linden Lea tennis clubs due to them not responding to consultation requests. As such, further exploration is required. Woodfield Sports & Social TC has capacity for 240 members at Woodfield Sports and Social Club, and Linden Lea TC has capacity for 180 members at Linden Lea Tennis Club.

As no non-club courts are identified as having any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving quality to an adequate standard for promoting and increasing informal play, particularly at publicly available sites accommodating multiple courts and adequate ancillary facilities. Linked to this, increased utilisation of LTA schemes at suitable sites should be considered, as should the establishment of the other various initiatives, supported by the NGB.

Tennis– supply and demand summary

- ◀ All clubs are operating within sustainable LTA guidelines.
- ◀ As no non-club courts are identified as have any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites hosting multiple courts.

Tennis – supply summary

- ◀ There are 125 tennis courts identified in Wolverhampton across 28 sites. Of the courts, 74 are categorised as being available for community use at 17 sites compared to 51 that are unavailable at 12 sites.
- ◀ Most courts are operated by schools, although only 34% of these are available for community use.
- ◀ The majority of courts have a macadam surface, with 106 being of this type.
- ◀ Of the courts, 51 are assessed as good quality, 51 as standard quality and 26 as poor quality.

Tennis – demand summary

- ◀ There are six tennis clubs in Wolverhampton, with Wolverhampton TC being a particularly large club.
- ◀ Wolverhampton TC expresses high levels of latent and unmet demand due to a lack of court capacity, at peak times.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by three clubs and amounts to 230 additional members (170 senior and 60 junior).
- ◀ Clubspark is utilised at numerous sites in Wolverhampton, although not at any sites operated by the Council

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PART 9: NETBALL

9.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided and in use by the netball community than there are indoor. Nationally, England Netball reports that the challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility and a lack of floodlighting can also be problematic.

Consultation

Information to inform this section of the report was primarily obtained through discussions with England Netball.

Disused and lapsed provision

Playing court sites which have previously accommodated formal court provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing court which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

There are no disused or lapsed sites identified in Wolverhampton which contained netball courts.

9.2: Supply

There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across Wolverhampton, with 69 identified across 19 sites. However, of these, only 35 courts at ten sites are available for community use and most of these are without floodlighting which can limit usage during winter months. All of the courts that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites, primarily within high schools.

Most community available courts are located in the Tettenhall Analysis Area (16), with 10 in the North Analysis Area, four in the Central & South Analysis Area, three in Wednesfield Analysis Area and the remaining two are in the Bilston Analysis Area.

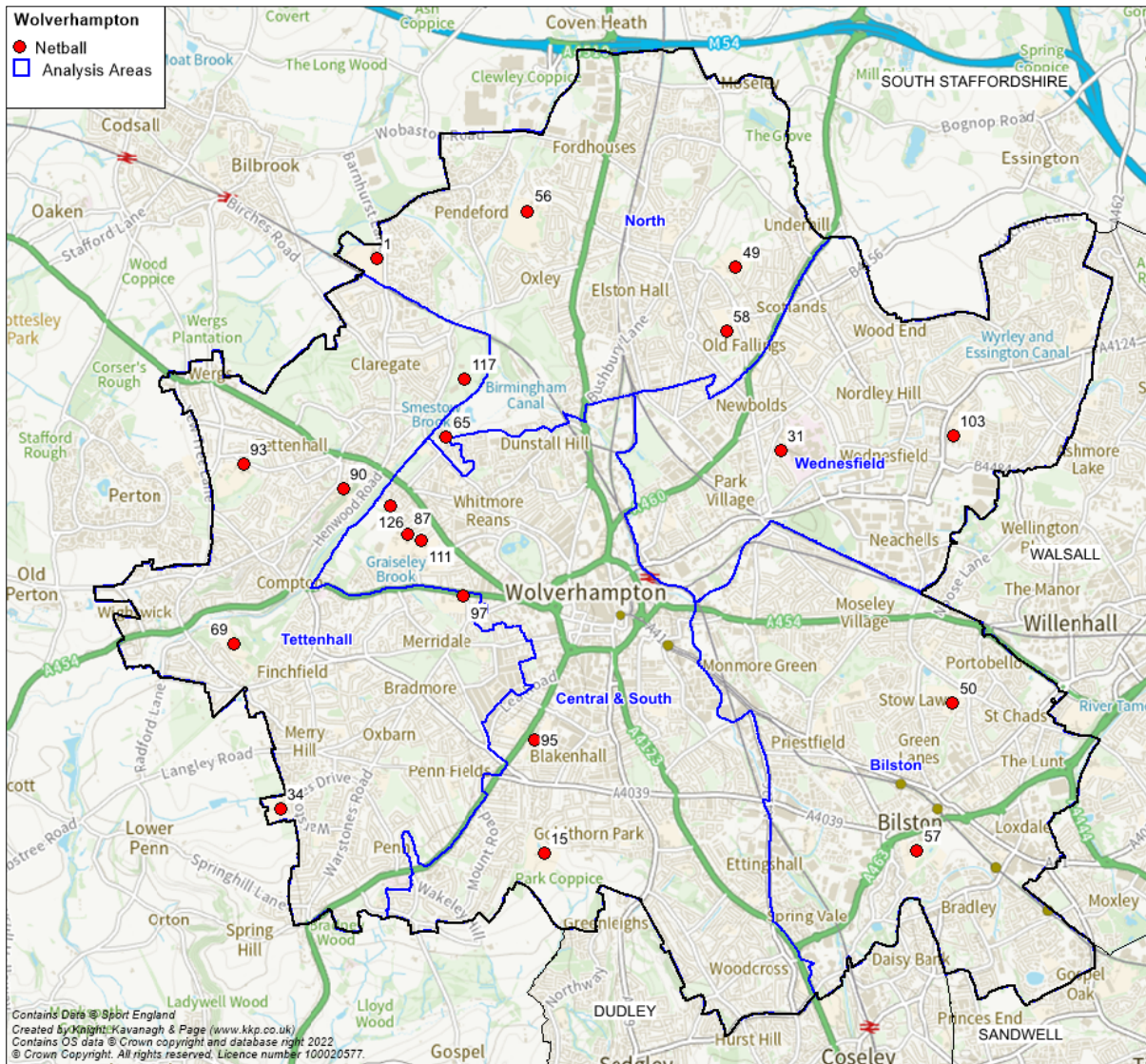
Table 9.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of courts available	Number of courts unavailable
Bilston	2	2
Central & South	4	16
North	10	7
Tettenhall	16	6
Wednesfield	3	3
Wolverhampton	35	34

For a site-by-site breakdown of the courts supplied across Wolverhampton, please refer to Table 9.2 and Figure 9.1 overleaf.

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Figure 9.1: Location of netball courts in Wolverhampton



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Table 9.2: Netball courts in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit ?	Court type	Court quality
1	Aldersley High School Sports Centre	WV8 1RT	North	School	No	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
						2	Yes	Macadam	
15	Colton Hills Community School	WV4 5DG	Central & South	School	No	8	No	Macadam	Standard
31	Heath Park School	WV11 1RD	Wednesfield	School	No	3	No	Macadam	Standard
34	Highfields School	WV4 4NT	Tettenhall	School	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
49	Moreton School	WV10 8BY	North	School	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Poor
50	Moseley Park School Sports Centre	WV14 6LU	Bilston	School	No	2	No	Macadam	Standard
56	Ormiston NEW Academy	WV10 6SE	North	School	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	WV14 0QE	Bilston	School	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
58	Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy	WV10 8BL	North	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
65	Pine Green Academy	WV6 0UB	North	School	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Standard
69	Smestow School	WV3 8HU	Tettenhall	School	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Standard
87	St. Peter's Collegiate School	WV3 9DU	Central & South	School	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Standard
					No	3	No	Macadam	
90	Tettenhall College	WV6 8QX	Tettenhall	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
93	The King's Church of England School	WV6 8XG	Tettenhall	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Good
						2	No	Macadam	Standard
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	WV3 0EG	Central & South	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Standard
103	Wednesfield High Academy	WV11 3ES	Wednesfield	School	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
111	Wolverhampton Girls' High School	WV6 0BY	Central & South	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Good
117	WV Active Aldersley	WV6 9NW	Tettenhall	Council	Yes	6	Yes	Macadam	Good
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	WV6 0LH	Central & South	Club	Yes	1	No	Artificial turf	Good

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Management

All but seven outdoor netball courts in Wolverhampton are operated by schools. The remaining courts are operated by the Council at WV Active Aldersley and by Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club.

Court type

Most outdoor netball courts in Wolverhampton have a macadam surface, with 68 being of this type and 34 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

The remaining court has an artificial surface, with this provided at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club. As with macadam courts, the estimated lifespan of an artificial court is ten years.

Floodlighting

Despite 69 outdoor netball courts being provided in Wolverhampton, only 29 are serviced by floodlighting. These are provided at Aldersley High School Sports Centre, Highfields School, Moreton School, Ormiston NEW Academy, Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy, Tettenhall College, Wednesfield High Academy and WV Active Aldersley.

A lack of floodlighting on netball courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database (updated in April 2020) identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are floodlit throughout the Country (38%). As such, a higher ratio is found in Wolverhampton, where 41% of courts are serviced.

Over markings

Netball courts, particularly at school sites, are often overmarked, predominately by tennis courts but also on occasion by basketball and/or football courts. Provision such as this tends to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as potentially causing capacity issues when there is external netball demand.

In Wolverhampton, 63 netball courts are over marked, with only eight being standalone courts. These standalone courts are provided at Pine Green Academy and Tettenhall College

Quality

The quality of netball courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard, or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering).

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the courts in Wolverhampton, 20 are assessed as good quality, 48 as standard quality and three as poor quality. Of the community available courts, 15 are rated as good quality, with 20 being standard and none being poor.

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Table 9.3: Quality of courts

Community use	Quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	15	20	-
Unavailable	5	28	3
Total	20		3

The poor-quality courts that are not available for community use are located at Moreton School, where the surface is worn and the line markings have badly faded.

Wednesfield High Academy is exploring funding opportunities for the conversion of its netball courts to a 3G surface. The current surface is standard quality (based on the KKP audit) however, with the line markings are fading and floodlights not working. However, this is being held back as the School has a lack of capital to proceed with this development.

The good quality court which is not available for community access is provided at The King's Church of England School, whereas those available for community use are located at Ormiston NEW Academy, Ormiston SWB Academy, Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy, WV Active Aldersley and Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club.

Ancillary provision

Club users claim ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for netball and are generally located within main school buildings or are provided to predominately service sports halls and/or grass pitches. As such, access can be limited even at sites that allow for community use.

9.3: Demand

Demand for outdoor netball tends to come in two forms; league and club-based netball that consists of matches and training, and the various netball-based initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball.

League and club demand

The Wolverhampton City Netball League operates in Wolverhampton, with all matches played a central venue at WV Active Aldersley, which has six courts. The League currently operates with five leagues and accommodates 52 teams, with matches being played every Thursday.

It is suggested that the majority of the teams playing in the League will draw players from Wolverhampton, although the level of data required to interrogate this is not available.

Back to Netball

Back to Netball is a scheme put into place by England Netball in 2010, with participation increasing ever since. Sessions are running weekly by qualified coaches across England with the aim of re-introducing female players over the age of 16 to the sport.

In Wolverhampton, numerous Back to Netball sessions have been run, mainly at WV Active Aldersley.

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Walking Netball

Walking Netball is a lower version of the sport, designed so that anyone can play regardless of age or fitness level. It can give those who are isolated an outlet, provide an activity for those who do not deem themselves fit enough and offer a stepping-stone for those looking for a pathway back into traditional netball.

Walking Netball sessions are hosted across the Black Country and the wider West Midlands region by Netball West Midlands. In Wolverhampton, there are no active sessions being held, with the nearest being held in Walsall at Manor Farm Community Centre.

Netball Now

Netball Now is a simple, straight forward way to play netball. It is not a competition led by rules or scores but rather a simple session where players can play a variety of positions and even have a go at umpiring.

No Netball Now sessions are in operation in Wolverhampton.

Bee Netball

A new initiative by England Netball, Bee Netball a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play, and teamwork. Each session is managed by an England Netball accredited coach. Although there are currently no sessions operating in Wolverhampton, it is still in its infancy so one may be established in the near future.

Exported/imported demand

No exported or imported demand is identified. All netball demand in Wolverhampton that wants to play within a league structure will likely stay within Wolverhampton to form part of the Wolverhampton Netball League.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 671 people within Wolverhampton, which is a relatively minimal amount and is lower than that identified in the remaining three Black Country authorities.

Future demand

It is hoped by England Netball that there will be an increase in the number of its initiatives held in Wolverhampton and the demand for them. However, this is reliant on volunteers hosting and organising the sessions.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

Whilst there is a large quantity of netball courts provided in Wolverhampton, the majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand due to a variety of factors including poor quality, a lack of floodlighting and no community use being allowed. However, all demand is seemingly being catered for through use of WV Active Aldersley by the Wolverhampton City Netball League and by Back to Netball sessions, with no additional demand identified.

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As the courts at WV Active Aldersley are good quality, supply is considered to be sufficient to meet demand. Priority should therefore be placed on protecting the provision for continued and long-term netball use. The site also has an indoor sports hall offer to complement outdoor provision.

To potentially further increase netball demand, focus should also be placed on supporting the various initiatives that are championed by England Netball and ensuring such programmes have suitable provision from which to be run. As part of this, priority should be placed on improving the quality of the existing stock, particularly where quality is poor and where curricular and extra-curricular needs are high. Where courts are over marked, this could be carried out in conjunction with improving tennis court quality.

Netball – supply and demand summary

- ◀ The supply of netball courts in Wolverhampton is considered to be sufficient to meet demand.
- ◀ Priority should be placed on protecting the provision at WV Active Aldersley for continued and long-term netball use.
- ◀ There also remains a need to ensure programmes provided by England Netball have suitable provision from which to be run and that curricular and extra-curricular needs are being met.

Netball – supply summary

- ◀ There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across Wolverhampton, with 69 identified across 19 sites; however, only 35 courts at 10 sites are available for community use.
- ◀ All but seven outdoor netball courts in Wolverhampton are operated by a school (the remaining courts are operated by the Council at WV Active Aldersley and by a club Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club).
- ◀ Most outdoor netball courts have a macadam surface, with 68 being of this type (the remaining one court has an artificial surface).
- ◀ A total of 63 netball courts are over marked, with the only standalone courts provided at Pine Green Academy and Tettenhall College.
- ◀ Only 29 of the courts are serviced by floodlighting, although this represents a high percentage than the national rate.
- ◀ 20 courts are assessed as good quality, 48 as standard quality and three as poor quality; of the community available courts, 15 are rated as good quality, with 20 being standard and none being poor.

Netball – demand summary

- ◀ The Wolverhampton Netball League uses WV Active Aldersley as a central venue for all matches.
- ◀ The Club currently caters for 52 teams within five divisions.
- ◀ Back to Netball sessions have been run, mainly at WV Active Aldersley.
- ◀ No other initiatives are identified within the City.

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PART 10: BOWLS

10.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in Wolverhampton is played on crown greens, with a typical season running in the Summer from May until September. The British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) is the NGB with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport.

Flat green bowls is another version of bowls played in England, governed separately by Bowls England. However, this is played predominately in the South and therefore has no presence in Wolverhampton.

Consultation

There are 17 bowls clubs identified as currently using outdoor bowling greens in Wolverhampton. Of these, nine responded to consultation requests, equating to a response rate of 53%.

Table 10.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
44 Club BC	No
Ashmore Park BC	Yes
Bilston Town BC	No
Bradmore BC	Yes
ECC BC	No
Express & Star BC	Yes
Fordhouses BC	No
Pavilion BC	Yes
Penn BC	Yes
Pennfields BC	Yes
Springvale BC	Yes
Stile BC	Yes
Wednesfield Cons BC	Yes
West Park Bowling BC	No
Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC	No
Willenhall Nordley BC	No
Woodfield Social BC	No

10.2: Supply

There are currently 22 crown green bowling greens in Wolverhampton provided across 18 sites (two are provided at Ashmore Park, Springvale Sports, Woodfield Social & Sports Club and Pennfields BC). In addition, there is one green outside of Wolverhampton that requires inclusion due to its proximity to the boundary. This is located at Nordley Liberals.

All of the greens are available for community use. As seen in the table overleaf, the Tettenhall analysis areas contain the largest number of greens (six), whilst the Bilston Analysis Area contains the fewest (two).

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Table 10.2: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

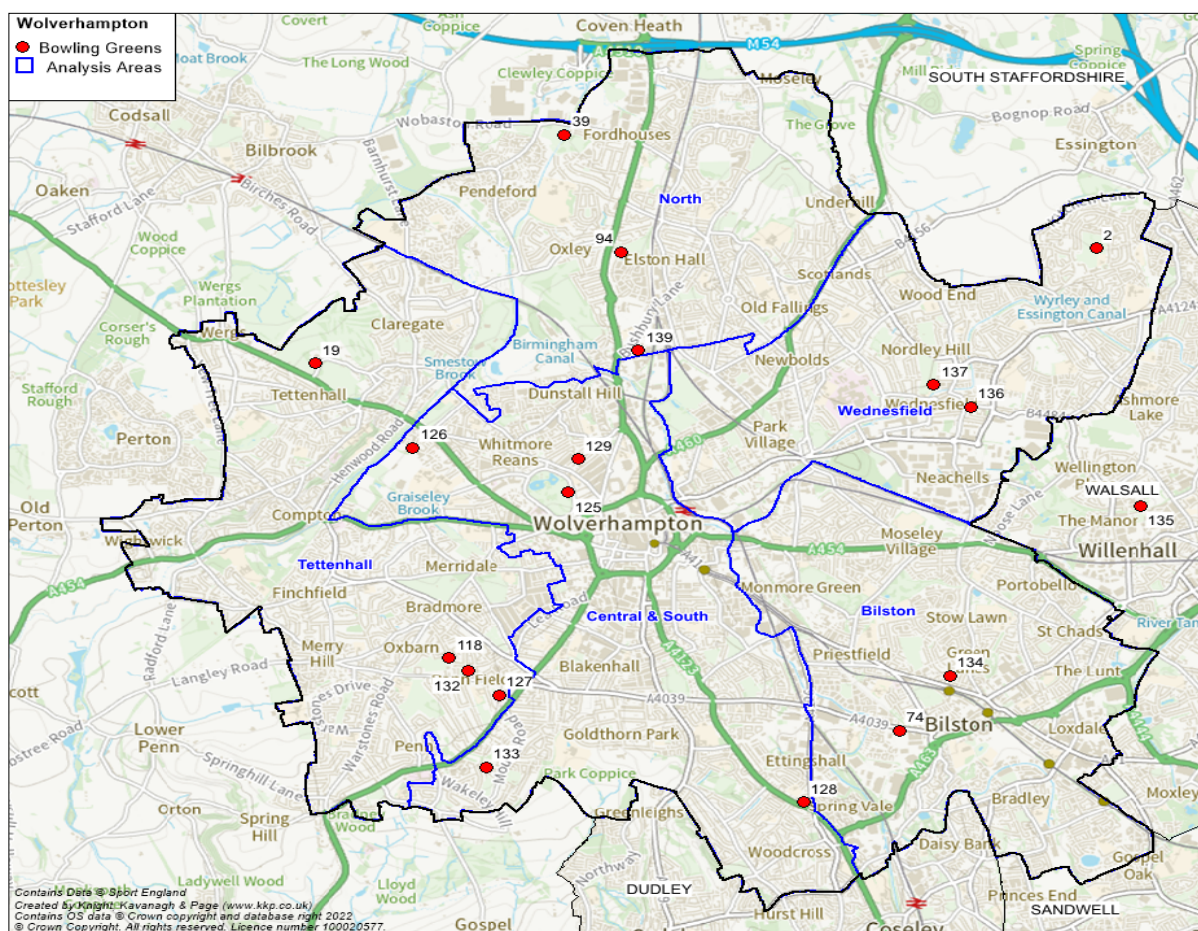
Analysis area	Number of greens
Bilston	3
Central & South	5
North	3
Outside	1
Tettenhall	6
Wednesfield	4
Wolverhampton	22

Disused provision

A disused bowling green is identified at Newhampton Inn Bowling Club. It is no longer maintained for bowls after the Club that used it folded (Newhampton Inn BC). It has also been reported that the pub on site currently use it as a beer garden and as a result lay out chairs on the green. Likewise, Oaklands BC, Chubb BC and Goodrich (now Collins) Aerospace are disused sites, whilst Rolls Royce Sports Ground, The Summer House PH and Severn Trent are all lapsed. The Summer House has tables and chairs on the grass area and Severn Trent has solar panels on it.

Figure 10.1 below shows the location of all bowling greens currently servicing Wolverhampton. For a key to the map, see Table 10.3.

Figure 10.1: Location of bowling greens in Wolverhampton



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Table 10.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Club user	No. of greens
2	Ashmore Park	WV11 2LT	Wednesfield	Ashmore Park BC	2
19	Danescourt	WV6 9BH	Tettenhall	Express and Star BC	1
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)	WV9 5HH	North	Fordhouses BC	1
74	Springvale Sports	WV14 0QR	Bilston	Springvale BC	2
94	The Pavilion	WV10 6AJ	North	Pavilion CES	1
118	Bradmore Recreation Ground	WV3 7EN	Tettenhall	Bradmore BC	1
125	West Park	WV1 4QA	Central & South	West Park BC	1
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	WV6 0LH	Central & South	-	1
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	WV4 4AF	Tettenhall	Woodfield Social BC	2
128	44 Bowls Club	WV4 6LQ	Central & South	44 Club	1
129	Stile Bowls Club	WV1 4PB	Central & South	Stile BC	1
132	Pennfields Bowls Club	WV3 7LZ	Tettenhall	Pennfields BC	2
133	Penn Bowls Club	WV4 5PY	Central & South	Penn BC	1
134	Bilston Town Bowls Club	WV14 6AU	Bilston	Bilston Town BC	1
135	<i>Nordley Liberals</i>	<i>WV13 1DB</i>	<i>Outside</i>	<i>Willenhall Nordley BC</i>	<i>1</i>
136	Wednesfield Conservative Club	WV11 3PR	Wednesfield	Wednesfield Cons BC	1
137	Wednesfield Park	WV11 1PX	Wednesfield	Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC King	1
139	E.C.C Bowls Club	WV10 9LE	North	ECC BC	1

Ownership/management

Details around the ownership and management arrangements for clubs which responded to consultation requests are provided in the table below. As seen, three clubs own their greens, two clubs have lease arrangements in place and three clubs rent their greens.

Table 10.4: Ownership/management arrangements for bowling clubs in Wolverhampton

Name of club	Ownership/management details
Ashmore Park BC	The Club rents the greens at Ashmore Park from the Council.
Bradmore BC	The Club rents the green at Bradmore Recreation Ground from the Council, but does not state the length of this agreement.
Express & Star BC	The Club rents the green at Danescourt Road from Chris Jewkes Fitness on an annual basis.
Pavilion CES	The Club owns the green at The Pavilion.
Penn BC	The Club owns the green at Penn BC.
Pennfields BC	The Club was consulted with, however, it did not provide information relating to its ownership.
Springvale BC	The Club lease the green at Springvale Sports from Co-op on a long-term agreement (50 years).
Stile BC	The Club lease the green at Stile Bowls Club from Marston's Brewery for an indeterminate length of time.

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Name of club	Ownership/management details
Wednesfield Cons BC	The Club owns the green at Wednesfield Conservative Club.

Quality

The quality of bowling greens across Wolverhampton have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs off unofficial use. For further detail regarding the site assessment criteria, see Appendix 2.

Overall, 17 greens are assessed as good quality, two are assessed as standard and two are assessed as poor. This is seen site-by-site in the table below.

Table 10.5: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of greens	Quality
2	Ashmore Park	Wednesfield	1	Good
2	Ashmore Park	Wednesfield	1	Poor
19	Danescourt	Tettenhall	1	Good
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)	North	1	Poor
74	Springvale Sports	Bilston	2	Standard
94	The Pavilion	North	1	Good
118	Bradmore Recreation Ground	Tettenhall	1	Good
125	West Park	Central & South	1	Good
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Central & South	1	Good
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	Tettenhall	2	Good
128	44 Bowls Club	Central & South	1	Good
129	Stile Bowls Club	Central & South	1	Standard
132	Pennfields BC	Tettenhall	2	Good
133	Penn BC	Central & South	1	Good
134	Bilston Town BC	Bilston	1	Good
135	Nordley Liberals	Outside	1	Good
136	Wednesfield Conservative Club	Wednesfield	1	Good
137	Wednesfield Park	Wednesfield	1	Good
139	E.C.C Bowls Club	North	1	Good

Three of the eight responsive clubs (Bradmore BC, Express & Star BC and Pavilion CES) report that quality has improved over the last year, whilst Springvale BC and Stile BC report worsening quality. Of those reporting worsening quality; the former states that this is because of a lack of maintenance during the Covid-19 pandemic, whilst the latter states that drainage has become problematic and that bare patches have begun to form.

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Of the clubs reporting improvements, Express & Star BC and Pavilion CES puts it down to increased maintenance (green maintenance scheme) and the acquisition of new maintenance equipment, whilst Bradmore BC attributes it to a lack of use during Covid-19 lockdown periods.

The poor quality green at Ashmore Park is due to it coming out of use in recent times and being redundant. Ashmore Park BC express its demand across one green currently.

Ancillary provision

All clubs are able to access ancillary provision at their home green and the majority are serviced by adequate quality facilities, although the range of facilities and the condition of them varies site-by-site. The more comprehensive facilities tend to be provided at sites that also service other sports and activities.

Only one clubhouse is assessed as poor quality, located at Ashmore Park. This is considered to be extremely dated and is not fit for purpose to service Ashmore Park BC. In addition, Pavilion CES BC is serviced by poor quality toilets at The Pavilion.

Stile BC reports that car parking is problematic at Stile Bowls Club, with not enough spaces provided to accommodate demand.

Floodlighting

In Wolverhampton, 13 greens are serviced by floodlighting at the following sites:

- ◀ Bilston Town Bowls Club
- ◀ The Pavilion
- ◀ E.C.C BC
- ◀ Stile Bowls Club
- ◀ Pennfields Bowls Club (x2)
- ◀ Penn Bowls Club
- ◀ Nordley Liberals
- ◀ Wednesfield Conservative Club
- ◀ Wolverhampton Tennis & Squash Club
- ◀ Woodfield Social & Sports Club (x2)

There are no known reports of aspirations to install further floodlighting at any sites.

Floodlit greens offer opportunities to access provision for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months. However, they are relatively rare across the Country, with the level of floodlit supply in Wolverhampton therefore considered to be comparatively high.

10.3: Demand

There are 17 clubs using bowling facilities in Wolverhampton. Membership details of all clubs were provided by the British Crown Green Bowling Association. Details of the remaining two clubs are unknown. Full known membership equates to a total of 750 members, and this is broken down in the table below.

Table 10.6: Summary of club membership

Club name	Members		
	Men	Women	Juniors
Ashmore Park BC	22	2	-
Bradmore BC	19	8	-
Express & Star BC	56	18	-
Pavilion CES BC	65	15	-
Penn BC	60	15	10
Pennfields BC	Page 393	13	1

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Club name	Members		
	Men	Women	Juniors
Springvale BC	46	10	-
Stile BC	29	4	1
44 Club BC	19	11	-
Bilston Town BC	41	3	-
ECC BC	38	6	2
Fordhouses BC	20	3	-
Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC	18	4	-
Wednesfield Conservative BC	29	4	-
Willenhall Nordley BC	57	9	5
West Park BC	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
Woodfield Social BC	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
Total	606	125	19

Participation trends

Despite a national trend of declining membership, only four of the clubs that responded to consultation report that membership has decreased in recent years, with these being Bradmore, Stile, Springvale, and Wednesfield Conservative bowls clubs. Conversely, Express & Star, Penn, and Pavilion CES bowls clubs all report that participation has increased, with all three attributing this to an increase in advertising.

Notwithstanding the above, overall participation is likely to have decreased on account of numerous additional clubs folding. This applies to Goodyear BC, Oaklands BC, and Chubb BC, all of which have reportedly folded over the last two years.

Latent demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 454 people within Wolverhampton, which is a relatively low number; by way of comparison, 583 people are identified in Dudley, 488 in Walsall and 495 in Sandwell.

All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority actively trying to recruit new members.

Future demand

Using ONS projections the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2039. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for greens could increase.

