



## LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### ASSESSMENT REPORT MARCH 2022

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFL	Australian Football League
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
AP	Active Partnership
ARLFC	Amateur Rugby League Football Club
BAFA	British American Football Association
BE	Basketball England
BSUK	BaseballSoftball UK
CFA	County Football Association
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
EH	England Hockey
EL	England Lacrosse
ETA	England Touch Association
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FF	Football Foundation
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HE	Higher Education
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LBC	Lambeth Borough Council
LFA	London Football Association
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NC	Netball Club
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
SE	Sport England
TC	Tennis Club
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under
UKU	UK Ultimate
WR	World Rugby

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

### 1.1: Introduction

This is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) Assessment Report for Lambeth. It presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and other outdoor sports facilities in Lambeth in accordance with Sport England's The Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy.

The PPS guidance details a stepped approach that is separated into five distinct stages:

- ◀ Stage A: Preparation
  - ◀ Step 1: Clarify why the Playing Pitch Strategy is being developed
  - ◀ Step 2: Set up the management arrangements
  - ◀ Step 3: Tailor the approach
- ◀ Stage B: Information Gathering
  - ◀ Step 4: Develop an audit of playing pitches
  - ◀ Step 5: Develop a picture of demand
- ◀ Stage C: Assessment
  - ◀ Step 6: Understand how each site is being used
  - ◀ Step 7: Develop the current picture of provision
  - ◀ Step 8: Carry out scenario testing
- ◀ Stage D: Key Findings & Issues
  - ◀ Step 9: Identify key findings & issues
  - ◀ Step 10: Check and challenge key findings & issues
- ◀ Stage E: Strategy Development & Implementation
  - ◀ Step 11: Develop conclusions & recommendations
  - ◀ Step 12: Develop an action & implementation plan
  - ◀ Step 13: Adopt, monitor and review the Playing Pitch Strategy

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D and Stage E covered in the subsequent strategy document. This Assessment and subsequent Strategy population projections will run from 2021-2035, in line with the new Lambeth Local Plan (2021).

### 1.2: Local context

#### ***Lambeth Local Plan (2020-35)***

The Lambeth Local Plan sets out the vision, strategic objectives and policies for development in Lambeth for the period 2020 to 2035. The Plan covers housing, business and town centres, social infrastructure, transport and communications, environment and green infrastructure, quality of the built environment and places and neighbourhoods. Together with the Mayor's London Plan and the South Bank and Waterloo Neighbourhood Plan, it forms the current statutory development plan for the Borough.

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the programme for the production of Lambeth's Development Plan Documents and other planning policy documents. The cabinet of the Council adopted a new LDS in October 2021, replacing the previous version dated October 2019.

The Council has a statutory duty to maintain an up-to-date LDS. The Localism Act 2011 stipulates that the LDS must be updated every three years. In addition, Government has introduced a requirement to review and where necessary update the Local Plan every five years. This purpose of the LDS is to explain which Local Plan documents are to be produced and to set out the timetable for preparing them.

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In response to Sport England's comments in 2020 on the draft revised Lambeth Local Plan, the Local Plan was updated to make clear that outdoor sport facilities and playing fields will be considered under Local Plan Policy EN1 – open space. The Plan also now makes clear that proposals involving a loss of school playing fields will be considered under policy EN1.

Indoor recreation and sports facilities are dealt with under Policy S1 and are deemed social infrastructure. A Built Facilities Strategy will also need to be prepared by the Council to ensure that there is a robust and up-to-date assessment of need for both outdoor and indoor recreation and sports facilities.

The PPOSS aims to ensure that existing facilities are the most appropriate in terms of quantity, quality and location and considers how best to meet the additional needs generated by the planned housing and economic growth.

### ***Regional planning context***

Relevant regional policy and guidance should be accounted for, including the following:

- ◀ London Plan Policies (March 2021):
- ◀ Forthcoming London Plan policies relating to playing pitches.
- ◀ Mayor of London's Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation SPG, 2012

### ***Active Lambeth Strategy (2021-2026)***

Lambeth Borough Council is consulting on the draft Active Lambeth Strategy. The Strategy explains the health and wellbeing priorities set to tackle needs identified across the Borough. It will seek to ensure that the benefits of sport and physical activity can be accessed by all residents.

The strategy vision is 'To embed the benefits of physical activity and sport into the everyday lives of Lambeth residents.' It has six strategic objectives, employing the same five headings as Sport England's 'Uniting the Movement' strategy, adding a sixth 'Promote Safer Communities' which reflects the Borough's concern to reduce serious youth crime and anti-social behaviour.

The draft strategy identifies several 'big ideas' it proposes to deliver on within the next five years. Of particular relevance to the PPOSS are:

- ◀ To propose a capital programme funded by internal and external investment that maintains and develops the Borough's sport facilities and parks
- ◀ To establish a Lambeth Sports Partnership Board to provide a voice for the Borough's sports clubs and community organisations
- ◀ To improve the Borough's football facilities with three new artificial pitches at Brockwell and Ruskin Parks and Clapham Common as outlined in the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for Lambeth
- ◀ To establish a facility base that will allow club cricket and rugby to be played in the Borough – currently this isn't possible
- ◀ To work with Surrey Cricket Foundation and the ACE Programme to increase diversity by building grassroots cricket provision and talent ID systems in black communities
- ◀ To develop a specific programme of girl's and women's activity

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## ***Leisure operation***

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) is Lambeth Borough Council's appointed leisure contractor, delivering leisure facilities/service in the Borough on its behalf. The UK's largest leisure charitable social enterprise, GLL has managed facilities in the City since 2007 and will work in partnership with Lambeth Borough Council to do so until 2023 under its Better brand.

The existing GLL contract for management of facilities was due to expire in 2022, however the Council has taken the decision not to renew this contract and to again bring management of facilities back in-house. A one year extension to the current contract has been agreed, which will see GLL manage facilities until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, to aid the transition of management back to the Council. The parks sports booking service provided by GLL will be brought in-house will end sooner on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

At present, GLL formally manages leisure facilities with outdoor sports provision at Brixton Recreation Centre and Ferndale Community Sports Centre.

