

Appendix 2a



CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT OCTOBER 2022

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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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”).

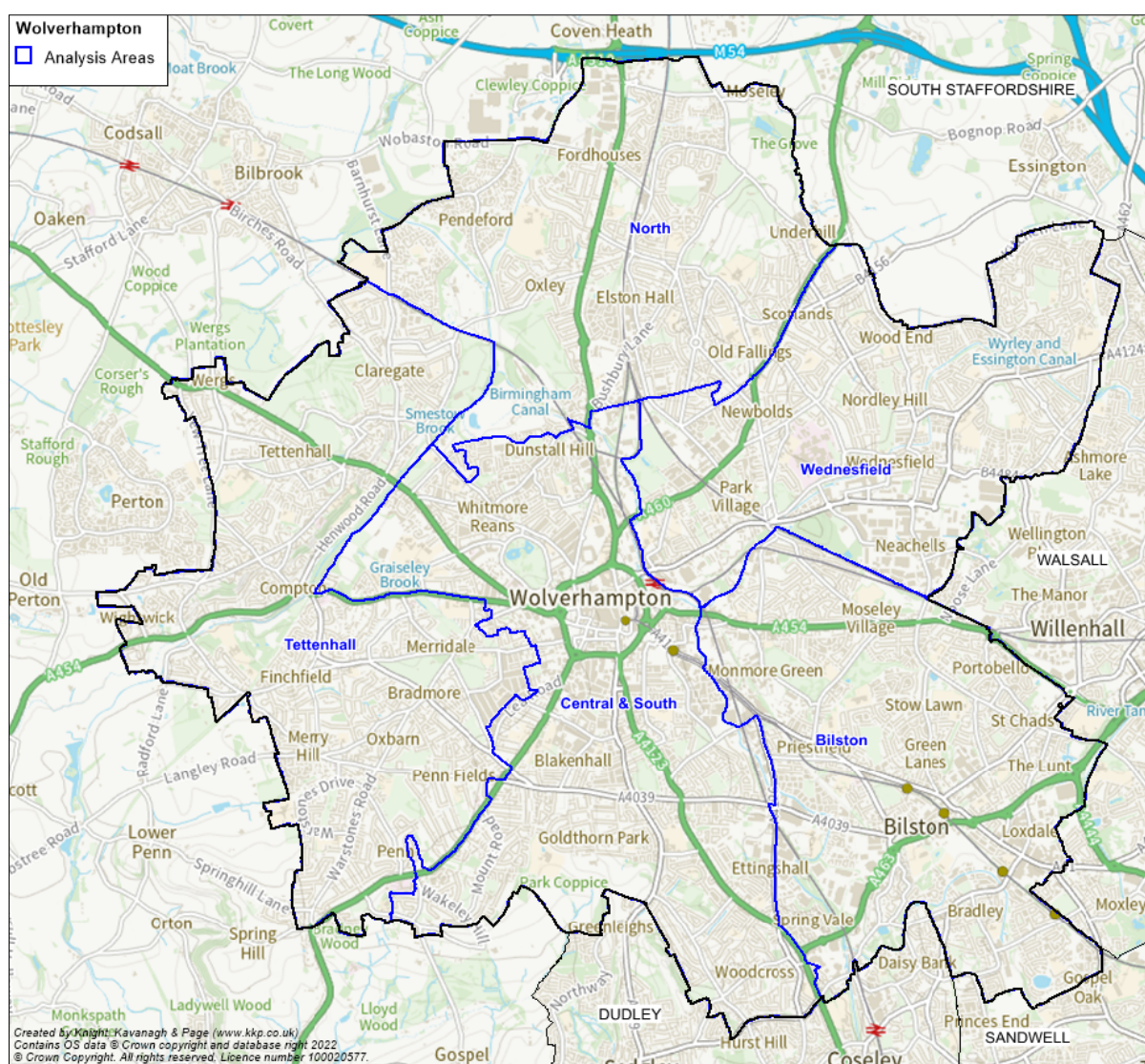
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Study area

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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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

