

# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### PART 7: HOCKEY

#### 7.1: Introduction

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

Table 7.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

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

In addition to the above pitch types, EH reports that it is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2<sup>1</sup>, is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it will be a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

For senior teams, a full-size pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run-off areas, which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596&sectionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

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EH's preference is for four-metre side and five-metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres, though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek and also requires access to a pitch with floodlights.

### Consultation

There are four affiliated hockey clubs identified as playing within Wolverhampton. These are; Finchfield HC, Old Wulfrunians HC, Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC and Dudley Ladies HC, all of which successfully responded to consultation resulting in a 100% response rate.

Table 7.2: Summary of Hockey club response rate

Club name	Club response?
Finchfield HC	Yes
Old Wulfrunians HC	Yes
Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC	Yes
Dudley Ladies HC	Yes

### 7.2: Supply

The audit identifies five hockey suitable AGPs within Wolverhampton across five sites (two are located at WV Active Aldersley), all of which are floodlit and available for community use. Tettenhall is the Analysis Area featuring the most AGPs, with three (60% of the overall supply), whilst both the Bilston and Central and South analysis areas have one AGP each.

In the case of both the North and Wednesfield analysis areas, there is no identified full size supply.

Table 7.3: Summary of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit ?	Size (metres)
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	WV14 0QE	Bilston	Yes	Yes	91 x 55
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	WV3 0EG	Central & South	Yes	Yes	90 x 60
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	WV3 9RB	Tettenhall	Yes	Yes	102 x 58
117	WV Active Aldersley	WV6 9NW	Tettenhall	Yes	Yes	102 x 63
					Yes	102 x 63

### Smaller size provision

In addition to the full size AGPs, there is also one smaller size pitch provided in Wolverhampton, at Colton Hills Community School. This is available to the community, however, only in favourable conditions as the pitch is unplayable during inclement weather spells. It is serviced by floodlights and is most commonly used for football as opposed to hockey, likely due to the smaller, 39m x 24m dimensions.

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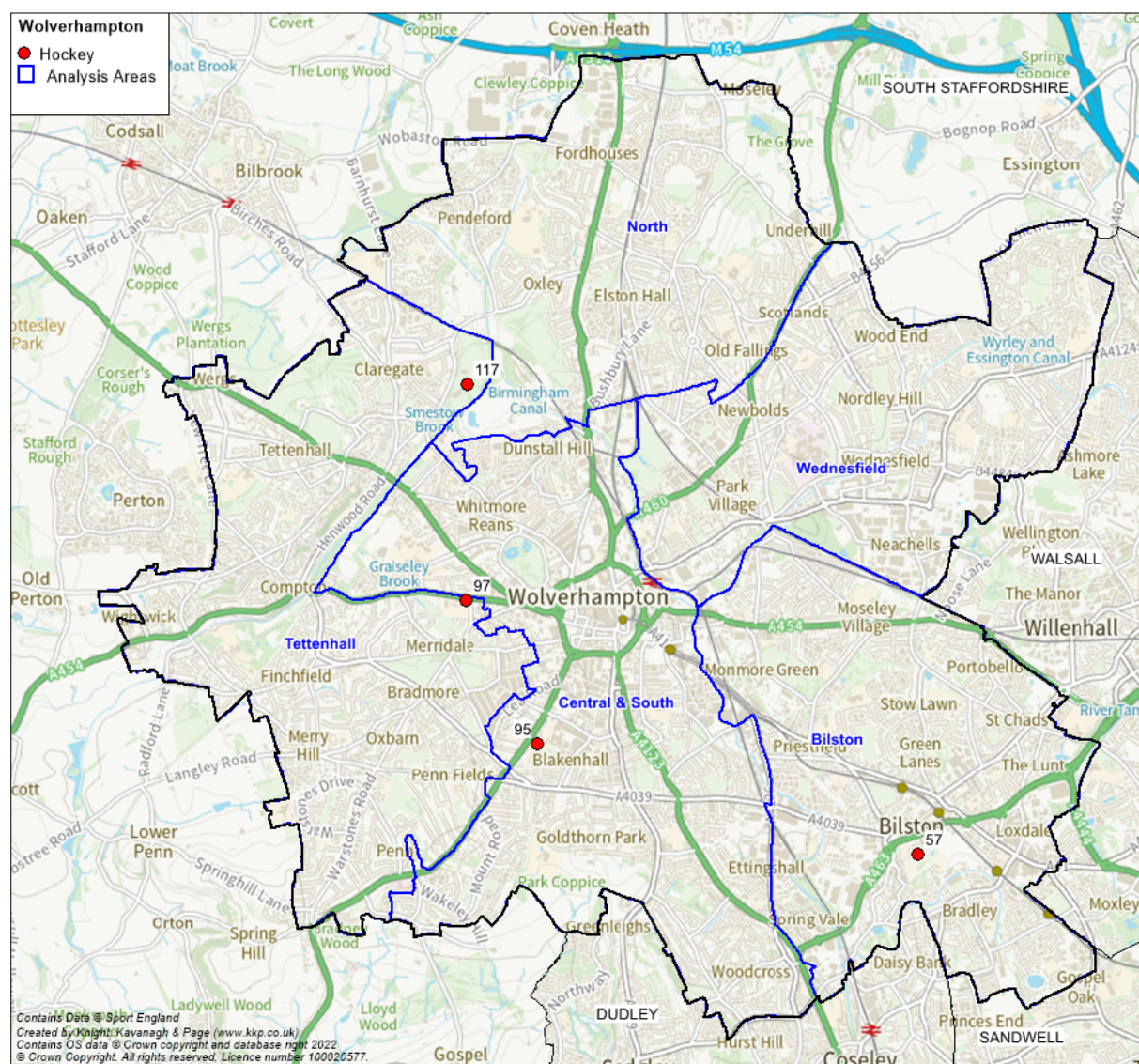
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Given the size of the pitch deeming it too small to accommodate any purposeful hockey demand, it is discounted in the forthcoming analysis.

Table 7.4: Smaller size AGPs in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Surface	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
15	Colton Hills Community School	Central & South	Yes	Sand filled	Yes	39 x 24

Figure 7.1: Location of full size hockey AGPs



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### ***Future supply***

Consultation with all four Wolverhampton based hockey clubs within the area failed to identify any cases of sites or clubs intending to develop any further hockey provision.

EH indicates concerns about the lack of hockey-suitable facilities within Wolverhampton and the three accompanying Black Country Authorities. As such, it is currently searching for a site where new suitable hockey provision can be provided to secure the long term future of clubs in the region.

### ***Management and ownership***

The pitch at Ormiston SWB Academy is under the Ormiston Academy Trust ownership and is managed by the school during curricular hours and by the WV Active Bilston-Bert Williams Leisure Centre for out of school hours. Similarly, the WV Active Aldersley pitch is under ownership of WV Active Aldersley and forms one of the three BC academy centres servicing the Black Country community.

The pitches located at the Royal Wolverhampton School and Wolverhampton Grammar School are both managed in house by the schools.

### ***Security of tenure***

Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC, which currently plays at WV Active Aldersley, accesses the provision on a yearly rental basis. The Club has been located at this site for over ten years and hope to remain here for the foreseeable future, although this is without a long-term guarantee (unsecure tenure).

Finchfield HC is based at the Royal Wolverhampton School for both training and fixtures. The Club has a free rental agreement in place having provided financial support in the re-surfacing of the pitch on site in 2019. This agreement is in place until the pitch development has been reimbursed.

Similarly, Old Wulfrunians HC is based at Wolverhampton Grammar School, which it shares good relations with having provided financial support for the re-surfacing of the facility in 2016. This pitch development support has provided the Club with a long-term agreement for the site.

Dudley Ladies HC utilises the pitch at Ormiston SWB Academy, following the loss of the Club's previous pitch located at the Dell Stadium in Dudley. This means that it is a Dudley Club importing demand into Wolverhampton due to a lack of facilities within its home authority. It rents the pitch on a weekly basis and is therefore without security of tenure.

### ***Availability***

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

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Table 7.5: AGP opening hours

Site ID	Site	Availability	Hours available in the peak period (and overall)
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	Reserved for curricular use until 17:00 then available to the community under WV Active Bilston-Bert Williams Leisure Centre management from 17:00-22:00 during the week and from 09:00-17:00 at weekends.	34 (41)
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	Reserved for curricular use until 17:00 then available to the community from 17:00-22:00 during the week and from 08:30-22:00 at weekends.	34 (38.5)
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Reserved for curricular use until 18:00 then available to the community from 18:00-22:00 during the week and from 08:00-16:00 at weekends.	27 (38)
117	WV Active Aldersley	Available and open to the general public weekdays from 09:00-22:00 and on weekends the site is open from 09:00 to 17:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 until 16:00 on Sundays.	33 (80)
117	WV Active Aldersley	Available and open to the general public weekdays from 09:00-22:00 and on weekends the site is open from 09:00 to 17:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 until 16:00 on Sundays.	33 (80)

Based on these opening times, all pitches, with the exception of Wolverhampton Grammar School are available for the full 34 hours per week in the peak window. Wolverhampton Grammar School is open 27 hours per week in the peak window (due to not being available until 18:00 midweek).

## Quality

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

In Wolverhampton, two of the full size pitches are assessed as good quality and three are standard quality.

As it stands, all pitches are within their recommended lifespans. Based on a technical report (produced by Notts Sport) for both pitches at WV Aldersley, it is determined that each has a minimum of four years left prior to a resurface being needed to be considered.

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Table 7.6: Summary of full-size AGP quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	Bilston	2013	Standard
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	Central and South	2004/ 2019	Good
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Tettenhall	1996/ 2016	Good
117	WV Active Aldersley	Tettenhall	1994/2013	Standard
		Tettenhall	1994/2013	Standard

## Ancillary provision

Changing facilities at Ormiston SWB Academy have been flagged as an issue for Dudley Ladies HC as it does not have access to the on-site changing rooms for Saturday fixtures, meaning only external portable toilets are available.

No other issues regarding changing rooms were highlighted during consultations.

## 7.3: Demand

There are four affiliated hockey clubs across Wolverhampton, each of which has varying scales of members and number of teams. A summary of hockey demand can be found below in Table 7.6.

In total, the four hockey clubs collectively provide 24 teams which, as a breakdown, totals 16 senior men's, six senior women's and two junior teams. Three of the clubs are large clubs with a variety of teams, whilst Dudley Ladies HC fields just one senior side.

Table 7.7: Summary of demand

Name of Club	No. of competitive teams			No. of members
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior	
Dudley Ladies HC	-	1	-	54
Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC	4	4	1	205
Finchfield HC	6	1	1	146
Old Wulfrunians HC	6	-	-	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>505</b>

## Dudley Ladies HC

Dudley Ladies HC fields one senior women's team, consisting of 15 senior members and one junior member. The Club previously had as many as three teams playing at The Dell Stadium; however, this reduced to one team when the Club relocated due to the conversion of the 3G pitch.

The Club now plays and trains at Ormiston SWB Academy, in Wolverhampton, as it reports a distinct lack of available facilities across its home borough. The Club accesses a third of the pitch for a training slot every Wednesday due to having to balance football demand in the area. The AGP does not feature a net divider or divide pads, meaning the Club lays down cones to cordon themselves away from football users.

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The changing and toilet facilities are also closed on Saturdays, meaning it can only access portable toilets on matchdays. The Club fears that it is at risk of folding completely and has previously trialled combining with other local clubs, but this has not been successful.

### ***Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC***

Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC represents the largest club within the City, with four senior men's, four senior ladies teams and one junior team. However, the Club reports a recent loss of its fifth ladies team, caused by a lack of demand. It also delivers junior sessions every Sunday for which it has circa 50 members in attendance.

The Club report that it has issues with utilisation of both pitches at WV Aldersley due to quality concerns on the sand filled pitch and as such has relocated a proportion of its demand at Ormiston SWB Academy. However, this is not evidenced by the technical report produced by Notts Sport.

### ***Finchfield Hockey Club***

Finchfield HC uses The Royal Wolverhampton School for fixtures and training, for which it pays no fee due to having provided financial support in the schools resurfacing of the sand dressed AGP in 2019.

The Club has access to the site on Saturdays as lead bookers and train on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which it states is ample for its training needs.

### ***Old Wulfrunians HC***

Old Wulfrunians HC uses Wolverhampton Grammar School for its training and fixtures. The Club has a two-hour training slot every Tuesday which must conclude before 21:00 due to a curfew on the floodlights. Consultation identifies that both the pitch and changing room quality offered at Wolverhampton Grammar School is of a good quality; however, the School does not open to the general public on Sundays, which forces the Club to use The Royal Wolverhampton School as a secondary venue.

### ***Imported/exported demand***

As already discussed, Dudley Ladies HC import demand from Dudley into Wolverhampton due to the lack of facilities available within the borough. The Club lost its facility in 2016 after the Dell Stadium was converted into a 3G surface. Previously the Club tried a merger with a Club based in Bilston; however this failed to work.

### ***Latent demand***

Whilst no formal latent demand is identified by the clubs, it is generally considered that those based at a single site can recruit new members more effectively. Therefore, it is likely that Finchfield HC and Wolverhampton and Tettenhall HC are in the strongest positions to increase membership, as the remaining two clubs are either scattered across several venues or are based outside of their home authority, in the case of Dudley Ladies HC.

### ***Future demand***

Dudley Ladies HC has no plans to increase its membership, instead focusing on retaining the single senior women's team that it currently fields and ensuring that it remains viable.

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Conversely, the remaining three clubs all aspire to increase demand in the future, although none quantify this.

In addition to the above, growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years.

### ***EH initiatives***

There are several initiatives supported by EH that operate across the Country, including:

- ◀ Back to Hockey
- ◀ Hockey Heroes
- ◀ Walking Hockey

When ran, these initiatives add to the demand picture for hockey and are likely to result in future growth within the affiliated clubs. Only Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC currently deliver Back to Hockey sessions, which take place before its weekly training sessions. No clubs referred to delivering Hockey Heroes but Walking Hockey sessions are delivered at WV Aldersley.

### ***Peak time demand***

For matches, senior hockey activity typically takes place on a Saturday, whereas junior activity generally occurs on a Sunday. For training, peak time is midweek evenings, although preference is generally given for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

### **Usage**

The pitch at Ormiston SWB Academy is used for both hockey and football purposes, with Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC taking the primary booking slot on Saturday from 10:00 till 15:00, giving the Club time for three games if required. Following this, Dudley Ladies HC has a two-hour Saturday slot for its fixtures.

The pitches at both The Royal Wolverhampton School and Wolverhampton Grammar School are both also used extensively for football purposes, in addition to hockey demand.

The two pitches available at WV Active Aldersley have a measured approach to balancing hockey and football usage by having the sand filled AGP predominantly used for football during the week, whilst the sand dressed AGP is more hockey focused. However, that's not to say that there is not an opportunity for an increased level of competitive hockey use on the sand filled pitch for local teams.

A pitch-by-pitch summary of usage is provided overleaf.