In practice, GLL also co-ordinates the booking of facilities at several other sites it does not directly manage but which are managed by the Council, such as playing fields. Whilst these are managed by the Council, which receives the revenue from any bookings made, it does not have a suitable booking system to record and co-ordinate hire, therefore the Council works with GLL to record bookings for both Council managed and GLL managed provision through the one service co-ordinated by GLL.

## **1.3: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach**

### ***Management arrangements***

A project team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, within the cost envelope and to the required quality standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the Playing Pitch Strategy from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Lambeth Borough Council, Sport England, London Sport and National Governing Bodies of Sport.

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

- ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the Playing Pitch Strategy
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy recommendations and action plan
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the Playing Pitch Strategy
- ◀ Ensure that the Playing Pitch Strategy is kept up to date and refreshed

### ***Why the Playing Pitch Strategy is being developed***

The rationale for undertaking this study is to update current levels of provision within Lambeth across the public, private, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand.

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Its primary purpose is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor sports facilities meet local and community needs of existing and future residents. The strategy will provide robust and objective justification for future sporting provision throughout Lambeth.

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Paragraph 98 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraph 98 of the NPPF discusses assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Paragraph 99 makes clear that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless one of three tests are met. These are: 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 benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

A PPS contributes to the evidence base to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021).

### **Scope**

The Assessment Report provides detail in respect of what exists in the Borough. With regards to each sport, the PPOSS will specifically consider the number of pitches/facilities and will take into account the size, quality, location, accessibility and capacity of the provision as well as accompanying ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation, toilets and car parking.

It also considers the demand for facilities based on population distribution and planned growth. The full list of sports facilities covered is set out below.

Pitch sports (i.e. football, rugby union, rugby league, hockey and cricket) will be assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy (2013). In addition, any other grass sport pitches identified during the project will also be included.

#### *Pitch sports:*

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Rugby league
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Third generation artificial grass (3G) pitches
- ◀ Hockey artificial grass pitches (AGPs - including use for other sports)



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- ◀ Other pitch sports:
  - ◀ Gaelic sports
  - ◀ Lacrosse
  - ◀ Australian rules football
  - ◀ American football
  - ◀ Touch & Tag rugby

Non-pitch facilities (bowls, tennis, netball courts, athletics facilities, BMX, volleyball) will be assessed using Sport England’s Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). This requires a different methodology to assess supply and demand to that used for pitch sports.

### *Non-pitch sports:*

- ◀ Outdoor tennis courts
- ◀ Netball courts
- ◀ Athletics facilities
- ◀ BMX facilities
- ◀ Outdoor volleyball courts
- ◀ Multi use games areas (MUGAs, including potential use for 3x3 basketball)

### **Extent of the study area**

Lambeth Borough forms part of Central London. It borders the London Borough of Wandsworth to the west, the London Borough of Merton to the south west, the London Borough of Croydon to the south and the London Borough of Southwark to the east. The Borough’s northern border is defined by the River Thames, across which lies the City of Westminster.

The Borough administrative area has been split into seven distinct areas, termed Analysis Areas, for the purpose of this study. These areas were used and have been retained from the previous Lambeth PPS (2014).

*Table 1.1: Lambeth analysis areas and current population*

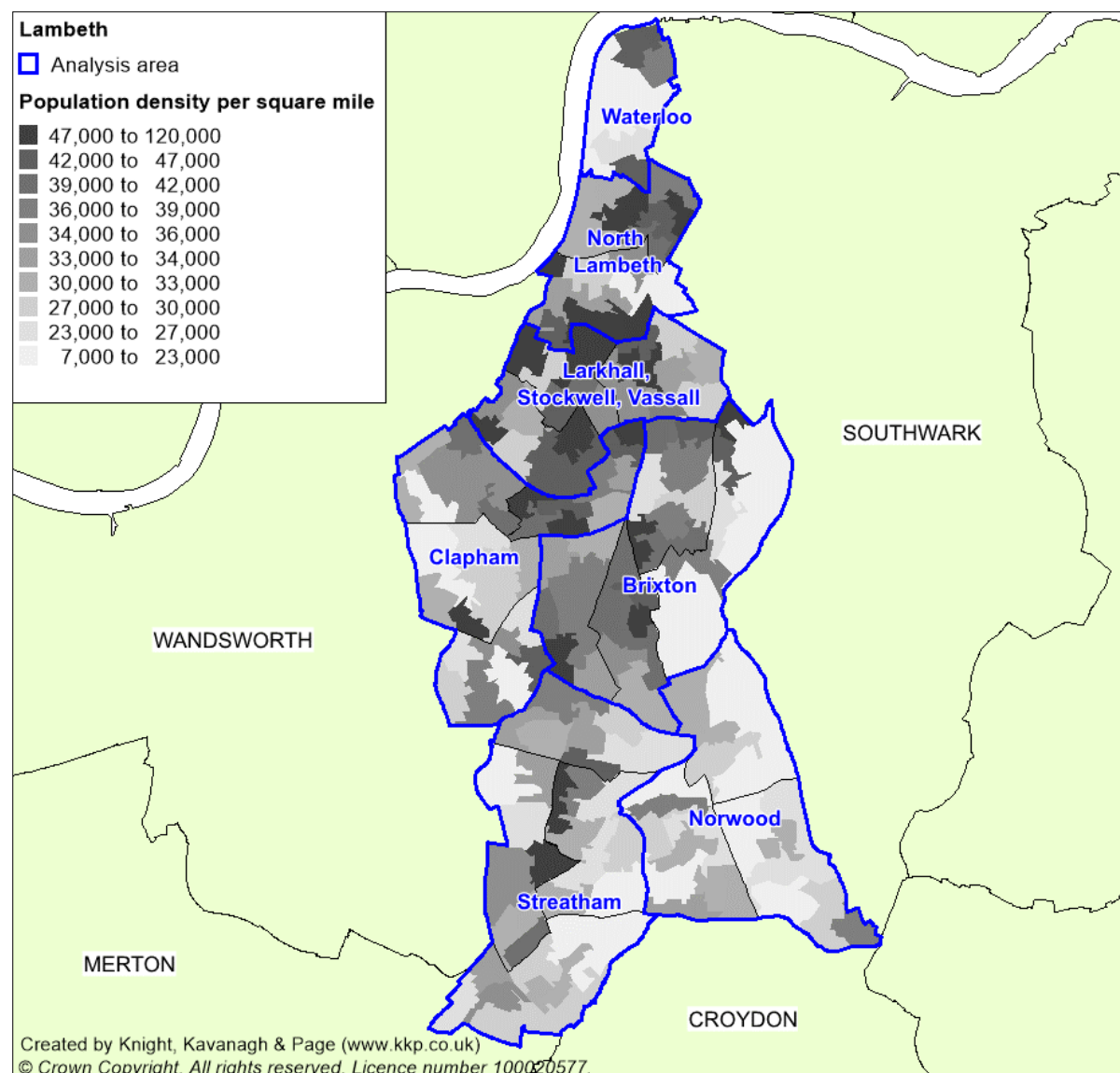
Analysis area	Population <sup>1</sup>	Wards
Brixton	64,443	Brixton Hill
		Coldharbour
		Herne Hill
		Tulse Hill
Clapham	54,593	Clapham Common
		Clapham Town
		Ferndale
		Thornton
Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	47,732	Larkhall
		Stockwell
		Vassall
North Lambeth	33,852	Oval
		Prince's
Norwood	44,058	Gipsy Hill
		Knight's Hill
		Thurlow Park