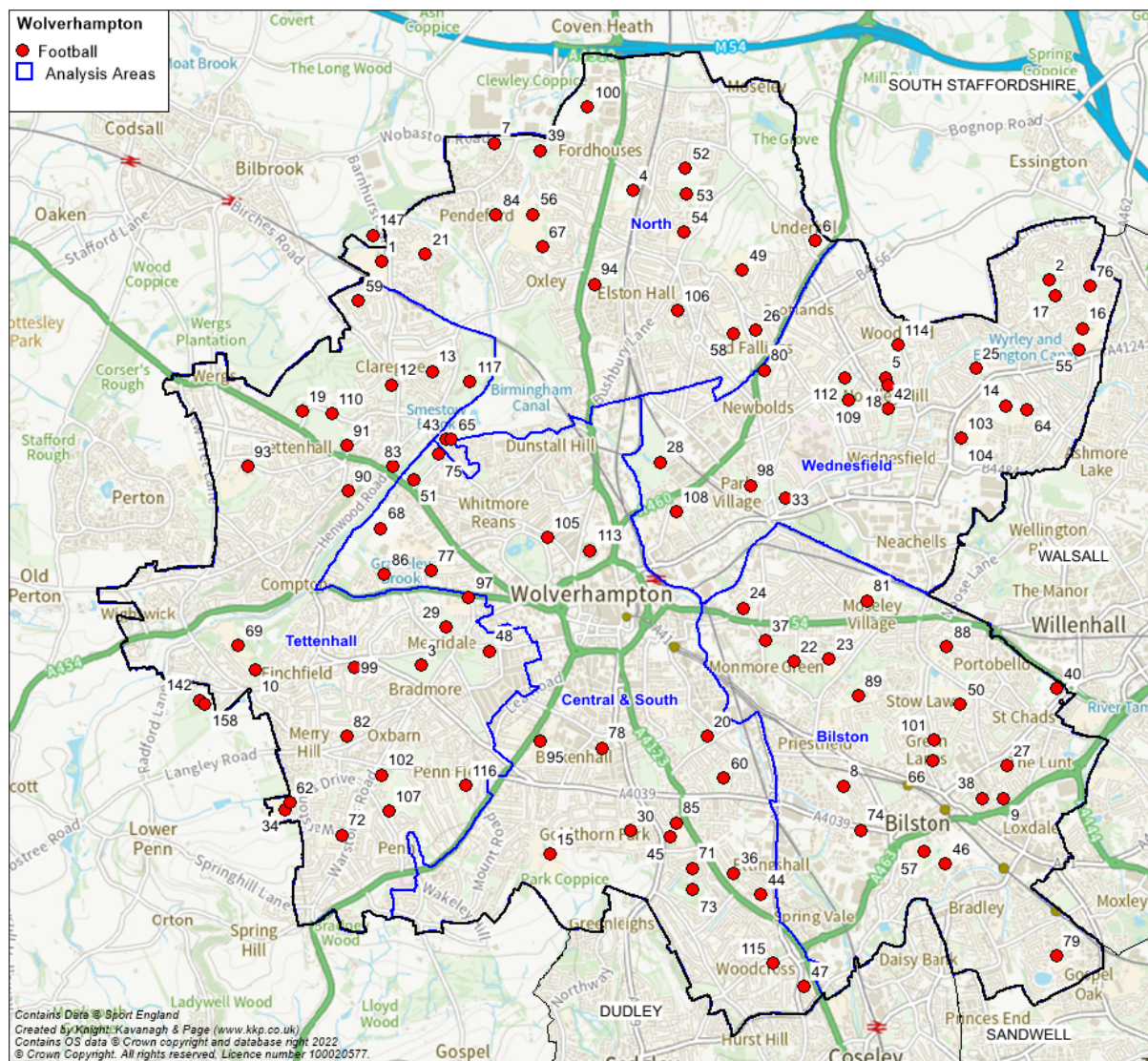
There being more adult pitches across Wolverhampton is reflective of high demand for this format of play. However, youth 11v11 demand is actually higher, meaning that the low supply of youth 11v11 pitches does not correlate. This leads to many youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, which, whilst 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	Councill	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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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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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.