From consultation, only Express & Star, Ashmore Park and Wednesfield Conservative Club report an intention to increase their number of members. Future demand for Express & Star BC amounts to five senior and eight junior members, whilst it is six senior members for Ashmore Park BC and six seniors and four juniors for Wednesfield Conservative BC.

The above is not to say that the remaining clubs are not looking for new members, but rather that they are focusing on sustaining current playing levels. This will involve recruiting new members to replace those that leave the clubs or that become unable to participate.

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10.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green 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 operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

The BCGBA does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand.

Capacity ratings for bowling greens in Wolverhampton are classified as follows:

Within capacity range	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
Outside capacity range	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in Wolverhampton receives, where the information is known. Where no membership information is known, further communication is required with clubs to fully understand their needs and any potential capacity or sustainability issues.

Table 10.7: Supply and demand balance of bowling greens in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site	No. of greens	Club user	Current members	Future demand
2	Ashmore Park	2	Ashmore Park BC	24	30
19	Danescourt	1	Express and Star BC	74	87
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)	1	Fordhouses BC	23	Unknown
74	Springvale Sports	2	Springvale BC	56	56
94	The Pavilion	1	Pavilion CES	80	80
118	Bradmore Recreation Ground	1	Bradmore BC	27	27
125	West Park	1	West Park BC	Unknown	Unknown
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	1	-	Unknown	Unknown
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	1	Woodfield Social BC	Unknown	Unknown
128	44 Bowls Club	1	44 Club	30	Unknown
129	Stile Bowls Club	1	Stile BC	34	34
132	Pennfields BC	2	Pennfields BC	101	101
133	Penn BC	1	Penn BC	85	85
134	Bilston Town Bowls Club	1	Bilston Town BC	44	Unknown
135	Nordley Liberals	1	Willenhall Nordley BC	Unknown	Unknown
136	Wednesfield Conservative Club	1	Wednesfield Cons BC	31	41
137	Wednesfield Park	1	Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC	22	Unknown

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Site ID	Site	No. of greens	Club user	Current members	Future demand
139	E.C.C Bowls Club	1	ECC BC	46	Unknown

No clubs are operating below the level of membership required to ensure sustainability.

At the other end of the spectrum, Express & Star, Pavilion CES and Pennfields bowls clubs are all currently operating above the recommended capacity threshold. Whilst none of these clubs report any capacity issues, demand requires monitoring to ensure that this remains the case. Pennfields BC also has over 60 members, although this is not an issue as it has access to two greens.

Based on the above, supply is seemingly sufficient to meet demand, especially given that there are numerous unused greens.

Bowls – supply and demand summary

- ◀ No clubs are operating below the level of membership required to ensure sustainability.
- ◀ Express & Star, Pavilion CES and Penn Bowls club are all operating above the recommended capacity threshold; however, none of these report any capacity issues.

Bowls – supply summary

- ◀ There are 22 crown green bowls greens in Wolverhampton provided across 18 sites.
- ◀ There are four disused green at Newhampton Inn Bowling Club, Oaklands BC, Goodrich (now Collins) Aerospace and Chubb BC and there are three lapsed greens at Rolls Royce Sports Ground, The Summer House and Severn Trent.
- ◀ Of clubs which responded to consultation requests, three own their greens, two have lease arrangements in place and three rent their greens.
- ◀ Overall, 17 greens are assessed as good quality, two as standard quality and two as poor quality.
- ◀ Ashmore Park is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.
- ◀ 13 greens are serviced by floodlighting, which is a comparably high number.

Bowls – demand summary

- ◀ There are 17 clubs using bowling greens in Wolverhampton.
- ◀ Where membership is known, from 15 out of the 17s, total membership equates to 750 members.
- ◀ The average membership across the responsive clubs is 56.
- ◀ Despite a national trend of declining membership, only four of the clubs that responded to consultation report that membership has decreased in recent years, although a number of clubs have also folded.
- ◀ Due to a predicted increase in persons aged 65 and over (to 2039), demand is likely to increase for greens over the coming years.
- ◀ Only Express & Star, Ashmore Park and Wednesfield Conservative bowls clubs report future demand to increase membership, with this collectively equating to 17 senior and 14 junior members.
- ◀ All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision and that no potential members are being turned away, suggesting that there is no latent or unmet demand.

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PART 11: CYCLING

11.1: Introduction

British Cycling is the NGB for all forms of cycling. It oversees six sporting disciplines, with each having a dedicated facility type:

- ◀ Track cycling – velodromes
- ◀ Road cycling – closed road circuits
- ◀ Mountain biking – trails
- ◀ BMX racing – race/pump tracks
- ◀ Cycle speedway – cycle speedway tracks
- ◀ Cyclocross – non-dedicated, non-permanent venues

British Cycling aids in the development of all six formats, helping to safeguard those that wish to participate in a competitive and compelling environment. The popularity of cycling has increased since recent, elite sporting success in the Olympics and Paralympics as well as in other major championships.

Consultation

Information for cycling was gathered through online research and via consultation with British Cycling.

Disused/lapsed facilities

Playing track sites which have previously accommodated formal track provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing track which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

Aldersley High School features a lapsed regional standard cycling track and accompanying separate pump track. The site was developed in 2012 and featured a wide variety of jumps including step-ups, doubles, pick-up doubles, triples, two double combinations and a rhythm section as well as a Bensink start gate system.

11.2: Supply

Wolverhampton is home to two cycle speedway tracks, those being located within the grounds of Ashmore Park and East Park.

The site at Ashmore Park has held multiple events spanning across several decades, spanning from the British Riders Championship Final in 1981 and the 2012 World Individual Championships. The site is serviced by floodlighting that was installed in 1990 and is used by Wednesfield Aces.

The cycle speedway track within East Park is 95 metres long, 5.5 metres wide and has a 1 in 12 banking and is used by East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club.

Wolverhampton also features BMX pump tracks at Bilston Pump Park and Hilton Road Playing Fields. Bilston Pump Park is located at Greenway Playing Fields, Bankfield Road, Bilston WV14 0TY and the facility located at Hilton Road Playing Fields is used by Hilton Hall Community Association, who are based on site.

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Finally, the WV Aldersley multisport complex features an asphalt cycling track that sits alongside the 400m athletics track. The site has a 22.5° banking and is used by Wolverhampton Wheelers.

In relation to WV Aldersley, British Cycling 2022 Commonwealth Games Needs Assessment provides a recommendation to investigate options for covering the tracks at Halesowen and Aldersley Velodromes with a simple canopy structure to reduce the impact of bad weather on track conditions and help extend track usage and capacity to meet the competition and training.

There is also a track provided at Aldersley High School which has come out of use due to concerns around the safety of equipment for users. This has not been used for over six years and is currently derelict.

Cycling routes

In 2016, the West Midlands Combined Authority proposed a 'Black Country Walking and Cycling Strategy and Implementation Plan' aiming to raise levels of cycling to 5% of all trips by 2023. The project was outlined to address the matter that historically the West Midlands region had fewer people choosing to cycle to work than other metropolitan regions.

The Council is always working with other Black Country councils to develop a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which will add further recommendations for cycling. This has not yet been published but recommendations should be considered as part of Stage E.

11.3: Demand

Wednesfield Aces

Wednesfield Aces was founded in 1962 under the former name of Wednesfield Dragons. The Club utilise the speedway at Ashmore Park for sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sessions are charged at a rate of £2.50 for those with their own bike or £3.50 for bike hire. There are 220 members registered with the Club.

Wolverhampton Wheelers

Wolverhampton Wheelers was founded in 1891 and is open to cyclists of all abilities. The Club utilise WV Active Aldersley to cater for several types of cycling such as family rides, youth events, touring, road racing, time trials, mountain biking, track racing and cyclo-cross.

The Club also offers British Cycling's 'Go Ride' scheme aimed at increasing participation in cycling for younger generations. The Club currently caters for 287 members.

Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club

Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club was founded in 1938 and currently has 74 members. It takes part in mountain biking sessions throughout Wolverhampton and the surrounding area, hosting sessions for its members on Saturday mornings.

Fred Williams Cycles

Fred Williams Cycles is a cycling shop within Wolverhampton that established in 1950 and has since expanded into becoming a dedicated club with 54 members currently registered. It has links with several formats of cycling such as road, mountain biking and cyclo-cross.

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East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club

East Park Wolves were founded in 2006 and trains every Thursday at East Park. It has 113 current members of various abilities. The Club also organises monthly race fixtures.

Let Us Play Cycling

Let us Play is a registered charity that provides support for children with special needs and disabilities. Founded in 2003, the charity now delivers weekly sessions at the WV Active Aldersley centre every Monday from 18:00-19:00. The sessions are available for £2 are available for people aged 5 to 17.

HSBC UK Go-Ride

HSBC UK Go-Ride is a British Cycling's development programme for young people. It offers a fun and safe way to introduce young people to the sport and provides a platform to improve cycling skills. People can get involved through holiday coaching programmes or through their local accredited club which allows them to sample the various disciplines of the sport. Progression is obtainable with Go-Ride Racing, offering competition for riders to transition from school or club coaching to inter club and open regional competitions.

Go-Ride is being implemented in Wolverhampton via East Park Wolves CSC, Wednesfield Aces CSC and the Wolverhampton Wheelers.

HSBC UK Breeze

HSBC UK Breeze is a British Cycling's development programme for women. It offers three categories easy going, steady and challenging to allow women of all abilities to get involved. The programme offers exercise whilst also creating a comfortable environment to meet new people. There are currently no identified sessions taking place in Wolverhampton.

Future/latent demand

All of the clubs within Wolverhampton are open to recruiting new members, especially following the Covid-19 pandemic. There is some expected level of uplift following the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in cycling but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 9,210 people who would like to participate in the sport within Wolverhampton, which is a relatively low amount when compared to neighbouring Black Country authorities.

By means of comparison, latent demand of 12,907 is identified in Dudley, 11,449 is identified in Sandwell and 9,876 in Walsall.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that future and latent demand does not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to participate in sport and 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 by British Cycling on developing youth participation through the HSBC UK Go-Ride or HSBC UK Breeze schemes, which may lead to further increases in demand.

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11.4: Supply and demand analysis

Wolverhampton features a high demand for cycling as evidenced by their several, well serviced number of dedicated clubs. Furthermore, the inclusion of two cycle speedway tracks as well as the asphalt facility at WV Active Aldersley emphasises the interest in cycling across the area.

Sites such as WV Active Aldersley and the two cycle speedway tracks should continue to be well maintained to ensure the area is serviced by good quality facilities. Finally, it is imperative that other cycling activity is supported given the on and off-road cycling taking place.

Cycling – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Wolverhampton features a high demand for cycling as evidenced by the several dedicated clubs across the area.
- ◀ Sites such as WV Active Aldersley and the two cycle speedway tracks should continue to be well maintained to ensure the area continues to be serviced by good quality facilities.

Cycling – supply summary

- ◀ Wolverhampton is serviced by several cycling facilities across the area.
- ◀ There are two cycle speedway tracks located at East Park and Ashmore Park.
- ◀ WV Active Aldersley features an asphalt track with a 22.5° banking
- ◀ Finally, Wolverhampton is also serviced by pump tracks at Bilston Pump Park and Hilton Road Playing Fields.

Cycling – demand summary

- ◀ There are several local clubs which offer opportunities for recreational and competitive cyclists across the City, with membership relatively high. Clubs such as Wednesfield Aces, Wolverhampton Wheelers, Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club and East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club all represent cycling clubs across Wolverhampton.
- ◀ HSBC Go-Ride is being implemented in Wolverhampton via East Park Wolves CSC, Wednesfield Aces CSC and the Wolverhampton Wheelers as well as School-based delivery.
- ◀ Finally, Let us play cycling sessions are delivered to people with disabilities aged 5 to 19 at WV Active Aldersley.

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PART 12: ATHLETICS

12.1: Introduction

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of athletics, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities, and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials as well as permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics, which is the development and membership body for athletics and running clubs in England. It has a National Head of Clubs and Participation as well as a team of five club support managers across the Country, with one of these covering activities in Wolverhampton as part of the Midland region.

Consultation

The following clubs have been consulted via telephone to inform this section of the report; Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club, Brewood & Coven Running and Jolly Joggers Wolverhampton. Additionally, wider consultation also took place with England Athletics.

Disused and lapsed provision

Playing track sites which have previously accommodated formal track provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing track which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

There are no disused or lapsed sites identified in Wolverhampton which contained athletics tracks.

12.2: Supply

Consultation with England Athletics reveals that, nationally, no new standard 400-metre athletics tracks are planned to be constructed. Focus is instead on the retention of existing 400-metre facilities and the development of new, innovative, entry level facilities such as mini tracks and endurance loops, particularly if they can be provided as part of floodlit, multi-sport developments.

In Wolverhampton, there are two purpose-built athletics tracks. A 400-metre track is provided at WV Active Aldersley with six lanes, a synthetic surface and floodlighting, whilst a 200-metre track is provided at The King's Church of England School. This is neither floodlit nor available for community use.

In addition to this, there is a 400m cinder track which laps around a 3G pitch at Sir Jack Howard Training Centre. This has been out of use for formal athletics used for some time and is now practically unusable for anything other than recreational use.

Table 12.1: Summary of athletics tracks in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Length	Floodlit?	Community use?
93	The King's Church of England School	Tettenhall	200 metres	No	No
117	WV Active Aldersley	Tettenhall	400 metres	Yes	Yes

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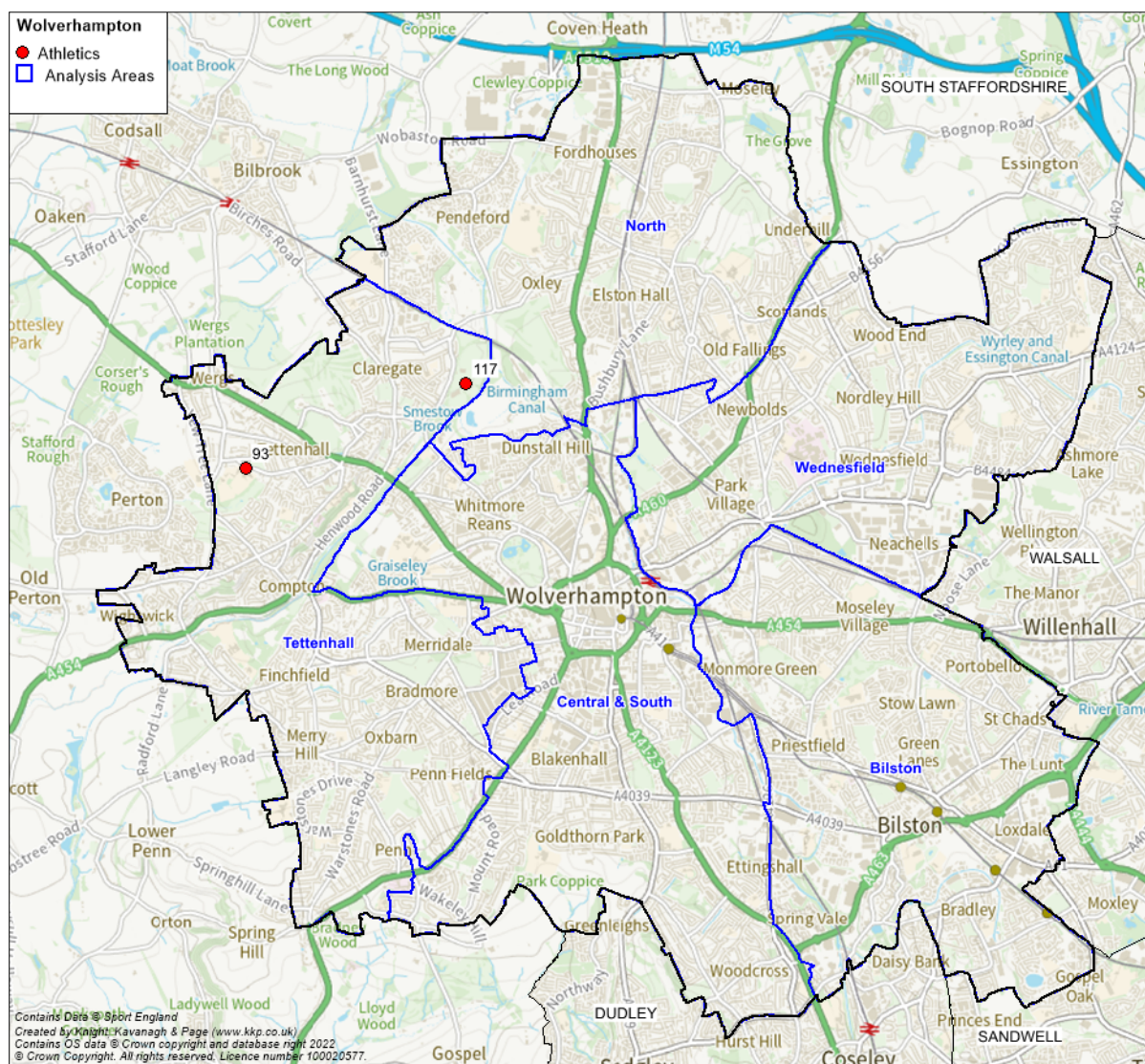
As seen, both facilities are in the Tettenhall Analysis Area. For the specific locations, please see Figure 12.1 overleaf.

Management

The track at WV Active Aldersley is operated by the Council and is therefore widely available to the community to hire. As part of this, it is used by Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club.

The track at The King's Church of England School is managed by the School and is not available for the community to hire.

Figure 12.1: Location of athletics tracks in Wolverhampton



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Quality

The track at WV Active Aldersley was refurbished in 2005. The pitch is now in a satisfactory condition for users despite some small wear and tear issues (which are to be expected with its age).

The track at The King's Church of England School was refurbished in 2012, with the non-technical audit of this track also assessing it as standard quality. Whilst it is a newer facility, maintenance is noted as being less regimented.

Key factors impacting upon the quality ratings of athletics tracks include the condition and age of the track surface, the prominence of the line markings and any signs of wear and tear or unofficial use. For the site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

TrackMark

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

In Wolverhampton, the track at WV Active Aldersley is currently accredited. The track at The King's Church of England School cannot be accredited due to its size and lack of facilities.

Ancillary facilities

The WV Active Aldersley site is mainly serviced by a leisure centre building which has a public café and good toilet facilities and changing rooms. The athletics track is then serviced by a 500 seater stand for spectators.

Provision at The King's Church of England School is serviced by changing facilities that are provided within the School. These are considered to be inadequate.

12.3: Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club

Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club caters for both senior and junior members, with current membership equating to 123 senior members (76 male and 47 female) and 116 junior members. The Club notes that this figure has increased over the previous two years despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Club trains and competes in all track and field disciplines as well as road running, cross country, and race walking. The WV Active Aldersley site is hired for sessions every Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 18:30 until 20:30 as well on weekend mornings.

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The Club states that it has a waiting list of potential members, though the Club has not specified the number of individuals on the list. This means that unmet demand is identified due to lack of capacity within the Club's sessions (see further information below).

Jolly Joggers Wolverhampton

Jolly Joggers Wolverhampton a couch to 5k jogging group for beginners looking to improve their mental health. The programme operates a 12 week structure with the aim of improving the mental health of residents. Sessions are based at West Park.

Heathfield Park Runners

Heathfield Park Runners is a social group that enjoys running together for fitness and to meet personal targets with the help and support of a group. During the year, it takes part in a few organised events as a team. In addition, on Saturday mornings, the group meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall where most of its sessions use Heath Town Park.

Sedgley Striders

Although predominately based in Dudley, the Club's membership is evenly split between Wolverhampton residents and Dudley residents due to its location. It operates from the Beacon Centre and hold sessions every Tuesday and Thursday evening. Each week, three separate routes are available, known as short, middle, and long runs and usually consisting of 3-mile, 5-mile and 7-mile distances. This enables all runners and abilities to be catered for.

Run Together

Run Together is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. Its aim is to provide fun, friendly, supportive, and inclusive running opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability and availability. It believes that running is more fun and easier to become part of a lifestyle when shared with others.

In Wolverhampton, Heathfield Park Runners forms part of the programme. A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation in initiatives such as Run Together, meaning this could be further targeted moving forward, especially given the number of other clubs that could be involved.

Park Run

Park Run is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 1,063 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Park Run events.

In Wolverhampton, a Park Run event is held each week at West Park. It has been held 374 times, with an average attendance of 247.8 runners. Likewise, it is also held at East Park, where it has been held 27 times and has had an average attendance of 112.7 runners.

For those aged between 4 and 14, junior Park Run events are also available, with one held in Wolverhampton every Sunday at Wednesfield Park. This has been held 228 times and averages 19.6 runners.

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Other running events

Another annual running event that takes place in Wolverhampton is the Wolverhampton Half Marathon & 10K, which is hosted utilising the streets of Wolverhampton. The event is held every September, with all spaces taken up over recent years. However, the 2020 iteration did not take place due to Covid-19.

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. 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. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

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 setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in Wolverhampton, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity. Furthermore, it is actively promoted by various running clubs as well as organisations such as Wolverhampton Healthy Minds.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 4,731 people within Wolverhampton, which is a comparatively low figure. For comparison purposes, it is lower than the latent demand totals in Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall.

As referenced earlier, Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club has a waiting list in place for some sessions, namely those catering for junior athletes. This represents latent demand; however, it is not due to a lack of facilities but rather because of a lack of coaches/volunteers.

Future demand

All clubs consulted with express an aspiration to grow membership, although the majority state that this is difficult to quantify as they will do their utmost to not turn demand away. Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club in particular is keen to grow its demand at junior level.

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In addition, England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Park Run, although again to what extent is difficult to quantify.

12.4: Supply and demand analysis

There are two dedicated athletics facilities in Wolverhampton, although only one of the two facilities is being used by the community and with only one club requiring access. As no additional demand has been identified, supply is deemed sufficient, although quality improvements may be required in the near future to ensure participation can continue to be accommodated.

Away from the facilities, priority should also be placed on supporting activities being accommodated by the various running clubs in Wolverhampton and the events that are being held.

Athletics – supply and demand summary

- ◀ The supply of dedicated athletics facilities is sufficient to meet demand.
- ◀ Priority should be placed on supporting activity being accommodated by the various running clubs in Wolverhampton and the events that are being held.

Athletics – supply summary

- ◀ There are two purpose-built athletics tracks, a 400-metre track WV Active Aldersley and a 200-metre track at The King's Church of England School.
- ◀ The track at WV Active Aldersley is floodlit and available for community use; the track at The King's Church of England School is neither.
- ◀ Both facilities are assessed as standard quality.

Athletics – demand summary

- ◀ Four clubs as well as a few programmes have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity in Wolverhampton with only Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club having a requirement for a purpose-built facility.
- ◀ Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club has a waiting list in place for some sessions, although this is due to a lack of coaches rather than a lack of facilities.
- ◀ Park Run is held each week at West Park and East Park, with a junior Park Run held at Wednesfield Park.
- ◀ Annual events in Wolverhampton include the Wolverhampton Half Marathon & 10K.
- ◀ Heathfield Park Runners forms part of the Run Together initiative.
- ◀ Most clubs express an aspiration to grow membership, whilst England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Park Run.

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PART 13: GOLF

13.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 650,000 members belonging to one of 1,900 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated Heritage Coast sites, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or listed Historic Parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

Consultation

This section was informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs within Wolverhampton.

13.2: Supply

There are three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf, as defined in the table below. Facilities such as pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf courses are not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

There are no facilities identified as being disused or lapsed.

Table 13.1: Definitions of golf facilities

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

Within Wolverhampton, there are six golf venues that provide facilities conforming with the above definitions, as identified in Table 13.1 and Table 13.2 below.

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Figure 13.1: Location of golf courses in Wolverhampton

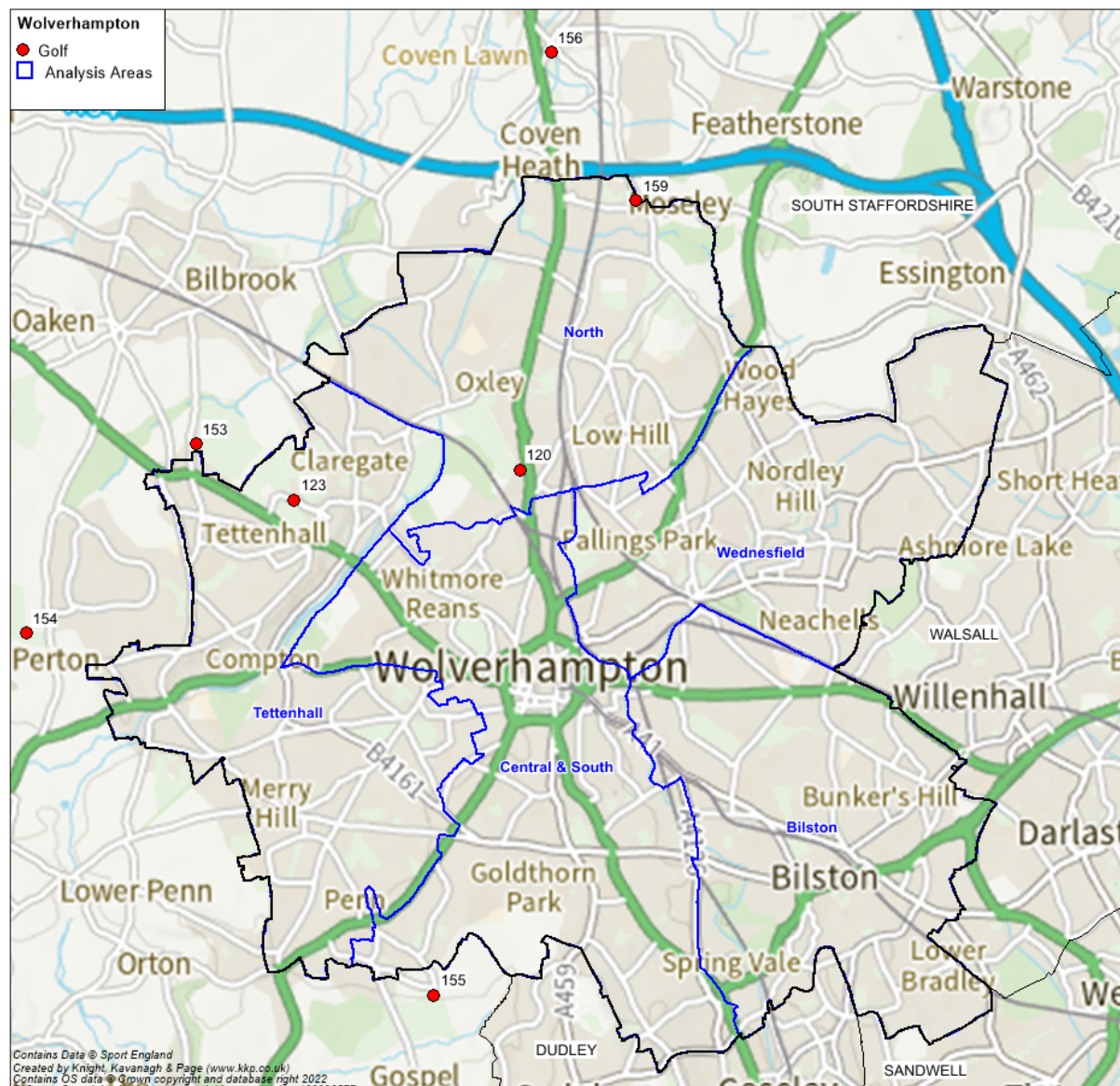


Table 13.2: Golf facilities within Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area
120	Oxley Park Golf Club	WV10 6DE	North
123	South Staffs Golf Club	WV6 9BQ	Tettenhall
153	Wergs Golf Club	WV6 8UA	Outside
159	Greenfield Golf Club	WV10 7JB	North
154	Perton Park Golf Club	WV6 7HL	Outside
155	Penn Golf Club	WV4 5JN	Outside
156	3 Hammers	WV10 7PP	Outside

Standard hole golf courses

Three of the golf clubs are within Wolverhampton and four are located outside of the City boundary. Five of these provide a standard 18 hole offer, and one a nine hole offer. The site that does not provide a standard hole course is 3 Hammers. These are summarised in the table overleaf.

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Table 13.3: Summary of standard hole provision in Wolverhampton:

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage ⁴			Slope rating
120	Oxley Park Golf Club	18	71	6,228	6,057	5,507	113
123	South Staffs Golf Club	18	71	6,512	6,277	5,709	110
153	Wergs Golf Club	18	72	6,949	6,251	4,991	124
154	Perton Park Golf Club	18	73	6,624	6,461	5,526	135
155	Penn Golf Club	18	71	6,453	6,174	5,447	122
159	Greenfield Golf Club	9	58	3,217	-	-	98

Of the five 18 holes courses, South Staffs Golf Club provides the longest offering, although all are in the range of what would be expected from traditional provision. Shorter courses tend to offer some variety that may appeal more so to a defined market that would not feel comfortable playing lengthier provision e.g. beginner and/or casual golfers.