<sup>1</sup> ONS Mid-2020 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales

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Analysis area	Population <sup>1</sup>	Wards
Streatham	64,018	St. Leonard's
		Streatham Hill
		Streatham South
		Streatham Wells
Waterloo	13,117	Bishop's
<b>Total</b>	<b>321,813</b>	

Figure 1.1: Lambeth study area with analysis areas



Cross boundary issues will also be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand, recognising, for example, that people travel to and make use of strategic facilities irrespective of administrative boundaries. For example, the Wandsworth PPS identifies demand exported from Wandsworth into Lambeth to access pitch provision, such as for cricket and artificial grass pitches (AGPs) for hockey and lacrosse.

For the purposes of this study the geographical area to be examined is the boundary of Lambeth. This includes Clapham Common and areas of the site which fall within Wandsworth Borough administrative boundary. The site is intersected by the local authority border therefore a proportion of formal sports provision falls within each of the two boroughs.

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The previous Lambeth PPS (2014) already considered Clapham Common in entirety as the Council has responsibility for management of the whole site, therefore it was excluded from the Wandsworth PPS (2021) audit. This PPOSS will continue to account for Clapham Common in full, including facilities for which Wandsworth Borough Council is the planning authority.

### ***What makes Lambeth different?***

Lambeth is an inner London borough with a northern boundary on the Thames and situated mainly between the boroughs of Wandsworth and Southwark. It covers an area of approximately ten and a half square miles, including Waterloo and the South Bank, Vauxhall, the Oval, Kennington, Stockwell, Clapham, Brixton, Loughborough Junction, Herne Hill, Streatham, Tulse Hill, West Norwood, Gipsy Hill and Upper Norwood/Crystal Palace.

Lambeth is the fifth most densely populated local authority in England (SOB, 2016) and there is very limited additional land available for new development. There is a high degree of competition for this land to meet different needs, including for the essential infrastructure to service the growing population.

It is diverse in terms of its neighbourhoods and the communities. It has a growing resident population and a relatively young age profile, with 51 % of the population aged 20-44, (average for England is 34%). Lambeth is ranked eighth out of 33 local authorities (LAs) in the region and 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 326 LAs nationally on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD, source: ONS). It also has many areas of relative affluence alongside deprivation.

The Borough's ethnic composition is primarily white (57%). This figure is significantly lower than the national average (85.4%). The proportion of the population represented by the BAME community is 42.91%, significantly above the national average (14.6%).

Lambeth has 60 public parks, commons and green spaces and eight leisure centres. Collectively the Borough is perceived to have better facilities than most London Boroughs although there are deficiencies in some categories. Nineteen parks or open spaces were awarded the Green Flag in 2021 in recognition of high environmental quality and management and access to the community. This highlights the need to balance sporting use of these spaces with providing a wider public function and to continue to meet the standards required to retain accreditation.

Lambeth has a culture of strong community clubs and organisations and high Levels of Physical Activity (74%) compared to London Average (64%, source: Sport England Active Lives Study).

Lambeth's population density, its age profile and its position in London mean that there is intense pressure on its open spaces from recreational use, recreational sport and physical activity and organised competitive sport. Many pitches are in open parks and cannot easily be secured and protected. The level of competing demands across the year mean that maintenance programmes are challenging and pitch quality is often considered by users to be below expectation.

For a Borough of its population size, level of investment in new grass or artificial pitches has been low. The Lambeth Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP, 2019) identifies for example that just £200,000 has been invested by the Football Foundation in the Borough since 2000. However, the LFFP has led to the identification of three football projects in the Borough to replace outdated redgra surfaces.

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Elite stadium The Oval is in the Borough, home to Surrey County Cricket Club, Oval Invincibles, South East Stars (Women's professional team) and an internationally renowned Test cricket venue. Contrastingly, there is not a community cricket club established in Lambeth, juxtaposed against its prominence as an area for elite cricket. Similarly, there is no established community rugby union club in the Borough, despite a strong club network in neighbouring boroughs such as Wandsworth and Southwark.