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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.

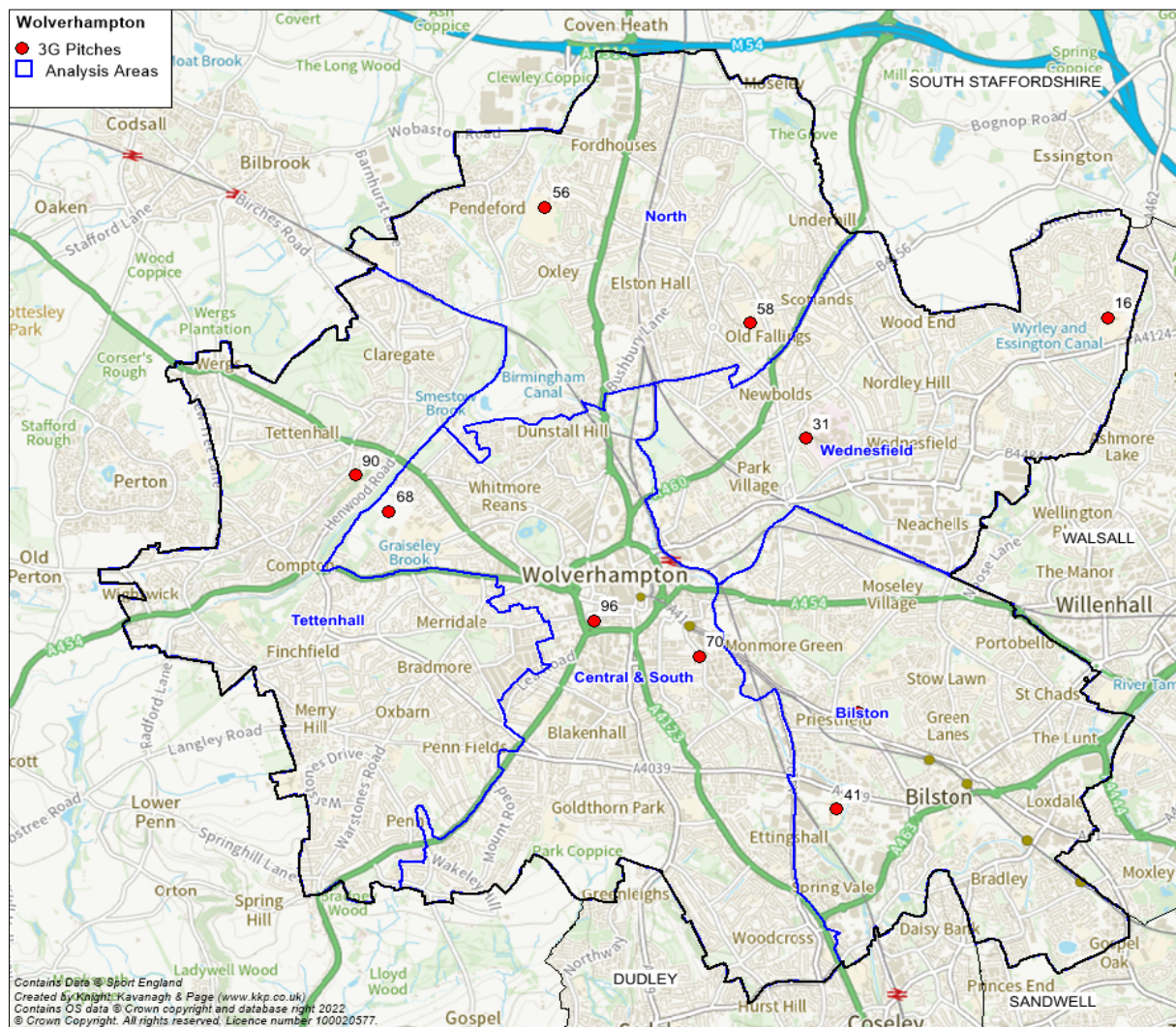
Wolverhampton Olympic FC aspires to install a smaller sized 3G pitch at Danescourt, where an old tennis court lies disused at the back of the facility. The courts share a space with a bowling facility used by Express & Star Bowls Club and has existing floodlights in place.

