

Royal Borough of Greenwich Playing Pitch Strategy

2026-2036



Greenwich
Get Active


ROYAL *borough of*
GREENWICH

Contents

Abbreviations	3
Section 1 – Introduction	4
Section 2 – The Study Area	7
Section 3 – Findings and Facility Needs	15
Section 4 – Meeting the Needs (‘How to’ Scenarios)	27
Section 5 – Recommendations by Pitch Sport	32
Section 6 – Strategic Recommendations	35
Section 7 – Action Plan	38
Section 8 – Summary	41
Appendix A – Assessment of Needs Report Cricket	42
Appendix B – Assessment of Needs Report Football	58
Appendix C – Assessment of Needs Report Hockey	93
Appendix D – Assessment of Needs Report Rugby	100
Appendix E – Club Consultation and Aspirations	112
Appendix F – Existing Planning Policies	117

Abbreviations

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)	MES	Match Equivalent Sessions
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch	MUGAs	Multi Use Games Areas
ALS	Active Lives Survey	NGB	National Governing Body
RBG	Royal Borough of Greenwich Council	NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
CC	Cricket Club	NTP	Non Turf Pitch (Cricket)
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy	OHID	Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
COE	Church of England	ONS	Office of National Statistics
CUA	Community Use Agreement	PQS	Performance Quality Standard
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board	PP	PitchPower
EH	England Hockey	PPC	Playing Pitch Calculator
FA	Football Association	PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
FC	Football Club	RAG	Red Amber Green
FL	Football League	RC	Roman Catholic
FTP	Fine Turf Pitch (Cricket)	RFL	Rugby Football League
HC	Hockey Club	RFU	Rugby Football Union
IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation	RFC	Rugby Football Club
LA	Local Authority	SD	Sand Dressed (Hockey)
LED	Light Emitting Diode	S106	Section 106
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan	U	Under
LSOAs	Lower Layer Super Output Areas	WRC	World Rugby Compliant
LPA	Local Planning Authority		

1. Introduction

Brief, Scope, Vision and Aims

1.1 Background

- a. Greenwich council has a commitment to make the borough a healthier, happier and more active place to live. An essential part of this commitment is providing sport and leisure opportunities for all of its local communities and residents and ensuring that the facilities for sport in the borough can meet the current and future needs. This includes protecting and where identified, enhancing the number of facilities, the capacity and quality of those facilities and also the accessibility for all of the residents in Greenwich.
- b. With one of the highest projected population growth rates of all the London boroughs, it is essential that the future needs of sports clubs and community groups in Greenwich are considered to ensure they can continue providing sport and physical activity opportunities for the local community. This new Playing Pitch Strategy 2026 – 2036 has been produced in line with national guidance from Sport England and forms the updated evidence base to the previous 2015 Playing Pitch Strategy.
- c. Continuum Sport and Leisure (Continuum) were commissioned by the council to lead on the production of the new strategy, which has been agreed by all the playing pitch national governing bodies of sport following the Sport England process¹. Each local authority in the country is encouraged to produce this evidence base to inform future decisions regarding the demand and supply of existing and new playing pitches in their area. The strategy informs an action plan which details potential facility developments based on the supply and demand analysis, set out in Section 7. This action plan will be reviewed and amended, in partnership with stakeholders and the Strategy Steering Group on an annual basis as part of the Stage E process.
- d. The supply side information contained in the strategy is generated through standard facility audits used for all levels of facility from parks to elite sport, with findings then validated by the relevant NGB of that sport. The demand side information is generated from surveys of current and potential users including local sports clubs as well as affiliated club and team data provided by the relevant governing bodies of sport and facility booking records where available. The council's Sport, Leisure and Libraries team, Public Heath, Parks Service and Planning Policy teams have provided context and a local perspective on the overarching vision and principles driving the strategy and the outcomes and objectives.
- e. The resulting action plan is a guide on how enhanced and new facilities might be developed, pending viability testing, funding confirmation and planning permission, if necessary, where they might be developed and the lead organisation to meet identified demand and provide sustainable management and operational models. Often projects are delivered through the council, or the sport's governing body through engaging with voluntary, education or commercial partners. Each potential project identified in the action plan will be reviewed and re-evaluated with regard to the situation at the time. The strategy and action plan provide a 'snapshot' of the position at the time at the time of the strategy publication. Factors on both the demand and supply side may have changed as well as the cost and viability of the project at the point when an individual project is being considered during the life of this strategy.
- f. When applying for funding to develop new facilities or improve current facilities, Sport England, NGBs, and most other funding organisations, require evidence of the current demand and supply of facilities in an area to justify the proposed project. This strategy - developed and agreed in partnership with these same organisations - is the

document that provides this information on playing pitches and ancillary facilities and is vital to the success of any funding bid.

- g. Through the implementation of this strategy, the council has a leading role to play in enabling access to sporting opportunities at a cost that is acceptable to the wider community, including entry level facilities such as free to use open space and multi-use games areas (MUGA's) as well as pay and play summer and winter sports pitches with changing and toilet facilities to allow communities to participate and clubs to play competitively. Alongside this direct provision Greenwich council also has opportunities to support and empower community organisations to develop and manage their own facilities through any potential community asset transfer process.

1.2 Why the strategy has been developed

- a. Alongside the need for the council to ensure an up-to-date evidence base and need within the Local Plan, the purpose of the strategy is to both protect the current stock of playing pitch facilities and support the council in meeting the future demand generated by significant housing growth over the strategy period, with Greenwich set to have one of the highest housing and population growth rates in London. A key part of the future provision is the council's important direct and indirect contribution to improving health and increased physical activity levels of Greenwich residents. The strategy will assist in establishing how to best meet the current and future health and wellbeing needs of Greenwich's community clubs, organisations, and residents.
- b. The council's main rationales for producing this updated strategy and associated action plan are detailed below:
- The value of outdoor sport and recreation aligns with the Council's corporate missions associated with – Our People – Our Place – Our Economy – Our Communities- Our Organisation.
 - To form part of the evidence base for the upcoming Local Plan.
 - Analyse the overall need for pitches across the borough, to prepare contemporary local planning policies relating to demand and under/over utilisation of existing pitches.

- Identify development pressures on existing playing fields and the up-to-date evidence base necessary to protect those sites.
- Identify priority projects for enhancement of existing provision or new provision to inform the Council's own capital programme and approaches by the Council and its partner playing pitch providers (e.g. schools, sports clubs and associations) to seeking external funding through developer contributions and/or external grants from sports bodies.
- Ensuring the outdoor playing provision both for formal forms of play (through clubs and leagues) and less formal forms of sports, for example playing in parks, schools, and other community spaces is recognised and protected.

1.3 Vision and Key Deliverables

- a. The vision for the Greenwich Playing Pitch Strategy is to provide an assessment of the needs for playing pitches, ancillary facilities and outline opportunities for new provision. The assessment identifies specific needs and quantitative and/ or qualitative deficits or surpluses of playing pitches across Greenwich.
- b. The key deliverables of the strategy as set out in the brief by Greenwich Council are as follows:
- Follow Sport England: Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An approach to developing and delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy.
 - A single document for each sport within which the supply, demand and assessment information is collated and presented which allows for the information to be interrogated and kept up to date.
 - A report presenting a summary of the assessment details. A strategy review document with clear sport, borough, sub-area and site-specific recommendations and prioritised action plan.
 - Spatial map(s) for each sport, with changing/ ancillary facilities.
 - A strategy review document with clear sport, borough, sub-area and site-specific recommendations and prioritised action plan.
 - Spatial map(s) for each sport, with changing/ ancillary facilities.

1 <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport>

1.4 The Approach to Developing the Strategy

- a. The strategy aims to be robust, based on local needs (currently and projections to 2036), and deliverable. This objective is assured by adhering to the ‘ten steps’ advocated in the current Sport England’s ‘Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance’. This guidance is detailed below.
- b. This 10-step approach is split into 5 key stages of the strategy process. This report covers stages A – D, with Stage E, the application, delivery, and renewal of the strategy, being the responsibility of the council, with support from the playing pitch NGBs, Sport England, and wider funding partners.

Figure 1.1 - Ten stage approach to a PPS



Stage A	- Step 1: Prepare and tailor the approach.
Stage B	- Step 2: Gather supply information and views. - Step 3: Gather demand information and views.
Stage C	- Step 4: Understand the situation at individual sites. - Step 5: Develop the current and future pictures of provision. - Step 6: Identify the key findings and issues.
Stage D	- Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan. - Step 8: Write and adopt the strategy.
Stage E	- Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy. - Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up to date.

National Policy Adherence

- c. The strategy also adheres to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Para 103 of the NPPF 2024 states: “Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate”.
- d. Sport England’s guidance highlights the importance of undertaking detailed assessments of sports facility needs and the benefits of sports and physical activity within local authority areas (as well as considering the range of possible options and

scenarios for meeting priority needs and achieving positive outcomes identified through this process), before making recommendations for future action. Specifically, the guidance recommends that local authorities:

1. Recognise and give significant weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity.
 2. Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessments of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them.
 3. Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles.
- e. The guidance published by Sport England also advocates that strategic recommendations and action planning consider the following hierarchy of needs:
- 1. Protect** existing sports facilities where these are sustainable and continue to perform a valuable role in meeting community needs.
 - 2. Enhance** existing facilities that meet these criteria but need improvement to continue to be of value; and, lastly,
 - 3. Provide** new or extended facilities where there is found to be substantial unmet needs currently or predicted for the future.

1.5 Tailoring the approach - Which sports to include?

- a. The council agreed that the playing pitch sports to be included in the strategy are:

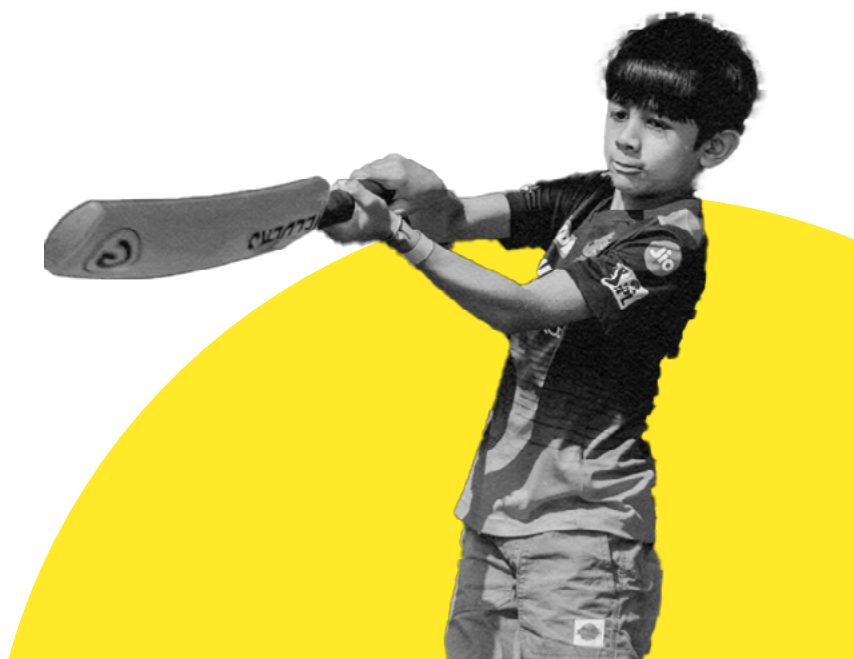
- Football
- Rugby (Union)
- Cricket
- Hockey

and consideration given to any additional sports which use grass pitches in Greenwich.

- b. Within these sports and facilities, the strategy seeks as far as is practicable, to include consideration of all forms of play, whether:
- Club and league based (formal) play and training (including reference to indoor nets for Cricket),
 - Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g., friendly and recreational game formats outside the sport's governing bodies affiliated structures), and
 - Un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students out of school.

1.6 Management and delivery

- a. The development of the strategy has been managed by the Greenwich Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group. Internal stakeholders within the steering group include representatives from Greenwich's Sport, Leisure and Libraries team, Public Health, Parks Service and Planning Policy officers.
- b. The external stakeholders included in the Steering Group are made up of representatives from The Football Association, Football Foundation, Kent Cricket, England & Wales Cricket Board, England Rugby, England Hockey, Sport England, and Continuum, the consultants appointed to co-ordinate the strategy development to the point of the recommendation and action plan.
- c. As part of the process the consultant team engaged with Rugby League, the Active Partnership, London Sport and neighbouring local authorities.



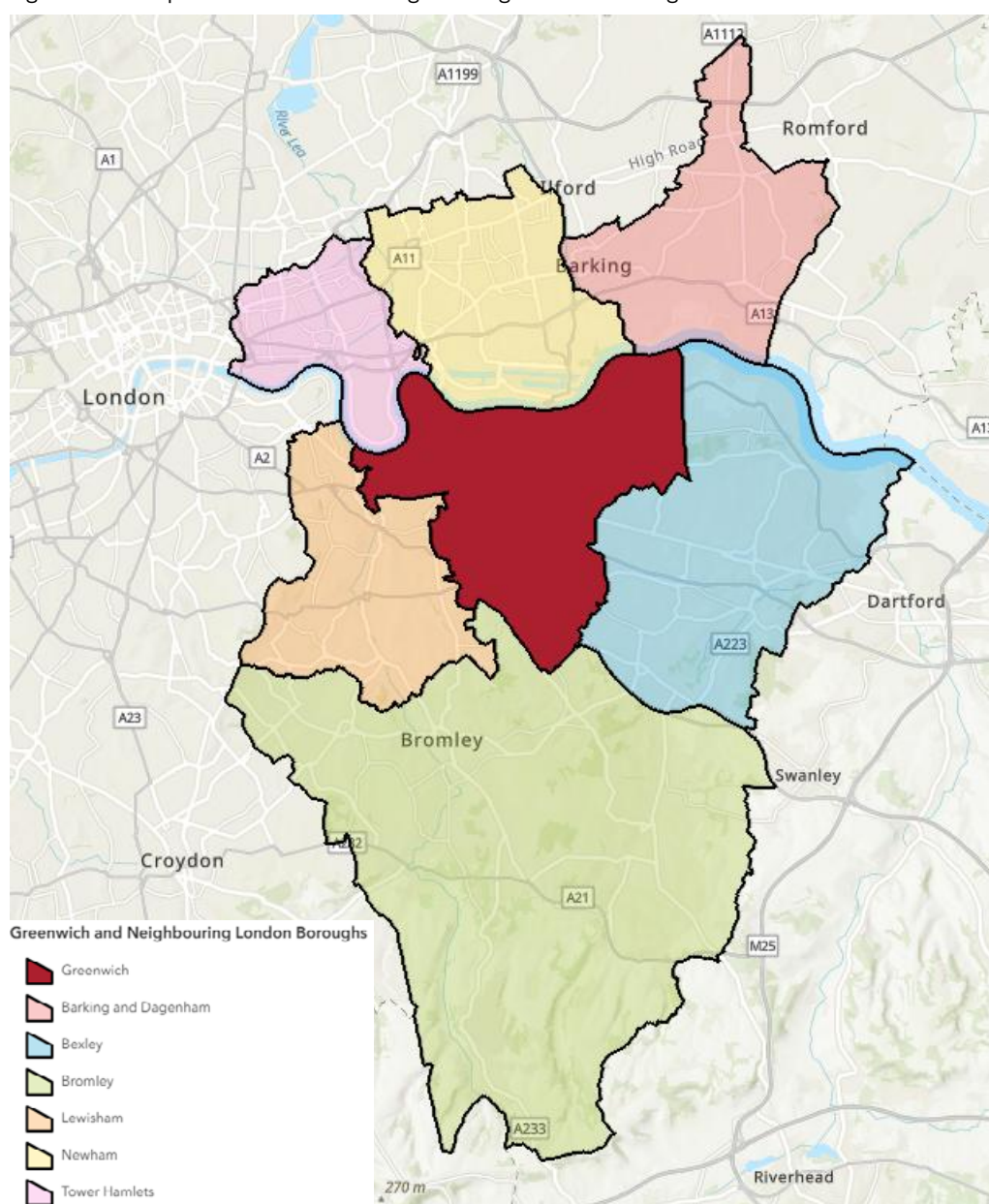
2. The Study Area

2.1 The Extent of the Study Area

- a. The study area for the strategy covers the Royal Borough of Greenwich local authority boundary. As with most London Boroughs, there is a significant level of cross boundary movement by clubs based in neighbouring authorities and using

facilities in Greenwich. An important aspect of this strategy is to quantify imported demand from the neighbouring authorities highlighted in figure 2.1 and assess the impact of this additional use on facilities in Greenwich.

Figure 2.1 – Map of Greenwich and neighbouring London Boroughs



- b. There are also sports teams based in Greenwich that use facilities outside the Borough. This crossboundary movement has been taken into consideration when considering future needs for each sport both in terms of specialist and strategic facilities that serve a sub-regional catchment area, and the local community sporting needs for Greenwich residents.
- c. The Royal Borough of Greenwich's 2023 Authority Monitoring Report for housing supply in the

borough highlighted opportunities to develop 24,994 dwellings at identified opportunity sites across the borough up to 2039. An additional 7,146 dwellings were identified at non-opportunity sites. The areas of highest housing delivery are highlighted in figure 2.2 below and shows that Greenwich Peninsula has a significant amount of potential housing development over the plan period, which could result in significantly greater demand for sport and leisure facilities in this area.

Figure 2.2 RBG Authority Monitoring Report housing allocation 2023

Area	Potential Dwellings up to 2039
Greenwich Peninsula	16,661
Additional sites outside of opportunity areas	7,146
Woolwich	3,964
Thamesmead and Abbey Wood	2,246
Charlton Riverside	1,978
Deptford Creek / Greenwich Riverside	145
Total	32,140

2.2 Tailoring the Approach - What Makes the Study Area Different?

- a. In tailoring the approach, it is important to understand the following unique aspects of the area.
 - The high density of population and lack of open space suitable for pitch provision particularly in the north (close to the river) and western parts of the borough.
 - The importance of the facilities in the south of the borough for outdoor sport that support the lack of space in the north.
 - Concentrations of population growth linked to major regeneration schemes (Riverside, Charlton, Woolwich, Greenwich and Plumstead centres).
 - Neighbourhoods characterised by high levels of socio-economic deprivation, low participation in sports generally and poor health indicators but also affluent urban village neighbourhoods (e.g., within Blackheath, Greenwich) with populations with high propensity to participate in playing pitch sports.
 - A number of former sports grounds now disused and at risk of loss to community sports use.
 - One of the highest housing and population growth projections of all London Boroughs.

The London Active Partnership

- b. The charity 'London Sport' - is the lead organisation working to ensure more equitable and inclusive access to sport and physical activity. The London Sport team advocates for London's grassroots sport and physical activity sector and collaborate with London's local authorities and other organisations to achieve their aim.
- c. The London Sport Strategy 2024-2027 'Let's Move London' sets out how they will continue to work to tackle London's inactivity crisis, breaking the link between inactivity and inequality to help all Londoners live longer, healthier and happier lives through being active. The strategy sets out three focus areas:
 - Active Environments – creating spaces and places that engage more Londoners, especially those that are the least active.
 - Health – Integrating physical activity into London's Healthcare system to prevent and support the management of health conditions.
 - Community Sport – Fostering a sustainable community sport ecosystem.
- d. London Sport in partnership with Sport England are working on a project to identify, review and address the greatest challenges surrounding access to, and the protection of playing fields, across the capital. This work is currently in progress but once

completed the insights gained should be applied to provide solutions, where applicable, to the issues identify within this strategy.

Population Profile and Growth

- e. Any facilities which are developed from the study will need to meet the needs of Greenwich's future populations as well as its current population. Figure 2.3 summarises the most up to date population projections for Greenwich. These projections

are from 2025 to 2036 and demonstrates that Greenwich's population is projected to grow by 9.0%, this is greater than the national average of 4.7% (as projected by the ONS). An increase of over 26,000 residents will greatly increase the demand for sport and recreation pitches in Greenwich. This increase of population indicates that the current provision of facilities for sport, physical activity, and recreation in Greenwich will be under pressure in the coming years as this growth occurs.

Figure 2.3 Population projection for Greenwich 2025 – 2036 (ONS 2025)

	2025 Population	2036 Population	% increase
Greenwich	298,003	324,811	9.0%
England	58,893,277	61,806,467	4.7%

- f. It should be noted that if the borough where to achieve the estimated housing projections in Figure 2.2 this would result in a greater increase in population than the ONS projections in Figure 2.3 and is something that the council will need to closely monitor in relation to the projected needs and demands for sports facilities and other services in Greenwich. The regular review of the playing pitch strategy on an annual basis is therefore a key process for the council to maintain following the publication of this strategy.

Health

- g. It is useful to understand the health profile of Greenwich in order to not only identify key health factors which new or improved facilities can contribute to addressing but also to understand the propensity of a local population to be active. Greenwich's Local Authority Health Profile (statistics ranging from 2023 to 2024) highlights that the health of residents is better than the national average for some key health indicators

- however is lower than the national average in a majority of these (Figure 2.4).
- h. Figure 2.4 provides an overview of Greenwich against several Department of Health key health indicators in comparison with regional and national averages, with those health markers which are better than regional and national average highlighted in green, and those which are worse highlighted in red. This shows that Greenwich performs well in national average for the % of obese or overweight adults and male life expectancy. However, it also highlights that Greenwich performs worse when compared to most health indicators such as % obesity in children, under 75 mortality rates, and female life expectancy. These poor health markers further emphasise the need for sufficient, good quality and accessible sport and physical activity facilities and opportunities in Greenwich. Sport England's most recent research has highlighted the significant positive impact which sport and physical activity can have on public health².

Figure 2.4 Table of health indicators in Greenwich, London, and England (OHID LA health profiles)

	Greenwich	London	England
% Obese children (Year 6) (2023/24)	26.6	24	22.1
% Obese or Overweight adults (2023/23)	60.2	57.8	64.0
Life expectancy: male (2023)	79.4	80.4	79.3
Life expectancy: female (2023)	82.7	84.6	83.2
Under 75 mortality: all causes (2023)	361.2	304.8	341.6
Under 75 mortality: cardiovascular (2023)	87.7	74.2	77.4
Under 75 mortality: cancer (2023)	133.4	109.2	120.8

- i. It is vital that facilities for sport are built so they can help contribute to improving the poor indicators reported. Sport England research has found that increased physical activity can help reduce the risk

of developing a range of health conditions, therefore providing suitable supply of accessible, highquality sports pitches and facilities is essential to improving the health of Greenwich residents.

² [The social value of sport and physical activity in England - year two update](#)

Deprivation

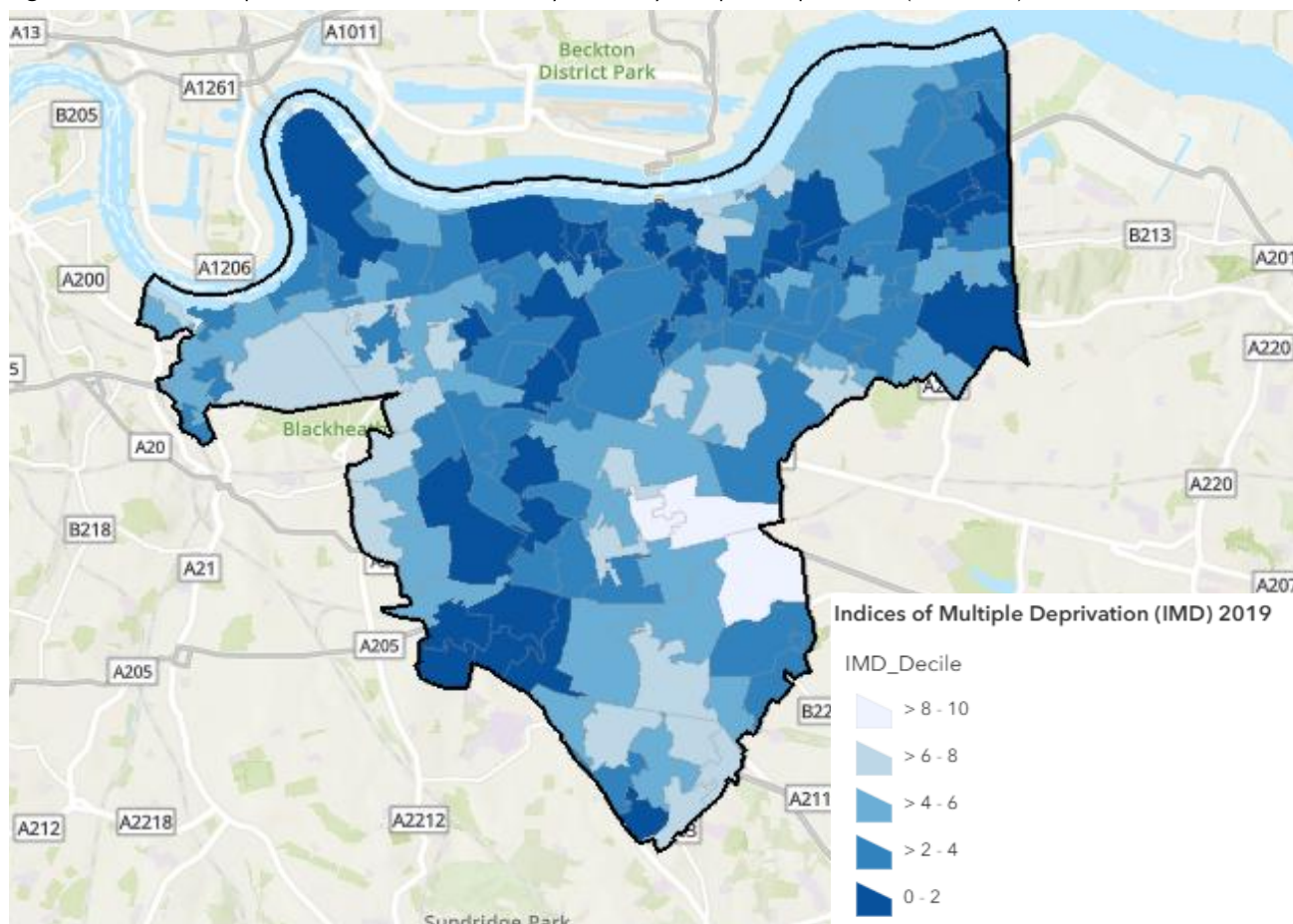
- j. Deprivation, and the social and economic factors behind the figures, directly affect the propensity and ability of the catchment population to access and use facilities as well as being active. Investment into community sports facilities can also form an important element of the regeneration of deprived areas and provide more accessible opportunities for movement and physical activity. An awareness of how deprivation affects a local population can also influence how activities are delivered and what type of initiatives are launched to increase participation.
- k. Figure 2.5 illustrates the Boroughs deprivation rank against other areas within the region for the years 2015 and 2019. As shown on the table, Greenwich's deprivation rank has increased from 2015 to 2019 (where rank 1 is most deprived), signalling a positive reduction in the levels of deprivation in the area over the 4 year period, however Greenwich remains one of the 20% most deprived local authorities in the country. This highlights that a significant proportion of the population continues to face challenges relating to cost of living and propensity to be physical active.

- l. Figure 2.6 shows a map of Greenwich split up into Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) with different colours outlining their relative Index of Multiple Deprivation (the darker blue areas are the most deprived Local Super Output Areas, whilst lighter are the least deprived). There are pockets of high deprivation spread throughout the whole Borough. There is one LSOA which is within the 10% most deprived in the country and a further 30 within the 20% most deprived areas. Areas and neighbourhoods with higher deprivation should be considered in relation to any current or future development opportunities for sports facilities and initiatives to impact positively on levels of participation and accessibility.

Figure 2.5 Greenwich and neighbouring areas deprivation rank (ONS English indices of deprivation 2019, ONS English indices of deprivation 2015)

	IMD 2019	IMD 2015
Greenwich	60	50
Lewisham	35	26
Bexley	190	195
Bromley	230	220
Newham	12	8
Tower Hamlets	27	6

Figure 2.6 Levels of deprivation across Greenwich by lower layer super output areas (IMD 2019)



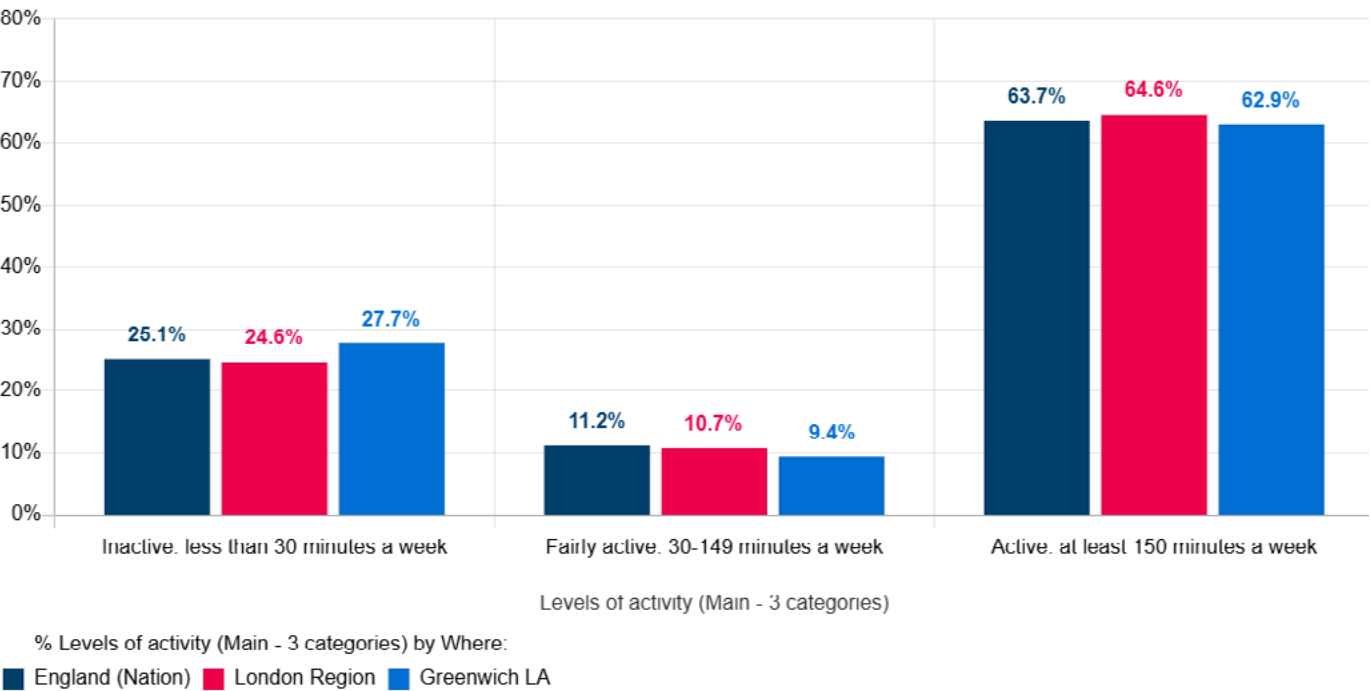
How does the population participate?

- m. Sport England's Active Lives Survey provides a comprehensive assessment of physical activity and sports participation at a local authority, county, regional and national level. Active Lives measures a range of performance indicators including activity rates, indoor and outdoor activity, and satisfaction with local sports provision. Active Lives also provides analysis of activity across a range of demographics including gender, deprivation levels and age.
- n. Figure 2.7 outlines the percentage of the population of Greenwich, London, and England who are physically active (150+ minutes per

week), fairly active (30-149 minutes per week), and inactive (less than 30 minutes per week). The graph shows that Greenwich has a lower proportion of active residents (62.9%) than the regional average (64.6%) and national average (63.7%). Greenwich also has a higher proportion of inactive residents (27.7%) compared to regional (24.6%) and national (25.1%). This suggests that residents in Greenwich have a lower propensity for physical activity and are less active than other local authorities in the region. The development of new or improved sports facilities and playing pitches are vital considerations for the council and partners to tackle this issue and improve the activity levels in Greenwich.

Figure 2.7 Activity levels in Greenwich, London and England 2023-24 (Sport England Active Lives survey 2024)

Levels of activity (Main - 3 categories)
Nov 23-24

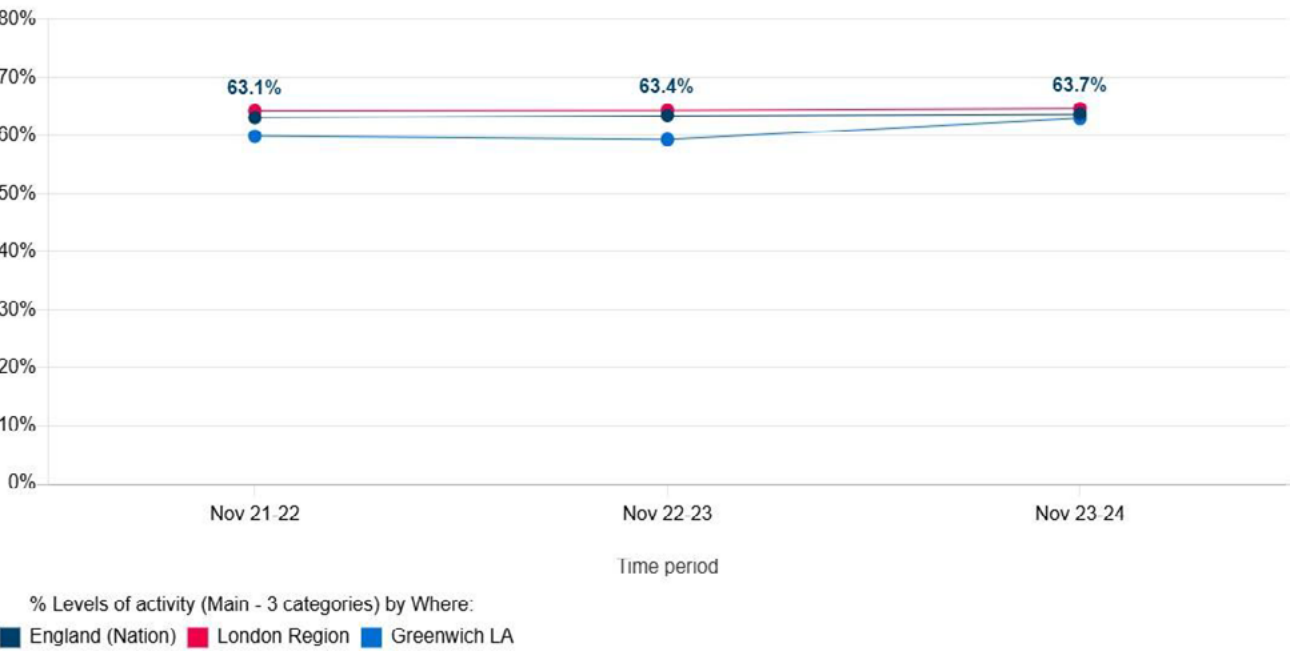


- o. Figure 2.8 shows that Greenwich reported a lower proportion of active residents from November 2021-22 to 2023-24, when compared to the London region and national average. Greenwich reported a significantly lower proportion of active residents in 2022-23 (59%) compared to London (64%) and the national average (63%). This suggests that there is a decrease in the propensity to exercise and remain physically active in Greenwich. This is a key component to address through the priorities within this strategy to ensure that this trend does not continue.
- p. Children's physical activity rates in Greenwich are greater than the regional average but less than the national average, with 48% of physically active children (an average of 60+ minutes a day) compared to the London Regional rate of 47.1% and national rate of 49.1% (figure 2.9). However, the level of less active children (those who do less than 30 minutes a day) is greater in Greenwich at 34.4% than the London region (30.2%) and England (28.4%).

Figure 2.8 Activity Levels in Greenwich, London and England between 2021 - 2024 (Sport England Active Lives survey 2024)

Levels of activity (Main - 3 categories)

Active: at least 150 minutes a week



- q. A high proportion of children’s physical activity outside of school hours in Greenwich takes place outdoors, with just under half the population of children (45.8%) taking part in an average of 30+ minutes per day of physical activity outdoors outside of school hours (figure 2.10). This proportion is greater than the London region (43.7%) but less than the national average (46.4%). This highlights the importance of providing and maintaining high quality community outdoor sports facilities, including playing pitches, that can ensure the borough’s young people have the best opportunities to remain physically active into their adult lives.

Figure 2.9 Levels of children’s physical activity (Sport England Active Lives survey 2024)

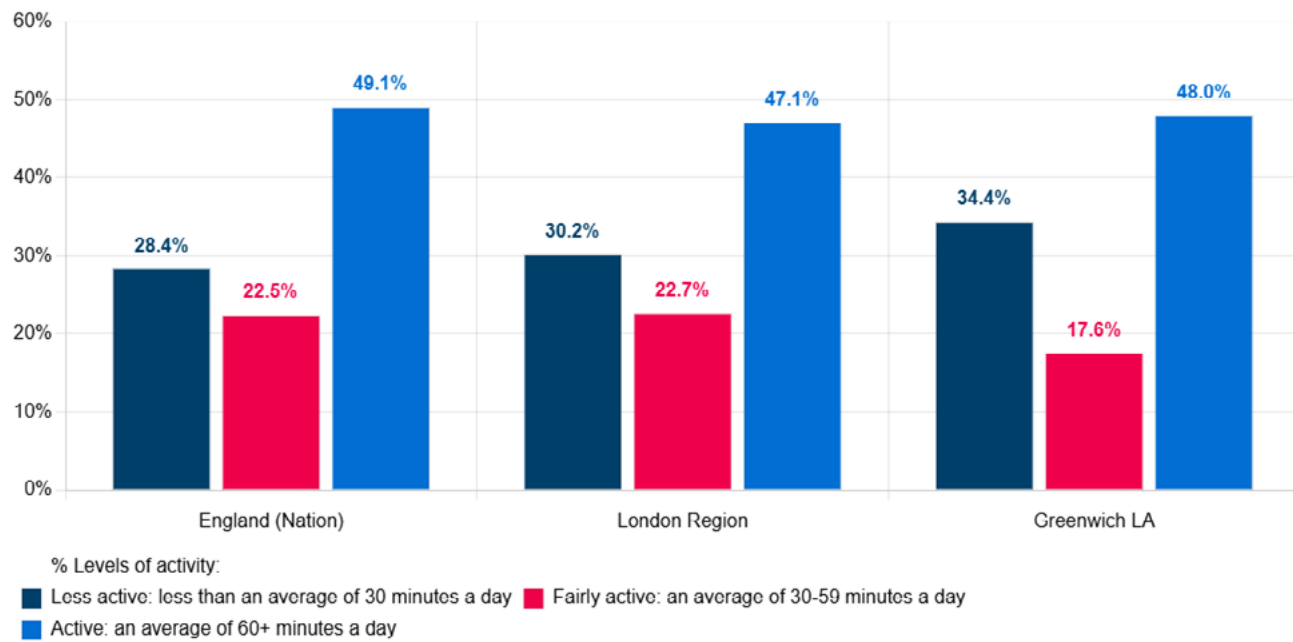
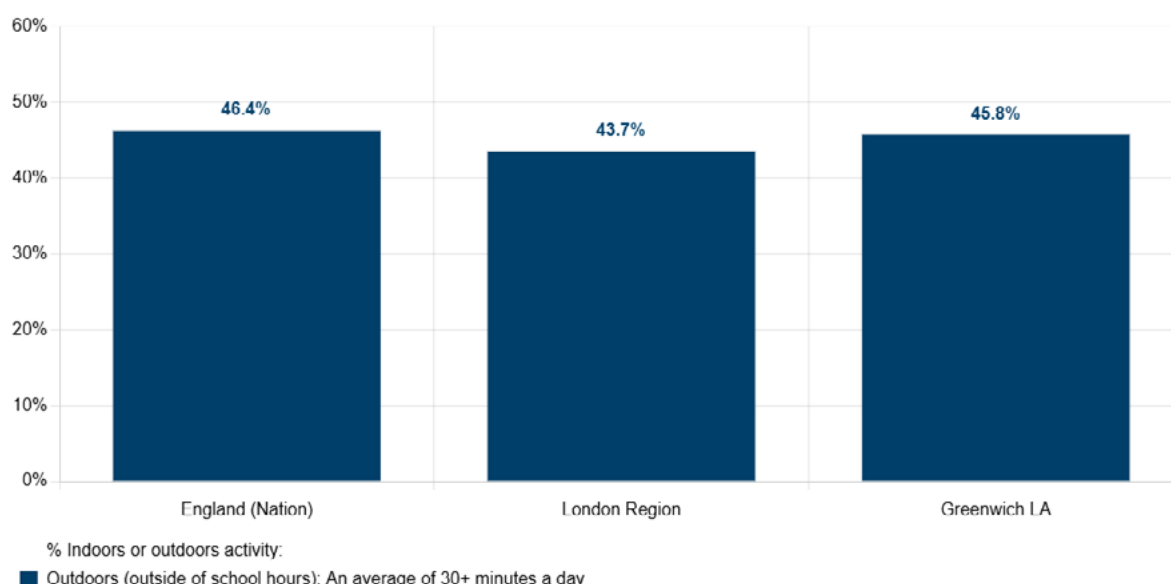


Figure 2.10 Children's physical activity outdoor out of school hours (Sport England Active Lives survey 2024)



2.3 Consultation Summary

- a. Over the course of this study, clubs were consulted through online surveys to gather their views on the facilities available within Greenwich and their future needs. A summary of these consultation findings is available in figure 2.12 below. As highlighted in the summary below a high percentage of clubs outlined

a need to improve or change their facilities to enable them to continue delivering their activities or enable them to meet their plans for growth. More detailed overview of the consultation findings can be found in Section 3 that follows.

Figure 2.11 Summary of consultation

	Totals
Clubs surveyed	56
Club with more teams/active members than 3 years ago	61%
Clubs with plans to grow in the next 3 years	80%
Pitches are very poor or poor quality	7%
Pitches have poor or inadequate drainage	18%
Ancillary facilities are very poor or poor	14%
Clubs with a need to improve or change playing pitch facilities to sustain or grow	73%
Clubs with a need to improve or change ancillary facilities to sustain or grow	59%

2.4 Summary

- a. Greenwich as a borough has significant challenges in terms of pressure on space, significant housing and population growth as well as key health and participation inequalities. The council continue to work hard to address these issues and this strategy will form a critical part of protecting the spaces for outdoor sport and continuing to ensure appropriate

levels of provision for sport. The levels of activity in young people is a very encouraging statistic and alongside the growth in team numbers for sport as detailed later in the report provides a positive foundation for the council and partners to continue to improve on provision in the borough.

3. Findings and Facility Needs

3.1 Introduction

- a. Detailed Assessment of Needs reports were undertaken for each of the 4 key playing pitch sports, which assessed the current supply, demand, and future needs for facilities across the Borough. These reports are summarised in this section, leading to conclusions on playing pitch needs. These reports (covering Stages B and C of Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance) and supporting site-specific audit reports have been checked and challenged by representatives of the relevant sport's governing bodies and are appended as follows:

- Appendix A: Cricket - Assessment of Need Report
- Appendix B: Football - Assessment of Need Report
- Appendix C: Hockey - Assessment of Need Report
- Appendix D: Rugby - Assessment of Need Report

The need for minor playing pitch sports in the Borough was captured through consultation with the council and clubs.

- b. This section provides an overall summary of supply, planned and proposed changes to supply, current and latent demand, covering the following leading questions as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy methodology.
- What are the main characteristics of the current supply of and demand for provision?
 - Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?
 - Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?
 - What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?

- Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

3.2 Trends in Participation in Pitch Sports

- a. Nationally, Sport England's latest Active Lives Survey (ALS) data report published in April 2025 and covering the 12 months from November 2023 to November 2024 shows that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taking part at least twice in the last 28 days) in the leading playing pitch sports in England by adults (aged 16+) has recovered to pre covid levels and in some sports continuing to grow.
- b. **Football** – participation has continued to grow to 4.7% in 2023/24, which is the highest level of participation since 2016/17. The FA's insight shows that youth football is growing at an average of 3.09% per annum. A number of scenarios are outlined later, in section 4, covering a significant increase in demand by an age group or sport.
- c. **Cricket** – has increased slightly in the last year from 0.7% in 2022/23, to 0.8% in 2023/24, its highest level of participation. Generally excluding 2019/20 and 2020/21 due to Covid, regular adult Cricket participation has been consistent at 0.7%. The most recent ECB data shows an increase in participation in junior teams (u16 and younger) and an increase in girls' participation in national programmes, reaching 30,000 participants for the first time in 2024.
- d. **Rugby Union** – has remained at 0.5% in 2023/2025, showing a steady increase in participation from 0.3% in 2020/21. The highest level of participation recorded was in 2015/16 and 2016/17 at 0.6%.
- e. **Hockey** – has slightly declined in regular participation over the last year, falling to 0.3% in 2023/24 from 0.4% in 2022/23, which was the

highest participation rate recorded by Active Lives since 2015/16.

- f. The local physical activity rates in Greenwich have showed a slight increase over the last 3 years as highlighted in figures 2.8, however participation rates are still below national and regional averages. Growth in team numbers for playing pitch sports has increased at youth level since the last strategy and is outlined in detail in section 3.5.