For football, Fulham FC, Chelsea FC and Crystal Palace FC are all active and deliver programmes and activity within Lambeth through their respective community trust organisations.

Most playing pitch and outdoor sports provision is managed by the Council, co-ordinated on a day to day basis through its relationship with GLL. The grounds maintenance of sports pitches is undertaken in-house by the Council parks and leisure services department.

Part of Clapham Common falls within Wandsworth Borough but the site in entirety is owned and managed by LB of Lambeth, a unique circumstance regarding a high profile site. Lambeth has a close interrelationship with Wandsworth in terms of sport and provision, with much transfer of demand between the two boroughs highlighted in the Wandsworth PPS (2021).

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

A clear picture of supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities in Wandsworth needs to be provided to include an accurate assessment of quantity and quality. This is achieved through consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that they inform the subsequent strategy. It informs current demand, adequacy, usage, future demand and strategies for maintenance and investment for outdoor sports facilities.

#### ***Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches***

Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.<sup>2</sup>

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

Although the statutory definition of a pitch is one that meets a minimum size of 0.2ha, this PPOSS includes smaller size pitches that contribute to the supply side, for example, a site containing one mini 5v5 football pitch<sup>3</sup> (as this is less than 0.2 hectares). This PPOSS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches.

As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all of the outdoor sports facilities within the Borough; however, there may be instances, for example, on school sites or private sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch do not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

<sup>3</sup> Refer to Table 2.1 for football pitch format definitions

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### *Quantity*

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and National Governing Bodies of Sport supporting the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues.

For each site, the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied upon completion of the project as an electronic file):

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of outdoor sports facilities

### *Accessibility*

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

- ◀ **Community use** - facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - facilities which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** – provision that is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either.

Most community playing field sites in Lambeth are located on Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), which is a form of land designation exclusively within London. Land designated as MOL is intended to be protected as an area of landscape, recreation, nature conservation or scientific interest. Designation provides land with the same level of protection as the Green Belt.

The London Plan suggests that Metropolitan Open Land is 'Strategic open land within the urban area that contributes to the structure of London. For land to be designated as MOL, it should conform with at least one of the following stipulations:

- ◀ It contributes to the physical structure of London by being clearly distinguishable from the built-up area.
- ◀ It includes open-air facilities which serve the whole or significant parts of London for the purposes of leisure, recreation, sport, arts and cultural activities or tourism.
- ◀ It contains features or landscape of historic, recreational, nature conservation or habitat interest.
- ◀ It forms part of a 'Green Chain' and meets one of the above criteria.

A number of sites in Lambeth are protected for community use through additional status, such as through Community Right to Bid as Assets of Community Value (ACV).

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An Asset of Community Value (ACV) is land or buildings nominated by a local voluntary or community group and which the Council decides meets the requirements to be listed as an asset of community value. The statutory rules about assets of community value can be found in sections 87 – 103 of the Localism Act<sup>4</sup>.

If the owner of land or buildings that are listed as assets of community value wants to sell them, they must contact the Council which will notify the community group that nominated the asset. The community group then has the opportunity to register its interest as a potential bidder, triggering a six month moratorium period during which, subject to certain exceptions, the owner can only sell the asset if it is to a community interest group. After the six month moratorium period the owner can sell to whomever they choose. No sites with outdoor playing pitch or outdoor sport provision have been successfully nominated as ACVs<sup>5</sup>.

Furthermore, playing field sites and multi-use games areas (MUGAs) can be protected through Fields in Trust (FIT), through its King George V (KGV), Queen Elizabeth II (QE2), Active Spaces or Covenanted Fields programmes.

Protection is a legal agreement between FIT and the landowner of a space that they will retain it for use as a green space, usually a public park, playing field or recreation ground, in perpetuity. The following sites have protection through FIT programmes:

- ◀ Brockwell Park (Active Spaces)
- ◀ Notre Dame Estate MUGA (Covenanted Fields)
- ◀ Nelson's Row MUGA (Covenanted Fields)

Some other facilities in the Borough such as, play and open spaces also carry greater protection from FIT, for example those in and around high density housing areas like Triangle Place Open Space and Bowland Road Open Space (both Covenanted Fields).

### *Quality*

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

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

The quality of all outdoor sports facilities identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each. These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by National Governing Bodies of Sport), users and providers were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/section/88/enacted>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ec-successful-acv-nominatons-December-2020.pdf>



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### ***Gather demand information and views***

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for outdoor sports facilities (i.e. recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. Demand for outdoor sports facilities in Lambeth tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training. There may also be some informal play recorded.

Current and future demand for outdoor sports facilities is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

In addition, latent, unmet, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section. Unmet and latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available, whereas exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority of choice. Please refer to Appendix One: Glossary of Terms for further details.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate such demand information. Firstly, face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised.

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation and Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews.

As key providers and users of outdoor sports facilities, educational establishments were also consulted. This involved face to face or online video meetings with secondary schools/colleges and an online survey being sent to primary schools.

### ***Future demand***

Alongside current demand, it is important for a Playing Pitch Strategy to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group) to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change. Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases to the population increases. This figure is then applied to the team generation rates and is presented on a sport by sport basis.

### ***Population growth***

The current resident population in Lambeth is 321,813<sup>6</sup>. By 2035 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the Local Plan period) the population is projected to increase to 344,756<sup>7</sup> representing an increase of 22,943 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 7.1%) according to Office of National Statistics data.

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<sup>6</sup> Source: Office of National Statistics Mid-2020 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

<sup>7</sup> Source: ONS 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, by Single Year of Age and Sex

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

As Office of National Statistics figures are available by individual age brackets (to reflect team growth) this is considered the most accurate data set to apply to team generation rates (as identified above) to calculate likely future demand within the Assessment Report.

## *Housing growth*

The target for the number of homes required across the Borough comes directly from the central government standard approach that will be used by all local authorities across the UK. This number is derived from Office of National Statistics population and household projections with adjustments made to take account of local house price to earnings ratios.