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Table 7.8: Capacity Review

Site ID	Site name	Pitch quality	Availability in the peak period (hours) <sup>2</sup>	% of hockey usage	% of other usage (e.g. football)	Comments	Capacity for hockey
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	Standard	34	25% 3 hours 30 mins	75%	Used by Dudley Ladies HC where it accesses one third of the pitch for an hour and a half every Wednesday for training. The remaining two thirds of the pitch the Club share with football use, which the site is predominantly used for during midweek. For fixtures the Club is allocated two hours on a Saturday afternoon, giving time for one fixture to take place.  Also currently used by Wolverhampton Hockey club as an overspill site.	<b>Spare capacity</b> for Saturday six additional teams per week (or three matches in peak period) No midweek capacity for further hockey use.
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	Good	31	19% 8 hr hockey usage	81%	Used by Finchfield HC where it has two training sessions, once on a Tuesday and once on a Thursday. The Club state this is ample for its needs. The Club has seven senior teams which equates to 3.5 match equivalent sessions in addition to its two training sessions midweek. Therefore, the site is operating at capacity for hockey.	<b>Spare capacity</b> for one additional Saturday senior team (0.5 matches in the peak period). Minimal availability for midweek training for remaining community clubs.
97	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Good	34	21% 7 hr hockey usage	79%	Used by Old Wulfrunians HC who have a two-hour training slot every Tuesday. The Club has six senior men's teams within its remit, which equates to three match equivalent sessions.	<b>Spare capacity</b> for two additional Saturday senior team (one match in peak period). No midweek capacity for further hockey use.
117	WV Active Aldersley (sand dressed)	Standard	34	30% 6 hours 30 mins	70%	The pitch is used by Wolverhampton Hockey Club for fixtures and training. The Club train Wednesday evenings from 19:00-21:00 and the eight teams within the club access the pitch on Saturdays for fixtures from 10:00 till 15:00. This gives the pitch six match equivalent sessions.	<b>No spare capacity</b> for matches or training
117	WV Active Aldersley (sand filled)	Standard	34	0%	Unknown	Predominately used for recreational football, however, has scope for further hockey use. Local clubs perceive quality of the pitch as unsuitable for competitive use, however, based on a technical report produced by Notts Sport, this is not the case.	<b>Spare capacity</b> for four additional Saturday senior. Likely to be small amount of capacity for midweek hockey use when balanced against football programming. .

<sup>2</sup> Based on data from Sport England's Active Places

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### 7.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is suggested that a floodlit pitch is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' pitch).

In Wolverhampton there are 22 senior teams which require access to a AGP on Saturdays to compete in league competitions. As such, based on a single pitch being able to accommodate four matches in the peak period (the demand of eight teams), there is a theoretical need for full access to three full size pitches (rounded up from 2.75).

For junior hockey matches, the need for pitches is generally less than it is for senior hockey. This is because younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time) and because there are also fewer junior teams provided for all clubs in Wolverhampton than senior teams. Therefore, a sufficient stock of pitches for senior hockey would also be considered sufficient for junior demand.

In terms of the existing supply, there are five pitches which can accommodate demand, which could suggest a potential oversupply of pitches. Four of the five pitches are in active use, and capacity does not exist to consolidate this onto fewer pitches, especially due to the presence of football demand. For the unused pitch (the sand filled at WV Aldersley) there is scope for increased use. This does not translate to the pitch being surplus to requirements as it should be considered as a strategic reserve for an increase in hockey demand, both for local Wolverhampton based clubs, but also those in the wider Black Country locality.

### **Conclusion**

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

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### **Hockey supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Current supply of AGPs within Wolverhampton can accommodate the existing demand for hockey within the City.
- ◀ There is a need for all of the existing pitches to be protected for hockey in Wolverhampton.

### **Hockey supply summary**

- ◀ There are five full size hockey suitable AGPs in Wolverhampton, provided at Ormiston SWB Academy, The Royal Wolverhampton School, Wolverhampton Grammar School and WV Active Aldersley (x2).
- ◀ All five pitches are floodlit and available to the community.
- ◀ There is one smaller size pitches, at Colton Hills Community School which is not large enough to accommodate some form of hockey demand.
- ◀ All pitches are good or standard quality.

### **Hockey demand summary**

- ◀ There are four affiliated hockey clubs identified as playing within Wolverhampton (Dudley Ladies, Wolverhampton, Finchfield and Old Wulfrunians hockey clubs).
- ◀ These four hockey clubs provide 24 teams, consisting of 16 senior men's, six senior women's and two junior teams.
- ◀ Dudley Ladies HC previously accessed The Dell Stadium, in Dudley, before its conversion to 3G in 2016 (imported demand).
- ◀ All clubs express future demand, although this is not quantified.
- ◀ Walking Hockey takes place at WV Aldersley.
- ◀ A large proportion of usage for the hockey suitable AGPs in Wolverhampton is from other activities, most notably in terms of football, whether that be through formal training or via informal social use.

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### PART 8: TENNIS

#### 8.1: Introduction

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

#### **Consultation**

There are six tennis clubs in Wolverhampton, of which five responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 83%. The unresponsive clubs are Linden Lea and Woodfield Sports and Social tennis clubs, with a full breakdown provided in the table below.

*Table 8.1: Tennis club response rate*

Club name	Club response?
Albert TC	Yes
Hanbury TC	Yes
Linden Lea TC	No
Tettenhall TC	Yes
Wolverhampton TC	Yes
Woodfield Sports and Social TC	No

#### **Disused and lapsed provision**

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

There are two lapsed courts located on Danescourt Rd (WV6 9BQ) these are owned by a private fitness company.

#### 8.2: Supply

There are 125 tennis courts identified in Wolverhampton across 28 sites. Of the courts, 74 are categorised as being available for community use at 17 sites compared to 51 that are unavailable at 12 sites.

The Tettenhall Analysis Area contains the highest number of available courts (30), whereas the Bilston and Wednesfield Analysis Areas provides the fewest (four).

*Table 8.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area*

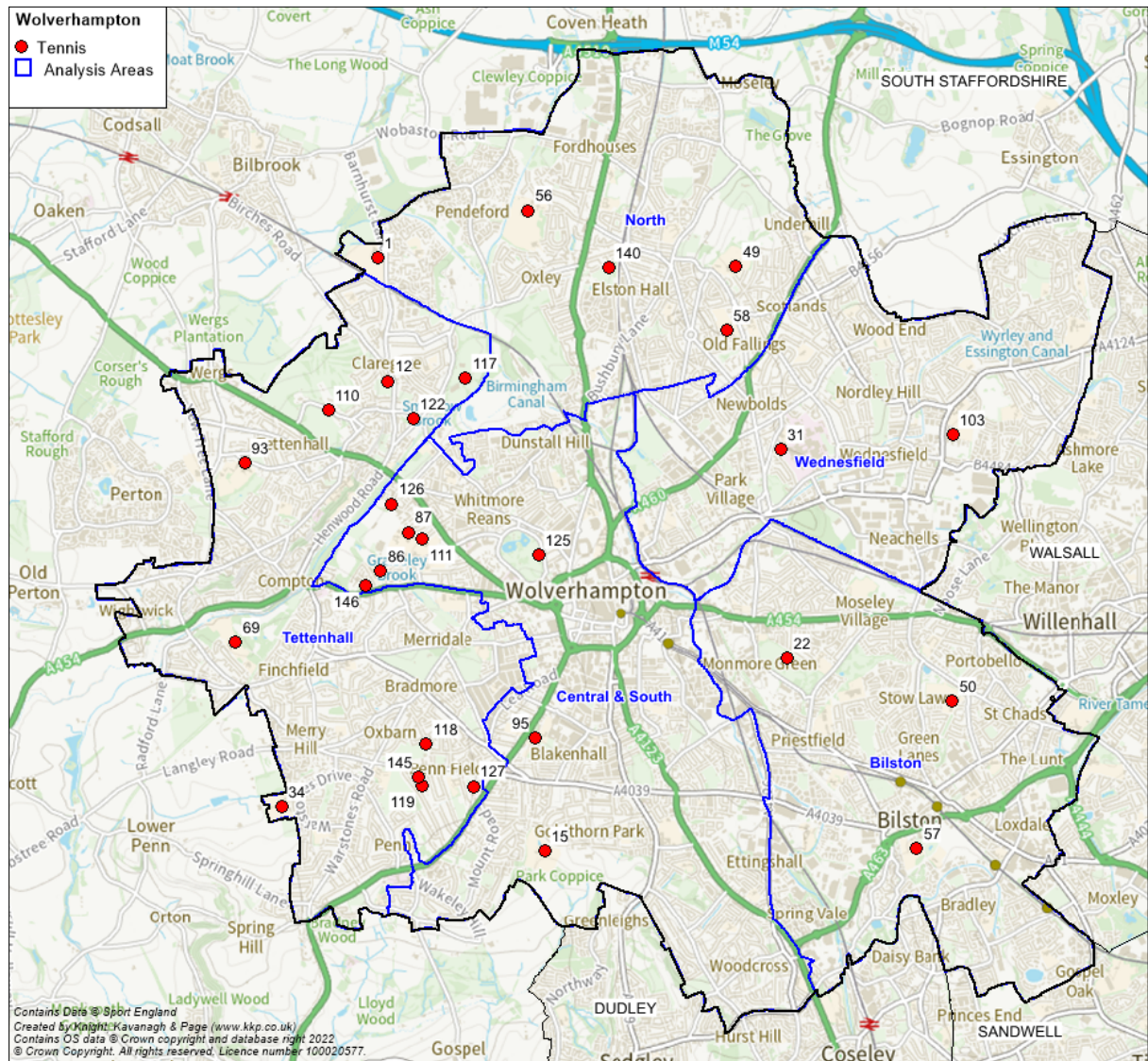
Analysis area	Courts available for community use	Courts unavailable for community use
Bilston	6	4
Central & South	25	23
North	9	10
Tettenhall	30	10
Wednesfield	4	4
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>51</b>

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Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both). All unavailable courts in Wolverhampton are located at education sites.

Figure 8.1 shows the location of the courts servicing Wolverhampton, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 8.3.

Figure 8.1: Location of tennis courts in Wolverhampton



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Table 8.3: Tennis courts in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Court quality
1	Aldersley High School Sports Centre	WV8 1RT	North	School	No	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
						2	Yes	Macadam	
12	Claregate Park	WV6 9PZ	Tettenhall	Council	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Poor
15	Colton Hills Community School	WV4 5DG	Central & South	School	No	8	No	Macadam	Standard
22	East Park	WV1 2BS	Bilston	Council	Yes	5	No	Clay	Poor
31	Heath Park School	WV11 1RD	Wednesfield	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Standard
34	Highfields School	WV4 4NT	Tettenhall	School	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
49	Moreton School	WV10 8BY	North	School	No	6	Yes	Macadam	Poor
50	Moseley Park School Sports Centre	WV14 6LU	Bilston	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Standard
56	Ormiston NEW Academy	WV10 6SE	North	School	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	WV14 0QE	Bilston	School	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Good
58	Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy	WV10 8BL	North	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
69	Smestow School	WV3 8HU	Tettenhall	School	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Standard
86	St. Edmund's Catholic Academy	WV3 9DU	Central & South	School	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
87	St. Peter's Collegiate School	WV3 9DU	Central & South	School	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Standard
					No	4	No	Macadam	
93	The King's CE School	WV6 8XG	Tettenhall	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Good
						3	No	Macadam	Standard
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	WV3 0EG	Central & South	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Standard
103	Wednesfield High Academy	WV11 3ES	Wednesfield	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	WV6 9BJ	Tettenhall	Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
111	Wolverhampton Girls' High School	WV6 0BY	Central & South	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Good
117	WV Active Aldersley	WV6 9NW	Tettenhall	Council	Yes	6	Yes	Macadam	Good
118	Bradmore Recreation Ground	WV3 7EN	Tettenhall	Council	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Poor
119	Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club	WV4 4BW	Tettenhall	Club	Yes	2	No	Artificial turf	Good
122	The Albert Lawn Tennis Club	WV6 9NA		Club	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Court quality
			Tettenhall			2	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
125	West Park	WV1 4QA	Central & South	Council	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Poor
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	WV6 0LH	Central & South	Club	Yes	5	Yes	Macadam	Good
						3	Yes	Clay	Poor
						1	No	Artificial turf	Good
						3	No	Grass	Good
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	WV4 4AF	Tettenhall	Club	Yes	4	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
140	Goodyear Neighbourhood Park	WV10 6DB	North	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
146	Linden Lea Tennis Club	WV3 9DU	Central & South	Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good

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## **Indoor courts**

In addition to its outdoor court stock, there are three indoor courts provided at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club. Although these fall out of the scope of this study, consideration must be given the provision given the added capacity benefits they provide.

## **Management and security of tenure**

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Wolverhampton. Most are operated by schools, although only 27 (34%) of these are available for community use, with local authority operated courts more accessible.

*Table 8.4: Tennis courts by management type*

Community use?	Number of courts			
	Club	Council	Education	Other
Available	25	27	25	-
Unavailable	-	-	48	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>-</b>

The table below outlines what the position of each of the tennis clubs in Wolverhampton.

*Table 8.5: Clubs home venue and tenure position*

Site ID	Site	Club	Tenure position
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall TC	Long term lease from Wolverhampton CC
119	Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club	Hanbury TC	Freehold
122	The Albert Lawn Tennis Club	Albert TC	Freehold
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	Wolverhampton TC	Freehold
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	Woodfield Sports and Social TC	<i>Unknown</i>
146	Linden Lea Tennis Club	Linden Lea TC	<i>Unknown</i>

Woodfield Sports & Social and Linden Lea tennis clubs have been unresponsive to consultation requests, therefore it is unknown what their tenure position is.

## **Court type**

Most outdoor tennis courts in Wolverhampton have a macadam surface, with 106 (83%). The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

Grass courts, whilst much sought after by players, are becoming increasingly rare across the Country, in part due to them requiring higher levels of maintenance and being able to accommodate less usage. They are generally reserved for summer use, with bad weather at other times of the year making them unusable.



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### ***Floodlighting***

Floodlit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that floodlights allow for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In Wolverhampton, 57 of the 125 tennis courts are serviced by floodlights, representing 47% of the provision. This is a relatively high amount when compared to other local authorities nationally.

The floodlit courts are located at:

- ◀ Aldersley High School Sports Centre
- ◀ Highfields School
- ◀ Linden Lea Tennis Club
- ◀ Moreton School
- ◀ Ormiston NEW Academy
- ◀ Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy
- ◀ St. Edmund's Catholic Academy
- ◀ Wednesfield High Academy
- ◀ The Albert Lawn Tennis Club
- ◀ Wolverhampton Cricket Club
- ◀ Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club
- ◀ Woodfield Social & Sports Club
- ◀ WV Active Aldersley

Of the floodlit courts, 41 are available for community use. The 16 that are unavailable are at Aldersley High School Sports Centre (four), Highfields School (three), Moreton School (six) and St. Edmund's Catholic Academy (three).

A lack of floodlighting at many of the school sites presents a key reason as to why many of the courts are unavailable for community use. Many of the providers state that making them available for lettings would not be financially viable as usage would be limited, although the LTA does offer solutions to help overcome this including initiatives such as Clubspark and Gate Access (detailed further on). Just over half (53%) of non-floodlit courts are accessible to the community compared to 73% of floodlit courts.

Access to floodlit courts is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for more usage of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members. To that end, it must be noted that seven of the eight clubs have access to floodlit courts, although for Hanbury TC and Wolverhampton LTC only some of their courts are floodlit rather than all.

### ***Over markings***

Tennis courts, particularly within schools, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football courts. Courts which are over marked tend to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

In Wolverhampton, 49 courts are overmarked by netball/basketball provision, with the majority of these located at school sites where curriculum activity makes this necessary. For more information, see Part 9 of this report.

### ***Quality***

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering).

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For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the courts in Wolverhampton, 48 are assessed as good quality, 51 as standard quality and 26 as poor quality. Most good quality courts are available for community use, with only 12 out of the 51 unavailable, which is like poor quality courts, where 20 of the 26 are available for community use. In contrast, fewer than half of the standard quality courts are accessible (16 of 51).