3.3 Club Consultation

- a. To understand the current landscape of clubs in Greenwich, the demand and issues facing each specific sport covered within the strategy, data was collected from a survey which was distributed to
- b. An overview of the findings and the impact and considerations of those findings from the PPS club consultation process is provided in figure 3.2 below.

the sports clubs in the area. By analysing the data, it provides insight into whether the current level of provision for sport and physical activity is meeting the demands of these sports, both in terms of the existing and the projected latent demand for growth. An overview of the results and impact and considerations of the club survey is provided below. 44 individual sports clubs which primarily use playing pitch facilities responded to the invitation to complete the survey. Figure 3.1 below shows the team response rate for affiliated clubs of each key playing pitch sport identified in the strategy brief.

Figure 3.1 Team response rate for affiliated clubs of each steering group sport

Sport	Response rate	No of Teams
Cricket	67%	70
Football	64%	475
Hockey	97%	30
Rugby Union	98%	51

Figure 3.2 Summary of the club survey findings

Statement	% of responses	Impact and considerations
The club has more teams or active members.	61%	Over half of clubs report an increase in active members, suggesting an increase in demand for pitches and ancillary facilities over the last 3 years.
The club have plans to grow.	80%	Over three quarters of all clubs surveyed have plans to increase their number of teams or members over the next 3 years, which will further increase demand for pitches and ancillary facilities.
The quality of playing pitches is poor or very poor	7%	Only 7% of clubs stated that the quality of their main playing pitch site is poor or very poor.
The drainage of the club's main playing pitches is poor or inadequate	18%	Nearly 20% of clubs state that the drainage of their main site is poor or inadequate, all of which were football clubs. Inadequate drainage can lead to significant match cancellations during the winter as pitches become waterlogged and unsafe for use.
The quality of ancillary facilities is poor or very poor	14%	Less than 15% of clubs reported that the quality of their ancillary facilities are poor or very poor, however many of the clubs that did are large clubs with significant youth set ups. Good quality ancillary facilities are essential for safeguarding, accessibility, and inclusivity as well as attracting new members.
There is a need to change or improve the playing pitches used to sustain or grow the club	73%	A significant majority of clubs feel they need to improve or change their playing pitches to sustain or grow their club. If facilities are not improved this could inhibit the growth of community sport in Greenwich.
There is a need to change or improve the clubhouse and/or changing room facilities used to sustain or grow the club	59%	Over half of clubs feel that their ancillary facilities are not suitable to sustain or grow the club. These facilities are important for providing inclusive, safe, sports facilities for all.

3.4 Changes Since the Last Strategy Clubs and Teams

- In terms of expressed demand, the main changes since the last assessment is the continued growth of playing pitch sports teams at youth level (including girls) at the cricket, football, hockey and rugby clubs in Greenwich. There has also been an increase in demand among adults in football and hockey and for all sports opportunities to play pitch sports recreationally including participation in less formal small-sided games and shorter formats are becoming increasingly popular.
- In terms of governing body registered sports clubs and teams, the current picture of demand in the local authority area in comparison with the

position in 2015 (where comparable figures are provided) is shown in figure 3.3 below. Cricket have the same number of overall teams with the increase in youth provision offsetting the decrease in adult teams. Rugby have seen an increase of 2 teams, with growth in youth teams (+9) being greater than the loss of adult teams (-7), Hockey has seen an overall growth of one adult team but a large increase in junior membership (+271) and football has seen a significant increase of teams across all age groups (+152), creating pressure on the limited available pitch space, the continued growth in teams at this level will require further investment in facilities, which is explored further throughout this strategy.

Figure 3.3 – Community demand for pitches and sites

	No. of Registered Teams			
		2015	2025	Change
Cricket	Men / Mixed	50	45	-5
	Women	1	1	0
	Youth Boys / Mixed	18	22	+4
	Youth Girls	1	2	+1
	Total Cricket teams	70	70	0
Football*	Adult (U17+)	219	234	+15
	Junior (all 9v9 and 11v11 formats)	273	315	+42
	Mini (all 7v7 and 5v5 formats)	96	191	+95
	Total Football teams	588	740	+152
Hockey**	Men / Mixed	7	6	-1
	Women	2	4	+2
	Total Hockey adult teams	9	10	+1
	Junior Boys members	70	140	+70
	Junior Girls members	30	131	+101
	Total Hockey junior membership	100	271	+171
Rugby	Men	19	13	-6
	Women	2	1	-1
	Youth age grade Boys	15	15	0
	Youth age grade Girls	0	7	+7
	Youth age grade Mixed	17	19	+2
	Total Rugby teams	53	55	+2

* Women's and girl's football teams are included in overall numbers in the previous 2015 strategy.

** England Hockey no longer recognises team numbers at junior level and records membership numbers instead.

3.5 Changes Since the Last Strategy Playing Pitches

- The number of playing pitch sites and playing pitches in Greenwich available for community use -

both in 2025 and in 2015 are set out in figure 3.4 below for each pitch type (grass and artificial turf) and for each of the major playing pitch sports for which there is a current demand in the area.

Figure 3.4 – Supply of playing pitch sites and pitches available to community club teams

	No. of sites		No. of pitches		+/- pitch supply
	2015	2025	2015	2025	
Cricket fine turf	19	13	25	16	-9
Cricket NTP	4	9	5	12	+7
Football grass	44	38	173	158	-15
Football AGP*	12	14	21	24	+3
Hockey AGP**	4	5	4	6	+2
Rugby grass	9	8	18	13	-5
Rugby AGP***	1	2	1	2	+1

*includes small sided provision

**only pitches large enough for match play counted.

***the pitch at Blackheath FC-Well Hall is included, however the existing shock pad is no longer suitable for contact rugby

- b. The most significant changes in playing pitch supply for the community in Greenwich over the last six years has been additional provision of additional artificial pitch provision for cricket with 10 new NTPs being developed, for football with 4 new 3G pitches developed and 3 resurfaced, for hockey with 2 new artificial pitches and for rugby with a new 3G WRC pitch. There has however been a reduction in the number of grass pitches for cricket (-9), football (-15) and rugby (-5), as detailed in appendices A,B and D. For cricket and rugby this has impacted the growth of the sport.
- c. Improvements to ancillary facilities have taken place at council sites Avery Hill and Charlton Park, where refurbishments to the pavilions have

been undertaken. Greenwich RFC has recently upgraded their female toilets. Old Cofeians RFC have an impact 25 grant from RFU to develop two additional changing rooms and there are plans for improvements at Charlton Park RFC who have submitted planning for construction of a second storey and improved changing rooms.

3.6 Current Supply

Grass Pitches

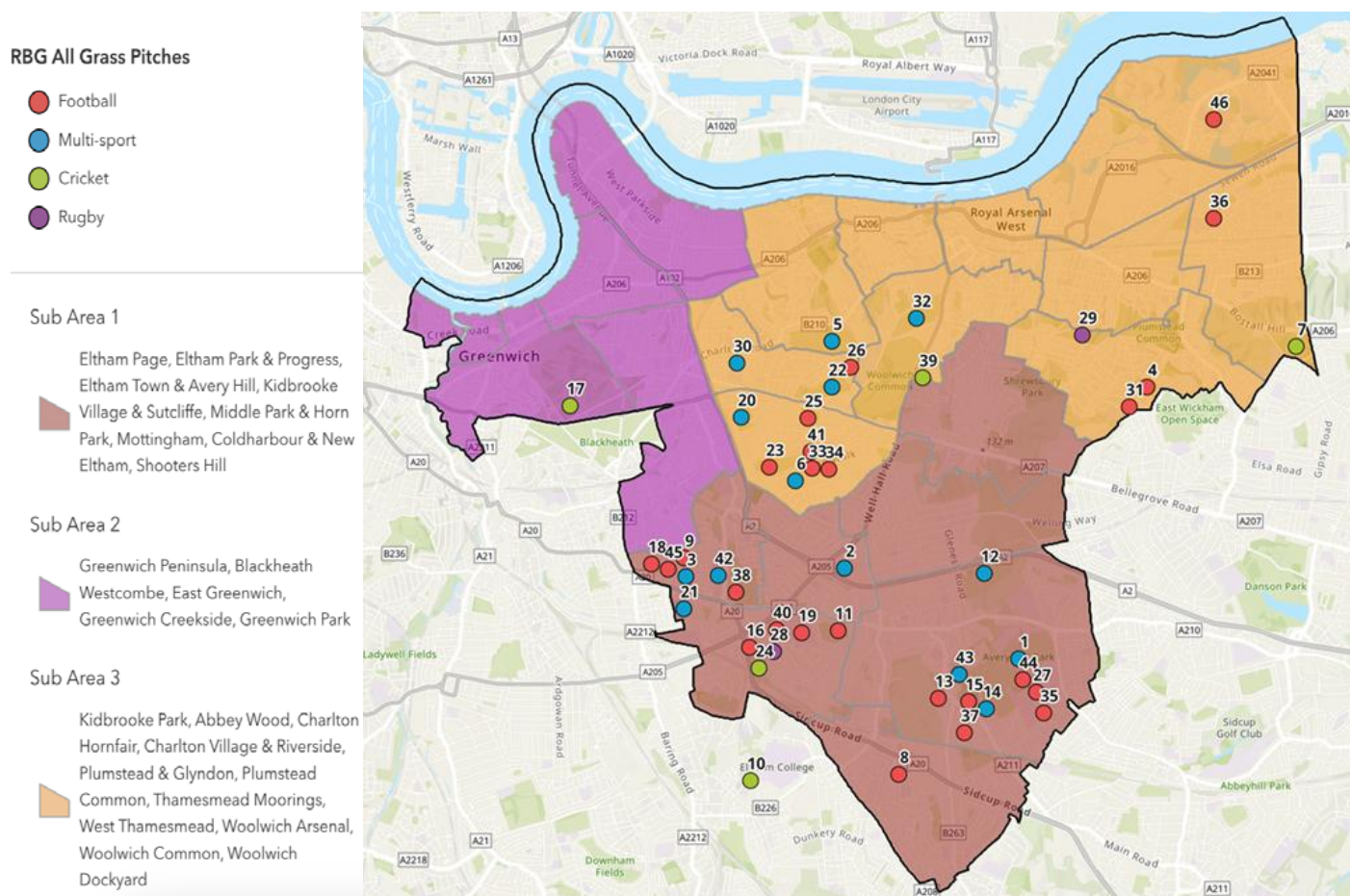
- a. The sites with grass playing pitches in Greenwich are listed in figure 3.5, and figure 3.6 shows the distribution of grass playing pitch sites across the Borough.



Figure 3.5 Grass playing pitches in Greenwich.

No	Site name	Sport(s)	No	Site name	Sport(s)
1	AVERY HILL PARK	Football, Cricket	24	LEATHERSELLERS SPORTS GROUND	Cricket
2	BLACKHEATH FC-WELL HALL	Rugby, Football	25	LONDON MARATHON PLAYING FIELD	Football
3	BLACKHEATH WANDERERS SPORTS CLUB	Football, Cricket	26	MERIDIAN SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB	Football
4	CAMDAL PLAYING FIELDS	Football	27	METROGAS AMATEUR SPORTS ASSOCIATION	Football
5	CHARLTON PARK	Football, Cricket	28	OLD BROCKLEIANS SPORTS CLUB	Rugby
6	CHARLTON PARK RUGBY CLUB	Rugby, Football	29	PLUMSTEAD COMMON	Rugby
7	CLAM FIELD REC GROUND	Cricket	30	RECTORY FIELD	Rugby, Cricket
8	COLDHARBOUR LEISURE CENTRE	Football	31	ROSE COTTAGE PLAYING FIELDS	Football
9	CROFTON ALBION SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB	Football	32	ROYAL ARTILLERY BARRACKS	Football, Cricket
10	COLLEGE MEADOW (ELTHAM COLLEGE)	Cricket	33	SAMUEL MONTAGU YOUTH CENTRE	Football
11	ELTHAM HILL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS	Football	34	SHOOTERS HILL SPORTS CLUB	Football
12	ELTHAM PARK SOUTH	Football, Cricket	35	ST JAMES MAR THOMA COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE	Football
13	ELTHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	Football	36	ST PAULS ACADEMY	Football
14	FOOTS CRAY RUGBY SPORTS & ATHLETIC CLUB	Rugby, Cricket	37	STC IVOR GROVE SPORTS CLUB	Football
15	GB10 SPORTS GROUND	Football	38	SUTCLIFFE PARK ATHLETICS TRACK	Football
16	GOALS (ELTHAM)	Football	39	THE ACADEMY GROUND	Cricket
17	GREENWICH PARK CRICKET PITCH	Cricket	40	THE ARTIC STADIUM	Football
18	GRESHAM SPORTS GROUND	Football	41	THE HALLEY ACADEMY	Football
19	HARRIS ACADEMY GREENWICH	Football	42	THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Football, Cricket
20	HERVEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	Football, Cricket, Rugby	43	THE PAVILION SPORT AND LEISURE CLUB	Football, Cricket
21	HORN PARK (COLFEIAN GROUNDS LTD)	Football, Cricket, Rugby	44	UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH (SPARROWS FARM)	Football
22	HORNFAIR PARK	Football, Cricket	45	WEIGALL ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	Football
23	KIDBROOKE PLAYING FIELDS	Football	46	WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS	Football

Figure 3.6 Distribution of grass playing pitch sites



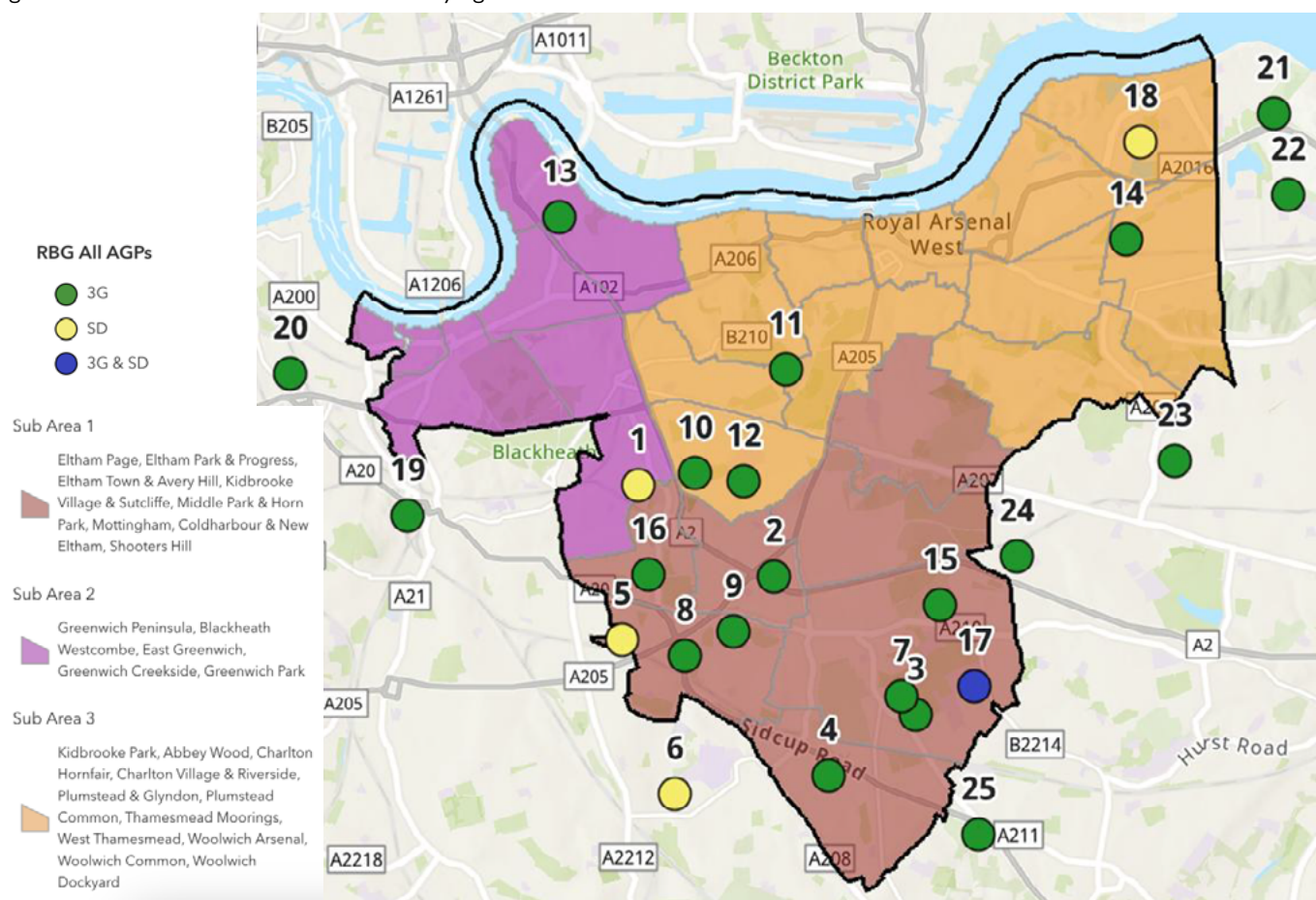
Artificial Turf Playing Pitches

- b. Sites in Greenwich with artificial grass playing pitches (and the surface type) are listed in figure 3.7. The locations of these artificial pitches showing their distribution throughout Greenwich are in figure 3.8.

Figure 3.7 – Artificial Turf Playing Pitches in Greenwich

Key: Artificial Pitch Sites					
No	Site Name	Type	No	Site Name	Type
1	BLACKHEATH HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS GROUND	SD	10	KIDBROOKE PLAYING FIELDS	3G
2	BLACKHEATH FC-WELL HALL	3G	11	MERIDIAN SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB LTD	3G
3	CHARLTON ATHLETIC COMMUNITY TRUST SKILLS CENTRE	3G	12	SAMUEL MONTAGU YOUTH CENTRE	3G
4	COLDHARBOUR LEISURE CENTRE	3G	13	ST MARY MAGDALENE C OF E SCHOOL (PENINSULA SITE)	3G (SS)
5	COLFE'S LEISURE CENTRE	SD	14	ST PAULS ACADEMY	3G
6	COLLEGE MEADOW (ELTHAM COLLEGE)	SD	15	STATIONERS CROWN WOODS ACADEMY	3G
7	FOOTS CRAY RUGBY SPORTS AND ATHLETIC CLUB	3G	16	THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	3G (SS)
8	GOALS (ELTHAM)	3G (SS)	17	UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH (AVERY HILL)	3G & SD
9	HARRIS ACADEMY GREENWICH	3G (SS)	18	WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS	SD
Sites outside of Greenwich					
19	PRENDERGAST VALE	3G (SS)	23	WELLING SCHOOL	3G
20	DEPTFORD GREEN SCHOOL	3G (SS)	24	HARRIS ACADEMY FALCONWOOD	3G
21	SPORTING CLUB THAMESMEAD	3G	25	FLAMINGO PARK SPORTS AND LEISURE	3G
22	HARRIS GARRARD ACADEMY	3G (SS)		SS = Small sided	

Figure 3.8 - Distribution of Artificial Turf Playing Pitches sites in Greenwich



- c. Artificial pitches outside of the Borough of Greenwich are shown on the map where they are within Sport England's recommended maximum drive time catchment of 20 minutes and they are the closest facility to a significant population grouping. These facilities are likely to support some demand by Greenwich residents; however, it should be noted the Council has no control over the security of club use on these facilities and the surrounding Boroughs also face a shortage of facilities and high demand and may choose in the future to prioritise clubs from within their own local authority instead.

3.7 Is There Enough Provision for Current Demand?

- a. **Cricket** – No. Overall, the assessment of facility needs shows that 10 out of 13 (77%) fine turf sites in the area being played at or over their maximum capacity. Only 3 sites (3 pitches) in the borough have capacity to cater for additional usage based on current demand, Eltham College (+4 MES), Greenwich Park (+10 MES), and The Pavilion Sports & Leisure Centre (+4 MES), although it should be noted this capacity is not available during peak times and would only be suitable for midweek or youth cricket. Only Greenwich Park has spare capacity sufficient enough to host a regularly playing cricket team. Two clubs also reported unmet demand through their responses to the club survey due to a lack of facilities.
- b. Overall, the majority of cricket sites in Greenwich are secured for sport being owned by the Council, sports clubs, or community organisations, however it should also be noted that this does not necessarily mean cricket provision is secure as multi-sport clubs may choose to favour other playing pitch sports over cricket, which has occurred in Greenwich and resulted in a loss of fine turf pitch provision.
- c. **Football** – No. When adjusting for peak period capacity, there is a significant deficit of grass pitches in all categories other than mini soccer and there is also a significant shortfall of 11v11 3G AGPs which are required to meet current demand. A number of playing field sites in Greenwich have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed, these are either sites that are the home grounds for clubs with a large number of teams and a limited number of pitches, such as Weigall Road Playing Fields (London Legends FC), sites operated by large clubs with a significant number of teams, such as Eltham Town FC 'The Oaks' and Shooters Hill Sports Club (Beacons Youth FC), or are sites for a number of teams, such as London Marathon Playing Fields. Two clubs also report unmet demand due to a lack of suitable, available facilities to host additional teams.
- d. Despite the investment of 3 additional 3G AGP's in the area since the last strategy, there is still a significant shortfall in provision of 3G pitches to meet training demand and there are clubs in the area who travel outside of the area or use sand-based pitches for training, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand. To meet the shortfall in current supply investment is needed in the provision of ten 11v11 3G AGPs in the area which should be strategically located to support large youth clubs to meet the needs of their teams for training and matches.
- e. **Hockey** – Yes. There is secured provision for the main club in the area with sufficient capacity for them to accommodate all their current activities on the two pitch site. There is imported demand from Bexleyheath and Belvedere HC at University of Greenwich (Avery Hill) and this facility is secured through a community use agreement for weekend use. There is also additional capacity for hockey at three of the remaining sites, although these have no known community use agreements in place and as such are not considered secured provision.
- f. **Rugby** – Yes. The overall current grass pitch capacity in Greenwich is +1.5 MES including midweek training provision. The majority of rugby pitches in Greenwich are currently at or near capacity for the amount of demand for training and matches, with only two pitches being played in excess of their carrying capacity. However there are three grass pitches in the borough not being used to full capacity at Old Brockleians Sports Club, and Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club, where the club also has a WRC 3G to use for training provision, and 2 other sites clubs have designated spare pitches for training, age grade use or hire for football provision (Charlton Park RFC and Hervey Road Playing Fields)
- g. Only one 3G pitch in the area is World Rugby Compliant at Footh Cray Rugby Sports & Athletics Club and is used for training by a number of rugby

and football clubs and is at capacity in the peak hours. The 3G pitch at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall has failed its WRC certification, although it is still used by the club for training.

- h. There are seven grass pitches with permanent sports lighting that are used for training (Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall, Charlton Park RFC x2, Horn Park, Old Brockleians Sports Club and Rectory Field x2). The two at Charlton RFC are due to be converted to LED before the start of the 25/26 season. Old Colfeians also use portable sports lighting on a second pitch at Horn Park.
- i. All of the rugby provision is secured either through Council ownership and leases to clubs or by clubs having freehold ownership.
- j. Minor playing pitch sports - Yes. The only other playing pitch sport identified in Greenwich was American Football, with the London Olympians who use Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall 3G AGP.

3.8 Is the Provision of Sufficient Quality?

- a. **Cricket** – No. The cricket pitches (squares) and outfielders in the borough that are managed by clubs and education providers are, in the main, maintained to a standard quality (assessed by means of a combination of visual inspection and club survey feedback) with council and MOD managed sites maintained to a poor quality. If the 7 standard pitches were improved to a 'good' quality and the 3 poor pitches improved to 'standard' quality, this would significantly increase the carry capacity of pitches. In the scenario that all 9 of these sites were improved, a surplus capacity of 106 MES across the borough would be produced. Although this capacity would not all be available in the peak period, it would leave room for clubs to grow and meet the latent demand identified. This however would be difficult to achieve on every site due to council and club budgets and the dual use of sites for other sports e.g. football or general recreational use.
- b. The majority of NTPs within Greenwich are in a good condition (11/12) allowing up to 60 match equivalent sessions MES for adults, with 1 standard providing up to 40 MES. The quality rating of nets across the Borough are mixed with 9/20 rated good, 6/20 rated as standard and 5/20 rated poor and in need of refurbishment.
- c. There are a number of pavilions rated as 'standard' which require investment to make improve part of the facilities. This may include general refurbishment, increased storage, or redevelopment of specific facilities, such as showers.
- d. **Football** – No. 29 grass pitches (18%) are not of sufficient quality and 4 of the 3G AGPs are rated as poor, 3 of which are full size pitches which are no longer on the FA 3G pitch register (Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall, Coldharbour Leisure Centre, and Samuel Montagu Youth Centre) which prohibit them from being used for match play and significantly reduce their capacity. There is also a risk that the quality of these pitches could deteriorate making them unsuitable in the long term for any use.
- e. 51 grass pitches (32%) are of a good quality, with sufficient maintenance programmes to sustain their level of use and provide a high-quality playing surface. Some of these pitches have benefitted from grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports.
- f. There are three sites in Greenwich with limited or no ancillary provision for teams. Eltham Park South has no changing facilities, although toilets are available on site. Weigall Road Playing Fields only has temporary facilities with no electricity, water or toilet access and University of Greenwich (Sparrows Farm) also has temporary portacabins. Two other sites were identified through consultation as needing improvement at Charlton Athletic Community Trust and The John Roan Playing Fields.
- g. **Hockey** – Yes – All of the sand dressed pitches across Greenwich are rated either good or standard quality, with no immediate needs for resurfacing identified. The changing facilities at the hockey sites in Greenwich were assessed as mostly standard quality with minimal issues being reported at four of the five sites. Blackheath and Elthamians HC noted through consultation that although there are changing facilities and a clubhouse available at College Meadow, these are in need of updating and maintenance.
- h. **Rugby** – No. Of the 13 grass pitches in Greenwich, 1 is rated as having inadequate

drainage and poor maintenance, which significantly reduces the playing capacity of pitch and leads to the club having to carefully manage usage and frequently cancel training and matches. The maintenance of the remaining pitches is either adequate (5/13) or good (7/13), with pipe or pipe and slit drainage in place on other grass pitches apart from the 2 natural adequate drainage pitches at Old Brockleians Sports Club.

- i. Improved maintenance of the 6 rugby pitches in Greenwich rated 'poor or adequate' to a 'good' rating would, increase the carrying capacity of pitches by 0.5 – 1.5 match equivalent session per week, and would result in an additional 5 match equivalent session (MES) in the area. It should be noted that this may be difficult to achieve in all cases due to the additional cost and resources needed but improved maintenance can support the sustainability of clubs and help them grow.
- j. The 3G pitch at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall has failed its WRC certification and has a failing shock pad, whilst it is still used by the club for training a key priority for the area should be the replacement of the surface and shockpad. There is also a need to improve the ancillary provision at four of the sites.
- k. Minor playing pitch sports - No. Whilst the American Football club did not respond to consultation and raise any facility needs, the poor quality of the 3G pitch surface they use at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall, as already identified, needs upgrading.

3.9 Future Supply and Demand

- a. Planned new supply - On the future supply side, there are committed projects (with funding allocations and/or current planning applications submitted or in preparation) for new and enhanced playing pitch provision in the Borough which, taken together, will address some of the current need for additional playing pitch capacity. These 'pipeline' projects are:

- **Charlton Park** - The council have started to improve the football pitch quality and have removed the socketed goals for portable ones. They are also looking to develop a two lane cricket net system, which will be publicly accessible.
- **Metrogas Amateur Sports Association** - The club are developing an application to the Football

Foundation for a new 11v11 3G AGP. The project has been identified as a priority for the FA and Football Foundation and has planning permission.

- **Hornfair Park** - The council have started to improve the football pitch quality and have removed the socketed goals for portable ones.
 - **Horn Park (Colfeian Grounds Ltd)** - A project to upgrade the changing pavilion is underway and being driven by the rugby club. The project is set to provide separate female changing rooms to support the growth of female teams at both the rugby clubs and the cricket club.
 - **The John Roan School** – Planning has been submitted for a 11v11 3G AGP at the playing fields and the school is working with the Football Foundation to secure funding. The site has been identified as a priority in the Local football Facility Plan for Greenwich.
 - **Woolwich Waves Leisure Centre** - The Council have built a new indoor 5v5 3G AGP as part of the new leisure centre development (opened January 2026).
- b. In addition to the above planned projects a number of others are at early stages of planning and development and as such may not be delivered but where they are supported would also impact on playing pitch provision.
 - c. Teviot Rangers are in discussion with the Football Foundation over the development of new 9v9 3G at Rose Cottage Playing Fields. This site has been identified as a priority in the Local football Facility Plan for Greenwich. GB10 are also developing plans for two 3G pitches on their sports ground, although only one would be for regular community use, with the other supporting their academy teams.
 - d. Population Growth - In terms of estimating future demand for community playing pitches, assuming current levels of participation per capita and the forecast population growth of +26,808 additional residents (as forecasted by 20363), application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool indicates a potential need to secure more playing pitch capacity. This additional capacity will need to be achieved through a combination of investment in new provision, enhancement of existing pitches and negotiating and securing more community access to existing and any planned new education playing pitches.

- e. As Football is the largest participation sport in the area, the additional demand for football pitches generated by the impact of population growth will be by far the largest. Population growth will also create need for additional playing pitch capacity for cricket, rugby and hockey although at a much

lower level than for football. Figure 3.9 below shows the additional capacity that will be required in 2036 based on the forecasted population growth and current 'team generation rates' i.e. the number of teams in each age category in 2025.

Figure 3.9 – Additional capacity needed by 2036 - Population change only: Sport England playing pitch calculator planning tool

Sport and pitch type	Additional capacity needed by 2036 (pitches)
Cricket – fine turf	+ 2 (combined total of 13 wickets of good quality)
Football – grass	+ 34 (9 mini; 14 junior; 11 adult)
Football – 3G AGP	+ 1.75
Hockey – sand/water AGP	+ 0.15
Rugby – grass	+ 2

- f. When considering future playing pitch capacity needs, it is important to note that the run of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) shown in figure 3.9 above does not account for improvements made to existing provision, which could increase the capacity of pitches and reduce the need for new pitches. The calculation also assumes 'static demand' i.e., the proportion of the population by age group and gender that currently play pitch sports stays the same. As football is the playing pitch sport where demand increase is likely to be the greatest and have the most impact on future playing pitch needs, the inclusion of a demand adjustment in application of the PPC has been included using FA insight data on trends in participation (figure 3.10 below).
- g. It is acknowledged that recent trends suggest further growth in demand to play Rugby as well as Football among women and girls stimulated in part by successes of the national teams in recent tournaments (Football European Championships 2022 and 2025, and Rugby World Cup 2025). Recently announced changes to physical education policy and practice in schools aimed at equal opportunities for girls could also impact positively on future community demand for all pitch sports.
- h. For this reason, it is recommended that, for the purposes of facility planning, the PPC estimates in figure 3.9 for cricket, rugby and hockey should be considered as the minimum future requirements for new playing pitch capacity that is likely to result from population growth to 2036, especially considering the rate of team growth at a youth level that has been evident since the previous strategy.
- i. A scenario to illustrate the impact on the future pitch needs to 2036 of a continuing large increase in demand in youth and girl's football participation out of school is explored below (using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator). Actual growth should be monitored as part of regular PPS updates to identify whether the population growth or participation growth scenarios outlined later in this PPS are proving to be accurate. Future needs should be revised on an ongoing basis to ensure facilities are planned accordingly.
- j. A further key consideration in the assessment of future playing pitch needs is the extent to which the clubs based in the local authority area deliver on their development aspirations. Research and consultation for this strategy has found that a significant number of playing pitch sports clubs in the area have embraced youth, women and girls and recreational participation development initiatives and programmes of the national governing bodies. Accordingly, these clubs aspire to convert latent demand for their sport into new teams and/or to develop more playing opportunities at a recreational level alongside traditional league competition provided that required pitch capacity can be secured along with the additional volunteer coaches/ team managers needed to run the additional teams and activities.

³ Population change from the 2025 to 2036 based on ONS population projections.

3.10 Is There Enough Provision to Meet Future Demand?

- a. The clear conclusion of the assessments of need for playing pitches in Greenwich is that, by 2036, there will be a need to provide additional playing and training capacity for three of the four major playing pitch sports, the situation for each major playing pitch sport is outlined below.

Cricket

- b. No. There is not sufficient, accessible and secured community use provision in Greenwich to meet future demand. Improvements in the maintenance pitches in the borough could help with current demand but would provide no additional capacity in peak time. If the trend observed over the period between this strategy and the previous strategy of increases in junior boys and girls participation, then these new players are likely to be more attracted to large clubs with existing set ups. Clubs, such as Old Elthamians CC and Old Roan CC are currently operating at full capacity, or close to full capacity, on their main sites and secondary sites. This is a key issue across the whole of Greenwich, with nine clubs reporting plans to grow over the next 3 years, four of which noted specific plans to grow their women and girls' provision.
- c. There is a need for at least 2 pitches with a combined total of at least 13 wickets of a good quality and opportunities should be explored for the development of provision at closed sports grounds in the Borough as well as aiming to secure and extend community use at education sites where possible.

Football

- d. No. FA insight data showing a growth in youth teams of 3.09% per year means it is likely provision will increase above the usual rate. When adjusting for this increase in demand in youth football, there is projected to be a future shortfall of 11 adult and 20 junior grass pitches, which added to current shortfalls means a total shortfall of 21 adult and 31 junior grass pitches (see figure 3.10). It should be highlighted that even if participations doesn't increase at this rate the current shortfalls are still significant.
- e. Improving the quality of grass pitches that are currently rated as poor to standard would increase the capacity at sites by an additional 1 MES for adult / junior pitches and 2 MES for mini soccer pitches, helping to reduce the shortfall of provision in the

area, whilst this may be challenging to achieve at all sites due to budget pressures or operational structures, large key club sites should be prioritised.

- f. There is also an urgent need to protect and secure a number of sites identified as 'at risk' either due to development or short leases, these sites (as listed in Appendix B, section 2.12) total 27 grass pitches, which if secured will reduce the shortfall of pitches identified. Securing community use at education sites currently being used as well as negotiating community use at education sites not currently accessible will also reduce the shortfall (Colfe's leisure Centre – 1 adult 11v11, Stationers Crown Woods Academy – 2x junior 11v11 and Thomas Tallis School – 2x adult 11v11).
- g. Options to open sports grounds in the Quaggy area currently closed (Willow Country Club – 6 pitches and Manor Way – 2 pitches) should also be explored to help the meet the current shortfall of pitch provision, to include reinstating grass pitch provision or providing new artificial pitch provision. Opportunities to reinstate pitches on sites that no longer mark them out should also be explored (Old Brockleians Sports Club – 1 adult pitch, Seven Acre Sports & Social Club – 1 adult pitch and Southwood Park – 2 adult pitches).
- h. It is very unlikely that the level of additional grass pitches will be able to be developed in Greenwich due to the open space requirements that it would necessitate, therefore it is essential that suitable options for the development of floodlit artificial pitches are explored as these provide significantly greater capacity for matches and training than grass pitches.
- i. Investment in 10 additional full-sized FA registered 3G AGP is needed to cater for current demand according to FA guidance of one floodlight full sized AGP providing training capacity for 38 teams, plus an additional two full sized pitch equivalents are needed to cater for future population growth and demand, resulting in a need for a minimum of an additional 12 3G AGP's in the area. There are already proposals being developed for new 3G pitches at GB10 (two proposed, although only one would be for community use), Metrogas Amateur Sports Association and The Joan Roan School Playing Fields, which would reduce the future need to 9 3G ATP's and if free capacity on sand dressed hockey AGPs can be secured for football training use, this reduces the need further by 1.5 AGP's to 7.5 AGPs.

- j. Whilst significant investment is required to meet 3G AGP demand, Greenwich Council, like all local authorities, are under financial pressures which make funding the development of all these new AGPs unrealistic within the 5 year timeframe of this strategy. The council should look to support the development of 3G pitches and work with the FA, the Football Foundation and other funding bodies to source funding where possible. A shortfall in 3G AGPs is not unique to Greenwich, with all neighbouring authorities also requiring investment into 3G AGPs to meet demand. Across all London Boroughs, there is a shortfall of 136 3G AGPs identified within the latest Local Football Facilities Plans.

Hockey

- k. Yes. There is spare capacity in the Borough to accommodate the growth in population and the club's aspirations. Blackheath and Elthamians HC previously used the pitch at Avery Hill as a secondary site prior to the installation of the second pitch at College Meadow (Eltham College) and whilst there is limited capacity at this site if needed in future, there are other facilities with capacity, although this provision is not secured.
- l. Colfe's Leisure Centre, which is used by Remnants Hockey Club does not have a community use agreement and as such for the purpose of this strategy, is considered unsecured provision. The priority for the council would be to secure community use on this site, as well as support the ambitions of Blackheath and Elthamians HC to upgrade the clubhouse at College Meadow (Eltham College).

Rugby

- m. No. There is not currently sufficient provision to meet future demand, however if the current 2 unmarked pitches can be reinstated this would provide adequate capacity. Improvements to the maintenance at Plumstead Common (from poor to adequate) and at Horn Park (from adequate to good) would increase the number of match equivalent sessions on these sites. There is a recognition that increasing the maintenance levels at Plumstead Common to good is likely to be difficult due to pressures on Council budgets and the open nature of the site. Usage of sites under capacity in particular Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club by other clubs should be explored, as well as the options of usage of education sites.
- n. There is a total of 11.75 MES for mid-week training on grass pitches. Resurfacing and replacing the shock pad on the 3G pitch at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall would enable some of this training demand to be accommodated on this site reducing the training demand on grass pitches and improve the quality of pitches for matches. The council should also seek to confirm if a shock pad suitable for contact rugby was included in the specifications for the 3G pitch at the University of Greenwich Avery Hill. As if this site was tested and achieved WR certification it could provide a potential solution for mid week rugby training, although the pitch is currently at capacity in the peak hours with football and university use.
- o. The options or scenarios for meeting the identified capacity needs in Greenwich are explored in more detail in the following section.

Figure 3.10 – Estimate of future additional playing pitch needs to 2036 to meet current and future demands based on current unmet demand* and future population growth if ALL needs are met by additional provision

Sport	Additional playing capacity equivalent to:
Cricket	+2 fine turf pitches (combined total of 13 wickets of good quality)
Football	+12 full size or equivalent 3G Football Turf Pitches with sports lighting +43 grass pitches (11 adult, 20 junior, 12 mini soccer)
Hockey	None required
Rugby	+2 grass pitches

4. Meeting the needs (‘How to’ scenarios)

4.1 Introduction

- a. As part of the strategy development process a number of scenarios have been identified as options to meet the future facility needs highlighted in the preceding section. The Steering Group has considered these scenarios along with their potential implications on the future picture of provision for the leading playing pitch sports in Greenwich and how best to meet existing and future playing pitch facility demand. These scenarios have also been considered in relation to setting the priorities for future enhancement and provision detailed in the action plan for playing pitches in Section 7.

4.2 Scenario 1 - Improved Quality of Sites

- a. Before considering the provision of new playing pitches it is important to first consider the potential for increasing capacity of existing sites (particularly those grounds owned or leased by community clubs) as these have resources and structures in place (e.g., grounds maintenance, coaching) and an established sporting identity developed over many years.
- b. Improving the quality of ancillary facilities such as practice, changing and social provision can also have an impact by sustaining and retaining existing demand and on attracting under-represented groups (e.g., the provision of suitable changing provision for women and girls).
- c. Cricket – As set out in the previous section (para. 3.8), the delivery of grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through PitchPower assessment reports would help to improve the playing capacity at some of the cricket sites in the Borough assessed as ‘poor’ or ‘standard’ quality. The squares at Avery Hill Park, Blackheath Wanderers, Hervey Road Playing Fields and Royal Artillery Barracks should be prioritised for investment in remedial and improved on-going maintenance to improve their quality e.g. poor sites to be improved to standard and standard sites to good.
- d. Improving the quality of ancillary facilities can also impact on retention of existing players and recruitment of new players (especially women and girls). The NTPs in the Borough are rated as either good or standard, those rated as standard should be monitored for deterioration and replaced when required to ensure they continue to meet demand. There are five practice nets in the borough of a poor standard (at Royal Artillery Barracks x3 and The Joan Roan School Playing Fields x2) which require refurbishment. There is also a need to improve the pavilion at the Royal Artillery Barracks where there is currently no hot water.
- e. Football – In light of the high playing capacity of floodlit 3G pitches relative to grass, one quality improvement that would have a positive impact on football in the Borough is resurfacing of the 11v11 3G pitches rated as poor and not on the FA 3G pitch register at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall, Coldharbour Leisure Centre, and Samuel Montagu Youth Centre. This will help to accommodate match play as well as ensure training provision remains.
- f. If all 29 of the grass pitches available for community football in the Borough with ‘poor’ quality ratings in the facility audit were to be improved to a ‘standard’ quality, the overall playing capacity would increase by a total of 50 MES per week in season. Furthermore if these were to be upgraded to a ‘good’ quality it would increase the playing capacity further; this is, however unrealistic in terms of budget and staff/volunteer time for most sites. To maximise the impact of any new investment in pitch maintenance and drainage it will be important to focus resources (e.g. from the Football Foundation’s Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund) on key locations where the demand is greatest (i.e. sites accessible to multi-team clubs). Key sites for improvement in accordance with recommendations of the Grounds Maintenance Association through the

Football Foundation's PitchPower programme are Rose Cottage Playing Fields, Blackheath Wanderers Sports Club, Fools Cray Rugby Sports and Athletic Club, GB10 Sports Ground, London Marathon Playing Fields and The Joan Roan School Playing Fields.

- g. There are a number of football changing pavilions (some also serving cricket) that need substantial quality improvement or replacement in order to sustain and grow participation particularly among women and girls to align with FA and council priorities. The priority projects for improvement include Charlton Athletic Community Trust and The Joan Roan Playing Fields as well new provision needed at Weigall Road Playing Fields and University of Greenwich (Sparrows Farm) where there is no current provision.
- h. Hockey – There are no immediate needs for improved quality of provision for hockey, but existing pitches should be monitored for changes through the life of this strategy.
- i. Rugby – Of the 13 naturally drained grass pitches in Greenwich, one was rated as having inadequate drainage and poor maintenance, which significantly reduces the playing capacity of pitches (Plumstead Common). Improved maintenance of this pitch and the other 5 pitches rated as 'adequate' to a 'good' rating would, increase the carrying capacity of pitches by 0.5 to 1.5 MES per week (depending on drainage) and would result in an additional 5 MES in the Borough. This is however likely to be challenging and is dependent on sufficient budgets and personnel resources.
- j. Rugby PitchPower assessments providing pitch maintenance recommendations, support, and funding, if applications are successful, can help guide and support clubs in improving the quality and capacity of their playing pitches. Charlton Park Rugby Club has completed an assessment and associated maintenance actions to improve the quality of their pitch are included in the action plan (Section 7).
- k. The 3G pitch at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall has failed its WRC certification and has a failing shock pad, whilst it is still used by the club for training a key priority for the area should be the replacement of the surface and shockpad. There is also a need to improve the ancillary provision at five sites (Charlton Park RFC, Horn Park (Old Colfeians), Plumstead Common, Old Brockleians Sports Club and Rectory Fields).

- l. Minor playing pitch sports - Improvements to the surface of the 3G pitch at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall would support the current requirements for London Olympians (American Football)

4.3 Scenario 2 - More Community Use at Education Sites

- a. Whilst the Government seeks to widen access to sports facilities on school premises as part of the Department for Education's School Sport and Physical Activity Action Plan, previous investment available from its Opening Schools Facilities Fund, delivered through London Sport, was restricted to revenue spending on capacity building, sports leaders/coaches and equipment to deliver community activities out-of-hours specifically targeted at under-represented groups in sport and physical activity living in areas of relative deprivation. If additional funding to support community access of school facilities becomes available in the future, then London Sport should consider the priorities identified in this strategy.
- b. Education playing pitch sites which have suitable facilities that are not currently in community use could provide a potential solution to the need in the area. The opportunities to be explored for cricket are Thomas Tallis School (NTP) and Colfe's Leisure Centre (FTP or NTP), however this is likely to be dependent on level of school's provision and for football access to pitches Thomas Tallis School (2x Adult 11v11) and Stationers Crown Woods Academy (2x Junior 11v11) would help to address need in the area. There is no current need for additional community use of education sites for Hockey or Rugby but opportunities for use of the 3G pitch at the University of Greenwich Avery Hill by Rugby Clubs as outlined in 3.10n should be explored.
- c. Opportunities for future community access and use should be explored on these sites to help meet the current and future demand for cricket and football highlighted earlier, this is outlined with the action plan in Section 7.