The Council will seek to maximise the supply of additional homes in the Borough to meet and exceed Lambeth's housing requirement of 13,350 homes for the ten year period 2019/20 to 2028/29.

## **1.5: Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views**

Supply and demand information gathered within Section B was used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Lambeth. It focused on how much use each site could potentially accommodate compared to how much use is currently taking place.

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

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

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

As a guide, the Football Association (FA), Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the English Cricket Board (ECB) have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality.

*Table 1.3: Summary of carrying capacity for playing pitches*

Sport	Pitch type	Number of match equivalent sessions		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union*	Natural inadequate	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural adequate	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe drained	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and slit drained	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One artificial turf wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season

For hockey, the capacity of an artificial grass pitch (AGP) is dependent on various factors including availability, sports lighting and current usage levels. Generally, a sand artificial grass pitch with sports lighting can accommodate up to four matches throughout one day.



# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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Similarly, for third generation artificial grass pitches (3G pitches), due to the variation in accommodating different football formats, a set capacity rating is unavailable. However, a scenario for accommodating football matches on third generation artificial grass pitches (with recommended programming) will be run in the Strategy.

For all remaining sports included such as tennis and netball there are no nationally recognised capacity recommendations set out by National Governing Bodies of Sport. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site by site basis following consultation and site assessments.

### ***Develop the current picture of provision***

Once capacity is determined on a site by site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated via further interrogation of temporal demand. Although this may have been identified, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed or the site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

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

### ***Identify the key findings and issues***

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in Lambeth. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to development of the Strategy and Action Plan for Lambeth.

### ***Develop the future picture of provision (scenario testing)***

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, latent, exported and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future. The scenario testing generally occurs in the Strategy and Action Plan that proceeds this document and therefore does not form part of the Assessment Report.

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## PART 2: FOOTBALL PITCHES

### 2.1: Introduction

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 6 captures supply and demand for third generation artificial grass (3G) pitches which are the preferred artificial surface type for football. In future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for these pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

#### ***Administration and governance***

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in Lambeth Borough is London FA (LFA). It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes. It is not the only County FA with affiliated clubs playing within the Borough, as six clubs affiliate instead to the Amateur Football Alliance (AFA).

#### ***Lambeth Local Football Facility Plan***

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) was produced for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

Each LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy; a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The National Football Facilities Strategy represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (The FA, Premier League, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

The Local Football Facility Plan for Lambeth was completed in 2019 and published in 2020. It identifies 14 potential projects for investment which will transform local football facilities.

Each LFFP builds upon Playing Pitch Strategy findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities. This includes those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA National Games Strategy priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal. In Lambeth, London Sport along with The Chelsea Foundation, Fulham FC Foundation and Palace for Life Foundation were consulted to input around these matters.

LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs. It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a Playing Pitch Strategy and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a Playing Pitch Strategy and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Consultation

In total, there are 56 affiliated clubs identified as using pitches within the Borough (based on 2021/22 season affiliation data), of which, 50 affiliate to LFA and six to AFA.

Consultation was undertaken with LFA, AFA and the Football Foundation, whilst affiliated clubs were invited to a telephone/video call or asked to complete an online survey distributed on behalf of KKP by the two County FAs.

Video call or telephone consultation was undertaken with Clapham Rangers FC, Lambeth Tigers, Junction Elite, European Football Academy and St Matthews Project Youth FC.

Overall, 21 of 56 clubs responded to consultation requests, fielding 114 of 161 affiliated teams. This represents a 38% club response rate but a 71% team response rate, therefore represents the majority of affiliated football demand in Lambeth. Of the 35 non-responding clubs, 27 are single team clubs.

## 2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 24 formally marked grass football pitches in Lambeth across six sites. Of these, all are reportedly available for community use and are used for affiliated football except for one pitch at Valley Road Playing Fields.

Further to identified pitch supply, some have smaller pitch formats overmarked onto them and are used for other formats of play. These smaller pitches do not feature in the overall supply as they are not dedicated pitch areas, with lines drawn over the existing larger pitch type which has been accounted for.

For the location of sites please see Figure 2.1 and for a full breakdown of football supply, please refer to Table 2.11.

Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitch supply

Availability for community use	Number and type of pitches					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Yes	12	-	7	4	1	24
No	-	-	-	-	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>

Half of pitches (12) are adult size which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches (and younger junior teams where overmarking occurs). This is not advocated for junior players and is not in line with the FA Youth Review.