Nationally, many 9-hole courses are shorter than the front or back nine of an 18-hole course, primarily to attract and cater for a different userbase. In Wolverhampton, Greenfield Golf Club provides a nine-hole golf course featuring 18 tees, meaning despite only having nine holes users get 18 unique tee shots. As can be seen the course also only features competition tees and does not provide alternate yardage for mens and women's members.

Slope ratings

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World. The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113; in Wolverhampton, two courses are considered easier than this (South Staffs Golf Club and Greenfield Golf Club), one is on par (Oxley Park Golf Club) and the remaining three are considered to be more difficult.

Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game. In the case of Greenfield Golf Course 14 of the 18 holes are par 3 for male members, meaning whilst not being a par 3 course it is only marginally different from this design. In Wolverhampton, 3 Hammers provides an 18-hole Par 3 offering. This lies just outside of the City, in South Staffordshire, but is considered to form part of the supply picture due to its close proximity.

Driving range bays

In the case of Wolverhampton, South Staffordshire, Wergs and Perton Park golf clubs as well as 3 Hammers are identified as providing driving range bays, which represents a high proportion. There are also examples of other driving ranges within the local area in nearby boroughs, such as at Mark Butler Golf Academy, within Dudley, or at Aldridge Road Driving Range, in Walsall.

⁴ White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

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Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England; members clubs, proprietary clubs and municipal facilities, as summarised in the table below.

Table 13.4: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

Management type	Description
Members	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.
Proprietary	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.
Municipal	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales. Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment.

In Wolverhampton, there are six members clubs (Oxley Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club, Wergs Golf Club, Perton Park Golf Club, Penn Golf Club and Greenfield Golf Club) and one proprietary facility (3 Hammers). There are therefore no municipal facilities.

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Table 13.4: Summary of ownership/management in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Management type
120	Oxley Park Golf Club	Members
123	South Staffs Golf Club	Members
153	Wergs Golf Club	Members
154	Perton Park Golf Club	Members
155	Penn Golf Club	Members
156	3 Hammers	Proprietary
159	Greenfield Golf Club	Members

Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past few years, many facilities have altered their pricing structures to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf has positively encouraged this as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, some now offer five and/or six day memberships (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over). In the past, it was common for many clubs to have waiting lists in place for membership, but this has become rare in the present day.

Declining membership also means that there is now a growing number of facilities openly encouraging pay and play visitors, with the number of nomadic golfers on the rise. Whilst this has always been the case at some venues, other, more membership orientated sites were previously reluctant to promote green fee usage as capacity simply did not exist. Now, green fee pricing has generally reduced and discounts are being offered to drive demand, especially outside of peak time hours and to accommodate larger groups. However, this situation is more acute at lower grade clubs than at higher grade clubs, where high quality can enable a provider to maintain a premium price.

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £901.00. In Wolverhampton, Oxley Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club, Perton Golf Club and Penn Golf Club operate above this figure, whilst Wergs Golf Club operates slightly below and Greenfield Golf Club is noticeably below it at £385.

There is no membership scheme in place at 3 Hammers, although a 12-month season ticket can be purchased, which works in a similar way. This is available for £240.00, which is much below the national average but accounts for it being a short Par 3 facility.

Green fees are available at club sites, although access is restricted at South Staffs Golf Club during weekends due to the course being generally reserved for members. Costs range from £7 to £50 per round.

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Table 13.5: Pricing structures at golf facilities within Wolverhampton:

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year)	Green fee (per round) ⁵	
				Weekday	Weekend
120	Oxley Park Golf club	£0	£957.00	£25.00	£25.00
123	South Staffs Golf Club	N/A	£1,175.00	£35.00	-
153	Wergs Golf Club	N/A	£895.00	£20.00	£25.00
154	Perton Park Golf Club	N/A	£910.00	£15.00	£20.00
155	Penn Golf Club	£0	£936.00	£40.00	£50.00
156	3 Hammers	-	-	£7.00	£7.00
159	Greenfields Golf Club	£0	£385	-	-

Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher the joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines.

Quality of the golf courses in Wolverhampton is good across the six sites, with no significant issues identified. All have dedicated green keeping staff which provide frequent and sophisticated maintenance regimes that operate all-year round.

The ancillary facilities are also for the most part good, particularly at South Staffs Golf Club which can accommodate up to 140 people and is suitable for hosting events such as christenings, wedding receptions and corporate events. Golf clubs often need such revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This emanates from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals.

13.3: Demand

Around 2004, participation in golf began declining; however, recent signs show that the reduction has not only levelled off but that demand has started to increase, especially following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, both in 2020 and 2021. As one of the first sports to be allowed on both occasions, people have been able to play whilst maintaining social distancing and England Golf has provided very clear guidance as to how this should manifest itself (e.g. by not allowing the flag to be taken out or rakes to be used). Some courses have reported a near doubling of usual demand compared to pre-pandemic levels, highlighting that a significant opportunity now exists to retain increased participation in the long-term.

Membership

England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 386, which is based on a central national handicap platform.

In Wolverhampton, the table below provides the most recent membership numbers at the golf facilities within the City, based on latest England Golf affiliation data.

⁵ Where more than one course is provided, the price displayed is for the larger course.

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Table 13.6: Summary of golf membership within Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	No. of members
120	South Staffs Golf Club	416
123	Oxley Park Golf Club	480
153	Wergs Golf Club	390
154	Perton Park Golf Club	395
155	Penn Golf Club	418
156	3 Hammers	-
159	Greenfield Golf Club	-

Membership trends

Contrasting with the national trend of increasing membership, figures at South Staffs Golf Club have decreased since 2015, with 40 fewer members now attached to the site. In contrast, Oxley Park Golf Club has seen an increase in demand equating to 66%.

The three remaining clubs have seen membership remain static. Figures for Greenfield Golf Club are unknown.

Table 13.7: Changes in demand since 2015

Site ID	Club name	2015 members	Current members	Change in membership
120	Oxley Park Golf Club	289	480	-66%
123	South Staffs Golf Club	456	416	-8.77%
153	Wergs Golf Club	390	390	-
154	Perton Park Golf Club	395	395	-
155	Penn Golf Club	418	418	-
156	3 Hammers	N/A	N/A	N/A
159	Greenfield Golf Club	-	-	-

Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has generally increased across England in recent years, usage figures at the sites within Wolverhampton is not known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf. However, it would be expected that demand would be relatively low given that six of the sites are members clubs with a focus on membership.

Pay and play is likely highest at 3 Hammers due to the nature of the provision.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As such, unmet demand in Wolverhampton is considered to be very minimal, with none of the sites having any known capacity concerns.

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Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision.

To that end, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 5,427 people within Wolverhampton.

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e. through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

In addition, England Golf has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility, with the population broken down into nine golfing segments. These segments are defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ◀ Relaxed members
- ◀ Older traditionalists
- ◀ Younger traditionalists
- ◀ Younger fanatics
- ◀ Younger actives
- ◀ Late enthusiasts
- ◀ Occasional time pressed
- ◀ Social couples
- ◀ Casual fun

Across Wolverhampton, Oxley Park Golf Club is identified as having the largest potential demand, with 111,323 people falling within the segments within a 20-minute drive time, whilst South Staffs Golf Club has 48,609 people within the identified radius, which represents the lowest amount.

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from "younger traditionalists" (20,183 people), whilst the lowest is from "casual fun" (15,788 people).

Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally from 650,000 to 675,000, representing an increase of 3.85%. If this was extrapolated to the clubs in Wolverhampton, total membership would increase, although relatively minimally.

In reality, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst many other will be open to growing by significantly more than 3.85%. In that regard, England Golf reports that many of the clubs are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and wider range of membership and playing options.

13.4: Supply and demand analysis

With seven golf facilities servicing Wolverhampton, supply is relatively high and there is also seemingly good variety across the sites, with five providing standard-hole courses, four providing driving ranges and one providing a Par 3 course. This means there are facilities at both the high and low end in terms of affordability and an option for most potential users.

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Notwithstanding the above, demand is also seemingly high, with most of the sites operating at a demand level that is closely aligned to the national average. That being said, further exploration is required in relation to membership at Oxley Park Golf Club as it is likely that it did not affiliate to England Golf with the correct data.

With significant latent demand also identified, emphasis should be placed on protecting the facilities that are provided and to maximise usage across the sites to ensure continued sustainability. England Golf can assist in this regard, primarily through a variety of tools that can be used to better understand the local market. There may also be opportunities for some clubs across the area to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate to collectively cater for all types of players.

Golf – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Supply of golf provision in Wolverhampton is relatively high and well varied.
- ◀ Demand is also seemingly high, with most of the sites operating at a demand level that is closely aligned to the national average.
- ◀ With significant latent demand also identified, emphasis should be placed on protecting the facilities that are provided and to maximise usage across the sites to ensure continued sustainability.

Golf – supply summary

- ◀ There are currently seven golf sites servicing Wolverhampton (including provision just outside of the City boundary).
- ◀ Five provide a standard 18-hole courses, whilst 3 Hammers provides an 18-hole Par 3 course and Greenfield Golf Course offers a 9-hole course with 18 unique tees.
- ◀ There is a dedicated driving range within Wolverhampton at South Staffordshire GC, there is also provision outside of the authority boundary at, Wergs and Perton Park golf clubs as well as 3 Hammers.
- ◀ Oxley Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club, Perton Golf Club and Penn Golf Club operate above the national average membership pricing figure, whilst Wergs Golf Club operates slightly below it.
- ◀ In terms of quality, it is good across Wolverhampton with no significant issues identified at any of the sites.

Golf – demand summary

- ◀ All golf clubs with known membership figures are operating above the national average.
- ◀ Pay and play is likely highest at 3 Hammers due to the nature of the provision.
- ◀ England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally by 3.85%, which would represent an increase of members across the clubs, although relatively minimal.
- ◀ England Golf's mapping tool identifies a significant amount of potential demand, with Oxley Park Golf Club shown to have a particularly high population base.

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PART 14: OUTDOOR WATER SPORTS

Water sports in England are governed by various bodies, including:

- ◀ British Canoe Union
- ◀ British Kite Surfing Association
- ◀ British Rowing
- ◀ British Sub-Aqua Club
- ◀ British Swimming
- ◀ British Water Ski
- ◀ Royal Yachting Association
- ◀ Surfing Great Britain

14.1: Supply

Wolverhampton is home to the following outdoor water sports:

- ◀ Canoeing
- ◀ Boat racing
- ◀ Scuba diving

Canoeing within Wolverhampton takes place on the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, whilst boat racing takes place along the Shropshire Union Canal. Scuba diving occurs regularly at Codsall Leisure Centre (South Staffordshire) which will likely accommodate demand from Wolverhampton residents.

14.2: Demand

The following list of clubs represent the outdoor water sports clubs within Wolverhampton:

- ◀ Wolverhampton Canoe Club
- ◀ Wolverhampton Boat Club
- ◀ Chillington Divers

Wolverhampton Canoe Club

Wolverhampton Canoe Club utilises Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, a canal running through Wolverhampton, for its sessions. The Club was founded in 1956 and delivers sessions to beginners or experienced canoers.

Wolverhampton Boat Club

Wolverhampton Boat Club utilises the Shropshire Union Canal for its sessions which take place on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Full membership of the Club is priced at £30 per year with a £40 entrance fee. Associate membership rates are also available at £25 per calendar year with a £10 entrance fee.

Chillington Divers

Chillington Divers is a club that provides scuba diving and snorkelling instruction. It predominately utilises the indoor 3.3-metre pool at Codsall Leisure Centre in South Staffordshire District for weekly sessions on Tuesday evenings; however, external dive sites are also visited albeit outside of the Wolverhampton area. This includes Dosthill Quarry in Tamworth and Stoney Cove in Leicestershire.

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14.3: Supply and demand analysis

Despite not having a large outdoor water sports facility like that provided elsewhere within the Black County, Wolverhampton still features three clubs each participating in different outdoor water sports. Use of the canals and rivers throughout the region enables outdoor water sports to take place despite the landlocked location of the region and continued access to these should be ensured.

Outdoor water sports – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Despite not having a large outdoor water sports facility like that provided elsewhere within the Black County, Wolverhampton still features three clubs each participating in different outdoor water sports.
- ◀ Continued access to the canals in Wolverhampton should be ensured.

Outdoor water sports – supply summary

- ◀ Staffordshire and Worcester Canal provides facilities that are compatible with a number of water sports and other water-related activities.
- ◀ Scuba diving also takes place in a location bordering the City; however, this utilises indoor provision.

Outdoor water sports – demand summary

- ◀ Wolverhampton Canoe Club utilises Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, a canal running through Wolverhampton, for its sessions.
- ◀ Wolverhampton Boat Club utilise the Shropshire Union Canal for their three times a week boating sessions.
- ◀ Chillington Divers partake in scuba diving and snorkelling sessions within Codsall Leisure Centre in South Staffordshire.

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PART 15: OTHER GRASS PITCH SPORTS

15.1: American football

Introduction

The British American Football Association (BAFA) is responsible for the governance of the sport which is continuing to grow in popularity in the UK and there are now hundreds of clubs and thousands of players competing regularly across the country.

The American football season in England generally runs from May until August.

Following the Wolverhampton Outlaws folding in the 1990's there are no American football clubs in Wolverhampton. There are, however, existing clubs within neighbouring authorities such as the Black Country Vipers, Sandwell Steelers and the Birmingham Lions.

Supply

There are no dedicated American football pitches within Wolverhampton and no other sports pitches are used for the sport.

Demand

There are no American football clubs in Wolverhampton. The City previously hosted Wolverhampton Outlaws; however, the team disbanded a number of years ago.

Within the wider Black Country region, there are American football clubs in Dudley and Sandwell, whilst a club is also present in Birmingham. As such, the region is well supported and it is likely that any isolated demand from Wolverhampton can be catered for outside of the authority.

Supply and demand analysis

With no dedicated facilities or substantial demand for the sport identified, American football should not be identified as a sport for the Council to prioritise. It is, however, imperative that any demand that does exist is directed to clubs in neighbouring authorities to ensure that it is catered for.

15.2: Baseball/softball

Introduction

Baseball and softball are both governed by Baseball and Softball UK (BSUK), which is currently aiming to build the number of teams playing regularly throughout the country.

Baseball is played between two teams of nine players, which take turns batting and fielding across nine innings, whilst softball has two varieties: slow-pitch softball and fast-pitch softball. Both sports in England operate from April until September.

Supply

There is one baseball/softball diamond in the City, located at Colton Hills High School (Academy). This is however marked on a seasonal basis with line marking paint and is not a dedicated pitch for the sport. There are no facilities identified as being disused or lapsed.

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Demand

Wolverhampton Baseball Club was founded in 2018 and compete in the West Midlands Baseball League, which has grown from three clubs to seven since its inception in 2019. The Club access the pitch at Colton Hills High School for matches and training.

In addition to Wolverhampton Baseball Club, Stourbridge Titans Baseball Club also access the provision at Colton Hills High School despite primarily being based in Dudley. The Club recently relocated to the site due to reportedly being priced out of use of its previous venue, Thorns Leisure Centre (which is in Dudley). It is actively looking for a means to return back to Dudley.

Both clubs only play baseball, meaning there is no softball activity in the City.

Supply and demand analysis

Given the use of Colton Hill High School and the expanding demand for baseball in the region, the provision requires protection. As such, a community use agreement should be sought to secure long-term access.

15.3: Gaelic football

Britain GAA is the Provincial Council of Gaelic football and hurling outside of Ireland. It is made up of seven regions, with Wolverhampton and the other Black County authorities falling into the Warwickshire region. The playing season runs from May until August.

Consultation

There is one existing Gaelic football club within Wolverhampton, that being St Mary's Gaelic Football Club. The Club engaged in telephone consultation to inform this section of the report.

Supply

There are no dedicated Gaelic football pitches provided in Wolverhampton. Aldersley High School is utilised as the primary venue for St Mary's Gaelic Football Club and the Club overmark football pitches for this purpose. However, these are undersized for competitive matches. There are also no facilities identified as being disused or lapsed.

Demand

Demand from St Mary's Gaelic Football Club equates to one senior team and a small junior section. The senior element of the Club competes at a reasonable standard and has been successful in winning regional competitions over its 70-year history.

Consultation with the Club highlights its desire to expand at both senior and junior level, but it notes that it is held back by the quality of the available facility at Aldersley High School.

Supply and demand analysis

There is no formal methodology for accessing the capacity requirements of Gaelic football. However, the provision of an over marked and undersized pitch at Aldersley High School is clearly insufficient to meet the demand from St Mary's Gaelic Football. The potential to increase the pitch size at Aldesley High School should be investigated.

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Other grass pitch sports – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There are no existing American football facilities within Wolverhampton and with no demand existing it should not be seen as a priority.
- ◀ The baseball provision at Colton Hills High School requires protection, with an agreement required to secure use for Wolverhampton Baseball Club.
- ◀ The provision of a larger and more permanent Gaelic football offer should be sought due to the undersized nature of the pitch at Aldersley High School.

Other grass pitch sports – supply summary

- ◀ There are no dedicated American football pitches within Wolverhampton.
- ◀ There is one baseball/softball diamond in Wolverhampton, located at Colton Hills (Academy).
- ◀ There are no dedicated Gaelic football pitches provided in the City, with St Mary's Gaelic Football Club utilising an overmarked football pitch at Aldersley High School which is undersized.

Other grass pitch sports – demand summary

- ◀ There is no current American football demand within Wolverhampton following the disbandment of Wolverhampton Outlaws a number of years ago.
- ◀ Wolverhampton Baseball Club uses Colton Hills High School, whereas the site is also used by Stourbridge Titans Baseball Club (imported demand).
- ◀ St Mary's Gaelic Football Club fields a senior men's team and a small junior section, utilising Aldersley High School.

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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: Uniting the Movement 2021

Sport and physical activity have a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

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Recover and reinvent: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

Connecting communities: Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

Positive experiences for children and young people: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

Connecting with health and wellbeing: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

Active environments: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

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.

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The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

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

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ **Grow and nurture the core**
 - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
 - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
 - ◀ Invest in club facilities
 - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
 - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ **Inspire through elite teams**
 - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
 - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
 - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
 - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ **Make cricket accessible**
 - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
 - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
 - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
 - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
 - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
 - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
 - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
 - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people

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◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**

- ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
- ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
- ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
- ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme

◀ **Support our communities**

- ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
- ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
- ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
- ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7's offering

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes are prioritised:

- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- ◀ Sustainable clubs
- ◀ Environmental Sustainability
- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website [provides further information on:](#)

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the Strategy, detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link:

- ◀ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 - 2017

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Rugby League World Cup ‘Inspired by 2021’ Legacy Programme

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of an ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

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

The vision is for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’.

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation’s pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

Club participation

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.

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Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found <http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075§ionTitle=Facilities+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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important 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. England Hockey works to provide 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.

- England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. 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.

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LTA Facilities Investment Strategy – Vision for the 2020 and beyond

The LTA has developed a programme of action based on seven core strategies. These are:

- ◀ Visibility – Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
- ◀ Innovation – Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
- ◀ Investment – Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
- ◀ Accessibility – Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
- ◀ Engagement – Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers, to attract and maintain more people in the game.
- ◀ Performance – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ◀ Leadership – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.

The LTA Facilities Investment Framework sets out how it intends to deliver the investment to support community accessible tennis facilities. The focus will be on:

- ◀ New and existing indoor tennis centres
- ◀ Park tennis
- ◀ Tennis clubs
- ◀ Schools and other educational establishments

The key principles of the framework are to:

- ◀ Help fund projects through interest free loans.
- ◀ Invest in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ◀ Invest where there is thorough community engagement.
- ◀ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ◀ Targeted investment that is demand-led.
- ◀ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.

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

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.

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- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

Vision: Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- ◀ Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- ◀ Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- ◀ Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

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The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims “To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England”.

England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

- ◀ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ◀ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ◀ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ◀ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ◀ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ◀ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ◀ Inspire and educate golf’s network of volunteers
- ◀ Increase golf’s influence
- ◀ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ◀ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ◀ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ◀ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ◀ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ◀ Develop greater access for disabled people
- ◀ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers

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APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football						
Please complete one form per pitch						
Site reference:			Site Name:			
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID(s):			
Number of football pitches on site:			Pitch size:	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)		
Availability			Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Weather at time of visit & date of visit			If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues			
Pitch Issues:						
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)						
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments	
Playing surface						
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%	Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No	See size chart below for recommended dimensions
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe	
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short	Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage	
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)						Section total
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No	
Seeded	Yes, as required		Not known		No	
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times		Once/ twice		No	
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No	
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No	
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No	
						Section total
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.						
PITCH SCORE			0.0%	RATING	Poor	

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Cricket non-technical assessment

Element	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
About the cricket outfield					
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	<BBX Falls below the ECD basic standard	
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Ideally 12mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even	Uneven		Ball should run without deviation or ramp	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	May also wish to refer to sewer survey. If yes, refer to water/sewer/site manager	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to sewer survey. If yes, refer to water/sewer/site manager	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg from animals, vehicles - rabbits, cattle and horses etc may also wish to refer to sewer survey	
Artificial wickets					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes	No		There should be no trip points	
Evenness of wicket	Even	Uneven		There should be no anomalies in surface levels	
Stump holes	Yes	No		Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball	
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes	No		There should be none	
Rips or surface lifting	Yes	No		If "yes" contact site manager	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes	No		If "yes" contact site manager	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes	No			
Grass wickets					
Presence of line markings	Yes	No			
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes	No			
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes	No		3mm to 4mm wicket/12mm rest of square	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes	No			
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes	No		<BBX Falls below the ECD basic standard	
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound?	Yes	No			
Changing/ Pavilion					
Umpires provision	Yes	No			
Toilets	Yes	No			
Hot/cold water	Yes	No			
Heating	Yes	No			
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention		
NTP					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes	No			
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even	Uneven			
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes	No			
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes	No			
No rips or surface lifting	Yes	No			
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes	No			
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes	No			
Is the steel frame/posts upright?	Yes	No			
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes	No			
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes	No			
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes	No			
Is appropriate safety/supervisory signage present?	Yes	No			

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Rugby pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union										
Please complete one form per pitch										
Site reference				Site Name						
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s)						
Date of assessment				Pitch size	(Senior, Mini/Midi)					
Number of pitches on site				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?						
Availability				<small>If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues</small>						
<small>Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused</small>										
Weather at time of visit										
General comments/observations										
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)										
Qualitative information (gathered on site)	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments			
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% = good. <80% = poor			
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)		Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.			
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short		Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm			
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots					
GOALPOSTS										
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No							
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No							
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No							
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No							
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No							
ANCILLARY										
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No							
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No							
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No							
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below										
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never			
								Pitch Maintenance Score		
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0	
<small> Natural (adequate) = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season Natural (inadequate) = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years. </small>										

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Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches									
Site reference			Site Name						
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID						
Number of AGPs on site			Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)			Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)		
Availability			Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused						
Type of pitch	{	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)		Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)		Short Pile 3G (40mm)			
		Sand Dressed		Sand Filled		Water based			
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Site comments	
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.		
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes		No						
Are there dug outs?	Yes		No						
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes		No						
Maximum score	93		Scoring:	Poor <=50			Total Score	0	
				Standard 51-79			Potential Rating	Poor	
				Good 80+					

Court non-technical assessment (netball and tennis)

WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Basketball Courts

KKPref										
Site name:										
Number of courts -	Tennis			Netball		Basketball		Five-a-side		
General Playground or specific sports court area?										
Court surface	Management					Community Use?				
	Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale					Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School				

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating						Comments		
About the courts									
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Size of courts	Yes - fully		No - but adequate		No - not adequate				
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No - but adequate		No - not adequate				
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		Severe
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gate	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Changing Accomodation									
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No						
About the equipment									
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes		No						
Practice wall	Yes		No						

Bowling green non-technical assessment

**WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green

KKPref	<input type="text"/>		
Site name:	<input type="text"/>		
Number of greens	<input type="text"/>		
Flat/crown	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Community Use?</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Community Use?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Use?	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating			Comments			
About the greens							
Grass cover	Over 70%	<input type="checkbox"/>	40-69%	<input type="checkbox"/>	less than 40%	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Evenness of surface	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Signs of wear and tear	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Condition of ditches/boarding	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes		<input type="checkbox"/>	No		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ancillary facilities							
Changing Accommodation	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Toilets	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Car parking	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
General comments about the site:							
<input type="text"/>							

Athletics tracks non-technical assessment

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WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Athletics Tracks

KKPref							
Site name:							
Track surface		Grass, polymeric, cinder, other specify	Specify If 'Other'				
No. of Lanes		Length of track:		Community Use:			

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each track with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating						Comments
About the track facilities							
Damage to the track surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Track edging	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Disabled access	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Floodlighting	Yes		No				
Is the track fenced?	Yes		No				
Surface and safety							
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate landing areas - jumps	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No-but adequate		No-not adequate		
Take off boards	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Landing mats	Yes		No				
Surface of throw ing areas - shot, discuss, hammer	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate safety margins - throw s	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Throw ing cages	Yes		No				
Facilities							
Access to toilets	Yes		No				
Changing accomodation	Yes		No				
Changing accomodation - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Club room	Yes		No				
Car parking	Good		Adequate		Poor		
General Comments							
						ENTER Athletics	Please make sure there is no filter on in sheet At_db !

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Appendix 3

BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

NOVEMBER 2022

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

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BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BC	Bowls Club
BFA	Birmingham County FA
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
BSUK	Baseball Softball UK
CC	Cricket Club
CFA	County Football Association
EA	England Athletics
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
EN	England Netball
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
HC	Hockey Club
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
IoG	Institute of Groundsmanship
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non-turf pitch
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
SCB	Staffordshire Cricket Board
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
TC	Tennis Club

BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Following completion of a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for each of the four Black Country authorities of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton, this document brings the findings of the studies together to provide an Overarching Strategic Framework. This should be used to address sub-regional issues, guide relevant planning policy and to ensure cross-boundary and collaborative working.

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned by the local authorities, together with the Black Country Consortium, to assess playing pitch and outdoor sport facility requirements across the individual areas, as well as considering these needs in the wider context of the area. The output has been separate needs assessments and strategies for each authority, with the findings fed into this document.

The Overarching Strategic Framework and the recommendations within it have been put forward based on the evidence that has been gathered as part of the delivery of each individual PPOSS. However, it is recognised that not everything will be actionable by all of the authorities, at least in the short-term. It should instead be used as a long-term document that can assist, where possible, with guiding future actions when it comes to playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities.

The main objectives of the study have been to:

- ◀ Identify current supply and demand issues for sport and recreation facilities in the Black Country, based on quality, quantity and accessibility.
- ◀ Enable the Councils to plan appropriately for the protection and/or enhancement of existing sport and recreation facilities and identify sites best suited for development/ new provision or refurbishment in future Local Plan priorities.
- ◀ Make strategic proposals for local authority-controlled facilities such as investment in new and enhanced facilities and rationalisation, including cross-boundary co-ordination of local authority provision if appropriate.
- ◀ Help inform wider fixed asset/property reviews.
- ◀ Assess the continued value of retaining land for playing pitches where the land has high potential development value for other uses, subject to ensuring compliance with relevant planning policy.
- ◀ Enable the authorities to plan appropriately, in compliance with planning policy, for the creation of new and/or replacement sport facilities, including opportunities for relocation and to allocate sites for development within emerging local plans.
- ◀ identify the potential for a strategic approach to the role of education sites in meeting community needs with a district or sub-regional approach in addition to individual recommendations.
- ◀ Identify whether existing sports infrastructure is fit for purpose to deliver local and corporate priorities and wider health and wellbeing outcomes in an efficient way, now and in the future.
- ◀ Identify where pitches are under-used or in such poor condition that release for other uses may be considered appropriate, subject to ensuring compliance with planning policy.
- ◀ Provide policy recommendations and practical proposals for securing investment into sport and open space.
- ◀ Use the findings to identify how best to meet local needs and to develop a means of calculating developer contributions to fund appropriate works.
- ◀ Act as a tool for the four authorities and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and investment and set priorities for sports moving forward.
- ◀ Identify how sport and recreation infrastructure can help deliver national, regional, local and Sport England strategies.
- ◀ Identify how sport, physical activity and recreation can contribute to corporate agendas for each authority.

BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

- ◀ Support an increase in formal and informal sport activity rates to improve the health and wellbeing of the whole community including through consultation with public health colleagues to deliver healthier lifestyles and achieve positive health outcomes.
- ◀ Promote sports development and help unlock latent demand by identifying changes in demand for different sports and where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams and/or failing to meet community needs.

In addition, specific planning objectives have been to:

- ◀ Help provide a robust evidence base for the preparation and support of the Black Country Plan (which will now be replaced by four separate local plans).
- ◀ Help meet “Duty to Co-operate” requirements under Section 110 of the Localism Act.
- ◀ Inform policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being in emerging local plans.
- ◀ Guide decisions on planning applications affecting existing playing pitches or generating demand for new provision.

The PPOSS for each local authority has been developed in accordance with Sport England guidance and under the direction of a Steering Group including each council, Sport England, Active Black Country and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). This has ensured that a consistent approach has been applied across the project.

Scope

A wide range of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities have been included across all four Black Country authorities. In full, this covers:

- ◀ Athletics
- ◀ Bowls
- ◀ Cricket
- ◀ Cycling
- ◀ Football (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Golf
- ◀ Hockey (sand/water based AGPs)
- ◀ Netball
- ◀ Rugby union (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Rugby league (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Tennis
- ◀ Water sports (e.g., sailing and water skiing)

In addition, other grass pitch sports have been included where they have been identified as having a presence.

Study area

The study area is considered to be the whole boundary area of each of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Further to this, existing analysis areas have also been used within each authority to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and the examination of outdoor sport supply and demand at a local level. These are summarised in the table below.

Table 1.1: Summary of the study area

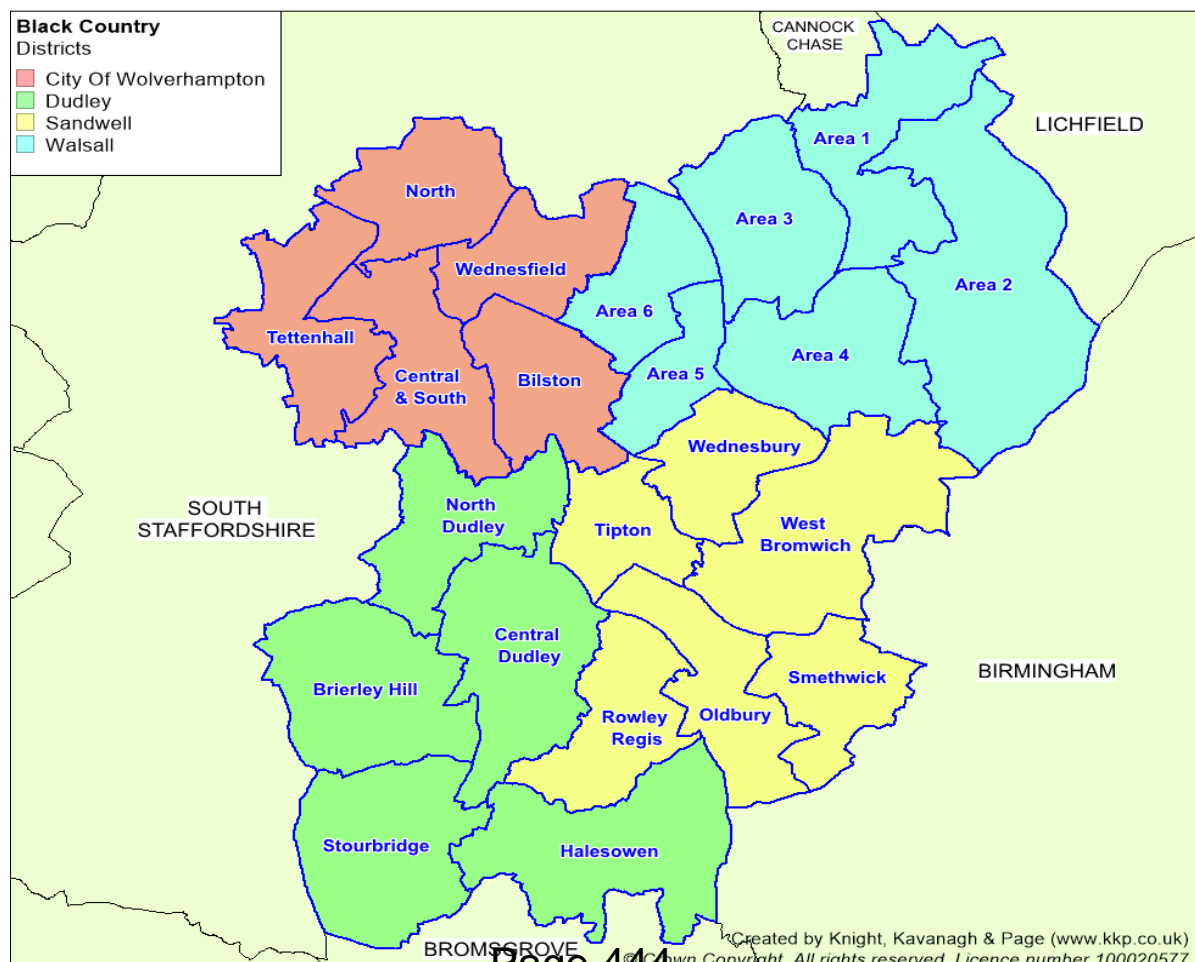
Local authority	Analysis areas
Dudley	Brierley Hill
	Central Dudley
	Halesowen
	North Dudley
	Stourbridge

BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Local authority	Analysis areas
Sandwell	Oldbury
	Rowley Regis
	Smethwick
	Tipton
	Wednesbury
	West Bromwich
Walsall	Brownhills / Pelsall / Rushall / Sheffield (Area 1)
	Aldridge / Streetly / Pheasey / Walsall Wood (Area 2)
	Bloxwich / Blakenall / Birchills / Leamore (Area 3)
	St Matthew's / Paddock / Palfrey / Pleck (Area 4)
	Darlaston / Bentley (Area 5)
	Willenhall / Short Heath (Area 6)
Wolverhampton	Bilston
	Central & South
	North
	Tettenhall
	Wednesfield

For the boundary lines, please refer to the figure below.

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

PART 2: RESEARCH FINDINGS

Summarised below are the key findings across the four Black Country authorities for each included sport/facility type relating to aspects such as quantity, quality, levels of demand (including exported/imported demand) and the presence of current and future shortfalls. Such issues are considered most important to the overarching strategic framework due to the potential impact they have on supply and demand across local authority boundaries and, as such, across the Black Country.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that, where spare capacity is identified in a local authority, this cannot be relied upon to offset shortfalls of provision and other issues elsewhere within the Black Country. It may not necessarily be accessible to the demand that needs access, meaning there is still a requirement to consider the individual PPOSS findings and recommendations in respect of the local picture for supply and demand.

2.1: Black Country summary

Football

- There are 729 football pitches in the Black Country across 330 sites, with 576 pitches available for community use across 229 sites.

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

Local authority	No. of pitches available for community use					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Dudley	43	23	33	29	26	154
Sandwell	86	13	21	12	7	139
Walsall	68	15	37	13	13	146
Wolverhampton	63	23	28	18	5	137
Black Country	260	74	119	72	51	576

- Of the community available pitches, 39 are assessed as good quality, 281 are assessed as standard quality and 256 are assessed as poor.

Table 2.2: Football pitch quality summary (community use pitches)

Local authority	Pitch quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Dudley	10	76	68
Sandwell	5	51	83
Walsall	9	89	48
Wolverhampton	15	65	57
Black Country	39	281	256

- A total of 1,460 teams are identified from within 367 clubs.
- Demand is highest for youth 11v11 football, followed by adult football, whilst it is lowest for mini 5v5 football.

BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Table 2.3: Summary of teams

Local authority	No. of teams					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Dudley	89	116	70	74	64	413
Sandwell	109	108	59	43	29	348
Walsall	121	130	83	74	38	446
Wolverhampton	86	74	38	34	21	253
Black Country	405	428	250	225	152	1,460

- There is a current and future shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch capacity.
- Supply of mini 7v7 pitches is currently meeting demand, although future growth will result in a capacity shortfall.
- Both current and future demand for mini 5v5 football is being met.

Table 2.4: Supply and demand analysis by pitch type and local authority

Pitch type	Local authority	Match equivalent sessions per week				
		Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	Dudley	-	16	16	3	19
	Sandwell	6.5	23.5	17	2	19
	Walsall	14	7	7	5	2
	Wolverhampton	17.5	19	1.5	2.5	4
	Black Country	38	65.5	27.5	12.5	40
Youth 11v11	Dudley	-	7.5	7.5	4	11.5
	Sandwell	3	13	10	2	12
	Walsall	-	5	5	7.5	12.5
	Wolverhampton	4.5	2	2.5	5.5	3
	Black Country	7.5	27.5	20	19	39
Youth 9v9	Dudley	1	10.5	9.5	-	9.5
	Sandwell	1	10	9	-	9
	Walsall	11	10.5	0.5	0.5	0
	Wolverhampton	13.5	2.5	11.5	-	11.5
	Black Country	26.5	33.5	7	0.5	7.5
Mini 7v7	Dudley	2	3	1	-	1
	Sandwell	0.5	1	0.5	-	0.5
	Walsall	1	1.5	0.5	1	1.5
	Wolverhampton	2	-	2	-	2
	Black Country	5.5	5.5	0	1	1
Mini 5v5	Dudley	2	1	1	-	1
	Sandwell	2	0.5	1.5	-	1.5
	Walsall	2.5	-	2.5	-	2.5
	Wolverhampton	2.5	-	2.5	-	2.5
	Black Country	9	1.5	7.5	0	7.5

BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

- Projected housing growth across the Black Country is likely to create demand equating to the need for 69.66 grass football pitches.

Table 2.5: Likely demand generated from housing growth for grass football pitches

Local authority	Pitches			
	Adult	Youth	Mini	Total
Dudley	4.17	8.72	6.46	19.35
Sandwell	3.44	5.27	2.27	10.98
Walsall	7.10	12.51	6.57	26.18
Wolverhampton	4.47	5.82	2.86	13.15
Black Country	19.18	32.32	18.16	69.66

3G

- There are currently 23 full size 3G pitches provided across the Black Country, with 19 available for community use (two in both Sandwell and Wolverhampton are unavailable).

Table 2.6: Summary of full size 3G supply

Local authority	No. of full size pitches available for community use
Dudley	4
Sandwell	4
Walsall	9
Wolverhampton	2
Black Country	19

- Based on the FA training model of one full size pitch being required to accommodate every 38 football teams within an authority, there is an overall shortfall of 15.5 full size pitches currently and 17.5 full size pitches when accounting for future demand.

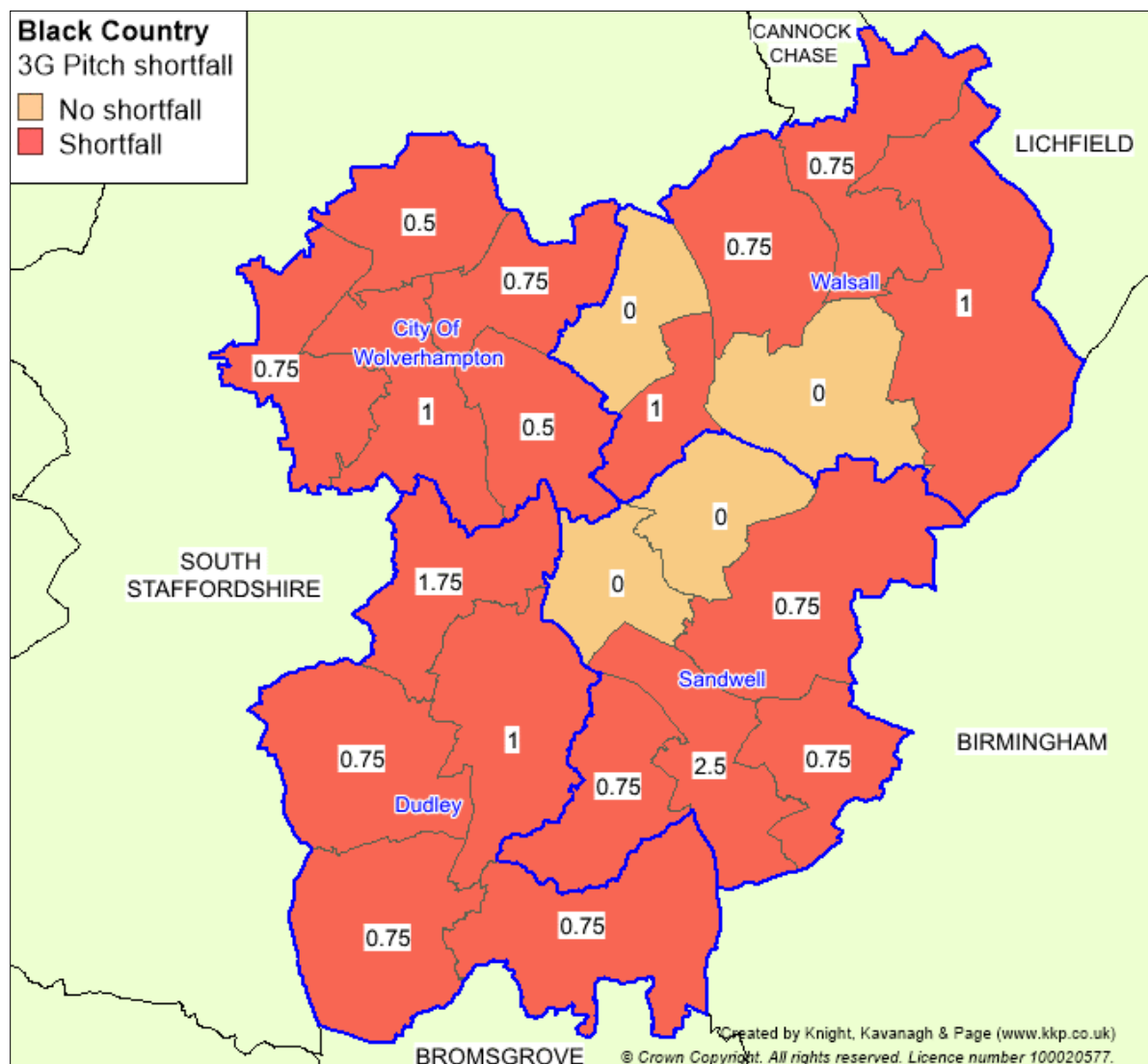
Table 2.7: Summary of 3G shortfalls

Local authority	Current shortfall	Future shortfall
Dudley	4.75	5.25
Sandwell	4.50	4.50
Walsall	2.75	3.50
Wolverhampton	3.50	4.50
Black Country	15.50	17.75

- The figure below identifies where shortfalls are present on an analysis area level; this can be used to identify where new 3G pitches could be strategically placed to best meet demand and to reduce deficits across analysis areas and local authorities in the most efficient way (e.g., one full size pitch could be established close to the border of two areas with a shortfall of 0.5 or 0.75 pitches).

BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Figure 2.1: Location of 3G pitch shortfalls (by sub area)



- ◀ Scope also exists for additional World Rugby provision to cater for Walsall clubs.
- ◀ Projected housing growth across the Black Country is likely to create demand equating to 3.67 additional full size pitches.

Table 2.8: Likely demand generated from housing growth for 3G pitches

Local authority	3G pitches required
Dudley	1.02
Sandwell	0.58
Walsall	1.38
Wolverhampton	0.69
Black Country	3.67

Cricket

- ◀ There are 48 grass wicket squares provided across the Black Country, with 44 available for community use.

BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Table 2.9: Summary of grass wicket squares available for community use

Local authority	Squares available for community use
Dudley	11
Sandwell	6
Walsall	13
Wolverhampton	14
Black Country	44

- Of the community available squares, 21 are assessed as good quality, 22 as standard quality and just one as poor quality.

Table 2.10: Cricket pitch quality summary (community use pitches)

Local authority	Pitch quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Dudley	6	5	-
Sandwell	5	1	-
Walsall	5	8	-
Wolverhampton	5	8	1
Black Country	21	22	1

- There are 29 cricket clubs collectively providing 231 teams.

Table 2.11 Summary of cricket teams

Local authority	No. of teams		
	Senior male	Senior female	Junior
Dudley	35	6	35
Sandwell	19	2	19
Walsall	25	1	28
Wolverhampton	29	3	29
Total	108	12	111

- There is an overall capacity shortfall for Saturday cricket.
- Overall spare capacity exists for Sunday and midweek cricket.

Table 2.12: Cricket supply and demand analysis

Format of play	Local authority	Match equivalent sessions per week				
		Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Saturday cricket	Dudley	-	65	65	-	65
	Sandwell	-	23	23	-	23
	Walsall	24	14	10	-	10
	Wolverhampton	24	49	25	-	25
	Black Country	48	151	103	0	103
Sunday cricket	Dudley	48	65	17	-	17
	Sandwell	28	23	5	-	5
	Walsall	84	14	70	-	70
	Wolverhampton	108	49	59	-	59
	Black Country	268	151	117	0	117

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Format of play	Local authority	Match equivalent sessions per week				
		Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Midweek cricket	Dudley	74	65	9	-	9
	Sandwell	16	23	7	-	7
	Walsall	104	14	90	-	90
	Wolverhampton	120	49	81	-	81
	Black Country	314	150	164	0	164

- Projected housing growth across the Black Country is likely to create demand equating to 4.42 cricket pitches.

Table 2.13: Likely demand generated from housing growth for cricket pitches

Local authority	Pitches
Dudley	1.43
Sandwell	0.50
Walsall	1.23
Wolverhampton	1.26
Black Country	4.42

Rugby union

- There are 54 rugby union pitches in the Black Country, with 38 available for community use.

Table 2.14: Summary of rugby union pitches

Local authority	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior/mini pitches
Dudley	2	1
Sandwell	4	-
Walsall	19	1
Wolverhampton	6	5
Black Country	31	7

- Of the community available pitches, two are assessed as good quality, 15 as standard and 21 as poor.

Table 2.15: Rugby union pitch quality summary (community use pitches)

Local authority	Pitch quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Dudley	-	2	1
Sandwell	1	1	2
Walsall	-	10	10
Wolverhampton	1	2	8
Black Country	2	15	21

- There are 10 clubs collectively fielding 64 teams.
- All clubs from Dudley are exported outside of the Borough to South Staffordshire and Bromsgrove.

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Table 2.16: Summary of rugby union demand

Local authority	No. of rugby union teams				
	Senior male	Senior female	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini mixed
Dudley	-	-	-	-	-
Sandwell	3	1	-	-	-
Walsall	13	1	14	3	12
Wolverhampton	3	1	7	-	6
Total	19	3	21	3	18

- There is a current and future shortfall of rugby union pitch capacity.

Table 2.17: Rugby union supply and demand analysis

Local authority	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current demand	Future demand	Future total
Dudley	-	-	0	-	0
Sandwell	1.5	0.5	1	-	1
Walsall	1.25	5.5	4.25	-	4.25
Wolverhampton	1.5	4.5	3	0.5	3.5
Black Country	4.25	10.5	6.25	0.5	6.75

- Projected housing growth across the Black Country is likely to create demand equating to 2.77 rugby union pitches.

Table 2.18: Likely demand generated from housing growth for rugby union pitches

Local authority	Pitches
Dudley	-
Sandwell	0.13
Walsall	1.99
Wolverhampton	0.65
Black Country	2.77

Rugby league

- There are no rugby league pitches and no demand has been identified.
- Any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient enough for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel to form part of the clubs based in other, nearby authorities.

Hockey

- There are 12 full size, hockey suitable AGPs in the Black Country, all of which are available for community use.

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Table 2.19: Summary of full size hockey pitch supply

Local authority	No. of full size pitches available for community use
Dudley	1
Sandwell	2
Walsall	4
Wolverhampton	5
Black Country	12

- Of the pitches, two are assessed as good quality, six as standard quality and four as poor quality.

Table 2.20: Hockey pitch quality summary (community use pitches)

Local authority	Pitch quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Dudley	-	-	1
Sandwell	-	1	1
Walsall	-	2	2
Wolverhampton	2	3	-
Black Country	2	6	4

- There are 10 clubs identified, collectively providing 64 teams and catering for 1,155 playing members.
- All Dudley based demand is exported out of the Borough to Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Birmingham.
- Two clubs exported demand from Sandwell into Walsall.

Table 2.21: Summary of hockey demand

Local authority	No. of competitive teams			No. of members
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior	
Dudley	-	-	-	0
Sandwell	5	1	3	100
Walsall	16	6	9	550
Wolverhampton	16	6	2	505
Black Country	37	13	14	1,155

- There is a need to protect all the pitches that are currently provided in addition to quality and access improvements.
- There may be a requirement for new provision in Dudley and/or Sandwell.

Table 2.22: Summary of supply and demand analysis

Local authority	Comments
Dudley	At least one suitable pitch needs to be provided, meaning there is a need to improve the pitch at Coseley Leisure Centre or develop new provision. This will be sufficient to return exported demand.

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Local authority	Comments
Sandwell	There is currently a requirement for two hockey suitable AGPs. As the pitch at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy is not serving any purposeful means, it therefore needs to be enhanced or an additional pitch is required. However, if a pitch is provided in Dudley, only one pitch in Sandwell will be required as imported demand can return.
Walsall	All four existing pitches require protection, with emphasis required on securing tenure.
Wolverhampton	All five pitches require protecting, including the currently unused pitch at WV Aldersley.

- Projected housing growth across the Black Country is likely to create demand equating to 0.67 hockey pitches.

Table 2.23: Likely demand generated from housing growth for hockey pitches

Local authority	Pitches
Dudley	-
Sandwell	0.05
Walsall	0.33
Wolverhampton	0.29
Black Country	0.67

Tennis

- There are 334 tennis courts across the Black Country across 104 sites.
- Of the courts, 199 are available for community use across 60 sites, with most unavailable courts located at schools.

Table 2.24: Summary of tennis court supply

Local authority	Courts available for community use	Courts unavailable for community use
Dudley	49	40
Sandwell	35	22
Walsall	41	22
Wolverhampton	74	51
Black Country	199	135

- Only 114 courts are serviced by sports lighting, representing just 34% of the provision.

Table 2.25: Summary of courts with sports lighting

Local authority	Courts with sports lighting	% of courts with sports lighting
Dudley	23	26%
Sandwell	10	18%
Walsall	24	38%
Wolverhampton	57	47%
Black Country	114	34%

- Of the courts, 82 are assessed as good quality, 160 as standard quality and 92 as poor quality.

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Table 2.26: Tennis court quality summary

Local authority	Court quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Dudley	24	29	36
Sandwell	8	32	17
Walsall	2	48	13
Wolverhampton	48	51	26
Black Country	82	160	92

- There are 14 clubs identified.
- Where membership is known, there are 2,899 members across the clubs equating to 1,953 senior members and 946 junior members.

Table 2.27: Summary of tennis club demand

Local authority	No. of clubs	No. of members	
		Senior	Junior
Dudley	3	393	275
Sandwell	2	114	100
Walsall	3	451	207
Wolverhampton	6	995	364
Black Country	14	1,953	946

- For clubs, there are capacity shortfalls for five clubs in Dudley and Walsall, whilst supply is seemingly sufficient in Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Table 2.28: Summary of supply and demand analysis (club activity)

Local authority	Comments
Dudley	There are current capacity shortfalls for Halesowen and Wall Heath tennis clubs as well as future shortfalls for Quarry Bank TC.
Sandwell	Supply is sufficient to meet demand, although further exploration is required to fully determine membership at Wednesbury TC.
Walsall	Streetly TC is operating above capacity, whilst Walsall TC needs its own home venue with at least one floodlit court or two non-floodlit courts.
Wolverhampton	Supply is sufficient to meet demand.

- In regards to non-club courts, none are identified as having capacity issues, with focus instead needing to be placed on improving quality to promote and increase informal/recreational play.

Netball

- There are 278 netball courts across the Black Country at 120 sites.
- Of the courts, only 89 are available for community use across 28 sites, with most unavailable courts located at schools.

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Table 2.29: Summary of netball court supply

Local authority	Courts available for community use	Courts unavailable for community use
Dudley	14	73
Sandwell	27	35
Walsall	13	47
Wolverhampton	35	34
Black Country	89	189

- Only 63 courts are serviced by sports lighting, representing just 27% of the provision compared to a national average of 38%.

Table 2.30: Summary of netball courts with sports lighting

Local authority	Courts with sports lighting	% of courts with sports lighting
Dudley	4	5%
Sandwell	23	37%
Walsall	7	12%
Wolverhampton	29	41%
Black Country	63	34%

- Of the courts, 82 are assessed as good quality, 158 as standard quality and 92 as poor quality.

Table 2.31: Netball court quality summary

Local authority	Court quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Dudley	6	52	29
Sandwell	20	29	13
Walsall	4	52	4
Wolverhampton	20	46	3
Black Country	50	179	49

- The Dudley Netball League exports out of Dudley, into Sandwell, due to a lack of suitable provision.
- The Walsall Netball League also exports to Sandwell, although this is through choice.
- Demand in Wolverhampton is being met.

Table 2.32: Summary of supply and demand analysis

Local authority	Comments
Dudley	Whilst there are a large quantity of netball courts provided, the large majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand, contributing to the Dudley Netball League being unable to use a central venue in the Borough despite it expressing an aspiration to do so. Options should therefore be explored to accommodate such demand.

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Local authority	Comments
Sandwell	Sandwell is relatively well catered for regarding netball and focus should therefore be placed on protecting the facilities at George Salter Academy and Phoenix Collegiate and ensuring that the quality of the provision remains adequate to meet the demand. Should demand relocate to Dudley, it is also imperative that any Sandwell-based demand remains provided for and that the provision remains sustainable.
Walsall	Whilst there is a large quantity of netball courts provided in Walsall, the large majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand. However, there is no clear requirement for a facility to be provided within the Borough.
Wolverhampton	All demand is seemingly being catered for through use of WV Active Aldersley.

Bowls

- There are 96 bowling greens provided.

Table 2.33: Summary of bowling green supply

Local authority	No. of greens
Dudley	28
Sandwell	18
Walsall	29
Wolverhampton	21
Black Country	96

- Of the greens, 69 are assessed as good, 19 as standard and eight as poor quality.

Table 2.34: Summary of bowling green quality

Local authority	Green quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Dudley	9	13	6
Sandwell	17	1	-
Walsall	26	3	-
Wolverhampton	17	2	2
Black Country	69	19	8

- There are 82 clubs identified.
- Where membership is known, there are 2,882 members across the clubs equating to 2,841 senior members and 41 junior members.

Table 2.35: Summary of bowls club demand

Local authority	No. of clubs	No. of members	
		Senior	Junior
Dudley	23	808	3
Sandwell	16	412	8
Walsall	26	890	11
Wolverhampton	17	731	19
Black Country	82	2,841	41

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- There are 14 clubs operating above the recommended capacity limit for use of a single green, although none report any particularly capacity concerns.
- Four clubs are operating below what would be considered a sustainable level and therefore require support.
- Some unused greens are in existence which may offer a solution for some of the larger clubs, if required (strategic reserve).

Table 2.36: Summary of supply and demand analysis

Local authority	Comments
Dudley	Five clubs are operating above capacity limits, whilst two are operating below sustainable levels. However, no clubs report any issues, suggesting that supply is sufficient to meet demand.
Sandwell	One club is operating above capacity limits, whilst one is operating below a sustainable level. However, no clubs report any issues, suggesting that supply is sufficient to meet demand.
Walsall	Five clubs are operating above capacity, whilst one is operating below sustainable levels. As there are four unused greens, these may offer strategic reserve for some of the larger clubs.
Wolverhampton	Three clubs are operating above capacity limits. However, no clubs report any issues, suggesting that supply is sufficient to meet demand.

Cycling

- There are cycling facilities provided in Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton, whilst Walsall is without provision.
- A total of eight venues provide for cycling.

Table 2.37: Summary of cycling supply

Local authority	Facilities
Dudley	Manor Abbey Stadium provides a 400-metre cycling track.
Sandwell	Sandwell Valley Country Park features a range of surfaced and unsurfaced cycling tracks as well as a mountain bike trail and a pump track, whilst Hadley Stadium is also used for cycling activity.
Walsall	No dedicated provision provided.
Wolverhampton	Ashmore Park and East Park provide cycle speedway tracks, Bilston Pump Park and Hilton Road Playing Fields provide BMX pump tracks and WV Aldersley has an asphalt cycling track.

- A total of 15 cycling clubs are identified.