4.4 Scenario 3 - Change Of Use From One Sport Or Pitch Type To Another

- a. The most common scenarios involving change of pitch type are:
 - Redeveloping grass pitches to AGPs (3G Football and/or WRC Rugby, or sand-dressed Hockey)

- Resurfacing sand-dressed Hockey AGPs as 3G Football
 - Resurfacing 3G Football as WRC Rugby (i.e. suitable for both Football and contact Rugby).
- b. The proposal for a grass pitch to be redeveloped into a 3G AGP is supported by the FA and Football Foundation in areas where there is a high demand for training and match provision. An adult 11v11 pitch in standard condition can only accommodate 2 MES a week at capacity, whereas a 3G AGP would provide an additional 4 MES a week for adult and junior 11v11 provision and well as address the key demand for club training. As an example, if an additional four 3G AGPs are delivered to meet some of the current shortfall for training demand this would also provide an additional 24 MES sessions for clubs in the area reducing the need for additional grass pitches.
 - c. There is no known community hockey use on the sand-based AGP at Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys and the pitch is undersized for hockey match provision. This site could be considered suitable for resurfacing for 3G to service the training needs in the north of the borough subject to agreement by England Hockey and Sport England and a suitable CUA being put in place.
 - d. Whilst currently used to capacity with football and university use, if the 3G pitch at the University of Greenwich Avery Hill has a shock pad suitable for contact rugby and was tested and achieved WR certification it could provide a potential solution for mid week rugby training. Should additional 3G pitches be developed in the area, there could be an opportunity to move some football provision off this site to provide access for rugby clubs.
- b. Other sites in the Borough are considered 'at risk' due to their lack of security or current poor condition. For example, the cricket pitch at Royal Artillery Barracks has not been played on during the 2025 season due to the poor condition of the facility. The MOD have allocated part of the site for housing and whilst the playing fields are not included in this development, the site is not secured provision and the square requires investment to be suitable for matches. The football pitches at this site are in use but still deemed to be at risk (5 grass pitches), along with the pitches at Eltham Town FC (5 grass pitches), Meridian Sports and Social Club (7 grass pitches, 1 3G AGP) and The Artic Stadium (2 grass pitches).
 - c. STC Ivor Grove Sports Club has outlined plans for redevelopment of the site. The site has 3 grass pitches, which are well used above their current playing capacity providing for 10 MES, this is vital provision to football in the area and this site should be protected for future use. The site is designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) and there are no nearby sites which could accommodate an additional provision should this site be lost, as such in accordance with Sport England Planning Policy the site should be retained and enhanced to continue to serve the community.
 - d. Meridian Sports and Social Club is another key site at risk for football due to financial issues and short lease. The site has 7 grass pitches and a full sized 3G AGP. The grass pitches on this site are in the main over capacity catering for 23 MES sessions and the 3G AGP used fully in the peak period for training and for matches at the weekend, with a total 68 adult and youth affiliated teams registered as playing on the site. The loss of this site to football would be significant. The two nearest other playing pitch sites are played over capacity and could not accommodate any additional provision (Charlton Park, London Marathon Playing Fields) and the nearest site with some capacity is not big enough to accommodate the level of activity (Hornfair Park). As such the Council and FA should work together to support the club where possible to overcome the current financial issues and negotiate a long term lease to secure the site for community use and allow investment into the site.

4.5 Scenario 4 - Potential Loss of Availability of Key Sites

- a. Several sites in Greenwich have been identified in the course of the research and consultation for this PPS as at risk due to development or loss of provision. Blackheath Wanderers Sports Club are considering marking out an extra football pitch over their existing cricket pitch. This fine turf pitch, whilst poor, has been prioritised for funding to improve the pitch and if lost would displace a minimum of three cricket teams. There is not sufficient capacity on other sites to accommodate this provision and as such the Council, ECB and Kent Cricket should try to influence the club to retain the square and improve its quality. For football two sites (8 grass

- e. There are also two closed sports grounds that previously had football pitch provision in the Quaggy area. Willow Country club (6 pitches) and Manor Way (2 pitches) however neither currently provide football pitches and whilst both have been designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), there is a risk provision could be lost. Reinstating these sites for playing pitch provision would help address some of the shortfalls identified.
- f. There are no known hockey or rugby sites are at risk of development however the 3G artificial pitch at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall has failed its WRC certification and has a shock pad which is not suitable for contact rugby and whilst still used by the club for training, there is a risk that the facility will be unsafe to use in the future. It has also been reported that Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club do not have a sinking fund in place to resurface their WRC 3G which will be due in 3- 5 years' time. These sites are key for rugby training provision and require investment and support to address the needs in the area.

- g. In the absence of either a formal community use agreement (CUA) or binding grant funding conditions, there is always a risk of loss of availability of education pitches for community club use. This loss of availability is potentially a concern in Greenwich for clubs as CUAs or grant conditions are not in place with a number of schools that hire pitches to these clubs on a seasonal or term by term basis. These include: • Eltham College (College Meadow),

- Leathersellers Sports Ground and
- The Joan Roan School Playing Fields for cricket.

Priority sites with multiple pitches to target for football include:

- Harris Academy Greenwich
- St James Mar Thoma Community Sports Centre
- The Halley Academy
- The John Roan School Playing Fields
- University of Greenwich (Sparrows Farm)
- Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys.

For hockey the council should aim to secure community use at Colfe's Leisure Centre for Remnants Hockey Club. These sites, given their importance to community sport provision and the need to ensure they are secured for future use, are all included in the action plan in Section 7.

- h. Also, it is important to monitor and manage the implementation and delivery of CUAs that are in place. Without this, there is a risk that, at worst, key facilities are lost to community use or, more likely, the full level of access required by planning conditions is not maintained over time. This sometimes arises when there are changes to the management team at education sites with a CUA in place. The council should consider ways to manage this going forwards as effectively as possible. i. The over-riding priority recommendation of the PPS is to continue to retain and protect the existing overall quantity of land, in the local authority area, available for use as playing pitches. It will therefore be important to work towards formally securing those important education pitches for community use where possible.

4.6 Scenario 5 - New or Reinstated Pitches in Greenwich

- a. As detailed in the previous Section (para. 3.9 above under the heading 'Planned new supply'), there are advanced plans for a number of new or reinstated playing pitches in the Borough that will help to address the overall future needs identified in figure 3.10 for football.
- b. The proposed projects, if implemented in full, will go part way towards addressing the current and future shortfalls for football. In the case AGPs, if the planned new full sized 3G pitches at Metrogas Amateur Sports Association and The John Roan School is delivered, this would reduce the current 3G deficit to 8 full sized AGPs and the future deficit to 10 3G AGPs. The improvements to grass pitch provision at Charlton Park and Hornfair Park will increase the capacity on each pitch, allowing for additional 'match equivalent sessions'.
- c. Reinstating sports provision on the two closed sports grounds in the Quaggy area would help to service current clubs' needs in the area. Willow Country club and Manor Way were both previously used for football however neither currently provide football pitches and both have been land banked by the owners for possible future development. The sites are designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) and as such partially protected from development but the council should work with the owners of the facilities to try to reinstate football provision where possible on these sites.
- d. In addition, there are three sites that previously had football pitches but no longer mark them out, Old

Brockleians Sports Club (1 adult pitch), Seven Acre Sports & Social Club (1 adult pitch) and Southwood Park (2 adult pitches). If reinstated these would help reduce the shortfall in the area. For cricket there may be an opportunity to reinstate the square at Old Brockleians Sports Ground to meet the need for additional fine turf pitches. Options should also be explored for cricket provision at the two closed sports grounds in the Quaggy area.

- e. Due to the limited open space available in the north of borough and in particularly the Peninsula Ward due to the housing growth in the area, more innovative options for 3G artificial provision to be provided on developed land e.g. car parks or roof tops should be explored to ensure this area has suitable provision available. A new leisure centre is being proposed for the area and although unlikely to be delivered until approximately 2032, 3G AGP provision should be considered as part of this site.
- f. Cricket has identified a lack of indoor provision in the Southeast of London and suggested that Greenwich would be an ideal location to explore the feasibility for the installation of a Cricket Dome, to cater for indoor nets, indoor match play, and community cricket sessions. The Council should work with the ECB and Kent Cricket to identify suitable site locations and explore the feasibility of providing such a facility in the Borough.

4.7 Scenario 6 - Significant Increase in Demand by an Age Group, Gender or Sport

- a. Nationally, Sport England's latest Active Lives Survey (ALS) data report published in April 2025 suggests that participation in all four key playing pitch sports has returned to, and in some cases exceeded, levels of participation prior to COVID-19. In the 5 years following the pandemic, participation in all sports has been increasing year on year, with cricket recording its highest levels of participation since the data started being collected. The number of junior teams across all sports identified in figure 3.3 shows that there has been a strong growth in junior sports participation the Borough.
- b. While hockey participation is already evenly split between the genders, the governing bodies of football, cricket and rugby all have a clear strategic focus on delivering more opportunities for women and girls to play and compete. As identified in the detailed assessments of future need for each sport, it is demand from the growth of women and girls'

participation that is likely to be the most significant over the next planning period and place the most pressure on the available capacity in the peak hours at existing pitches.

- c. This demand and growth are particularly evident in Football and, if sustained, will place additional demand pressure on the available stock of youth and mini soccer pitches and 3G AGPs as well as on the existing stock of pavilions many of which do not have adequate changing and toilet facilities. The FA's national insight shows that youth Football is growing at an average of 3.09% year on year; based on this growth, there is projected to be a shortfall of 11 adult, 20 junior and 12 mini soccer grass pitches and 12 3G AGPs by 2036 (see Figure 3.10 in the previous section).
- d. The FA is expecting further growth of women and girl's teams due to the success of the England Women's team and has estimated there will be an additional 61 women and girls' teams in the area by 2030. The steering group suggested a scenario be explored to provide a dedicated site for women and girls teams in the area to enable this growth. Holding a central venue league for girls' mini soccer teams in the area on a site with several grass pitches and at least one 3G, along with sufficient ancillary provision could provide a potential solution. The Council and FA should explore options to dedicate a site in a central location for girls mini soccer which has both 3G and grass provision.
- e. Actual team generation rates should be monitored as part of regular PPS updates to identify whether the population growth or participation growth scenarios outlined above are proving to be accurate. Future pitch capacity should also be revised on an ongoing basis to ensure provisions are planned for accordingly.

4.8 Summary

- a. A number of scenarios have been proposed in this section providing a range of options to meet the facility needs in Greenwich including improving the quality of existing pitches to increase capacity, extending the community use of education facilities, proposed change of use of pitches and investing in new facilities to meet demand. In addition, the potential loss of key sites and the impact of an increase in demand has also been explored. These scenarios have helped to outline the priorities for the Council which are listed in the action plan for playing pitches in Section 7.

5. Recommendations by pitch sport

5.1 Introduction

- a. Based on the findings of the assessment of current and future facility needs for the four major playing pitch sports summarised in previous sections of this strategy and detailed in sport-specific reports in appendices A to D, in addition to the need for minor playing pitch sports as identified, the following recommendations are made for strategic provision of playing pitch facilities in Greenwich to 2036.
- b. The recommendations assume the quantum of population growth forecast in ONS population—i.e. +26,808 additional residents by 2036 and take into consideration the range of potential scenarios available to the council and its partner sports bodies to address the facility needs detailed in the previous section.

5.2 Protect

- a. In the context of current demand, future net population growth and the development aspirations of key sports clubs – particularly to grow opportunities for more women and girls to play cricket, football and rugby - the over-riding priority recommendation of the PPS is to continue to retain the existing overall quantity of land in Greenwich available for use as playing pitches.
- b. Protecting the supply of playing fields, playing pitches and ancillary provision should continue to be a core principle in the planning policies of Greenwich council in its Local Plan. The relevant existing planning policies for the protection of playing pitches in Greenwich are detailed in Appendix F of this Playing Pitch Strategy.
- c. Strategic recommendations aimed at maximising the effectiveness of local planning policy in Greenwich and the planning process to both protect playing fields, playing pitches, ancillary provision and to secure community access are set out in Section 6.

- d. Effective use of the planning process to ensure protection of access to education playing pitches is particularly critical to community sport. Continued access to education playing fields at weekends is key to several cricket, football and hockey clubs in the Borough to deliver their activities for a growing number of teams.

5.3 Enhance and Provide

- a. It is recommended that a number of existing playing pitch facilities should be prioritised for investment in upgrades (subject to funding, planning and feasibility) in order to continue to meet existing demand from community teams and individuals and to ensure, where possible, that additional capacity is provided to contribute to meeting demand growth.
- b. Greater playing capacity will be needed in future as a result of population growth and as a consequence of demand growth stimulated by the sports development initiatives of local clubs supported by the council and other stakeholders including the relevant sport's governing bodies. This need is greatest by far in the case of youth football, particularly girls' football. Improved safeguarding and accessibility at ancillary facilities will also be critical to attracting and retaining players, particularly women and girls who remain under-represented in cricket and rugby participation.
- c. The assessment of needs and the possible scenarios to address these needs has established that the additional playing pitch capacity that is likely to be needed over the strategy period will not be achievable without significantly improving the maintenance, quality and/or drainage of several key sites.
- d. Figure 5.1 below summarises the strategic recommendations for enhancement of existing playing field sites and for new provision per sport, specific details for each site are listed in the action plan in section 7.

Figure 5.1– Recommended facility enhancement and new provision by sport

Cricket site(s)	Recommendation
Site to be confirmed.	Look to establish a 'Last Man Stands' league in the borough using some of the new NTPs in the borough.
Avery Hill Park, Blackheath Wanderers, Hervey Road Playing Fields, Royal Artillery Barracks, The Academy Ground,	Deliver recommendations from ECB PitchPower assessments to improve pitch quality, utilising funding from ECB where available.
Charlton Park (new), Royal Artillery Barracks, The Joan Roan School Playing Fields.	Upgrade poor quality and install new nets systems as identified.
Blackheath Wanderers, Royal Artillery Barracks.	Protect and secure sites for cricket provision.
College Meadow (Eltham College), Leathersellers Sports Ground, The John Roan School Playing Fields.	Investigate options to secure community use through a CUA.
Site to be confirmed (options include reinstating wickets at Old Brockleians Sports Ground and exploring provision on current closed sports grounds)	Explore the feasibility of providing 2 new fine turf pitches (with a combined total of a minimum of 13 wickets of a good quality) to meet future demand.
Horn Park (Colfeian grounds Ltd), Royal Artillery Barracks.	Repair/upgrade pavilions as necessary.
Site to be confirmed	Explore site options and the feasibility of installing a Cricket Dome to provide for indoor training and match play.

Football site(s)	Recommendation
Blackheath Wanderers, Fooks Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club, GB10 Sports Ground, Gresham Sports Ground, London Marathon Playing Fields, Metrogas Amateur Sports Association, Rose Cottage Playing Fields, The John Roan Playing Fields	Deliver FA PitchPower quality report recommendations for grass pitch improvement.
Avery Hill Park, Charlton Park, Hornfair Park	Undertake FA PitchPower assessments to determine current grass pitch quality and recommendations for further improvements.
The John Roan School Playing Fields, Rose Cottage Playing Fields (9v9), Metrogas Amateur Sports Association, University of Greenwich (Sparrow Farm) Eltham Town FC, The Artic Stadium, London Marathon Playing Fields.	Explore options to deliver new 3G AGPs on sites in the borough as identified through the LFFP.
Sites in the North/East of the borough should be considered including Charlton Park, Royal Artillery Barracks, Greenwich Park / Blackheath common Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys (resurface), developed land in Greenwich Peninsula ward.	Identify suitable locations for additional 3G AGP provision to meet current and future needs.
Gresham Sports Ground, STC Ivor Grove Sports Club, Royal Artillery Barracks, Eltham Town FC, Meridian Sports and Social Club, The Artic Stadium.	Protect and secure sites for football provision.
Willow Country Club, Manor Way	Investigate options to reopen sites for sporting use, maintaining previous capacity for football provision as a minimum.
Old Brockleians Sports Club, Seven Acre Sports & Social Club and Southwood Park	Investigate options for pitches to be reinstated on these sites.

Football site(s)	Recommendation
Harris Academy Greenwich, St James Mar Thoma Community Sports Centre, The Halley Academy, The John Roan Playing Fields, University of Greenwich (Sparrows Farm) Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys.	Investigate options to secure community use through a CUA.
Stationers Crown Woods Academy, Thomas Tallis School.	Investigate opportunities with the schools to hire out pitches to meet the needs of community clubs.
Charlton Athletic Community Trust, Eltham Park South, The John Roan School Playing Fields, University of Greenwich (Sparrows Farm), Weigall Road Playing Fields.	Repair/upgrade/replace pavilions/ provide basic shelter as necessary (e.g. replacement roofs, improved security, enhanced facilities for women & girls, disabled access).
Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall, Coldharbour Leisure Centre, Samuel Montagu Youth Centre	Resurface existing poor 3G AGPs and ensure registration with FA to enable match play.

Hockey site(s)	Recommendation
University of Greenwich (Avery Hill)	Monitor CUA to ensure use for community clubs in delivered.
Colfe's Leisure Centre	Investigate options to secure community use through a CUA.
College Meadow (Eltham College)	Investigate the feasibility to refurbish the club house and changing facilities to meet clubs' requirements.

Rugby Site(s)	Recommendation
Horn Park (Old Colfeians RFC), Plumstead Common	Improve grass pitch quality at key sites through improved maintenance.
Charlton Park RFC	Deliver RFU PitchPower quality report recommendations for grass pitch improvement.
Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall	Resurface 3G AGP and replace shockpad to obtain WRC.
Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club	Investigate options for other clubs to utilise space capacity on grass pitch.
Charlton Park RFC, Horn Park (Old Colfeians RFC), Plumstead Common, Old Brockleians Sports Club, Rectory Field.	Make improvements to the ancillary facilities on site to support the growth of rugby.
Charlton Park RFC (1) Hervey Road Playing Fields (1)	Explore the feasibility of reinstating pitches at these sites to meet future needs for an additional 2 pitches.

6. Strategic Recommendations

6.1 Introduction

- a. This section of the Playing Pitch Strategy sets out a number of overarching strategic recommendations, endorsed by the Strategy Steering Group, aimed at ensuring the on-going provision of high-quality, accessible playing pitches can meet the needs and demands of the Boroughs current and future populations. The recommendations have been developed in response to the facility needs highlighted in Section 3 of this Playing Pitch Strategy.

6.2 Planning Policy

- a. The need to protect and secure the existing artificial and grass playing pitches remains similar to the findings of the previous strategy in 2015.
- b. Given the evidence presented, the principles established in the current Local Plan Policies with respect to community, sport and recreation facilities need to be maintained. The key Local Plan policy of relevance is:

Policy OS(d) – Sportsgrounds and playing fields

The Royal Borough will resist granting planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss, or would prejudice the use, of a playing field or land last used as a playing field except where:

A

- i. *An appraisal of current and future needs for playing fields has demonstrated that there is an excess of playing field provision and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport or for school playing field(s), and*
- ii. *The site is surplus to requirements of all other open space functions; or*

B

- i. *The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or not forming part of, a playing pitch, or*
- ii. *The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of land, or*
- iii. *An alternative site or facility of at least an equivalent quantity and quality is provided in a suitable location;*

- c. Further reference to the Local Plan policies as well as relevant national and regional policies are set out in full in appendix F to this document.
- d. This updated Playing Pitch Strategy for Greenwich is based on a detailed local assessment of the picture of supply and demand for each of the playing pitch sports in scope and application of the relevant planning tools and as such the Council should adopt a prioritised site-specific schedule of playing pitch needs and opportunities within Greenwich categorised under the following headings:
 - **PROTECT** playing pitches from loss as a result of redevelopment.
 - **ENHANCE** existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management.
 - **PROVIDE** new facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future.
- e. The strategic recommendations of the Greenwich Strategy Steering Group for playing pitches are set out in the following paragraphs. The recommendations are based on the assessment of needs process (following national guidance) completed as part of this playing pitch strategy and reported in this document and its appendices.

6.3 Protect

- a. The strategy confirms that there is an identified need to retain the existing overall quantity of playing pitches within the Borough whilst recognising that the distribution of facilities may change (for example, through relocation or redevelopment of poor quality sites for community sport offset by new and appropriate re-provision). This headline finding and recommendation is also applicable when examined at the LPA level and in accordance with paragraph 103 and 104 of the NPFF and the Local Plan.
- b. It is therefore recommended that, the Local Plan should continue to maintain a policy framework to resist granting planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss, or would prejudice the use, of a playing pitch unless:
 - Alternative facilities will be provided and are at least as accessible to current and potential new users, and at least equivalent in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness and quality; or
 - The benefit of the development to the community outweighs the harm caused by the loss of the facility; or
 - The facility is no longer required for its purpose or an alternative activity.
- c. Should a current or newly created playing pitch exist in Greenwich that is not mentioned in this strategy and/ or its appendices, its omission is not an endorsement by the council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport of its disposal.
- d. It is also recommended that the council continue to work with strategic sports partners (Sport England, the National Governing Bodies of sport and, in particular education providers) to seek agreements to secure access for community sport at those sites in the Borough where there is existing access, but long-term access is currently unsecured (i.e. by means of Community Use Agreements).
- e. Where sports facility sites are in the council's ownership, the policy of securing community access through asset transfer to community clubs and/or sports associations should be considered, provided that:
 - The facilities are assessed as 'good' quality by the relevant governing bodies of sport prior to transfer, and
 - The transferee is able to demonstrate it has the capacity and resources to maintain the facilities to good quality (and this forms part of any service level agreement). It is recommended that the terms of future transfer agreements include incentives for the clubs to deliver sports development outcomes (e.g. grow numbers of teams, volunteering, and sporting opportunities for under-represented groups).
- f. It is recommended the council continue to seek to influence the design and specification of any new education sports facilities and extensions to existing facilities to ensure their suitability for both education and community use (i.e., provided to Sport England and/or the relevant sport's national governing body design dimensions and standards as opposed to education dimensions and standards).
- g. It is further recommended that the council negotiates secure affordable community access as a condition of planning consent (via formal Community Use Agreements) for applications from education providers of sports facilities relating to:
 - Extending hours of permitted use
 - Extensions to existing sports facilities
 - Provision of new or enhanced sports facilities

6.4 Enhance and Provide

- a. It is recommended that the Local Planning Authority continue to seek the advice of appropriate sport national governing bodies whenever pre-planning proposals or planning applications involving new sports facilities are brought forward or new S106 agreements for sports facilities are drafted. This is to ensure that the design, layout and management plans maximise the community value of the new facilities and that any maintenance plans meet any relevant performance quality standards.

- b. For all developments involving the creation of one or more residential units, contributions should be sought (under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or through the Community Infrastructure Levy mechanism) towards the delivery of 'off site' priority sports and recreation infrastructure projects as identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy in locations well-related to the proposed development. Appropriate contributions should also be sought for ongoing maintenance of any new sports facilities.
- c. The priority projects are those set out in the action plan current at the time the planning application is submitted. The initial action plan is in section 7 of this document. The priority projects include sites in private ownership and on school sites outside the council's control. Accordingly, the lead party responsible for progressing the actions is identified in the action plan along with supporting agencies.
- d. The latest version of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator planning tools should be used, as appropriate, to scope the appropriate scale and approximate costs of new provision and to provide the starting point for project specific negotiations of S106 and/or CIL developer contributions.
- e. It is recommended that in the case of all planning applications with implications for sports facilities (both indoor and outdoor), the latest version of Sport England's Model Planning Conditions should be used as appropriate. Current model conditions cover the following:
 - i. Protection/New Provision of Sport & Recreation Facilities;**
 - ii. Compensatory Provision, Continuity of Use and Phasing of Development;**
 - iii. Built Design and Layout;**
 - iv. Playing Field Provision;**
 - v. Operational Matters.**
- f. It is also recommended that the Greenwich Strategy Steering Group, comprising of membership from Sport England and the NGB's, should review and update the action plan and priority projects annually during the strategy period. In line with Sport England guidance a full review of the strategy will be required after 5 years. If no annual monitoring takes place a full review is required after 3 years.



7. Action Plan

7.1 Introduction

- a. This section of the strategy provides an outline action plan related to the potential development and delivery of the priority projects and facility needs for sport and recreation as set out in the previous sections.
- b. Figure AP1 presents the projects in alphabetical order, with a reference to their potential to be progressed either in the short term (defined as within 2 years approximately), the medium term (defined as within 2-5 years) or longer to progress - for example projects dependent on acquisition of land, the outcome of wider area development planning or large-scale review of options, feasibility and viability.
- c. Figure AP2 that follows highlights a number of sites which present opportunities for providing or extending community sports. These sites sit outside of the main action plan as further work is required to investigate relevant permission, access, suitability, and funding.
- d. Figure AP3 identifies those sites that are not identified in figures AP1 (for enhancement or new provision) or AP2 (opportunity sites) but require protection for community sport through the planning system. The omission of any playing pitch site from this Strategy is not an endorsement by the council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport or its disposal.
- e. The action plan is a guide to how facilities might be developed, pending funding confirmation and planning permission where necessary, where and whom they might be developed by to meet identified demand, exploit opportunities that may arise and provide sustainable management and operational models often through engaging with either voluntary or commercial partners. A number of project proposals within the strategy are subject to design and cost analysis and for some projects feasibility testing and options appraisals.
- f. Each potential project must be evaluated considering the current situation, as the strategy and action plan sets out the position at the time of writing; so, factors on both the demand and supply side may have changed as well as the cost and viability of the project at the point when an individual project is being considered within the lifespan of this strategy. The action plan should be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis by the Strategy Steering Group to ensure these factors are taken into consideration.
- g. The immediate priority for Greenwich council, as with many local authorities at the time of this strategy, is to protect and continue to maintain the current level of facilities to ensure no further loss of provision. The current pressures on public sector budgets alongside increasing operational costs and capital costs (for maintenance and new facilities) means the council must plan prudently for future needs.
- h. The updates to the action plan should in turn inform periodic updates of the council's priorities for investment and future decisions on funding either through capital grant and / or financing and budgetary planning.

Figure AP1 Priorities and actions for playing pitches in Greenwich					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Avery Hill Park	Short	Cricket	Deliver recommendations from ECB PitchPower assessments to improve pitch quality, utilising funding from ECB where available.	RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket
	Short	Football	Undertake FA PitchPower assessments to determine current grass pitch quality and recommendations for further improvements	RBG	FA / FF
Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall	Medium	Football / Rugby / American Football	Resurface existing poor quality 3G AGP and ensure surface is WRC and is placed on the FA pitch register to enable match play.	Club / RBG	RFU / FA / FF
Blackheath Wanderers	Short	Cricket / Football	Deliver recommendations from ECB/ FA Pitch Power assessments to improve pitch quality, utilising funding from where available and securing future provision for club use.	Club / RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket
Camdale Playing Fields (Swingate PF)	Short	Football	Explore options for site to be transferred into community ownership	RBG	FA / FF
Charlton Athletic Community Trust	Long	Football	Upgrade existing provisions to improve accessibility	Club / RBG	FA / FF
Charlton Park	Short	Cricket	Install new two lane cricket net system	RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket
	Short	Football	Undertake FA PitchPower assessments to determine current grass pitch quality and recommendations for further improvements	RBG	FA / FF
Charlton Park RFC	Short	Rugby	Deliver RFU PitchPower quality report recommendations for grass improvement	Club / RBG	RFU
	Medium	Rugby	Explore the feasibility of reinstating the unmarked rugby pitch on this site to meet future needs for the sport.	Club / RBG	RFU
	Medium	Rugby	Upgrade the ancillary facilities on site to meet RFU standards and to support the growth of rugby.	Club / RBG	RFU
Coldharbour Leisure Centre	Long	Football	Resurface existing poor quality 3G AGP and ensure facility is placed on FA pitch register to enable match play.	RBG / GLL	FA / FF
Colfe's Leisure Centre	Short	Hockey	Investigate options to secure community use through a CUA	School / RBG	EH
College Meadow (Eltham College)	Short	Cricket	Investigate options to secure community use through a CUA	School / RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket
	Long	Hockey	Investigate options to refurbish the club house and changing facilities	School / RBG	EH
Eltham Park South	Long	Football	Consider options to provide suitable shelter and toilet provision to support youth football played on this site.	RBG	FA / FF
Eltham Town FC	Long	Football	Explore options to deliver a new full size 3G AGP on site as identified through the LFFP, securing site for future club provision.	Club / RBG	FA / FF
Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower quality report recommendations for grass improvement	Club / RBG	FA / FF
	Short	Rugby	Investigate options for other clubs to utilise space capacity on grass pitch.	Club / RBG	RFU
GB10 Sports Ground	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower quality report recommendations for grass improvement	Club / RBG	FA / FF
Gresham Sports Ground	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower quality report recommendations for grass improvement	Club / RBG	FA / FF
	Short	Football	Protect and secure site for football provision	Club / RBG	FA / FF

Figure AP1 Priorities and actions for playing pitches in Greenwich					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Harris Academy Greenwich	Short	Football	Investigate options to secure community use through a CUA	School / RBG	FA / FF
Hervey Road Playing Fields	Short	Cricket	Deliver recommendations from ECB PitchPower assessments to improve pitch quality, utilising funding from ECB where available.	RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket
	Medium	Rugby	Explore the feasibility of reinstating unmarked pitches at this site to meet future needs for rugby	RBG	RFU
Horn Park (Colfeian grounds ltd)	Short	Cricket / Rugby	Upgrade the changing pavilion to modern standards, ensuring accessible provision to support both sports.	School / RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket / RFU
	Short	Rugby	Improve grass pitch quality through improved maintenance.	School / RBG	RFU
Hornfair Park	Short	Football	Undertake FA PitchPower assessments to determine current grass pitch quality and recommendations for further improvements	RBG	FA / FF
Leathersellers Sports Ground	Short	Cricket	Investigate options to secure community use through a CUA	School / RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket
London Marathon Playing Fields (Greenwich)	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower quality report recommendations for grass improvement	LPFF / RBG	FA / FF
	Long	Football	Explore options to deliver a new full size 3G AGP on site as identified through the LFFP.	School / RBG	FA / FF
Meridian Sports and Social Club	Short	Football	Work with club, where possible, to resolve financial issues and secure lease on site.	Club / RBG / FA	FF
Metrogas Amateur Sports Association	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower quality report recommendations for grass improvement	Club / RBG	FA / FF
	Medium	Football	Explore options to deliver a new full size 3G AGP on site as identified through the LFFP.	Club / RBG	FA / FF
Old Brockleians Sports Club	Medium	Football	Investigate options for the football pitch to be reinstated on this site	Club / RBG	FA / FF
	Long	Rugby	Make improvements to the ancillary facilities on site including replacing the old water tank, improving the cellar and signage.	Club / RBG	RFU
Plumstead Common	Short	Rugby	Improve grass pitch quality through improved maintenance.	RBG	RFU
	Long	Rugby	Support the club to improve the kitchen facilities within the ancillary facilities.	RBG	RFU
Rectory Field	Long	Rugby	Redecorate and modernise the ancillary facilities where possible to support the growth of rugby.	RBG	RFU
Rose Cottage Playing Fields	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower quality report recommendations for grass improvement	Club / RBG	FA / FF
	Medium	Football	Explore options to deliver a new 9v9 3G AGP on site as identified through the LFFP.	School / RBG	FA / FF
Royal Artillery Barracks	Short	Cricket / Football	Protect and secure site for sports provision	MOD / RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket / FA / FF
	Short	Cricket	Deliver recommendations from ECB PitchPower assessments to improve pitch quality, utilising funding from ECB where available.	MOD / RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket
	Medium	Cricket	Upgrade poor quality cricket nets system	MOD / RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket
	Medium	Cricket	Repair and upgrade pavilion to reinstate hot water provision	MOD / RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket

Figure AP1 Priorities and actions for playing pitches in Greenwich					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Samuel Montagu Youth Centre	Medium	Football	Resurface existing poor quality 3G AGPs and ensure facility is placed on FA pitch register to enable match play.	Club / RBG	FA / FF
Seven Arce Sports & Social club	Medium	Football	Investigate options for the pitch to be reinstated on this site.	Club / RBG	FA / FF
Southwood Park	Medium	Football	Investigate options for the pitches to be reinstated on this site.	Club / RBG	FA / FF
Stationers Crown Woods Academy	Short	Football	Investigate opportunity to hire out pitches to meet the needs of community clubs.	School / RBG	FA / FF
STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	Short	Football	Protect site from development, secure for football provision and investigate options to enhance pitch quality.	Club / RBG	FA / FF
St James Mar Thoma Community Sports Centre	Short	Football	Investigate options to secure community use through a CUA.	School / RBG	FA / FF
The Academy Ground	Short	Cricket	Deliver recommendations from ECB PitchPower assessments to improve pitch quality, utilising funding from ECB where available.	Club / RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket
The Artic Stadium	Long	Football	Explore options to deliver a new full size 3G AGP on site as identified through the LFFP, securing the site for future club use.	Club / RBG	FA / FF
The Halley Academy	Short	Football	Investigate options to secure community use through a CUA	School / RBG	FA / FF
The Joan Roan School Playing Fields	Short	Cricket/ Football	Investigate options to secure community use through a CUA	School / RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket
	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower quality report recommendations for grass improvement	School / RBG	FA / FF
	Medium	Cricket	Upgrade poor quality cricket nets system	School / RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket
	Medium	Football	Explore options to deliver a new full size 3G AGP on site as identified through the LFFP.	School / RBG	FA / FF
	Long	Football	Refurbish changing provision and toilets to improve quality.	School / RBG	FA / FF
Thomas Tallis School	Short	Football	Investigate opportunity to hire out pitches to meet the needs of community clubs.	School / RBG	FA / FF
University of Greenwich (Avery Hill)	Short	Rugby	Seek to confirm if a shock pad suitable for contact rugby was included in the specifications for the 3G pitch and if WR certification can be achieved.	University / RBG	RFU
	Medium	Hockey	Monitor CUA to ensure use for community clubs in delivered	RBG	EH
University of Greenwich (Sparrows Farm)	Long	Football	Explore options to deliver a new full size 3G AGP on site as identified through the LFFP and secure site for community use through a CUA.	University / RBG	FA / FF
	Long	Football	Investigate feasibility and funding options to replace temporary changing provision with a new ancillary facilities.	University / RBG	FA / FF
Weigall Road Playing Fields	Long	Football	Investigate feasibility and funding options to replace temporary changing provision with a new ancillary facilities.	Club / RBG	FA / FF
Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys	Short	Football	Investigate options to secure community use of grass pitches through a CUA	School / RBG	FA / FF

Figure AP1 Priorities and actions for playing pitches in Greenwich					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Site to be confirmed	Short	Cricket	Look to establish a 'Last Man Stands' league in the borough using some of the new NTPs in the borough.	RBG / Kent Cricket	ECB
Site to be confirmed	Medium	Cricket	Explore site options and the feasibility of installing a Cricket Dome to provide for indoor training and match play.	RBG / Kent Cricket	ECB
Site to be confirmed	Medium	Football	Explore options to dedicate a site in a central location for girls mini soccer which has both 3G and grass provision.	RBG / FA	FF
Sites to be confirmed	Long	Cricket	Explore the feasibility of providing 2 new fine turf pitches (with a combined total of a minimum of 13 wickets of a good quality) to meet future demand, options include reinstating wickets at Old Brockleians Sports Ground and exploring provision on current closed sports grounds	Site owners / RBG	ECB / Kent Cricket
Sites to be confirmed	Long	Football	Identify suitable locations for additional 3G AGP provision to meet current and future needs. Sites in the North / East of the borough should be considered including Charlton Park, Greenwich Park / Blackheath common, Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys (resurface).	Sites owners / RBG	FA / FF

Figure AP2 Opportunities for providing or extending community sports opportunities to be investigated further at the following sites, all pending funding and relevant permissions; all potential opportunities listed are dependent on the support of the site owners/operators					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Potential actions	Partners	
Manor Way	Medium	Cricket / Football	Protect the site for sporting use and ensure the delivery of suitable playing pitch provision on this site to meet the needs of the Borough as identified in this strategy as part of any development, maintaining the previous capacity for football as a minimum.	RBG / Sport England / ECB / FF	
Willow Country Club	Medium	Cricket / Football	Protect the site for sporting use and ensure the delivery of suitable playing pitch provision on this site to meet the needs of the Borough as identified in this strategy as part of any development, maintaining the previous capacity for football as a minimum.	RBG / Sport England / ECB / FF	
Developed land in Greenwich Peninsula Ward.	Long	Football	Identify suitable opportunities for additional 3G AGP provision on developed land in this area to meet current and future needs.	RBG / FA / FF	

Figure. AP3 Other playing pitch sites for protection	
Site	Sport (s)
Blackheath High School Sports Ground	Hockey
Clam Field Recreation Ground	Cricket
Crofton Albion Sports & Social Club	Football
Eltham Hill School for Girls	Football
Goals (Eltham)	Football
Greenwich Park Cricket Pitch	Cricket
Kidbrooke Playing Fields	Football
Shooters Hill Sports Club	Football
St Mary Magdalene COE School (Peninsula Site)	Football
St Pauls Academy	Football
Stationers Crown Woods Academy	Football
Sutcliffe Park Athletics Track	Football

8. Summary

- a. The strategy steering group consisting of Greenwich Council, National Governing Bodies and Sports England are committed to protecting and improving playing pitches for sport and physical activity in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. This Playing Pitch strategy brings together the analysis, consultation and assessment work to highlight the facility investment needs for the area and identifies the priorities the council and partners should consider and plan for.
- b. The significant pressure on land in Greenwich continues to put sites at risk of development and with challenging financial pressures for the public sector the council need to ensure that the protection of all playing fields remains the focus as well as investing in improving current facilities where possible. Opportunities to bring back closed sports sites into community use should be explored as well as securing funding from external partners to provide new provision particularly 3G AGPs.
- c. Within Greenwich, like many local authorities, many playing pitches are located on education sites which require new or on-going community use agreements to protect future usage as well as exploring opportunities to extend community access where possible. There are also several sites in private ownership, at risk of development, including the closed sports sites, which if they could be secured for sport would support the needs identified in this strategy.
- d. Cricket has seen a loss of a number of fine turf pitches in the Borough which has restricted the growth of the sport in Greenwich. There is a need to protect and improve the quality of existing pitches, develop facilities for training and refurbish pavilions, as well as identify opportunities to develop new fine turf pitches.
- e. Football has grown significantly since the last strategy and whilst additional 3G AGP provision has been developed in the Borough there is still not enough capacity to meet current demand. There is a clear need to provide more artificial grass pitches and to protect and secure the current grass pitch provision.
- f. The key priority for Hockey is to protect the current supply of sand based pitches in the area used by clubs and secure the provision at Colfe's Leisure Centre. Options to refurbish the club house and changing facilities at College Meadow (Eltham College) should also be explored.
- g. The growth of Rugby clubs in Greenwich has also been limited by facility availability. The priority for the area would be to resurface the 3G at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall to achieve WRC. This would reduce the training demand on grass pitches and enable improvement in grass pitch quality.
- h. As local authorities continue to manage difficult budget decisions and the challenges of providing both statutory and critical non-statutory services, it will not be possible to deliver or support all of the playing pitch investment needs identified within this strategy, without significant external funding.
- i. Alongside direct provision Greenwich council also plays an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and empowering community organisations through the asset transfer process to potentially independently manage and operate facilities funded through partnerships with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport as well as other funding organisations.
- j. The role physical activity has in positively impacting on the health of the nation is increasingly important and Greenwich council recognise the need to protect and invest in accessible and sustainable community sports facilities which provide opportunities to improve the lives and wellbeing of all of their residents. This strategy provides the evidence base and priority actions needed to achieve this and should be updated on at least an annual basis.

Appendix A: Cricket

Assessment of Needs (Stages B and C)

1. Introduction

The findings of the assessment of needs for cricket facilities in the Royal Borough of Greenwich are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). Affiliated cricket clubs in Greenwich and playing their home fixtures in the area have contributed to this assessment either by submitting an online club survey and/or through in person consultation during site visits. The number of clubs that responded to consultation as part of this process represents 67% of teams playing cricket in the borough. This includes all the large clubs except one who despite regular contact and reminders choose not to respond.

16 fine turf squares were identified as being available for community use, 9 fewer than the 25 identified in the previous 2015 study. The change in supply includes the addition of one new site for Cricket at Hervey Road Playing Fields (1 pitch with 7 wickets) but the loss of 10 fine turf squares at the following sites since the previous 2015 strategy:

- Avery Hill Park (1 pitch with 10 wickets lost)
- Colfe's Leisure Centre (2 pitches, 9 wickets total)
- Crofton Albion Sports & Social Club (8 wickets)
- Charlton Park (10 wickets)
- Foots Cray Rugby Sports & Athletic Club (1 pitch with 6 wickets lost)
- Gresham Athletic Ground (11 wickets)
- Metrogas Amateur Sports Association (11 wickets)
- Old Brockleians (8 wickets)
- Samuel Montagu Youth Centre (8 wickets)

There has been an increase in the supply of Non-Turf Cricket Pitches (NTP's). In 2025, 12 NTPs are available for community use, with 10 new NTPs being

developed since the previous 2015 strategy at the following sites:

- Avery Hill Park (2)
- Clam Field Recreation Ground
- Charlton Park (2)
- Eltham College
- Eltham Park South
- Foots Cray Rugby Sports & Athletic Club
- Hervey Road Playing Fields
- Hornfair Park

There has also been a loss of community use at 3 NTPs across the borough at Thomas Tallis School, Colfe's Leisure Centre, and Blackheath Prep School since the previous 2015 assessment.

Non turf pitches are not a suitable replacement for fine turf pitches and it is important to ensure that further pitches in the borough are not lost. NTPs that are developed adjacent to existing fine turf pitches increase capacity for training, youth and mid-week match play but do not increase the capacity of sites during the peak periods of match play at the weekend.

As discussed throughout this appendix, there is significant pressure of the remaining fine turf pitches in the borough, with many being played at or above their carry capacity. The lack of available facilities has created perceived latent demand in the area and is restricting the growth of clubs based in Greenwich.

1. Cricket Supply (Step 1)

The findings of the assessment of supply of cricket facilities in Greenwich are summarised in this section and detailed by site, both for fine turf pitches and for non-turf artificial grass pitches (NTP's). The supply side information is generated through standard facility audits based on the visual assessment, grading

and playing capacity guidance (as set out by Sport England and the ECB in the national guidance for the development of playing pitch needs assessments) supported by consultation with the Council, Kent Cricket and community cricket clubs in the borough.

1.1 Cricket Pitches in Greenwich

A total of 16 fine turf pitches are identified as available for community cricket in the area in 2025, on 13 playing pitch sites, and 12 NTP's on 9 sites.

There are a further 2 fine turf pitches on sites not currently available for regular community use at Colfe's

Leisure Centre, which is primarily used by Colfe's School as the main summer sport for the school. Due to the school's demand for the pitches, there is currently no spare capacity for external hire.

The table below (figure 1.1) outlines the supply, condition, ancillary facilities, and demand for each site available for community use in Greenwich. The RAG rating highlights the supply/demand balance of each pitch, with **RED** indicating pitches used at more than capacity, **AMBER** indicating pitches which are used at capacity, and **GREEN** indicating pitches with surplus capacity.

Figure 1.1: Cricket sites in Greenwich

Site Name	Postcode	Access Security and Ownership	Pitches/wickets	NTP	NT Nets	Pavilion / Changing Rooms	Pitch & Outfield Rating	Pavilion Rating	Fine Turf Capacity (MES pa)	Fine Turf Use (MES pa)	Peak Use (% of cap)	RAG
AVERY HILL PARK	SE9 2PG	Secure – Council site	1 (10)	2 (2nd installed June 25)	0	Large pavilion. Club rate 3/5	(PP) P – Poor O – Poor Club rate 2/5	Standard	0	50	N/A	RED
BLACKHEATH WANDERERS	SE12 8UF	Secure – Sports club owned site	1 (9)	0	0	2 team changing refurbished in 2008. Kitchen and bar area. Clubs rate 3/5 and 4/5	(PP) P – Basic (poor) O – Basic Clubs rate 3-4/5	Standard	0	35	N/A	RED
CLAM FIELD REC GROUND (BOSTALL HILL CRCKET NETS)	SE2 0BE	Secure – Council site	N/A	1	2 - Good	None.	NTP - Standard	N/A	N/A			
CHARLTON PARK	SE7 8PG	Secure – Council site	N/A	2 (2nd installed June 25)	0	Large pavilion. Toilets available in café.	(PP) O - Basic	Standard	N/A			
ELTHAM COLLEGE (College Meadow)	SE12 9PH	Unsecure – Education site. Not aware of CUA	1 (12)	1	2	Large pavilion with changing and social facilities	P-Good O-Standard	Good	60	56	93%	GREEN
ELTHAM PARK SOUTH	SE9 1AG	Secure – Council site	N/A	1 (installed June 25)	0	Changing facilities.	N/A	Standard	N/A			
FOOTS CRAY RUGBY SPORTS & ATHLETIC CLUB	SE9 2EL	Secure – Sports club owned site	1 (8)	1	2	Changing for 12 teams with disability facilities.	P- Standard O - Standard	Good	24	24	100%	AMBER
GREENWICH PARK CRICKET PITCH	SE10 8QY	Secure – Owned by the Royal Parks Charity	1 (13)	0	0	Modern pavilion building	P- Good O - Good	Good	65	55	85%	GREEN
HERVEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 8BU	Secure – Council site	1 (7)	1	2 - Good	2 team changing and 1 umpires' room, with bar / social area. Built in 2024 with accessible access.	(PP) P – Basic (standard) O - Basic Club rate 3/5	Good Club rate 5/5	21	33	157%	RED
HORN PARK (COLFEIAN GROUNDS LTD)	SE12 8UE	Secure – Sports club owned site	3 (12, 12, 6) only two can be used at once	2	0	Changing (8 rooms) with a gym, sports hall, 2 squash courts. Separate social club bar and clubroom.	P- Standard O - Standard	Standard	72	92	128%	RED
HORNFAR PARK	SE18 4PA	Secure – Council site	N/A	1 (installed June 25)	0	Pavilion with dated changing room which include disability facilities.	N/A	Standard	N/A			
LEATHERSELLERS SPORTS GROUND (Colfe's School 2nd Ground)	SE12 9AJ	Unsecure – Education site. Not aware of CUA	2 (6, 3)	0	2-Standard	Pavilion with dated changing rooms.	P-Standard O-Standard	Standard	27	44	163%	RED
RECTORY FIELD (BLACKHEATH SPORTS CLUB)	SE3 8SR	Secure – Sports club owned site	1 (12)	0	3 - Good	Changing with disability facilities refurbished in 2009.	P- Good O - Good	Standard	60	60	100%	AMBER
ROYAL ARTILLERY BARRACKS (BARRACK FIELD /HA-HA ROAD)	SE18 6XH	Unsecure – MOD site	1 (10)	0	3 - Unusable	2 team changing, kitchen and lounge area, accessible access.	(PP) P – Poor O – Poor	Standard	0	0	N/A	RED
THE ACADEMY GROUND	SE18 4BT	Secure – Long lease to Blackheath Cricket Club	1 (8)	0	0	Changing pavilion	(PP) P – Basic (standard) O – Basic	Standard	24	36	150%	RED
THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 9NF	Unsecure – Education site. Not aware of CUA	1 (13)	0	2 - Unusable	5 changing rooms - 2 sets of showers, bar kitchen small hall, existing school changing rooms.	P - Standard O - Standard Club rate 3/5	Standard club rate 3/5	39	46	118%	RED
THE PAVILION SPORTS & LEISURE CLUB	SE9 2SY	Secure – Sports club owned site	1 (8)	0	0	Changing rooms refurbished 2016	P - Standard O - Standard	Standard	24	20	83%	GREEN

1.2 Junior Pitches

In general, the clubs with junior sections set aside one strip on the main square for junior matches requiring shorter dimensions and/or use of the non-turf pitches where these are available on their grounds. Most sites with NTP wickets have different markings for each age group to allow for regulation bowling lengths.