*Table 8.6: Quality of community available tennis courts*

Community use?	Quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	36	16	20
Unavailable	12	35	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>26</b>

The courts assessed as poor quality are located at the following sites:

- ◀ Bradmore Recreation Ground
- ◀ Claregate Park
- ◀ East Park
- ◀ Moreton School
- ◀ West Park
- ◀ Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club

Issues recorded during site assessments include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel. In addition, maintenance is also considered to be basic and infrequent at most of the sites, which leads to further deterioration in quality.

Four of the sites containing poor quality courts are operated by the Council (at Claregate Park, East Park, Bradmore Recreation Ground and West Park). Improving such courts is currently a national priority for the LTA, with a focus on suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so. This is especially the case if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities and floodlighting, whereby a sustainable tennis programme could be supported. It is noted that park facilities in Wolverhampton close at dusk, and therefore, floodlighting surfaces at these relevant sites would not provide a benefit to users.

Of particular concern are the poor quality courts at Bradmore Recreation Ground and Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club given that the sites are used by clubs. However, it must be noted that only the clay courts at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club are assessed as poor, with the remaining court types rated as good quality.

### ***Ancillary provision***

Wolverhampton TC states that its provision is in poor condition. It therefore has plans to improve its clubhouse, with a focus on making it accessible for disabled users.

All remaining clubs are serviced by adequate provision, although it is noted that modernisation is required at Wolverhampton Cricket Club for Tettenhall TC.

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For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic, although good quality ancillary facilities are provided at WV Active Aldersley, Ormiston NEW Academy and Ormiston SWB Academy. Whilst most of the other sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used.

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of such provision would be to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

### 8.3: Demand

It is reported that demand for tennis provision during the Covid-19 pandemic has increased compared to prior levels when court restrictions have not been in place (potentially linked to tennis being one of the first sports to be allowed to resume). This should therefore be monitored moving forward to ensure that any growth can be accommodated for if the increases are sustained.

#### **Competitive tennis**

There are six tennis clubs in Wolverhampton which, where known, collectively cater for 1,359 members. It is, however, not clear what the membership figures are at Linden Lea TC and Woodfield Sports and Social Club due to these clubs not responding to consultation requests.

Across the responsive clubs, there are currently 995 senior and 364 junior members. Within this, Wolverhampton TC is a particularly large club, catering for 1,000 members. The Club having access to indoor provision will be a key factor for this.

*Table 8.7: Summary of tennis club demand*

Club	No. of members	
	Senior	Junior
Albert LTC	110	114
Hanbury LTC	25	10
Tettenhall TC	60	40
Wolverhampton LTC	800	200
Linden Lea TC	Unknown	Unknown
Woodfield Sports & Social TC	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Total</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>364</b>

#### **Participation trends**

Both Hanbury TC and Tettenhall TC report that their demand has increased at the junior level over recent years. The former attributes this to increased support received from local stakeholders, whilst the latter states that its 10% increase is due to the introduction of a family membership package.

In contrast, Albert TC reports that its senior membership has decreased in recent years, although this partially offset by a slight increase in its junior membership. It attributes the loss of members to a lack of demand and its growth in demand to a new junior coach being employed. They have implemented a better programme with various coaching sessions and initiatives being held.

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All remaining responsive clubs state that both senior and junior membership has remained static.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low-quality facilities were addressed. As such, there is a potential opportunity in Wolverhampton for the Council and other providers to address such barriers, whilst also bettering understanding of court usage.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 3,933 people within Wolverhampton, which is a comparably low figure; by way of comparison 5,375 people are identified in Dudley, 4,852 in Sandwell and 4,180 in Walsall.

In relation to clubs, Wolverhampton LTC reports unmet demand in that it believes that it would be able to accommodate more junior members if it had a greater number of courts. An increase in its number of courts would allow more coaching sessions to be run along with additional matches being played (the Club states that it would be able to put together two additional junior teams if capacity was not limited).

No other clubs report any latent or unmet demand.

### ***Future demand***

Three out of the four respondent clubs report future growth aspirations, with total future demand amounting to 230 potential additional members (160 senior and 70 junior). The majority of this is identify by Wolverhampton LTC (with hopes to grow by 200 members).

*Table 8.8: Summary of future tennis club demand*

Club	Future demand (members)	
	Senior	Junior
Albert LTC	-	-
Hanbury LTC	-	-
Tettenhall TC	10	20
Wolverhampton LTC	150	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>70</b>

### ***Informal tennis***

It is considered that all local authority courts available for community use in Wolverhampton have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not always recorded due to the open access nature of many sites.

Most of the current use is assumed to take place throughout the summer months although it is also accepted that many courts are accessed unofficially for activities unrelated to tennis.

The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities to grow the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access, which are further detailed below.

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In Wolverhampton, these products are currently utilised at Wolverhampton Cricket Club, WV Active Aldersley, Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club, Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club and Woodfield Social & Sports Club.

In addition, Bradmore Recreation Ground is also being considered for implementation. It is not currently in place at any sites operated by the Council.

In relation to education providers, three (Ormiston NEW Academy, Ormiston SWB Academy and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy) report regular demand from the community for tennis. It is believed by many that a lack of demand overall for education providers could be a direct result of quality issues and/or a lack of floodlighting, as well as other courts being available for free. This results in the community being less likely to pay a hire charge for their provision.

### *ClubSpark – Improving the booking process*

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◀ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◀ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- ◀ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ◀ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package
- ◀ Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◀ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- ◀ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

### *RALLY*

Rally is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Rally provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

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### *Gate Access*

The LTA has developed two gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four-digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

### ***Additional demand***

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which result in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

### *Local Tennis Leagues*

Recreational Tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are available to all aged 18 years and above and are run by an organisation called Local Tennis Leagues, which affiliates to the LTA.

Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

In Wolverhampton, a league is in operation, with primary venues considered to be Bradmore Recreation Ground, Claregate Playing Fields, East Park and West Park. In addition, venues in Walsall and Sandwell are also utilised.

### *LTA Youth Start*

This is a six-week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

### *Tennis for Free*

Tennis for Free is a community sports charity that works in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly coaching sessions for all ages and abilities in local communities across the UK, especially those in low-income areas.

Tennis for Free offers a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support. Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the charity have recently launched 'Tennis for Free Lite', available to clubs that wish to open their doors to non-members.

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Through its offer, Tennis for Free aims to:

- ◀ Reinvigorate under-used public facilities
- ◀ Make tennis a sport for all
- ◀ Make tennis more financially accessible in the UK
- ◀ Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local communities through tennis

### *LTA Big Tennis Weekend*

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts three dedicated weekends a year (in May, July and September) that are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow-on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

### *Mini tennis*

Although, no dedicated mini tennis courts have been identified in Wolverhampton, mini tennis can provide children with opportunities to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age.

Designed for children aged between 4-10, mini tennis utilises smaller courts, nets, and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques. The game is split out into three levels, with the LTA stating that each stage there are key aims and goals:

- ◀ Red (Stage 3): 4-8 year olds – serve, rally and score
- ◀ Orange (Stage 2): 8-9 year olds – develop a rounded game
- ◀ Green (Stage 1): 10 year olds – put skills to the test

### *Paddle tennis*

Paddle tennis (also referred to as Padel) is a form of tennis that is easy to play, fun and sociable. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve underhand and the walls are used as part of the game, with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

One of the fastest growing sports across continental Europe, it has gained increasing popularity over recent years, particularly in Spain with over six million people currently playing. As of 2021, there are around 6,000 active paddle tennis players across Great Britain, with 107 courts provided at 52 clubs. This is predicted to grow substantially in future years.

There are currently no paddle tennis courts in Wolverhampton. The nearest are located in Walsall at the Streetly Academy and in Birmingham at Sutton Coldfield Tennis Club.

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### 8.4: Supply and demand analysis

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate 40 members whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. In addition, indoor courts can accommodate 200 members, which is relevant to Wolverhampton TC. Using these figures, the table below analyses whether or not courts currently in use by clubs are sufficient to meet current and future demand.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that the capacity figures are just used as a guide. In reality, many clubs operating above recommended capacity limits will not see this as an issue and will be able to function without a problem.

Table 8.9: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Club users	Current demand (members)	Future demand (members)	No of courts	Floodlit?	Capacity (members)	Current capacity balance	Future capacity balance
110	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Tettenhall TC	100	30	3	Yes	180	80	50
119	Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club	Hanbury TC	35	-	2	No	80	45	45
122	The Albert Lawn Tennis Club	Albert TC	224	-	6	Yes	360	136	136
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	Wolverhampton TC	1,000	200	5	Yes	300	240	40
					3	Yes	180		
					1	No	40		
					3	No	120		
					3 <sup>3</sup>	Yes	600		
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	Woodfield Sports and Social TC	Unknown	Unknown	4	Yes	240	Unknown	Unknown
146	Linden Lea Tennis Club	Linden Lea TC	Unknown	Unknown	3	Yes	180	Unknown	Unknown

<sup>3</sup> Capacity added through the provision of indoor courts



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Wolverhampton TC seemingly has sufficient capacity for growth at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, consideration must be given to its expressed latent and unmet demand. If a substantial level of its membership base has demand for access to its outdoor courts during summer months, which is likely to be the case, it is understandable that it faces issues.

It is uncertain what the capacity picture is for Woodfield Sports & Social and Linden Lea tennis clubs due to them not responding to consultation requests. As such, further exploration is required. Woodfield Sports & Social TC has capacity for 240 members at Woodfield Sports and Social Club, and Linden Lea TC has capacity for 180 members at Linden Lea Tennis Club.

As no non-club courts are identified as having any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving quality to an adequate standard for promoting and increasing informal play, particularly at publicly available sites accommodating multiple courts and adequate ancillary facilities. Linked to this, increased utilisation of LTA schemes at suitable sites should be considered, as should the establishment of the other various initiatives, supported by the NGB.

### **Tennis– supply and demand summary**

- ◀ All clubs are operating within sustainable LTA guidelines.
- ◀ As no non-club courts are identified as have any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites hosting multiple courts.

### **Tennis – supply summary**

- ◀ There are 125 tennis courts identified in Wolverhampton across 28 sites. Of the courts, 74 are categorised as being available for community use at 17 sites compared to 51 that are unavailable at 12 sites.
- ◀ Most courts are operated by schools, although only 34% of these are available for community use.
- ◀ The majority of courts have a macadam surface, with 106 being of this type.
- ◀ Of the courts, 51 are assessed as good quality, 51 as standard quality and 26 as poor quality.

### **Tennis – demand summary**

- ◀ There are six tennis clubs in Wolverhampton, with Wolverhampton TC being a particularly large club.
- ◀ Wolverhampton TC expresses high levels of latent and unmet demand due to a lack of court capacity, at peak times.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by three clubs and amounts to 230 additional members (170 senior and 60 junior).
- ◀ Clubspark is utilised at numerous sites in Wolverhampton, although not at any sites operated by the Council

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### PART 9: NETBALL

#### 9.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided and in use by the netball community than there are indoor. Nationally, England Netball reports that the challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility and a lack of floodlighting can also be problematic.

#### *Consultation*

Information to inform this section of the report was primarily obtained through discussions with England Netball.

#### *Disused and lapsed provision*

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

There are no disused or lapsed sites identified in Wolverhampton which contained netball courts.

#### 9.2: Supply

There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across Wolverhampton, with 69 identified across 19 sites. However, of these, only 35 courts at ten sites are available for community use and most of these are without floodlighting which can limit usage during winter months. All of the courts that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites, primarily within high schools.

Most community available courts are located in the Tettenhall Analysis Area (16), with 10 in the North Analysis Area, four in the Central & South Analysis Area, three in Wednesfield Analysis Area and the remaining two are in the Bilston Analysis Area.

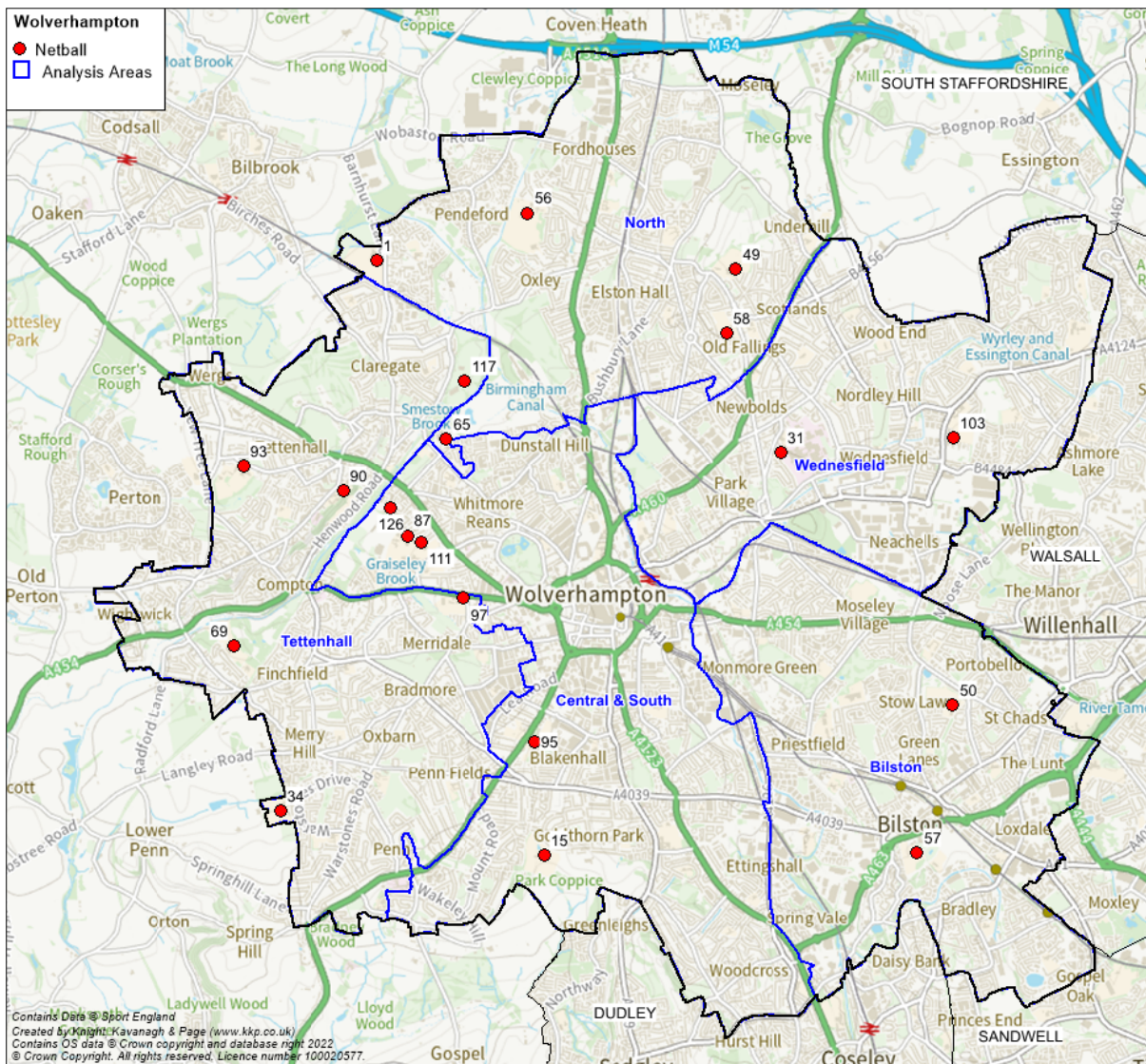
*Table 9.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area*

Analysis area	Number of courts available	Number of courts unavailable
Bilston	2	2
Central & South	4	16
North	10	7
Tettenhall	16	6
Wednesfield	3	3
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>

For a site-by-site breakdown of the courts supplied across Wolverhampton, please refer to Table 9.2 and Figure 9.1 overleaf.