Table 2.38: Summary of cycling demand

Local authority	Clubs
Dudley	Halesowen Cycling Club, Stourbridge Cycling Club and Stourbug.
Sandwell	Bangladeshi Association Cycling Club, Hadley Stadium Cycling Club, Lightwoods Community Cycle Club and Smethwick Beat the Streets Community Cycling Club.
Walsall	Pelsall Social Cycling Club and Walsall Road Cycling Club.
Wolverhampton	Wednesfield Aces, Wolverhampton Wheelers, Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club, East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club and Let's Ride Cycling.

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- Supply is generally sufficient to meet demand, although facilities require protection and some quality improvements are necessary.

Athletics

- There are nine sites providing athletics facilities.

Table 2.39: Summary of athletics supply

Local authority	Facilities
Dudley	The Dell Stadium provides a 400-metre track and Manor Abbey Stadium provides a 350-metre track.
Sandwell	400-metre tracks are provided at Hadley Stadium, Phoenix Collegiate and Tipton Sports Academy, whilst Sandwell Academy has a 200-metre track.
Walsall	The University of Wolverhampton provides a 200-metre track.
Wolverhampton	WV Active Aldersley provides a 400-metre track and The King's Church of England School provides a 200-metre, albeit this is not available for community use.

- A total of 21 clubs undertaking athletics and/or running activity.
- One Park Run is held in each authority every Saturday.

Table 2.40: Summary of athletics demand

Local authority	Clubs
Dudley	Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers Athletics Club, Halesowen Athletics & Cycling Club, Dudley Kingswinford Running Club, Sedgley Striders, Yellow Army Running Club, Stourbridge Running Club, Dudley Ladies Running Club, Halesowen Triathlon Club and Action Heart Running Club.
Sandwell	Tipton Harriers, Black Country Running Club, Sandwell Valley Running Club, West Bromwich Harriers and Warley Wasps Triathlon & Running Club.
Walsall	Walsall Arboretum Running Club, Aldridge Running Club, Sneyd Striders and Jog Walsall.
Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton & Bilston Athletics Club, Jolly Joggers Wolverhampton and Sedgley Striders.

- Supply is generally sufficient to meet demand, with no need for additional facilities.

Golf

- There are 22 sites across the Black Country providing golf facilities.
- Across the sites, there are 20 standard hole courses, one Par 3 course and eight driving ranges.

Table 2.41: Summary of golf supply

Local authority	No. of golf sites
Dudley	3
Sandwell	5
Walsall	8
Wolverhampton	6
Black Country	22

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- There are 7,025 members attached to the sites that offer a membership.

Table 2.42: Summary of golf demand

Local authority	No. of clubs	No. of members
Dudley	3	1,325
Sandwell	5	932
Walsall	8	2,669
Wolverhampton	6	2,099
Black Country	22	7,025

- Supply is generally sufficient to meet demand, with all aspects of the golfing market accommodated across the area.

Outdoor water sports

- Outdoor water sport activity takes place at a variety of sites across the Black Country via a mix of natural bodies of water and built facilities.

Table 2.43: Summary of outdoor water sport supply

Local authority	Facilities
Dudley	Dudley Water Sports Centre accommodates diving, rowing, open water swimming, sailing, snorkelling, wakeboarding and water skiing, whilst Dudley Canal and Himley Hall can also be used.
Sandwell	Swan Pool accommodates sailing, canoeing and open water swimming.
Walsall	Chase Water Sports Centre provides for water skiing, knee boarding, trick skiing, wakeboarding and wake surfing, whilst Sneyd Water Activity Centre provides for canoeing, kayaking, power boating, sailing and windsurfing. Aldridge Marina and The Swag are also used for some activity.
Wolverhampton	Canoeing takes place on the Staffordshire & Worcester Canal, whilst boat racing takes place along the Staffordshire Union Canal.

- A total of 18 clubs provide for some form of outdoor water sports demand.

Table 2.44: Summary of outdoor water sports demand

Local authority	Clubs
Dudley	Dudley, Waterski & Wakeboard Club, Dudley Nautilus Sub-Aqua Club, Dudley Sailing Club, Dudley Dolphin British Sub-Aqua Club, Dudley Rowing Club, Netherton Open Water Swimming Club and Warley Wasps Triathlon & Running Club.
Sandwell	Sandwell Valley Sailing Club, Oldbury Swimming & Triathlon Club and Birmingham Canoe Club.
Walsall	Aldridge Sailing Club, Chase Open Water Swimming Club, Chase Sailing Club, Pier 52 and Royal Sutton Coldfield Canoe Club.
Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton Canoe Club, Wolverhampton Boat Club and Chillington Divers.

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- Given that it is not a coastal area, the Black Country is very well catered for when it comes to outdoor water sports, with most activities provided for in some form.

Other grass pitch sports

- American football, baseball/softball and Gaelic football are all identified as having supply and/or demand in the Black Country.
- There is a need for facility solutions to better accommodate all three sports.

Table 2.45: Summary of other grass pitch sport supply and demand

Sport	Local authority	Comments
American football	Dudley	Black Country Vipers has one team which uses a 3G pitch at Stourbridge Rugby Club. This is sufficient to meet its demand.
	Sandwell / Walsall	Sandwell Steelers uses an over marked football pitch at Tipton Sports Academy for matches, 3G pitches at Gosepl Oak Academy and Portway Leisure Centre for training, and exports some demand to Walsall Rugby Club in Walsall. Providing one venue for all activity should be explored.
Baseball/softball	Dudley/ Wolverhampton	Stourbridge Titans Baseball Club previously used a diamond at Thorns Leisure Centre but now exports to Colton Hills Community School, in Wolverhampton. Options should be explored to return this activity.
	Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton Baseball Club uses the diamond at Colton Hills High School and this sufficient to meets its need, although a community use agreement should be sought.
Gaelic football	Wolverhampton	St Marys Gaelic Football Club uses an overmarked football pitch at Aldersley High School for its activity. This is undersized and therefore insufficient to meet its needs.

2.2: Cross-boundary demand

Due to the proximity of the four Black Country authorities, the relationship between them and the issues that are present, some demand is displaced (imported/exported) across boundary lines. This is sometimes through choice, but is often due to a lack of suitable provision and/or capacity within a particular area. As such, given the joint nature of this study, the councils should work together to return as much of the demand as possible to ensure that it is adequately accommodated in a suitable location and that it does not put added pressure on supply within the authority that it is imported into.

The table below summarises where displaced demand has been identified in the PPOSS between the four authorities and where it expresses the desire to return.

Table 2.46: Summary of displaced demand

Sport	Local authority demand is exported from	Local authority demand is imported to	Comments
Football	Dudley	Sandwell	Cradley Town FC uses a number of sites in Sandwell due to a lack of availability in Dudley.
	Dudley	Sandwell	Halas Hawks FC uses a number of sites in Sandwell due to a lack of availability in Dudley.

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Sport	Local authority demand is exported from	Local authority demand is imported to	Comments
	Dudley	Sandwell	Stourbridge FC uses a number of sites in Sandwell due to a lack of availability in Dudley.
	Dudley	Walsall	Dudley Town FC's 1 st team exports to Aspray Arena due to a lack of suitable venues in Dudley; it requires a pitch capable of meeting football pyramid criteria.
	Dudley	Wolverhampton	Sedgley & Gornal FC exports a proportion of its demand to sites in Wolverhampton due to not being able to access a site large enough in Dudley to accommodate all of its teams.
	Sandwell	Walsall	Great Barr Harriers FC exports a team to the University of Aston Recreation Centre.
	Sandwell	Walsall	Oldbury United FC exports a team to the University of Aston Recreation Centre.
	Sandwell	Dudley	Oldbury United FC utilises Cradley Town FC for three of its teams due to a lack of pitches in Sandwell.
	Sandwell	Dudley	Bustleholme FC groundshares with AFC Birmingham due to no suitable venue being available in Sandwell.
Cricket	Dudley	Sandwell	Coseley CC accesses a secondary venue in Sandwell for its 3 rd Saturday team due to a lack of capacity in Dudley.
Hockey	Dudley	Sandwell	Old Halesonians HC uses Ormiston Forge Academy for some of its demand (accessing a site in Birmingham for the remainder) due to no hockey suitable provision being available in Dudley.
	Dudley	Wolverhampton	Dudley Ladies HC fields its demand at SWB Academy as no hockey suitable provision is available in Dudley.
	Sandwell	Walsall	West Bromwich HC accesses Aston University Recreation Centre for all of its demand following the 3G conversion of the pitch at George Salter Academy.
Netball	Dudley	Sandwell	The Dudley Netball League currently utilises a central venue in Sandwell for all of its demand but has an aspiration to use a site in Dudley.
Athletics	Sandwell	Walsall	West Bromwich Harriers uses Walsall Rugby Club as a home base following the loss of access to a site in Oldbury.
Other grass pitch sports	Dudley	Wolverhampton	Stourbridge Titans Baseball Club uses Colton Hills Community School due to no provision existing within Dudley.
	Sandwell	Walsall	Sandwell Steelers American Football Club uses Walsall Rugby Club for its junior matches due to a lack of provision in Sandwell.

In addition to the table above, there is also additional imported and exported demand identified in relation to the Black Country and other local authority areas, especially Birmingham (e.g., into/from Sandwell) and South Staffordshire (e.g., into/from Wolverhampton), but also relevant to the likes of Bromsgrove and Lichfield. As such, a partnership approach should also be sought with these authorities in an attempt to return the demand, where required and possible.

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Overarching recommendations when it comes to exported/imported demand are as follows:

- ◀ Through cross-authority working, seek to return demand to its home local authority through identifying sites that meet requirements in terms of factors such as location, accessibility capacity, quantity, quality and level of play.
- ◀ Where such provision does not exist, strive to create/provide appropriate facilities through actioning recommendations in individual PPOSS documents e.g., through pitch quality improvements, alleviating overplay, securing tenure and securing community access to currently unavailable sites.
- ◀ To ensure demand is adequately re-located, carry out further consultation with affected clubs/teams/users to fully determine their requirements and to discuss potential options, supported by relevant NGBs if necessary.
- ◀ Seek funding to enable the relocation, where required, potentially via S106 contributions.
- ◀ Ensure access to provision that is currently used by exported demand is protected until it is no longer required.

2.3: Individual authority summaries

The above has been formulated using the findings from each of the individual authorities. As such, the key findings for each authority are summarised below to identify how the overarching summary has been developed, as well as to evidence any additional local authority specific issues and findings that will need to be addressed in addition to the Black Country wide approach.

Dudley

Football

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 176 grass football pitches across 94 sites, including 152 pitches available for community use across 75 sites.
- ◀ Lapsed/disused pitches are identified at eight sites, and nine council sites previously provided more pitches than they currently do.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, ten are assessed as good quality, 78 as standard and 64 as poor.
- ◀ A total of 413 teams from within 100 clubs are identified and there is a trend of significant growth in recent years.
- ◀ There are high levels of exported demand, with a large number of teams playing in neighbouring authorities due to a lack of pitch capacity and availability.
- ◀ There is a current and future shortfall of adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions, whilst minimal spare capacity exists on mini 5v5 pitches.

3G

- ◀ There are four full size 3G pitches, all of which are floodlit and available for community use.
- ◀ There are also 30 smaller sized 3G pitches across nine sites.
- ◀ One full size pitch (at Thorns Leisure Centre) is not FA accredited and it is poor quality having reached the end of its lifespan, whereas the remaining pitches are assessed as good quality and can be used competitively.
- ◀ One pitch (at the Dell Stadium) is World Rugby compliant, although it is not currently in use for this purpose.
- ◀ The existing 3G provision is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, with all current community activity being football-based.
- ◀ With 413 football teams, there is a calculated shortfall of 4.75 full size 3G pitches to meet training needs.
- ◀ When accounting for future demand for an additional 14 teams (based on population increases), the shortfall increases 5.25 pitches.
- ◀ No demand has been identified from other sports for access to 3G provision.

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Cricket

- ◀ In total, there are 12 grass cricket squares, with 11 available for community use.
- ◀ Six are considered to be good quality and the remaining six are standard quality; none are assessed as poor.
- ◀ There are non-turf wickets accompanying grass wicket squares at six sites and there are standalone non-turf wickets at nine sites.
- ◀ Six clubs report a demand for new, improved or additional training facilities.
- ◀ There are eight clubs which collectively provide 76 teams.
- ◀ Five clubs export demand to neighbouring local authorities, representing a substantial amount of exported demand.
- ◀ For senior cricket, both current and future shortfalls are evidenced on Saturdays and Sundays, whilst there is overall spare capacity during midweek for junior cricket.

Rugby union

- ◀ There are six sites containing a total of seven senior and three junior rugby union pitches, with two senior and one junior pitch available for community use.
- ◀ All of the pitches are school-based and each pitch is either standard or poor quality.
- ◀ Despite four clubs drawing players from the area, none have a need or a want to play within the Borough, meaning that there is no clear requirement for community available rugby union pitches.

Rugby league

- ◀ There are no rugby league pitches and no demand has been identified.
- ◀ Any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient enough for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel to form part of the clubs based in other, nearby authorities.

Hockey

- ◀ There is one full size hockey suitable AGP provided at Coseley Leisure Centre, and this is floodlit and available to the community.
- ◀ There are seven smaller size pitches, of which two (at Windsor High School & Sixth College and The Earls High School) are large enough for some form of hockey demand.
- ◀ Aspirations exist to convert the pitches at Coseley Leisure Centre and Windsor High School & Sixth Form College to 3G.
- ◀ The pitch at Coseley Leisure Centre is assessed as poor quality and is not known to have been resurfaced since it was installed in 2000, and the pitch at Windsor High School & Sixth Form College is also poor quality.
- ◀ There are no affiliated hockey clubs identified although Kingswinford, Old Halesonians and Dudley Ladies hockey previously played in the Borough.
- ◀ Dudley Ladies and Old Halesonians hockey clubs have a preference to return their demand to Dudley, whereas Kingswinford HC is considered to be a Birmingham-based club given how long it has played in the City for.
- ◀ Focus should be placed on ensuring that at least one suitable venue for hockey is provided, meaning there is either a need to improve the quality at Coseley Leisure Centre, or, if 3G proposals at the site are to go ahead, there is a requirement to develop a new full size sand-based AGP elsewhere.
- ◀ The creation of a second hockey-suitable AGP could also be sought to ensure that all future can be met within Dudley.

Tennis

- ◀ There are a total of 89 tennis courts identified across 28 sites, with 49 courts categorised as being available for community use at 17 sites.
- ◀ Of the courts, 24 are assessed as good quality, 29 as standard quality and 36 as poor quality.
- ◀ There are three tennis clubs.
- ◀ There is a shortfall of provision for club-based tennis, whilst quality is inadequate standard for informal play.

BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Netball

- ◀ There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts, with 87 identified across 60 sites; however, only 14 courts at five sites are available for community use.
- ◀ Six courts are assessed as good quality, 52 as standard quality and 29 as poor quality.
- ◀ Clubs form part of the Dudley Netball League, with all matches played at George Salter Academy, which is located in Sandwell (exported demand).
- ◀ The League would like to use a venue in the Borough to better accommodate its demand but no suitable venues currently exist.

Bowls

- ◀ There are 28 crown green bowls greens provided across 26 sites as well as one flat green (at Stevens Park (Wollescote)).
- ◀ There are also two disused greens (at Buffery Park and Gornal & Sedgley Labour Club).
- ◀ Overall, nine crown greens are assessed as good quality, 13 as standard quality and six as poor quality, whilst the flat green is assessed as standard.
- ◀ There are 23 crown green clubs using bowling greens and one flat green club.
- ◀ All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision and that no potential members are being turned away, suggesting that supply is sufficient to meet demand.

Cycling

- ◀ Manor Abbey Stadium provides a 400-metre cycling track.
- ◀ The track is of an overall adequate quality; however, resurfacing will be required in the near future as it reaches the end of its lifespan.
- ◀ High demand for cycling is identified, with three clubs in operation (Halesowen Cycling Club, Stourbridge Cycling Club and Stourbug) in addition to cycling initiatives.

Athletics

- ◀ There are two purpose-built athletics tracks (one at the Dell Stadium and one at Manor Abbey Stadium).
- ◀ Both tracks are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Eight clubs have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity.
- ◀ Supply is sufficient to meet demand but requires protection to ensure this remains the case.

Golf

- ◀ There are currently three golf sites collectively providing two standard hole courses, one 9-hole course and one driving range.
- ◀ Membership is higher than the national average.
- ◀ It is considered that there is a sufficient level of golf provision.

Water sports

- ◀ Dudley Water Sports Centre provides facilities that are compatible with a number of water sports and other water-related activities.
- ◀ Dudley Canal is also used for some water sport activities such as canoeing and kayaking, whilst Himley Hall has a lake that is frequently used for sailing.
- ◀ Dudley Water Sports Centre is home to numerous clubs, whilst Dudley Canal and Himley Hall also host activity.
- ◀ Through Dudley Water Centre, Dudley Canal and Himley Hall, supply is sufficient to meet demand.

Other grass pitch sports

- ◀ Black Country Vipers (American Football Club) accesses the 3G pitch at Stourbridge Rugby Club for its activity, which is sufficient.
- ◀ Stourbridge Titans Baseball Club is exported from the Borough.

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Sandwell

Football

- ◀ There are 171 grass football pitches across 70 sites, with 139 pitches available for community use across 48 sites.
- ◀ Lapsed/disused pitches are identified at five sites.
- ◀ Of the available pitches, five are assessed as good quality, 51 as standard and 83 as poor.
- ◀ A total of 348 teams from within 115 clubs are identified.
- ◀ There are high levels of exported demand identified, with a large number of clubs and teams playing in neighbouring authorities due to a lack of pitch capacity and availability within the Borough.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions, whilst minimal capacity exists on mini 5v5 pitches.
- ◀ When incorporating future demand, shortfalls are predicted to worsen on adult and youth 11v11 pitches.

3G

- ◀ There are six outdoor full size 3G pitches, all of which are floodlit and four of which are available for community use.
- ◀ There is also a full size indoor pitch (at West Bromwich Albion FC Academy), although this is also unavailable for community use.
- ◀ There are also 13 smaller sized 3G pitches across six sites, all of which are available for community use and floodlit.
- ◀ Four of the six full size pitches are on the FA register for match play (pitches at Sandwell Academy and West Bromwich Albion FC Academy are not), whereas none are World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ All of the full size pitches are good or standard quality and within their recommended lifespans.
- ◀ The existing community available 3G provision is reported to be operating at or close to capacity, especially at peak times, with all current community activity identified as being football-based.
- ◀ There is a calculated current and future deficit of 4.5 full size 3G pitches to meet football training needs.

Cricket

- ◀ There are six grass cricket squares, with all six available for community use.
- ◀ Numerous others sites previously provided grass wicket squares, including council parks.
- ◀ There is one accompanying non-turf wicket and 15 standalone non-turf wickets at 14 sites.
- ◀ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares found five to be good quality and the remaining one to be standard quality; none are assessed as poor.
- ◀ Four clubs report a demand for new, improved or additional training facilities.
- ◀ There are five clubs which collectively provide 40 teams.
- ◀ Two clubs (Old Hill CC and Smethwick CC) export demand to sites in Birmingham, whilst one club (Coseley CC) imports demand.
- ◀ There is a shortfall for Saturday and midweek cricket, whilst spare capacity exists on Sundays.

Rugby union

- ◀ There are seven sites containing the same number of pitches, all of which are senior although only four are available for community use.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, one is assessed as good quality and two as poor.
- ◀ Two community rugby union clubs are identified; Warley RUFC and Wednesbury RUFC.
- ◀ There is overall spare capacity on rugby union pitches in Sandwell, although a localised shortfall exists for Wednesbury RUFC.

Rugby league

- ◀ There are no rugby league pitches and no demand has been identified.

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- Any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient enough for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel to form part of the clubs based in other, nearby authorities.

Hockey

- There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs (at Ormiston Forge Academy and Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy).
- Both pitches are available for community use; however, the pitch at Ormiston Forge Academy is without floodlighting.
- The pitch at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy is assessed as poor quality.
- Old Halesonians HC is the only hockey club playing in the Borough, although the Club previously played in Dudley and considers this to be its home authority (imported demand).
- Both Wednesbury HC and West Bromwich HC export demand.
- There is a requirement for two hockey suitable AGPs, which is not currently being met due to quality and floodlighting issues at Ormiston Forge Academy.

Tennis

- There are a total of 57 tennis courts identified across 18 sites, with 35 courts categorised as being available for community use at 12 sites.
- Eight courts are assessed as good quality, 32 as standard quality and 17 as poor quality.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding development plans at Tipton Sports Academy, whilst the Council is also working with the LTA on a potential parks development project for 2022.
- There are two tennis clubs; Old Hill TC and Wednesbury TC.
- Club-based demand is being met, although improvements are required to satisfy informal play.

Netball

- There are 62 courts identified across 24 sites, with 27 courts available for community use.
- There are 20 courts assessed as good quality, 29 as standard quality and 13 as poor quality.
- The courts at George Salter Academy and Phoenix Collegiate are accessed by the Dudley Netball League and the Walsall Netball League, respectively.
- Both leagues import demand and the Dudley Netball League has a preference to relocate to its home authority (Dudley).
- Supply meets demand, with a large number of community available netball courts provided and with a good number of these being dedicated to netball.

Bowls

- There are 18 crown green bowls greens provided across 17 sites.
- Three disused greens have also been identified, whilst the green at Cradley Sports & Social Club is at risk to development.
- In total, 17 greens are assessed as good quality and one is standard quality.
- There are 16 clubs.
- All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision, suggesting that supply is sufficient to meet demand.

Cycling

- Sandwell Valley Country Park features a range of surfaced and unsurfaced cycling tracks as well as a mountain bike trail and a pump track.
- Two national cycling routes run are evident; Route 5 (from Reading to North Wales) and Route 81 (from Aberystwyth to Wolverhampton).
- Cycling is also encouraged along canal towpaths throughout the Borough.
- There are four prominent cycling clubs, although none are currently affiliated.

Athletics

- There are four purpose-built athletics tracks (at Hadley Stadium, Phoenix Collegiate, Sandwell Academy and Tipton Sports Academy).

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- ◀ The track at Hadley Stadium is also assessed as poor quality and is no longer useable.
- ◀ Five clubs have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity.
- ◀ Given how well provided for the Borough is, the track at Hadley Stadium is deemed surplus to requirements in its current form.

Golf

- ◀ There are currently five golf sites.
- ◀ In addition, there is disused provision at Brandhall Golf Club, which previously provided an 18-hole course but did not re-open following initial Covid-19 restrictions.
- ◀ Across the sites there are two 18-hole courses, three 9-hole courses and a driving range.
- ◀ Overall, clubs operating a membership scheme are below the national membership average, suggesting that provision is well placed to meet demand.

Water sports

- ◀ Swan Pool provides facilities that are compatible with a number of water sports and other water-related activities and it is home to several clubs.
- ◀ Through Swan Pool, supply is sufficient to meet demand.

Other grass pitch sports

- ◀ Sandwell Steelers American Football Club has to split its activity across numerous venues, with no dedicated provision existing.

Walsall

Football

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 179 grass football pitches across 60 sites, including 145 pitches available for community use across 48 sites.
- ◀ Lapsed/disused pitches are identified at four sites.
- ◀ Of the available pitches, nine are assessed good quality, 89 as standard and 48 as poor.
- ◀ A total of 446 teams are evidenced, with a general trend of growth in recent years.
- ◀ Dudley Town FC (Step 6) imports demand as its requirements cannot be met in Dudley.
- ◀ There are shortfalls for youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 football, whilst adult, youth 9v9, and mini 5v5 pitches all provide current and future spare capacity.

3G

- ◀ There are nine full size 3G pitches, of which all are floodlit and available for community use.
- ◀ There are also 22 smaller sized 3G pitches across five sites.
- ◀ Six full size pitches are on the FA register and one pitch is World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ All full-size pitches are good or standard quality and within their life expectancy.
- ◀ The existing 3G provision is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times.
- ◀ With 446 football teams currently playing, there is a calculated shortfall of 2.75 full size 3G pitches to meet training needs, increasing to 3.5 pitches when factoring in future demand.
- ◀ The creation of additional full size 3G pitches that are World Rugby compliant in strategically viable locations would also relieve pressure on rugby union grass pitches.

Cricket

- ◀ In total, there are 13 grass cricket squares, all of which are available to the community.
- ◀ Five are assessed as good quality and eight are assessed as standard quality (none are assessed as poor quality).
- ◀ There are non-turf wickets accompanying grass wicket squares at five sites and there are 10 standalone non-turf wickets at nine sites.
- ◀ There are eight affiliated clubs which collectively provide 54 teams.
- ◀ One club (Streetly CC) exports some demand (into Lichfield).
- ◀ Demand for senior cricket is currently being met; however, a future shortfall is evident in regards to Saturday cricket.

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- It is expected that junior cricket will be able to be satisfied taking into account both current and future demand.

Rugby union

- There are 16 sites containing a total of 25 senior and one mini rugby union pitches, of which 14 senior and the mini pitch is available for community use across eight sites.
- There are 12 senior pitches assessed as standard quality and 14 as poor quality (none are assessed as good quality).
- There are five rugby clubs providing 43 teams.
- There is currently an insufficient supply of provision for rugby union to accommodate existing demand.

Rugby league

- There are no rugby league pitches and no demand has been identified.
- Any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient enough for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel to form part of the clubs based in other, nearby authorities

Hockey

- There are four full size hockey suitable AGPs, all of which are available to the community and floodlit.
- Two pitches (at Sneyd Community Association and Willenhall E-Act Academy) are assessed as poor quality and have considerably exceeded their expected lifespans.
- Five hockey clubs consist of 34 teams.
- To ensure supply can meet demand, all four full size pitches are required.

Tennis

- There are a total of 63 tennis courts identified across 20 sites, with 41 courts categorised as being available for community use at 13 sites.
- Of the courts, two are assessed as good quality, 48 as standard quality and 13 as poor quality.
- There are three tennis clubs.
- For club-based tennis demand to be met, Walsall TC requires a dedicated home venue with a sufficient number of courts.
- For non-club activity, quality improvements are required to better cater for informal and recreational play.

Netball

- There is a total of 60 netball courts identified across 17 sites, with 13 courts at five sites are available for community use.
- All 60 of the courts are over marked by other sports provision and only seven of the courts are serviced by floodlighting
- Of the community available courts, there are none rated as good quality, 13 rated as standard and two as poor.
- Given that the Walsall Netball League exports to a central venue in Sandwell and given that this is its preference, there is no clear requirement for a club/league facility to be provided in Walsall.

Bowls

- There are 29 crown green bowls greens provided across 28 sites.
- Overall, 26 greens are assessed as good quality and three as standard quality (none are assessed as poor quality).
- There are 26 clubs using bowling greens.
- One club indicates a need for access to an additional green (this being Willenhall Nordley BC).
- Supply is deemed to be sufficient for all remaining clubs.

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Cycling

- ◀ There are no purpose built cycling facilities identified in the area.
- ◀ There are two British Cycling affiliated clubs (Pelsall Social Cycling Club and Walsall Road Cycling Club), both of which use the road network for activity.

Athletics

- ◀ There is one purpose-built athletics track, provided at the University of Wolverhampton (Walsall Campus).
- ◀ The track is standard quality with resurfacing required in the near future.
- ◀ Four clubs have been identified that have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity, with none of these having a requirement for a purpose-built facility.
- ◀ The supply of dedicated athletics facilities is sufficient to meet demand, although quality improvements may be required in the near future.

Golf

- ◀ There are currently seven golf sites, collectively providing six standard hole courses, one par 3 course and two driving ranges.
- ◀ All but one of the clubs is operating above the national average for membership, although none of the clubs have a significantly low base.
- ◀ As no clubs have a significantly low membership and as levels have recently increased, it is apparent that each venue is required.

Water sports

- ◀ Chasewater Water Sports Centre provides facilities that are compatible with a number of water sports and other water-related activities.
- ◀ In addition, Sneyd Water Activity Centre is also used for some water sport activities such as canoeing and power boating, whilst The Swag is a reservoir frequently used for sailing.
- ◀ Aldridge Marina also caters for canoeing.
- ◀ Numerous clubs are identified (Aldridge Sailing Club, Chase Sailing Club and Pier 52).
- ◀ The Borough is particularly well catered for when it comes to outdoor water sports given that it is not a coastal authority and this is sufficient to meet demand.

Other grass pitch sports

- ◀ No supply or demand for other sports is identified, although informal activity may take place.