1.3 Lapsed Cricket Sites or Closed Grounds

Six sites no longer have any cricket provision, 5 of which have lost their cricket provision since the last assessment of needs in 2015.

As noted in the previous assessment of needs, the playing fields at St James Mar Thoma Community Sports Centre no longer provide cricket pitches, only football pitches.

Samuel Montagu Youth Centre now rents part of its site to Shooters Hill Rugby Club. The club previously marked out an 8 wicket cricket pitch but have replaced this with football pitches since the 2015 assessment.

Since AFC Lewisham took ownership of Gresham Athletic Ground, they have ceased to provide the 11 wicket cricket pitch which was previously recorded in the last assessment of needs.

Metrogas Amateur Sports Association no longer provide the 11 wicket pitch that was previously recorded in the last assessment. The club stated there was a lack of demand for the pitch and cricket ceased on the site a number of years ago. This statement was contested by both Kent Cricket and the ECB, and the club declined to engage in the ECB support schemes available to re-activate the site in place of providing further football capacity. The club now have planning permission to develop an 11v11 3G AGP in its place.

Crofton Albion Sports & Social Club and Old Brockleians have also ceased to provide cricket pitches (both 8 wickets) since the 2015 assessment.

Whitehouse Sports Ground previously had a cricket pitch consisting of an NTP standalone wicket. The site has been closed since at least 2017.

1.4 Non-Turf Pitches (NTPs)

NTPs are generally used by youth teams, however the Kent Cricket league have recently passed rules to allow lower division (Tier 4 and 5) adult clubs to play competitive matches on NTPs. This ruling was brought in in response to a lack of grounds available in the area. The league are actively advocating for more NTPs to be developed and are considering allowing Tier 3 teams to play matches on NTPs, however it should be recognised that NTPs are not the preferred surface for competitive cricket and not equivalent to a fine turf square.

NTPs are also used for training and adult play including most short format friendly games between non-traditional single team clubs without a secured home ground. There are 12 NTP's across the borough. Eleven are in a good condition allowing up to 60 match equivalent sessions (MES) for adults, with one rated as standard.

To further support training demand across the borough, Greenwich Council developed 4 new NTPs at council sites in June 2025 at Avery Hill Park, Charlton Park, Eltham Park South, and Hornfair Park.

1.5 Non-Turf Practice Nets

The quality of non-turf practice nets which are available at 9 sites in Greenwich are mixed. As with most local authorities, due to maintenance costs, there are a lack of publicly accessible non-turf practice nets with the majority being on club or education sites. The council are however looking to develop a two lane net system at Charlton Park, which will be publicly accessible.

Clubs without non-turf net systems rely on mobile net cages for practice on NTP wickets or on one of the fine turf strips.

Figure 1.2 – Non-turf permanent net systems: locations and quality

Location	Ownership	No. of Lanes	Quality
CLAM FIELD REC GROUND (BOSTALL HILL CRCKET NETS)	Council	2	Good
COLFES LESIURE CENTRE	Education	2	Good
ELTHAM COLLEGE (College Meadow)	Education	2	Standard
FOOTS CRAY RUGBY SPORTS & ATHLETIC CLUB	Sports Club	2	Standard
HERVEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	Council / Sports Club	2	Good
LEATHERSELLERS SPORTS GROUND (Colfe's School 2nd Ground)	Education	2	Standard
RECTORY FIELD (BLACKHEATH SPORTS CLUB)	Sports Club	3	Good
ROYAL ARTILLERY BARRACKS (BARRACK FIELD /HA-HA ROAD)	MOD	3	Poor
THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Education	2	Poor
	Total	20	

1.6 Indoor Cricket Competitions and Indoor Practice Nets

Indoor sports hall space is in high demand across the area as the main constraint on cricket hires is the competing demand from sports hall team sports and badminton, these are all year-round activities whereas demand for indoor cricket nets is generally limited to peak evening or weekend slots from January to March and therefore disruptive to the core programme and income. Maintaining facilities for indoor cricket is also demanding for facility operators.

Clubs report that they primarily use indoor cricket facilities at Leigh Halley Academy and the University of Greenwich for winter training. Indoor nets are available for hire at the following school sites Colfe's School (3), Harris Academy Greenwich (2) and Thomas Tallis (4). In addition, the new Woolwich Waves Leisure Centre will offer 5 indoor practice nets once completed, subject to suitable flooring being installed.

The only indoor cricket centre in SE London is The County Ground Beckenham, which is at capacity. Greenwich would be an ideal location to explore the feasibility for the installation of a Cricket Dome, to cater for indoor nets, indoor match play, and community cricket sessions, e.g. a Lord's Taverners Super 1s, Street Cricket, Walking Cricket whilst also providing an affordable option for state schools during curriculum time.

1.7 Facilities for Non-Traditional Forms of Cricket

Kent Cricket is working alongside the ECB towards the aim of inspiring a new generation to say that 'Cricket is a game for me', with one of their aspirations by 2028 being to become the most inclusive team sport. Kent Cricket are complementing the ECBs priorities by promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion through their EDI Action Plan and aim to engage diverse communities and grow the recreational game.

Non-traditional facilities range from non-turf pitches (NTPs) for organised cup and league 20-over matches and 'Last Man Stands' (games of approximately 120 minutes for teams of 8 players played in public parks) down to hard-court Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) for informal games of 'Cage Cricket' using a softball or a tapeball (a tennis ball wrapped in tape). Cage Cricket is active in the borough with Sessions led by Kent Cricket. Whilst there are no 'Last Man Stands' leagues based in Greenwich, there are many leagues across London, including the Bromley League which is hosted at Poverst Park south of Greenwich. The Council should explore the opportunity to develop a league in Greenwich using the new NTP's in the borough.

Schools cricket is active in the borough with Greenwich Junior Cricket Academy and Platform Cricket delivering sessions in schools across the borough and Colfe's School has a comprehensive programme running 35 teams. Kent Cricket are also providing schools cricket via Chance to Shine and the ACE programme.

1.8 Ownership and Security of Access

Cricket pitches in the study area fall into one of four categories of site ownership where community access is considered to be 'secured' for sport:

- Club / community organisation owned - The most secure type of provision is those cricket grounds where the home club or a community sports association or trust owns the freehold or has a long lease. There are 7 sites in the borough owned by sports clubs or community organisations, Blackheath Wanderers, Fools Cray Rugby Sports & Athletic Club, Greenwich Park (owned by the Royal Parks Charity), Horn Park (Colfeian Grounds Ltd), Rectory Field, The Academy Ground and The Pavilion Sports & Leisure Club.
- Council owned – Grounds owned by the councils are considered to be secured for community use and are hired out to clubs and teams either on a match-by-match pre-booked letting basis or under terms of a seasonal agreement. The council owns 6 cricket sites, of which only two has a fine turf pitches, one is managed by the council (Avery Hill Park) and one, Hervey Road by Blackheath FC (minor).
- Education provider owned – Playing fields with cricket pitches on sites where the primary use is for education – i.e., school or student sport – with a legally enforceable Community Use Agreement (CUA) in place. No Education sites in the borough have a CUA relating to cricket provision, but 3 sites are used for cricket provision.
- MOD owned – There is one site in Greenwich which is owned by the MOD, The Royal Artillery Barracks. MOD sites are generally considered unsecure provision as access can be restricted or the site sold at the discretion of the MOD.

Community club access and use of privately owned or education sector playing fields is deemed 'unsecured' where a club has no legally enforceable right of access agreement in place for more than a year. There are a number of educational sites in Greenwich providing a home ground to cricket clubs in the area, without

a formal community use agreement in place, including Eltham College, Leathersellers Sports Ground, and The John Roan School Playing Fields.

It should also be noted that whilst club or community organisation owned sites are considered secure for sport, that does not necessarily mean cricket provision on the site is secure as multi-sport clubs may choose to favour other playing pitch sports over cricket.

1.9 At Risk Sites

There are no cricket sites in Greenwich that are at risk from housing development, however the pitch at Royal Artillery Barracks has not been played on during the 2025 season due to the poor condition of the facility. The MOD have allocated part of the site for housing and whilst the playing fields are not included in this development, the site is not secured provision and the square requires investment to be suitable for matches and as such the site is considered at risk.

Blackheath Wanderers Sports Club are considering marking out an extra football pitch over their existing cricket pitch. This site is also therefore deemed at risk and would displace a minimum of three teams.

1.10 Opportunity Sites for Cricket

Greenwich Council are actively investing in cricket facilities across Greenwich, having recently developed 4 new NTP wickets to increase capacity at council owned sites. They are also looking to develop a two lane net system at Charlton Park, which will be publicly accessible. There are no current plans to develop new fine turf pitches in Greenwich.

1.11 Pitch Quality

Figure 1.3 shows the quality of pitches within the study area based on their operation. The cricket pitches (squares) and outfielders in the borough that are managed by clubs and education providers are, in the main, maintained to a standard quality (assessed by means of a combination of visual inspection, umpire ratings and club survey feedback) with council and MOD managed sites maintained to a poor quality.

Figure 1.3 – Pitch square and outfield quality and operation

Rating	Club / organisation managed		Council Managed		Education Managed		MOD Managed		Total	
	Pitch	Outfield	Pitch	Outfield	Pitch	Outfield	Pitch	Outfield	Pitch	Outfield
Good / Advanced	2	2			1				3	2
Standard / Basic	7	7			3	4			10	11
Poor	1	1	1	1			1	1	3	3
TOTAL									16	16

Where clubs are responsible for maintaining a square and have access to a trained professional or experienced volunteer grounds person, the pitch is much higher quality than at Council managed sites. Similarly, the open access / shared use nature of recreation ground sites renders cricket pitches on these sites more vulnerable to incidences of damage and acts of vandalism than at sites where access is controlled. Issues with maintaining high quality pitches on open access council sites is a common issue in most local authorities.

For those pitches that are generally maintained to a standard quality there is some scope to increase the playing capacity of the existing supply by improving the quality of the pitches used by cricket clubs and teams based in Greenwich but this would require an increase in club maintenance budgets and funding. Improving the poor quality council managed pitch would require an increase in council maintenance budget which is already under pressure.

1.12 Distribution of Cricket Sites

Figure 1.4 shows the distribution of fine turf and non turf pitch cricket sites across Greenwich which are available for community use.

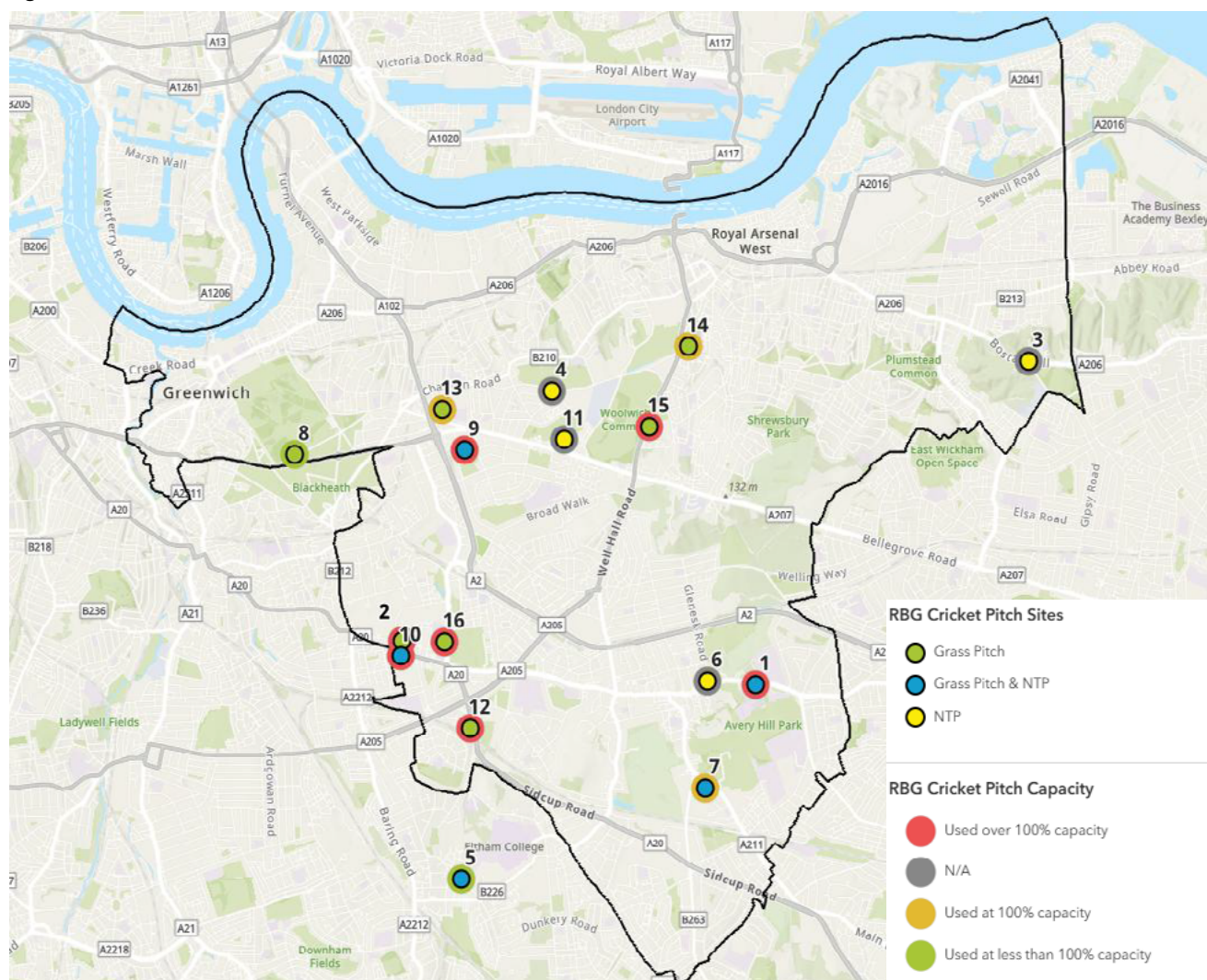
1.13 Access to Facilities

The population of Greenwich is well served by the spread of facilities identified in figure 1.4. Sport England's Active Places Area Access Tool highlights that 100% of the Greenwich population live within sport England's recommended 20-minute driving catchment of a cricket pitch. On average, the nearest cricket pitch is only 0-5 minutes drivetime for 58% of the population and 5-10 minutes for the remaining 42%.

It should be noted that the public transport links and active travel infrastructure is essential to ensure all residents are able to access facilities within a reasonable travel catchment. 2021 Census data shows that 43.1% of households in Greenwich do not have access to a car or van, significantly greater than the national average of 36%, therefore residents are likely to rely on active travel and public transport infrastructure to access local sports facilities.



Figure 1.4 – Greenwich Cricket Site Distribution



Key	Site	Postcode	Key	Site	Postcode
1	AVERY HILL PARK	SE9 2PG	10	HORN PARK (COLFEIAN GROUNDS LTD)	SE12 8UE
2	BLACKHEATH WANDERERS	SE12 8UF	11	HORNFAIR PARK	SE18 4PA
3	CLAM FIELD REC GROUND (BOSTALL HILL CRCKET NETS)	SE2 0BE	12	LEATHERSELLERS SPORTS GROUND (Colfe's School 2nd Ground)	SE12 9AJ
4	CHARLTON PARK	SE7 8PG	13	RECTORY FIELD (BLACKHEATH SPORTS CLUB)	SE3 8SR
5	ELTHAM COLLEGE (College Meadow)	SE12 9PH	14	ROYAL ARTILLERY BARRACKS (BARRACK FIELD /HA-HA ROAD)	SE18 6XH
6	ELTHAM PARK SOUTH	SE9 1AG	15	THE ACADEMY GROUND	SE18 4BT
7	FOOTS CRAY RUGBY SPORTS & ATHLETIC CLUB	SE9 2EL	16	THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 9NF
8	GREENWICH PARK CRICKET PITCH	SE10 8QY	17	THE PAVILION SPORTS & LEISURE CLUB	SEP 2SY
9	HERVEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 8BU			

1.14 Cricket Supply of Relevance in Neighbouring Local Authorities

72% of the population's nearest facility is within the Greenwich authority boundary, meaning 28% of the population are closer to facilities outside of the borough. This may result in Greenwich residents registering for clubs based outside of the local authority area as the club home ground may be located closer than any alternative provision within the Greenwich Local Authority area.

These sites are identified by Sport England's Area Access tool and are listed below.

- Harris Garrard Academy, Bexley (West)
- Bexleyheath Sports Club, Bexley (West)
- Belvedere Sports Club, Bexley (West)
- Queen Mary University Sports Ground, Bromley (South)
- London Marathon Sports Ground, Bromley (South)
- Hilly Fields, Lewisham (East)

2. Cricket Demand (step 2)

To support the review of the supply of cricket pitches in the borough, findings relating to cricket pitch demand in Greenwich are summarised below.

2.1 Cricket Clubs and Teams

In the 2024 cricket season, 15 clubs were identified through consultation, with Kent Cricket and the Council, as being active in Greenwich. These clubs, their teams and where they play are shown in figure 2.1.

Four clubs provide opportunities for juniors to play competitive cricket in the borough – Blackheath CC, Greenwich Junior Academy CC, Greenwich Millenium Village CC, and Old Elthamians CC, of these only

Greenwich Junior Academy provide girls specific teams. 3 of the 4 clubs provide junior 'All Stars' and/or 'Dynamos' sessions supported by Kent Cricket, or a similar club based junior programme.

The number of clubs based in the area has declined significantly since the last strategy when 26 clubs (51 adult teams and 19 junior teams) were recorded as being based in the borough. The number of teams in all age groups, compared to 2015 is shown in figure 2.2 It should be noted that 3 'wandering clubs' were included in the previous supply which have now moved away from Greenwich.

Whilst the overall number of clubs has declined over the 10 years since the 2015 assessment, there has been a small growth in the number of youth girls, and youth boys/mixed teams based within the borough, with the overall number of teams being the same.

Figure 2.1- Open Age Cricket Expressed Demand in Greenwich Based on 2024 Affiliation Data

Cricket clubs	Adult teams	Youth teams	Home ground(s)	Other grounds used
Blackheath CC	10M	6B	Rectory Field	The Academy Ground Charlton Park
Eltham CC	3M, 1Mx	0	Foots Cray Rugby Sports & Athletic Club	
Flow CC	3M	0	Blackheath Wanderers	
Greenwich Junior Academy CC	0	5B, 2G	John Roan Scholl Playing Fields	Hervey Road Playing Fields Horn Park (Colfeian Grounds Ltd)
Greenwich Millenium Village CC	2M	1B	Avery Hill Park	
Lessa Christ Church CC	2M	0	The Pavilion Sports & Leisure Club	
London Knights CC	2M	0	Hervey Road Playing Fields	Blackheath Wanderers, Clam Field Greenwich Park
Old Colfeians CC	4M	0	Horn Park (Colfeian Grounds Ltd)	Avery Hill Park
Old Elthamians CC	3M, 1F	10B	Eltham College	
Old Roan CC	3M	0	The John Roan School Playing Fields	Avery Hill Park Greenwich Park
Sabina CC	1M	0	Blackheath Wanderers	
SIMBA CC	3M	0	Hervey Road Playing Fields	Blackheath Wanderers Royal Artillery Barracks
Tamil Titans	1M	0	Avery Hill Park	
The Covenant CC	5M	0	Avery Hill Park	Greenwich Park
Vipers Elite CC	1M, 1Mx	0	Avery Hill Park	
Totals	46	24		

M=Male, F=Female, B=Boys, Mx=Mixed, G=Girls

Figure 2.2- Changes in the number of clubs and teams in Greenwich since the last strategy

No. of Registered Clubs	2015	2024	Change
No of clubs	26	15	-11
No. of Registered Teams	2015	2024	Change
Men / Mixed	50	45	-5
Women	1	1	0
Youth Boys / Mixed	18	22	+4
Youth Girls	1	2	+1
Total Cricket teams	70	70	0

2.2 Active Lives Survey

The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in cricket in England by adults (aged 16+) has increased from 0.7% in November 2022-2023 to 0.8% in November 2023-2024. If cricket participation in the study area was at the national average (i.e., 0.8%), this would indicate around 1,412 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play cricket out of a 16-64 adult population of approximately 176,469. This playing population considers both regular club participation and regular informal recreational play in parks and hired facilities, and Greenwich residents who participate outside of the borough.

With approximately 46 affiliated adult teams currently, the 'adult' cricket club playing membership in the area is close to 690 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). This indicates the total adult cricket participation in Greenwich is significantly below the national average of 0.8%, with approximately half of participation being recreational play or exported outside of the borough.

2.3 Trends in Demand for Team Cricket

Nationally the ECB has reported significant growth in participations with the number of junior fixtures between 2020-2024 increasing overall by 40% and women and girls' fixtures growing 20% year on year. Whilst there has been slight growth in these formats since the last assessment in 2015, it has not been to the same extent as the national picture. 60% of clubs that responded to consultation stated that their membership had declined or stayed the same of the last 3 years and some noted the loss of senior players as a key cause of this.

Kent Cricket League stated that across all divisions, the number of teams has remained stable over the last 3 years, with new teams being developed as other teams drop out of the league. The league also noted that the loss of grass pitches in all London Boroughs is a significant issue and results in clubs struggling to find available pitches for matches. With the loss of grass pitches in Greenwich since the last assessment, it is vital that the remaining grass cricket pitches are protected.

There are also midweek formats, with last man stands and mixed teams with friendly only fixtures to provide more flexible formats of the game, catering for people's busy lifestyles.

2.4 Casual Cricket Demand

Demand for less formal forms of play - using free to use net systems and non-turf facilities in public parks, as well as the use of hard-surface areas such as MUGAs, streets, footpaths and hard standing areas on housing estates - is a growing feature of cricket demand nationally, particularly among teenagers and young adults in the Black, Black/British, Asian and Asian/British communities.

The population of Greenwich², is predominately White British (55.7%), followed by Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African (21.0%), and Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh (13.2%), so the provision of facilities for free to access casual play across the area could help to increase cricket activity among all participant groups helping to reduce barriers associated with accessing opportunities to being active and playing sport. The borough places significant emphasis on the quality of their parks and green spaces across Greenwich and these do provide opportunities for informal cricket participation, however many areas are not marked or promoted for informal sports use.

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 2023-24, Sport England

² 2021 census

There are NTPs at council owned cricket sites available for public use, such as those at Avery Hill Park, Charlton Park, Eltham Park South, and Hornfair Park, however, the availability of practice net facilities is limited with the only council managed nets currently being located at Clam Field Recreation Ground.

2.5 Displaced/Imported Demand

Based on club consultation, there is no displaced match demand from clubs based in the borough, with all clubs playing matches at sites within the Greenwich Borough boundary. However, 3 clubs reported training at venues outside the borough during the season. SIMBA CC reported that they train at The Griffin Sports Ground in Southwark, Flow CC train at West Ham Park (Newham) and Ilford Cricket School (Redbridge) as their main site, Blackheath Wanderers Sports Club, has no training nets, and Greenwich Millenium Village CC state that they train at any sites available across London.

Millwall Stars Cricket Club (5 teams) play at multiple sites across London, including Avery Hill Park, and are the only club found to be based outside of Greenwich but playing matches at sites within the local authority area.

2.6 Unmet / Latent Demand

Two clubs reported unmet demand through their responses to the club survey. Greenwich Millenium

Village CC reported that they have received many requests to join the club, however they cannot access pitches and facilities within the borough as they are all at capacity. This is limiting their ability to accept new players. Old Colfeians CC state that they have demand to deliver a 5th Saturday league team however they are restricted by the lack of available pitches.

Clubs also highlighted ambitions for growth to meet perceived latent demand, e.g., teams that could be created if additional pitch provision was available. This information is drawn from the club consultation survey carried out from January 2025 to July 2025. Conversion of this perceived latent demand into new teams will depend on these clubs engaging sufficient volunteer team managers and coaches as well as securing suitable pitches to play and train on in the peak period. With the current lack of spare capacity at grass pitches across Greenwich, it is unlikely that clubs will be able to secure suitable access to cricket pitches within the borough to achieve their growth plans.

All the clubs/ organisations in Greenwich that responded to the club survey stated that they have plans to grow over the next 3 years. Figure 2.3 outlines the growth aspirations of these clubs.

Figure 2.3: Greenwich Cricket Clubs - Self-Reported Team Growth Plans

Club	Growth Aspirations
Blackheath CC	<i>No specific growth aspirations reported</i>
Flow CC	The club have plans to start a Saturday league team and youth teams in the coming seasons. They are also looking to provide better quality training facilities.
Greenwich Millennium Village CC	The club have had more requests from local residents to join the club recently, so the club are looking to find a secure home pitch for matches and training. The club state that the current pitches in Greenwich are generally already fully occupied.
Greenwich Junior Cricket Academy	The club are forming a partnership with Beckenham CC and Old Colfeians to build their Women and Girls membership.
Old Colfeians CC	The club state they have demand to deliver a 5 th Saturday league team but are constricted by the lack of available local pitches. The club are also aiming to expand the women's and junior offer.
Old Roan CC	The club plan to increase the number of women and girls playing at the club but note a lack of funding and very few female coaches.
Sabina CC	The club have recently restarted junior training with the view to build the youth section back up.
Simba CC	Recruitment of organisers to build a female section for the 2026/27 season has started.
The Covenant CC	The club are looking to hire more pitches from the council.

3. The Situation at Individual Cricket Sites (Step 4)

The fine turf cricket pitches in Greenwich were assessed during the 2024 season. All the sites were assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the ECB in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance and Appendices (2013) - i.e., a non-technical visual site assessment.

The findings of the site-specific audit assessments were reviewed with representatives of Kent Cricket and ratings for each agreed as a basis for comparison

of the amount of play each site can accommodate (the site carrying capacity) against the amount of play that takes place. Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per season for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use. It was agreed with the ECB representative to adopt the following pitch carrying capacities according to each quality rating to be consistent with the approach adopted in similar assessments in other areas:

Figure 3.1: Cricket Pitch Carrying Capacity

Pitch Quality Rating	Carrying Capacity - Match equivalent sessions per prepared fine turf wicket (strip) per season
Good / Advanced	5
Standard / Basic	3
Poor	0

The site-specific audit assessments (Figure 1.1) details the situation at each cricket site with regard to:

1. Pitch supply (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e., its carrying capacity for community use).
2. The amount of play that takes place at each site (i.e., the expressed demand) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training.
3. The comparison (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain, or
 - **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

Seven sites (listed below) are highlighted from the audit as a **RED** rated site where the available fine turf cricket pitches are considered to be played at or over their estimated carrying capacity based on the size of the

square (i.e., number of wickets/strips) and the assessed quality of the square.

- Avery Hill Park
- Blackheath Wanderers
- Hervey Road Playing Field
- Horn Park (Colfeian Grounds Ltd)
- Leathersellers Sports Ground
- The Academy Ground
- The John Roan School Playing Fields

Three sites (listed below) from the audit are rated as **AMBER** indicating that the majority of the available natural turf pitches are played very close to their playing capacity:

- Foots Cray Rugby Sports & Athletic Club
- Rectory Field
- Royal Artillery Barracks

Whilst there are three sites which are rated as **GREEN**, the actual spare capacity at these sites is limited with only Greenwich Park (+10MES) having spare capacity to support an additional team playing at the site or to support club growth or latent demand. This shows the majority of fine turf pitches in the area are being played at or over their maximum capacity, which restricts the growth of clubs and impacts the quality of playing pitch surfaces. The current picture of provision for cricket is explored further in Section 4.

4. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Cricket (Step 5)

4.1 Current

Overall, the assessment of facility needs shows that 10 out of 13 (77%) fine turf sites in the area are being played at or over their maximum capacity. Only three pitches in the borough have capacity to cater for additional usage based on current demand, Eltham College (+4 MES), Greenwich Park (+10 MES), and The Pavilion Sports & Leisure Centre (+4 MES), although it should be noted this capacity is not available during peak times and would only be suitable for midweek or youth cricket. Only Greenwich Park has spare capacity sufficient enough to host a regularly playing cricket team.

There is scope to increase the playing capacity of the existing supply by improving the quality of the pitches from standard to good or poor to standard, but this would require an increase in maintenance budget by the Council and managing clubs or through agreement with local cricket clubs taking on more responsibility, subject to their capability.

Given the lack of pitch capacity to support club growth and identified latent demand, opportunities to improve the quality of poor and standard quality pitches should be investigated. Currently, the cricket pitches across Greenwich are being played at 135 MES above their carrying capacity highlighting a significant need for either additional pitches or improved pitch quality to allow them to sustain higher levels of use. The pitches rated standard or poor are highlighted in figure 4.1 below.

Figure 4.1: Standard and poor quality fine turf cricket sites

Site	Fine Turf Pitch Quality
AVERY HILL PARK	Poor
BLACKHEATH WANDERERS	Poor
FOOTS CRAY RUGBY SPORTS & ATHLETIC CLUB	Standard
HERVEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	Standard
HORN PARK (COLFEIAN GROUNDS LTD)	Standard
LEATHERSELLERS SPORTS GROUND (Colfe's School 2nd Ground)	Standard
ROYAL ARTILLERY BARRACKS (BARRACK FIELD /HA-HA ROAD)	Poor
THE ACADEMY GROUND	Standard
THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Standard
THE PAVILION SPORTS & LEISURE CLUB	Standard

If the standard pitches were improved to a 'good' quality and poor pitches improved to 'standard' quality, this would significantly increase the carrying capacity of pitches. In the scenario that all 10 of these sites were improved, a surplus capacity of 106 MES across the borough would be produced. Although this capacity would not all be available in the peak period, it would leave room for clubs to grow and meet the latent demand identified. It should be noted that improving the quality of all 10 sites would require significant increases to club and council maintenance funds, which are already under pressure and is therefore unlikely, however this does illustrate the potential impact of improving the quality of standard and poor sites.

Practice nets

The supply of accessible indoor practice nets in the study area is considered as sufficient with no clubs reporting

difficulty in booking sessions at convenient times and locations within the area, although some clubs do travel outside of Greenwich to access indoor nets. The non-turf practice net systems in the area are mainly mixed quality with only two sites rated as 'good'. There is a lack of publicly accessible non-turf practice nets with the majority being on club or education sites.

Ancillary facilities

There are also a number of pavilions rated as 'standard' which require improvements to parts of the facilities. This may include general refurbishment, increased storage, or redevelopment of specific facilities. For example, the pavilion at the Royal Artillery Barracks was rated as standard despite not currently having any hot water. The council has recently refurbished the pavilions at Avery Hill Park and Charlton Park to improve the quality.

Following site visits to assess ancillary facilities, it was identified that some of the ancillary facilities in the area are unsuitable for women's and girls' cricket and may be preventing further growth of female cricket at clubs. Some clubs have noted that improvements are needed to their pavilion to accommodate women and girls provision such as providing additional changing rooms to allow men's and women's matches to be played at the same time or improved privacy and access to showers and toilet facilities. Pavilions with unsuitable floor plans (e.g. shared shower blocks between changing rooms), unsafe access, or lines of sight from the changing rooms restrict women's and girls' teams from using the facilities and prevent clubs from providing equal opportunities for all.

Simba CC stated that the ancillary facilities at Hervey Road Playing Fields require an additional changing rooms to support their recruitment of female teams. The existing facilities at Hervey Road have two changing rooms and an umpires changing room.

Old Cofeians CC highlighted that a project to upgrade the changing pavilion at Horn Park (Colfeian Grounds

Ltd) is underway and being driven by the rugby club. The project is set to provide separate female changing rooms to support the growth of female teams at both the rugby clubs and the cricket club. The development of this project is key for both clubs in developing the women and girls sports offer at the site.

4.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2036 on the need for cricket pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the demand likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. To meet cricket demand from 26,808 additional residents (as currently forecast³) and assuming current levels of cricket demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of 62 MES is needed, equivalent to 2 pitches with a combined total of at least 13 wickets of a good quality (figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2: Demand from population growth

	Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)	Estimated demand for new grass pitches (match & training demand)
Cricket (open age & junior)	61.37	1.41
Total	62 (rounded up)	2 pitches (13 total wickets)

All nine of the clubs/ organisations surveyed during the consultation process stated that they are striving to grow their club over the next 3 seasons, with four of these clubs looking to specifically grow their women and girl's sections. With many clubs' aspirations for team growth and the impact of cricket development initiatives with regard to primary age children, women and girls' cricket and under-represented ethnic minority groups, it is noted that there may be higher than expected growth rates in these areas, leading to a greater demand for additional fine turf pitches.

The additional capacity required to meet this continued growing demand for cricket at all ages will be a

challenge for Greenwich. Given the loss of a number of pitches since the last study, protecting and improving the current stock of cricket pitches and consideration of any opportunities to find space to create new pitch provision will not be an easy task and is a similar problem faced in a number of London Boroughs. A range solutions such as finding additional capacity on existing sites or bringing former sites with the capacity for cricket and sports pitch provision back into use will need to be explored. These different options are further detailed in the action plan in the main strategy report.

³ ONS population projects from 2025 to 2036

5. Key Findings and Issues for Cricket (Step 6)

Figure 5.1 - Cricket Key Findings and Issues

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision
16 fine turf squares were identified as being available for community use, 9 fewer than the 25 identified in the previous 2015 study. The change in supply includes the loss of fine turf squares at the following sites since the previous 2015 strategy: • Samuel Montagu Youth Centre (8 wickets) • Gresham Athletic Ground (11 wickets) • Crofton Albion Sports & Social Club (8 wickets) • Old Brockleians (8 wickets) • Metrogas Amateur Sports Association (11 wickets) • Colfe's Leisure Centre (2 pitches, 9 wickets total) • Avery Hill Park (1 pitch with 10 wickets lost) • Foots Cray Rugby Sports & Athletic Club (1 pitch with 6 wickets lost) There has been an increase in the supply of Non-Turf Cricket Pitches (NTP's). In 2025, 12 NTPs are available for community use, with 10 new NTPs being developed since the previous 2015 strategy at the following sites: • Avery Hill Park (2) • Clam Field Recreation Ground • Charlton Park (2) • Eltham College • Eltham Park South • Foots Cray Rugby Sports & Athletic Club • Hervey Road Playing Fields • Hornfair Park There has also been a loss of community use at 3 NTPs across the borough at Thomas Tallis School, Colfe's Leisure Centre, and Blackheath Prep School since the previous 2015 assessment. The number of clubs based in the area has declined significantly since the last strategy when 26 clubs (51 adult teams and 19 junior teams) were recorded as being based in the borough, compared to only 15 clubs being based in the borough in 2025. Whilst the overall number of clubs has declined over the 10 years since the 2015 assessment, there has been a small growth in the number of youth girls, and youth boys/mixed teams based within the borough, with the overall number of teams being the same. With the loss of grass pitches and consequently a loss of peak period capacity, despite the development of new NTPs, the growth of cricket in Greenwich has been restricted compared to the national trends. With a number of clubs having aspirations to grow or reporting latent demand that cannot be met due to a lack of available facilities, the provision of grass pitches is a key issue for the local authority.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?
No - Overall, the assessment of facility needs shows that 10 out of 13 (77%) fine turf sites in the area being played at or over their maximum capacity. Only 3 sites (3 pitches) in the borough have capacity

to cater for additional usage based on current demand, Eltham College (+4 MES), Greenwich Park (+10 MES), and The Pavilion Sports & Leisure Centre (+4 MES), although it should be noted this capacity is not available during peak times and would only be suitable for midweek or youth cricket. Only Greenwich Park has spare capacity sufficient enough to host a regularly playing cricket team.

Two clubs reported unmet demand through their responses to the club survey. Greenwich Millenium Village CC reported that they have received many requests to join the club, however they cannot access pitches and facilities within the borough as they are all at capacity. This is limiting their ability to accept new players. Old Colfeians CC state that they have demand to deliver a 5th Saturday league team however they are restricted by the lack of available pitches.

Overall, the majority of cricket sites in Greenwich are secured for sport being owned by the Council, sports clubs, or community organisations, however it should also be noted that this does not necessarily mean cricket provision is secure as multi-sport clubs may choose to favour other playing pitch sports over cricket.

Those sites that are unsecure are in the main education sites with no community use agreement, as well as the Royal Artillery Barracks site which is owned by the MOD.

Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

No – The cricket pitches (squares) and outfielders in the borough that are managed by clubs and education providers are, in the main, maintained to a standard quality (assessed by means of a combination of visual inspection, umpire ratings and club survey feedback) with council and MOD managed sites maintained to a poor quality.

For those pitches that are generally maintained to a standard quality there is some scope to increase the playing capacity of the existing supply by improving the quality of the pitches used by cricket clubs and teams based in Greenwich but this would require an increase in club maintenance budgets and funding. Improving the poor quality council managed pitch would require an increase in council maintenance budget which is already under pressure.

If the 7 standard pitches were improved to a 'good' quality and the 3 poor pitches improved to 'standard' quality, this would significantly increase the carry capacity of pitches. In the scenario that all 10 of these sites were improved, a surplus capacity of 106 MES across the borough would be produced. Although this capacity would not all be available in the peak period, it would leave room for clubs to grow and meet the latent demand identified. It should be noted that improving the quality of all 10 sites would require significant increases to club and council maintenance funds, which are already under pressure and is therefore unlikely, however this does illustrate the potential impact of improving the quality of standard and poor sites.

The quality of non-turf practice nets which are available at 9 sites in Greenwich are mixed. As with most local authorities, due to maintenance costs, there are a lack of publicly accessible non-turf practice nets with the majority being on club or education sites. The council are however looking to develop a two lane net system at Charlton Park, which will be publicly accessible.

There are a number of pavilions rated as 'standard' which require improvements to parts of the facilities. This may include general refurbishment, increased storage, or redevelopment of specific facilities.

What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?

To meet cricket demand from 26,808 additional residents (as currently forecast⁴) and assuming current levels of cricket demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of 62 MES is needed, equivalent to 2 pitches with a combined total of at least 13 wickets of a good quality.

In addition, club consultation highlighted that 9 clubs/organisations have aspirations to grow their clubs over the next three years. Should this growth be achieved, future demand for pitches is likely to increase further. Four of these clubs specifically highlighted that they are looking to grow their women and girls' provision.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

No - There is not sufficient, accessible and secured community use provision in Greenwich to meet future demand.

The current supply of pitches can only meet the current demand if improvements were made to the maintenance of the 3 poor and 7 standard quality pitches in the borough. Whilst this may be possible in some cases through investment by clubs, it is likely less feasible on council owned sites due to budget constrictions or on open access recreation grounds due to informal use by the local population.

If the trend observed by Kent Cricket and the ECB of significant increases in junior, girls, and women's participation, then these new players are likely to be more attracted to clubs with popular, existing set ups. Clubs, such as Old Elthamians CC and Old Roan CC are currently operating at full capacity, or close to full capacity, on their main sites and secondary sites. This is a key issue across the whole of Greenwich, with nine clubs reporting plans to grow over the next 3 years, four of which noted specific plans to grow their women's and girls' provision.

Since the previous 2015 strategy there has been a net loss of 63 wickets previously in community use, this is a significant decrease in community pitches available in the peak period. The 2015 assessment identified that the majority of these sites were well used, therefore a significant amount of cricket demand was relocated when these sites closed which has resulted in the remaining sites being used at or above capacity. The viability of restoring community cricket provision and other potential methods of increasing pitch capacity in Greenwich is further discussed in the main strategy.

⁴ ONS population projects from 2025 to 2036

Appendix B: Football

Assessment of Needs (stages B and C)

1. Introduction

The findings of the assessment of football facilities in the Royal Borough of Greenwich are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. FA affiliated football clubs registered to London FA (and Kent FA and AFA) and playing home fixtures in the area have contributed to this assessment by submitting an online club survey and/or through in person consultation during site visits. The number of clubs/organisations that responded to consultation as part of this process represents 64% of all teams playing football in the area and includes all of the clubs with over 10 teams (except 3, who despite regular contact and reminders choose not to respond). There were also a significant number of single team clubs who did not respond.

Since the last assessment was carried out in 2015 there have been changes in both the supply of football pitches in Greenwich and in football demand. On the supply side, there has been significant development of 3G AGP provision in the borough, with resurfaced pitches at Charlton Athletic Community Trust Skills Centre (2018), Kidbrooke Playing Fields (2017) and St Pauls Academy (2017), as well as new provision at Fools Cray Rugby Sports and Athletic Club (2018), St Mary Magdalene C of E School (2018), John Roan School Playing Fields (resurfaced from sand dressed in 2022), and the University of Greenwich Avery Hill Site (2017).

There has been some change to grass pitch provision with the number of pitches provided at Charlton Park being much reduced, previously providing as many as 9 pitches, the site now only offers 2 pitches. The number of pitches at Coldharbour Leisure Centre has also been reduced from 13 to 9 as well as the number of pitches at the Royal Artillery Barracks being

reduced from 9 to 5. There are also 2 closed sports grounds in the borough that previously accommodated football pitches in the Quaggy area, Willow Country Club and Manor Way. The grass pitch at Eltham Hill School for Girls was re-laid in 2024 after the former pitch became unusable.

Overall, there has been a loss of 15 pitches since the last strategy in 2015, which recorded 173 pitches at 44 sites. 158 grass pitches are identified as available for community football across Greenwich in the 2024/25 season, on 38 operational playing pitch sites as well as six 11v11 3G pitches on the FA Register in the area and an additional four 3G pitches not on the register which cater for community club training demand. There is also 14 small sided 3G pitches catering for informal football and small sided provision.

Football demand has continued to grow in all areas including adult male football. In the 2024/25 season, Greenwich had a total of 740 affiliated football teams which represents an increase of 152 teams (26%) since the previous audit in 2015 when 588 affiliated teams were registered in the borough. Whilst there has been a loss of community use at 15 grass pitches in the borough since the last assessment in 2015, 4 new 3G AGPs have been developed in the same time frame many grass pitch sites are still being overplayed due to the significant growth in demand. This appendix will explore in further detail the current and future position of grass and artificial pitches in relation to the current and future demand generated by affiliated teams in Greenwich.

2. Football Supply (step 2)

The findings of the assessment of supply of football facilities in Greenwich are summarised in this section

and detailed by site for both grass and artificial turf pitches. The supply information is generated through standard facility audits based on the visual assessment, grading and playing capacity guidance (as set out by Sport England and the FA in the national guidance for the development of playing pitch needs assessments), supported by consultation with the Council, London FA, (and Kent FA and AFA) and user clubs.

At a number of key football sites, more detailed pitch quality assessments were undertaken using the Football Foundation's 'PitchPower' methodology. At these sites, the estimates of playing capacity are informed by the results of the PitchPower assessments and Performance Quality Standards (PQS) ratings provided by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA). These sites are indicated with PP next to their rating (see Figures 2.6, 2.7 and 2.8).

2.1 Distribution of Football Supply

Figures 2.2 and 2.3 on the following pages show the distribution of key football sites across Greenwich.