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Figure 9.1: Location of netball courts in Wolverhampton



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Table 9.2: Netball courts in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit ?	Court type	Court quality
1	Aldersley High School Sports Centre	WV8 1RT	North	School	No	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
						2	Yes	Macadam	
15	Colton Hills Community School	WV4 5DG	Central & South	School	No	8	No	Macadam	Standard
31	Heath Park School	WV11 1RD	Wednesfield	School	No	3	No	Macadam	Standard
34	Highfields School	WV4 4NT	Tettenhall	School	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
49	Moreton School	WV10 8BY	North	School	No	3	Yes	Macadam	Poor
50	Moseley Park School Sports Centre	WV14 6LU	Bilston	School	No	2	No	Macadam	Standard
56	Ormiston NEW Academy	WV10 6SE	North	School	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
57	Ormiston SWB Academy	WV14 0QE	Bilston	School	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
58	Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy	WV10 8BL	North	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
65	Pine Green Academy	WV6 0UB	North	School	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Standard
69	Smestow School	WV3 8HU	Tettenhall	School	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Standard
87	St. Peter's Collegiate School	WV3 9DU	Central & South	School	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Standard
					No	3	No	Macadam	
90	Tettenhall College	WV6 8QX	Tettenhall	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
93	The King's Church of England School	WV6 8XG	Tettenhall	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Good
						2	No	Macadam	Standard
95	The Royal Wolverhampton School	WV3 0EG	Central & South	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Standard
103	Wednesfield High Academy	WV11 3ES	Wednesfield	School	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
111	Wolverhampton Girls' High School	WV6 0BY	Central & South	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Good
117	WV Active Aldersley	WV6 9NW	Tettenhall	Council	Yes	6	Yes	Macadam	Good
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	WV6 0LH	Central & South	Club	Yes	1	No	Artificial turf	Good

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### ***Management***

All but seven outdoor netball courts in Wolverhampton are operated by schools. The remaining courts are operated by the Council at WV Active Aldersley and by Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club.

### ***Court type***

Most outdoor netball courts in Wolverhampton have a macadam surface, with 68 being of this type and 34 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

The remaining court has an artificial surface, with this provided at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club. As with macadam courts, the estimated lifespan of an artificial court is ten years.

### ***Floodlighting***

Despite 69 outdoor netball courts being provided in Wolverhampton, only 29 are serviced by floodlighting. These are provided at Aldersley High School Sports Centre, Highfields School, Moreton School, Ormiston NEW Academy, Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy, Tettenhall College, Wednesfield High Academy and WV Active Aldersley.

A lack of floodlighting on netball courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database (updated in April 2020) identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are floodlit throughout the Country (38%). As such, a higher ratio is found in Wolverhampton, where 41% of courts are serviced.

### ***Over markings***

Netball courts, particularly at school sites, are often overmarked, predominately by tennis courts but also on occasion by basketball and/or football courts. Provision such as this tends to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as potentially causing capacity issues when there is external netball demand.

In Wolverhampton, 63 netball courts are over marked, with only eight being standalone courts. These standalone courts are provided at Pine Green Academy and Tettenhall College

### ***Quality***

The quality of netball courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard, or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering).

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the courts in Wolverhampton, 20 are assessed as good quality, 48 as standard quality and three as poor quality. Of the community available courts, 15 are rated as good quality, with 20 being standard and none being poor.

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Table 9.3: Quality of courts

Community use	Quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	15	20	-
Unavailable	5	28	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>3</b>

The poor-quality courts that are not available for community use are located at Moreton School, where the surface is worn and the line markings have badly faded.

Wednesfield High Academy is exploring funding opportunities for the conversion of its netball courts to a 3G surface. The current surface is standard quality (based on the KKP audit) however, with the line markings are fading and floodlights not working. However, this is being held back as the School has a lack of capital to proceed with this development.

The good quality court which is not available for community access is provided at The King's Church of England School, whereas those available for community use are located at Ormiston NEW Academy, Ormiston SWB Academy, Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy, WV Active Aldersley and Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club.

### **Ancillary provision**

Club users claim ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for netball and are generally located within main school buildings or are provided to predominately service sports halls and/or grass pitches. As such, access can be limited even at sites that allow for community use.

### **9.3: Demand**

Demand for outdoor netball tends to come in two forms; league and club-based netball that consists of matches and training, and the various netball-based initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball.

#### **League and club demand**

The Wolverhampton City Netball League operates in Wolverhampton, with all matches played a central venue at WV Active Aldersley, which has six courts. The League currently operates with five leagues and accommodates 52 teams, with matches being played every Thursday.

It is suggested that the majority of the teams playing in the League will draw players from Wolverhampton, although the level of data required to interrogate this is not available.

#### **Back to Netball**

Back to Netball is a scheme put into place by England Netball in 2010, with participation increasing ever since. Sessions are running weekly by qualified coaches across England with the aim of re-introducing female players over the age of 16 to the sport.

In Wolverhampton, numerous Back to Netball sessions have been run, mainly at WV Active Aldersley.

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### ***Walking Netball***

Walking Netball is a lower version of the sport, designed so that anyone can play regardless of age or fitness level. It can give those who are isolated an outlet, provide an activity for those who do not deem themselves fit enough and offer a stepping-stone for those looking for a pathway back into traditional netball.

Walking Netball sessions are hosted across the Black Country and the wider West Midlands region by Netball West Midlands. In Wolverhampton, there are no active sessions being held, with the nearest being held in Walsall at Manor Farm Community Centre.

### ***Netball Now***

Netball Now is a simple, straight forward way to play netball. It is not a competition led by rules or scores but rather a simple session where players can play a variety of positions and even have a go at umpiring.

No Netball Now sessions are in operation in Wolverhampton.

### ***Bee Netball***

A new initiative by England Netball, Bee Netball a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play, and teamwork. Each session is managed by an England Netball accredited coach. Although there are currently no sessions operating in Wolverhampton, it is still in its infancy so one may be established in the near future.

### ***Exported/imported demand***

No exported or imported demand is identified. All netball demand in Wolverhampton that wants to play within a league structure will likely stay within Wolverhampton to form part of the Wolverhampton Netball League.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 671 people within Wolverhampton, which is a relatively minimal amount and is lower than that identified in the remaining three Black Country authorities.

### ***Future demand***

It is hoped by England Netball that there will be an increase in the number of its initiatives held in Wolverhampton and the demand for them. However, this is reliant on volunteers hosting and organising the sessions.

## **9.4: Supply and demand analysis**

Whilst there is a large quantity of netball courts provided in Wolverhampton, the majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand due to a variety of factors including poor quality, a lack of floodlighting and no community use being allowed. However, all demand is seemingly being catered for through use of WV Active Aldersley by the Wolverhampton City Netball League and by Back to Netball sessions, with no additional demand identified.

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As the courts at WV Active Aldersley are good quality, supply is considered to be sufficient to meet demand. Priority should therefore be placed on protecting the provision for continued and long-term netball use. The site also has an indoor sports hall offer to complement outdoor provision.

To potentially further increase netball demand, focus should also be placed on supporting the various initiatives that are championed by England Netball and ensuring such programmes have suitable provision from which to be run. As part of this, priority should be placed on improving the quality of the existing stock, particularly where quality is poor and where curricular and extra-curricular needs are high. Where courts are over marked, this could be carried out in conjunction with improving tennis court quality.

### **Netball – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ The supply of netball courts in Wolverhampton is considered to be sufficient to meet demand.
- ◀ Priority should be placed on protecting the provision at WV Active Aldersley for continued and long-term netball use.
- ◀ There also remains a need to ensure programmes provided by England Netball have suitable provision from which to be run and that curricular and extra-curricular needs are being met.

### **Netball – supply summary**

- ◀ There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across Wolverhampton, with 69 identified across 19 sites; however, only 35 courts at 10 sites are available for community use.
- ◀ All but seven outdoor netball courts in Wolverhampton are operated by a school (the remaining courts are operated by the Council at WV Active Aldersley and by a club Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club).
- ◀ Most outdoor netball courts have a macadam surface, with 68 being of this type (the remaining one court has an artificial surface).
- ◀ A total of 63 netball courts are over marked, with the only standalone courts provided at Pine Green Academy and Tettenhall College.
- ◀ Only 29 of the courts are serviced by floodlighting, although this represents a high percentage than the national rate.
- ◀ 20 courts are assessed as good quality, 48 as standard quality and three as poor quality; of the community available courts, 15 are rated as good quality, with 20 being standard and none being poor.

### **Netball – demand summary**

- ◀ The Wolverhampton Netball League uses WV Active Aldersley as a central venue for all matches.
- ◀ The Club currently caters for 52 teams within five divisions.
- ◀ Back to Netball sessions have been run, mainly at WV Active Aldersley.
- ◀ No other initiatives are identified within the City.



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### PART 10: BOWLS

#### 10.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in Wolverhampton is played on crown greens, with a typical season running in the Summer from May until September. The British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) is the NGB with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport.

Flat green bowls is another version of bowls played in England, governed separately by Bowls England. However, this is played predominately in the South and therefore has no presence in Wolverhampton.

#### **Consultation**

There are 17 bowls clubs identified as currently using outdoor bowling greens in Wolverhampton. Of these, nine responded to consultation requests, equating to a response rate of 53%.

*Table 10.1: Summary of consultation*

<b>Name of club</b>	<b>Responded?</b>
44 Club BC	No
Ashmore Park BC	Yes
Bilston Town BC	No
Bradmore BC	Yes
ECC BC	No
Express & Star BC	Yes
Fordhouses BC	No
Pavilion BC	Yes
Penn BC	Yes
Pennfields BC	Yes
Springvale BC	Yes
Stile BC	Yes
Wednesfield Cons BC	Yes
West Park Bowling BC	No
Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC	No
Willenhall Nordley BC	No
Woodfield Social BC	No

#### 10.2: Supply

There are currently 22 crown green bowling greens in Wolverhampton provided across 18 sites (two are provided at Ashmore Park, Springvale Sports, Woodfield Social & Sports Club and Pennfields BC). In addition, there is one green outside of Wolverhampton that requires inclusion due to its proximity to the boundary. This is located at Nordley Liberals.

All of the greens are available for community use. As seen in the table overleaf, the Tettenhall analysis areas contain the largest number of greens (six), whilst the Bilston Analysis Area contains the fewest (two).

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Table 10.2: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

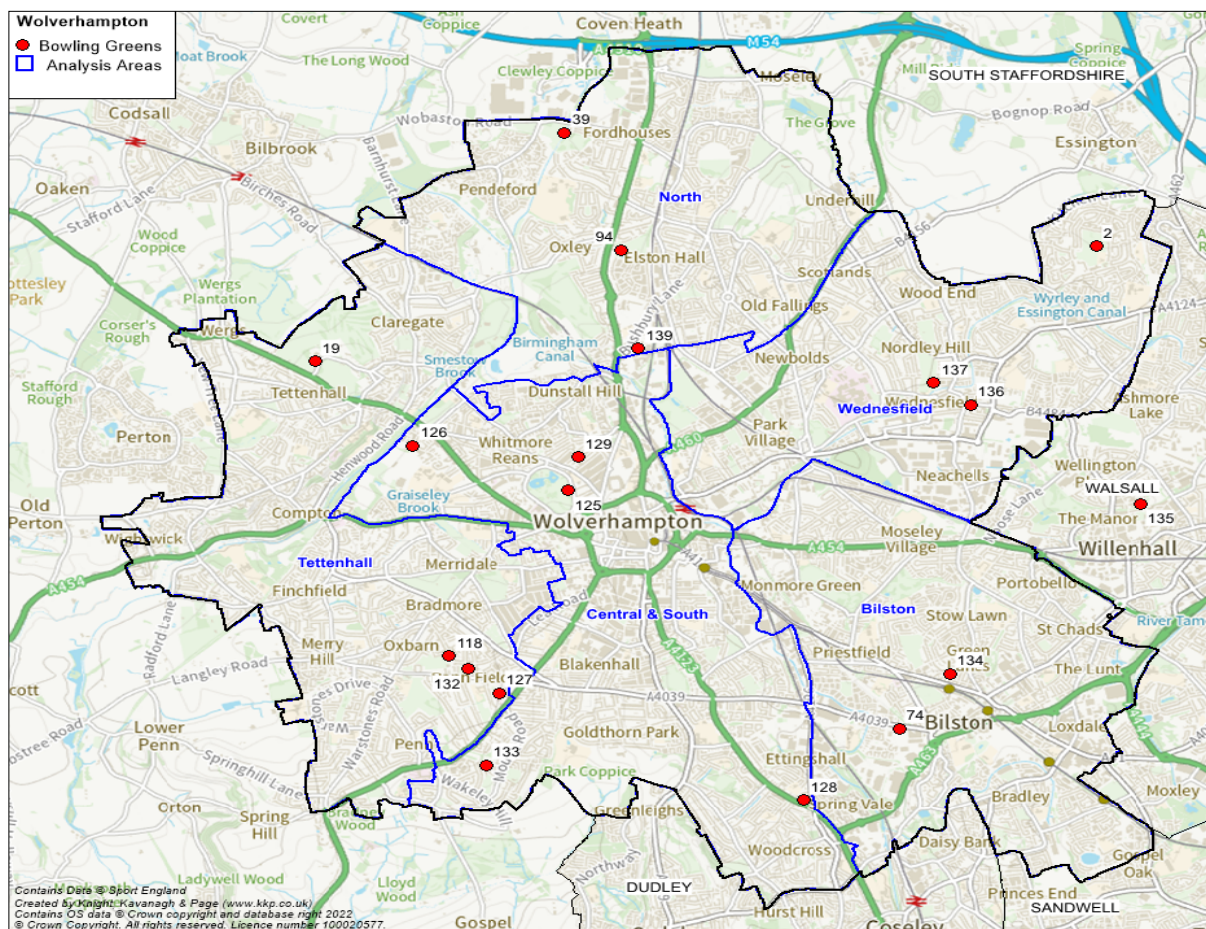
Analysis area	Number of greens
Bilston	3
Central & South	5
North	3
Outside	1
Tettenhall	6
Wednesfield	4
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>22</b>

## Disused provision

A disused bowling green is identified at Newhampton Inn Bowling Club. It is no longer maintained for bowls after the Club that used it folded (Newhampton Inn BC). It has also been reported that the pub on site currently use it as a beer garden and as a result lay out chairs on the green. Likewise, Oaklands BC, Chubb BC and Goodrich (now Collins) Aerospace are disused sites, whilst Rolls Royce Sports Ground, The Summer House PH and Severn Trent are all lapsed. The Summer House has tables and chairs on the grass area and Severn Trent has solar panels on it.

Figure 10.1 below shows the location of all bowling greens currently servicing Wolverhampton. For a key to the map, see Table 10.3.