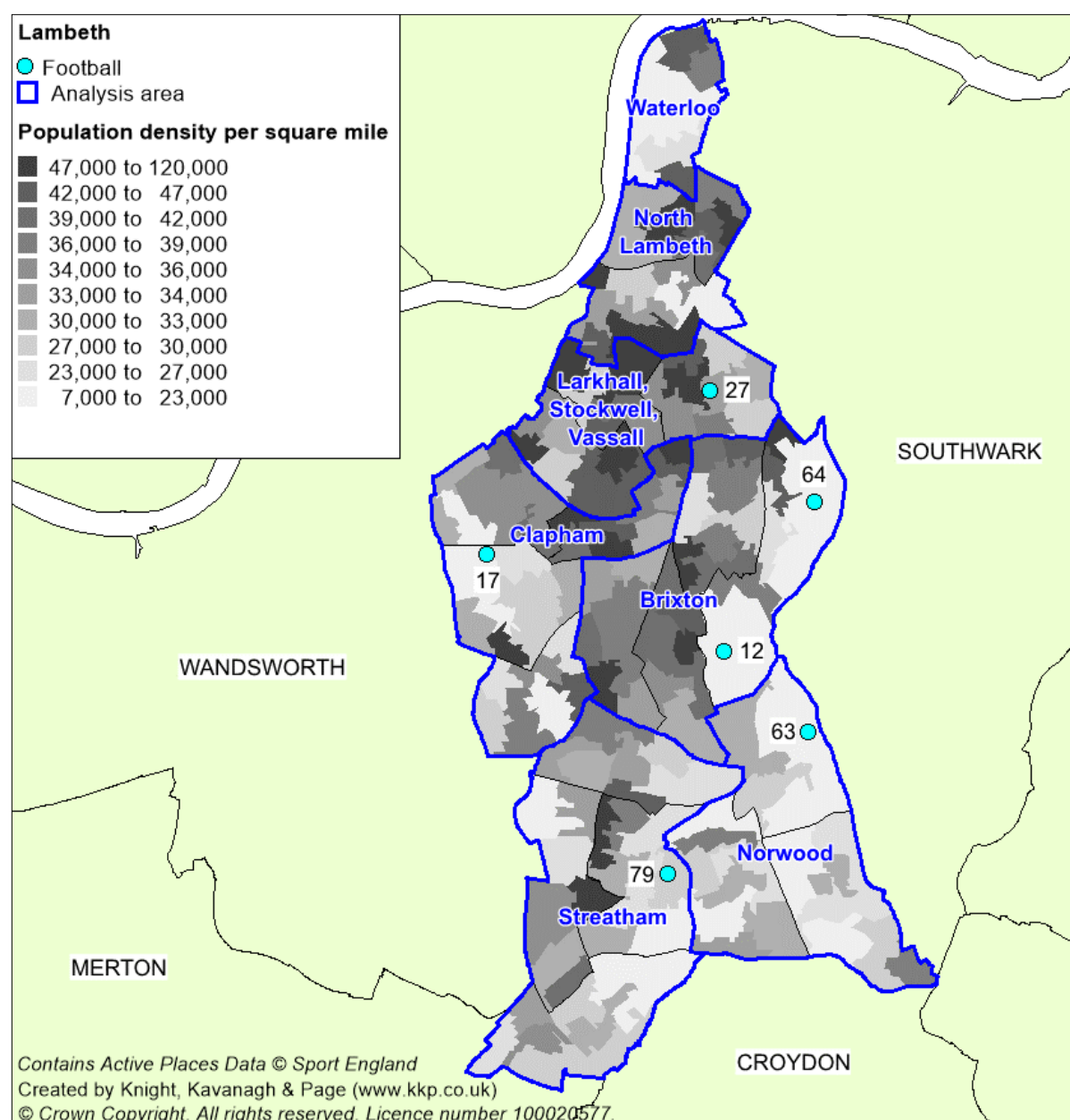
In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17 and U18 teams can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres. Please refer to the table below for more detail.

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.2: Football pitch types and sizes

Team type	Pitch type	FA recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	FA recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Adult	Adult	100x64	106x70
Under 15 – Under 16	Youth 11v11	91x55	97x61
Under 13 – Under 14	Youth 11v11	82x50	88x56
Under 11 – Under 12	Youth 9v9	73x46	79x52
Under 9 – Under 10	Mini 7v7	55x37	61x43
Under 7 – Under 8	Mini 5v5	37x27	43x33

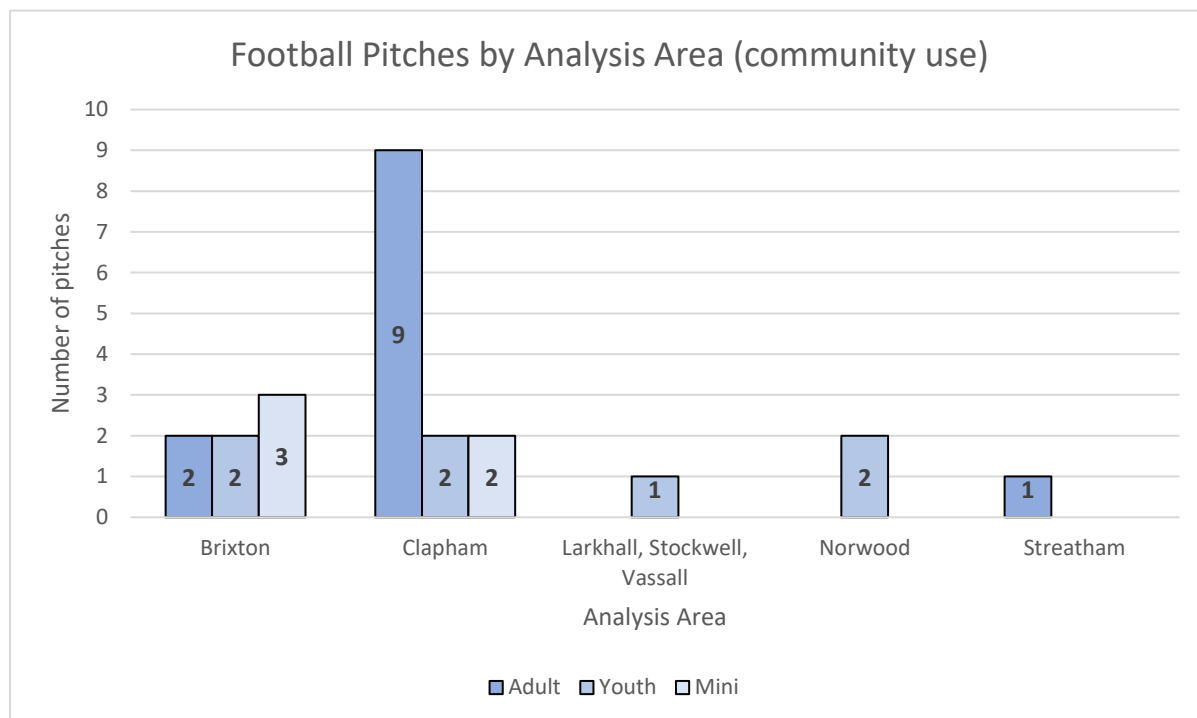
Figure 2.1: Map of grass football pitches within Lambeth



# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Of community use pitches, the Clapham Area has the most provision with 13 pitches (54%), followed by Brixton Area with seven pitches (29%). With two pitches in the Norwood Area and one pitch in each of the Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall and Streatham areas. There is no pitch provision in the Waterloo or North Lambeth areas.