2.2 Grass Football Pitches in Greenwich

In total there are 173 grass pitches across 46 sites in Greenwich, of these 5 pitches (3 sites) are on school playing fields and either are not currently available for community use or have no known history of community use. These include:

- **Colfe's Leisure Centre (Independent Education Site) – 1 pitch (Adult 11v11)**
- **Stationers Crown Woods Academy – 2 pitches (2x Junior 11v11)**
- **Thomas Tallis School – 2 pitches (2x Adult 11v11)**

There are a further 10 pitches (5 sites) which are either not available for community use as they are

part of professional clubs, or where pitches are not currently being marked out. These include:

- **Charlton Athletic FC (The Valley) – 1 stadia pitch (Adult 11v11)**
- **Charlton Athletic FC Training Ground – 5 pitches (5x Adult 11v11)**
- **Old Brockleians Sports Club – 1 adult pitch (not currently marked out)**
- **Seven Acre Sports & Social Club – 1 adult pitch (not currently marked out)**
- **Southwood Park – 2 adult pitches (not currently marked out)**

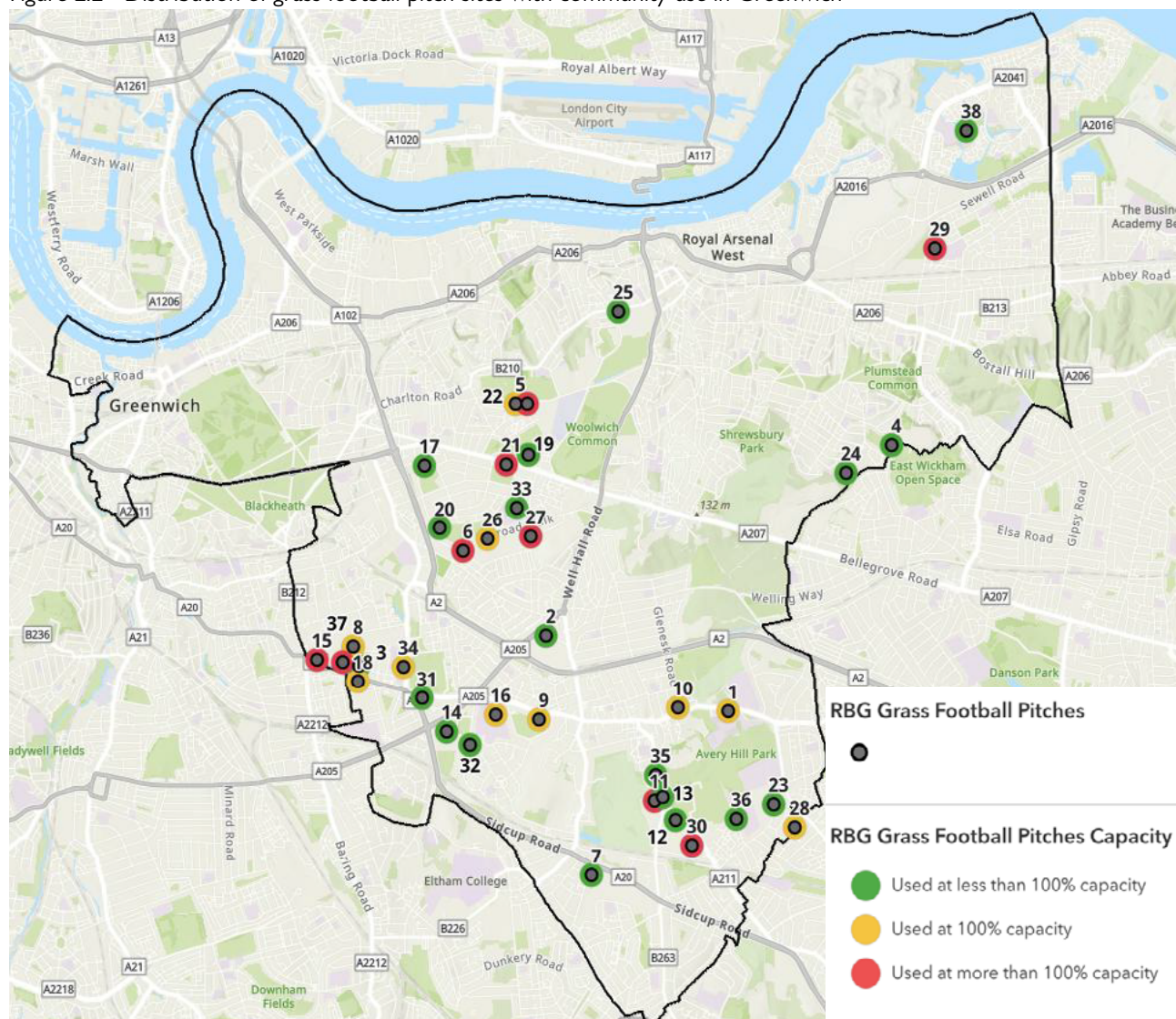
There are also 2 closed sports ground in the borough that previously accommodated football pitches, Willow Country Club (6 pitches), Manor Way (2 pitches) both sites are at risk of development.

Accounting for those pitches without community use the total number of grass pitches available for community football in Greenwich (and used in the assessment for this playing pitch strategy) is calculated as 158 pitches on 38 sites (figure 2.2) and the number of AGP pitches is 15 across 14 sites (figure 2.3). A summary of the community availability of football pitches in Greenwich is presented in figure 2.1 below. Further details of these facilities can be found in figures 2.5 – 2.9 and 2.11 – 2.12 below. The following maps also indicate the level of use at each of the sites taken from the booking data and club surveys showing the percentage of used capacity based on the quality of the pitch and its carrying capacity – a good pitch can sustain 3 games per week on average. Figures 2.2 and 2.3 show that with the decline in pitches available since the last strategy and the significant increase in demand, a number of sites are operating at or above their maximum capacity.

Figure 2.1 – Availability of football pitches in Greenwich

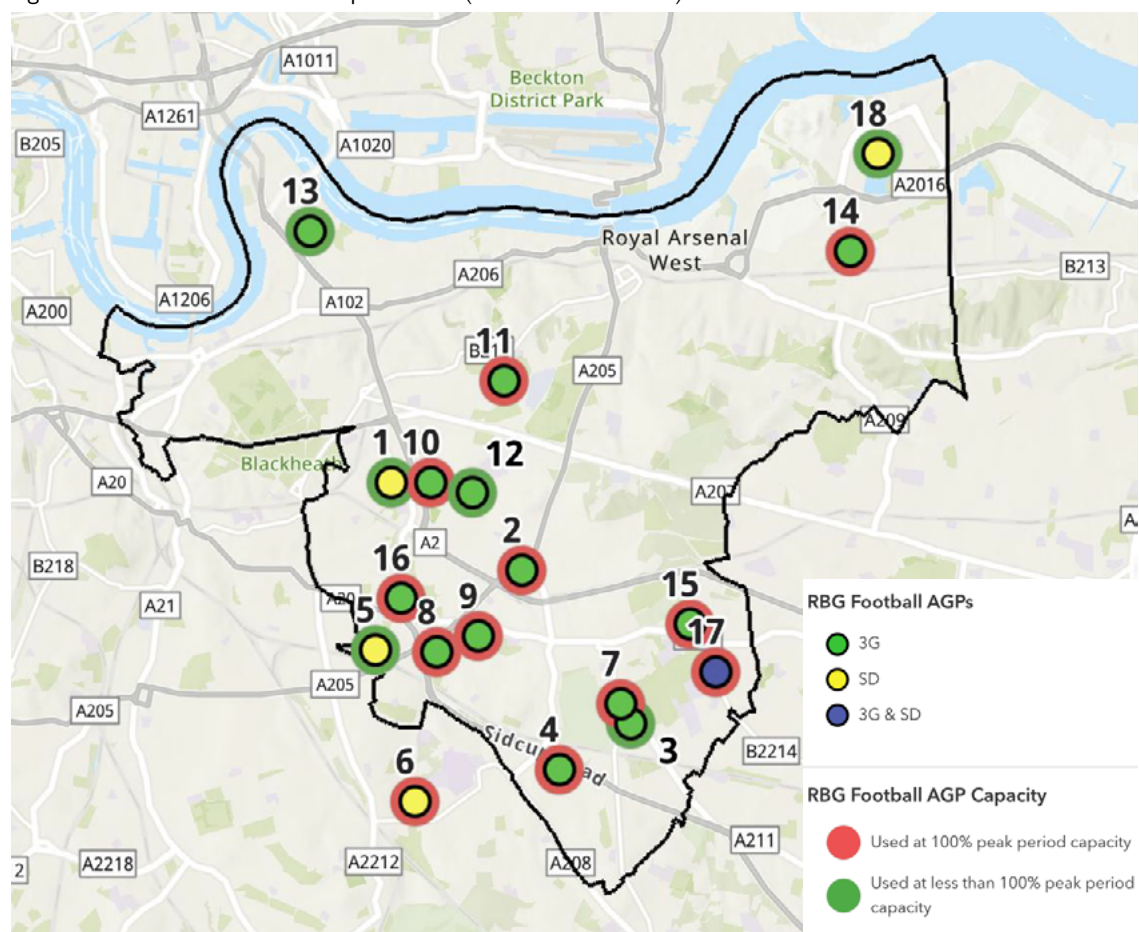
	All grass football pitches	Grass pitches not available for community use	Grass pitches available for community use
Number of pitches	173	15	158
Number of sites	46	8	38
	All 3G AGPs	3G AGPs not available for community use	3G AGPs available for community use
Number of pitches	25	10	15
Number of sites	20	5	15

Figure 2.2 - Distribution of grass football pitch sites with community use in Greenwich



Key: Grass Pitch Sites					
No	Site Name	Postcode	No	Site Name	Postcode
1	AVERY HILL PARK	SE9 2PG	20	KIDBROOKE PLAYING FIELDS (LONG LANE JFC)	SE3 8PB
2	BLACKHEATH FC -WELL HALL	SE9 6TE	21	LONDON MARATHON PLAYING FIELD	SE18 4LT
3	BLACKHEATH WANDERERS SPORTS CLUB	SE12 8UF	22	MERIDIAN SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB LTD	SE7 8QS
4	CAMDAL ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	SE18 2DR	23	METROGAS AMATEUR SPORTS ASSOCIATION	SE9 2EX
5	CHARLTON PARK	SE7 8PG	24	ROSE COTTAGE PLAYING FIELDS	SE18 2JD
6	CHARLTON PARK RUGBY CLUB	SE3 8NB	25	ROYAL ARTILLERY BARRACKS	SE18 4BG
7	COLDHARBOUR LEISURE CENTRE	SE9 3LX	26	SAMUEL MONTAGU YOUTH CENTRE	SE3 8ND
8	CROFTON ALBION SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB	SE12 8HF	27	SHOOTERS HILL SPORTS CLUB	SE3 8NP
9	ELTHAM HILL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS	SE9 5EE	28	ST JAMES MAR THOMA COMMUNITY SC	SE9 2AY
10	ELTHAM PARK SOUTH	SE9 1AG	29	ST PAULS ACADEMY	SE2 9PX
11	ELTHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	SE9 2TF	30	STC IVOR GROVE SPORTS CLUB	SE9 2AJ
12	FOOTS CRAY RUGBY SPORTS AND ATHLETIC CLUB	SE9 2EL	31	SUTCLIFFE PARK ATHLETICS TRACK	SE9 5LW
13	GB10 SPORTS GROUND	SE9 2SZ	32	THE ARTIC STADIUM, 'BADGERS SPORTS' (CRAY VALLEY PAPER MILLS FC)	SE9 5HT
14	GOALS (ELTHAM)	SE9 5LU	33	THE HALLEY ACADEMY	SE3 8EP
15	GRESHAM SPORTS GROUND (THE BOWRING GROUP SC) AFC LEWISHAM	SE12 8ES	34	THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 9NF
16	HARRIS ACADEMY GREENWICH	SE9 5EQ	35	THE PAVILION SPORT AND LEISURE CLUB	SE9 2SY
17	HERVEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 8BU	36	UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH (SPARROWS FARM)	SE9 2BT
18	HORN PARK (COLFEIAN GROUNDS LTD)	SE12 8UE	37	WEIGALL ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	SE12 8HB
19	HORNFAIR PARK	SE18 4PA	38	WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS	SE28 8AT

Figure 2.3- Distribution of AGP pitch sites (3G & Sand Dressed) in Greenwich.



SD = Sand Dressed Artificial Grass Pitch, 3G = Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitch

Key: Artificial Pitch Sites						
No	Site Name	Postcode		No	Site Name	Postcode
1	BLACKHEATH HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS GROUND	SE3 0DX		10	KIDBROOKE PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 8PB
2	BLACKHEATH FC- WELL HALL	SE9 6TE		11	MERIDIAN SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB LTD	SE7 8QS
3	CHARLTON ATHLETIC COMMUNITY TRUST SKILLS CENTRE	SE9 2EL		12	SAMUEL MONTAGU YOUTH CENTRE	SE3 8ND
4	COLDHARBOUR LEISURE CENTRE	SE9 3LX		13	ST MARY MAGDALENE C OF E SCHOOL (PENINSULA SITE)	SE10 0NF
5	COLFE'S LEISURE CENTRE	SE12 8AW		14	ST PAULS ACADEMY	SE2 9PX
6	ELTHAM COLLEGE (COLLEGE MEADOW)	SE12 9PH		15	STATIONERS CROWN WOODS ACADEMY	SE9 2PT
7	FOOTS CRAY RUGBY SPORTS AND ATHLETIC CLUB	SE9 2SZ		16	THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 9NF
8	GOALS (ELTHAM)	SE9 5LU		17	UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH (AVERY HILL)	SE9 2UG
9	HARRIS ACADEMY GREENWICH	SE9 5EQ		18	WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS	SE28 8AT

Figure 2.4 shows the number of pitches currently available for community use compared with the number of FA affiliated teams by age group in June 2025. Comparison of current team numbers with the available supply of grass pitches shows there are comparatively fewer Junior 11v11, 9v9 and 5v5 pitches compared to the number of teams playing that format of football in Greenwich.

There are 10 sites (26 pitches) within Greenwich where pitches which are overmarked for smaller sided games. This can be an effective way to manage demand in areas of concentrated youth football but can lead to overplay, as is evident at London Marathon Playing Field and Gresham Sports Ground.

Figure 2.4: Pitch Size / Team Comparison

Pitch Type	Available Pitch Supply		Total Teams Playing in Greenwich		No of teams per pitch
Adult 11v11 (U17+)	46	29%	189	28%	4.09
Junior 11v11 (U13-U16)	34	22%	178	23%	5.24
9v9	28	18%	144	16%	5.14
7v7	36	23%	121	20%	3.36
5v5	14	8%	77	13%	5.5
Total	158		709*		

*Excludes disability teams (x31)

2.3 Local Authority Owned Sites with Grass Football Pitches for Hire:

Greenwich Council own 11 grass pitch sites across the borough, 4 of which are available to book through the Council website (figure 2.5). The pitch at Sutcliffe Park athletics track is used for coaching provision only. The pitches at Coldharbour Leisure Centre are bookable through the operators. Cray Valley PM has an informal rolling arrangement for the use of Camdale Road Playing Fields and London Legends have a season long use at Weigall Road Playing Fields. The remaining 3 sites owned by the council are leased to community sports clubs. Hervey Road Playing Fields is leased to Blackheath FC (minor), Kidbrooke Playing Fields is leased to Long Lane JFC and Rose Cottage Playing Fields is leased to Teviot Rangers Youth FC.

2.4 Grass Football Pitches owned by Sports Clubs or Charitable organisations

Twelve sites in borough with grass football pitches are in freehold ownership by clubs or charitable organisations, Blackheath FC (Minor), Blackheath Wanderers Sports Club, Charlton Park Rugby Club, Crofton Albion Sports and Social Club, Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletic Club, GB10 Sports Ground, Horn Park, London Marathon Playing Field Greenwich, Metrogas, Samuel Montagu Youth Centre, Shooters Hill SC and The Pavilion Sport and Leisure Club (figure 2.7).

2.5 Football Pitches on Education Sites:

Greenwich based community football clubs currently play on pitches at several education sites, as listed in figure 2.8. The clubs using pitches on education sites have little security of access as continued use from one season to the next depends on the consent of the site's management (head teacher, board of governors, management company and/or governing trust). If education sites do not have community use agreements in place security of access for football clubs at these sites is considered by Sport England at risk. It should also be noted that the capacity of pitches on education sites are typically influenced by school use including PE activity, extra-curricular use and playtimes. None of the education sites in Greenwich are known to have community use agreements.

Further pitches (or space to accommodate pitches) exist in the area on playing fields at other school sites across the borough, as listed in section 2.2, however they are not available for community use, predominately due to the level of school team use and maintaining the quality of pitches.

2.6 Grass Football Pitches with Other Ownership Agreements:

There are seven sites in private or commercial ownership which are considered to have unsecure access as community use of these sites can be revoked or changed at the discretion of the owners (figure 2.9).

2.7 Changes to Grass Football Pitch provision

There has been some change to grass pitch provision with the number of pitches provided at Charlton Park being much reduced, previously providing as many as 9 pitches, the site now only offers 2 pitches. The number of pitches at Coldharbour Leisure Centre

has also been reduced from 13 to 9 as well as the number of pitches at the Royal Artillery Barracks being reduced from 9 to 5. There are also 2 open spaces in the borough that previously accommodated football pitches including Willow Country Club and Manor Way, which are closed sports grounds at risk of development. The grass pitch at Eltham Hill School for Girls was re-laid in 2024 after the former pitch became unusable.

Overall, there has been a loss of 15 pitches since the last strategy in 2015, which recorded 173 pitches at 44 sites. Whilst 4 new 3G AGPs have been developed in the same time frame, many grass pitch sites are still being overplayed due to the significant growth in demand.

2.8 Facilities for Informal Football

Most of the parks and larger public open spaces in Greenwich provide flat grass areas suitable for casual recreational games of football and kick-about. Some sites have permanent socketed goals which are frequently used for recreational football, such as the goals at Charlton Park. Whilst these goals provide opportunities for informal participation, there is a significant negative impact on the quality of pitches due to heavy recreational use, one of the pitches at Charlton Park has very limited grass coverage in the goal mouths and was rated poor during visual assessments.

2.9 The Situation at Individual Sites

The table below (figure 1.3) outlines the supply, condition, ancillary facilities, and demand for each site available for community use in Greenwich. The RAG rating highlights the supply/demand balance of each pitch, with **RED** indicating pitches used at more than capacity, **AMBER** indicating pitches which are used at capacity, and **GREEN** indicating pitches with surplus capacity.

Figure 2.5: Council Owned Sites with Grass Football Pitches for Hire:

Site	Postcode	Pitches by size	Overmarked	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Weekly MES / Use	Supply / Demand Balance	RAG
AVERY HILL PARK	SE9 2PG	Junior 11v11	N	Poor	Large pavilion was closed at time of visit. Externally in good order.	Secured	1	1	0	
		Junior 11v11	N	Poor			1	1	0	
CAMDALE ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	SE18 2DR	Junior 11v11	N	Standard	Changing	Secured	2	1.5	0.5	
		Junior 9v9	N	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard			4	1	3	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard			4	0	4	
		Mini 5v5	N	Standard			4	1	3	
CHARLTON PARK	SE7 8PG	Adult 11v11	Y	Poor	Large pavilion appears to be adequately maintained and secure externally, although low awareness of pavilion appears to suppress bookable capacity	Secured	1	1	0	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	
COLDHABROUR LEISURE CENTRE	SE9 3LX	Adult 11v11	N	Good	The facility has six changing rooms with disability facilities built 1998 refurb 2014	Secured - Council (management contract with Better GLL with 8 years unexpired)	3	2.5	0.5	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	2	0	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	2	0	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	2	0	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	2	0	
		Junior 11v11	N	Standard			2	3.5	-1.5	
		Junior 9v9	N	Standard			2	2.5	-0.5	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard			5	1.5	3.5	
		Mini 5v5	N	Standard			5	0	5	
ELTHAM PARK SOUTH	SE9 1AG	Junior 9v9	N	Standard	No changing provision, toilets on site.	Secured	2	2	0	
HORNFAIR PARK	SE18 4PA	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	Changing - standard	Secured	2	0.5	1.5	
SUTCLIFFE PARK ATHLETICS TRACK	SE9 5LW	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	Changing	Secured	2	0.5	1.5	
WEIGALL ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	SE12 8HF	Adult 11v11	Y - 9v9	Poor	Changing and equipment storage in portacabins - No electricity or running water or toilet provision. Poor overall	Secured	1	6	-5	
		Adult 11v11	Y - 2x7v7	Poor			1	6	-5	

Figure 2.6 Council Owned Grass Pitches with Lease / Licence Agreements: Site Postcode Pitches by size Overmarked Rating Ancillary

Site	Postcode	Pitches by size	Overmarked	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Weekly MES / Use	Supply / Demand Balance	RAG
HERVEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 8BU	Junior 11v11	N	Good	Changing with disability facilities built 2024 with refreshment bar and function room Good condition	Secured – Council owned with 30yrs lease to Blackheath FC (minor)	4	4	0	
		Junior 9v9	N	Good			4	4	0	
		Mini 7v7	Y	Good			6	2	4	
		Mini 7v7	N	Good			6	2	4	
		Mini 5v5	Y	Good			6	3.5	2.5	
		Mini 5v5	Y	Good			6	3.5	2.5	
KIDBROOKE PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 8PB	Adult 11v11	N	PP - Good	Changing (10 rooms) with disability facilities. FF funded (includes: conference room, club shop and offices, full size gym and sports injury clinic, parking for 159 vehicles) Changing building requires insurance repairs due to subsidence.	Secured - Council owned with 7ys lease to Long Lane JFC	3	2	1	
		Adult 11v11	N	PP - Good			3	1.5	1.5	
		Adult 11v11	N	PP - Advanced			3	1	2	
		Junior 11v11	N	PP - Advanced			4	3	1	
		Junior 9v9	N	PP - Good			4	2.5	1.5	
		Junior 9v9	N	PP - Advanced			4	2.5	1.5	
		Mini 7v7	N	PP - Advanced			6	2.5	3.5	
		Mini 7v7	N	PP - Advanced			6	3	3	
		Mini 5v5	N	PP - Advanced			6	3.5	2.5	
		Mini 5v5	N	PP - Advanced			6	4	2	
ROSE COTTAGE PLAYING FIELDS (SWINGATE LANE)	SE18 2JD	Adult 11v11	N	PP - Poor	Changing	Secured - council site leased to club	1	2	-1	
		Junior 11v11	N	PP - Basic			2	2.5	-0.5	
		Junior 9v9	N	PP - Basic			2	2	0	
		Junior 9v9	N	PP - Basic			2	1.5	0.5	
		Mini 7v7	N	PP - Basic			4	4	0	
		Mini 5v5	N	PP - Basic			4	1	3	

Figure 2.7 Sport club or charitable owned grass pitches:

Site	Postcode	Pitches by size	Overmarked	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Weekly MES / Use	Supply / Demand Balance	RAG
BLACKHEATH FC- WELL HALL	SE9 6TE	Junior 11v11	N	Good	Changing refurbished 2008	Secured	4	3	1	
		Junior 9v9	N	Good			4	2	2	
		Junior 9v9	N	Good			4	2	2	
		Mini 7v7	N	Good			6	2	4	
		Mini 7v7	N	Good			6	2	4	
BLACKHEATH WANDERERS SPORTS CLUB	SE12 8UF	Junior 11v11	N	PP - Basic	Changing with disability facilities refurb 2020	Secured	2	1.5	0.5	
		Junior 9v9	Y (7v7)	PP - Good			4	1.5	2.5	
CHARLTON PARK RUGBY CLUB	SE3 8NB	Junior 11v11	Y	Standard	Large clubhouse, 5 Changing rooms (just 1 unisex shower), a function hall, kitchen, bar and training gym. Plans are submitted improved changing rooms.	Secured	2	2	0	
		Junior 9v9	Y	Standard			2	4	-2	
CROFTON ALBION SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB	SE12 8HF	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	Changing	Secured	2	2	0	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	
		Junior 9v9	N	Standard			2	2	0	
FOOTS CRAY RUGBY SPORTS AND ATHLETIC CLUB	SE9 2EL	Junior 11v11	N	PP - Basic	Changing for 12 teams with disability facilities Clubs rate as 'Good'	Secured	2	3	-1	
		Junior 11v11	N	PP - Basic			2	3	-1	
		Junior 11v11	N	PP - Poor			1	3	-2	
		Junior 11v11	N	PP - Poor			1	3	-2	
		Junior 11v11	N	PP - Good			4	4	0	
		Junior 9v9	N	PP - Basic			2	1.5	0.5	
		Mini 7v7	N	PP - Good			6	2	4	
		Mini 5v5	N	PP - High			6	2	4	
		Junior 11v11	N	PP - Basic			2	2	0	
		Junior 11v11	N	PP - Basic			2	2	0	
GB10 SPORTS GROUND	SE9 2SZ	Junior 11v11	N	PP - Basic	Changing - refurbishment underway including 2 changing rooms, kitchen, office space, gym, bar/café. Club rate as 'Standard'	Secured	2	2	0	
		Junior 11v11	N	PP - Poor			1	1	0	
		Junior 11v11	N	PP - Poor			1	1	0	
		Junior 9v9	N	PP - Basic			2	2	0	
		Mini 7v7	N	PP - Good			6	2	4	
		Mini 7v7	N	PP - Good			6	2	4	
		Mini 5v5	N	PP - Basic			4	2	2	
		Mini 5v5	N	PP - Basic			4	2	2	
HORN PARK (COLFEIAN GROUNDS LTD)	SE12 8UE	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	Changing (8 rooms) with a gym, sports hall, 2 squash courts and clubroom. Reconfiguration needed to support provision for women and girls	Secured	2	2	0	
LONDON MARATHON PLAYING FIELDS GREENWICH	SE18 4LT	Junior 9v9	N	PP- Poor	Changing with disability facilities built with LMCT and FF funding in 2003. There are four team changing rooms, a kitchen and seminar room on the second floor. There is an accessible lift.	Secured – Charitable organisation	1	5	-4	
		Junior 9v9	N	PP- Basic			2	5	-3	
		Mini 7v7	Y (5v5)	PP - Poor			2	4	-2	
		Mini 7v7	Y (5v5)	PP - Poor			2	4	-2	
		Mini 7v7	Y (5v5)	PP - Poor			2	4	-2	
		Mini 7v7	Y (5v5)	PP - Basic			4	4	0	
		Mini 7v7	Y (5v5)	PP - Poor			2	4	-2	
		Mini 7v7	Y (5v5)	PP - Poor			2	4	-2	
		Mini 7v7	Y (5v5)	PP - Basic			4	4	0	
		Mini 7v7	Y (5v5)	PP - Poor			2	4	-2	
METROGAS AMATEUR SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD	SE9 2EX	Adult 11v11	N	PP - Good	Changing (4 men's 2 women's plus referees) with disability facilities built 1996 refurb 2022. Changing Rooms are small and outdated but well decorated and maintained. (clubs rate as 'Excellent').	Secured - Fields in Trust protection	3	3	0	
		Adult 11v11	Y	PP - Good			3	4	-1	
		Mini 7v7	N	PP - Basic			4	2.5	1.5	
		Mini 5v5	N	PP - Good			6	3	3	
SAMUEL MONTAGU YOUTH CENTRE	SE3 8ND	Adult 11v11	Y	Standard	Main building provides youth services and hosts a boxing club. Changing rooms standard condition	Secured	2	3	-1	
		Junior 9v9	y	Poor			1	3	-2	
		Mini 7v7	y	Standard			4	2.5	1.5	
		Mini 7v7	y -5v5	Standard			3	1.5	1.5	
SHOOTERS HILL SPORTS CLUB	SE3 8NP	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	Changing refurbished 2017 club rate as good	Secured	2	4	-2	
		Junior 11v11	N	Standard			2	3.5	-1.5	
		Junior 9v9	Y-7v7	Standard			2	3	-1	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard			4	4	0	
THE PAVILION SPORT AND LEISURE CLUB	SE9 2SY	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	Changing refurbished 2016	Secured	2	1.5	0.5	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	1	1	

Figure 2.8 Football Pitches on Education Sites:

Site	Postcode	Pitches by size	Overmarked	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Weekly MES / Use	Supply / Demand Balance	RAG
ELTHAM HILL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS	SE9 5EE	Junior 9v9	N	Standard	Changing	Unsecured	2	2	0	
HARRIS ACADEMY GREENWICH	SE9 5EQ	Adult 11v11	N	Good	Changing with disability facilities built 2002 refurb 2006	Unsecured	3	1.5	1.5	
		Adult 11v11	N	Good			3	1.5	1.5	
		Junior 9v9	N	Good			4	2.5	1.5	
		Junior 9v9	N	Good			4	2.5	1.5	
ST JAMES MAR THOMA COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE	SE9 2EX	Junior 11v11	N	Standard	Changing	Unsecured	2	1.5	0.5	
		Junior 11v11	N	Standard			2	2	0	
		Junior 9v9	N	Standard			2	2.5	-0.5	
ST PAULS ACADEMY	SE2 9PX	Junior 11v11	N	Standard	Changing with disability facilities built 2011	Unsecured	2	3	-1	
THE HALLEY ACADEMY	SE3 8EP	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	Changing refurbished 2005	Unsecured	2	1	1	
		Junior 11v11	N	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	
		Junior 11v11	N	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	
		Junior 11v11	N	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard			4	2	2	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard			4	2	2	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard			4	1	3	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard			4	1	3	
THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 9NF	Adult 11v11	N	PP - Poor (front pitch)	Changing - The Pavilion is tired, old fashioned and requires refurbishment	Unsecured	1	1	0	
		Adult 11v11	N	PP - Basic			2	2	0	
		Adult 11v11	N	PP - Poor			1	1	0	
		Adult 11v11	N	PP - Poor			1	1.5	-0.5	
		Junior 9v9	N	PP - Poor			1	2.5	-1.5	
		Mini 7v7	N	PP - Poor			2	1	1	
		Mini 5v5	N	PP - Poor			2	1	1	
		Mini 5v5	N	PP - Poor			2	1	1	
UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH (SPARROWS FARM)	SE9 2BT	Adult 11v11	N	Good	Changing with disability facilities in temporary modular portacabins. Original changing pavilion is derelict and fenced off	Unsecured	3	2	1	
		Adult 11v11	N	Good			3	2	1	
		Adult 11v11	N	Good			3	2	1	
		Adult 11v11	N	Good			3	2	1	
		Adult 11v11	N	Good			3	2	1	
WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS	SE28 8AT	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	Changing with disability facilities	Unsecured	2	1.5	0.5	
		Junior 11v11	N	Standard			2	1	1	

Figure 2.9 Football Pitches with Other Ownership

Site	Postcode	Pitches by size	Overmarked	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Weekly MES / Use	Supply / Demand Balance	RAG
ELTHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB ('THE OAKS')	SE9 2TF	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	Changing with disability facilities built 2008, large high spec function room	Unsecured – Privately owned	2	5.5	-3.5	
		Junior 11v11	N	Standard			2	5.5	-3.5	
		Junior 9v9	N	Poor			1	4	-3	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard			4	2.5	1.5	
		Mini 5v5	N	Poor			2	2.5	-0.5	
		Mini 5v5	N	Poor			2	2.5	-0.5	
GOALS (ELTHAM)	SE9 5LU	Adult 11v11	N	PP- Good	Changing with disability facilities	Unsecured – Commercial ownership	3	5	-2	
		Junior 11v11	N	PP- Good			4	4	0	
		Junior 9v9	N	PP- Good			4	4.5	-0.5	
		Mini 7v7	N	PP- Good			5	4.5	0.5	
		Mini 5v5	N	PP- Good			5	0	5	
		Mini 5v5	N	PP- Good			5	0	5	
GRESHAM SPORTS GROUND (THE BOWRING GROUP SPORTS CENTRE) AFC LEWISHAM	SE12 8ES	Adult 11v11	Y	PP - Good	Changing - outdated pavilion building with 4 team changing rooms, referees room, disability accessible club room, kitchen and bar refurbished internally to high standard. Club rate as 'Good' although identify needs to renew the roof (leaks) and for energy efficiency improvements as well as provision of an accessible toilet.	Unsecured - 22 yr lease in place but with break clause. Site being actively promoted for sale for development.	3	4	-1	
		Adult 11v11	Y- Jnr 9v9	PP - Good			3	5	-2	
		Mini 7v7	N	PP - Good			4	4	0	
		Mini 7v7	Y- 5v5	PP - Basic			4	4	0	
		Mini 7v7	Y - 5v5	V1 - Poor			2	2	0	
		Mini 7v7	Y - 5v5	V1 - Poor			2	2	0	
MERIDIAN SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB LTD	SE7 8QS	Adult 11v11	N	Good	Changing refurbished 2005. Good quality. Club rating varies excellent x1 standard x1	Site unsecure due to financial issues and short lease.	3	3	0	
		Junior 11v11	N	Good			4	3	1	
		Junior 11v11	N	Poor			1	2	-1	
		Junior 11v11	N	Poor			1	2	-1	
		Junior 9v9	N	Standard			2	5	-3	
		Mini 7v7	N	Good			2	4	-2	
		Mini 5v5	N	Good			2	4	-2	
		Mini 5v5	N	Good			2	4	-2	
ROYAL ARTILLERY BARRACKS	SE18 4BG	Junior 11v11	N	Standard	Changing	Unsecured	2	1.5	0.5	
		Junior 11v11	N	Standard			2	1	1	
		Junior 9v9	N	Standard			2	2.5	-0.5	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard			4	1.5	2.5	
		Mini 5v5	N	Standard			4	0.5	3.5	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	4	-2	
STC IVOR GROVE SPORTS CLUB	SE9 2AJ	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	Changing refurbished 2015	Unsecured – at risk of development	2	3	-1	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	3	-1	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	3	-1	
THE ARTIC STADIUM, 'BADGERS SPORTS' (CRAY VALLEY PAPER MILLS FC)	SE9 5HT	Adult 11v11	N	Good	Changing (4 rooms of which 2 at Step 3 standard) with high spec clubroom with bar plus a portacabin for food and committee	Unsecured - short lease to CVP/MFC with 4 years remaining.	3	1.5	1.5	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	3	-1	

2.10 Quality

The table below summaries the standard of the pitches assessed. The ratings attributed to each pitch are detailed in the audit spreadsheet. These were informed by a combination of visual assessment on site visits and PitchPower assessments as well as feedback from consultation with user clubs and the Council. All audit data has been agreed with London FA.

Figure 2.10 – Greenwich grass football pitch quality

	Total	Percentage
Good / Advanced (PP)	51	32%
Standard / Basic (PP)	78	49%
Poor	29	18%
Total	158	

29 pitches (18%) in the area that have been assessed are of poor quality, with the majority (49%) of the available grass football pitches accessible for community use in Greenwich rated as 'standard' (i.e., providing a playing capacity for up to two match equivalent sessions a week on average for adults). The remaining 32% of pitches are rated as good, indicating that a reasonable proportion of grass pitches in Greenwich are of high quality.

64 pitches (on 10 sites) in Greenwich have been assessed using the Football Foundation's PitchPower assessment and reporting tool. The PitchPower report findings for these sites identify the maintenance needs required together with budget costs to improve pitch quality. These sites are identified in Figures 2.6, 2.7 and 2.8 with 'PP' next to their pitch rating.

2.11 Informal and Unauthorised Use of Formal Pitches by Teams

Informal recreational use and unauthorised use of the maintained pitches at Greenwich playing pitch sites is a challenge for the Council. Clubs tend to take advantage of these sites especially for early and late season training when there is sufficient daylight on weekday evenings. There is also informal use of pitches especially where socketed goals are in place. This leads to reduced pitch quality for those that do book and pay for the pitch. This informal use has been captured within the supply and demand table where evidenced through consultation with the council or on clubs survey returns, however it is likely not all usage is captured. The removal of socketed goals in favour of mobile goals or installing additional posts or MUGA's elsewhere on site away from formal pitches specifically for recreational use can help to reduce this.

2.12 At Risk and Closed Sites

There are a number of football sites currently in use in Greenwich that are at risk from housing development including Gresham Sports Ground (5 grass pitches), currently used by AFC Lewisham, but actively being promoted for sale for development and STC Ivor Grove Sports Club (3 grass pitches), which has outlined plans for redevelopment of the site. In addition, the MOD have allocated part of the Royal Artillery Barracks site for housing and whilst the playing fields (5 grass pitches) are not included in this development, the site is not secured provision and is considered at risk.

There are three other sites deemed to be at risk, Eltham Town FC (5 grass pitches) due to private ownership, Meridian Sports and Social Club (7 grass pitches, 1 3G AGP) due to financial issues and short lease and The Artic Stadium (2 grass pitches), due to short lease from a private owner.

There are two closed sports grounds that previously had football provision in the Quaggy area. Willow Country club and Manor Way were both previously used for grass football however neither currently provide football pitches and both have been designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL).

2.13 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) in Greenwich

In total, there are 31 pitches of various sizes across 19 sites with artificial grass surfaces suitable for football play at some level (i.e., either 3G preferred football surface or a sand-dressed multi use playing surface), which are available for community use (identified in figures 2.11 and 2.12 below).

Of the 31 artificial pitches that are suitable for some form of football use (both 3G and sand dressed pitches)

24 are 3G pitches, of which 9 are full sized with all but Samuel Montagu Youth Centre having high levels of community usage both for training and matches. The 3G at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall (118mx74m) has limited community availability due to use by Millwall Academy FC during the week until 19:00. The pitch at The John Roan School Playing Fields, although available for community use, is not frequently used by clubs, with some groups reporting the hire costs being prohibitive.

The quality of the 3G pitches in the area is mostly good, with 14 of the 24 3G pitches being rated as good, with only 4 being rated as poor. Of those pitches rated as poor, 3 are full sized pitches (Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall, Coldharbour Leisure Centre, and Samuel Montagu Youth Centre) and no longer registered on the FA 3G pitch register meaning they cannot accommodate affiliated match play. The other pitches rated as poor quality are the three 5v5 pitches at Coldharbour Leisure Centre.

There are 10 3G AGP's in the borough not available for community use, 3 of these are 11v11 pitches at Charlton Athletic Training Ground for use by the professional club, the remaining 7 are small sided pitches on primary school or prison sites, of these 7 only one has sports lighting, but since covid no longer opens for community use due to the poor condition of the pitch (Millennium Primary School).

The following themes relating to AGPs emerged from the comments of club football clubs who responded to club consultation:

- 3G pitches need resurfacing
- Additional floodlit 3G pitches would support additional training through the winter
- Some clubs train on SD pitches which are not suitable for football use

Sport England's Area Access Tool identifies seven 3G AGPs in neighbouring boroughs which are within a 20-minute driving catchment and are the closest AGP facility to Greenwich residents. These facilities likely support demand for pitches from these residents as they are the closest facility to them, despite being outside of Greenwich. The pitches identified in this analysis are:

- Prendergast Vale
- Deptford Green School
- Sporting Club Thamesmead
- Harris Garrard Academy
- Welling School
- Harris Academy Falconwood
- Flamingo Park Sports and Leisure

2.14 AGPs at Risk

There are no AGPs in community use known to be at risk of development. However, three sites are deemed to be at risk due to their poor condition and the lack of a pitch replacement fund to replace the surface. Coldharbour Leisure Centre 11v11 3G AGP is in a poor condition and no longer registered for FA league matches, the Leisure providers currently contract ends in 2031, meaning they are unlikely to invest in a resurface at present. Meridian Sports Club has ongoing financial challenges and a short lease which means the whole site is at risk. Samuel Montagu Youth Centre whilst secured provision does not have the means to fund the resurface of the pitch and the site is no longer registered for FA league matches.

2.15 Artificial Grass Pitch Ownership

There are six 3G AGPs in Greenwich that are owned and managed by education sites:

- Harris Academy Greenwich
- Stationers Crown Wood Academy
- St Mary Magdalene C of E School
- St Pauls Academy
- The John Roan School Playing Fields
- University of Greenwich (Avery Hill)

Some AGPs on education sites are available for fewer peak hours than other sites due to school usage requirements or restricted opening hours. Stationers Crown Wood Academy's pitch is only available 18:00 – 21:00 during midweek evenings and Harris Academy Greenwich's pitch is only available from 17:30.

2 full size and 1 small sided 3G AGPs are owned by the council. Of these, one small sided and one full size pitches are operated by GLL at Coldharbour Leisure Centre with 8 years remaining on their management contract, the remaining full sized pitch at Kidbrooke Playing Fields is leased to Long Lane JFC with 7 years remaining on the lease.

There are 3 full size 3G AGPs in Greenwich owned by sports clubs with one full size pitch at each of Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall, Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletic Club, Meridian Sports and Social Club. The remaining pitches are owned and operated by community organisations (Charlton Athletic Community Trust Skills Centre, Samuel Montagu Youth Centre) or commercial operators (Goals Eltham).

All full size sand based AGPs in Greenwich are owned by education sites apart from the one at Colfe's Leisure Centre (figure 2.12). Further details of their ownership

and management can be found in Appendix C – Assessment for Need – Hockey.

2.16 Commercial Football Centres

There is one commercial football centre in Greenwich, Goals Soccer centre (Eltham) who have 8 small sided 3G artificial pitches and is used by various clubs and coaching providers.

2.17 Proposed New AGPs

Metrogas Amateur Sports Association have planning permission for the development of an 11v11 3G AGP which will meet the identified shortfalls for football in the area. John Roan School and Teviot Rangers are in discussions with the Football Foundation over

the development of new pitches, an 11v11 3G is proposed at John Roan School and a 9v9 3G AGP at Rose Cottage Playing Fields to support the clubs junior provision. These have all been identified as priorities in the Local Football Facilities Plan.

GB10 are currently looking to develop 2 new 11v11 3G AGPs at their sports ground, however only one is proposed to be available for regular community use, with the other being mainly used by Academy teams. GB10 are currently unable to fund both pitches and are seeking partner or developer contributions for the project.

The Council are also due to build a new 5-A-Side 3G AGP as part of their new leisure centre development in Woolwich.

Figure 2.11: 3G AGPs - Situation at Individual Sites

Site	Postcode	AGP Size & Type	Date built (refurbished)	Rating	On FA 3G Reg. Apr 25	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Peak hrs available ¹	Use in peak hours	Supply / Demand Balance	RAG
BLACKHEATH FC-WELL HALL	SE9 6TE	1x 118m x 74m Sports lighting WRC spec but failed testing	2009	Poor	Expired	Changing	Secured - sports club (ground owned by Blackheath FC (minor))	22	22 (Rugby 17, Football 5)	0	
CHARLTON ATHLETIC COMMUNITY TRUST SKILLS CENTRE	SE9 2EL	1x 100m x 62m Sports lighting (metal halide)	2006 (2018)	Good	Yes	Changing with disability facilities (rated as 'poor' by CACT)	Secured - Community organisation with lease (23 years unexpired)	34	26	8	
COLDHARBOUR LEISURE CENTRE	SE9 3LX	3 x 32x 20m Sports lighting	2015	Poor	No	6 teams changing with disability facilities	Secured - Council (management by Better GLL with 8 years unexpired)	34	28	6	
		1 x 97m x 61m Sports lighting	1998 (2014)	Poor	No - Expired Jan 2025			34	34	0	
KIDBROOKE PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 8PB	1 x 106m x 56m Sports lighting (metal halide)	2004 (2017)	Standard	Yes	Changing (10 rooms) with disability facilities - FF funded (includes: conference room, club shop and offices, full size gym and sports injury clinic, parking for 159 vehicles)	Secured - Council with 7yr lease to Long Lane JFC	34	34	0	
FOOTS CRAY RUGBY SPORTS AND ATHLETIC CLUB	SE9 2EL	1x 106m x 70m Sports lighting WRC spec	2018	Good	Yes	Changing with disability facilities for 12 teams of traditional design and layout.	Secured - sports club	34	34	0	
GOALS (ELTHAM)	SE9 5LU	8 x 30m x 20m Sports lighting	2010 (2018)	Good	No	Changing with disability facilities	Secured - Commercial operator	34	34	0	
HARRIS ACADEMY GREENWICH	SE9 5EQ	1x 50m x 25m Sports lighting	2004	Standard	No	Changing with disability facilities	Unsecured - Academy Trust -	31.5	31.5	0	
							Not aware of CUA in place				
MERIDIAN SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB LTD	SE7 8QS	1x 105m x 69m Sports lighting	1990 (2013)	Standard	Yes - Expires Oct 2025	Changing (refurb 2005)	Secured - Commercial sports club	34	34	0	
SAMUEL MONTAGU YOUTH CENTRE	SE3 8ND	1x 100m x 63m Sports lighting	2012	Poor	No - Expired March 22	Changing	Secured - Community organisation	34	20	14	
STATIONERS CROWN WOODS ACADEMY	SE9 2PT	1x 101m x 62m Sports lighting	2012 (2024)	Good	Yes	Changing with disability facilities	Unsecured - Academy Trust - Not aware of CUA in place	23	23	0	
ST MARY MAGDALENE C OF E SCHOOL (PENINSULA SITE)	SE10 0NF	1x 42m x 35m Sports lighting	2018	Good	No	Changing	Unsecured - Council Education - Not aware of CUA in place	34	18	16	
ST PAULS ACADEMY	SE2 9PX	1x 105m x 70m Sports lighting	2017	Standard	Yes	Changing with disability facilities	Academy Trust - CUA in place	31.5	31.5	0	
THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 9NF	1x 62m X 34m Sports lighting	2006 (SD) refurbished to 3G in 2022	Good	Expired	Unsecured	Education / Voluntary Controlled	34	34	0	
UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH (AVERY HILL)	SE9 2UG	1x 114m x 73m Sports lighting	2017	Good	Yes	Changing is in modern modular buildings adjacent to the artificial pitches. Original changing pavilion is derelict and fenced off.	Unsecured - Not aware of CUA in place	34	34	0	

¹ Peak hours = M-Th 5-9pm, Fri 5-7pm, S&S 9-5pm = 34hrs

Figure 2.12: Full size hockey sand based AGPs available for football training - Situation at Individual Sites

Site	Postcode	AGP Size and Type	Date built (last refurb)	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Pitch Rating	Peak hours available ²	Use in peak hours	Supply/ Demand Balance	RAG
BLACKHEATH HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS GROUND	SE3 0DX	1x SF 102x62m Sports lighting	2002 (2013)	Changing	Unsecured – Education – Unaware of CUA	Standard	17	3	14	
COLFE'S LEISURE CENTRE	SE12 8AW	1x SF 102x64m Sports lighting	2006	Changing refurbished in 2024 with disability facilities	Secured – Sports Club / Trust	Good	24	13 (6 hrs hockey 7 hrs football)	11	
ELTHAM COLLEGE (COLLEGE MEADOW)	SE12 9PH	1x SD 102x62m Sports lighting	2006 (2024)	College changing rooms with bar and kitchen. In need of improvement club rate 2/5	Secured - 20 year agreement for seasonal hire with the College	Good club rate 5/5	27	27 (all hockey)	0	
		1x SF 102x62m Sports lighting	2021			Good	27	27 (all hockey)	0	
UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH (AVERY HILL)	SE9 2UG	1x SD 114x64m Sports lighting	2017	Changing with disability facilities	Secured under CUA for weekend use	Good	31	24 6 hrs hockey, 4 hrs lacrosse 14 hrs football	7	
WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS	SE28 8AT	1x SF 90x65m Sports lighting	Unknown	Changing with disability facilities	Unsecured – Education – Unaware of CUA	Unknown	31	7.5 (likely football)	23.5	

2.18 Ancillary Facilities

There are three sites in Greenwich with limited or no ancillary provision for teams. Eltham Park South has no changing facilities, although toilets are available on site. Weigall Road Playing Fields only has temporary facilities with no electricity, water or toilet access and University

of Greenwich (Sparrows Farm) also has temporary portacabins. As part of the club consultation process 3 clubs rated their main site ancillary facilities as 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'. Those sites needing improved facilities are outlined below.