Figure 10.1: Location of bowling greens in Wolverhampton



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Table 10.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Club user	No. of greens
2	Ashmore Park	WV11 2LT	Wednesfield	Ashmore Park BC	2
19	Danescourt	WV6 9BH	Tettenhall	Express and Star BC	1
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)	WV9 5HH	North	Fordhouses BC	1
74	Springvale Sports	WV14 0QR	Bilston	Springvale BC	2
94	The Pavilion	WV10 6AJ	North	Pavilion CES	1
118	Bradmore Recreation Ground	WV3 7EN	Tettenhall	Bradmore BC	1
125	West Park	WV1 4QA	Central & South	West Park BC	1
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	WV6 0LH	Central & South	-	1
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	WV4 4AF	Tettenhall	Woodfield Social BC	2
128	44 Bowls Club	WV4 6LQ	Central & South	44 Club	1
129	Stile Bowls Club	WV1 4PB	Central & South	Stile BC	1
132	Pennfields Bowls Club	WV3 7LZ	Tettenhall	Pennfields BC	2
133	Penn Bowls Club	WV4 5PY	Central & South	Penn BC	1
134	Bilston Town Bowls Club	WV14 6AU	Bilston	Bilston Town BC	1
135	<i>Nordley Liberals</i>	<i>WV13 1DB</i>	<i>Outside</i>	<i>Willenhall Nordley BC</i>	1
136	Wednesfield Conservative Club	WV11 3PR	Wednesfield	Wednesfield Cons BC	1
137	Wednesfield Park	WV11 1PX	Wednesfield	Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC King	1
139	E.C.C Bowls Club	WV10 9LE	North	ECC BC	1

### Ownership/management

Details around the ownership and management arrangements for clubs which responded to consultation requests are provided in the table below. As seen, three clubs own their greens, two clubs have lease arrangements in place and three clubs rent their greens.

Table 10.4: Ownership/management arrangements for bowling clubs in Wolverhampton

Name of club	Ownership/management details
Ashmore Park BC	The Club rents the greens at Ashmore Park from the Council.
Bradmore BC	The Club rents the green at Bradmore Recreation Ground from the Council, but does not state the length of this agreement.
Express & Star BC	The Club rents the green at Danescourt Road from Chris Jewkes Fitness on an annual basis.
Pavilion CES	The Club owns the green at The Pavilion.
Penn BC	The Club owns the green at Penn BC.
Pennfields BC	The Club was consulted with, however, it did not provide information relating to its ownership.
Springvale BC	The Club lease the green at Springvale Sports from Co-op on a long-term agreement (50 years).
Stile BC	The Club lease the green at Stile Bowls Club from Marston's Brewery for an indeterminate length of time.

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Name of club	Ownership/management details
Wednesfield Cons BC	The Club owns the green at Wednesfield Conservative Club.

### Quality

The quality of bowling greens across Wolverhampton have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs off unofficial use. For further detail regarding the site assessment criteria, see Appendix 2.

Overall, 17 greens are assessed as good quality, two are assessed as standard and two are assessed as poor. This is seen site-by-site in the table below.

Table 10.5: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of greens	Quality
2	Ashmore Park	Wednesfield	1	Good
2	Ashmore Park	Wednesfield	1	Poor
19	Danescourt	Tettenhall	1	Good
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)	North	1	Poor
74	Springvale Sports	Bilston	2	Standard
94	The Pavilion	North	1	Good
118	Bradmore Recreation Ground	Tettenhall	1	Good
125	West Park	Central & South	1	Good
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Central & South	1	Good
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	Tettenhall	2	Good
128	44 Bowls Club	Central & South	1	Good
129	Stile Bowls Club	Central & South	1	Standard
132	Pennfields BC	Tettenhall	2	Good
133	Penn BC	Central & South	1	Good
134	Bilston Town BC	Bilston	1	Good
135	Nordley Liberals	Outside	1	Good
136	Wednesfield Conservative Club	Wednesfield	1	Good
137	Wednesfield Park	Wednesfield	1	Good
139	E.C.C Bowls Club	North	1	Good

Three of the eight responsive clubs (Bradmore BC, Express & Star BC and Pavilion CES) report that quality has improved over the last year, whilst Springvale BC and Stile BC report worsening quality. Of those reporting worsening quality; the former states that this is because of a lack of maintenance during the Covid-19 pandemic, whilst the latter states that drainage has become problematic and that bare patches have begun to form.

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Of the clubs reporting improvements, Express & Star BC and Pavilion CES puts it down to increased maintenance (green maintenance scheme) and the acquisition of new maintenance equipment, whilst Bradmore BC attributes it to a lack of use during Covid-19 lockdown periods.

The poor quality green at Ashmore Park is due to it coming out of use in recent times and being redundant. Ashmore Park BC express its demand across one green currently.

### **Ancillary provision**

All clubs are able to access ancillary provision at their home green and the majority are serviced by adequate quality facilities, although the range of facilities and the condition of them varies site-by-site. The more comprehensive facilities tend to be provided at sites that also service other sports and activities.

Only one clubhouse is assessed as poor quality, located at Ashmore Park. This is considered to be extremely dated and is not fit for purpose to service Ashmore Park BC. In addition, Pavilion CES BC is serviced by poor quality toilets at The Pavilion.

Stile BC reports that car parking is problematic at Stile Bowls Club, with not enough spaces provided to accommodate demand.

### **Floodlighting**

In Wolverhampton, 13 greens are serviced by floodlighting at the following sites:

- ◀ Bilston Town Bowls Club
- ◀ The Pavilion
- ◀ E.C.C BC
- ◀ Stile Bowls Club
- ◀ Pennfields Bowls Club (x2)
- ◀ Penn Bowls Club
- ◀ Nordley Liberals
- ◀ Wednesfield Conservative Club
- ◀ Wolverhampton Tennis & Squash Club
- ◀ Woodfield Social & Sports Club (x2)

There are no known reports of aspirations to install further floodlighting at any sites.

Floodlit greens offer opportunities to access provision for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months. However, they are relatively rare across the Country, with the level of floodlit supply in Wolverhampton therefore considered to be comparatively high.

### **10.3: Demand**

There are 17 clubs using bowling facilities in Wolverhampton. Membership details of all clubs were provided by the British Crown Green Bowling Association. Details of the remaining two clubs are unknown. Full known membership equates to a total of 750 members, and this is broken down in the table below.

*Table 10.6: Summary of club membership*

Club name	Members		
	Men	Women	Juniors
Ashmore Park BC	22	2	-
Bradmore BC	19	8	-
Express & Star BC	56	18	-
Pavilion CES BC	65	15	-
Penn BC	60	15	10
Pennfields BC	87	13	1

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Club name	Members		
	Men	Women	Juniors
Springvale BC	46	10	-
Stile BC	29	4	1
44 Club BC	19	11	-
Bilston Town BC	41	3	-
ECC BC	38	6	2
Fordhouses BC	20	3	-
Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC	18	4	-
Wednesfield Conservative BC	29	4	-
Willenhall Nordley BC	57	9	5
West Park BC	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
Woodfield Social BC	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>19</b>

### ***Participation trends***

Despite a national trend of declining membership, only four of the clubs that responded to consultation report that membership has decreased in recent years, with these being Bradmore, Stile, Springvale, and Wednesfield Conservative bowls clubs. Conversely, Express & Star, Penn, and Pavilion CES bowls clubs all report that participation has increased, with all three attributing this to an increase in advertising.

Notwithstanding the above, overall participation is likely to have decreased on account of numerous additional clubs folding. This applies to Goodyear BC, Oaklands BC, and Chubb BC, all of which have reportedly folded over the last two years.

### ***Latent demand***

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 454 people within Wolverhampton, which is a relatively low number; by way of comparison, 583 people are identified in Dudley, 488 in Walsall and 495 in Sandwell.

All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority actively trying to recruit new members.

### ***Future demand***

Using ONS projections the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2039. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for greens could increase.

From consultation, only Express & Star, Ashmore Park and Wednesfield Conservative Club report an intention to increase their number of members. Future demand for Express & Star BC amounts to five senior and eight junior members, whilst it is six senior members for Ashmore Park BC and six seniors and four juniors for Wednesfield Conservative BC.

The above is not to say that the remaining clubs are not looking for new members, but rather that they are focusing on sustaining current playing levels. This will involve recruiting new members to replace those that leave the clubs or that become unable to participate.

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### 10.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

The BCGBA does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand.

Capacity ratings for bowling greens in Wolverhampton are classified as follows:

<b>Within capacity range</b>	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
<b>Outside capacity range</b>	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in Wolverhampton receives, where the information is known. Where no membership information is known, further communication is required with clubs to fully understand their needs and any potential capacity or sustainability issues.

Table 10.7: Supply and demand balance of bowling greens in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site	No. of greens	Club user	Current members	Future demand
2	Ashmore Park	2	Ashmore Park BC	24	30
19	Danescourt	1	Express and Star BC	74	87
39	Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses Cricket Club)	1	Fordhouses BC	23	Unknown
74	Springvale Sports	2	Springvale BC	56	56
94	The Pavilion	1	Pavilion CES	80	80
118	Bradmore Recreation Ground	1	Bradmore BC	27	27
125	West Park	1	West Park BC	Unknown	Unknown
126	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	1	-	Unknown	Unknown
127	Woodfield Social & Sports Club	1	Woodfield Social BC	Unknown	Unknown
128	44 Bowls Club	1	44 Club	30	Unknown
129	Stile Bowls Club	1	Stile BC	34	34
132	Pennfields BC	2	Pennfields BC	101	101
133	Penn BC	1	Penn BC	85	85
134	Bilston Town Bowls Club	1	Bilston Town BC	44	Unknown
135	Nordley Liberals	1	Willenhall Nordley BC	Unknown	Unknown
136	Wednesfield Conservative Club	1	Wednesfield Cons BC	31	41
137	Wednesfield Park	1	Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC King	22	Unknown

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Site ID	Site	No. of greens	Club user	Current members	Future demand
139	E.C.C Bowls Club	1	ECC BC	46	Unknown

No clubs are operating below the level of membership required to ensure sustainability.

At the other end of the spectrum, Express & Star, Pavilion CES and Pennfields bowls clubs are all currently operating above the recommended capacity threshold. Whilst none of these clubs report any capacity issues, demand requires monitoring to ensure that this remains the case. Pennfields BC also has over 60 members, although this is not an issue as it has access to two greens.

Based on the above, supply is seemingly sufficient to meet demand, especially given that there are numerous unused greens.

### **Bowls – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ No clubs are operating below the level of membership required to ensure sustainability.
- ◀ Express & Star, Pavilion CES and Penn Bowls club are all operating above the recommended capacity threshold; however, none of these report any capacity issues.

### **Bowls – supply summary**

- ◀ There are 22 crown green bowls greens in Wolverhampton provided across 18 sites.
- ◀ There are four disused green at Newhampton Inn Bowling Club, Oaklands BC, Goodrich (now Collins) Aerospace and Chubb BC and there are three lapsed greens at Rolls Royce Sports Ground, The Summer House and Severn Trent.
- ◀ Of clubs which responded to consultation requests, three own their greens, two have lease arrangements in place and three rent their greens.
- ◀ Overall, 17 greens are assessed as good quality, two as standard quality and two as poor quality.
- ◀ Ashmore Park is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.
- ◀ 13 greens are serviced by floodlighting, which is a comparably high number.

### **Bowls – demand summary**

- ◀ There are 17 clubs using bowling greens in Wolverhampton.
- ◀ Where membership is known, from 15 out of the 17s, total membership equates to 750 members.
- ◀ The average membership across the responsive clubs is 56.
- ◀ Despite a national trend of declining membership, only four of the clubs that responded to consultation report that membership has decreased in recent years, although a number of clubs have also folded.
- ◀ Due to a predicted increase in persons aged 65 and over (to 2039), demand is likely to increase for greens over the coming years.
- ◀ Only Express & Star, Ashmore Park and Wednesfield Conservative bowls clubs report future demand to increase membership, with this collectively equating to 17 senior and 14 junior members.
- ◀ All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision and that no potential members are being turned away, suggesting that there is no latent or unmet demand.



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### PART 11: CYCLING

#### 11.1: Introduction

British Cycling is the NGB for all forms of cycling. It oversees six sporting disciplines, with each having a dedicated facility type:

- ◆ Track cycling – velodromes
- ◆ Road cycling – closed road circuits
- ◆ Mountain biking – trails
- ◆ BMX racing – race/pump tracks
- ◆ Cycle speedway – cycle speedway tracks
- ◆ Cyclocross – non-dedicated, non-permanent venues

British Cycling aids in the development of all six formats, helping to safeguard those that wish to participate in a competitive and compelling environment. The popularity of cycling has increased since recent, elite sporting success in the Olympics and Paralympics as well as in other major championships.

#### **Consultation**

Information for cycling was gathered through online research and via consultation with British Cycling.

#### **Disused/lapsed facilities**

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

Aldersley High School features a lapsed regional standard cycling track and accompanying separate pump track. The site was developed in 2012 and featured a wide variety of jumps including step-ups, doubles, pick-up doubles, triples, two double combinations and a rhythm section as well as a Bensink start gate system.

#### 11.2: Supply

Wolverhampton is home to two cycle speedway tracks, those being located within the grounds of Ashmore Park and East Park.

The site at Ashmore Park has held multiple events spanning across several decades, spanning from the British Riders Championship Final in 1981 and the 2012 World Individual Championships. The site is serviced by floodlighting that was installed in 1990 and is used by Wednesfield Aces.

The cycle speedway track within East Park is 95 metres long, 5.5 metres wide and has a 1 in 12 banking and is used by East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club.

Wolverhampton also features BMX pump tracks at Bilston Pump Park and Hilton Road Playing Fields. Bilston Pump Park is located at Greenway Playing Fields, Bankfield Road, Bilston WV14 0TY and the facility located at Hilton Road Playing Fields is used by Hilton Hall Community Association, who are based on site.

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Finally, the WV Aldersley multisport complex features an asphalt cycling track that sits alongside the 400m athletics track. The site has a 22.5° banking and is used by Wolverhampton Wheelers.

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

There is also a track provided at Aldersley High School which has come out of use due to concerns around the safety of equipment for users. This has not been used for over six years and is currently derelict.

### ***Cycling routes***

In 2016, the West Midlands Combined Authority proposed a 'Black Country Walking and Cycling Strategy and Implementation Plan' aiming to raise levels of cycling to 5% of all trips by 2023. The project was outlined to address the matter that historically the West Midlands region had fewer people choosing to cycle to work than other metropolitan regions.

The Council is always working with other Black Country councils to develop a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which will add further recommendations for cycling. This has not yet been published but recommendations should be considered as part of Stage E.

### **11.3: Demand**

#### ***Wednesfield Aces***

Wednesfield Aces was founded in 1962 under the former name of Wednesfield Dragons. The Club utilise the speedway at Ashmore Park for sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sessions are charged at a rate of £2.50 for those with their own bike or £3.50 for bike hire. There are 220 members registered with the Club.

#### ***Wolverhampton Wheelers***

Wolverhampton Wheelers was founded in 1891 and is open to cyclists of all abilities. The Club utilise WV Active Aldersley to cater for several types of cycling such as family rides, youth events, touring, road racing, time trials, mountain biking, track racing and cyclo-cross.

The Club also offers British Cycling's 'Go Ride' scheme aimed at increasing participation in cycling for younger generations. The Club currently caters for 287 members.

#### ***Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club***

Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club was founded in 1938 and currently has 74 members. It takes part in mountain biking sessions throughout Wolverhampton and the surrounding area, hosting sessions for its members on Saturday mornings.

#### ***Fred Williams Cycles***

Fred Williams Cycles is a cycling shop within Wolverhampton that established in 1950 and has since expanded into becoming a dedicated club with 54 members currently registered. It has links with several formats of cycling such as road, mountain biking and cyclo-cross.

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### *East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club*

East Park Wolves were founded in 2006 and trains every Thursday at East Park. It has 113 current members of various abilities. The Club also organises monthly race fixtures.