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

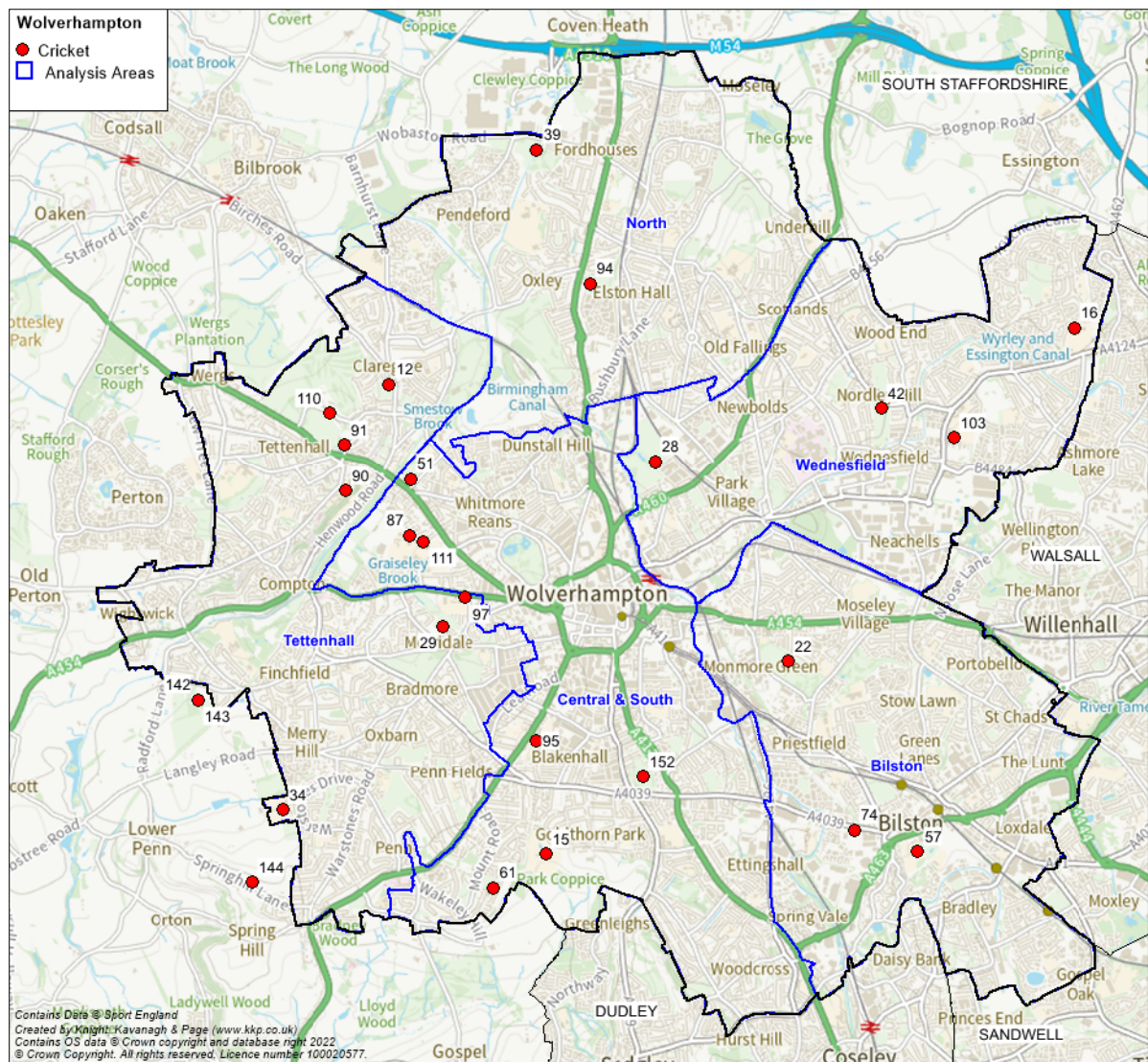
Playing field sites which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years 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