Figure 2.13 – Greenwich Poor Ancillary Facilities

Site	Ancillary Facility Issues
CHARLTON ATHLETIC COMMUNITY TRUST	Need highlighted to upgrade existing disability facilities and develop gender neutral changing space.
ELTHAM PARK SOUTH	No current changing provision, consider basic shelter facility.
THE JOHN ROAN PLAYING FIELDS	Dated changing rooms and toilets in need of refurbishment.
WEIGALL ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	Only temporary facilities in place with no electricity, water or toilet access.
UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH (SPARROWS FARM)	Only have temporary facilities in place, looking an options to develop better provision.

3. Football Demand (step 3)

The findings relating to football pitch demand in Greenwich are summarised in this section of the report.

3.1 Clubs and Teams

In the 2024/25 season, Greenwich had a total of 159 affiliated clubs (including separately constituted youth sections of adult clubs) with a total of 740 teams. These are registered to AFA (5 clubs, 8 teams), London FA (124 clubs, 635 teams) and Kent FA (30 clubs, 97 teams). The total number of affiliated teams has

increased by 152 teams - 26% - since the previous audit in 2015 when 588 affiliated teams were registered in Greenwich. Figure 3.1 summarises the change in affiliated clubs and teams. The number of women's and girls' teams were not recorded in the previous strategy; however, it is likely these teams have followed national trends and increased significantly since 2015. For 2024/25 there are 13 affiliated adult women's teams, 42 affiliated junior girls teams, and 6 affiliated mini soccer girls teams.

² Peak hours = M-Th 6-9:30pm, Fri 6-9pm, S&S 10-5pm = 31hrs

Figure 3.1- Changes in the number of clubs and teams in Greenwich since the last strategy

No. of Affiliated Clubs			
	2015	2024	Change
No of clubs	236	159	-77
No. of Affiliated Teams			
	2015	2024	Change
Adult (U17+)	219	234	+15
Junior (all 9v9 and 11v11 formats)	273	315	+42
Mini (all 7v7 and 5v5 formats)	96	191	+95
Total Football teams	588	740	+152

In comparing affiliated provision against the previous strategy 31.6% of teams in Greenwich are adult teams (down from 37.2% in 2015), 42.6% are junior teams (down from 46.4% in 2015), 25.8% are mini-soccer teams (up from 16.3%). Whilst relative percentages in age groups has changed, the above table shows there has been significant growth in the area.

18 of the clubs in Greenwich have youth sections with more than 10 age group teams. Of these clubs 9 clubs have over 20 teams and 4 have 25 or more. Welling United Youth FC have 49 teams, Teviot Rangers Junior have 28 teams, Baldon Sports (Youth) have 27 teams and Metrogas have 25 teams.

Welling United Youth play across 3 grounds in Greenwich, GB10 Sports Ground, Goals (Eltham), and University of Greenwich. The club are the main partner club of the proposed project to deliver 2x 11v11 3G pitches at GB10 sports ground, of which one will be available for community use. The club state that the development of this community pitch will help secure the future of the club. The club are responsible for all grass pitch maintenance at GB10 Sports Ground and Goals (Eltham) along with all operations at GB10. They note that the drainage at their main grass pitches is poor and the quality of both pitches and ancillary facilities as 'standard'. They are the largest grassroots club in the borough with approximately 900 members of the club.

Teviot Rangers Junior are based at Rose Cottage Playing Fields, with all 27 of their youth teams playing matches at the site. Their lease with the council for Rose Cottage Playing Fields has 7 years remaining and the club are hoping to extend this lease soon to ensure they have access to grants. The main priorities for the club over the next 3 years is to grow their girls section as well as develop senior teams which their extensive junior teams can feed into. The club are also exploring options to develop a 9v9 3G AGP on the

site to increase their training and match play capacity and are currently in discussions with the Football Foundation. The ancillary facilities at the site were noted as being dated and potentially requiring refurbishment or redeveloping. As part of their lease, the club are responsible for all maintenance of grass pitches and ancillary facilities but note that the drainage of the pitches is poor due to the clay soil.

Metrogas have 25 youth teams, of which 23 are based at Metrogas Amateur Sports Association and two are based at the University of Greenwich (Aver Hill) site. The primary aim for the club over the next 3 years is to grow their women's and girls teams. They are also exploring options to develop a full size 11v11 3G AGP at the site in place of the existing poor quality small sided sand dressed pitch which is currently only used for football. The club are responsible for the maintenance of all pitches and undertake grass cutting twice per week, fertilising twice per year, along with additional annual maintenance as required and report no issues with maintenance and adequate drainage. The club have 29 years remaining on their lease.

Baldon Sports (Youth) play matches at Eltham Town FC, with all 28 youth teams being based at the site. The club did not respond to consultation requests.

3.2 Active Lives Survey

The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey³ (November 2024) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in football within England by adults (aged 16+) increased by 0.1%, from 4.6% between November 2022 - November 2023 to 4.7% between November 2023 - November 2024.

If football participation in Greenwich were at the national average in November 2024 (i.e., 4.7%), this would indicate around 8,294 adults (aged 16+) living in Greenwich play football out of a 16+ adult population

³ Active Lives Adult Survey November 2023-24, Sport England

of approximately 176,469. This playing population considers both regular club participation and regular informal recreational play in parks and hired facilities, and Greenwich residents who participate outside of the borough.

The 'adult' affiliated football club playing membership in Greenwich is approximately 4,680 players (234 Adult 11v11 with squads of 20). Assuming adult football participation in Greenwich is in line with the current national average of 4.7%, this suggests that 44% of total regular adult football participation is either through informal activity outside of a club environment (i.e., through informal games with family, friends and/or work colleagues in parks or in small sided leagues, such as at the Goals Soccer Centre-Eltham) or exported to other clubs outside of the borough.

3.3 Expressed Demand

Expressed demand in Greenwich for all levels and types of football is summarised in this section. Sources of

demand information include FA databases, club and league websites, club survey returns, and information gathered from site visits and meetings. The home ground and training ground of each club is listed where known, League information is based on 24/25 season. Venues outside of Greenwich are noted in *Italics*.

Open Age Men's Football – There are six men's teams based in Greenwich who play within the National League System in addition to the men's Charlton Athletic team who play in the EFL Championship and the women's Charlton Athletic team who play in the Women's Super League 2. Cray Valley (PM) play at Step 3 in the Isthmian Football League followed by Stansfeld FC at Step 5 and Bridon ropes and Meridian VP at Step 6 and Metrogas and Stansfeld (Oxford & Bermondsey) at Step 7. These clubs must comply with the FA's minimum Ground Grading Guidelines to maintain their league status and promotion from their current division / league requires the club's home ground to meet the requirements of the corresponding ground grading at each 'Step'.

Figure 3.1: Senior Adult Football League Clubs

Senior Football Clubs	League(s) – 24/25 season	Home Ground	Training Ground
English Football League			
Charlton Athletic (Men's)	English Football League, Championship	The Valley	Sparrows Lane Training Ground
Women's Super League			
Charlton Athletic (Women's)	Women's Super League 2	The Valley	Sparrows Lane Training Ground
Step 3			
Cray Valley (PM)	Isthmian Football League	The Artic Stadium	<i>Harris Academy Falconwood</i>
Step 5			
Stansfeld FC	Southern Counties East FL, Premier Division	The Artic Stadium	Unknown
Step 6			
Bridon Ropes	Southern Counties East FL, First Division	Meridian Sports and Social Club	Unknown
Meridian VP	Southern Counties East FL, First Division	Meridian Sports and Social Club	Meridian Sports and Social Club
Step 7			
Metrogas	Kent County Football League, Premier Division	Metrogas Amateur Sports Assoc	Uni of Greenwich
Stansfeld (Oxford & Bermondsey)	Kent County Football League, Premier Division	Metrogas Amateur Sports Assoc	Unknown

There are an additional 111 adult clubs based in Greenwich and playing within the FA affiliated leagues with 213 total teams, these are detailed in figure 3.2 below - **Note: out of borough sites are in italics**

Figure 3.2: Men's Adult League Clubs Based in Greenwich

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
11 stars FC	Orpington & Bromley District SL	Coldharbour Leisure Centre	
Abbeymead FC	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Meridian Sports and Social Club	Meridian Sports and Social Club <i>Harris Academy (Falconwood)</i>
ADAS Athletic	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys	Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys
Advent Mighty Royals	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Hornfair Park	
AFC Bexley	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Metrogas Amateur Sports Association Ltd	
AFC Greenwich Borough vets	Southern Veterans FL	GB10 Sports Ground	
AFC Joiners	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
AFC Kingfisher	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
AFC Kumazi Strikers	Orpington & Bromley District SL	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
AFC Lewisham	Kent County FL	Gresham Sports Ground	Meridian Sports and Social Club
AFC SEL	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Harris Academy Greenwich	
AFC Sporting Greenwich	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Eltham Town Football Club	
AFC Wilgar		Meridian Sports And Social Club	Meridian Sports And Social Club
Avery Hill Athletic • 3 teams	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
Baldon Sports • 11 teams	London & Kent Suburban FL Woolwich & Eltham Sunday League Southern Veterans FL	Coldharbour Leisure Centre Eltham Town FC	Coldharbour Leisure Centre Eltham Town FC
Barnehurst	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Meridian Sports And Social Club	

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
Beacons (Youth)	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Shooters Hill Sports Club	
Belmont Athletic	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Coldharbour Leisure Centre	
Bexley Hawks	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club
Bexley United	Orpington & Bromley District Sunday Football League	Metrogas Amateur Sports Association	
Bexley Village Vets	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Eltham Town Football Club	
Blackheath FC	Bromley and South London FL	The John Roan School	The John Roan School
Blackheath Village (Youth)	Bromley and South London FL	The Halley Academy	
Blase Ballers Football Club		Coldharbour Leisure Centre	Coldharbour Leisure Centre
Bridon Ropes • 3 teams	Kent County FL	Meridian Sports And Social Club	Meridian Sports And Social Club
Brockley • 2 teams	Orpington & Bromley District Sunday Football League	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club Charlton Athletic Community Trust
Burrage Reds	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Meridian Sports And Social Club	
CACT Invicta • 2 teams		Charlton Athletic Community Trust	Charlton Athletic Community Trust
Charlton Athletic Trust • 5 teams	Tactic League, F1 Central Division Junior Premier League London Unity League National League U19 Alliance Community & Education Football Alliance League	Sparrows Lane Training Ground Charlton Athletic Community Trust	Sparrows Lane Training Ground Charlton Athletic Community Trust
Chimaira	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
Christ Church East Greenwich		Crofton Albion Sports And Social Club	St Mary Magdalene
City of London • 2 teams		Gresham Sports Ground	
Cray Valley (PM)		The Artic Stadium	<i>Harris Academy Falconwood</i>
Crofton Albion • 3 teams	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Crofton Albion Sports And Social Club	Crofton Albion Sports And Social Club
Danson Heath	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club
Eltham Ducks	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
Eltham Lions	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
Eltham Palace FC	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Crofton Albion Sports And Social Club	
Eltham Rovers		STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
Eltham United FC		STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
Equinoccial FC		Meridian Sports And Social Club	Meridian Sports And Social Club
Erith & Belvedere FC • 2 teams	Southern Counties East FL	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club
Falconwood		STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
FC Elmstead (1958)		The Pavilion Sport And Leisure Club	Charlton Athletic Community Trust
FC Greenwich	Kent County FL	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
FC Kawooya		Meridian Sports And Social Club	Meridian Sports And Social Club
Footscray Lions	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	University Of Greenwich (Avery Hill)	
Footy Addicts • 18 teams		Coldhabour Leisure Centre, Goals (Eltham), Harris Academy Greenwich, Samuel Montagu Youth Centre	None
Foresters FC		STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
Greenwich All Stars	Kent County FL	Meridian Sports And Social Club	Meridian Sports And Social Club
Greenwich Battle Cruisers FC		Crofton Albion Sports And Social Club	
Greenwich Challenge • 2 teams	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club
Greenwich Hotshots		Shooters Hill Sports Club	
Greenwich Park Rangers	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Shooters Hill Sports Club	
Hartford Athletic • 2 teams	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
Haywards	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
Highfield Rovers	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Coldharbour Leisure Centre	Coldharbour Leisure Centre
Hollington Football Club		Metrogas Amateur Sports Association Ltd	
Huxley Town		Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club
Inter Cross	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Coldharbour Leisure Centre	
Johnson & Phillips		Crofton Albion Sports And Social Club	
Junior Reds	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Uni of Greenwich (Sparrows Farm)	Uni of Greenwich (Sparrows Farm)
Kenningwell United		Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club	
Kidbrooke Kings	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	The Artic Stadium	
Kingsdale		Weigall Road Playing Fields	
Kingsford FC	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	The John Roan School Playing Fields	
Latin United FC		STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
Leone Stars Veterans		Horn Park (Colfeian Grounds)	
Lessa Albion		Meridian Sports And Social Club	
Lessa FXI	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	The Pavilion Sport And Leisure Club	
Lions United		The Pavilion Sport And Leisure Club	
London Legends (Youth) • 2 teams	Bromley and South London FL Kent County FL	Samuel Montagu Youth Centre	
London South United • 7 teams	Orpington & Bromley District Sunday Football League Southern Veterans FL	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club
Long Lane • 5 teams	Kent County FL Southern Veterans FL Woolwich & Eltham Sunday League	Kidbrooke Playing Fields	Kidbrooke Playing Fields Charlton Athletic Community Trust

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
Mass EA FC		Kidbrooke Playing Fields	
Metrogas • 4 teams	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Metrogas Amateur Sports Association	Charlton Athletic Community Trust
Ministry of Ball FC	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Coldharbour Leisure Centre	
New Cross Rovers		Meridian Sports And Social Club	
New Life United		Charlton Park	
New Park • 4 teams	Bromley and South London FL Southern Veterans FL Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club Charlton Athletic Community Trust
Northumberland Heath	Bromley and South London FL	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
OLAHM FC		Coldharbour Leisure Centre	
Old Colfeians		Horn Park (Colfeian Grounds)	None
Old Pepys FC	Bromley and South London FL	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
Old Roan	Kent County FL	The John Roan School Playing Fields	
Old Sedcopians • 3 teams		Uni Of Greenwich (Sparrows Farm)	
Our Lady's • 3 teams	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Metrogas Amateur Sports Association Ltd	
Oxleas NHS Athletic		Charlton Athletic Community Trust	
Peckham Rye	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Meridian Sports And Social Club	
Pro:Direct South London		Meridian Sports And Social Club	
Riverside Athletic	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
Royal Greenwich Borough • 2 teams	Bromley and South London FL	Stationers Crown Woods Academy	St Pauls Academy
Russellers • 2 teams	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Coldharbour Leisure Centre	
S.E Eagles Football Club		Meridian Sports And Social Club	
Segas Vets • 2 teams	Southern Veterans FL	The Pavilion Sport And Leisure Club	
Shooters Hill United FC	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Meridian Sports And Social Club	
Slade		Charlton Park	
South Ballers FC	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	University Of Greenwich (Sparrows Farm)	
South East Athletic • 4 teams	Kent County FL Southern Veterans FL Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Kidbrooke Playing Fields	Kidbrooke Playing Fields
South Hill United FC		Samuel Montagu Youth Centre	
South London Doves		Coldharbour Leisure Centre	
Springhill United • 2 teams	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	Meridian Sports And Social Club	
Standard Ballers FC		Meridian Sports And Social Club	
Stansfeld	Southern Counties East FL	Crofton Albion Sports And Social Club	
Stansfeld (Oxford & Bermondsey)	Kent County FL	Metrogas Amateur Sports Association Ltd	

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
Teviot Rangers • 2 teams	Bromley and South London FL	Rose Cottage Playing Fields	
Thames City	Woolwich & Eltham Sunday Football Alliance	The Pavilion Sport And Leisure Club	
The Charcoal Veterans	Kent County FL	Meridian Sports And Social Club	Meridian Sports And Social Club
University of Greenwich • 4 teams	Intra-university fixtures	Uni Of Greenwich Avery Hill	University of Greenwich Avery Hill
Welling United FC	Southern Counties East FL	Goals (Eltham)	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club
Woolwich Royals		Meridian Sports And Social Club	Meridian Sports And Social Club

Youth football - There are 55 youth football clubs in Greenwich with a total of 459 youth boys/ mixed teams, 9 of these clubs have 20 or more teams playing in affiliated leagues. Welling United FC has the largest youth provision with have 49 youth teams, 31 youth boys/mixed and 18 girls teams.

Figure 3.3: Youth and Mini Soccer Clubs with youth boys/mixed teams

Youth and Mini Soccer Teams	League(s)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(s)
Abbeymead • 2 teams (U9,U11)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Meridian Sports and Social Club	Harris Academy Greenwich
AFC Lewisham • 20 teams (2xU7, 4xU8, 2xU9, 2xU10,U11,U12, 3xU13,3xU14, U15, U16)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League Kent Youth League	Gresham Sports Ground Harris Academy Greenwich	Gresham Sports Ground Harris Academy Greenwich
Avery Hill Athletic	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Meridian Sports and Social Club	
Baldon Sports (Youth) • 24 teams (2xU7, 3xU8, 3xU9, 2xU10,5xU11, 3xU12, 2xU13,2xU14,U15,U16)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Coldharbour Leisure Centre Eltham Town FC	Coldharbour Leisure Centre Eltham Town FC
Beacons Youth • 18 teams (2xU7,3xU8, U9, 4xU10, U11,4xU13, U14, 2xU15)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Shooters Hill Sports Club	Samuel Montagu Youth Club
Blackheath Rhinos • 22 teams (2xU7, 3xU8, 2xU9, 2xU10, 4xU11, 2xU12, 2xU13,2xU14,3xU15)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Hervey Road Playing Fields	Hervey Road Playing Fields
Blackheath Village (Youth) • 9 teams (U7,2x U9, U10, 2xU11,U12,U14,U16)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	The Halley Academy	
Blackheath Wanderers (Youth) U15	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Blackheath Wanderers Sports Club	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club
Canada Water (youth) U10	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	London Marathon Playing Fields	
Chislehurst Wanderers • 6 teams (U9, 2xU11, U15, 2xU16)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Coldharbour Leisure Centre	Redhill Primary School
Cray Walley (PM) Youth • 16 teams (2xU7, 2xU9, 2xU11,U12, 2x U13, 5xU14, U15,U16)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League Kent Youth League	Camdale Playing Fields Stationers Crown Academy The Artic Stadium	
Deptford United FC • 4 teams (U10,U11,U12, U14)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	London Marathon Playing Fields	
Eagles & Stars FC • 2 teams (U10, U11)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Eltham Park South, London Marathon Playing Fields	
Eltham Park FC U9		Eltham Park South	

Youth and Mini Soccer Teams	League(s)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(s)
Erith & Belvedere FC • 7 teams (U12, 2xU13, U14, 2xU15, U16)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League Kent Youth League	Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletic Club	
Erith Town • 2 teams (U9, U16)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Harris Academy Greenwich	
EWD Eagles Youth • 4 teams (U7,2xU10, U11)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	London Marathon Playing Fields	<i>Leigh Academy, Stevens Park</i>
Fisher (Youth) • 10 teams (U7,U8,U9,U10 U11, 2xU12, U13, 2xU14)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Gresham Sports ground. London Marathon Playing Fields	
Greenwich Peninsula FC • 14 teams (2xU7, 2xU8, U9, 3x U10,U11, 2xU12, 2xU13, U14)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	London Marathon Playing Fields	Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club St Mary Magdalene School
Invicta FC • 4 teams (U13,U14,U15, U16)	Kent Youth League	Stationers Crown Woods Academy	
Jason Pearce 6 Football Academy • 3 teams (U8,U10,U12)		Goals (Eltham)	Goals (Eltham)
Junior Reds • 15 teams (U10, 3xU11, 3xU12, 3xU13, 3xU14,U15, U16)	Kent Youth League	Charlton Park Rugby Club, Coldharbour Leisure Centre	<i>Bexleyheath Academy</i>
Juventus London FC • 2 teams (U8,U10)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	London Marathon Playing Fields	Goals (Eltham)
Kent United • 5 teams (U13,U14, 2xU15,U16)	Kent Youth League	St Pauls Academy	
KSI Coaching FC • 8 teams (U7, 2xU8, 2xU9, u10, U14, U15)		Meridian Sports and Social Club	<i>Fordham Park Lower Pepys Park</i>
London Blazers FC • 2 teams (U7, U12)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Crofton Albion Sports & Social Club London Marathon Playing Fields	
London Legends (Youth) • 24 teams (U7, 2xU8, 3xU9, 4xU10, 3xU11, 2xU12, 3xu13, 2xu14, 4xU15)	Bromley and South London Football League South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Weigall Road Playing Fields Coldharbour Leisure Centre	Weigall Road Playing Fields Coldharbour Leisure Centre Colfe's Leisure Centre
Long Lane Junior Boys (Y) • 19 teams (2xU7, U8, 2xU9, U10, 3xU11, 3xU12, 2xU13, 2xU14, 2xU15, U16)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League Kent Youth League	Kidbrooke Playing Fields	Kidbrooke Playing Fields
Meridian Sports • 2 teams (U13,U14)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Meridian Sports and Social Club	Meridian Sports and Social Club
Meridian Valley Youth • 3 teams (U12,U15,U16)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Meridian Sports and Social Club	
Metrogas • 22 teams (3x U7, 3xU8, 2xU9, 3xU10, U11, 4xU12, 3xU13, 2xU15, U16)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League Kent Youth League	Metrogas Amateur Sports Assoc Uni of Greenwich Avery Hill	<i>Kedbull Leisure</i> Metrogas Amateur Sports Assoc St James Mar Thoma Community Sports Centre Uni of Greenwich Avery Hill
New Park • 2 teams (U11, U15)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletic Club	
Next Level • 7 teams (U8,U9, 5xU11)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Meridian Sports and Social Club	Meridian Sports and Social Club
Old Roan • 2 teams (U8, U11)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	The Joan Roan School	The Joan Roan School
Omarie • 3 teams (U9,U11,U13)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	London Marathon Playing Fields	

Youth and Mini Soccer Teams	League(s)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(s)
On Target Soccer • 5 teams (U9,2xU10, U11,U12)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	The Joan Roan School	Colfe's Leisure Centre
Our Lady's Youth U15	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Eltham Town FC	
Red Devils United Youth • 4 teams (U10,U12 U13,U14)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Meridian Sports and Social Club	Meridian Sports and Social Club
Residents Sports Club • 3 teams (U10, 2xU15)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	London Marathon Playing Fields Meridian Sports and Social Club	
Rondos Academy • 4 teams (U9,U10,U11, U12)		Kidbrooke Playing Fields	Kidbrooke Playing Fields
Royal Greenwich Borough • 7 teams (U10,U11, U12, U13,U14,U15, U16)	Kent Youth League	Stationers Crown Woods Academy	St Pauls Academy
Russellers • 18 teams (U7,2xU8, 5xU9,2xU10,U11,3xU12,U13, U14,U15,U16)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Coldharbour Leisure Centre The John Roan School	Coldharbour Leisure Centre Goals (Eltham)
S.E. Eagles FC • U7,U8,U9, 2xU11, 2xU12, U14)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Meridian Sports and Social Club	Meridian Sports and Social Club
S.E. Lions U11	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Charlton Park	
Samuel Montagu FC • 16 team (U7, 2xU8, 4xU9, 2xU11, 3xU12, U13, 2xU14)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Samuel Montagu Youth Centre	Samuel Montagu Youth Centre
Selection Development • 5 teams (U9,U10,U11, U14,U15)		Meridian Sports and Social Club	Meridian Sports and Social Club
ShooterBallers FC • 4 teams (U7,U8,U10, U12)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Meridian Sports and Social Club	Meridian Sports and Social Club
Teviot Rangers Junior (Y) • 28 teams (U7, U8, 3xU9, 4xU10, 2xU11, 5xU12, 3xU13, 3xU14, 2xU15, U16)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Rose Cottage Playing Fields	Rose Cottage Playing Fields Various Schools
Total FC • 5 teams (2xU10, U11, U12, U13)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	London Marathon Playing Fields St James Mar Thoma Community Sports Centre	
Universal FC • 4 teams (U10, U13, U14, U15)	Tandridge League	Samuel Montagu Youth Centre	Samuel Montagu Youth Centre
Vikings FC • 13 teams (U8,U9,2xU10, 2x U11, 2xU12, 2xU13,U15, 2xU16)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Royal Artillery Barracks	
Villacourt Rovers U14	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	Crofton Albion Sports and Social Club	
Vision FC • 2 teams (U9, U10)	Tandridge League	Coldharbour Leisure Centre	Coldharbour Leisure Centre
Welling United Youth FC • 31 teams (3xU7, 2xU8, 8xU9, 4xU10, 3xU11, 3xU12, U13 3xU14, u15, 3xU16)	Kent Youth League Isthmian Youth League	GB10 Sports Ground Goals Eltham Uni of Greenwich Avery Hill	<i>Cleeve Park</i> Foots Cray Rugby Sports And Athletic Club Goals (Eltham) <i>Harris Academy Falconwood</i>
Young Stars FC • 7 teams (U8,U9,U10, 2xU12, U13, U14)	South East London & Kent Youth Football League	London Marathon Playing Fields	

Figure 3.4: Clubs with Women and Girl's Teams

Women and Girls' Teams	Leagues	Home Ground	Training Grounds
Blackheath Wanderers (Youth) • 5 teams (U10,U11,U12,U14,U15)	Tandridge Football League	Blackheath Wanderers Sports Club	Blackheath Wanderers Sports Club
Blackheath Rhinos U9	South East London and Kent FL	Hervey Road Playing Fields	
Charlton Athletic Girls • 5 teams (U12,U13,U14,U15,U16)	FA Girls' England Talent Pathway League Tandridge Youth League Junior Premier League	Sparrows Lane Training Ground Charlton Athletic Community Trust Skills Centre	Sparrows Lane Training Ground Charlton Athletic Community Trust Skills Centre
Charlton Athletic Trust • 2 teams (U21)	National Football Youth League	Charlton Athletic FC Training Ground	Charlton Athletic FC Training Ground
Charlton Athletic Women FC • 1 team (U21)	National Football Youth League	Charlton Athletic FC Training Ground	Charlton Athletic FC Training Ground
Cray Valley (PM) youth (U15)	Kent Girls and Ladies FL	The Artic Stadium	
Erith & Belvedere FC • 2 teams (U12,U16)	Kent Girls and Ladies FL	Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletic Club	
Fisher (Youth) U13	Tandridge Youth League	Gresham Sports Ground	
Junior Reds (Senior & Youth) • 6 teams (U11,U12,U13,U15,U18, adult)	Kent Girls and Ladies FL	Charlton Park Rugby Club Coldharbour Leisure Centre Uni of Greenwich Sparrows Farm	Charlton Park Rugby Club Coldharbour Leisure Centre Uni of Greenwich Sparrows Farm
London Female Ballerz (U13)	Tandridge Youth League	Crofton Albion Sports and Social Club	
Long Lane Junior Girls (Youth) • 6 teams	Kent Girls and Ladies FL	Kidbrooke Playing Fields Charlton Athletic Community Trust Skills Centre	Kidbrooke Playing Fields Charlton Athletic Community Trust Skills Centre
Long Lane Women • 1 team (adult)	Kent Girls and Ladies FL	Kidbrooke Playing Fields	Kidbrooke Playing Fields
Metrogas • 2 teams (U13,U15)	Kent Girls and Ladies FL	Metrogas Amateur Sports Assoc	
Old Pepys FC	South East Counties Women's FL	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	
Royal Greenwich Borough • 2 teams (U13,U15)	Junior Premier League	Stationers Crown Woods Academy	
University of Greenwich	Women's South Eastern Tier 5B	Uni of Greenwich Avery Hill	Uni of Greenwich Avery Hill
Vikings FC (U12)	South East London and Kent FL	Royal Artillery Barracks	
Vision FC • 2 teams (2xU13)	Tandridge Youth League	Coldharbour Leisure Centre	Coldharbour Leisure Centre
Welling United Youth FC • 18 teams (U8,U9,U10,U11, 4xU12, U13,3xU14, 2xU15, 2xU16, 2xU18)	London and South East Regional Women's FL Kent Girls and Ladies FL	GB10 Sports Ground Goals Eltham Foots Cray Sports and Athletic Club Uni of Greenwich Avery Hill	GB10 Sports Ground Goals Eltham Foots Cray Sports and Athletic Club Uni of Greenwich Avery Hill

Disability Football – There are 31 affiliated disability specific teams in Greenwich, Charlton Athletic Ability Counts and South London Special League are the biggest providers of disability football teams in Greenwich, running 12 and 14 teams respectively.

Disability Teams	Main venue
Canada Water FC (adult)	Kidbrooke Playing Fields
Charlton Athletic Ability Counts 12 teams (U12, 2xU14,U16,U17, 7x adult)	Charlton Athletic Community Trust
Cray Valley (PM) Youth U13	Camdale Playing Fields
Long Lane Women (adult)	Kidbrooke Playing Fields
Oxleas NHS Athletic (adult)	Charlton Athletic Community Trust
South London Special League 14 teams (all adult)	Kidbrooke Playing Fields
Teviot Rangers FC U16	Rose Cottage Playing Fields

3.4 Casual Demand

Casual football play among groups of children and adults, using free to use open access grass and MUGA in public parks continues to be a major feature of football demand. Indeed, the Active Lives Survey data suggests that 44% of all regular adult football played in the area is unaffiliated football within small-sided leagues, friendly games or park kick-about.

As identified in the supply section of the report, Greenwich provides for informal football demand by maintaining open areas of grass in parks and open spaces or open access MUGAs. Where these informal play facilities are provided in parks alongside formal pitches designated for match play, they help to reduce wear of the formal pitches. However, it has been identified that some formal pitches in the area are subject to unauthorised use by organised teams for training and coaching.

3.5 Unmet / Latent Demand

Two club in the area explicitly reported unmet demand, however many clubs reported that the lack of quantity or quality of facilities are restricting their ability to grow.

Greenwich Peninsula FC state that there is significant demand to play at the club, however they are forced to turn away potential players due to the lack of facilities. Russell's state that they have many teams looking to join the club however they do not have the facilities to support additional teams.

18 other clubs highlighted ambitions for growth to meet perceived latent demand, e.g., teams that could be created if additional pitch provision were available. This information is drawn from the club consultation surveys carried out from January 2025 to June 2025 and therefore only includes those clubs/ organisations that completed the survey. Conversion of this perceived latent demand into new teams will depend on these clubs engaging sufficient volunteer team managers and coaches as well as securing suitable pitches to play and train on in the peak period. Figure 3.6 outlines the growth aspirations of clubs/ organisations, and it is apparent that there is latent demand in the area for all formats of football from youth to adult football including women and girl's provision. This demand is explored further in Section 5 which outlines the effect of these potential demand trends.

Figure 3.6: Greenwich Football Clubs - Self-Reported Team Growth Plans

Club	Growth Aspirations
Greenwich Challenge F.C.	The club are looking to offer more youth, women's, and mixed ability teams
Greenwich Peninsula FC	In need of new facilities to meet demand. Actively looking for new sponsors.
Shooterballers	<i>No specific growth aspirations reported</i>

Club	Growth Aspirations
FC Elmstead	The club are looking for new facilities as their current home ground is used to full capacity. In discussions to develop a 3G pitch at Mottingham Playing Fields.
EWD Eagles Youth FC	The club are looking to provide new teams; however, they will train in Bexley and play matches in Greenwich.
Metrogas ASA Ltd	The club are looking to develop more women and girls teams from the 2025/26 season. Currently in consultation with the football foundation to develop a 3G pitch to increase capacity.
KSI Coaching FC	Looking to expand to new venues to allow all teams to train more often.
Teviot Rangers JFC	The club are looking to provide more youth girls teams along with senior teams for the club's youth teams to feed into.
AFC Lewisham	The club are looking to increase the number of teams they provide including expanding their mini girls teams, male U18 and U23s, and introducing a new vets team.
Highfield Rovers FC	The club plan to have a Saturday set up and also a vets set up for next season
Christ Church East Greenwich FC	<i>No specific growth aspirations reported</i>
Blackheath Rhinos	The club are looking to continue growing in the community by procuring their own facilities
On Target Soccer	The club aim to continue growing the number of teams they have.
Meridian Sports and Social Club	Looking to maximise land and develop additional youth pitches if possible.
South East Athletic	The club plan to develop their youth teams and add teams to the Saturday senior provision.
Russellers	The club have new teams wanting to come into the club but the lack of places to train and play is restricting their growth.
Royal Greenwich Borough FC	Develop women's teams
Chislehurst Wanderers	<i>No specific growth aspirations reported</i>
Beacons FC	Looking to develop a dedicated women and girls section.
Blackheath Wanderers	The club have started developing their girls section and recruiting coaches.

3.6 Displaced and Imported Demand

The research and consultation shows that in relation to match play (competitive football) there is some displaced demand of football - i.e., teams of clubs based in Greenwich travelling outside the area. This displaced demand includes Greenwich Challenge FC (Bellingham Leisure Centre, Lewisham), and KSI Coaching (Forster

Park, Lewisham). There is also a significant amount of training demand that is displaced to neighbouring London boroughs, which supports the suggestion by many clubs that there are not sufficient facilities to support training in Greenwich. The clubs based in Greenwich that also train outside the borough are outlined in figure 3.7 below.

Figure 3.7: Greenwich Football Clubs – Displaced Training Demand

Club	Displaced Training Site	Borough
Welling United FC Youth	Cleeve Park School	Bexley
Cray Valley FC	Harris Academy Falconwood	Bexley
Junior Reds FC	Bexleyheath Academy	Bexley
KSI Coaching	Fordham Park Southwark Lower Pepys Park	Southwark Lewisham
Teviot Rangers JFC	Various Schools	Bexley
AFC Lewisham	Prendergast Ladywell School	Lewisham
South East Athletic	King Henry School	Bexley

As with most London Boroughs, there is also imported demand from clubs based outside of the borough who have traditionally played their matches in Greenwich but train in other areas. This includes FC Elmstead, who are based in Bromley at Chislehurst Recreation Ground, but at least one of their 19 youth teams and 3 senior teams travel into Greenwich to play matches at Coldharbour Leisure Centre. EWD Eagles Youth FC are based in Bexley at Leigh Academy however, also play matches at London Marathon Playing Field.

Three clubs/ organisations in the area report teams training on sand dressed artificial pitches (London Legends FC, Metrogas, and We Make Footballers). It is also likely some other youth training takes place on grass pitches particularly in the lighter evenings and at weekends. Adult Sunday teams will typically train on grass pitches in the early season then either stop training, utilise artificial pitches where space allows or play within a 5-a-side league.

Imported and exported demand is typical of London Borough's however the amount of displaced training provision highlights the perceived lack of accessible training facilities in Greenwich and the importance of sufficient quality and quantity of facilities being located in areas of high demand.

4. The Situation at Individual Football Sites (step 4)

4.1 Grass Pitch Sites

The grass football pitches were assessed in October/ November of the 2024/25 season, with most of the sites assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the FA in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (2013) a non-technical visual site assessment. Ten of the grass pitch football sites had a more in-depth assessment using the Football Foundation's PitchPower methodology and reporting. London FA have reviewed the findings of these site-specific non-technical assessments and agreed the quality ratings as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site can accommodate (carrying capacity) against the amount of play that takes place. Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per week for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use.

The following pitch carrying capacities have been used and are consistent with the PPS Guidance methodology, informed (where applicable) by the Performance Quality Standard ratings (from Poor to Advanced) in the PitchPower Assessment Reports.

Figure 4.1: Grass Football Pitch Carrying Capacity

PPS Guide ratings/ Pitch Power PQS ratings	Adult Football	Youth Football (9v9, 11v11)	Mini Soccer (5v5, 7v7)
	Number of match equivalent sessions a week		
Good / Advanced	3	4	6
Standard / Basic	2	2	4
Poor / Poor	1	1	2

The full pitch audit details the situation at each individual football site with regard to:

1. Pitch supply (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e., its carrying capacity for community use).
2. The amount of play that takes place at each site (i.e., the expressed demand where known) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training.
3. The comparison (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
 - **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

There are 9 sites highlighted from the site audit spreadsheet as **RED** rated sites where the total balance of the available grass football pitches are overplayed.

- Charlton Park Rugby Club
- Eltham Town Football Club (The Oaks')
- Gresham Sports Ground
- London Marathon Playing Field
- Meridian Sports and Social Club
- Shooters Hill Sports Club
- STC Ivor Grove Sports Club
- St Paul's Academy
- Weigall Road Playing Fields

Eight sites from the full site audit are **AMBER** rated where the total balance of the available grass pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity:

- Avery Hill Park
- Eltham Hill School for Girls
- Eltham Park South
- Harris Academy Greenwich
- Horn Park

- Samuel Montagu Youth Centre
- St James Mar Thoma Community SC
- The John Roan School Playing Fields

4.2 Pitch Capacity

The remaining sites in Greenwich have grass pitches with some spare capacity, however in order to determine if this capacity is available in the peak period (weekends and evenings) a review of each site is undertaken below to determine if that capacity can accommodate extra play in the peak period.

In some cases, sites may be managed to below capacity to account for recreational / friendly matches, others will not have secured community use e.g., education sites and pitches rated as poor quality are also discounted. In others additional matches can be accommodated due to leagues allowing flexible kick off times enabling a number of games to take place throughout the day.

Figure 4.2 below reviews each site to outline where there is spare capacity in the peak period and where capacity is discounted.

Figure 4.2 – Sites with discounted peak period capacity

Pitch sites with spare capacity	Pitch Type	Total pitch capacity surplus	Capacity discounted	Comments/ Rationale
ELTHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB ('THE OAKS')	Mini 7v7	1.5	1.5	Site is not secure for community use
GOALS (ELTHAM)	Mini 5v5	5	5	Site is not secure for community use
HARRIS ACADEMY GREENWICH	Adult 11v11	3	3	Site is not secure for community use
	Junior 9v9	3	3	
MERIDIAN SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB LTD	Junior 11v11	1	1	Unsecure future of the site
ROYAL ARTILLERY BARRACKS	Junior 11v11	1.5	1.5	Site is not secure for community use
	Mini 7v7	2.5	2.5	
	Mini 5v5	3.5	3.5	
SUTCLIFFE PARK ATHLETICS TRACK	Adult 11v11	1.5	1.5	Use during the peak period is limited by athletics club activities
THE ARTIC STADIUM, 'BADGERS SPORTS' (CRAY VALLEY PAPER MILLS FC)	Adult 11v11	1.5	1.5	Stadia pitch usage limited to protect quality. Site unsecure with 4 years remaining on lease.
THE HALLEY ACADEMY	Adult 11v11	1	1	Site is not secure for community use
	Junior 11v11	1.5	1.5	
	Mini 7v7	7	7	
THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Mini 7v7	1	1	Pitches are poor quality
	Mini 5v5	1	1	
UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH (SPARROWS FARM)	Adult 11v11	4	4	Site is not secure for community use
WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS	Adult 11v11	0.5	0.5	Site is not secure for community use
	Junior 11v11	1	1	

Figure 4.3 shows the total capacity of each grass pitch type and balance against use, highlighting the final capacity in the peak period after discounting:

- Sites that are unavailable during the peak period due to other sporting use
- Sites that have unsecure community use such as education sites without community use agreements
- Sites that have unsecure futures
- Sites with poor quality pitches

These sites have been discounted as access to, or the suitability of the site to support additional community use is not secured.

Figure 4.3: Grass Pitches Supply / Demand Balance –community football sites

Pitch Type	Capacity (MES / Week)	Weekly Use (MES)	Supply / Demand Balance	Capacity discounted	Capacity in peak period	Spare pitch equivalent*
Adult 11v11 (U17+)	102	110.5	-8.5	11.5	-20	-10
Junior 11v11 (U13-U16)	72	79.5	-7.5	5	-12.5	-6
Junior 9v9 (U11-U12)	70	77.5	-7.5	3	-10.5	-5
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	145	97	48	12	36	9
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	62	28	34	9.5	24.5	6
Total	451	392.5	58.5	41	17.5	-6

*Based on standard pitch ratings rounded down to whole number.

It should be noted that whilst the overall supply and demand balance appears to show a surplus in match equivalent sessions (MES) per week for mini soccer pitches, when this is converted into pitch equivalents (based on a standard pitch quality e.g. 4 MES for 7v7/5v5), it shows that the actual peak period supply of pitches is only slightly greater than demand.

It should also be noted as highlighted previously in 2.11 that informal recreational use and unauthorised use of the maintained pitches at Greenwich playing pitch sites is a challenge for the Council. This informal use has been captured within the supply and demand table where evidenced through consultation with the council or clubs survey returns, however it is likely not all usage is captured, and this further reduces the capacity of pitches.

Overall, there is no spare pitch capacity across Greenwich after removing unsecure peak period access. Figure 4.3 shows a shortfall of 6 pitch equivalents across the borough and highlights significant shortfalls of adult 11v11, junior 11v11 and

junior 9v9 pitches which is further increased after considering the potential future growth of demand, particularly when considering the significant growth rate of women and girls football.

The future demand calculated in section 5 will further reduce the spare capacity identified above.

4.3 The FA National Football Facilities Strategy

In 2018, in partnership with the Football Foundation and Sport England, the Football Association developed a ten-year investment plan in facilities for grass roots football - The National Football Facilities Strategy 2018-2028. The facilities strategy aims to ensure that by 2028:

- Every FA-affiliated club has access to a 3G artificial pitch for training and, potentially, matches.
- Accelerated improvements are made to the key grass pitch sites across England to reduce fixture cancellations.

4.4 Greenwich Local Football Facilities Plan

The Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) for Greenwich was updated in 2025 alongside the PPS process and identifies the key projects to increase 11v11 3G pitch provision and improve ancillary facilities in the borough.

The plan identifies a need for a total of ten new 11v11 3G pitches and identified sites for seven pitches with a need to explore opportunities to identify a further three sites for 11v11 3G pitches across the borough.

- The John Roan School Playing Fields
- Rose Cottage Playing fields (9v9)
- Metrogas Amateur Sports Association
- University of Greenwich (Sparrow Farm)
- Eltham Town FC
- The Artic Stadium
- London Marathon Playing Fields

The FA has seen unprecedented growth over the last five years, particularly in the youth and women and girls game. As part of the LFFP process they estimate that there will be an additional 220 teams in the area by 2030, of which 61 will come from women and girls, which could represent the equivalent of up to 6 additional 11v11 3G FTPs.

The Playing Pitch Strategy methodology is more detailed than that used to inform the LFFP investment

priorities and in this instance with the process being completed in tandem, the findings of the LFFP have been supplemented by the PPS process and data. However, Sport England would highlight that the PPS should be referred to as the evidence base to inform the development planning process.