### *Let Us Play Cycling*

Let us Play is a registered charity that provides support for children with special needs and disabilities. Founded in 2003, the charity now delivers weekly sessions at the WV Active Aldersley centre every Monday from 18:00-19:00. The sessions are available for £2 are available for people aged 5 to 17.

### **HSBC UK Go-Ride**

HSBC UK Go-Ride is a British Cycling's development programme for young people. It offers a fun and safe way to introduce young people to the sport and provides a platform to improve cycling skills. People can get involved through holiday coaching programmes or through their local accredited club which allows them to sample the various disciplines of the sport. Progression is obtainable with Go-Ride Racing, offering competition for riders to transition from school or club coaching to inter club and open regional competitions.

Go-Ride is being implemented in Wolverhampton via East Park Wolves CSC, Wednesfield Aces CSC and the Wolverhampton Wheelers.

### **HSBC UK Breeze**

HSBC UK Breeze is a British Cycling's development programme for women. It offers three categories easy going, steady and challenging to allow women of all abilities to get involved. The programme offers exercise whilst also creating a comfortable environment to meet new people. There are currently no identified sessions taking place in Wolverhampton.

### **Future/latent demand**

All of the clubs within Wolverhampton are open to recruiting new members, especially following the Covid-19 pandemic. There is some expected level of uplift following the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in cycling but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 9,210 people who would like to participate in the sport within Wolverhampton, which is a relatively low amount when compared to neighbouring Black Country authorities.

By means of comparison, latent demand of 12,907 is identified in Dudley, 11,449 is identified in Sandwell and 9,876 in Walsall.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that future and latent demand does not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to participate in sport and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools.

For example, there is a focus by British Cycling on developing youth participation through the HSBC UK Go-Ride or HSBC UK Breeze schemes, which may lead to further increases in demand.

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### 11.4: Supply and demand analysis

Wolverhampton features a high demand for cycling as evidenced by their several, well serviced number of dedicated clubs. Furthermore, the inclusion of two cycle speedway tracks as well as the asphalt facility at WV Active Aldersley emphasises the interest in cycling across the area.

Sites such as WV Active Aldersley and the two cycle speedway tracks should continue to be well maintained to ensure the area is serviced by good quality facilities. Finally, it is imperative that other cycling activity is supported given the on and off-road cycling taking place.

#### **Cycling – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Wolverhampton features a high demand for cycling as evidenced by the several dedicated clubs across the area.
- ◀ Sites such as WV Active Aldersley and the two cycle speedway tracks should continue to be well maintained to ensure the area continues to be serviced by good quality facilities.

#### **Cycling – supply summary**

- ◀ Wolverhampton is serviced by several cycling facilities across the area.
- ◀ There are two cycle speedway tracks located at East Park and Ashmore Park.
- ◀ WV Active Aldersley features an asphalt track with a 22.5° banking
- ◀ Finally, Wolverhampton is also serviced by pump tracks at Bilston Pump Park and Hilton Road Playing Fields.

#### **Cycling – demand summary**

- ◀ There are several local clubs which offer opportunities for recreational and competitive cyclists across the City, with membership relatively high. Clubs such as Wednesfield Aces, Wolverhampton Wheelers, Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club and East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club all represent cycling clubs across Wolverhampton.
- ◀ HSBC Go-Ride is being implemented in Wolverhampton via East Park Wolves CSC, Wednesfield Aces CSC and the Wolverhampton Wheelers as well as School-based delivery.
- ◀ Finally, Let us play cycling sessions are delivered to people with disabilities aged 5 to 19 at WV Active Aldersley.

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### PART 12: ATHLETICS

#### 12.1: Introduction

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of athletics, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities, and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials as well as permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics, which is the development and membership body for athletics and running clubs in England. It has a National Head of Clubs and Participation as well as a team of five club support managers across the Country, with one of these covering activities in Wolverhampton as part of the Midland region.

#### **Consultation**

The following clubs have been consulted via telephone to inform this section of the report; Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club, Brewood & Coven Running and Jolly Joggers Wolverhampton. Additionally, wider consultation also took place with England Athletics.

#### **Disused and lapsed provision**

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

There are no disused or lapsed sites identified in Wolverhampton which contained athletics tracks.

#### 12.2: Supply

Consultation with England Athletics reveals that, nationally, no new standard 400-metre athletics tracks are planned to be constructed. Focus is instead on the retention of existing 400-metre facilities and the development of new, innovative, entry level facilities such as mini tracks and endurance loops, particularly if they can be provided as part of floodlit, multi-sport developments.

In Wolverhampton, there are two purpose-built athletics tracks. A 400-metre track is provided at WV Active Aldersley with six lanes, a synthetic surface and floodlighting, whilst a 200-metre track is provided at The King's Church of England School. This is neither floodlit nor available for community use.

In addition to this, there is a 400m cinder track which laps around a 3G pitch at Sir Jack Howard Training Centre. This has been out of use for formal athletics used for some time and is now practically unusable for anything other than recreational use.

*Table 12.1: Summary of athletics tracks in Wolverhampton*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Length	Floodlit?	Community use?
93	The King's Church of England School	Tettenhall	200 metres	No	No
117	WV Active Aldersley	Tettenhall	400 metres	Yes	Yes

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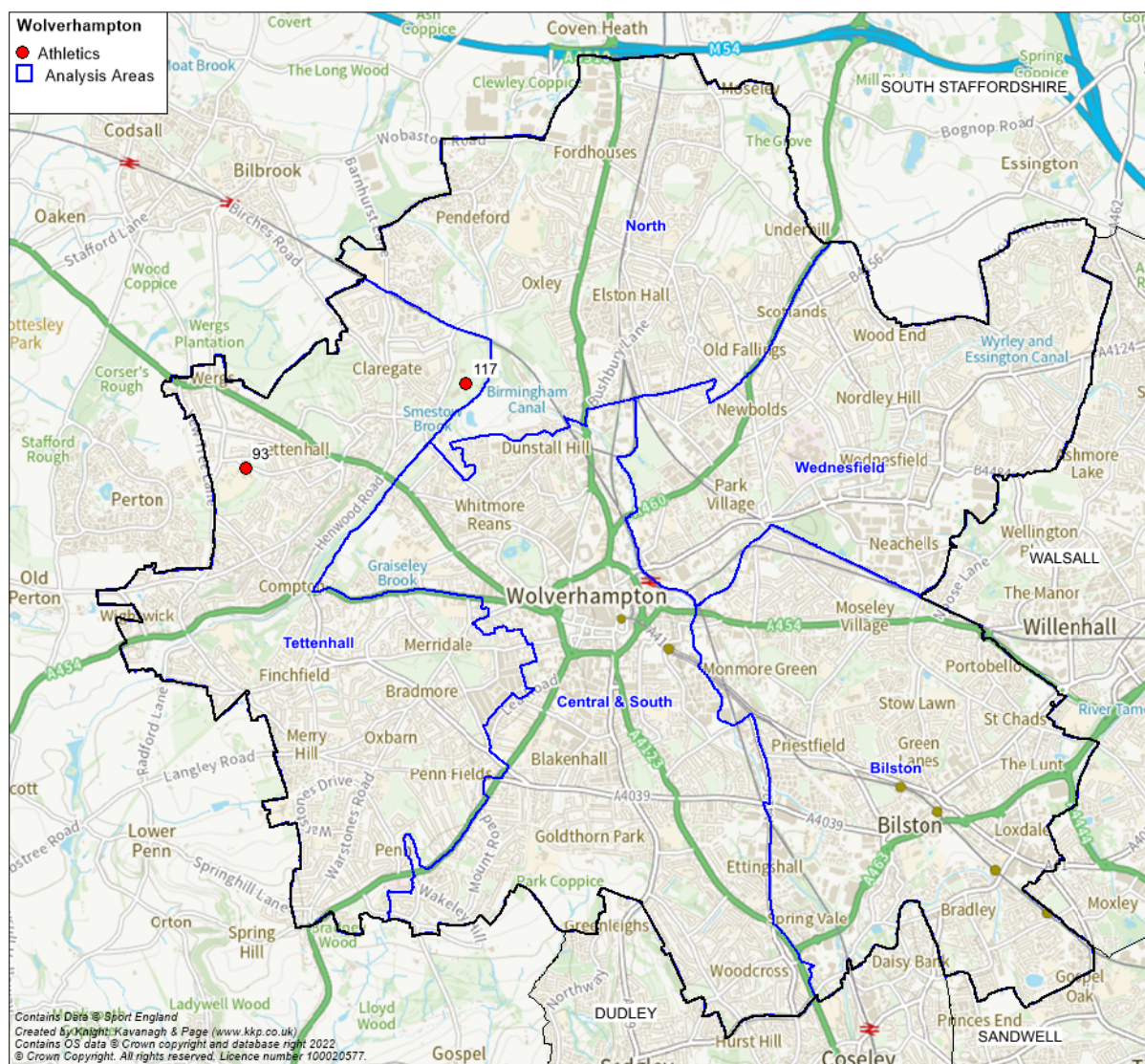
As seen, both facilities are in the Tettenhall Analysis Area. For the specific locations, please see Figure 12.1 overleaf.

## Management

The track at WV Active Aldersley is operated by the Council and is therefore widely available to the community to hire. As part of this, it is used by Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club.

The track at The King's Church of England School is managed by the School and is not available for the community to hire.

Figure 12.1: Location of athletics tracks in Wolverhampton



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### **Quality**

The track at WV Active Aldersley was refurbished in 2005. The pitch is now in a satisfactory condition for users despite some small wear and tear issues (which are to be expected with its age).

The track at The King's Church of England School was refurbished in 2012, with the non-technical audit of this track also assessing it as standard quality. Whilst it is a newer facility, maintenance is noted as being less regimented.

Key factors impacting upon the quality ratings of athletics tracks include the condition and age of the track surface, the prominence of the line markings and any signs of wear and tear or unofficial use. For the site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

### **TrackMark**

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

In Wolverhampton, the track at WV Active Aldersley is currently accredited. The track at The King's Church of England School cannot be accredited due to its size and lack of facilities.

### **Ancillary facilities**

The WV Active Aldersley site is mainly serviced by a leisure centre building which has a public café and good toilet facilities and changing rooms. The athletics track is then serviced by a 500 seater stand for spectators.

Provision at The King's Church of England School is serviced by changing facilities that are provided within the School. These are considered to be inadequate.

### **12.3: Demand**

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

#### **Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club**

Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club caters for both senior and junior members, with current membership equating to 123 senior members (76 male and 47 female) and 116 junior members. The Club notes that this figure has increased over the previous two years despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Club trains and competes in all track and field disciplines as well as road running, cross country, and race walking. The WV Active Aldersley site is hired for sessions every Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 18:30 until 20:30 as well on weekend mornings.



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The Club states that it has a waiting list of potential members, though the Club has not specified the number of individuals on the list. This means that unmet demand is identified due to lack of capacity within the Club's sessions (see further information below).

### ***Jolly Joggers Wolverhampton***

Jolly Joggers Wolverhampton a couch to 5k jogging group for beginnings looking to improve their mental health. The programme operates a 12 week structure with the aim of improving the mental health of residents. Sessions are based at West Park.

### ***Heathfield Park Runners***

Heathfield Park Runners is a social group that enjoys running together for fitness and to meet personal targets with the help and support of a group. During the year, it takes part in a few organised events as a team. In addition, on Saturday mornings, the group meets at Holy Trinity Church Hall where most of its sessions use Heath Town Park.

### ***Sedgley Striders***

Although predominately based in Dudley, the Club's membership is evenly split between Wolverhampton residents and Dudley residents due to its location. It operates from the Beacon Centre and hold sessions every Tuesday and Thursday evening. Each week, three separate routes are available, known as short, middle, and long runs and usually consisting of 3-mile, 5-mile and 7-mile distances. This enables all runners and abilities to be catered for.

### ***Run Together***

Run Together is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. Its aim is to provide fun, friendly, supportive, and inclusive running opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability and availability. It believes that running is more fun and easier to become part of a lifestyle when shared with others.

In Wolverhampton, Heathfield Park Runners forms part of the programme. A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation in initiatives such as Run Together, meaning this could be further targeted moving forward, especially given the number of other clubs that could be involved.

### ***Park Run***

Park Run is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 1,063 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Park Run events.

In Wolverhampton, a Park Run event is held each week at West Park. It has been held 374 times, with an average attendance of 247.8 runners. Likewise, it is also held at East Park, where it has been held 27 times and has had an average attendance of 112.7 runners.

For those aged between 4 and 14, junior Park Run events are also available, with one held in Wolverhampton every Sunday at Wednesfield Park. This has been held 228 times and averages 19.6 runners.

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### ***Other running events***

Another annual running event that takes place in Wolverhampton is the Wolverhampton Half Marathon & 10K, which is hosted utilising the streets of Wolverhampton. The event is held every September, with all spaces taken up over recent years. However, the 2020 iteration did not take place due to Covid-19.

### ***Couch to 5k***

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

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

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in Wolverhampton, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity. Furthermore, it is actively promoted by various running clubs as well as organisations such as Wolverhampton Healthy Minds.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 4,731 people within Wolverhampton, which is a comparatively low figure. For comparison purposes, it is lower than the latent demand totals in Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall.

As referenced earlier, Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club has a waiting list in place for some sessions, namely those catering for junior athletes. This represents latent demand; however, it is not due to a lack of facilities but rather because of a lack of coaches/volunteers.

### ***Future demand***

All clubs consulted with express an aspiration to grow membership, although the majority state that this is difficult to quantify as they will do their utmost to not turn demand away. Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club in particular is keen to grow its demand at junior level.

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In addition, England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Park Run, although again to what extent is difficult to quantify.

### 12.4: Supply and demand analysis

There are two dedicated athletics facilities in Wolverhampton, although only one of the two facilities is being used by the community and with only one club requiring access. As no additional demand has been identified, supply is deemed sufficient, although quality improvements may be required in the near future to ensure participation can continue to be accommodated.

Away from the facilities, priority should also be placed on supporting activities being accommodated by the various running clubs in Wolverhampton and the events that are being held.

#### **Athletics – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ The supply of dedicated athletics facilities is sufficient to meet demand.
- ◀ Priority should be placed on supporting activity being accommodated by the various running clubs in Wolverhampton and the events that are being held.

#### **Athletics – supply summary**

- ◀ There are two purpose-built athletics tracks, a 400-metre track WV Active Aldersley and a 200-metre track at The King's Church of England School.
- ◀ The track at WV Active Aldersley is floodlit and available for community use; the track at The King's Church of England School is neither.
- ◀ Both facilities are assessed as standard quality.

#### **Athletics – demand summary**

- ◀ Four clubs as well as a few programmes have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity in Wolverhampton with only Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club having a requirement for a purpose-built facility.
- ◀ Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club has a waiting list in place for some sessions, although this is due to a lack of coaches rather than a lack of facilities.
- ◀ Park Run is held each week at West Park and East Park, with a junior Park Run held at Wednesfield Park.
- ◀ Annual events in Wolverhampton include the Wolverhampton Half Marathon & 10K.
- ◀ Heathfield Park Runners forms part of the Run Together initiative.
- ◀ Most clubs express an aspiration to grow membership, whilst England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Park Run.

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### PART 13: GOLF

#### 13.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 650,000 members belonging to one of 1,900 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated Heritage Coast sites, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or listed Historic Parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

#### Consultation

This section was informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs within Wolverhampton.

#### 13.2: Supply

There are three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf, as defined in the table below. Facilities such as pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf courses are not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

There are no facilities identified as being disused or lapsed.