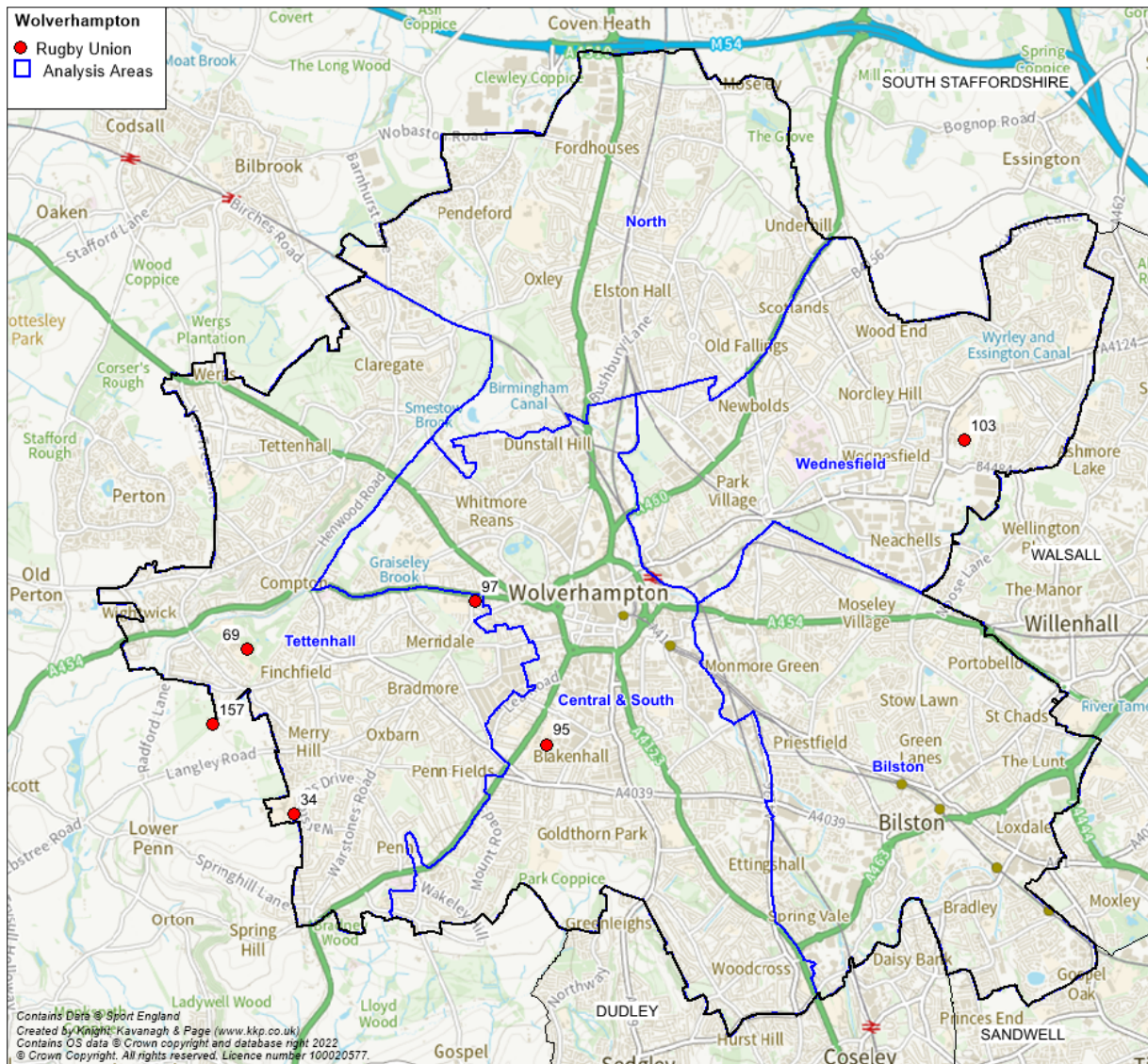
Figure 5.1 highlights all rugby union pitches currently within Wolverhampton, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 5.3.

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.