Figure 2.2: Summary of grass football pitches by analysis area



## Future supply

Streatham and Clapham High School reports that it aspires to develop a youth 9v9 football pitch on the grass playing field area adjacent to the AGP onsite. It is preparing to apply for planning permission as the area requires work to level and bring it up to sufficient standard which could cater for competitive football demand.

There are proposals for the development of new 3G pitch provision to meet match play and training demand for football. These proposals are detailed in Part 6: Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches.

## Disused supply

Disused playing pitches are those which have not been used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either.

No sites are identified as being disused having previously accommodated football provision, whilst any that previously were marked and are no longer prepared for formal sport remain as publicly accessible open space. Pitches were previously marked at both Kennington Park and Larkhall Park but are no longer. The former is reportedly used for training purposes but a pitch is not marked.

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

## ***Pitch quality***

The quality of football pitches across Lambeth has been assessed via a combination of site visits (undertaken in December 2021, using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA<sup>8</sup>) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%).

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use. As such the weighting of the non-technical site assessments for football pitches falls heavily on the maintenance regime. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are therefore more likely to be assessed as poor quality, therefore limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality.

Conversely, well maintained pitches that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking several matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The table below summarises the quality of grass football pitches that are available for community use in Lambeth.

*Table 2.3: Summary of grass football pitch quality*

Number of adult pitches			Number of youth pitches			Number of mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
-	-	12	-	2	5	-	-	5

Of the 24 football pitches available for community use, the majority (22 pitches – 92%) are rated as poor quality. There are just two pitches (8%) rated as standard quality, both at Rosendale Playing Field. There are no good quality grass football pitches in Lambeth.

For a full site by site breakdown of quality, please refer to Table 2.10.

Most pitches are rated as poor quality due to basic maintenance regimes undertaken at local authority sites. Most of the available pitch stock is local authority owned and maintained by the Council.

A key issue is the perceived poor quality of pitches at local authority managed sites and particularly the quality of grounds maintenance works. Furthermore, the year round use for both summer sports and other uses (e.g. public access), has led pitches to become compacted and worn in high traffic areas, with limited time available for rest and off-season maintenance.

All pitches are marked on parks or Common Land and are anecdotally reported by the Council to be subject to significant levels of unofficial use. Many groups use for training and matches without formally booking the pitches, whilst it is believed that some clubs access pitches for match play without hiring.

<sup>8</sup> See Appendix 3 for the non-technical assessment for grass football pitches



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The Council reports there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that clubs which make a block booking for pitches are believed to be sub-letting pitches to other teams when they do not require the pitch due to away fixtures. This results in additional use of the pitches.

To help prevent unauthorised formal sporting use of pitches, the Council proposes to establish park enforcement teams. The teams would help to reduce this use from teams and clubs which do not book for formal league matches.

Rosendale Playing Fields is the only site with perimeter fencing to prevent public access, a key issue previously impacting on quality.

### *Overmarking of pitches*

Some sports pitches in Lambeth are overmarked or share playing field with other sports pitches. Whilst making effective seasonal use of space and opportunities for multi-sport sites to share and maximise the likes of ancillary use and social facilities, this can also have a detrimental effect on pitch provision for all user sports if not rigorously managed.

Overmarking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch. Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it also causes logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are playing at the same site.

Overmarking can lead to issues with seasonal clashes, for example with summer sports such as cricket or rugby league when the summer season begins and football season has not finished, though clubs in Lambeth do not report this as a key issue. This is managed at local authority sites where summer sports pitches are marked and winter sports pitches decommissioned on specific dates as stipulated in the maintenance contract. This could be more of a concern at private sports club sites where some sports may have to seek alternative temporary venues due to seasonal clashes.

The use of playing field land year-round during both winter and summer seasons limits the scope for off-season repair and rejuvenation, with any quality issues sustained unable to be rectified and likely to subsequently impact on subsequent users. Without proper off-season maintenance or rotation of pitches this lack of scope for off-season works can lead to decline in quality over time.

It is reported that the youth 9v9 pitch at Eythorne Park is also overmarked with two 7v7 pitches, one in each half. Playing field at Kennington Park has in the past been used for both football and cricket, though the site is not presently prepared as formal pitches for either sport.

*Table: 2.4: Summary of sites where football is overmarked onto playing field land shared with other sports pitches*

Site ID	Site name	Sports shared with	Comments
17	Clapham Common	Australian Rules Football	Pitch marked over football pitches in summer.
		Cricket	Football pitches share playing field with cricket outfield.
64	Ruskin Park	Cricket	Football pitches share playing field with cricket outfield.

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### ***FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)***

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme. As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Grounds Management Association (GMA, formerly Institute of Groundsmanship).

The FA in partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) has developed a Grass Pitch Improvement and Maintenance Programme that can be utilised by grassroots football clubs, organisations and local authorities with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a Grass Pitch Assessment Report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

Following a Grass Pitch Assessment Report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified in order to improve the quality of their pitches. Clubs can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams to obtain the relevant maintenance equipment.

Only Clapham Common has received a technical assessment and recommendations, with the onsite Performance Quality Standard (PQS) report prepared by the GMA also covering areas of the site used for touch rugby, Australian rules football and cricket outfields. The headline findings were:

- ◀ Both formal use and informal use is very high year-round, with football pitches in parts of the park doubling up as cricket outfields or an Australian Rules pitch in the summer.
- ◀ Performance quality was Community 2 (equivalent to current 'basic' rating)
- ◀ It is recommended to investigating the feasibility of installing drainage systems on the pitches that have none installed.
- ◀ Overseeding operation recommended urgently.
- ◀ The pitches would benefit from deep solid tine aeration with maximum heave to alleviate the level of compaction.
- ◀ Further to the existing maintenance regime, an increase in annual decompaction and overseeding operations recommended, along with increased spot repairs and top-dressing applications.