Table 13.1: Definitions of golf facilities

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

Within Wolverhampton, there are six golf venues that provide facilities conforming with the above definitions, as identified in Table 13.1 and Table 13.2 below.

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Figure 13.1: Location of golf courses in Wolverhampton

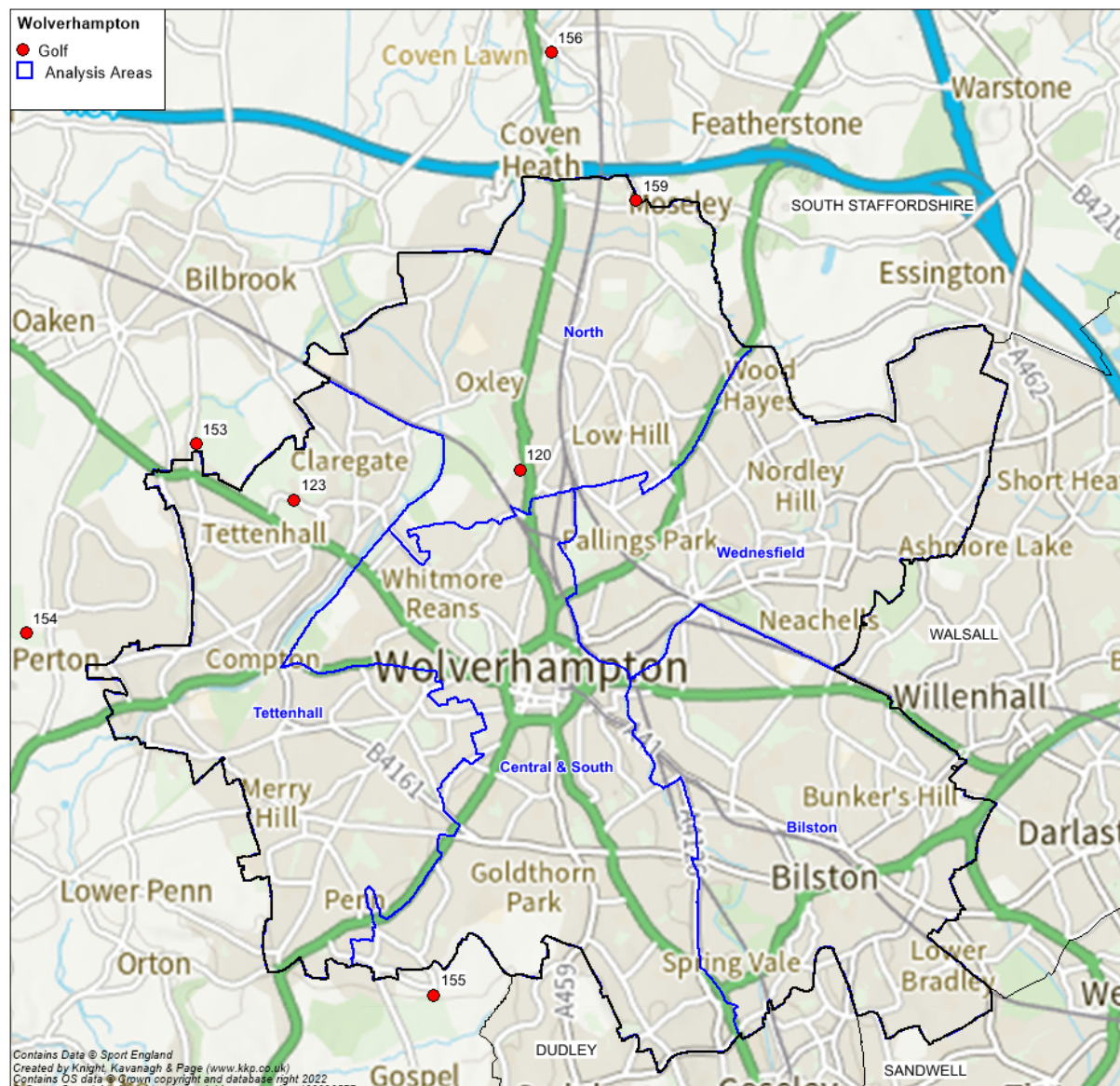


Table 13.2: Golf facilities within Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area
120	Oxley Park Golf Club	WV10 6DE	North
123	South Staffs Golf Club	WV6 9BQ	Tettenhall
153	Wergs Golf Club	WV6 8UA	Outside
159	Greenfield Golf Club	WV10 7JB	North
154	Perton Park Golf Club	WV6 7HL	Outside
155	Penn Golf Club	WV4 5JN	Outside
156	3 Hammers	WV10 7PP	Outside

### Standard hole golf courses

Three of the golf clubs are within Wolverhampton and four are located outside of the City boundary. Five of these provide a standard 18 hole offer, and one a nine hole offer. The site that does not provide a standard hole course is 3 Hammers. These are summarised in the table overleaf.

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Table 13.3: Summary of standard hole provision in Wolverhampton:

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage <sup>4</sup>			Slope rating
120	Oxley Park Golf Club	18	71	6,228	6,057	5,507	113
123	South Staffs Golf Club	18	71	6,512	6,277	5,709	110
153	Wergs Golf Club	18	72	6,949	6,251	4,991	124
154	Perton Park Golf Club	18	73	6,624	6,461	5,526	135
155	Penn Golf Club	18	71	6,453	6,174	5,447	122
159	Greenfield Golf Club	9	58	3,217	-	-	98

Of the five 18 holes courses, South Staffs Golf Club provides the longest offering, although all are in the range of what would be expected from traditional provision. Shorter courses tend to offer some variety that may appeal more so to a defined market that would not feel comfortable playing lengthier provision e.g. beginner and/or casual golfers.

Nationally, many 9-hole courses are shorter than the front or back nine of an 18-hole course, primarily to attract and cater for a different userbase. In Wolverhampton, Greenfield Golf Club provides a nine-hole golf course featuring 18 tees, meaning despite only having nine holes users get 18 unique tee shots. As can be seen the course also only features competition tees and does not provide alternate yardage for mens and women's members.

### *Slope ratings*

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World. The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113; in Wolverhampton, two courses are considered easier than this (South Staffs Golf Club and Greenfield Golf Club), one is on par (Oxley Park Golf Club) and the remaining three are considered to be more difficult.

### **Par 3 golf holes**

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game. In the case of Greenfield Golf Course 14 of the 18 holes are par 3 for male members, meaning whilst not being a par 3 course it is only marginally different from this design. In Wolverhampton, 3 Hammers provides an 18-hole Par 3 offering. This lies just outside of the City, in South Staffordshire, but is considered to form part of the supply picture due to its close proximity.

### **Driving range bays**

In the case of Wolverhampton, South Staffordshire, Wergs and Perton Park golf clubs as well as 3 Hammers are identified as providing driving range bays, which represents a high proportion. There are also examples of other driving ranges within the local area in nearby boroughs, such as at Mark Butler Golf Academy, within Dudley, or at Aldridge Road Driving Range, in Walsall.

<sup>4</sup> White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

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### **Management and ownership**

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England; members clubs, proprietary clubs and municipal facilities, as summarised in the table below.

*Table 13.4: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities*

<b>Management type</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Members</b>	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.
<b>Proprietary</b>	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.
<b>Municipal</b>	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales. Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment.

In Wolverhampton, there are six members clubs (Oxley Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club, Wergs Golf Club, Perton Park Golf Club, Penn Golf Club and Greenfield Golf Club) and one proprietary facility (3 Hammers). There are therefore no municipal facilities.

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Table 13.4: Summary of ownership/management in Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	Management type
120	Oxley Park Golf Club	Members
123	South Staffs Golf Club	Members
153	Wergs Golf Club	Members
154	Perton Park Golf Club	Members
155	Penn Golf Club	Members
156	3 Hammers	Proprietary
159	Greenfield Golf Club	Members

### Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past few years, many facilities have altered their pricing structures to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf has positively encouraged this as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, some now offer five and/or six day memberships (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over). In the past, it was common for many clubs to have waiting lists in place for membership, but this has become rare in the present day.

Declining membership also means that there is now a growing number of facilities openly encouraging pay and play visitors, with the number of nomadic golfers on the rise. Whilst this has always been the case at some venues, other, more membership orientated sites were previously reluctant to promote green fee usage as capacity simply did not exist. Now, green fee pricing has generally reduced and discounts are being offered to drive demand, especially outside of peak time hours and to accommodate larger groups. However, this situation is more acute at lower grade clubs than at higher grade clubs, where high quality can enable a provider to maintain a premium price.

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £901.00. In Wolverhampton, Oxley Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club, Perton Golf Club and Penn Golf Club operate above this figure, whilst Wergs Golf Club operates slightly below and Greenfield Golf Club is noticeably below it at £385.

There is no membership scheme in place at 3 Hammers, although a 12-month season ticket can be purchased, which works in a similar way. This is available for £240.00, which is much below the national average but accounts for it being a short Par 3 facility.

Green fees are available at club sites, although access is restricted at South Staffs Golf Club during weekends due to the course being generally reserved for members. Costs range from £7 to £50 per round.



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Table 13.5: Pricing structures at golf facilities within Wolverhampton:

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year)	Green fee (per round) <sup>5</sup>	
				Weekday	Weekend
120	Oxley Park Golf club	£0	£957.00	£25.00	£25.00
123	South Staffs Golf Club	N/A	£1,175.00	£35.00	-
153	Wergs Golf Club	N/A	£895.00	£20.00	£25.00
154	Perton Park Golf Club	N/A	£910.00	£15.00	£20.00
155	Penn Golf Club	£0	£936.00	£40.00	£50.00
156	3 Hammers	-	-	£7.00	£7.00
159	Greenfields Golf Club	£0	£385	-	-

### Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher the joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines.

Quality of the golf courses in Wolverhampton is good across the six sites, with no significant issues identified. All have dedicated green keeping staff which provide frequent and sophisticated maintenance regimes that operate all-year round.

The ancillary facilities are also for the most part good, particularly at South Staffs Golf Club which can accommodate up to 140 people and is suitable for hosting events such as christenings, wedding receptions and corporate events. Golf clubs often need such revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This emanates from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals.

### 13.3: Demand

Around 2004, participation in golf began declining; however, recent signs show that the reduction has not only levelled off but that demand has started to increase, especially following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, both in 2020 and 2021. As one of the first sports to be allowed on both occasions, people have been able to play whilst maintaining social distancing and England Golf has provided very clear guidance as to how this should manifest itself (e.g. by not allowing the flag to be taken out or rakes to be used). Some courses have reported a near doubling of usual demand compared to pre-pandemic levels, highlighting that a significant opportunity now exists to retain increased participation in the long-term.

### Membership

England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 386, which is based on a central national handicap platform.

In Wolverhampton, the table below provides the most recent membership numbers at the golf facilities within the City, based on latest England Golf affiliation data.

<sup>5</sup> Where more than one course is provided, the price displayed is for the larger course.

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Table 13.6: Summary of golf membership within Wolverhampton

Site ID	Site name	No. of members
120	South Staffs Golf Club	416
123	Oxley Park Golf Club	480
153	Wergs Golf Club	390
154	Perton Park Golf Club	395
155	Penn Golf Club	418
156	3 Hammers	-
159	Greenfield Golf Club	-

### Membership trends

Contrasting with the national trend of increasing membership, figures at South Staffs Golf Club have decreased since 2015, with 40 fewer members now attached to the site. In contrast, Oxley Park Golf Club has seen an increase in demand equating to 66%.

The three remaining clubs have seen membership remain static. Figures for Greenfield Golf Club are unknown.

Table 13.7: Changes in demand since 2015

Site ID	Club name	2015 members	Current members	Change in membership
120	Oxley Park Golf Club	289	480	-66%
123	South Staffs Golf Club	456	416	-8.77%
153	Wergs Golf Club	390	390	-
154	Perton Park Golf Club	395	395	-
155	Penn Golf Club	418	418	-
156	3 Hammers	N/A	N/A	N/A
159	Greenfield Golf Club	-	-	-

### Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has generally increased across England in recent years, usage figures at the sites within Wolverhampton is not known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf. However, it would be expected that demand would be relatively low given that six of the sites are members clubs with a focus on membership.

Pay and play is likely highest at 3 Hammers due to the nature of the provision.

### Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As such, unmet demand in Wolverhampton is considered to be very minimal, with none of the sites having any known capacity concerns.

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### ***Latent demand***

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision.

To that end, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 5,427 people within Wolverhampton.

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e. through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

In addition, England Golf has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility, with the population broken down into nine golfing segments. These segments are defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ◀ Relaxed members
- ◀ Older traditionalists
- ◀ Younger traditionalists
- ◀ Younger fanatics
- ◀ Younger actives
- ◀ Late enthusiasts
- ◀ Occasional time pressed
- ◀ Social couples
- ◀ Casual fun

Across Wolverhampton, Oxley Park Golf Club is identified as having the largest potential demand, with 111,323 people falling within the segments within a 20-minute drive time, whilst South Staffs Golf Club has 48,609 people within the identified radius, which represents the lowest amount.

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from "younger traditionalists" (20,183 people), whilst the lowest is from "casual fun" (15,788 people).

### ***Future demand***

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally from 650,000 to 675,000, representing an increase of 3.85%. If this was extrapolated to the clubs in Wolverhampton, total membership would increase, although relatively minimally.

In reality, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst many other will be open to growing by significantly more than 3.85%. In that regard, England Golf reports that many of the clubs are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and wider range of membership and playing options.

### **13.4: Supply and demand analysis**

With seven golf facilities servicing Wolverhampton, supply is relatively high and there is also seemingly good variety across the sites, with five providing standard-hole courses, four providing driving ranges and one providing a Par 3 course. This means there are facilities at both the high and low end in terms of affordability and an option for most potential users.

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Notwithstanding the above, demand is also seemingly high, with most of the sites operating at a demand level that is closely aligned to the national average. That being said, further exploration is required in relation to membership at Oxley Park Golf Club as it is likely that it did not affiliate to England Golf with the correct data.

With significant latent demand also identified, emphasis should be placed on protecting the facilities that are provided and to maximise usage across the sites to ensure continued sustainability. England Golf can assist in this regard, primarily through a variety of tools that can be used to better understand the local market. There may also be opportunities for some clubs across the area to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate to collectively cater for all types of players.

### **Golf – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Supply of golf provision in Wolverhampton is relatively high and well varied.
- ◀ Demand is also seemingly high, with most of the sites operating at a demand level that is closely aligned to the national average.
- ◀ With significant latent demand also identified, emphasis should be placed on protecting the facilities that are provided and to maximise usage across the sites to ensure continued sustainability.

### **Golf – supply summary**

- ◀ There are currently seven golf sites servicing Wolverhampton (including provision just outside of the City boundary).
- ◀ Five provide a standard 18-hole courses, whilst 3 Hammers provides an 18-hole Par 3 course and Greenfield Golf Course offers a 9-hole course with 18 unique tees.
- ◀ There is a dedicated driving range within Wolverhampton at South Staffordshire GC, there is also provision outside of the authority boundary at, Wergs and Perton Park golf clubs as well as 3 Hammers.
- ◀ Oxley Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club, Perton Golf Club and Penn Golf Club operate above the national average membership pricing figure, whilst Wergs Golf Club operates slightly below it.
- ◀ In terms of quality, it is good across Wolverhampton with no significant issues identified at any of the sites.

### **Golf – demand summary**

- ◀ All golf clubs with known membership figures are operating above the national average.
- ◀ Pay and play is likely highest at 3 Hammers due to the nature of the provision.
- ◀ England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally by 3.85%, which would represent an increase of members across the clubs, although relatively minimal.
- ◀ England Golf's mapping tool identifies a significant amount of potential demand, with Oxley Park Golf Club shown to have a particularly high population base.