Wolverhampton

Football

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 203 grass football pitches across 106 sites, including 137 pitches available for community use across 58 sites.
- ◀ Lapsed/disused pitches are identified at six sites.
- ◀ 15 community available pitches are assessed as good quality, 65 as standard and 57 as poor.
- ◀ 253 teams from within 87 clubs are identified, with a recent trend of significant growth.
- ◀ There are high levels of imported and exported demand, with a large number of teams playing in neighbouring authorities.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of adult match equivalent sessions, whilst some capacity exists on youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- ◀ After factoring in future demand, shortfalls on adult pitches are exacerbated and a shortfall emerges on youth 11v11 pitches.

3G

- ◀ There are four full size 3G pitches, of which all are floodlit.

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- ◀ Two pitches are available for community use (at City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy) and two are not (at Heath Park School and Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground).
- ◀ There are also eight smaller sized 3G pitches across six sites.
- ◀ The community available full size 3G pitches are currently FA approved and can therefore host competitive matches.
- ◀ The pitch at the City of Wolverhampton College is at the end of its lifespan and is therefore assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ The existing 3G provision is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, with all current community activity being football-based.
- ◀ With 253 football teams currently playing, there is a shortfall of 3.5 full size 3G pitches to meet training needs, increasing to 4.5 pitches when factoring in future demand.
- ◀ No demand has been identified from other sports for access to 3G provision.

Cricket

- ◀ In total, there are 13 grass cricket squares, with 11 available for community use.
- ◀ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares identifies five as good quality, seven as standard quality and one as poor quality (at Claregate Park).
- ◀ There are non-turf wickets accompanying grass wicket squares at five sites and there are standalone non-turf wickets at 15.
- ◀ Four clubs report a demand for new, improved, or additional training facilities.
- ◀ There are eight clubs identified, collectively providing 61 teams.
- ◀ There is both a current and future shortfall of provision to accommodate Saturday cricket, whereas spare capacity exists in relation to Sunday and midweek cricket.

Rugby union

- ◀ There are four school sites providing rugby union pitches, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ Each pitch is assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Wolverhampton RUFC are based just over the border, in South Staffordshire, but are considered to be a Wolverhampton club.
- ◀ The Club has a shortfall of provision.

Rugby league

- ◀ There are no rugby league pitches and no demand has been identified.
- ◀ Any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient enough for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel to form part of the clubs based in other, nearby authorities.

Hockey

- ◀ There are five full size hockey suitable AGP's, all of which are floodlit and available to the community.
- ◀ All pitches are good or standard quality.
- ◀ There are four affiliated hockey clubs identified (Dudley Ladies, Wolverhampton, Finchfield and Old Wulfrunians hockey clubs).
- ◀ Dudley Ladies HC previously accessed The Dell Stadium, in Dudley, before its conversion to 3G in 2016 (imported demand).
- ◀ Current supply of AGP's within Wolverhampton can accommodate the existing demand for hockey within the City but there is a need for all of the existing pitches to be protected.

Tennis

- ◀ There are 125 tennis courts identified across 28 sites, with 74 courts available at 17 sites.
- ◀ Of the courts, 51 are assessed as good quality, 51 as standard quality and 26 as poor quality.
- ◀ There are six tennis clubs.

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- ◀ Supply is sufficient to meet demand for clubs.
- ◀ For non-club activity, quality improvements are required to better cater for play.

Netball

- ◀ There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts, with 69 identified across 19 sites; however, only 35 courts at 10 sites are available for community use.
- ◀ Of the available courts, 15 are rated as good quality, 20 as standard and none as poor.
- ◀ The Wolverhampton Netball League uses WV Active Aldersley as a central venue.
- ◀ The supply of netball courts is considered to be sufficient to meet demand.

Bowls

- ◀ There are 21 crown green bowls greens provided across 18 sites.
- ◀ There are also four disused greens identified.
- ◀ Overall, 17 greens are assessed as good quality, two as standard and two as poor.
- ◀ There are 17 clubs using bowling greens.
- ◀ All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision, suggesting that supply is sufficient to meet demand.

Cycling

- ◀ There are two cycle speedway tracks, one asphalt track and two pump tracks.
- ◀ There are several local clubs, with membership relatively high.
- ◀ Supply is sufficient to meet demand provided that it is protected.

Athletics

- ◀ There are two purpose-built athletics tracks, a 400-metre track WV Active Aldersley and a 200-metre track at The King's Church of England School.
- ◀ Four clubs as well as a few programmes have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity, although only one has a requirement for a purpose-built facility.
- ◀ The supply of dedicated athletics facilities is sufficient to meet demand.

Golf

- ◀ There are seven golf sites, collectively providing seven courses and four driving ranges.
- ◀ All but one club (Wergs Golf Club) operate above the national membership average.
- ◀ Supply of golf provision is relatively high and well varied, although each site is required to continue to meet demand.

Water sports

- ◀ Staffordshire and Worcester Canal provides facilities that are compatible with water sports.
- ◀ Despite not having a large outdoor water sports facility like that provided elsewhere within the Black County, the City still has three clubs participating.

Other grass pitch sports

- ◀ Wolverhampton Baseball Club accesses a diamond at Colton Hill High School and the site also accommodates Stourbridge Titans Baseball Club (imported demand).
- ◀ St Mary's Gaelic Football Club uses an overmarked and undersized football pitch at Aldersley High School, with aspirations existing for a dedicated venue to be provided.

BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

PART 3: OVERARCHING SPORT-BY-SPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand the potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against key issues for each outdoor sport, resulting in sport specific recommendations. These scenarios can be seen in the individual strategies for each local authority.

The recommendations within the individual strategy documents have now, where appropriate, been applied across the Black Country area to enable a joined-up approach to addressing key issues identified. These are identified below. The Steering Group should look to implement these on a Black Country-wide basis to enable joint working on strategic and cross-boundary issues and for efficiency purposes.

Implementation of these recommendations and actions are discussed further in the delivery section of this report (Part 6).

Football

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches, including lapsed and disused provision, until all demand is being met (unless replacement provision meets Sport England requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure they are of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Use the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) as a guide to determine suitable sites for grass pitch investment and update the priority projects within it following this study.
- ◀ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Consider pitch re-configuration where capacity of one pitch type can be used to reduce shortfalls of another, and where it can better accommodate what demand is received.
- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity (or 3G provision), or to sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Consider bringing lapsed/disused sites back into use as well as pitches that were previously marked out at sites still in use.
- ◀ Work to accommodate latent and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Seek a resolution to identified exported/imported demand, particularly where evidenced between the four Black Country authorities.
- ◀ Look to secure tenure for those clubs accessing unsecure sites.
- ◀ Seek to gain access to sites not currently available for community use, particularly where a large number of pitches are provided.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision and/or off-side contributions through master planning on an individual basis.

3G

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Resurface pitches that have reached the end of their lifespans and ensure a sinking fund is in place for all pitches so that refurbishment can take place when required.

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- ◀ To alleviate identified competitive and training demand shortfalls, look to create additional 3G pitches, focusing on strategic locations (see Figure 2.1).
- ◀ Where shortfalls exist in sub areas close to local authority boundary areas, ensure the relevant councils work together to focus on sites that can meet cross-border needs, minimise the pitch requirements and ensure an unsustainable oversupply is not created.
- ◀ Ensure, where possible, that any existing and new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches and ensure all pitches are FA tested (and re-tested every three years) so that they can accommodate competitive fixtures.
- ◀ For World Rugby compliant pitches, ensure re-resting every two years to ensure they remain accredited.
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards.
- ◀ Ensure, where possible, that any new 3G pitches are priced competitively against the cost of hiring a grass pitch and are aimed at local grassroots clubs; this can be achieved when pitches are established through external funding by adding appropriate terms and conditions to the funding agreement.

Cricket

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Improve quality at sites assessed as poor or standard and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Address overplay via quality improvements, an increase in NTPs accompanying grass wickets and increased utilisation of existing NTPs.
- ◀ Consider bringing lapsed/disused squares back into use, where identified, as another means of reducing shortfalls.
- ◀ If overplay cannot be alleviated through the abovementioned methods, explore the feasibility of creating new cricket squares, particularly if future growth aspirations are realised.
- ◀ Seek a resolution to identified exported/imported demand, particularly where evidenced between the four Black Country authorities.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place.
- ◀ Improve the changing facilities where there is a need to do so.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities.
- ◀ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision and/or off-side contributions through master planning on an individual basis.

Rugby union

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems.
- ◀ Where possible, install additional floodlighting to allow training demand to be dispersed and to create further capacity.
- ◀ Explore the potential creation of additional World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in strategic locations and where sufficient demand can be evidenced.
- ◀ Seek a resolution to identified exported/imported demand, particularly where evidenced between the four Black Country authorities.
- ◀ Support aspirations for ancillary facility enhancements where improvements are required.

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- ◀ Ensure that any housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision and/or off-side contributions through master planning on an individual basis.

Rugby league - grass pitches

- ◀ Ensure any future rugby league activity is signposted to clubs in neighbouring authorities so that demand can be met.

Hockey (sand/water-based AGPs)

- ◀ Protect existing sand-based pitches that are in current use for hockey, unless it can be evidenced that demand can be accommodated without the pitch in question (or unless replacement provision is secured).
- ◀ To improve the capacity of the existing pitch stock, explore the installation of floodlighting where it is not currently provided and the extension of opening hours where availability is currently limited.
- ◀ Create additional pitches where demand is not being met and as a resolution to returning exported activity (i.e., to Dudley and Sandwell).
- ◀ Resurface pitches that have reached the end of their lifespans and ensure a sinking fund is in place for all pitches so that refurbishment can take place when required.
- ◀ Ensure, where possible, security of tenure is provided to all clubs.
- ◀ Improve the ancillary offer supporting pitches where it is required.
- ◀ Consult England Hockey regarding any proposals for the development of new 3G pitches or proposed conversions to 3G to ensure a sufficient supply of hockey provision remains and that it will still be sustainable.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision and/or off-side contributions through master planning on an individual basis.

Tennis

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Seek to improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs or that are (or could be) well used for recreational demand.
- ◀ Seek to improve park provision as a priority to create a year-round recreational tennis option to meet local demand, especially at sites with multiple courts.
- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark) to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers, where possible, for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Explore installation of additional floodlighting at club-based venues, particularly at sites operating above the capacity guidance.
- ◀ Provide additional court space for clubs operating above the capacity guidance, potentially via better utilisation of existing provision.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision, where it is required.

Netball

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Seek to improve poor quality courts quality through resurfacing and/or improved maintenance.

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- ◀ Seek a resolution to demand that is exported and that wants to return by identifying and securing access to provision within home authorities.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to gain access to sites not currently available for community use, especially where multiple courts are provided and where demand is not being met.
- ◀ Facilitate improved engagement between England Netball and schools.
- ◀ Look to continue and expand the use of courts for England Netball initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball.

Bowls

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of greens where demand is being met.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to provide clubs operating above the capacity guidance with access to additional green space, where such demand exists.
- ◀ Monitor clubs operating below the capacity guidance to ensure they remain sustainable and provide support to clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.
- ◀ Seek to improve poor and standard quality greens.
- ◀ Support clubs to improve ancillary facility quality where it is required.
- ◀ Where clubs are facing capacity pressures, retain any unused/disused greens in the locality as strategic reserve should they be required and ensure that any potential development of unused or disused greens is mitigated in line with planning policy.

Cycling

- ◀ Protect existing stock of purpose-built facilities.
- ◀ Work to deliver recommendations identified in the British Cycling 2022 Commonwealth Games Needs Assessment.
- ◀ Pursue quality improvements where required through track resurfacing and/or improved maintenance.
- ◀ Seek to improve ancillary facilities supporting the provision where there is a need to do so.
- ◀ Explore creation of additional facilities, or the re-instatement of old facilities, if it is determined that demand would be sufficient.
- ◀ Improve public transport and road links to provision, where necessary.
- ◀ Look to continue and expand British Cycling programmes such as HSBC UK Go-Ride and HSBC UK Breeze.

Athletics

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of tracks that remain in use.
- ◀ Where sufficient usage is not being received, consider re-purposing the provision whilst exploring the development of innovative athletics facilities as part of this (i.e., at Hadley Stadium).
- ◀ Seek to improve provision through resurfacing when it is required and via enhanced maintenance.
- ◀ Support providers to retain or gain TrackMark status.
- ◀ Support clubs, running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Park Run and pursue increased participation, where possible.
- ◀ Continue to increase participation both within affiliated clubs and the wider running market, signposting potential club members from the likes of Parkrun events and other health initiatives.

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Golf

- ◀ Retain all existing golf provision unless separate needs assessments are completed that evidence that a facility can be lost, reduced or mitigated without it impacting upon demand.
- ◀ Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.

Water sports

- ◀ Seek to ensure that existing provision is retained and supporting facilities remain of sufficient quality.
- ◀ Support clubs to maximise demand and fully utilise the unique facilities offered.

Other grass pitch sports (American football, baseball/softball, Gaelic football)

- ◀ Protect existing provision is retained for continued use.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to provide dedicated provision where required.
- ◀ Seek resolution to exported demand.

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PART 4: OVERARCHING STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations have been developed via a combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis, which culminated in the production of the individual assessment reports and the individual strategies. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed across the Black Country and apply across all outdoor sports facilities, rather than being specific to one sport.

The recommendations all fall under three broad aims, shown below, which in turn are based on the Sport England themes of protect, enhance and provide. Whilst the same recommendations apply to each authority, the scale to which they need to be acted upon and the steps required to achieve them may differ. As such, for further guidance, please refer to the individual strategy documents, which set out more specific direction.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

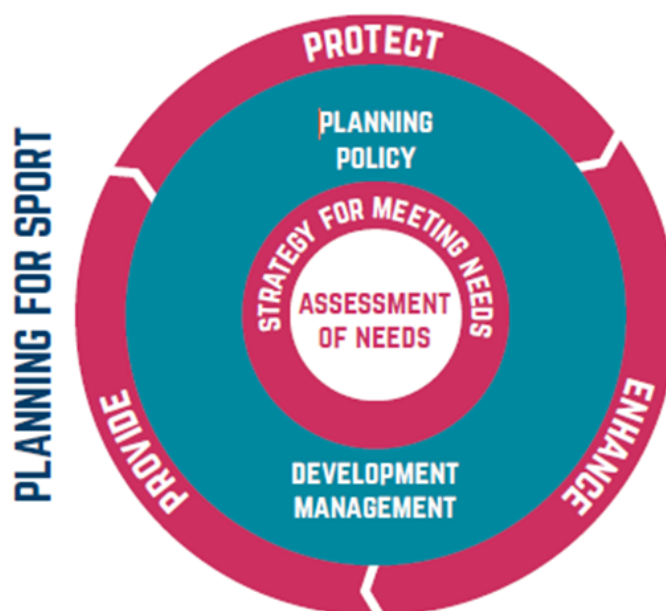
AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Figure 3.1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (June 2019)

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AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The individual PPOSS assessment reports show that in each local authority, all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome, including lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites. There is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders. NPPF paragraph 99 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ 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; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

Existing policies in the Black Country Core Strategy and individual 'Black Country Authorities' Local Plans also support the protection of playing fields and outdoor sports facilities. The PPOSS should be used to help inform the implementation of these policies and inform the development of replacement policies. It should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new provision and accompanying ancillary facilities, with all applications to be assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors alongside national guidance and local planning policy.

In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of sports facilities that been active within the last five years and will use the PPOSS to help assess that planning application against its planning policy. Sport England will oppose the loss of provision unless it complies with one of more of the following policy exceptions:

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Policy Exception E1:

'A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport'. Where a PPOSS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

Policy Exception E2

'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use'.

Policy Exception E3

The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- ◀ Reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- ◀ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
- ◀ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality;
- ◀ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- ◀ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site'.

Policy Exception E4:

'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

- ◀ of equivalent or better quality and
- ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity;
- ◀ in a suitable location and;
- ◀ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

Policy Exception E5

'The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field'.

Notwithstanding the above, there may be instances where the loss of provision can be supported and seen as a positive development, in line with the NPPF, local planning policy and Sport England's policy exceptions. For example, it may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value sites (i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger and better venues (hub sites). It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost.

There may also be instances where re-purposing provision can be supported. For example, a site may be unused and not required for its current sporting purpose but could help overcome identified shortfalls for other sports by converting the facilities that are provided.

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Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.

A number of sites across the Black Country provide playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities but either do not provide community access or do so in an unsecure manner. As a result, any capacity at these sites is discounted as long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Securing community access

A number of education sites are being used across the local authorities for competitive play. In some cases, such use has been classified as secure; however, this is commonly not the case, which presents a risk for users as access could technically be terminated at any time. Securing community use at such sites will therefore help to create additional capacity and could help to address deficiencies.

For education sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as Active Black Country and the Football Foundation can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of any agreement.

Some non-education sites are also without security of tenure, such as venues that are operated privately or commercially, or that have development proposals in place. Providers of these sites should also be engaged to understand if a secure usage agreement can be implemented to safeguard access. Where this is not possible, users should be encouraged to transfer demand to alternative sites, at which point additional work may be required to ensure such demand can be catered for.

Alternative management models

To further improve security of tenure, the councils should also explore possible alternative options for the future management of some sites within their portfolios, including lease arrangements or community asset transfer. Potential benefits of these include reducing costs, which may allow for the retention and possible improvement of other retained sites, as well as potentially opening up new routes to the improvement of sites and access to external funding opportunities through club-led management models.

Local sports clubs that may be suitable to take on the operation of a site should be supported by partners to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported and clubs should be encouraged to develop evidence of business and sports development plans that can generate income via their facilities.

In light of local authority budget constraints, it is increasingly important for the councils to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, they should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

Long-term leasehold

Where lease arrangements are sought, agreements should be for a minimum of 25 years, as recommended by Sport England and NGBs, so clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality sites, possibly with inadequate ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

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For clubs with leaseholds already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping clubs attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to meet conditions of grants funded by external partners.

Community Asset Transfer

This is the transfer of management and/or ownership of public land and buildings from its owner (usually a local authority) to a community organisation (such as a Development Trust, a Community Interest Company or a social enterprise) for less than market value, to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

Community based organisations are often much more effective at engaging people than other types of organisations because they are close to and directly accountable to their community. They can mobilise a lot of volunteer time and energy, whilst delivering services that make them more inclusive and responsible than state run examples. Asset transfer can, for example:

- ◀ Help local authorities meet policy objectives.
- ◀ Make better use of underused assets.
- ◀ Open and increase opportunities for clubs/organisations to access grant funding for which local authorities cannot apply.
- ◀ Open opportunities to revenue generation and greater self-dependence.
- ◀ Improve assets through increased time and resource (both financial and volunteer) than what the local authority may be able to contribute.
- ◀ Reduce costs to the local authority and protection against further budgetary cuts.
- ◀ Give sports clubs and community organisations more security and sustainability and help transition clubs away from being funding dependent.
- ◀ Enable people to protect the assets in their communities – including iconic heritage buildings and open spaces.
- ◀ Involve people in designing and running the services from which they benefit.
- ◀ Be a catalyst for getting people more involved as volunteers.
- ◀ Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets.

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process should this be an option for the Council to consider. It can be accessed via: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/community-assets-and-rights>

Asset transfer policy

The PPOSS should help inform each policy on asset transfer (whether via leasehold or community asset transfer).

Each club or organisation interested in acquiring a site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability. The following table highlights some recommended criteria, as a starting point, that can be used to determine suitability.

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Table 4.1: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

Criteria
Based within the local authority area, in communities closest to the facility
Hold current NGB affiliation for their sport(s) – e.g., England Football Accreditation.
Hold a current 'ClubMark' or equivalent quality accreditation which includes governance, equality and diversity and safeguarding
Provide a clear pathway for the development of children, young people and adults
Able to demonstrate an inclusive approach to all members of the wider community and to benefit as wide and diverse a range of local people as possible
Have the appropriate skillset and depth of volunteers/members required to make self-management sustainable
Have fit-for-purpose governance to manage an asset
Due diligence is carried out through reviewing business and development plans or other appropriate documents and assessing financial viability/sustainability to manage the asset.
Need to be a legal entity - usually in the form of a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, society, Charitable Incorporated Organisation or Community Interest Company - that exists to deliver social, economic, or environmental benefit to the Borough and can demonstrate community benefit objectives with surpluses/profits reinvested back into the community to further their aims.

Linked to the above, the councils could establish core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on management duties to ensure that the most appropriate are assigned sites. Outcomes may, for example, include:

- ◀ Increasing participation.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or at minimum retaining existing standards.

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering taking on provision within multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the sites, to some degree, remain available for other purposes or for other users.

Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for school provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

To maximise community use, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools and higher/further education sites is recommended. Across the Black Country, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from schools to open up provision is also an issue, especially at private schools and academies.

Where poor quality is preventing access, remedial works may be required before community use can be established. The low carrying capacity of these facilities sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

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Although there are a growing number of academies over which local authorities have little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

As detailed earlier, the NGBs, as well as Active Black Country and Sport England, can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive funding in the future (e.g., to improve quality) as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

As a priority, community use options should firstly be explored at large schools offering numerous pitches as securing access to these will significantly reduce grass pitch shortfalls throughout the local authorities that they are based within. For schools that form part of multi-academy trusts, these should be addressed on a collective basis, with securing community access a co-ordinated approach between the schools and relevant stakeholders. Consideration should be given to a centralised booking system for community use of such facilities to minimise administration and make access easier for the users.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the impact. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 and/or youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as courts that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity.

AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sports provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

Recommendations:

- d. Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- g. Secure developer contributions.

Recommendation (d) - Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of councils face reducing budgets, it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g., the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest).

With such pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging and direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via asset transfer or clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

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Addressing quality issues

Quality across the Black Country is variable but generally most pitches are assessed as poor or standard quality. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality sites is also essential.

Based upon an achievable target, using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard. For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer facilities tend to become, especially if no drainage systems are in place or if existing drainage systems are inadequate. This also means that quality can vary, year on year, dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall, which in turn means that maintenance might need to increase at specific times.

If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites (thus reducing capacity issues).

In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised, especially by adults and female users who have more of a requirement. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies to women's and girls' demand.

For football, The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across England. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The tool is available across mobile apps and desktop and is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund.

For cricket and the ECB, the equivalent is the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme, which is jointly funded by the ECB, FA, Football Foundation and the GMA. Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots sports clubs across England and Wales.

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Specifically for tennis, the LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities. The LTA is working with the Council to access the funding for improvements in Dudley.

For the improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces: www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).

The FA, RFU, RFL, ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

Table 4.2: Capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		
Hockey	Full size AGP	4 per day	4 per day	4 per day

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a floodlit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). For bowls, a green is considered at capacity if it has over 80 members, whilst a membership of under 20 could be unsustainable.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity or, where possible, quality should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ on existing squares.

For rugby union, additional floodlighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative, as is the installation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality but are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality was improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites across the Black Country. Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and female sport should be prioritised for improvements, with further focused placed on multi-pitch and multi-sport sites where demand tends to be highest.

The above is not to say that other sites do not require improvement, although there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision. Where this is the case, emphasis should be placed more on ensuring that suitable male and female toilet provision is provided.

Recommendation (e) – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites

To allow for facility developments to be prioritised and programmed on a phased basis, the councils should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. This hierarchy is set out for each authority in its individual Strategy document and its individual action plan.

Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

It should be ensured that the funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities (as provided by the PPOSS). To ensure that this is the case, a co-ordinated approach to strategic investment is required and the councils should, thus, maintain regular dialogue with local partners through the PPOSS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the councils directly, it is important that the Steering Group directs and leads a co-ordinated approach to facility development whether made at/by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to ensure that the extent to which it addresses community need is optimised and duplication is avoided.

One of sport's key contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on people's lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions

It is important that the PPOSS informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing new and improved sport and recreational facilities through new housing development. Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable this to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations.
- ◀ Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs).
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and, where relevant, associated car parking should be located on site and locations should be sought which are accessibly via public transport and active travel modes.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

For playing pitches, it is recommended that the councils use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality. This should form part of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sports pitch type and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport. That percentage is then applied to the population growth. The additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions and associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) then given. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused. The preference is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future AGP development.

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In addition, consideration also needs to be given to access to a site where new outdoor sports provision is to be established. This includes ensuring appropriate and sufficient access by car, such as through ensuring a large enough car park is provided, as well as access by public transport and through active travel modes (e.g., walking and cycling). It is imperative that the provision is accessible to all and this also includes the access road, which should be suitable for all users, regardless of their travel preferences.

The guidance provided by the Playing Pitch Calculator should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate provision and subsequent maintenance (lifecycle costs). S106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition of pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

Where S106 contributions are provided, the Black Country authorities should look to pool together the funds, where necessary, to deliver facility improvements that can help address key issues. This is particularly the case for large-scale developments that will have an impact on more than the local authority in which it is based. Furthermore, where major developments are in locations that have implications for more than one local authority, such as new settlements, urban extensions and cross-boundary developments, a sports facility masterplan should be developed. This should strategically consider the effects of both existing outdoor sports provision within all affected authorities and what new provision is required, with input from the PPOSS Steering Group key.

As well as considering needs across the Black Country authorities, recognition should also be given to other neighbouring authorities, especially where there is already significant evidence of cross-border supply and demand activity. An example of this is the relationship between Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire.

To further assist with identifying investment opportunities, additional analysis should be undertaken in regards to major housing sites to show the spatial relationship between the proposed developments and major opportunities for new provision and facility improvements at existing sites for each relevant sport. This can be achieved via using the action plans within the individual PPOSS reports to identify sites in need of investment, mapping these against housing growth sites to help determine those most suitable to receive associated investment.

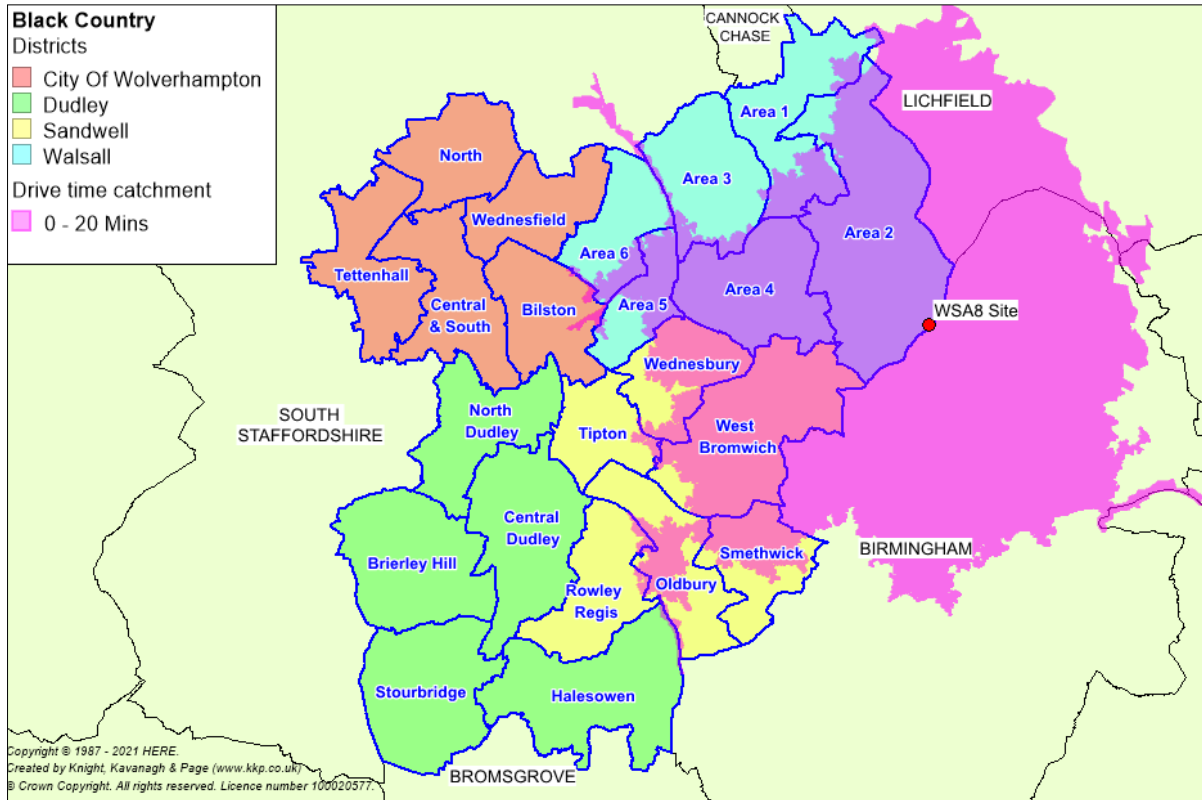
The above modelling will not only further help understand where investment should be directed, but it can in turn help secure contributions and provide evidence for securing funds for analysis areas that are different, but close by, to where the developments are located (including, where considered appropriate/necessary, cross-boundary areas). This is because some priority sites for investment may sit outside of an analysis area that is subject to the housing growth but that are still well placed to cater for the increased demand due to their location and importance.