4.5 FA Training Scenario for 3G AGP Assessments of Need

The FA has designed a model scenario to help with understanding what demand there may be for full size equivalent floodlit 3G AGPs if increased amounts of play were to take place on them. The scenario question tested is: How many full size floodlit 3G AGPs may be required to meet demand within Greenwich if all teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G AGP to train on once a week?

Within Greenwich there are six 11v11 floodlit 3G AGPs on the FA Register which have community use for football during peak periods⁴, as well as a four 11v11 and fourteen small sided 3G AGP which are not on the FA Register, making a total of 13 equivalent 11v11 pitches in the borough before discounting 5v5 pitches or those with minimal availability.

After considering the level of availability for football, discounting 5v5 pitches due to limited club usability, and pricing, the following pitches have been discounted or removed from supply (figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4: 3G AGPs Discounted from Supply

Site	Pitch Size	Capacity Discounted	11v11 Equivalents in Supply	Notes / Rationale
BLACKHEATH FC - WELL HALL	1 x 118m x 74m (SL)	1	0	Primarily rugby usage (17/22 peak hours available) so discounted from supply
COLDHARBOUR LEISURE CENTRE	3 x 32x 20m (SL)	0.75 (3 x 0.25)	0	5v5 pitches so limited club usage therefore discounted.
GOALS (ELTHAM)	8 x 30m x 20m (SL)	1 (4 x 0.25)	1	Reduced to 4x 0.25 as the site is commercial and only 5v5 pitches are available.
ST MARY MAGDALENE C OF E SCHOOL (PENINSULA SITE)	1 x 42m x 35m (SL)	0.25	0	5v5 pitches so limited club usage therefore discounted.
UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH (AVERY HILL)	1 x 114m x 73m (SL)	0.5	0.5	CUA only secures community use at the weekends. Midweek use is only by the University
UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH (SPARROWS FARM)	61m x 40m indoor air dome (SL)	0.25	0	Limited community use.

⁴ Weekdays 17:00 - 21:00 (or 19:00 on Fridays) and 09:00 - 17:00 on weekends.

After discounting the sites outlined in figure 4.4 above, the total supply of 3G pitches in Greenwich is recorded as 9.25 11v11 pitch equivalents.

As a guide the FA suggest that one 11v11 floodlit 3G AGP accommodates the training demand from 38 teams. There are 740 affiliated teams playing competitive football in Greenwich and as such the 1:38 ratio suggests that 19.5 11v11 equivalent floodlit 3G AGPs would be required to meet 100% of team football training on 3G within the borough. As such there is a need for a minimum of 10 further accessible 11v11 3G pitches in the area to support current training and match play demands.

In comparison to neighbouring Local Authorities, Greenwich has the highest total shortfall of 3G AGPs however also has the 2nd highest demand after the significant growth of football over the last 10 years. When considering the theoretical percentage of teams not catered for by 3G access ((shortfall * 38 teams) / total teams), Greenwich has a lower rate than Lewisham and Newham with a similar rate to Tower Hamlets. This highlights that the need for investment into 3G AGPs is not unique to Greenwich, but a priority across the whole area. Across London overall there is a total shortfall of 136 3G pitches.

Figure 4.5 Comparison of 3G shortfall in neighbouring authorities

Local Authority	3G Shortfall	Total Teams 2024/25	% Teams Not Covered
Greenwich	10	740	51%
Barking and Dagenham	1	275	14%
Bexley	2	331	34%
Bromley	7	871	31%
Lewisham	3	162	70%
Newham	3	180	63%
Tower Hamlets	2	153	50%

The majority of 11v11 3G pitches are used to capacity during peak hours, with little remaining availability and a number have limited hours for community use either due to restricted community hours or school access up to 6pm, for example the pitch at Stationers Crown Woods Academy is only available for 23 peak hours out of 34 total. The club training scenario calculation also takes no account of the accessibility of the available AGPs to clubs nor cost / affordability issues.

There is a significant shortfall of adult 11v11, junior 11v11, and junior 9v9 pitches in the borough once discounting spare capacity at pitches that are unsecure, which is likely to be exacerbated if the predicted growth in demand is realised, particularly with the growth rate of women and girls football.

Whilst there is some spare capacity for mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches in the borough, the future demand for pitches in the borough will significantly reduce this spare capacity. The effects of future demand on current pitch supply are explored further in section 5.3 below.

5. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Football (step 5)

5.1 Grass Pitches

23 of the playing field sites in Greenwich have pitches (83 in total) that are being played to capacity or overplayed, these are either sites that are the home grounds for clubs with a large number of teams and a limited number of pitches, such as Weigall Road Playing Fields (London Legends FC), sites operated by large clubs with a significant number of teams, such as Eltham Town FC 'The Oaks' and Shooters Hill Sports Club (Beacons Youth FC), or are sites for a number of teams, such as London Marathon Playing Fields.

The PitchPower report findings for the sites in Greenwich identifies the potential for enhanced quality and increased playing capacity at a number of sites if the ongoing pitch maintenance can be improved with the available funding. The following sites have PitchPower ratings and associated actions for the improvement of maintenance:

- Blackheath Wanderers Sports Club
- Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club
- GB10 Sports Ground
- Gresham Sports Ground
- Goals Eltham

- Kidbrooke Playing Fields
- London Marathon Playing Fields
- Metrogas Amateur Sports Association
- Rose Cottage Playing Fields
- The John Roan School Playing Fields

5.2 AGPs

The trends in football point to the continuing growth in the recreational game including walking football, small sided and women's recreation provision as well as youth, mini soccer and girls' football, the provision of more full size 3G football AGPs on the FA Register with large youth clubs as the primary user will help to accommodate training and match day provision reducing the need for training on grass pitches, as well as the number of over-marked or overused natural turf pitches. In addition, opportunities for small-sided provision (especially if designed to allow for match play) should also be explored in cases where full-sized provision cannot be delivered at a scale to meet identified shortfalls or to supplement the small-sided shortfalls and cater to social/recreational football activity which is prevalent in the area.

5.3 Future Demand

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2036 on the need for football pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

To meet football demand from 26,808 additional residents (as currently forecast⁵) and assuming current levels of football demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity (rounded) of +11 adult football pitches, +14 junior football pitches and +9 mini soccer pitches will be needed in the area (totalling +34 natural turf pitches) as well as +67 hours of estimated demand for training per week, equivalent to nearly 2 full size 3G AGPs (1.75), see figure 5.1. It is very unlikely that an additional 34 grass pitches will be able to be developed in Greenwich due to the open space requirements that 34 pitches would necessitate, therefore it is essential that suitable options for the development of floodlit artificial pitches are explored as these provide significantly greater capacity for matches and training than grass pitches.

Figure 5.1: Demand from population growth

Football	No of Pitches to meet demand
Adult	10.53
Junior	14.17
Mini	8.59
Total Grass pitches	33.29

Football	No of Pitches to meet demand
Training	66.56 (Hours)
Total AGP	1.75

Potential effect of demand trends (how pitch sports are played) – Among adults, national trends show a growth in women's football compared to men's football participation levels sustaining after a period of decline. This national picture is reflected in Greenwich where the number of adult 11v11 team's affiliations have increased moderately by 15 teams (from 219 in 2015 to 234 in 2024/25), however some of this is imported demand from other areas.

The FA's national insight data shows that youth football is growing at an average of 3.09% year on year. Youth football in Greenwich has significantly increased with an additional 42 junior teams and 95 mini soccer teams since the last strategy.

Clubs/ organisations, through their survey returns have indicated further growth aspirations for adult and youth teams. A total of 20 clubs in the area outlined growth aspirations, as outlined in Section 3,

⁵ Population change from the 2025 to 2036 based on ONS population projections

figure 3.6, and whilst clubs are reliant on volunteers to deliver this growth, given the consultation findings it appears evident that with sufficient facilities each club could grow by 1-2 teams a year, resulting in a possible additional 20-40 teams a year. There is also continued increase in demand for girls' football following the success of the England Women's team and the FA's investment in development programmes in school and Wildcats and Squad Girls programmes at club

level. LFFP for Greenwich estimates a growth of an additional 220 teams in the area by 2030 of which 61 will come from women and girls.

In view of these demand pressures, a further run of the Playing Pitch Calculator has been made to show the possible impact on pitch needs with an adjusted demand rate of 40% for youth football (3.09% iterative increase per year over 11 years), based on The FA's insight data referenced above.

Figure 5.2 Demand from population growth and increase in youth football demand (FA insight)

Football	No. of Pitches to meet demand
Adult	10.53
Junior	19.83
Mini	12.03
Total Grass pitches	42.39
Training	66.56 (Hours)
Total AGP	1.75

To meet football demand from 26,808 additional residents and adjusting demand for a growth of 40% in youth football for matches and training in the peak period until 2038, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity (rounded) of +11 adult football pitches, +20 junior football pitches and +12 mini soccer pitches will be needed in the area (totalling +43 natural turf pitches) as well as 67 hours of training on a 3G pitch equivalent to the need for up to two additional AGPs. The LFFP for Greenwich suggests the demand for 11v11 3G pitch provision could be more, with a growth of 220 teams requiring up to six additional 11v11 pitches by 2030.

Figure 5.3 outlines the effects of the future demand highlighted above on pitch capacity based on population growth and adjusted demand. This shows that the current supply of community available grass football pitches in Greenwich is not sufficient for the projected level of demand up to 2036. Should the projected level of participation growth be realised, this will create a significant shortfall of grass pitches, showcasing the importance of protecting existing grass pitch sites and exploring options to develop additional provision across the borough.

Figure 5.3 Changes in capacity after accounting for future growth and demand.

Pitch Type	Pitch equivalent capacity in peak period	Demand (pitch equivalent)	
		Future demand	Total
Adult 11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	-10	11	-21
Junior 11v11 (U13-U16)	-6	20	-31
Junior 9v9 (U11-U12)	-5		
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	9	12	4
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	7		
Total	-6	43	-48

6. Key findings and issues for football (step 6)

Figure 6.1: Football Key Findings and Issues

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision
Since the last assessment was carried out in 2015 there have been changes in both the supply of football pitches in Greenwich and in football demand. On the supply side, there has been significant developments of 3G AGP provision in the borough, with new pitches developed at Charlton Athletic Community Trust Skills Centre (2018) Kidbrooke Playing Fields (2017), Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletic Club (2018), St Mary Magdalene C of E School (2018), St Pauls Academy (2017), John Roan School Playing Fields (resurfaced from sand dressed in 2022), and the University of Greenwich Avery Hill Site (2017). There has been some change to grass pitch provision with the number of pitches provided at Charlton Park, Coldharbour Leisure Centre and the Royal Artillery Barracks being reduced. The grass pitch at Eltham Hill School for Girls was re-laid in 2024 after the former pitch became unusable. Overall, there has been a loss of 15 pitches since the last strategy in 2015, which recorded 173 pitches at 44 sites. 158 grass pitches are identified as available for community football across Greenwich in the 2024/25 season, on 38 operational playing pitch sites as well as 6x 11v11 3G pitches on the FA Register in the area and an additional 4 pitches not on the register which cater for community club training demand. There is also 14 small sided 3G pitches catering for informal football and small sided provision. Football demand has continued to grow in all areas including adult male football against the trend seen in other areas. In the 2024/25 season, Greenwich had a total of 740 affiliated football teams which represents an increase of 152 teams (26%) since the previous audit in 2015 when 588 affiliated teams were registered in the borough. The continuing growth in demand for football pitches means there is no current spare capacity in the peak period for adult 11v11, junior 11v11 or 9v9 grass pitches. There is also a significant shortfall of 3G pitches (10). When factoring in potential future demand, the shortfall for grass pitches and 3G pitches is further increased.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?
No – When adjusting for peak period capacity, there is a significant deficit of grass pitches in all categories other than mini soccer and there is also a significant shortfall (10) of 11v11 3G AGPs which are required to meet current demand. A number of playing field sites in Greenwich have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed, these are either sites that are the home grounds for clubs with a large number of teams and a limited number of pitches, such as Weigall Road Playing Fields (London Legends FC), sites operated by large clubs with a significant number of teams, such as Eltham Town FC ‘The Oaks’ and Shooters Hill Sports Club (Beacons Youth FC), or are sites for a number of teams, such as London Marathon Playing Fields. Two clubs also report unmet demand due to a lack of suitable, available facilities to host additional teams. When considering the peak period, the capacity of sites is significantly reduced, with the equivalent of only 9 mini soccer 7v7 pitches and 7 5v5 pitches available. Overall, there is a lack of capacity to meet current demand in the peak period.

There is a significant shortfall in provision of 3G pitches to meet training demand and there are clubs in the area who travel outside of the area for training or use sand-based pitches for training, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand. To meet the shortfall in current supply investment is needed in the provision of ten 11v11 3G AGPs in the area which should be strategically located to support large youth clubs to meet the needs of their teams for training and matches. Whilst significant investment is required to meet 3G AGP demand, Greenwich Council, like all local authorities, are under financial pressures which make funding the development of 10 new AGPs unrealistic within the 5 year timeframe of this strategy. The council should look to support the development of 3G pitches and work with the FA and Football Foundation to source funding where possible.

A shortfall in 3G AGPs is not unique to Greenwich, with all neighbouring authorities also requiring investment into 3G AGPs to meet demand. Across all London Boroughs, there is a shortfall of 136 3G AGPs.

There are currently 51.5 peak hours available on hockey AGPs, which although not an ideal or recommended surface for football, could be used to support midweek floodlit training demand for football clubs. 51.5 hours is equivalent to approximately 1.5 3G AGPs. Options for securing some of this availability for football club training should be explored, however the current and future demand for hockey training and matches also needs to be considered to ensure clubs have facility capacity to grow and continue operating.

Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

No – 29 grass pitches (18%) are not of sufficient quality and 4 of the 3G AGPs are rated as poor, 3 of which are full size pitches which are no longer on the FA 3G pitch register (Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall, Coldharbour Leisure Centre, and Samuel Montagu Youth Centre) which prohibit them from being used for match play and significantly reducing their capacity.

51 grass pitches (32%) are of a good quality, with sufficient maintenance programmes to sustain their level of use and provide a high-quality playing surface. Some of these pitches have benefitted from grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports.

There are three sites in Greenwich with limited or no ancillary provision for teams. Eltham Park South has no changing facilities, although toilets are available on site. Weigall Road Playing Fields only has temporary facilities with no electricity, water or toilet access and University of Greenwich (Sparrows Farm) also has temporary portacabins. Two other sites were identified through consultation as needing improvement Charlton Athletic Community Trust and The John Roan School Playing Fields.

What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?

Future demand for football facilities will put increasing pressure on the existing supply. To meet football demand from 26,808 additional residents (as currently forecast⁶) and assuming current levels of football demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +11 adult football pitches, +14 Junior football pitches and +9 mini soccer pitches will be needed in the area (totalling +34 grass pitches) as well as +67 hours of estimated demand for training per week, equivalent to nearly 2 full size 3G AGPs (1.75).

The growth plans of the football clubs based in Greenwich will also place further pressure on pitch supply. 20 clubs responded to the survey indicating they have aspirations to increase the number of teams they run over the coming seasons, provided they have sufficient volunteers and pitches for matches and training can be secured.

⁶ Population change from the 2025 to 2036 based on ONS population projections

This combined with the FA insight data showing a growth in youth teams of 3.09% per year means it is likely provision will increase above the usual rate. When adjusting for this increase in demand in youth football, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity (rounded) of +11 adult football pitches, +20 junior football pitches and +12 mini soccer pitches will be needed in the area (totalling +43 natural turf pitches) as well as 67 hours of training on a 3G pitch equivalent to the need for up to two additional AGPs. The LFFP for Greenwich suggests the demand for 11v11 3G pitch provision could be more and predicts a growth of 220 teams requiring up to 6 additional 11v11 3G pitches by 2030.

As with all local authorities, Greenwich Council are financial pressure which make developing up to 16 3G AGPs to meet current and future demand unrealistic over the timeframe of this strategy. The council should look to support the development of 3G pitches and work with the FA and Football Foundation to source funding where possible.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

No – There is a requirement to develop up to two 11v11 3G AGPs to meet future demand generated by projected population growth, in addition to the need for 10 3G AGPs to meet current demand. There is projected to be a shortfall of 11 adult and 20 junior grass pitches, which added to current shortfalls means a total shortfall of 21 adult and 31 junior grass pitches. Some of this shortfall is due to pitches being discounted due to poor quality or not secure for community use.

Improving the quality of grass pitches that are currently rated as poor to standard would increase the capacity at sites by an additional 1 MES for adult / junior pitches and 2 MES for mini soccer pitches, helping to reduce the shortfall of provision in the area, whilst this may be challenging to achieve at all sites due to budget pressures, large key club sites should be prioritised. The council has already started making improvements to the pitch quality at Charlton Park and Hornfair Park and removed socketed goals in favour of portable goals.

There is also a urgent need to protect and secure a number of sites identified as at risk either due to development or short leases, these sites as listed in section 2.12, total 27 grass pitches, which if secured will reduce the shortfall of pitches identified. Securing community use at education sites currently being used as well as negotiating community use at education sites not currently accessible will also reduce the shortfall (Colfe's leisure Centre – 1 adult 11v11, Stationers Crown Woods Academy – 2x junior 11v11 and Thomas Tallis School – 2x adult 11v11).

Options to open sports grounds in the Quaggy area currently closed (Willow Country Club – 6 pitches and Manor Way – 2 pitches) should also be explored to help reinstate grass pitch provision or provide allocation for new artificial pitch provision, as well as those sites that previously had pitches but no longer mark them out (Old Brockleians Sports Club – 1 adult pitch, Seven Acre Sports & Social Club – 1 adult pitch and Southwood Park – 2 adult pitches).

It is very unlikely that the level of additional grass pitches will be able to be developed in Greenwich due to the open space requirements that it would necessitate, therefore it is essential that suitable options for the development of floodlit artificial pitches are explored as these provide significantly greater capacity for matches and training than grass pitches.

Investment in 10 additional full-sized FA registered 3G AGP is needed to cater for current demand according to FA guidance of one floodlight full sized AGP providing training capacity for 38 teams, plus an additional two full sized pitch equivalent for future population growth and demand, resulting in a need for a minimum of an additional 12 3G AGP's in the area. There are already proposals being developed for new 3G pitches at GB10 (two proposed, although only one would be for community use), and at Metrogas Amateur Sports Association, as well as a number of sites identified in the Local Football Facility Plan. Future site options will be explored in the main strategy.

Appendix C: Hockey

Assessment of Needs (stages B and C)

1. Introduction

The findings of the assessment of needs for hockey facilities in Greenwich are summarised in this appendix of the main Playing Pitch Strategy.

There are two Hockey clubs based in the area, Blackheath and Elthamians HC and Remnants HC. Alongside the clubs there is also participation at the University of Greenwich who have student hockey teams and imported demand from Bexleyheath and Belvedere HC. Blackheath and Elthamians HC responded to the club survey and due to the number of teams they have this accounts for 97% of all hockey teams playing in Greenwich. The club use the pitches at College Meadow (Eltham College), which is just over the border in Bromley, but has been included in the supply due to its accessibility to Greenwich residents. Remnants HC did not respond to consultation requests.

Since the last assessment in 2015, there has been increase of two new full sized hockey pitches with a new pitch at the University of Greenwich (Avery Hill) and at College Meadow (Eltham College), making this a two pitch site. There has been a loss of a small sand dressed pitch at Joan Roan Playing Fields which has been converted to 3G. The current number of full sized (or near full sized) hockey pitches available for community use is six (including the two at College Meadow) compared to four in the previous strategy in 2015.

The previous strategy identified a need to support Blackheath and Elthamians HC with their ambitions for a second pitch at College Meadow, ensuring their usage was secured as well as identifying the opportunity for a new pitch in the borough. These

priority actions for hockey in 2015 have all been achieved.

The number of adult hockey teams in Greenwich has increased by 1 team from the 12 teams recorded in the previous strategy to 13 in 2025. There has been a decrease of 1 adult male team, but an increase of 2 female teams. There has been an increase youth membership, despite a previous youth club (Royal Greenwich HC) in the area no longer operating. Based on affiliation data Blackheath and Elthamians HC affiliated a total of 271 junior members this season (140 boys and 131 girls) a growth of 171 junior members. The previous recorded junior membership numbers in the area were 70 boys and 30 girls.

This positive growth in junior membership across both genders highlights the need to protect and maintain the current facilities used by the clubs as a minimum in Greenwich. This report covers this demand and future need for the borough.

2. Hockey Supply (step 2)

2.1 Hockey Pitches in Greenwich

There are currently six full sized sand dressed (SD) artificial grass pitches (AGP) with sports lighting currently available for community hockey.

- Blackheath High School Sports Ground
- Colfe's Leisure Centre
- College Meadow x 2 (Eltham College)
- University of Greenwich (Avery Hill)
- Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys (slightly undersized)

The pitch at Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys is slightly undersized for 11-a-side hockey, it is 90m in length, but the minimum length requirement is

91.40m but it could be used for training and some youth provision. There is also a small sided SD AGP at Metrogas Amateur Sports Association. This pitch is poor quality and due to lost as part of permitted 3G development. Its size is not suitable for organised community hockey use and therefore has been excluded from the supply.

2.2 Distribution of Hockey AGP Sites

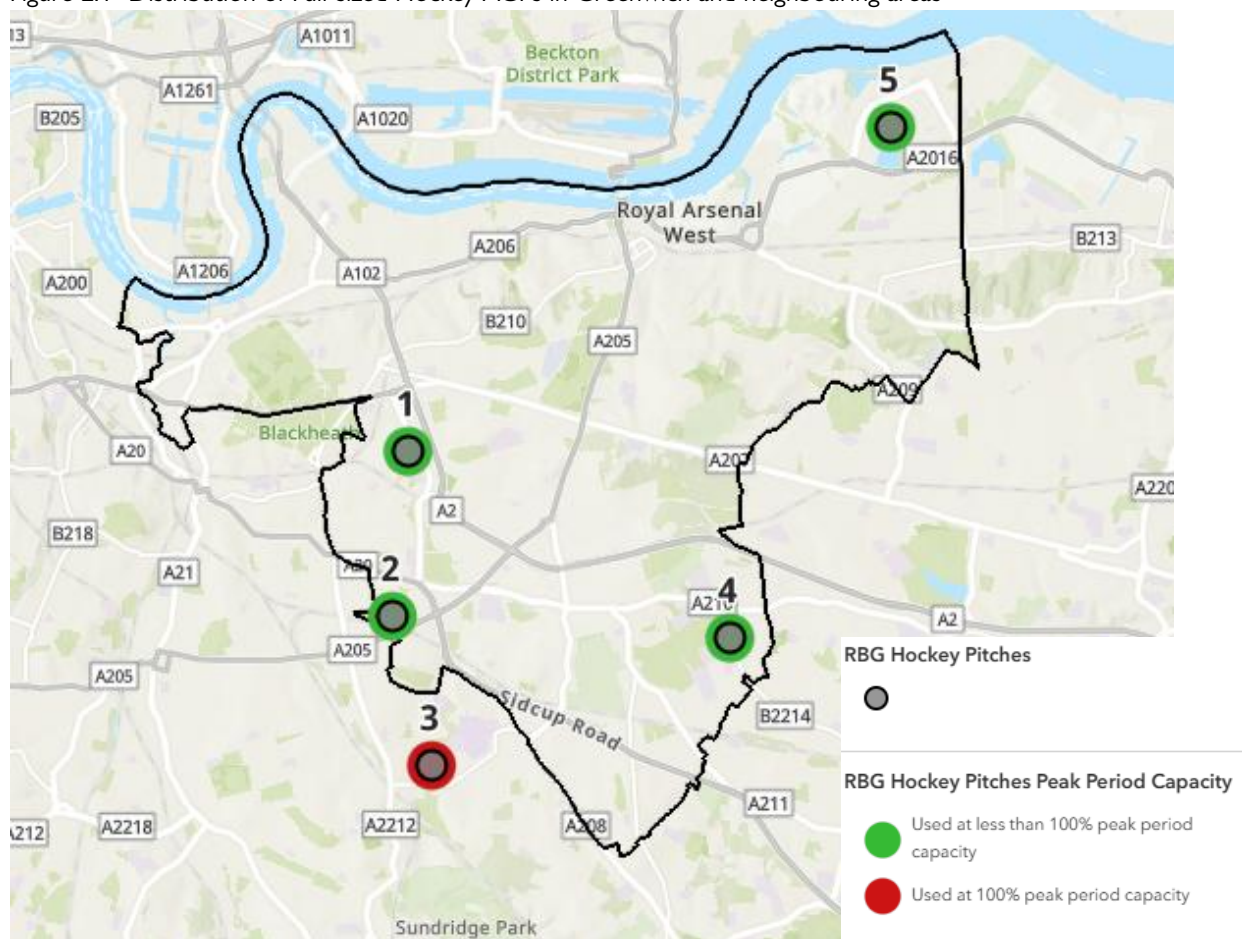
Figure 2.1 shows the distribution of full-sized hockey AGP sites available for community use in Greenwich. The pitch at College Meadow (Eltham College) is just over the border but included in the supply as it is accessible to residents of Greenwich and used by the main club in the area covering Greenwich. The distribution of sand based AGP sites is spread fairly evenly across the borough.

2.3 Hockey AGP's in Neighbouring Boroughs

There are no other full size hockey pitches outside of the Greenwich Local Authority boundary that are within Sport England's recommended driving catchment of 20 minutes based on Sport England's Active Places data. The nearest other hockey clubs, according to England Hockey's find a club tool is Burnt Ash (Bexley HC) located at Sidcup Leisure Centre to the East and London Academicals HC, at St Dunstan's College, to the West.

Bexleyheath and Belvedere HC also play at Leigh Academy in Bexley as well as some matches in Greenwich at University of Greenwich (Avery Hill).

Figure 2.1- Distribution of Full-sized Hockey AGPs in Greenwich and neighbouring areas



Key	Site Name	Postcode
1	BLACKHEATH HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS GROUND	SE3 0DX
2	COLFE'S LEISURE CENTRE	SE12 8AW
3*	ELTHAM COLLEGE (COLLEGE MEADOW)	SE12 9PH
4	UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH (AVERY HILL)	SE9 2UG
5	WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS	SE28 8AT

*2 full size SD Hockey AGPs

2.4 The Situation at Individual Sites

Figure 2.2 details the situation at each site for those facilities available for community use. The pitches were quality-assessed during the 2024/25 season via site visits and informed by consultation surveys with the user clubs and insight from England Hockey.

The availability of the pitches for community hockey use is usually dependant on bookings by other sports (e.g., football, touch rugby, lacrosse, tennis). For each

site, this is noted in column headed estimated use in peak hours.

The **Red, Amber, Green** (RAG) rating refers to whether, in the peak period in a typical week in the main hockey season, there is considered to be:

- Unused capacity for hockey matches- **Green**
- The available peak slots for hockey matches are used close to capacity - **Amber**, or
- The available peak slots for hockey matches are at capacity - **Red**.

Figure 2.2: Situation at Individual Sites available for community use

Site	Postcode	AGP Size and Type	Sports Lighting	Date built (last refurb)	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Management & ownership	Pitch Rating	Peak hours available ¹	Est'd use in peak hours ²	Supply/Demand Balance	RAG ³
BLACKHEATH HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS GROUND	SE3 0DX	SF 102x62m	Yes	2002 (2013)	Changing	Unsecured – No known CUA in place.	Education / Independent - managed by schools plus	Standard	17	3	14	Green
COLFE'S LEISURE CENTRE	SE12 8AW	SF 102x64m	Yes	2006	Changing refurbished in 2024 with disability facilities	Unsecured – No known CUA in place.	Education / Independent	Standard	24	13 (6 hrs hockey 7 hrs football)	11	Green
COLLEGE MEADOW (ELTHAM COLLEGE)	SE12 9PH	SD - 102x62m	Yes	2006, resurfaced 2024	College changing rooms with bar and kitchen. In need of improvement	Secured under a recent 20 year agreement for seasonal hire with the College	Education / independent	Good club rate 5/5	27	27 (all hockey)	0	Red
		SF - 102x62m	Yes	2021				Good	27	27 (all hockey)	0	
UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH (AVERY HILL)	SE9 2UG	SD 114x64m	Yes	2017	Changing with disability facilities	Secured under CUA for weekend use	Higher Education	Good	31	28 (14 hrs hockey, 4 hrs lacrosse 10 hrs football)	3	Amber
WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS	SE28 8AT	SF 90x65m	Yes	unknown	Changing with disability facilities	Unsecured – No known CUA in place.	Education / Academy	Standard	31	7.5 (football)	23.5	Green

2.5 Ownership, Operation, Quality and Access

All six of the community accessible sand dressed Hockey AGPs are located on education sites, of which the two at College Meadow (Eltham College) have a confirmed Community Use Agreement securing the club access for 20 years and the pitch at the University of Greenwich (Avery Hill) is secured under a community use agreement for weekend use.

Of the six sand dressed Hockey AGPs, two have been developed or resurfaced in the last 5 years, both at College Meadow (Eltham College). All of sites were rated either good or standard, with no immediate needs for resurfacing identified.

2.6 Indoor Hockey

Eltham College has an indoor hockey surface in its sports hall – The Eric Liddell Sports Centre, which is used by Blackheath and Elthamians HC.

¹ Peak hours = M-Th 6-9:30pm, Fri 6-9pm, S&S 10-5pm = 31hrs

² T = Training, M = Match use

³ RAG based on availability for Saturday match use

2.7 Ancillary Facilities

The changing facilities at the hockey sites in Greenwich were assessed as mostly standard quality with minimal issues being reported during consultation at four of the five sites. Blackheath and Elthamians HC noted through consultation that although there are changing facilities and a clubhouse available at College Meadow, these are in need of updating and maintenance.

2.8 At Risk Sites

There is no known risk of development or change of surface to the current full sized sand dressed hockey pitches in the area.

2.9 Proposed New Supply

There is no proposed new supply with planning permission and funding in place.

3. Hockey Demand (steps 3 and 4)

3.1 Clubs and Teams

There are currently two hockey clubs based in the area, as well as University teams. The clubs based in Greenwich are:

- Blackheath and Elthamians HC who offer both adult and junior hockey provision for males and females. They have 10 adult teams (6 male, 4 female) and a junior section of 271 members, as well as offering back to hockey sessions. They estimate that 80% of their members come from within the Greenwich area. The club report a decline in adult membership over the last few years, stating they have lost one male and one female team.
- Remnants HC who have one women’s team.
- University of Greenwich have 3 teams, one men’s, one women’s and one mixed playing in university

specific leagues (BUCS Hockey Premier League – Wednesday and London University Sports League – Sundays).

3.2 Club Players - Demand Trend

Player affiliation data in Figure 3.1 provided by England Hockey for this season and last season shows a growth in junior membership but a reduction in adult membership. Overall, the number of individual players registered has stayed the same at 435 players.

3.3 Additional provision

In addition to the traditional clubs affiliated to England Hockey and University provision, Colfe’s Leisure Centre report running their own junior academy on a Sunday morning open to the local community.

3.4 Unmet / Latent demand

Neither club highlighted any latent demand. Blackheath and Elthamians expressed an ambition to grow the club further as outlined further in 3.7 below.

3.5 Imported and Displaced Demand

There is no reported displaced demand of clubs using facilities outside of the borough. There is imported demand from Bexleyheath and Belvedere HC, who use University of Greenwich (Avery Hill) for approximately 8 hours in addition to their main site at Leigh Academy in Bexley.

3.6 Active Lives Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey⁴ (November 2023-2024) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in hockey in England by adults (aged 16+) had decreased from 0.4% in November 2023 to 0.3% in November 2024.

If hockey participation in the area were at the national average (i.e., 0.3%), this would indicate around 529 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play hockey out of the 16+

Figure 3.1 Club affiliation data

Club	2023/24				2024/25			
	Junior		Adult		Junior		Adult	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Blackheath and Elthamians HC	126	119	140	131	140	131	101	41
Remnants HC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Totals	126	119	140	131	140	131	101	63
	245		190		271		164	

⁴ Active Lives Adult Survey November 2023-24, Sport England

adult population of approximately 176,469. This playing population considers both regular club participation and regular informal recreational play in parks and hired facilities, and Greenwich residents who participate outside of the Borough.

The 'adult' hockey club playing membership is 164 (England Hockey membership data). If we then assume adult hockey participation in Greenwich is in line with the national average of 0.3%, this suggests that 69% of all regular adult hockey played by residents in Greenwich is either 'displaced' to venues outside of the area (e.g., at other clubs) or takes place in informal, social game formats such as Back 2 Hockey, which is provided in the borough.

3.7 Club Aspirations - Hockey Development Priorities and Facility Needs

Blackheath and Elthamians Hockey Club are looking to grow, reporting an ambition to develop flyerz hockey in the future. They previously used the pitch at Avery Hill as a secondary site and whilst there is limited capacity at this site if needed in future, there are other facilities with capacity. The club identified a need to improve the ancillary facilities at College Meadow.

4. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Hockey (step 5)

4.1 Current

Since the last assessment of hockey facility needs in 2015, the main changes of relevance is the additional provision of two full sized pitches, one at University of Greenwich (Avery Hill) and one at College Meadow (Eltham College). All of the priority actions identified for hockey

in 2015 strategy have been achieved. The current priority facility issues facing the sport of hockey in Greenwich is the refurbishment of the ancillary facilities at College Meadow (Eltham College).

4.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2036 on the need for hockey pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the demand of new teams and junior training squads likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (Figure 4.1).

To meet hockey demand from 26,808 additional residents (as currently forecast⁵) and assuming current levels of hockey demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of 0.15 additional sand dressed artificial grass pitches suitable for hockey will be needed in the area based on the need for 0.58 additional match equivalent sessions and a total of 2.36 training hours per week. It should be noted that this calculation doesn't account for club future growth ambitions. As such this should be considered the minimum future requirement for facilities in the area. Given the spare pitch capacity in the area this need can be accommodated on the existing supply.

4.3 Conclusion

To better meet current and likely future needs for the sport of hockey in Greenwich, the strategy should seek to:

- Protect the current supply of sand based artificial pitches in the area used by clubs
- Secure provision at Colfe's Leisure Centre through a community use agreement.
- Refurbish the club house and changing facilities at College Meadow (Eltham College).

Figure 4.1 Future Demand Age

Age	Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)	Training Demand Hours on AGP	Estimated demand for new AGP
Adult	0.58	1.75	0.15
Junior and Mixed	0	0.61	
Total	0.58	2.36	0.15

⁵ Population change from the 2025 to 2036 based on ONS population projections

5. Key Findings and Issues for Hockey (step 6)

Figure 5.1: Key Findings and Issues

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision
There is currently six full sized sand based artificial grass pitches with sports lighting in Greenwich currently available for community hockey. Since the last assessment in 2015 there has been an increase of two full sized pitches with new pitches in place at University of Greenwich (Avery Hill) and a second pitch at College Meadow (Eltham College). There are two hockey clubs based in Greenwich as well as the University of Greenwich with student hockey teams. Blackheath and Elthamians HC have 10 adult teams (6 male, 4 female) and a junior section of 271 members, as well as offering back to hockey sessions. Remnants HC have one adult women's team and the University of Greenwich have 3 teams, one male, one female and one mixed adult. There has been an overall growth of one adult team and 171 junior members in the area since the last strategy. England Hockey affiliation data reports show a decrease in adult membership but a growth in junior membership, resulting in the same overall number of players between the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?
Yes – There is secured provision for the main club in the area with sufficient capacity for them to accommodate all their current activities on the two pitch site. There is imported demand from Bexleyheath and Belvedere HC at University of Greenwich (Avery Hill) and this facility is secured through a community use agreement for weekend use. There is also additional capacity for hockey at three of the remaining sites, although these have no known community use agreement in place and as such are not considered secured provision.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?
Yes – All of the sand dressed pitches across Greenwich are rated either good or standard quality, with no immediate needs for resurfacing identified. The changing facilities at the hockey sites in Greenwich were assessed as mostly standard quality with minimal issues being reported at four of the five sites. Blackheath and Elthamians HC noted through consultation that although there are changing facilities and a clubhouse available at College Meadow, these are in need of updating and maintenance.
What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?
Blackheath and Elthamians Hockey Club are looking to grow, reporting an ambition to develop flyerz hockey in the future. They previously used the pitch at Avery Hill as a secondary site and whilst there is limited capacity at this site if needed in future, there are other facilities with capacity. The forecast population growth to 2036 of 26,808 additional residents is estimated to generate demand for 1 MES (rounded up from 0.58) and 2.5 hours (rounded up from 2.36) of training demand in the area. The current spare capacity on pitches within the borough would appear to allow for this growth to be accommodated on existing provision as long as this use could be secured with a community use agreement. Increase in demand from other sports such as football and lacrosse may affect future capacity for hockey and this would need to be assessed in future reviews of the strategy.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

Yes – There is spare capacity in the borough to accommodate the growth in population and the club's aspirations. Blackheath and Elthamians previously used the pitch at Avery Hill as a secondary site prior to the installation of the second pitch at College Meadow (Eltham College) and whilst there is limited capacity at this site if needed in future, there are other facilities with capacity, although this provision is not secured.

Colfe's Leisure Centre, which is used by Remnants Hockey Club does not have a community use agreement and as such for the purpose of this strategy, is considered unsecured provision. The priority for the council would be to secure community use on this site, as well as support the ambitions of Blackheath and Elthamians HC to upgrade the clubhouse at College Meadow (Eltham College).



Appendix D: Rugby

Assessment of Needs (stages B and C)

1. Introduction

The findings of the assessment for needs for rugby facilities in Greenwich are summarised in this Appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. Site visits to the home grounds used by clubs in Greenwich have been undertaken and club officials/site managers have been consulted regarding training provision and match use. There is no established community Rugby League activity within Greenwich.

Since the last assessment of Rugby Union in 2015, there has been a significant change in the total supply of rugby pitches available for community use with the previous strategy recording 18 grass pitches available. There has been a loss of pitches at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall (-1, previously had 3 pitches), Charlton Park RFC (-1, previously 3 marked out, space remains for a third pitch but it is not marked out and posts are not in place), Old Shootershillians Sports Associations (-2), and Footscray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club (-1, but replaced by WRC 3G pitch)

Hervey Road Playing Fields has been brought back into use since the previous strategy when it was closed and whilst does not have marked pitches or posts in place it is used for age grade rugby provision. Similarly, the unmarked pitches at Charlton Park are used for training provision.

In total 13 grass pitches are marked out with posts in situ and available for community use, 5 fewer than reported in the 2015 study. In addition to the 13 grass pitches marked out, there are 2 previous pitches that are not currently marked out or have posts in place which are now primarily used for age grade rugby, school use, or club training (Charlton Park RFC and Hervey Road Playing Fields).

There has been an additional World Rugby Compliant (WRC) 3G pitch developed in Greenwich at Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club in 2018. The facility has rugby markings and posts suitable for matches and training. The WRC certification at the 3G pitch at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall has lapsed and the shockpad is no longer suitable to support contact rugby. The facility is still used by the club for training approximately 17 hours a week.

A 3G pitch was installed at the University of Greenwich Avery Hill site in 2017 and includes rugby markings, it is unknown if it includes a shockpad to support contact rugby and it does not have WRC certification.

The number of clubs in the area has remained at 8 since the last strategy, however Old Shootershillians RFC no longer play league matches but do still play ad hoc friendlies. The number of teams in the area overall as increased by 2, to 55. There has been a reduction of 7 adult teams (-6 male and

-1 female team), but an increase in girls age grade teams (+7, with none recorded in the previous strategy in 2015) and mixed U11 age grade teams (+2).

2. Rugby Pitch Supply (step 2)

The findings of the assessment of supply of rugby facilities in Greenwich are summarised in this section and detailed by site for both grass and artificial turf pitches. The supply information is generated through standard facility audits based on the visual assessment, grading and playing capacity guidance (as set out by Sport England and the RFU in the national guidance for the development of playing pitch needs

assessments), supported by consultation with the Council, the RFU, and user clubs. There are eight rugby clubs in Greenwich based on playing field sites with rugby pitches

- Charlton Park RFC
- Blackheath FC (minor)
- Greenwich RFC
- Askean RFC
- Old Colfeians RFC
- Foots Cray RFC
- Old Brockleians RFC

As well as Old Shooterhillians RFC, although they no longer play competitive fixtures play ad hoc matches in the borough. Tag rugby is also played in the area on the heath with leagues running all year round. 2.1 Distribution of Rugby Sites

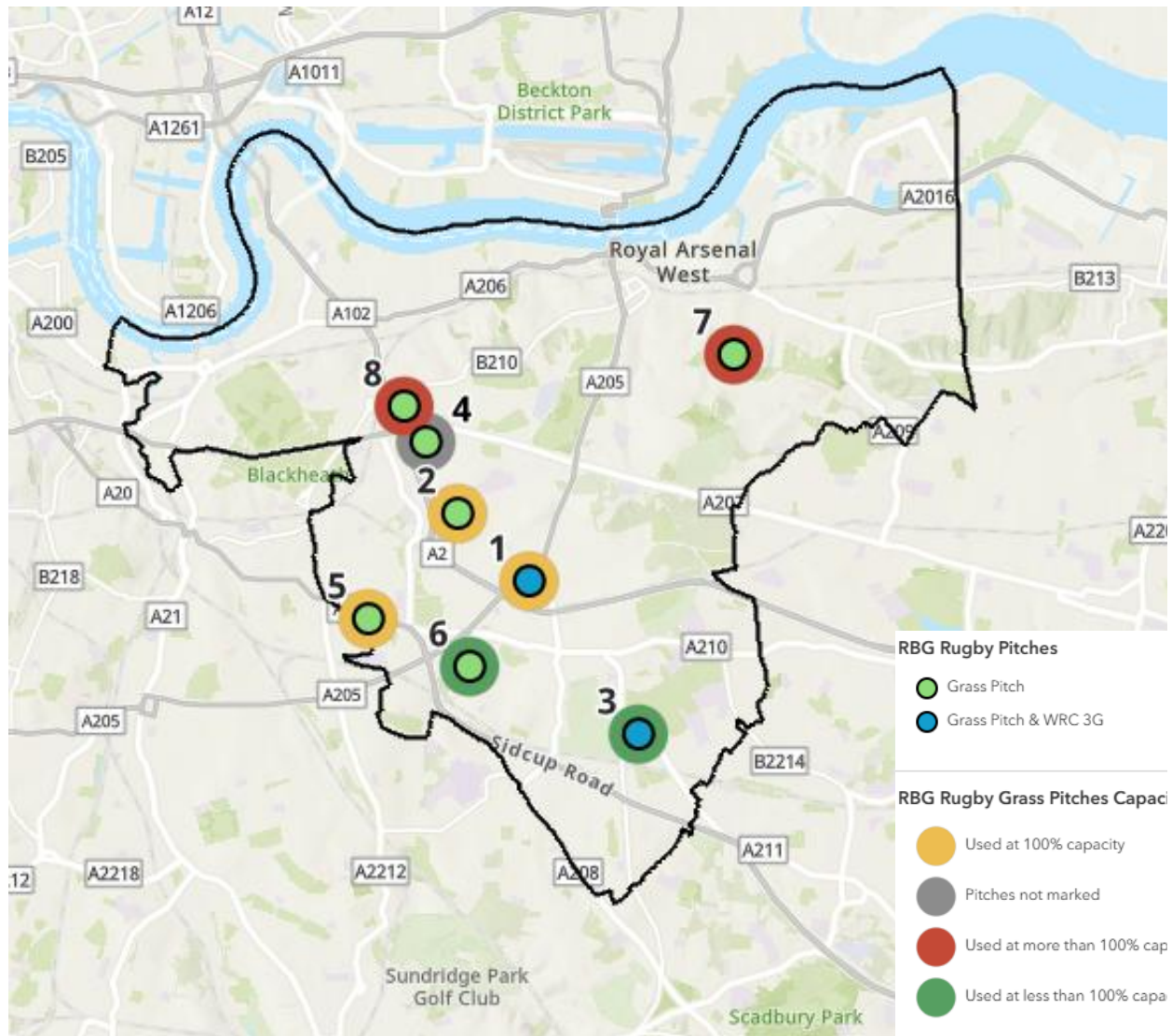
Figure 2.1 shows the distribution of rugby pitches in Greenwich and also indicates the level of use at each of the sites taken from the booking data and club surveys showing the percentage of used capacity based on the quality of the pitch and its carrying capacity. It is notable that the majority of the pitches in Greenwich are operating at their maximum capacity. This is further reviewed within this report taking into account the drop in supply of grass pitches and the balance of demand and supply for Rugby in the borough. 2.2 Rugby Pitches in Greenwich In the 2024/25 season, Greenwich had a total of 13 grass rugby pitches marked out with posts in situ available for community use, along with a further 2 previous pitches that are not currently marked out or have posts in place which are now primarily used for age grade rugby, school use, or club training. There are additional pitches on education sites at Colfes Leisure Centre (1), Harris Academy Greenwich (1), Leathersellers (3), Stationers Crown Woods (1) and Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys (1) but these are not currently available for regular community use. There is also a pitch at Royal Artillery Barracks not available for community use.

Rugby Clubs in the area use 3G pitches at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall and Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club. Both pitches were built to be World Rugby Compliant (WRC), but the certification at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall has lapsed and the shockpad is not suitable to support contact rugby. The facility is still used by the club for training approximately 17 hours a week. The 3G pitch at the University of Greenwich Avery Hill includes rugby markings, but does not have WRC certification. It is likely to be used for university rugby activity.