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### PART 14: OUTDOOR WATER SPORTS

Water sports in England are governed by various bodies, including:

- ◀ British Canoe Union
- ◀ British Kite Surfing Association
- ◀ British Rowing
- ◀ British Sub-Aqua Club
- ◀ British Swimming
- ◀ British Water Ski
- ◀ Royal Yachting Association
- ◀ Surfing Great Britain

#### 14.1: Supply

Wolverhampton is home to the following outdoor water sports:

- ◀ Canoeing
- ◀ Boat racing
- ◀ Scuba diving

Canoeing within Wolverhampton takes place on the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, whilst boat racing takes place along the Shropshire Union Canal. Scuba diving occurs regularly at Codsall Leisure Centre (South Staffordshire) which will likely accommodate demand from Wolverhampton residents.

#### 14.2: Demand

The following list of clubs represent the outdoor water sports clubs within Wolverhampton:

- ◀ Wolverhampton Canoe Club
- ◀ Wolverhampton Boat Club
- ◀ Chillington Divers

##### *Wolverhampton Canoe Club*

Wolverhampton Canoe Club utilises Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, a canal running through Wolverhampton, for its sessions. The Club was founded in 1956 and delivers sessions to beginners or experienced canoers.

##### *Wolverhampton Boat Club*

Wolverhampton Boat Club utilises the Shropshire Union Canal for its sessions which take place on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Full membership of the Club is priced at £30 per year with a £40 entrance fee. Associate membership rates are also available at £25 per calendar year with a £10 entrance fee.

##### *Chillington Divers*

Chillington Divers is a club that provides scuba diving and snorkelling instruction. It predominately utilises the indoor 3.3-metre pool at Codsall Leisure Centre in South Staffordshire District for weekly sessions on Tuesday evenings; however, external dive sites are also visited albeit outside of the Wolverhampton area. This includes Dosthill Quarry in Tamworth and Stoney Cove in Leicestershire.

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### 14.3: Supply and demand analysis

Despite not having a large outdoor water sports facility like that provided elsewhere within the Black County, Wolverhampton still features three clubs each participating in different outdoor water sports. Use of the canals and rivers throughout the region enables outdoor water sports to take place despite the landlocked location of the region and continued access to these should be ensured.

#### **Outdoor water sports – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Despite not having a large outdoor water sports facility like that provided elsewhere within the Black County, Wolverhampton still features three clubs each participating in different outdoor water sports.
- ◀ Continued access to the canals in Wolverhampton should be ensured.

#### **Outdoor water sports – supply summary**

- ◀ Staffordshire and Worcester Canal provides facilities that are compatible with a number of water sports and other water-related activities.
- ◀ Scuba diving also takes place in a location bordering the City; however, this utilises indoor provision.

#### **Outdoor water sports – demand summary**

- ◀ Wolverhampton Canoe Club utilises Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, a canal running through Wolverhampton, for its sessions.
- ◀ Wolverhampton Boat Club utilise the Shropshire Union Canal for their three times a week boating sessions.
- ◀ Chillington Divers partake in scuba diving and snorkelling sessions within Codsall Leisure Centre in South Staffordshire.

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### **PART 15: OTHER GRASS PITCH SPORTS**

#### **15.1: American football**

##### ***Introduction***

The British American Football Association (BAFA) is responsible for the governance of the sport which is continuing to grow in popularity in the UK and there are now hundreds of clubs and thousands of players competing regularly across the country.

The American football season in England generally runs from May until August.

Following the Wolverhampton Outlaws folding in the 1990's there are no American football clubs in Wolverhampton. There are, however, existing clubs within neighbouring authorities such as the Black Country Vipers, Sandwell Steelers and the Birmingham Lions.

##### ***Supply***

There are no dedicated American football pitches within Wolverhampton and no other sports pitches are used for the sport.

##### ***Demand***

There are no American football clubs in Wolverhampton. The City previously hosted Wolverhampton Outlaws; however, the team disbanded a number of years ago.

Within the wider Black Country region, there are American football clubs in Dudley and Sandwell, whilst a club is also present in Birmingham. As such, the region is well supported and it is likely that any isolated demand from Wolverhampton can be catered for outside of the authority.

##### ***Supply and demand analysis***

With no dedicated facilities or substantial demand for the sport identified, American football should not be identified as a sport for the Council to prioritise. It is, however, imperative that any demand that does exist is directed to clubs in neighbouring authorities to ensure that it is catered for.

#### **15.2: Baseball/softball**

##### ***Introduction***

Baseball and softball are both governed by Baseball and Softball UK (BSUK), which is currently aiming to build the number of teams playing regularly throughout the country.

Baseball is played between two teams of nine players, which take turns batting and fielding across nine innings, whilst softball has two varieties: slow-pitch softball and fast-pitch softball. Both sports in England operate from April until September.

##### ***Supply***

There is one baseball/softball diamond in the City, located at Colton Hills High School (Academy). This is however marked on a seasonal basis with line marking paint and is not a dedicated pitch for the sport. There are no facilities identified as being disused or lapsed.

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### ***Demand***

Wolverhampton Baseball Club was founded in 2018 and compete in the West Midlands Baseball League, which has grown from three clubs to seven since its inception in 2019. The Club access the pitch at Colton Hills High School for matches and training.

In addition to Wolverhampton Baseball Club, Stourbridge Titans Baseball Club also access the provision at Colton Hills High School despite primarily being based in Dudley. The Club recently relocated to the site due to reportedly being priced out of use of its previous venue, Thorns Leisure Centre (which is in Dudley). It is actively looking for a means to return back to Dudley.

Both clubs only play baseball, meaning there is no softball activity in the City.

### ***Supply and demand analysis***

Given the use of Colton Hill High School and the expanding demand for baseball in the region, the provision requires protection. As such, a community use agreement should be sought to secure long-term access.

### **15.3: Gaelic football**

Britain GAA is the Provincial Council of Gaelic football and hurling outside of Ireland. It is made up of seven regions, with Wolverhampton and the other Black County authorities falling into the Warwickshire region. The playing season runs from May until August.

### ***Consultation***

There is one existing Gaelic football club within Wolverhampton, that being St Mary's Gaelic Football Club. The Club engaged in telephone consultation to inform this section of the report.

### ***Supply***

There are no dedicated Gaelic football pitches provided in Wolverhampton. Aldersley High School is utilised as the primary venue for St Mary's Gaelic Football Club and the Club overmark football pitches for this purpose. However, these are undersized for competitive matches. There are also no facilities identified as being disused or lapsed.

### ***Demand***

Demand from St Mary's Gaelic Football Club equates to one senior team and a small junior section. The senior element of the Club competes at a reasonable standard and has been successful in winning regional competitions over its 70-year history.

Consultation with the Club highlights its desire to expand at both senior and junior level, but it notes that it is held back by the quality of the available facility at Aldersley High School.

### ***Supply and demand analysis***

There is no formal methodology for accessing the capacity requirements of Gaelic football. However, the provision of an over marked and undersized pitch at Aldersley High School is clearly insufficient to meet the demand from St Mary's Gaelic Football. The potential to increase the pitch size at Aldesley High School should be investigated.



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### **Other grass pitch sports – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ There are no existing American football facilities within Wolverhampton and with no demand existing it should not be seen as a priority.
- ◀ The baseball provision at Colton Hills High School requires protection, with an agreement required to secure use for Wolverhampton Baseball Club.
- ◀ The provision of a larger and more permanent Gaelic football offer should be sought due to the undersized nature of the pitch at Aldersley High School.

### **Other grass pitch sports – supply summary**

- ◀ There are no dedicated American football pitches within Wolverhampton.
- ◀ There is one baseball/softball diamond in Wolverhampton, located at Colton Hills (Academy).
- ◀ There are no dedicated Gaelic football pitches provided in the City, with St Mary's Gaelic Football Club utilising an overmarked football pitch at Aldersley High School which is undersized.

### **Other grass pitch sports – demand summary**

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

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### APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

#### National context

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

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

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

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

#### ***Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021***

Sport and physical activity have a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

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**Recover and reinvent:** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

**Connecting communities:** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

**Positive experiences for children and young people:** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

**Connecting with health and wellbeing:** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

**Active environments:** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (2021)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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### ***The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ **Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock** to maintain current provision, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

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### ***The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)***

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

### ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)***

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ **Grow and nurture the core**
  - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
  - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
  - ◀ Invest in club facilities
  - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
  - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ **Inspire through elite teams**
  - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
  - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
  - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
  - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ **Make cricket accessible**
  - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
  - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
  - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
  - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
  - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
  - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
  - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
  - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people

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### ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**

- ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
- ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
- ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
- ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme

### ◀ **Support our communities**

- ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
- ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
- ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
- ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

### ***The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)***

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7's offering

### ***The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy***

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes are prioritised:

- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- ◀ Sustainable clubs
- ◀ Environmental Sustainability
- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website [provides further information on:](#)

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the Strategy, detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link:

- ◀ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 - 2017

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### ***Rugby League World Cup ‘Inspired by 2021’ Legacy Programme***

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of an ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

### ***England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters 2013***

The vision is for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’.

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation’s pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

### ***Club participation***

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

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Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

### ***England Hockey Strategy***

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found <http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075&sectionTitle=Facilities+Strategy>.

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

#### **1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

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

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

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

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

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



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### ***LTA Facilities Investment Strategy – Vision for the 2020 and beyond***

The LTA has developed a programme of action based on seven core strategies. These are:

- ◀ Visibility – Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
- ◀ Innovation – Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
- ◀ Investment – Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
- ◀ Accessibility – Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
- ◀ Engagement – Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers, to attract and maintain more people in the game.
- ◀ Performance – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ◀ Leadership – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.

The LTA Facilities Investment Framework sets out how it intends to deliver the investment to support community accessible tennis facilities. The focus will be on:

- ◀ New and existing indoor tennis centres
- ◀ Park tennis
- ◀ Tennis clubs
- ◀ Schools and other educational establishments

The key principles of the framework are to:

- ◀ Help fund projects through interest free loans.
- ◀ Invest in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ◀ Invest where there is thorough community engagement.
- ◀ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ◀ Targeted investment that is demand-led.
- ◀ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

### ***England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17***

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.

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

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.

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- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

### ***England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond***

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

**Vision:** Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- ◀ Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- ◀ Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- ◀ Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

**Mission:** To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

### ***England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)***

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

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The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims “To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England”.

### **England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)**

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

- ◀ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ◀ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ◀ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ◀ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ◀ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ◀ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ◀ Inspire and educate golf’s network of volunteers
- ◀ Increase golf’s influence
- ◀ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ◀ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ◀ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ◀ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ◀ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ◀ Develop greater access for disabled people
- ◀ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers

# WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

## APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

### Grass football pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football						
Please complete one form per pitch						
Site reference:			Site Name:			
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID(s):			
Number of football pitches on site:			Pitch size:	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)		
Availability			Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Weather at time of visit & date of visit			If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues			
Pitch Issues:						
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)						
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments	
<b>Playing surface</b>						
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%	Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No	See size chart below for recommended dimensions
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe	
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short	Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage	
<b>Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)</b>						<b>Section total</b>
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No	
Seeded	Yes, as required		Not known		No	
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times		Once/ twice		No	
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No	
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No	
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No	
						<b>Section total</b>
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.						
PITCH SCORE			0.0%	RATING	Poor	

# WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Cricket non-technical assessment

Element	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
<b>About the cricket outfield</b>					
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	<BBX Falls below the ECD basic standard	
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Ideally 12mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even		Uneven	Ball should run without deviation or ramp	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	May also wish to refer to sewer survey. If yes, refer to water/sewerable message	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to sewer survey. If yes, refer to water/sewerable message	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg from animals, vehicles - rabbits, cattle and horses etc may also wish to refer to sewer survey	
<b>Artificial wickets</b>					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes	No		There should be no trip points	
Evenness of wicket	Even	Uneven		There should be no anomalies in surface levels	
Stump holes	Yes	No		Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball	
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes	No		There should be none	
Rips or surface lifting	Yes	No		If "yes" consult site manager	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes	No		If "yes" consult site manager	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes	No			
<b>Grass wickets</b>					
Presence of line markings	Yes	No			
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes	No			
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes	No		3mm to 4mm wicket/12mm rest of square	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes	No			
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes	No		<BBX Falls below the ECD basic standard	
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound?	Yes	No			
<b>Changing/ Pavilion</b>					
Umpires provision	Yes	No			
Toilets	Yes	No			
Hot/cold water	Yes	No			
Heating	Yes	No			
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention		
<b>NTP</b>					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes	No			
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even	Uneven			
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes	No			
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes	No			
No rips or surface lifting	Yes	No			
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes	No			
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes	No			
Is the steel frame/posts upright?	Yes	No			
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes	No			
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes	No			
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes	No			
Is appropriate safety/supervisory signage present?	Yes	No			

# WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Rugby pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union									
Please complete one form per pitch									
<b>Site reference</b>				<b>Site Name</b>					
<b>6 figure grid reference</b>				<b>Pitch ID(s)</b>					
<b>Date of assessment</b>				<b>Pitch size</b>	(Senior, Mini/Midi)				
<b>Number of pitches on site</b>				<b>Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?</b>					
<b>Availability</b>				<small>If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues</small>					
<small>Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused</small>									
<b>Weather at time of visit</b>									
<b>General comments/observations</b>									
<b>Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)</b>									
Qualitative information (gathered on site)	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments		
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% = good. <80% = poor		
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)		Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.		
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short		Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm		
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots				
<b>GOALPOSTS</b>									
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No						
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No						
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No						
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No						
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No						
<b>ANCILLARY</b>									
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No						
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No						
<b>Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below</b>									
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never		
							<b>Pitch Maintenance Score</b>		
<b>Drainage</b>	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0
							<b>Natural (adequate)</b> = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season <b>Natural (inadequate)</b> = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a <b>pipe drained</b> system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a <b>slit drained</b> system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.		

## Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

# WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches									
Site reference			Site Name						
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID						
Number of AGPs on site			Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)			Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)		
Availability			Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused						
Type of pitch	{	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)		Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)		Short Pile 3G (40mm)			
		Sand Dressed		Sand Filled		Water based			
<b>Assessment Criteria</b> (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Site comments	
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.		
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes		No						
Are there dug outs?	Yes		No						
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes		No						
<b>Maximum score</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>Scoring:</b>		Poor <=50	<b>Total Score</b>		<b>0</b>		
			Standard 51-79	<b>Potential Rating</b>		<b>Poor</b>			
			Good 80+						

*Court non-technical assessment (netball and tennis)*







# WOLVERHAMPTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Athletics Tracks

KKPref							
Site name:							
Track surface			Grass, polymeric, cinder, other specify	Specify If 'Other'			
No. of Lanes		Length of track:		Community Use:			
<b>Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each track with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)</b>							
Element	Rating						Comments
<b>About the track facilities</b>							
Damage to the track surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Track edging	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Disabled access	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Floodlighting	Yes		No				
Is the track fenced?	Yes		No				
<b>Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump</b>							
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate landing areas - jumps	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No-but adequate		No-not adequate		
Take off boards	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Landing mats	Yes		No				
Surface of throwing areas - shot, discuss, hammer	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate safety margins - throw s	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Throw ing cages	Yes		No				
<b>Access to toilets</b>							
Access to toilets	Yes		No				
<b>Changing accomodation</b>							
Changing accomodation	Yes		No				
Changing accomodation - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Club room	Yes		No				
Car parking	Good		Adequate		Poor		
<b>General Comments</b>							
				ENTER Athletics	Please make sure there is no filter on in sheet At_db !		