Sport England often advises the use of a 20-minute drive time catchment area, recognising that sports teams and users do not necessarily acknowledge local authority boundary lines. Via Active Places, it also provides a Catchment Profile tool that can aid the mapping and site selection process.

An example of the process that can be undertaken is shown below, using a proposed housing allocation from Walsall (WSA8). A 20-minute drive time catchment from this site encompasses several analysis areas in the Black Country (as well as in Lichfield and Birmingham), not only covering Walsall but also Sandwell, in addition to a small area of Wolverhampton. This is evidenced in the figure below.

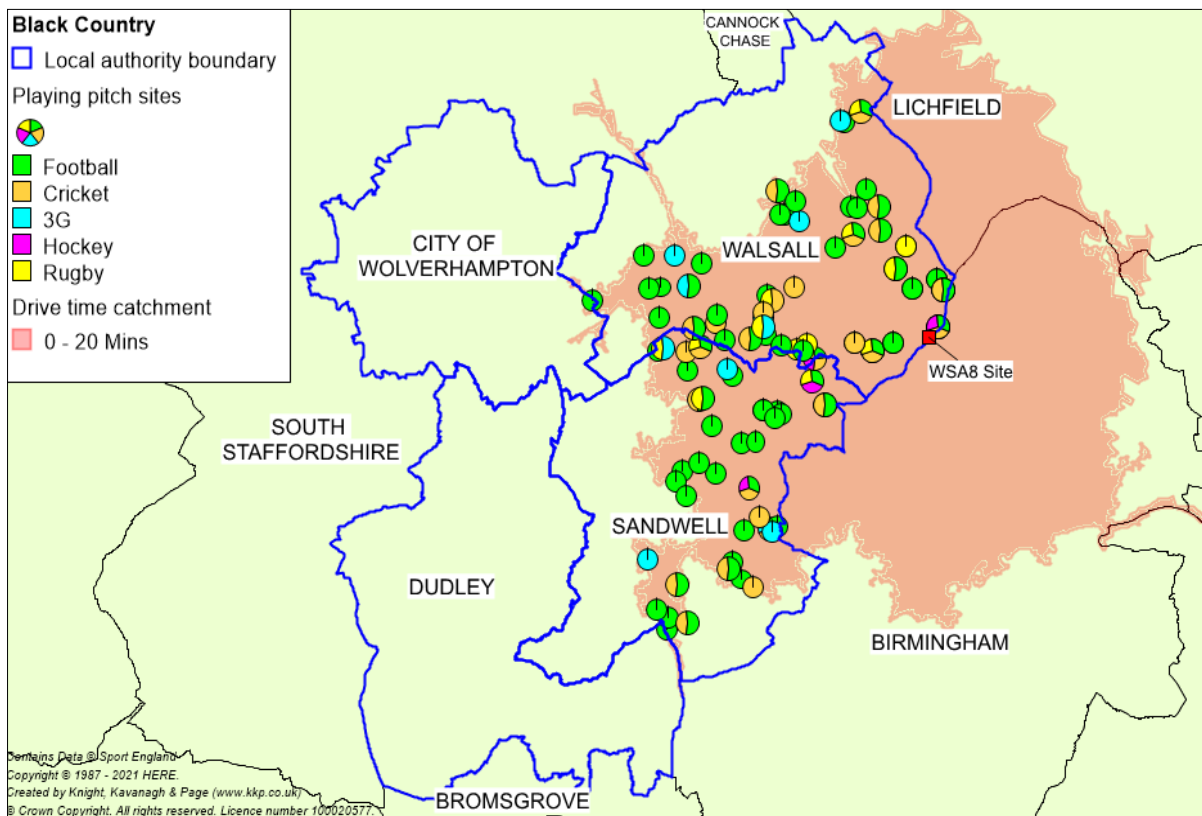
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Figure 5.1: Example mapping exercise for securing developer contributions



Using this drive time catchment area, it is then possible to map all playing pitch sites identified in the PPOSS, including for each sport, as shown below.

Figure 5.1: PPOSS sites within the example catchment area



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These sites can then be cross-referenced in the individual action plans to determine which are most in need of investment and which would be most likely to require improvement in order to satisfy the growth in demand that will come from the development.

Figure 5.3: Sites within the example catchment area in Walsall

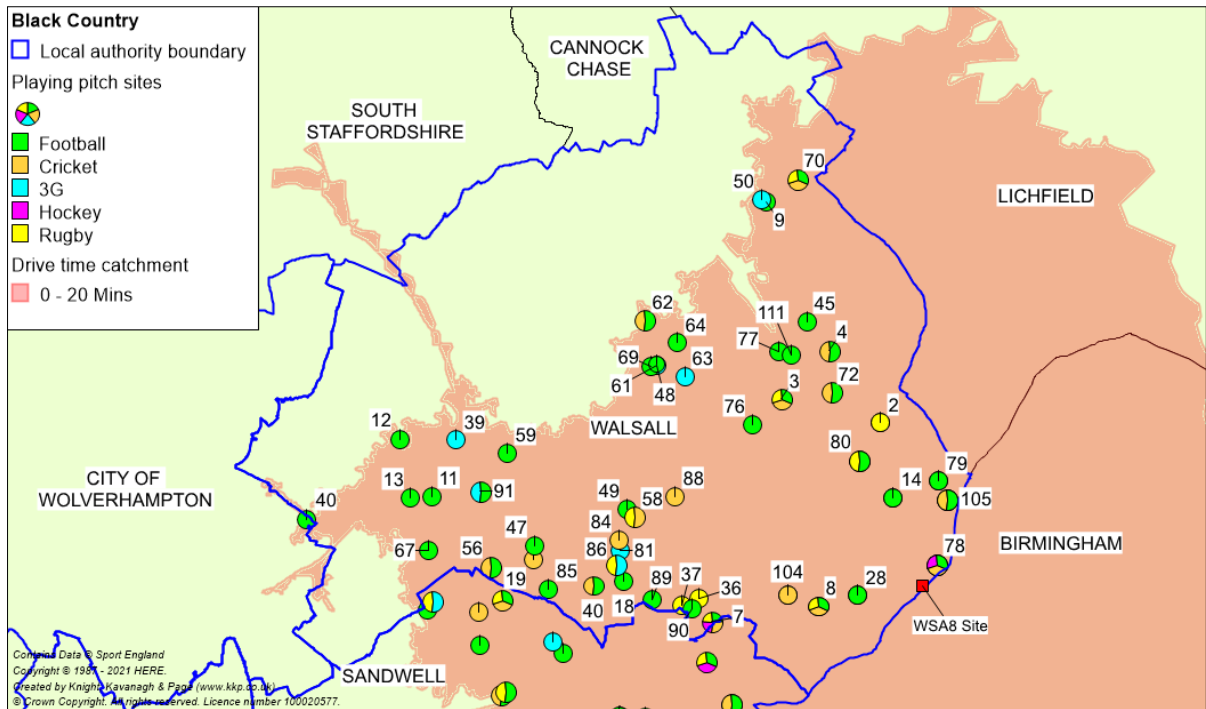
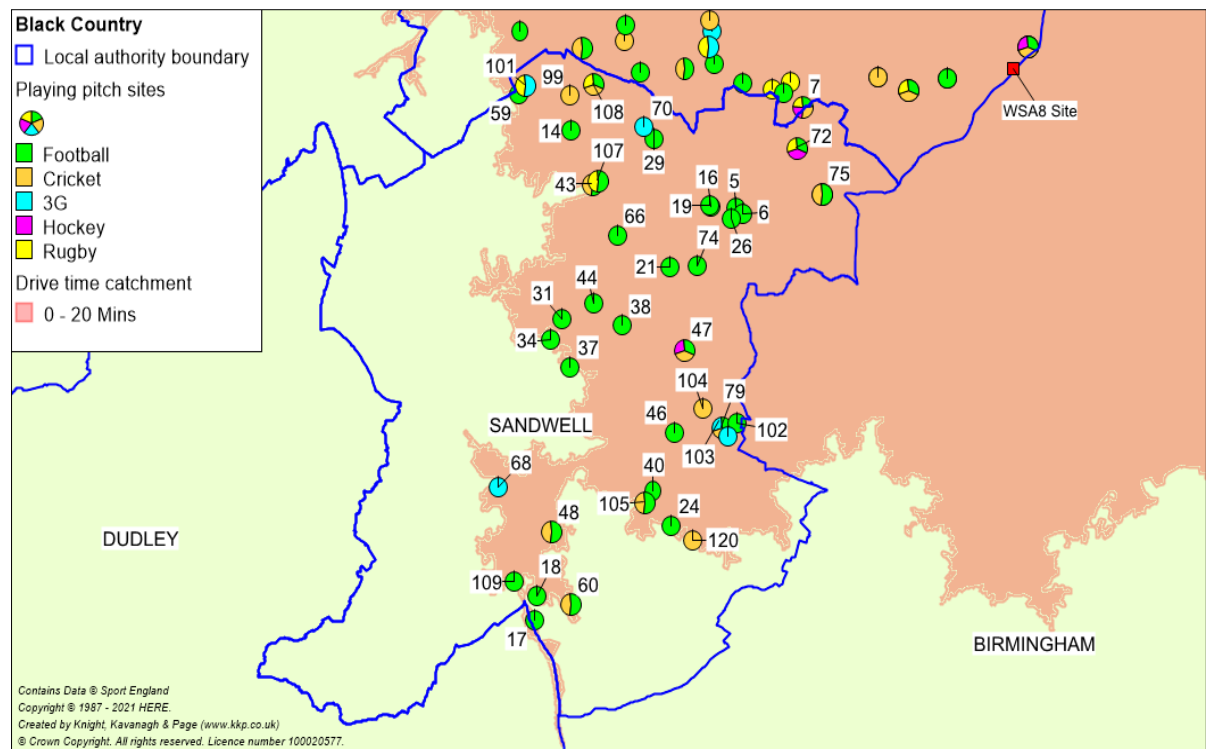


Figure 5.4: Sites within the example catchment area in Sandwell/Wolverhampton



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AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.
- i. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

Recommendation (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The councils and partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the individual assessment reports and strategies, as well as the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 3) and the following Action Plan (Part 5) of this report. To help enable the above, it is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure and improve provision both for now and in the future.

Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation of facilities e.g. converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ◀ Securing community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon as a starting point, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality, or unused sites that are particularly large. It also advises how specific issues can be overcome.

Recommendation (i) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision.

Linked to the above, although there are identified shortfalls, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except for localised exceptions and for 3G and sand-based pitches, the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.

Large scale housing developments (see recommendation G) and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the School to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the School as well as the wider community.

PART 5: OVERARCHING ACTION PLAN

The following strategic action plan provides recommendations that can help achieve what is set out in Part 3 and Part 4 of this document. This includes options for consideration with regards to improving facilities, improving security of tenure, securing developer contributions and adding to the existing stock of facilities. These have been chosen as they are considered to relate to each local authority included, although the extent to which may vary.

The recommendations have been put forward based on the evidence that has been gathered as part of the delivery of each individual PPOSS. However, it is recognised that not everything will be actionable by all of the authorities, at least in the short-term. It should instead be used as a long-term plan that can assist, where possible, with guiding future actions when it comes to playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities.

The individual strategies for the four local authorities contain site-by-site action plans that include recommendations for each site included across the study. These recommendations are generally linked to the strategic recommendations featured below but will still require consideration on their own merit in order to be adequately delivered.

Timescale

This refers to the timescale in which the recommendation should begin to be implemented, based on a short (1-2 years), medium (2-5 years) and long-term (5-10 years) basis. If possible, this should also be the target of adopting the recommendation within planning policy.

Lead

This refers to which organisation/s should take the lead on implementing and progressing the recommendations and references members of the Steering Group. As such, this can include the local authorities, Sport England, NGBs and Active Black Country.

**BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY
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Strategic Action Plan

Action	Recommendation	Timescale	Lead
A collaborative approach across the Black Country to deliver the recommendations and actions identified in this strategy and the individual strategies that all partners are committed to	Ensure a continued working relationship exists between relevant partners which should as a minimum include each of the local authorities, Sport England, the relevant NGBs and Active Black Country.	Short	Local authorities Sport England
	Establish an Implementation Group at the earliest opportunity made up of the local authorities, Active Black Country, NGBs and Sport England.		
	Develop a short-term action plan to identify and prioritise actions in the Strategy for the first years of implementation, then reviewing this annually (or every six months).		
	Agree a mechanism for engaging and updating elected members from the local authorities on progress with delivering the recommendations and the action plans from the study.		
	Collectively ensure that each individual PPOSS up to date via a Black Country-wide annual review, utilising the supporting databases for each local authority and involving all relevant partners and stakeholders from the Steering Group. Doing this will prolong the lifespan of the study and lengthen the requirement for a full update.		
Protect existing outdoor sports facilities	Ensure local planning policy documents reflect the need to protect all outdoor sport facilities unless policy exceptions are met or unless the picture changes to the extent that no shortfalls exist.	Short	Local authorities
	Retain land where any sports facilities are out of current use (lapsed/disused) or are taken out of use so that it can be brought back into use in the future.		
	Ensure any net loss of provision is mitigated as per the NPPF and, for relevant provision, Sport's England's playing fields policy.		
	Allow developments if it will result in wider sporting benefits (i.e., through re-purposing land for other sporting use) if there are pitches/facilities that are no longer required for the sport/s they currently provide for.		
Rationalisation of sites	Consider the loss and/or re-purposing of low value sites (i.e., those that contain one or two pitches with no changing provision) to generate investment and focus resources towards the development of bigger, better quality sites, providing that planning policy is met, relevant partners are supportive and that there is no net loss of provision or land.	Long	Local authorities NGBs
Secure tenure	Ensure used education sites have robust community use agreements in place. For those that do not, explore options to create such an agreement, potentially linked to future funding opportunities.	Medium	Local authorities Sport England NGBs
	For clubs with lease agreements in place with less than 25-years remaining, explore options to extend the arrangement.		
	Where tenure cannot be secured, ensure an appropriate mitigation package is in place to offset any permanent loss.		
	Work towards adopting a policy that supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts, thus providing an opportunity for such entities to take ownership of facilities. Ensure that suitable clubs conform with set criteria to enable the sites to be sustainable and to attract funding for site improvement.		

**BLACK COUNTRY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY
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Action	Recommendation	Timescale	Lead
Maximise use of education facilities	Identify priority schools to focus on and establish a more coherent, structured relationship with them, focusing on the largest school that provide the most and/or best quality facilities.	Medium	Local authorities Active Partnership NGBs Sport England
	Identify specific key issues through engagement with individual schools and identify strategic solutions that can apply to multiple schools such as the creation of a centralised booking system.		
	Where required, seek internal investment to overcome issues currently preventing community use, such as to improve quality, and look to tie in community use agreements as a condition of the funding.		
	Ensure any new schools allow for community use via a secured agreement and that they provide the right facilities in order to attract demand and reduce local shortfalls via input from relevant NGBs.		
	Ensure pricing policies do not deter access.		
	Ensure existing community use agreements are upheld.		
	Use examples of best practice from other authorities/counties as a guide to increasing access, such as through hosting a workshop for schools. Consider asking counterparts from areas of best practice to provide an overview of work carried out e.g., Gloucester.		
Secure developer contributions	As standard, begin to utilise Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as the basis for negotiation with housing developers. This should be used to ascertain the likely impact of a new development (or a group of developments) on demand and the capacity of existing sites, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity or if new provision is required.	Short	Local authorities Sport England NGBs
	To assist with identifying investment opportunities, carry out additional analysis in regards to major housing sites to show the spatial relationship between the proposed developments and major opportunities for new provision and facility improvements for each relevant sport. This can be achieved via using the action plans within the individual PPOSS reports to identify sites in need of investment, with these then able to be mapped against housing growth sites to help determine those most suitable to receive associated investment with an appropriate catchment area.		
	Look to pool together S106 contributions, where necessary, to deliver facility improvements that can help address issues within an appropriate catchment area. This is particularly the case for large developments that will have an impact on more than the area in which it is based.		
	Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site provision, use contributions to improve existing sites within the locality that are most in need and will go the furthest to reducing shortfalls. Pooling contributions from individual allocations should also be considered to meet known shortfalls for natural turf cricket provision to satisfy peak time demand issues by providing new provision for clubs.		
	Where a development is of a size to justify on-site provision, focus on multi-pitch sites that reduce shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate facilities can be unsustainable. Also ensure the site can accommodate artificial provision, if not immediately then at a later date as part of a phased approach.		
	Ensure consideration is given to the accessibility of the provision. This includes access by car as well as by public transport and active travel modes.		
	Ensure any new facilities are provided to a good quality and have an adequate operational structure in place to ensure sustainability.		
	For cricket, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract demand, with such provision ideally located within proximity to an existing club that requires additional provision. It is also key to ensure that new developments do not prejudice the use of an existing or new square, which can happen when built in close proximity (ball strike issues).		
	Consult with appropriate NGBs when securing developer contributions in order to provide guidance on which sites the funding can go towards or on which new provision is required.		

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Action	Recommendation	Timescale	Lead
Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding	Ensure that appropriate funding is secured for improved sports provision and directed to areas of need, focusing on sites that need quality improvements, are overplayed or would benefit from additional provision. There should be a co-ordinated approach to direct investment, ensuring that there is no duplication of provision across local authority boundaries and ensuring that funding is allocated to sites that provide (or will provide) the best benefit to the wider sporting offer in the locality. The local authorities should work in partnership with each other to ensure that this is case and to deliver projects that mutually benefit their communities. Opportunities to do this should be discussed as part of an agenda item at each future PPOSS meeting and guided by the wider Steering Group.	Short	Local authorities NGBs
	Ensure the PPOSS is kept updated so that it continues to provide a robust evidence base to secure appropriate funding.	Long	Local authorities Sport England NGBs
Improve quality of provision	Prioritise the largest sites, poor quality sites and overplayed sites as improvements to these will have the biggest impacting on alleviating shortfalls and accommodating demand.	Short	Local authorities NGBs
	Engage with NGB's to secure investment into quality improvements and utilise tools that can aid with this e.g., through the Football Foundation's PitchPower app or the LTA's Clubspark scheme.		
	Look at the best strategic locations for maintenance equipment banks for clubs to access for improved maintenance regimes on non-council managed sites.		
	Consider asset transfer of more sites to suitable clubs/organisations so that they can take over maintenance and attract additional funding, with council maintenance regimes then able to be concentrated and enhanced towards fewer sites.		
	Resurface AGPs, athletics tracks and courts when the current surface nears the end of its lifespan (estimated to be ten years, depending on usage) and ensure sinking funds are in place at all venues for long-term sustainability.		
	Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are provided, particularly those servicing key sites. Changing facilities should be of an adequate size, able to accommodate both males and females as well as referees/umpires and should have separate enclosed shower and toilet facilities.		
Address overplay	Where sites are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, improve quality to increase capacity and ensure no additional usage until overplay is eradicated.	Short	Local authorities NGBs
	For cricket, install NTPs to accompany overplayed grass wicket squares and encourage the transfer of junior demand to relieve capacity issues.		
	For rugby union and tennis, explore the creation of additional floodlighting to increase capacity and to enable demand to be dispersed, thus reducing concentrated levels of overplay.		
	Where overplay cannot be fully alleviated via other means, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity or to sites not currently available for community use but that could be in the future.		
Add to the overall facility stock	In the main, creating additional provision is not required as the majority of shortfalls can be overcome through other means, such as improving quality, securing tenure and alleviating overplay; however, an increase in 3G pitches is required, as is an increase in cricket squares (for peak time Saturday cricket), NTPs and sand-based AGPs. Additional provision may also be required following housing growth.	Medium	Local authorities NGBs
	Where new provision is required, give preference to multi-pitch sites and sites that are strategically located, possibly providing the ability to cater for demand from more than one local authority. Ensure an appropriate, sustainable management structure is in place as well as a robust business, usage and maintenance plan.		
	Utilise Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator to determine the level of new provision required where there is significant housing growth.		

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PART 6: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

Delivery

The overarching PPOSS provides guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across the Black Country authorities. By addressing issues identified in the individual strategies and by using the strategic framework presented in this document, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Black Country can be met. The study identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

Production of the individual strategies and this overarching framework is the start of the planning process. Successful implementation and the benefits to be gained depend upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a mutually bought into strategic approach. It is important that each document is used in a practical manner, supports engagement with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed in order to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of local authority priorities.

To help ensure that each PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within each study area guiding the improvement and protection of outdoor sports provision. It needs to be the document to which people and agencies regularly turn to for information in respect of how current demand should be met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. To ensure that this is achieved the Steering Group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of PPOSS development has already led to a number of benefits that assist its application and delivery. These include enhanced partnership work across different agendas and organisations and the pooling of resources along with strengthened relationships and understanding between stakeholders, members of the Steering Group and the sporting community.

The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plans will have also highlighted, and helped those involved to understand, the key areas to which their input is necessary. Each member of the Steering Group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence and the role of the Steering Group should therefore not end with the completion of the study.

Following adoption of each PPOSS, a short-term Action Plan should be prepared by the councils, in consultation with relevant partners, in order to distil the existing action plans and to give the Steering Group a short-term focus. This would then need to be revised through regular meetings.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in each strategy. This should be led by the councils and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should be a key component of monitoring its delivery and be an on-going role of the group.

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The Steering Group that takes the PPOSS forward should be an area group made up of the four local authorities included within the study as well as other partners such as the NGBs and the Active Partnership. This offers benefits in terms of joint working on strategic and cross-boundary issues and will also be more efficient in terms of administration when compared to each authority having its own individual Steering Group.

KKP will provide the tools used to produce the PPOSS to the councils as well as training on how to use such tools, such as the supporting databases used to hold all information gathered. This will enable the monitoring and updating process to be carried out, which the councils should be responsible for. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the study being signed off, the information on which it is based will be considered to be out of date.

The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for outdoor sports facilities will likely to have changed over three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

Ideally progress on actions in the PPOSS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up during its development and, taking into account the time to develop the study, it should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than three years old without being reviewed. A review should not be regarded as a particular resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase or reduce following the delivery of others)
- ◀ How the PPOSS has been applied and the lessons learnt
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Alongside regular Steering Group meetings a good way to keep the PPOSS up to date and maintain relationships is to hold annual sport specific meetings with pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These could be part of a process of updating key supply and demand information plus, if necessary, amending assessment work, tracking progress in respect of implementing action plan recommendations and highlighting new issues and opportunities.

Meetings could be timed to coincide with annual NGB affiliation processes as this would help to signal changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could also feed into these meetings. NGBs will also be able to confirm any further performance quality assessments undertaken within the study area.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 16 November 2022
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Report title	Stow Heath Primary School Proposed Resource Base	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Chris Burden Education, Skills and Work	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families	
Originating service	Children's Service	
Accountable employee	Bill Hague	Head of School Business and Support
	Tel	01902 555100
	Email	Bill.Hague@Wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Education Leadership Team	27 October 2022
	Strategic Executive Board	1 November 2022

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work, in consultation with the Executive Director of Families, to approve the allocation from the High Needs Capital Fund to the Stow Heath capital project in order that it may be progressed in a timely manner.
2. Approve the commencement of a period of Initial Consultation required under statutory processes on the proposed establishment of a Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Resource Base at Stow Heath Primary School.
3. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and work in consultation with the Executive Director of Families, to consider the outcome of Initial Consultation on the proposed establishment of a SEND Resource Base at Stow Heath Primary School and to determine whether to proceed to Formal Consultation (Representation).
4. Authorise the Council entering into all legal agreements in relation to this scheme.

5. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Education, Work and Skills in consultation with the Executive Director of Families to approve the details of all agreements authorised under recommendation 4 of this report.

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. That the outcomes of both Initial and Formal Consultation on the establishment of Resource Provision at Stow Heath Primary School will be presented at a future Cabinet Meeting for a final decision.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report details the proposed establishment of resource base provision at Stow Heath Primary School and seeks approval to secure capital funding to support this scheme.
- 1.2 The proposal is to enhance the local educational offer for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In order to enable 'Strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential', one of Wolverhampton's key council priorities within the Council plan and underpinned by the SEND Strategy accordance with the SEND Strategy 2020 – 2023 it is imperative that sufficient good school places are available for all pupils including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- 2.2 Provision of places in a range of schools is necessary to meet the diverse needs of the population and where possible this should be as close to home and within the communities in which the young people live,
- 2.3 Local authorities have a statutory duty in this regard with the Children and Families Act 2014 requiring local authorities to keep provision for children and young people with SEND under review (including its sufficiency).
- 2.4 As outlined within the approved Wolverhampton SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy 2022-25, the Council have a vision to become a highly inclusive City working with children, young people, and their families with SEND so that they can achieve their full potential.
- 2.5 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has been the most common primary need in each of the last five years for children who have an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP). There has been a consistent growth in demand for specialist provision for ASD and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH). This growth in demand, together with a lack of specialist provision for SEMH and ASD locally, has informed the Council's sufficiency strategy (Wolverhampton SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy 2022-25).
- 2.6 Additional resource base provision is required to meet demand for SEND across the City and is commissioned by the Council and service level agreements (SLAs) are in place with individual providers/schools.
- 2.7 The Local Authority receives capital grant funding for High Needs provision (High Needs Capital Fund) from the Department of Education (DfE) to support the provision of places for pupils with SEND.
- 2.8 The DfE is currently undertaking a national school rebuilding programme with 161 projects in the pipeline currently. The programme carries out major rebuilding and refurbishments projects at school and sixth form college buildings across England, with buildings prioritised according to their condition, at no cost to the Local Authority. The

Programme was launched in June 2020 with the first 50 schools announced in February 2021.

3.0 Stow Heath Primary School

- 3.1 Stow Heath Primary School is a maintained school located in the East Park Ward and caters for up to 60 pupils per year group. The school was last inspected by Ofsted in May 2017 and was judged to be 'Good'.
- 3.2 In July 2021, the DfE announced the second round of the School Rebuilding Programme for a further 50 schools; Stow Heath Primary School was included in this tranche of the programme.
- 3.3 Due to the number of pupils in Stow Heath Primary that require support (3.5% have an EHCP with a total of 23% receiving SEND support), the school currently operate an unofficial base to ensure the pupils are receiving the best possible education and specialist support required (Source ONE).
- 3.4 As the school is being rebuilt the opportunity has arisen for the Local Authority to help shape this scheme. Discussions with DfE have been positive around the inclusion of accommodation within the design of the new school building to house resource base provision.
- 3.5 The Governing Body at Stow Heath Primary School are supportive of the establishment of a Resource Base with a resolution to this effect on 12 October 2022.
- 3.6 It is proposed for a 20 place Resource Base (anticipated to be for ASD or SEMH) to be established at the school. A contribution of capital funding from the Local Authority would be required for the base as this is not in scope of the Schools Rebuilding Programme.
- 3.7 In order for inclusion of the Resource Base in the rebuild design, confirmation will need to be provided to the DfE that the Local Authority has capital funds to support the Resource Base. The funds will be drawn down from the High Needs Capital Fund.
- 3.8 Designers and Architects involved with the School Rebuilding Programme have indicated that the addition of a SEND Resource Base built into the current structure is feasible and provided indicative costings of £1 million.
- 3.9 In accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, the addition of a Resource Base at Stow Heath Primary would qualify as a significant change and require the undertaking of prescribed consultation and decision-making processes. Responsibility for undertaking due process would lie with the local authority.
- 3.10 Due to timescales, it is recommended that Cabinet approve the commencement of a period of Initial Consultation required under statutory processes on the proposed establishment of a Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Resource Base at Stow Heath Primary School.

- 3.11 A planning application for the original design has already been approved at Planning Committee and will therefore (subject to approval) need to be resubmitted with the resource base included in a new the design.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 In order to meet the timescales set by the DfE, there are no alternative options as the establishment of resource base provision at Stow Heath Primary School is linked to the rebuild under the DfE's Schools Rebuilding Programme.