There are 6 natural turf pitches with permanent sports lighting in Greenwich, located at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall (1), Charlton Park RFC (2), Horn Park (1), and Rectory Field (2). In addition, a second pitch at Horn Park is used with portable sports lighting. Details on individual sites can be found in figure 2.2 and 2.3.



Figure 2.1 Greenwich rugby facilities



Key	Site	Postcode
1	BLACKHEATH FC (minor)-WELL HALL*	SE9 6TE
2	CHARLTON PARK RUGBY GROUND	SE3 8NB
3	FOOTS CRAY RUGBY SPORTS AND ATHLETICS CLUB*	SE9 2EL
4	HERVEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	SE3 88U
5	HORN PARK (COLFEIANS GROUNDS LTD)	SE12 8UE
6	OLD BROCKLEIANS SPORTS CLUB	SE9 5LX
7	PLUMSTEAD COMMON (GREENWICH RFC)	SE18 7QR
8	RECTORY FIELD (BLACKHEATH SPORTS CLUB)	SE3 8SR

*Grass and 3G WRC pitch.

2.3 The Situation at Individual Sites

The tables below (figure 2.2 and 2.3) outlines the supply, condition, ancillary facilities, and demand for each site available for community use in Greenwich. The RAG rating highlights the supply/demand balance

of each pitch, with **RED** indicating pitches used at more than capacity, **AMBER** indicating pitches which are used at capacity, and **GREEN** indicating pitches with surplus capacity.

Figure 2.2: Rugby Grass Pitches in Greenwich

Site	Postcode	Pitch	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Pitch capacity	Weekly Use 24/25	Supply / Demand Balance	RAG
BLACKHEATH FC (minor) – WELL HALL	SE9 6TE	P1 - Senior (SL)	M2/D2	Changing refurbished 2008	Secured - sports club	3.25	Matches -1 (1st & 2nd XV) Training - 2 Total = 3	0.25	
		P2 - Senior	M2/D2			3.25	Matches 3 (occasional Women's, girls, juniors use)	0.25	
CHARLTON PARK RUGBY CLUB	SE3 8NB	P1 - Senior (SL) Not LED but both pitches due to be converted	M2/D2	Large clubhouse - 5 Changing rooms (just 1 unisex shower), a function hall, kitchen, bar and former squash courts now converted to a training gym. Plans are submitted for construction of a second story and improved changing rooms. A Sport England grant is anticipated in 2025.	Secured - sports club	3.25	Matches 1 (1st XV / 2nd XV + 0.25 for county games) Training 2 Total = 3.25	0	
		P2 - Senior (SL)	M2/D2			3.25	Matches 1 (age grade rugby use) Training 2 (Football - Junior reds) Total = 3	0.25	
		Pitch not marked/ no posts	N/A			N/A	Training only not marked / no posts		
FOOT'S CRAY RUGBY SPORTS & ATHLETICS CLUB	SE9 2EL	P1 - Senior	M2/D2	Changing with disability facilities	Secured - sports club	3.25	Matches 1 (1st XV)	2.25	
HERVEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS (BLACKHEATH FC)	SE3 8BU	Pitch not marked/ no posts	N/A	Changing with disability facilities	Secured - sports club	N/A	Age grade (U6,U7,U8,U9,U10,U11) rugby use only no pitch marked		
HORN PARK (OLD COLFEIAN RFC)	SE12 8UE	P1 - Senior (SL-LED)	M1/D3	Changing (8 rooms) with a gym, sports hall, 2 squash courts. Separate social club bar and clubroom available for hire. The changing rooms need a major overhaul and modernising to include the provision of a disabled WC. Funding awarded from impact 25 (RFU) to develop an additional two changing rooms.	Secured - Rugby Club has 25 year lease	3	Matches 2 (4 Ad teams) Training 1 Total = 3	0	
		P2 - Senior	M1/D3			3	Matches 3 (LSE, Juniors x4, plus schools use)	0	
		P3 - Senior (portable sports lighting used)	M1/D3			3	Matches 2 (Juniors x 5, school use) Training 1 Total = 3	0	
OLD BROCKLEANS SPORTS CLUB	SE9 5LX	Pitch not marked/ no posts	M1/D1	Changing refurbished 2015. 2x CR, communal showers, bar, and social area.	Secured - sports club	2	Matches 0.75 (OB RFC senior and occasional senior 0.75) + half junior club use 0.5 Total = 1.25	0.75	
(OLD COLFEIANS RFC)		Pitch not marked/ no posts	M1/D1			2	Matches 0.75 (OB RFC senior and occasional senior 0.75) + half junior club use 0.75 Total = 1.5	0.5	
PLUMSTEAD COMMON (GREENWICH RFC)	SE18 7QR	P1 -Senior	M0/D0	Pavilion with a clubroom, kitchen and 2 team changing rooms. The club has recently upgraded the female toilets and aspire to upgrade the kitchen.	Secured - public	0.5	Matches 3 GRFC(2 Ad/Jnrs) + schools (1)	-2.5	
RECTORY FIELD (BLACKHEATH FC)	SE3 8SR	P1 Senior (SL)	M2/D3	Changing with disability facilities refurbished in 2009. There is an aspiration to modernise the changing rooms which are dated in design and decoration.	Secured - sports club	3.5	Matches 2 (Women + Juniors) Training 2 (Women + Juniors) Total = 4	-0.5	
		P2 - Senior (SL)	M2/D2			3.25	Matches 2 (Askeans + juniors + schools use). Training 1 (Juniors) Total = 3	0.25	

SL = Sports Lighting

Figure 2.3: Rugby 3G AGP sites in Greenwich

Site	Postcode	AGP Size & Type	Date built (refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Peak hours ¹ available	Use in peak hours	Supply / Demand Balance	RAG
BLACKHEATH FC (minor) – WELL HALL	SE9 6TE	118m x 74m (SL) Built to WRC specifications but failed testing due to condition of pitch.	2009	Poor - failed WRC / FA certification	Changing	Secured - sports club (ground owned by Blackheath FC)	22*	22 (Rugby 17, Football 5)	0	
FOOT'S CRAY RUGBY SPORTS & ATHLETIC CLUB	SE9 2EL	106m X 70m WRC 3G (SL)	2018	Standard	Changing with disability facilities for 12 teams of traditional design and layout.	Secured- sports club	34	34 (Rugby 10, Football 24)	0	

*discounted for competition and contact training analysis

¹ Peak hours = M-Th 5-9pm, Fri 5-7pm, S&S 9-5pm = 34hrs

2.4 Ownership and Security of Access

There is a mix of ownership of grass rugby sites in Greenwich but all are secured for rugby provision. There is one Council owned site, Plumstead Common which is managed by the Council, the other seven sites are either owned or on long leases to clubs.

2.5 Pitch Quality – Maintenance and Drainage

The maintenance of grass rugby pitches in Greenwich is the responsibility of the site owners/ lease holders of each site. As shown in figure 2.4 the maintenance of grass pitches across the borough is varied, however the drainage is good on all sites except one.

Figure 2.4– Pitch Maintenance and Drainage Ratings from Site Visits and Club Consultation

Number of pitches		Maintenance			
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)	Total
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	1	-	-	1
	Natural Adequate (D1)	-	2	-	2
	Pipe Drained (D2)	-	-	6	6
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	-	3	1	4
	Total	1	5	7	13

There is one pitch at Plumstead Common with inadequate drainage and poor maintenance. The site is heavily used for rugby and PE provision by Plumstead Manor School as well as it being on a main route for pupils walking to and from school. The ground has become compacted over time and is slow to drain.

also been reported that Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club do not have a sinking fund in place to resurface their WRC 3G which will be due in 3-5 years' time.

2.5 Park Pitches

The pitch on Plumstead Common receives frequent recreational use from walkers, joggers, and dog walkers, which impacts the quality of pitch as noted above. Hervey Road Playing Fields is also publicly accessible but only age grade rugby provision is played here. This site is also used by Cricket and Football teams.

2.7 Proposed New Supply

There is no new proposed supply of pitches in the area.

2.6 At Risk Sites

No rugby sites are at risk of development, however the 3G artificial pitch at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall has failed its WRC certification and has a shock pad which is not suitable for contact rugby and whilst still used by the club for training, there is a risk that the facility will be unsafe to use in the future. It has

2.8 Ancillary Facilities

Ancillary facilities for rugby in Greenwich are generally of a standard condition, with some sites requiring improvement to bring them up to modern standards and make the facilities more accessible for youth players, females and those with disabilities. Charlton Park RFC have submitted plans to the council planning department for the construction of a second storey and improved changing rooms. Old Cofeians RFC have received an impact 25 grant from RFU to develop two additional changing rooms on site and Greenwich RFC has recently upgraded the female toilets. Figure 2.2 details the situation at each individual site.

Figure 2.5 Ancillary improvements needed

Site	Needs
Charlton Park RFC	The club have submitted plans to the council to upgrade the changing facilities to meet current RFU standards and safeguarding responsibilities.
Horn Park (Old Colfeians RFC)	The club aim to modernise the changing facilities and improve the WCs, to include accessible provision for all users of Horn Park
Old Brockleians Sports Club	The club highlighted a need to replace the old mains water tank as it ageing, make improvements to the cellar, and signage
Plumstead Common (Greenwich RFC)	The club would like to improve the kitchen.
Rectory Field (Blackheath FC)	The changing room is dated in design and decoration and need modernising.

2.9 Access to Rugby Facilities

The population of Greenwich is well served by the spread of facilities identified in figure 2.1. Sport England's Active Places Area Access Tool highlights that 100% of the population of Greenwich live within the recommended 20-minute drive time catchment of a rugby pitch. On average, the nearest rugby pitch is only 0-5 minutes drivetime for 59% of the population, 5-10 minutes for 36% and 10-15 minutes for the remaining 5%.

It should be noted that the public transport links and active travel infrastructure is essential to ensure all residents are able to access facilities within a reasonable travel catchment. 2021 Census data shows that 43.1% of households in Greenwich do not have access to a car or van, significantly greater than the national average of 36%, therefore residents are likely to rely on active travel and public transport infrastructure to access local sports facilities.

2.10 Rugby Supply in Neighbouring Boroughs

82% of the population's nearest facility is within the Greenwich authority boundary, for the remaining 18% the closest facility is outside of the borough. The only site identified by Sport England's Area Access tool with an active Rugby club is Sidcup RFC, Sidcup Sports Park (Southeast, Bexley).

3. Rugby Pitch Demand (Step 3)

3.1 Clubs and Teams

The rugby clubs and teams based in Greenwich are listed in Figure 3.1 below. In total there are eight clubs playing on grass pitches in the area, four of which offer youth provision. The largest two clubs also have women's or girl's teams.

Figure 3.1: Table of senior rugby club information

Rugby Clubs	2024/25 League(s)	Age Grade Teams (squads)	Home Ground	Training Ground
Askeans RFC 1 st XV Mens	Counties 4 Kent	none	Rectory Field	Unknown
Blackheath FC 1 st XV Mens	National One	U7-U11 (5) U12B U13B	Blackheath FC – Well Hall	Blackheath FC – Well Hall
Blackheath FC 2 nd XV Mens	The Shield League	U14B U15B	Rectory Field	Blackheath FC – Well Hall (3G)
Blackheath FC 1 st XV Womens	Championship SE 2	U16B U17B U18B	Hervey Road (age grade)	
Charlton Park RFC 1 st XV Mens	Counties 1 Kent	U7-U9 (3)	Charlton RFC	Charlton RFC
Charlton Park RFC 2 nd XV Mens	Kent Metropolitan			
Foots Cray RFC 1 st XV Mens	Counties 3 Kent	none	Foots Cray Rugby Sports & Athletics Club	Foots Cray Rugby Sports & Athletics Club (3G)
Greenwich RFC 1 st XV Mens	Counties 5 Kent	U7-U11 (5) U12B U15B	Plumstead Common	Plumstead Common
Old Brockleians RFC 1 st XV Mens	Counties 3 Kent	none	Old Brockleians Sports Club	Old Brockleians Sports Club
Old Brockleians RFC 1 st XV Mens	Friendlies Only			
Old Colfeians RFC 1 st XV Mens	Regional 2 South East	U7-U11 (5) U12B (1) U12G (1) U13B	Horn Park	Horn Park
Old Colfeians RFC 2 nd XV Mens	Counties 4 Kent	U14B (1) U14G (1) U15B	Old Brockleians (age grade)	
Old Colfeians RFC 3 rd XV Mens	Counties 4 Kent	U16B (1) U16G (1) U18B		
Old Colfeains RFC Veterans	Friendlies Only			
Old Shootershillians RFC 1 st XV Mens	Friendlies Only	none	Charlton RFC (ad hoc)	none

3.2 Active Lives Survey

The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey2 showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in rugby in England by adults (aged 16+) increased from 0.5% in November 2022-23 to 0.6% in November 2023-24, an increase in participation of 0.1%. If rugby participation in the borough were at the national average (i.e., 0.6%), this would indicate around 1059 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play rugby out of a 16+ adult population of approximately 176,469. This playing population considers both regular club participation and regular informal recreational play in parks and hired facilities, and Greenwich residents who participate outside of the city.

With approximately 15 senior rugby teams based in Greenwich, the adult rugby club playing memberships in the borough is estimated at 630 players (assuming an average squad size of 42 players per team), if we then assume adult rugby participation in Greenwich is in line with the national average of 0.6% it suggests that 41% of all regular rugby played is either ‘displaced’ to venues outside of the borough (e.g. other clubs) or takes place in informal, social game formats such as tag or touch rugby, which is provided in the borough.

3.3 Imported and Displaced Demand

There is no imported demand for matches, but two rugby clubs from outside the borough (Old Elthamians

and Dartfordians) use the 3G AGP at Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club for training. No clubs reported using facilities outside of the borough.

4. The Situation at Individual Sites for Rugby (step 4)

The pitches were visited in November and February of the 2024/25 season and assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the RFU in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (2013) - i.e., a non-technical visual site assessment. These assessments were reviewed in discussion with the RFU and ratings for each agreed as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site could accommodate (it’s carrying capacity) against the amount of play that takes place.

Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per season for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use. The following pitch carrying capacities according to each quality rating was used to be consistent with the approach adopted in similar assessments across the country (figure 4.1):

PitchPower Assessments were also undertaken on 2 pitches in the borough at Charlton Park RFC. The PitchPower report findings for these sites identify the maintenance needs required to improve pitch quality.

Figure 4.1: Rugby Pitch Carrying Capacity

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

At the time of reporting the rating of the pitches was unavailable.

- 1. Pitch supply (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e., its carrying capacity for community use);
- 2. The amount of play that takes place at each site (i.e., the expressed demand) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training;

- 3. The comparison (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
 - **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

There is one site, highlighted from the site audit spreadsheet as **RED** rated sites where the majority of the available grass rugby pitches are overplayed.

- Plumstead Common

There are four sites, highlighted from the site audit spreadsheet as **AMBER** rated sites where the majority of the available grass rugby pitches are being played to capacity.

- Blackheath FC (minor) – Well Hall
- Charlton Park Rugby Club
- Horn Park
- Rectory Field

This shows the majority of rugby pitches in the area are being played to their maximum capacity, which restricts the growth of clubs and impacts the quality of playing pitch surfaces. The current picture of provision for rugby is explored further in Section 5.

5. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Rugby (step 5)

5.1 Current

Overall, the majority of grass rugby pitches in Greenwich are currently at capacity for the amount of demand for training and matches, with 5/7 sites with marked pitches being used either in excess of their carrying capacity or to capacity. The 2 sites not being

used to full capacity are Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club and Old Brockleians Sports Club. The location of facilities is well spread throughout the borough.

Only one 3G pitch in the area is World Rugby Compliant at Foots Cray Rugby Sports & Athletics Club and is used for training by a number of rugby and football clubs and is at capacity in the peak hours. The 3G pitch at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall has failed its WRC certification and has a failing shock pad, it is still used by the club for training and hired out to football clubs and an American football team.

The 3G pitch at the University of Greenwich Avery Hill includes rugby markings but does not have WRC certification.

There are seven grass pitches with permanent sports lighting that are used for training, one at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall, two at Charlton Park RFC, one at Horn Park, one at Old Brockleians Sports Club and two at Rectory Field. The two at Charlton RFC are due to converted to LED before the start of the 25/26 season and Old Colfeians also use portable sports lighting on a second pitch at Horn Park.

5.2 Future

Planned/expected growth – Five rugby clubs in Greenwich reported ambitions to grow in the next 3 years and outlined their plans in the survey, as detailed in figure 5.1 below.

Figure 5.1 Growth aspirations of clubs

Club	Growth aspirations
Charlton Park RFC	The club are looking to attract players at both senior and age grade level
Greenwich RFC	Greenwich RFC are always looking to increase their membership; they plan to link with Plumstead Manor School and have started discussions with the PE department.
Old Brockleians RFC	<i>No specific development plan noted, but highlighted aspirations to grow.</i>
Old Colfeians RFC	The club hope to attract new players through a social media campaign with targeted adverts and improved Google search functions as well as improving the facilities at the club with a new changing room block and new gym.
Askeans RFC	The club aim to grow through links with Greenwich University, new contacts in New Zealand and friends of friends.

Potential effect of population change – To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2036 on the need for rugby pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) has been used to determine the demand likely to be generated in the future due to population growth (figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Future Demand.

Sport	Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)	Training Demand MES on grass pitches with Sports lighting	Estimated demand for new grass pitches (match & training demand)
Rugby Union	1.81	2.02	1.81
Total	1.81	2.02	1.81

To meet rugby demand from 26,808 additional residents (as currently forecasted³) and assuming current levels of rugby demand by age group for matches and training in peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +2 additional full size natural turf pitches (rounded up from 1.81) is needed to accommodate the additional demand. Pitches will require sufficient sports lighting to accommodate training demand for new teams.

There is also likely to be an increased demand for women and girls’ rugby due to the success of England Women’s team in the 2025 Women’s Rugby World Cup. The RFU have launched Impact 25, a legacy programme for the 2025 Women’s Rugby World Cup which has committed funding to facility development,

coaching and match officials, playing and volunteering, and community and fan engagement. This programme aims to grow women’s rugby to 100,000 female players by 2027. Sport England’s Active Lives Survey suggests that 0.1% of the female population regularly participate in rugby union, roughly 30,400 participants. Should the RFU achieve the ambitions set out in Impact 25, female participation nationally could increase by roughly 70,000 over the next 3 years.

This likely increase in women and girls’ participation added to the growth ambitions of clubs in the borough mean the future demand highlighted in figure 5.2 should be considered as the minimum amount of additional provision needed when planning future requirements.

6. Key Findings and Issues for Rugby (step 6)

Figure 6.1: Rugby Key Findings and Issues

The main characteristics of the current supply of and demand for provision
Since the last assessment of Rugby Union in 2015, there has been a significant change in the total supply of grass rugby pitches available for community use with 9 fewer than reported in the previous strategy. There are now 13 pitches available for community use and marked out, in addition there are 2 previous pitches that are not currently marked out or have posts in place which are now primarily used for age grade rugby, school use, or club training. There has been a loss of pitches at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall (-1, previously had 3 pitches on site), Charlton Park RFC (-1, previously had 3 marked out, space remains for a third pitch but it is not marked out and posts are not in place), Old Shootershillians Sports Associations (-2), Footscray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club (-1, but replaced by WRC 3G pitch). Hervey Road Playing Fields has been brought back into use since the last strategy when it was closed and whilst does not have marked pitches or posts in place is used for age grade rugby provision. Similarly, the unmarked pitch at Charlton Park is used for training provision. There has been an additional World Rugby Compliant (WRC) 3G pitch developed in Greenwich at Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club in 2018. The facility has rugby markings and posts suitable for matches and training. However, the WRC certification at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall has lapsed and the shockpad is not suitable for contact rugby. The facility is still used by the club for training approximately 17 hours a week. The 3G pitch at the University of Greenwich Avery Hill includes rugby markings but does not have WRC certification. The number of teams in the area has increased by 2, to 55. There has been a reduction of 7 adult teams (-6 male and -1 female teams), but an increase in girls age grade teams (+7, with none recorded in the previous strategy in 2015) and mixed U11 age grade teams (+2). This growth in age grade boys and girls provision is likely to continue putting additional pressure on the pitches already at capacity, especially given the loss of community available grass rugby pitches since the previous 2015 assessment. With the number of teams requiring pitch space staying the same, but the supply of pitches decreasing, 10/13 of the remaining pitches are now played at or over capacity.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?
Yes – The overall current grass pitch capacity in Greenwich is +1.5 MES including midweek training provision. The majority of rugby pitches in Greenwich are currently at or near capacity for the amount of demand for training and matches, with only two pitches being played in excess of their carrying capacity. However there are three grass pitches in the borough not being used to full capacity at Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club and Old Brockleians Sports Club. Only one 3G pitch in the area is World Rugby Compliant at Foots Cray Rugby Sports & Athletics Club and is used for training by a number of rugby and football clubs and is at capacity in the peak hours, whilst the 3G pitch at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall has failed its WRC certification it is still used by the club for training. There are seven grass pitches with permanent sports lighting that are used for training, one at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall, two at Charlton Park RFC, one at Horn Park, one at Old Brockleians Sports Club, and two at Rectory Field. The two at Charlton RFC are due to converted to LED before

the start of the 25/26 season and Old Colfeians also use portable sports lighting on a second pitch at Horn Park.

All of the provision is secured either through Council ownership and leases to clubs or by clubs having freehold ownership.

Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

No – Of the 13 grass pitches in Greenwich, 1 is rated as having inadequate drainage and poor maintenance, which significantly reduces the playing capacity of pitch and leads to the club having to carefully manage usage and frequently cancel training and matches. The maintenance of the remaining pitches is either adequate (5/13) or good (7/13), with pipe or pipe and slit drainage in place on all other grass pitches apart from the 2 natural adequate drainage pitches at Old Brockleians Sports Club.

Improved maintenance of the 6 pitches in Greenwich rated ‘poor or adequate’ to a ‘good’ rating would, increase the carrying capacity of pitches by 0.5 – 1.5 match equivalent session per week, and would result in an additional 5 match equivalent session (MES) in the area.

The 3G pitch at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall has failed its WRC certification and has a failing shock pad, whilst it is still used by the club for training a key priority for the area should be the replacement of the surface and shockpad. There is also a need to improve the ancillary provision at five of the sites.

What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?

No - To meet rugby demand from 26,808 additional residents (as currently forecasted) and assuming current levels of rugby demand by age group for matches and training in peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +2 additional full size grass pitches are needed to accommodate the additional demand. Pitches will require sufficient sports lighting to accommodate training demand for new teams.

Four clubs in the area report ambitions to grow in the next 3 years and it is anticipated that women’s and girls’ participation for rugby will increase as England host the Women’s Rugby World Cup in 2025, creating additional demand for matches and training provision. This highlights that the need for 2 additional pitches for future demand should be considered as the minimum requirement for Greenwich.

Currently there are sufficient grass pitches to support the levels of demand but only 1.5 MES spare across all sites. Should the future demand highlighted above be realised, there would be shortfall of up to 2 grass pitch, leading to over play of the existing grass pitches. It is vital that opportunities to increase the supply of rugby pitches are explored to ensure future demand can be met.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

No – There is not currently sufficient provision to meet future demand, however if the current 2 unmarked pitches can be reinstated this would provide adequate capacity. Improvements to the maintenance at Plumstead Common (from poor to adequate) and at Horn Park (from adequate to good) would increase the capacity on these sites to accommodate current demand. There is a recognition that increasing the maintenance levels at Plumstead Common to good is likely to be difficult due to pressures on Council budgets and the open nature of the site. Usage of sites under capacity in particular Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletics Club by other clubs should be explored, as well as the options of the usage of education sites.

There is a total of 11.75 MES for mid-week training on grass pitches. Resurfacing and replacing the shock pad on the 3G pitch at Blackheath FC (minor)-Well Hall would enable some of this training demand to be accommodated on this site reducing the training demand on grass pitches and allow site managers to improve the quality of pitches for matches. The council should also seek to confirm if a shock pad suitable for contact rugby was included in the specifications for the 3G pitch at the University of Greenwich Avery Hill. As if this site was tested and achieved WR certification it could provide a potential solution for mid week rugby training, although the pitch is currently at capacity in the peak hours with football and university use.



Appendix E

Club consultation and aspirations

To understand the current landscape of clubs in Royal Greenwich, data was collected from a survey distributed to the sports clubs in the area. 44 individual sports clubs responded to the invitation to complete the survey. A summary of the club survey results is provided in the strategy introduction with this

appendix providing the results of key questions asked and details of clubs aspirations for improved facilities. It should be noted that not all clubs responded to the survey and some were consulted with by other means such as by phone or via a meeting.

Club Survey Responses

Figure E.1 Growth trend last 3 years

Does your Club/Organisation have more or fewer teams/active members than three seasons/years ago, or has the number of teams/active members stayed about the same?

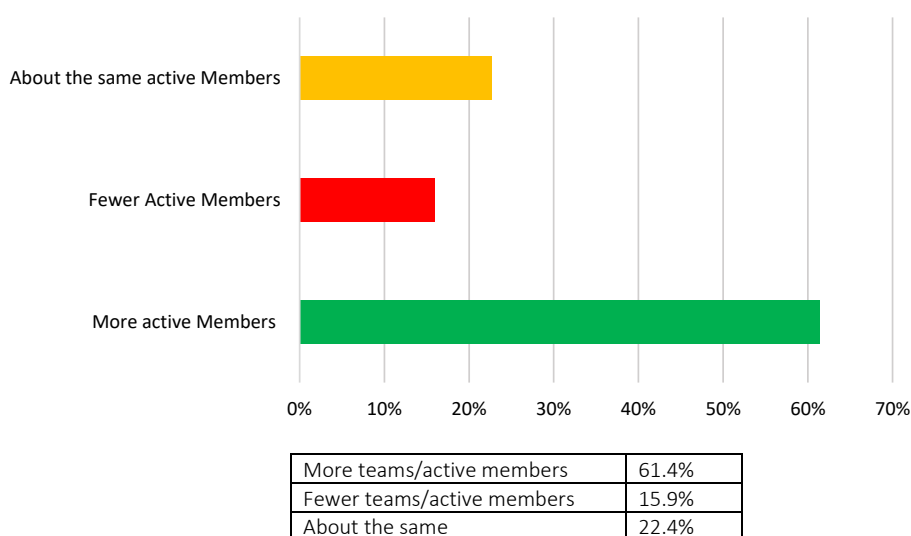


Figure E.2 Future growth

Does your Club/Organisation have plans to grow in the next three seasons/years?

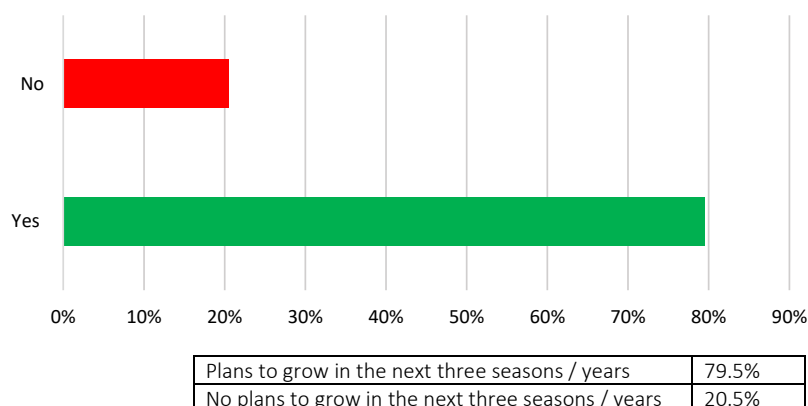


Figure E.3 Club response – Playing pitch ratings

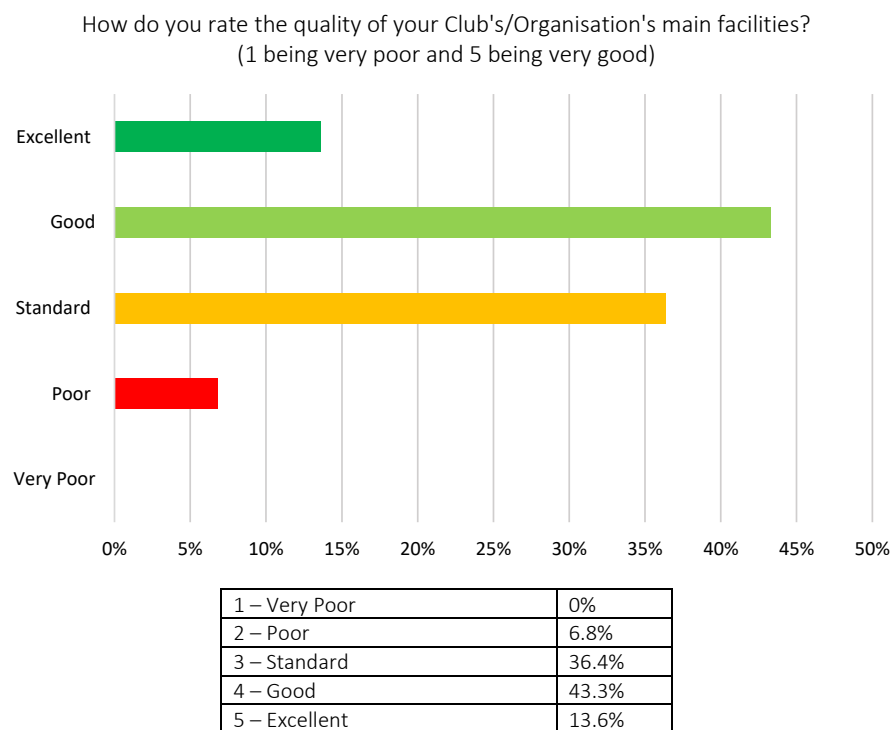


Figure E.4 Main site – Playing pitch improvements

Is there a need to improve or change your main sports facilities to sustain or grow your Club/Organisation?

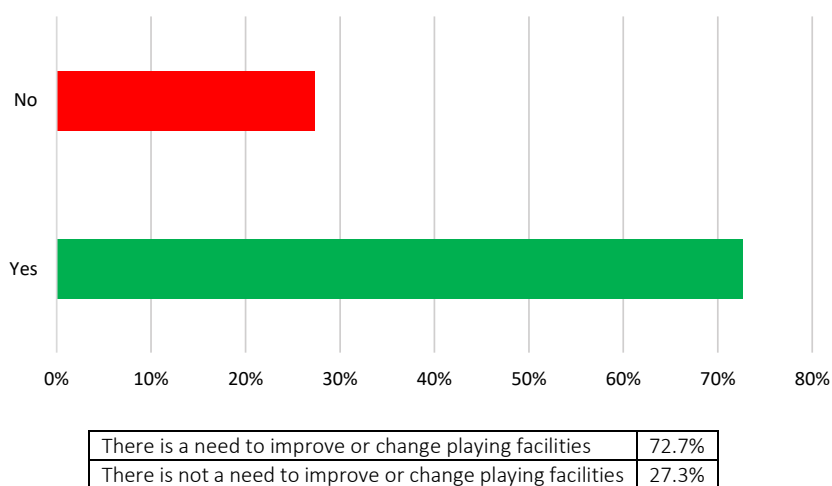


Figure E.5 Main site – Ancillary facilities rating

How do you rate the quality of the clubhouse/changing rooms at your Club's/Organisation's main site? (1 being very poor and 5 being very good).

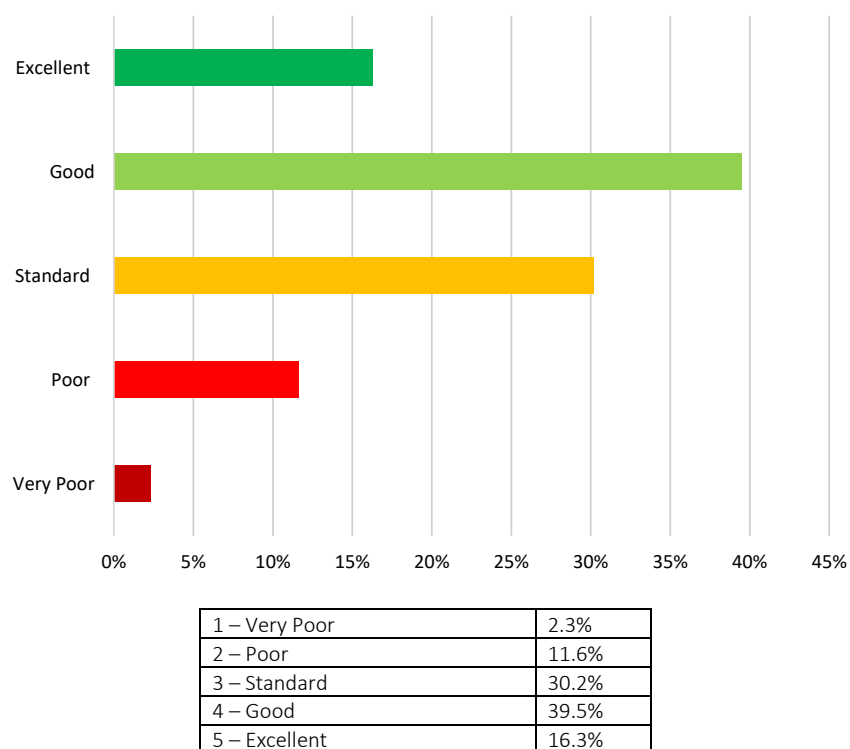
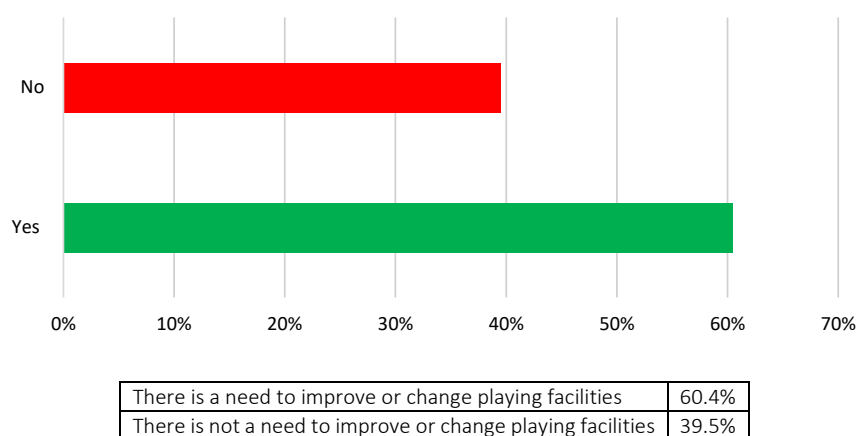


Figure E.6 Main site – Ancillary facilities improvement

Is there a need to improve Is there a need to change or improve your Club/Organisation's main ancillary facilities in order to sustain or grow the Club/Organisation?



Club aspirations and demands for facility improvements

The clubs surveyed cited a range of aspirations and facility needs to assist in growing and developing their club. A number of these have been considered during the formation of the strategy action plan in discussion with the steering group, however not all of these

needs were deemed to be priorities at the time of the strategy being developed and therefore have not been included in the action plan. In addition, some aspirations of clubs cannot be met due to the need to protect grass playing pitches of other sports. The table below illustrates the aspirations provided by the responding clubs, in their own words, as part of the survey process for reference and information.

Figure E.7 Playing Pitch Sports club aspirations and demands for facility improvements

Club/Sport	Aspirations/Demands
Abbeymead FC	The clubhouse and changing rooms could do with an upgrade as they are quite dated.
AFC Lewisham	Drainage is non-existent and needs to be addressed as 50% of matches are called off. The priority is to get planning permission for 3G pitch. There is also need to install new roof as the changing rooms and clubhouse leak.
Askean RFC	Aiming to achieve a longer agreement for hire of facilities.
Beacons FC	Increase the size of the clubhouse to allow for more changing rooms. Need secondary sites for training and matches to be able to expand.
Blackheath Rhinos	Need support for pitch maintenance to combat extreme weather conditions and support to flatten the playing surface.
Blackheath Wanderers	Installation of a 3G pitch to allow football to be played all year round. Improvements to the driveway are also needed.
Charlton Athletic Community Trust	They need additional changing and toilet facilities including a gender-neutral changing space and aim to create a safer spectator area and relay the AGP within next 3-5 years.
Charlton Park RFC	The playing surface is good but need help to expand its usage, we would welcome the provision of new 3G pitch on site to expand rugby and football provision. Urgently need new changing facilities to meet safeguarding responsibilities and RFU standards.
Cray Valley (PM) FC	Need to protect the land for sport use as the freeholder is looking to sell the ground for alternative use.
Crofton Albion	Drainage is poor and would like new 3G.
EWD Eagles Youth FC	Additional pitches are needed both grass and artificial.
GMV (Greenwich Millennium Village) CC	The club would benefit from access to grass cricket pitch in Greenwich borough. There is also, a need for cricket nets and pavilion installed in the borough.
Greenwich Peninsula FC (GPFC)	Require a central location venue in the Greenwich Peninsula with high quality facilities in order to grow.
Junior Reds FC	Require additional junior sized goals at venues. Training sites are on school premises, so grass is not well maintained. Floodlighting is needed for winter training.
Long Lane Junior FC	We are at full capacity and require a second 3G for evening training.
Meridian Sports and Social Club	Grass pitches need renovating and 3G needs to be relayed as it is old and worn. Additional changing facilities to meet demand.
Metrogas ASA Ltd	Currently in consultation with Football Foundation to replace sand based astro with 11v11 3G as it is currently not fit for purpose.
Old Colfeians CC	Need additional fixed practice net facilities at the ground. Currently looking to fund and build a female changing facility as well as refurbish the men's changing facility.

Club/Sport	Aspirations/Demands
Old Colfeians FC	Improvements needed for the maintenance of grass pitches. Kitchen facilities need upgrading in addition to changing facilities for females and junior boys.
Old Colfeians RFC	Changing facilities need upgrading and disabled toilet needs to be installed. Need regular access to a floodlit training pitch for both senior and junior midweek training as well as additional playing facilities to enable growth.
Old Roan CC	Changing facilities need upgrading and better maintenance. Also, a need for an artificial playing surface for training as well as wider community usage.
On Target Soccer	Need access to a greater number of pitches in order to grow club.
Royal Greenwich Borough FC	Would like their own facilities. Could benefit from funding to redevelop unusable building at the University of Greenwich.
Russellers FC	The changing facilities could do with an upgrade. In order for the club to grow, they will need to relocate as space is limited.
Sabina CC	The square needs to be relayed and increased in size – application is currently in progress. An artificial strip will also need to be installed. Shower facilities need a full refurbish.
Samuel Montagu Youth Centre	Grass pitch drainage needs upgrading. 3G pitch needs to be resurfaced. Require an increase in capacity of changing facilities as well as upgrades to shower and toilet facilities. Also need support to improve energy efficiency of the club.
Shooterballers FC	Additional floodlit artificial pitches so they are able to train more. Improved maintenance to grass pitches at Charlton Park and Hornfair park.
Simba CC, Kent	Surface needs relaying. Additional changing facilities for women is also needed. Number of sites have had challenges with pitch preparation and maintenance which needs to be addressed
Teviot Rangers JFC	Currently trying to get a lease extension with council to support installation of a 9v9 3G pitch through Football Foundation. Clubhouse requires either rebuilding or full renovation as it is very outdated.
The Covenant CC	Support needed for pitch maintenance.
Welling United FC Youth	Currently in the planning stage with RBG to install 2x3G pitches at GB10 sports which will help them remain sustainable.

Appendix F

National, Regional and Local Planning Policy: Sport and Recreation Facilities

1. National Planning Policy

The relevant policy promoting healthy and safe communities in the government's latest revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) dated 12th December 2024 is at paragraphs 96, 97 and 98:

Para 96 - Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:

- a. promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;
- b. are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and
- c. enable and support healthy lives, through both promoting good health and preventing ill-health, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs and reduce health inequalities between the most and least deprived communities – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

Para 97 - Local planning authorities should refuse applications for hot food takeaways and fast food outlets:

- a. within walking distance of schools and other places where children and young people congregate, unless the location is within a designated town centre; or
- b. in locations where there is evidence that a concentration of such uses is having an adverse impact on local health, pollution or anti-social behaviour.

Para 98 - To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- a. plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- b. take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;
- c. guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- d. ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and
- e. ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- a. plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- b. take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;
- c. guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- d. ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and
- e. ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

The relevant national planning policy protecting existing sports and recreation buildings and land is at paragraphs 103 and 104 of the NPPF 2024:

Para 103 - Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

Para 104 - Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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



2. Regional Planning Policy

The London Plan is the Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London and is part of the statutory development plan for all London Boroughs. It sets out an integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of London.

The London Plan (2021) aims to reduce health inequality and promote the health of Londoners'. The key policy referencing sports facilities is:

Policy S5 Sports Facilities

A. To ensure there is sufficient supply of good quality sports and recreation facilities, boroughs should:

1. *prepare Development Plans informed by a needs assessment for sports and recreation facilities. Needs should be assessed at the local and subregional level. Needs assessments should include an audit of existing facilities*
2. *secure sites for a range of sports and recreation facilities in Development Plans, as justified by the needs assessment*
3. *maintain, promote and enhance networks for walking, cycling and other activities including the Walk London Network*

B. Development proposals for sports and recreation facilities should:

1. *increase or enhance the provision of facilities in accessible locations, well-connected to public transport and link to networks for walking and cycling*
2. *maximise the multiple use of facilities, and encourage the co-location of services between sports providers, schools, colleges, universities and other community facilities*
3. *support the provision of sports lighting within reasonable hours, where there is an identified need for sports facilities, and lighting is required to increase their potential usage, unless the lighting gives rise to demonstrable harm to the local community or biodiversity.*

C. Existing sports and recreational land (including playing fields) and facilities for sports and recreation should be retained unless:

1. *an assessment has been undertaken which clearly shows the sports and recreational land or facilities to be surplus to requirements (for the existing or alternative sports and recreational provision) at the local and sub-regional level. Where published, a borough's assessment of need for sports and recreation facilities should inform this assessment; or*
2. *the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
3. *the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.*

D. Where facilities are proposed on existing open space, boroughs should consider these in light of policies on protecting open space (Policy G2 London's Green Belt, Policy G3 Metropolitan Open Land and Policy G4 Open space) and the borough's own assessment of needs and opportunities for sports facilities, and the potential impact that the development will have.

3. Local Planning Policy

The Royal Greenwich Local Plan was formally adopted on the 30th July 2014. It forms part of The Local Development Framework, a collection of planning documents that deliver the spatial planning strategy and policies for the Borough. It comprises of the following documents:

- The Local Plan consisting of core strategy, policies map and site allocation.
- Procedural planning policy documents including statement of community involvement, developers' engagement charter, local development scheme, authority monitoring reports

3.1 The Existing Local Plan

The Royal Greenwich Local Plan: Core Strategy with Detailed Policies shapes and guides development in

Greenwich and directs decision-making on planning applications and informs investment in social and physical infrastructure. It sets out the long term aspirations, and indicates the broad locations in Royal Greenwich for future housing, employment, retail, infrastructure and other land uses, as well as providing detailed policies that will be used to assess planning applications.

'By 2028, Royal Greenwich will have successfully accommodated a high level of sustainable growth, which will have a positive and enhancing impact on the existing environment and community.

To achieve this the Local Plan includes key planning policies relating to proposals for new sport and recreation facilities and proposals involving the loss of facilities. The key Local Plan policy of relevance is:

Policy OS(d) – Sportsgrounds and playing fields

The Royal Borough will resist granting planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss, or would prejudice the use, of a playing field or land last used as a playing field except where:

- A**
- an appraisal of current and future needs for playing fields has demonstrated that there is an excess of playing field provision and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport or for school playing field(s), and*
 - the site is surplus to requirements of all other open space functions; or*
- B**
- the proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or not forming part of, a playing pitch, or*
 - the proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of land, or*
 - an alternative site or facility of at least an equivalent quantity and quality is provided in a suitable location;*

Access to suitable open space, community facilities and good transport infrastructure is critical to community health and wellbeing, furthermore, the provision of traffic free links between open spaces provides a valuable resource for a range of free to access sports and recreation activities including walking and cycling. The Local Plan recognises this through the strategic policies CH2 – Healthy Communities, , OS1 – Open Space, OS2 – Metropolitan Open Space, OS3 – South East London Green Chain, IM1 Infrastructure IM4 Sustainable Travel.

3.2 The Emerging Local Plan

The new Local Plan will set out the council's vision for the development of Royal Greenwich from 2022 to 2037. The Council is undertaking Regulation 18 consultation from December 2025 until February 2026, with regulation 19 consultation expected to be late 2026. The emerging Local Plan recognises that playing pitches play an important role for the

health and well-being of both children and adults, and therefore protects these valuable facilities through open space designations and development management policies. As the draft Plan progresses through consultation stages, proposed policies may be amended.

3.3 Sport England Guidance

Sport England has published guidance for local authorities on how to undertake and apply needs assessments for community sports facilities in accordance with the NPPF (i.e. Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities, July 2014). Sport England recommends local authorities adopt an evidence-based approach to the assessment of the quantity of facilities as set out in this Playing Pitch Strategy, which once adopted will supersede the previous versions completed in 2015.





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