5.0 Reasons for decision(s)

- 5.1 This is a unique opportunity for additional SEND Resource Base provision to be incorporated in the design of the rebuild of Stow Heath Primary School which will support the increased demand for specialist places.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The building of the proposed resource base would have a capital expenditure implication for the Council, and current indicative cost is in the region of £1.0 million. This cost can be met in full from the High Needs Capital Fund budget which is forecast to be £9.8 million at quarter 2 2022-2023 and is fully funded from the High Needs Capital Fund grant.

- 6.2 This report requests that approval to allocate budgets to specific projects is delegated, and therefore an IEDN will be required to establish a budget once consultation is finalised and the required budget is finalised.

[JB/27102022/P]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 Under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, a local authority shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in their area. Sufficient means sufficient in number, character, and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. In meeting this duty, a local authority must do so with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice.

- 7.2 In accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, the addition of a Resource Base at Stow Heath Primary would qualify as a significant change and require the undertaking of prescribed consultation and decision-making processes. Responsibility for undertaking due process would lie with the local authority.

- 7.3 A statutory process is required when it is proposed to establish, remove, or alter provision recognised by the local authority as reserved for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

- 7.4 Such processes require compliance with the prescribed provisions to ensure sufficient consultation is undertaken and that relevant stakeholders are notified of proposals or decisions in a timely manner.
- 7.5 It is recommended that authority is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education, Work and Skills in consultation with the Executive Director of Families, to consider the outcome of Initial Consultation on the proposed establishment of a SEND Resource Base at Stow Heath Primary School and to determine whether or not to proceed to Formal Consultation (Representation).
- 7.6 That all necessary legal agreements are entered into in order to protect the local authority. The agreements will include but not be limited to agreements for the grant of funds and any ancillary agreements necessary for the scheme to progress.
[TC/27102022/A]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 Subject to approval to proceed, an initial equality implications analysis will be completed with regard to the proposed establishment of resource base at Stow Heath Primary School. This assessment will be informed by the outcome of consultation and subject to progression presented to decision makers.
- 8.2 This proposed resource base will provide additional school places in the city for children and young people with ASD and/or SEMH, thereby enabling families to attend a school near school to where they live, give them the opportunity to learn alongside their peers and siblings in a resourced facility attached to a mainstream school where they can benefit from the expertise of a wider range of educators and support services. This is in line with the corporate Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2022 – 2024.

9.0 All other implications

- 9.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 None

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 16 November 2022
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Report title	Secondary School Expansion Programme 2023	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Christopher Burden Education, Skills and Work	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families	
Originating service	Children's Services	
Accountable employee	David Kirby	Service Manager, School Organisation and Support
	Tel	01902 554152
	Email	david.kirby@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children's and Education Leadership Team	20 October 2022
	Strategic Executive Board	1 November 2022

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the formal proposal for schools to be included in the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2023
2. Approve the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2023 to provide temporary solutions to meet short term demand to ensure that an oversupply of school places is not created.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The budget for the expansion scheme at Colton Hills Community School will be approved via existing approved delegation, once the required budget is finalised.

2. That in light of the scale of recent secondary expansion programmes practical opportunities to continue to expand the existing estate are constrained.
3. The Council is not in full control of all the factors relating to the effective and timely supply of school places.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report details the schemes proposed for inclusion in the Secondary School Expansion Programme (SSEP) 2023 and seeks approval to implement the proposed Programmes in order to ensure the provision of sufficient school places.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Local Authority (LA) has a statutory duty to:

- ensure that sufficient school places are available within their area for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one
- to promote high educational standards, to ensure fair access to educational opportunity, and;
- to help fulfil every child's educational potential.

The LA must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in its area and promote diversity and parental choice. This is in line with our ambitions and priorities as set out in Our City, Our Plan.

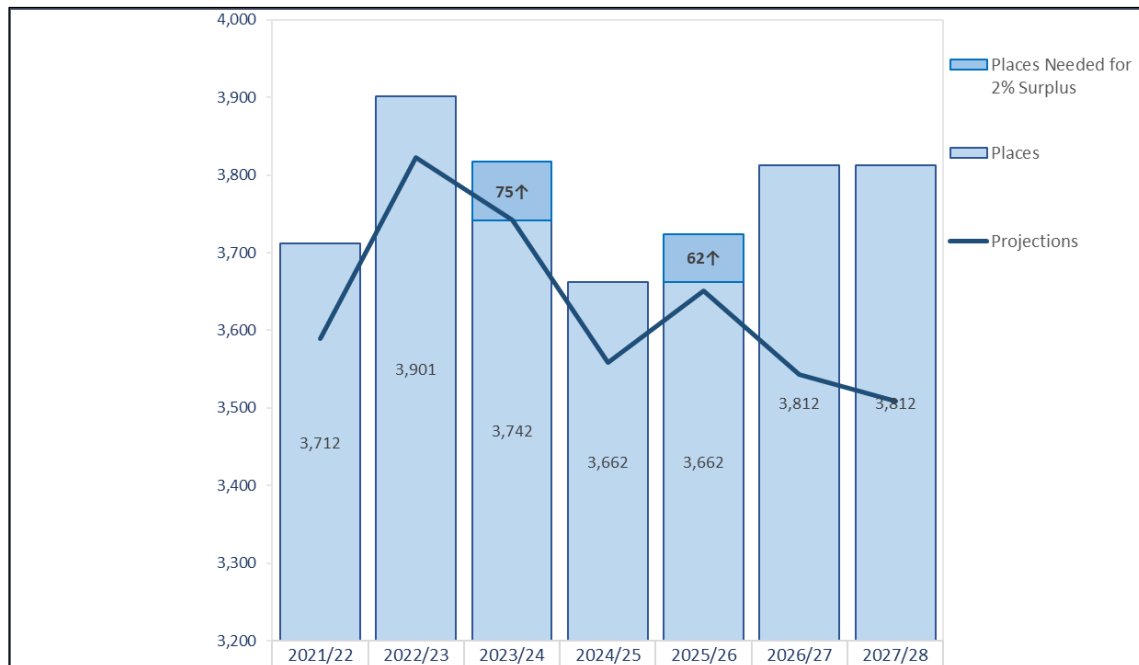
The term 'sufficient' means sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education.

- 2.2 In order to ensure ongoing sufficiency, the LA has introduced over 2,000 Secondary school places (a combination of temporary and permanent) since 2017 as a result of this, there are limited options available across the city to further expand schools.
- 2.3 The vast majority of secondary schools in Wolverhampton are academies and the LA work in partnership with Academy Trusts to provide additional school places. The LA is the decision maker on changes to maintained schools whilst the Academy Trusts are the respective decision makers for changes to pupil numbers. Although the LA has the statutory duty as detailed in paragraph 2.1 it is not in control of all the factors relating to the timely supply of school places.
- 2.4 To ensure continued sufficiency, investment in additional capacity is required in the Secondary School estate in September 2023.
- 2.5 Schools have been selected for inclusion in the expansion programme in line with the approved and published strategic policy as outlined in "City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022" (The Strategy). Please note a revised Strategy is currently being developed and following consultation with stakeholders will be presented at Cabinet.
- 2.6 On 11 November 2020, Cabinet approved delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Finance, to approve the allocation of the Expansion Programme budgets to individual capital projects including making grant payments where appropriate in order that projects can be progressed in a timely manner.

3.0 Secondary Demand

- 3.1 In academic year 2023-24, the current level of places City-wide exactly matches the projected level of demand (projected 3,742 pupils to 3,742 places available) which would provide 0% level of surplus (see Figure 1 below).
- 3.2 A level of surplus is required to offer increased opportunity for parental preference, to cater for in year applications and allow for fluctuations in demand. The Department for Education (DfE) fund a surplus figure of 2% which is outlined in the approved Strategy and as such the Local Authority aspires to achieve 2% operating surplus across the City.
- 3.3 As illustrated in Figure 1 below, 75 additional places are required for a 2% level of surplus.

Figure 1: Citywide Year 7 cohorts – Projections



Source: City of Wolverhampton Council Projections

4.0 Secondary School Expansion Programme 2023

- 4.1 The SSEP 2023 comprises three schools; a combination of two maintained schools and an academy. The schemes will provide additional school places.
- 4.2 Each school was approached to discuss the viability of accommodating additional school places and individual proposals are detailed below.

4.3 Colton Hills Community School

- 4.4 Colton Hills Community School is a maintained school located in the Blakenhall Ward. The school received a short inspection by Ofsted in September 2018 and the judgement received stated 'This school continues to be good'.

- 4.5 As part of the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019-2020, and at no capital cost to the Local Authority, the school provided an additional 49 Year 7 places in September 2019, with an admission above PAN from 161 to 210: this cohort is now in Year 10.
- 4.6 As part of the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2022 the school provided a further 49 Year 7 places to support demand in the area (this is the current Year 7 cohort). These additional places were also provided within the schools existing facilities at no capital cost to the Local Authority.
- 4.7 In order to ensure sufficiency of provision, it is proposed that the number of Year 7 places available at Colton Hills Community School is temporarily increased from 161 to 210 (49 places) in September 2023. The admission limit in Year 7 would revert to 161 in September 2024.
- 4.8 It has been identified that teaching and learning spaces are sufficient to accommodate the additional places, however, due to the previous uplifts in school places, when judged against the Building Bulletin 103 guidelines (which sets out minimum space requirements in schools) it has been determined there is insufficient dining provision.
- 4.9 A feasibility assessment is currently being undertaken to establish options available and the capital funding required to support this scheme. However, estimated costings for additional dining provision is in the region of £485,000 and as Figure 2 illustrates this is slightly above the national average cost per place. It should be noted that the national average is based on data from 2020-21 and does not reflect the recent substantial increased costs of certain materials seen nationally and locally. For example, the cost of steel has doubled in price.

Overall Number of Places	Estimated Cost	Cost per Place £	National Average cost Per Place £ Secondary*
49	485,000	9,898	9,467

*National Average 2020/21 (Temporary)

There are contingency funds included in the estimated costs which will only be drawn upon if required.

- 4.10 The required work to be undertaken in the dining area may require consent under Section 77 School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA) due to the 'disposal' of the playing field land. Playing Field land includes hard informal and social areas. The area that is proposed for development of the dining provision is currently part of a recreation area where the students can sit outside at dinner and break times. Advice is being sought at present if consent from the Secretary of State is required for this proposal.

4.11 St Matthias School

- 4.12 St Matthias School is a maintained school located in the East Park Ward. The school was inspected by Ofsted in November 2019 and the judgement received stated 'This school continues to be good'.
- 4.13 As part of the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019-2020, and at no capital cost to the Local Authority, St Matthias School provided 29 additional Year 7 places for September 2019 and September 2020, with an admission above PAN from 161 to 190 (these cohorts are now in Years 9 and 10).
- 4.14 As part of the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2022 the school provided a further 10 Year 7 places to support demand in the area (this is the current Year 7 cohort). These additional places were also provided within the schools existing facilities at no capital cost to the Local Authority.
- 4.15 In order to ensure sufficiency of provision, it is proposed that the number of Year 7 places available at St Matthias School is temporarily increased from 161 to 171 (10 places) in September 2023. The admission limit in Year 7 would revert to 161 in September 2024. The additional places can be catered for within the existing accommodation, at no capital cost and adhere to the Private Finance Initiative contract.

4.16 School Organisation and School Admissions Regulations

- 4.17 When making changes to maintained schools, regulations have to be adhered to; The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Amended) (England) Regulations 2012, and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.
- 4.18 Local Authorities must follow a statutory process when seeking to expand a maintained school if; the proposed enlargement to the premises of the school is permanent (longer than 3 years) and would increase the capacity of the school by: more than 30 pupils; and 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser).
- 4.19 As the criteria in 4.18 does not apply to either Colton Hills Community School and St Matthias School, it is an admission above Published Admission Number in accordance with the School Admission Code 2021.

4.20 Ormiston SWB Academy

- 4.21 Ormiston SWB Academy (Ormiston SWBA) is located in the Bilston East Ward and is part of the Ormiston Academy Trust. The school was inspected by Ofsted in November 2021 and judged to be 'Good'.
- 4.22 As part of the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019-2020, Ormiston SWBA provided 30 additional Year 7 places for September 2019 admitting above PAN from 200 to 230.

- 4.23 As part of the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2022 a further 30 Year 7 places were provided, again an increase from 200 to 230 for September 2022.
- 4.24 As a part of the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2023, the Trust will be providing an additional 30 places in Year 7 for September 2023. These additional places will be provided within the schools existing facilities and at no capital cost to the Local Authority. The admission limit in Year 7 would revert to 200 in September 2024.
- 4.25 School Admissions Code: In accordance with The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, own admission authorities (Academy Trusts) are not required to consult on their PAN where they propose either to increase or keep the same PAN.
- 4.26 The uplift in places at Colton Hills Community School, St Matthias School and Ormiston SWB Academy total 89 which will provide a 2.3% level of surplus in Year 7 for September 2023.

5.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 5.1 Limited alternative solutions exist within the school estate. Proposed schemes have been prioritised in line with the Council's strategic policy as detailed in 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022'.

6.0 Reasons for decision

- 6.1 This programme would help secure the required school places to ensure the Council's statutory duty (to ensure the sufficiency of provision) can continue to be fulfilled.

7.0 Financial implications

- 7.1 The scheme at Colton Hills Community School will require a capital budget and there is an indication that this will be in the region of £485,000. This can be funded in full from the approved capital budget for the Secondary Schools expansion programme which at Quarter 2 2022-2023 has £5.8 million unallocated to specific schemes. This budget is funded in full by the Basic Needs grant which is specifically for capital expenditure related to creating new school places. As part of the report 'Capital Programme 2020-2021 to 2024-2025 Quarter Two Review' Cabinet delegated authority to allocate budgets from the Secondary School Expansion Programme to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Finance. Once the required budget is finalised, an IEDN will be required to create a budget for this scheme.
- 7.2 The other schemes detailed within this report have no capital cost implications for the Council.
- [JB/27102022/P]

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 Under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, a local authority shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in their area. Sufficient means sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. In meeting this duty, a local authority must do so with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice.
- 8.2 The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Amended) (England) Regulations 2012 will need to be adhered to regarding the admissions arrangements.
- 8.3 Under the School Admissions Code, own admission authorities (Academy Trusts) are not required to consult on their PAN where they propose either to increase or keep the same PAN
- 8.4 If required Section 77 School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA) will need to be adhered to in regards to Colton Hills Community School.
[SZ/18102022/P]

9.0 Equalities implications

- 9.1 This report has equal opportunity implications as the contents have direct reference to educational provision for children and young people in the City. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires that public bodies, in exercising their functions, have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other unlawful conduct under the Act, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

10.0 All other implications

- 10.1 City Assets commissioned the feasibility study for Colton Hills Community School via the Projects and Works team. Once feasibility has been completed and costs have been determined Projects and Works will tender the schemes in consultation with Procurement to secure best value. City Assets would be responsible for the scheme.
- 10.2 Any building work arising from these proposals would be geared to promote improvement to the physical environment.
- 10.3 There is likely to be a need for the schools to employ additional staff to support the increased number of pupils, however, the future organisation of employees within maintained schools is the responsibility of the Governing Body and in academy schools is the responsibility of the Trust.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

- 11.1 [School land transactions: guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- 11.2 The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Amended) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 11.3 The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.
- 11.4 Cabinet, 20 February 2019 - [Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019-2020 Update and Future Primary and Secondary Provision.](#)
- 11.5 Cabinet, 20 January 2021 – [City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022.](#)

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 16 November 2022
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Report title	Citywide Non-traditional Property Investment and Regeneration Programme – Procurement of contractor and progress update.	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal City Assets and Housing	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	Bilston East, Bilston North, Bushbury North, Bushbury South & Low Hill, Fallings Park, Merryhill, Oxley, Wednesfield North	
Accountable Director	John Roseblade – Director of City Housing and Environment	
Originating service	Housing	
Accountable employee	Karen Beasley	Interim Service Manager – Strategy & Policy
	Tel	01902 554893
	Email	Karen.beasley@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	City Housing & Environment Leadership Team	1 November 2022
	Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing	2 November 2022

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. To approve a budget of £25.0 million for the redevelopment of the Tarran Bungalow estates as Phase One of the Non-Traditional Property Re-development project.
2. To authorise the procurement to appoint a contractor to deliver the proposals for Phase One of the Non-Traditional Property Re-development Project, as outlined in paragraph 3.3.

3. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing in consultation with Director of City Housing and Environment to appoint the most appropriate contractor for Phase One of the Non-Traditional Property Re-development Project following the completion of the procurement exercise.
4. Receive further reports on the future phase of the regeneration proposals for non-traditional properties.
5. Approve holding any new non-traditional void properties which are included in the investment programme to allow investigation surveys to be undertaken to support the design options for decarbonisation.
6. Receive further reports on the progress made on the future phases within the investment programme to deliver improvements to the remaining non-traditional properties.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The progress made on delivering the re-development proposals for the Tarran bungalow (prefabs) estates (Phase One).
2. The progress made regarding customer engagement for the Tarran bungalow estates (Phase One) across the city.
3. The progress made on delivering the phased investment programme to improve the condition of non-traditional properties owned by the Council throughout the city.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update on the progress being made with Phase One of the re-development proposals for the estates with Tarran bungalows (prefabs).
- 1.2 To note the progress of the customer engagement for the estates with Tarran bungalows (Phase One) across the city.
- 1.3 To seek approval to procure a contractor to deliver the proposals for the Phase One Re-Development Area, as outlined in paragraph 3.3.
- 1.4 To provide delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing in consultation with Director of City Housing and Environment to appoint the most appropriate contractor following the completion of the requisite procurement.
- 1.5 To inform Cabinet on the progress made on delivering the phased investment programme to improve the condition of non-traditional properties owned by the Council throughout the city.
- 1.6 To approve holding, for a short period, any new non-traditional void properties where future investment is planned to allow intrusive investigation surveys to be undertaken to assist with developing design options for decarbonisation.
- 1.7 To agree to receive further reports on the progress made on the future phases within the investment programme to deliver improvements to the remaining non-traditional properties and the regeneration proposals for those non-traditional properties that are no longer suitable for further investment.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In June 2021, a report to Cabinet provided an overview of the findings from detailed visual surveys carried out by specialist structural engineers to circa 4,000 council-owned non-traditional properties, to assess their condition. These surveys were then followed by more comprehensive intrusive investigations to a proportion of these dwellings (approximately ten percent), which included chemical analysis of the structural concrete.
- 2.2 Approval was duly given to commence a phased investment programme for those properties deemed suitable for long-term investment, subject to a further report regarding the investment required to complete this programme.
- 2.3 Cabinet also gave approval for a phased regeneration programme for those properties where investment is no longer viable. Delegated authority was also given to purchase privately owned non-traditional properties to assist with the regeneration programme, if required. The first phase (Phase One) would commence with the three estates of Tarran bungalows (prefabs) across the city.
- 2.4 Approval was given to commence consultation with residents in the first phase of the regeneration programme, to cease letting Tarran properties, to rehouse affected tenants and award Home Loss and Disturbance payments. Further approval was given to suspend Right to Buy applications following the serving of an Initial Demolition Notice.

- 2.5 A £2.0 million project budget for Phase One of the regeneration programme was also approved to fund Homeloss and disturbance payments for tenants within Phase One of the regeneration programme and for the potential purchase of any privately owned Tarran properties across the estate, if required.

3.0 Progress

Regeneration programme – re-development proposals.

- 3.1 Proposals for the redevelopment of the Tarran bungalow estates will consider the option of Modern Methods of Construction. The current site layout for each of the estates provides detached bungalows which can be demolished and removed from site allowing for groundworks to be facilitated as soon as each property is cleared without having to rely on large clusters of properties needing to be demolished to free up areas of land before any works can commence. The proposal allows for offsite modules to be developed within factory conditions and delivered to site fully complete or panelised and constructed on site, reducing the overall programme timescales and disruption to the occupied properties, including owner occupiers.

Regeneration programme – procurement of contractor.

- 3.2 An early engagement exercise with Offsite Manufacturers has seen an appetite for the delivery of the redevelopment works across all sites through Modern Methods of Construction.
- 3.3 This report seeks approval to commence the procurement of a suitable contractor, through a competitive exercise to identify a suitable contractor to deliver a full turnkey solution on an open market design and build basis.
- 3.4 Once tenders are returned, a full evaluation process will take place and this report seeks delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing in consultation with Director of City Housing and Environment to appoint the most appropriate contractor.

Regeneration programme – resident engagement.

- 3.5 Initial resident engagement commenced in July for the Tarran bungalows in Bushbury. Each resident received a letter informing them of the decision to redevelop the site and invited residents to several open days which were held on the estate. These open days enabled residents to discuss the redevelopment, the outline proposals for replacement properties and to establish the impact the programme of work would have on the residents.
- 3.6 Residents of the Tarran bungalows within Wednesfield and Portobello received the same level of consultation during August.
- 3.7 Following the initial engagement, further communication has been shared with owner occupiers across the three sites and a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document developed following the discussions held and has been issued to all residents.

- 3.8 Individual bespoke home visits are now being carried out to gather relevant data such as residents housing needs and requirements, to assist with developing the demolition, decanting and redevelopment programme for each site.

Investment programme – Design work.

- 3.9 The non-traditional properties' improvement programme is focused on eleven non-traditional archetypes, namely Cornish, Orlit, Smith, Wimpey No-Fines, Dennis-Wild, BISF, Bryants (System-2), Frameform, MacTrad, Arcon and MHC. The Smith properties were initially identified for demolition but following further investigation a suitable structural repair solution has now been identified.
- 3.10 These archetypes have variants within them, such as differences in the construction system (e.g., Cornish Type-1 and Cornish Type-2), or the property type (e.g., there are no-fines flats and houses). Consequently, to ensure there was a reasonable cross-section, 102 specialist surveys (known as retrofit assessments) have been undertaken.
- 3.11 The survey process has included digital scanning, which along with the retrofit assessments provides all the information needed to complete energy modelling and the digital design process (referred to as Building Information Modelling or BIM). This will enable innovative retrofit design solutions to be created for each of the non-traditional archetypes, which will improve the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings of the properties through a range of measures including External Wall Insulation, new windows, and the use of renewable technologies.
- 3.12 Further structural surveys are being undertaken to identify the appropriate solutions to repair / protect the structure and external envelope of each of the archetypes.
- 3.13 To assist with maximising the design opportunities for building in decarbonisation elements into the properties within the investment programme, it will be required to carry out intrusive surveys to identify repair solutions required as well as working toward a net zero solution.
- 3.14 This report requests approval to hold any non-traditional void properties that are archetypes from Tranches One & Two as below are held for a period of time to enable further survey work to be undertaken to avoid disruption to tenanted properties.

Investment programme – Proposed programme.

- 3.15 The non-traditional properties that are being retained, and where future investment is planned, fall into three distinct tranches.
- 3.16 The first tranche is comprised of the non-traditional properties with the worst energy performance and are primarily the concrete and steel-framed systems.
- 3.17 The second tranche is comprised of the non-traditional properties with poor energy performance, where timber-framed systems were finished externally with various forms of proprietary cladding materials (such as hanging tiles).

- 3.18 The third tranche comprises of those non-traditional properties that have been previously improved to a good standard, so already meet the minimum standard of an EPC 'C' rating.

Tranche One (1,310 properties)

Cornish
Orlit
Smith
Wimpey no-fines
Dennis-Wild
BISF (Merry Hill only)
Bryants System-2 and Frameform (cross-wall construction)
MacTrad

Tranche Two (approx. 600 properties)

MHC (finished with tile / timber cladding)
Miscellaneous timber frame (finished with tile / timber cladding)

Tranche 3 (approximately 1,120 properties)

BISF (Bushbury North); clad in cavity brickwork
Arcon; clad in cavity brickwork
MHC (finished with brickwork)
Miscellaneous timber frame (finished with brickwork)

- 3.19 Wolverhampton Homes in conjunction with the Council are currently preparing a bid submission for Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) - Wave 2.1. If this bid is successful, it will allow the retrofit and improvement to be delivered to archetypes identified within Phase-1 over the next two years. The grant award will enable this phase of the investment programme to be delivered at a reduced cost. Should the funding application not be successful, the investment programme will be delivered over a longer period.
- 3.20 The funding bid is being prepared by Wolverhampton Homes in conjunction with the Council's strategic construction partners; Wates Living Space and United Living, who have successfully delivered projects through Wave 1 of the SHDF project.

Investment programme – development of budget requirements

- 3.21 The budget requirements for the investment programme are currently being developed to support the submission of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund – Wave 2.1 bid. A more detailed investment programme will be presented in a further report as part of the HRA Business Plan 2023/2024 once design solutions and costs have been assessed.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 **Option One: Do nothing** - The non-traditional properties require investment or have been recommended for demolition. The current condition of some of the properties will

continue to deteriorate and the health and wellbeing of the tenants will be affected. There could be claims submitted under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 as the properties remain unimproved or not demolished.

- 4.2 **Option Two: Ad-hoc demolition only** - A programme could be developed to demolish recommended non-traditional properties as and when they become void. This would extend the programme by some considerable time and would mean that properties would be vacant for potentially years until the adjoining property/properties became void. This would further increase the maintenance responsibilities as properties will require additional security measures and removal of fly tipping and potentially attract anti-social behaviour. The vacant properties would be a blight for the remaining residents living on the estates.
- 4.3 **Option Three: Minimal investment to remaining stock** - The condition of some of the non-traditional properties recommended to be retained and improved will further decline over a number of years, if a programme of investment works is not approved. Again, there could be claims submitted under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 for those properties unimproved.

5.0 Reasons for decision(s)

- 5.1 **Regeneration Programme** - The properties recommended for demolition are beyond repair and investment is not a viable option. The structural condition of the properties is deteriorating, and they have reached the end of their lifetime
- 5.2 **Investment Programme** - The investment works proposed will deliver much needed improvements to non-traditional homes and the scope of works will involve structural repairs and improvements to the external envelope such as external wall insulation, new windows, and roof covering, to improve the thermal efficiency of the homes, and these measures are likely to be supported by SHDF Wave 2 funding.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The Cabinet report of 16 June 2021 approved an initial £2 million project budget to fund Homeloss and disturbance payments. Phase One of the redevelopment of the Tarran bungalows is anticipated to cost around £25.0 million and will be funded from the medium term HRA capital programme budget provision for estate remodelling. This budget provision totals £38.0 million with £11.0 million being allocated to the demolition and planning stage of the redevelopment of New Park Village as part of the Capital Monitoring report Q2.
- 6.2 The HRA Business plan, Rents and Service Charge report 2023-2024 that will be presented to cabinet in January 2023 will incorporate a revised HRA capital programme and address further budget requirements for estate remodelling.

[JM/27102023/H]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 The Council has fiduciary duties amongst other statutory duties to act in the best interest of its local rate payers, which must a consideration in determining the recommendations set out in this report
- 7.2 As detailed in the body of the report, subject to approval, the Council will need to undertake a procurement exercise, legal advice should be obtained from the Council's Legal Services team in this regard to ensure compliance with the relevant laws together with the Council's constitution in relation to this matter.
[JA/28102022/F]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 An equalities impact assessment has been completed in conjunction with the equalities team.
- 8.2 From the assessment it was identified that appropriate steps needed to be taken to ensure the programme does not adversely impact on the current residents and wider communities.

9.0 All other implications

- 9.1 The regeneration programme will have some implications for the environment during the phased demolition. There will be short periods of demolition work, but demolition contractor will be required to work to strict Health and Safety guidelines in terms of dust suppression, noise reduction and works traffic control.
- 9.2 However, the future redevelopment programme will bring forward newbuild homes that will meet all modern standards for sustainability and will help reduce carbon emissions in the city.
- 9.3 There will be some Human Resource implications due to the need to appoint a Project Manager and support team withing the City Housing Team.
- 9.4 There are no Corporate Landlord implications, the investment and regeneration programme will be funded using the allocated funds identified within the Housing Revenue Account.
- 9.5 The condition of the structurally defective non-traditional properties is bringing issues for tenants in terms of energy consumption. The properties are very poorly insulated, and it is therefore costly to maintain a reasonable level of heat within the properties. The regeneration programme will bring forward the development of energy efficient properties which will help address fuel poverty for residents who are currently living in these properties across the city.

9.6 The outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) declared by the World Health Organisation as a 'Global Pandemic' in March 2020 has had worldwide impacts. Consideration needs to be given to ongoing resident consultation and how and where this is conducted. As there is a current rise in positive Covid case, it may be necessary to carry out consultation in several ways such as contacting tenants via personal mobiles, email, and utilising Microsoft Teams, rather than holding public meetings and events.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 Cabinet report 16 June 2021 – [Citywide Non-traditional Property Investment and Regeneration Programme](#).

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