The main issues across the site were poor grass coverage, surface undulations plus holes caused by foxes and other animals. Being an open site, it is difficult to implement preventative measures to reduce the damage, increased public awareness of dog damage is an option, encouraging dog walkers to heel back and holes dug by their dogs through increased signage, but overall it requires increased vigilance to repair these by hand through a volunteer network prior to games kicking off.

A Ground Water Dynamics drainage system had been installed on three of the adult pitches in recent years. Heavy rainfall in the time leading up to the assessment highlighted the improvements that can be made to pitches by installed drainage systems. Areas with installed drainage had an average of 70% grass cover, the pitches with no drainage had an average of 22% grass cover, this was measured through Performance Quality Standards testing, however, the recommended minimum grass cover for safe and a desirable play level is 75% which all pitches onsite fell short of.



## LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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Figure 2.3: Example of football pitch quality at Clapham Common (June 2021)



### *PitchPower Assessment Tool*

The football funding partners (Premier League, The FA, Sport England, Football Foundation and Department for Culture, Media and Sport) are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund, The app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

The tool across mobile app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain the required maintenance equipment, such as through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund.

Furthermore, the Football Foundation also launched a new Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, who are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## *Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund<sup>9</sup>*

Following a Grass Pitch Assessment Report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Clubs can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams to obtain the relevant maintenance equipment.

Once a Grass Pitch Assessment Report has been produced for the site, clubs are then eligible to apply for Grass Pitch Funding through the Football Foundation through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 quality grass pitches by 2030. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' then clubs can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, National League System Clubs at Steps 1-6 and charities (with an annual turnover of under £500,000). Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, clubs, leagues and charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

Although local authorities are not presently eligible for the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, the Football Foundation is currently exploring other options and ways in which it can support local authorities to improve Council managed provision. It is presently inviting expressions of interest from local authorities across the Country to be part of a pilot programme for investment into pitches currently owned and managed in-house by local authorities, seeking at least one London Borough to take part in the pilot. Lambeth Borough Council has expressed interest in being part of the pilot and is awaiting decision.

### **Ancillary facilities**

Ancillary facilities refer to the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing.

The quality of ancillary facilities (changing pavilions and accompanying carparking) across Lambeth has been assessed via a combination of site visits and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>67%), Standard (34-66%), Poor (<34%). The quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

Of the six sites, three sites have changing provision: Clapham Common, Eythorne Park and Rosendale Playing Fields. Ruskin Park, Brockwell Park and Valley Road Playing Fields do not have changing facilities to service the pitches.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

## LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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The changing pavilion at Clapham Common is reported to be of poor quality. Due to the high amount of play at the site taking place at the same time there is currently not enough changing rooms to service all pitches on the site. There is a need to improve the facilities as many teams choose not to access the facilities. In addition, it is reported that when matches are played across all pitches there is not enough changing rooms for all teams playing.

Unity FC reports that Eythorne Park has changing facilities in the community building onsite. However, when it accesses the pitch on Sunday mornings the changing facilities are not opened for use. It reports that the changing rooms are of standard quality. In addition, Unity FC suggests it has spoken with the community centre onsite about having storage space at Eythorne Park to help store goalposts and match equipment. The community centre has agreed in principle but action to provide storage is yet to take place.

Ancillary provision at Rosendale Playing Fields is rated as good quality following recent refurbishment of the changing facilities onsite.

### ***Training facilities***

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many football clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at sport lit facilities such as third generation artificial grass pitches.

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a sport lit third generation artificial grass pitch. Please refer to Part 6: Third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches for further detail.

The Council parks service teams report of unauthorised (formal but not hired) and public (recreational) use of pitches. It is reported through club consultation that Junction Elite FC and Unity FC have portable sports lights which they transport to different sites to use for winter training, at Clapham Common and Kennington Park respectively.

Junction Elite FC received Football Foundation funding to support the purchase of mobile sports lighting and uses these to train on adult pitches at Clapham Common. This additional unauthorised training use Unity FC also uses what is now unmarked playing field at Kennington Park Extension.

### ***Management & security of tenure***

Clubs are generally considered to have secure tenure where they have formally secured use of their site/s (for example, through a community use agreement) for the next three or more years.

All grass football pitches within the Borough are within local authority ownership and managed as part of the playing field portfolio. Bookings are presently co-ordinated by leisure operator GLL through its online system, with revenue collected by the Council. As of April 2022, the bookings will no longer be co-ordinated by GLL but will be administered by the Council directly.

Though clubs access pitch provision via rental without long-term agreement, use of local authority grass football pitch provision, is considered to offer secure tenure as part of the Council's maintained recreation and leisure offer and in order to meet key outcomes of the Active Lambeth Strategy.

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

## *National League System*

The National League System (NLS) is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the Football League (the National League) and comprises of seven steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. The step system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the steps, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs playing within the National League must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 7 clubs. Please refer to the FA website<sup>10</sup> for the full specifications for each.

There are no professional clubs in the Borough, nor are there any clubs playing within the National League System, therefore there is no requirement for additional compliancy of grass pitches, most of which are in public settings.

## *Women's National League System*

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System (WNLS) similar to the adult men's which provides structure to the women's game. This is based on seven tiers with the top tier equating to competition in the FA Women's Super League.

Clapham United Women's FC is the only team playing within the Women's National League System in the London & South East Regional Women's League Division 1 North, which is at Tier 6 of the WNLS. The Club plays at Clapham Common.

## **2.3: Demand**

There are 175 teams identified as playing football matches in the Borough. This is made up of 40 adult men's, 23 adult women's (13, of which, are unaffiliated), 71 youth boys', one youth girls' and 40 mixed mini teams.

*Table 2.5: Summary of team demand playing matches in Lambeth*

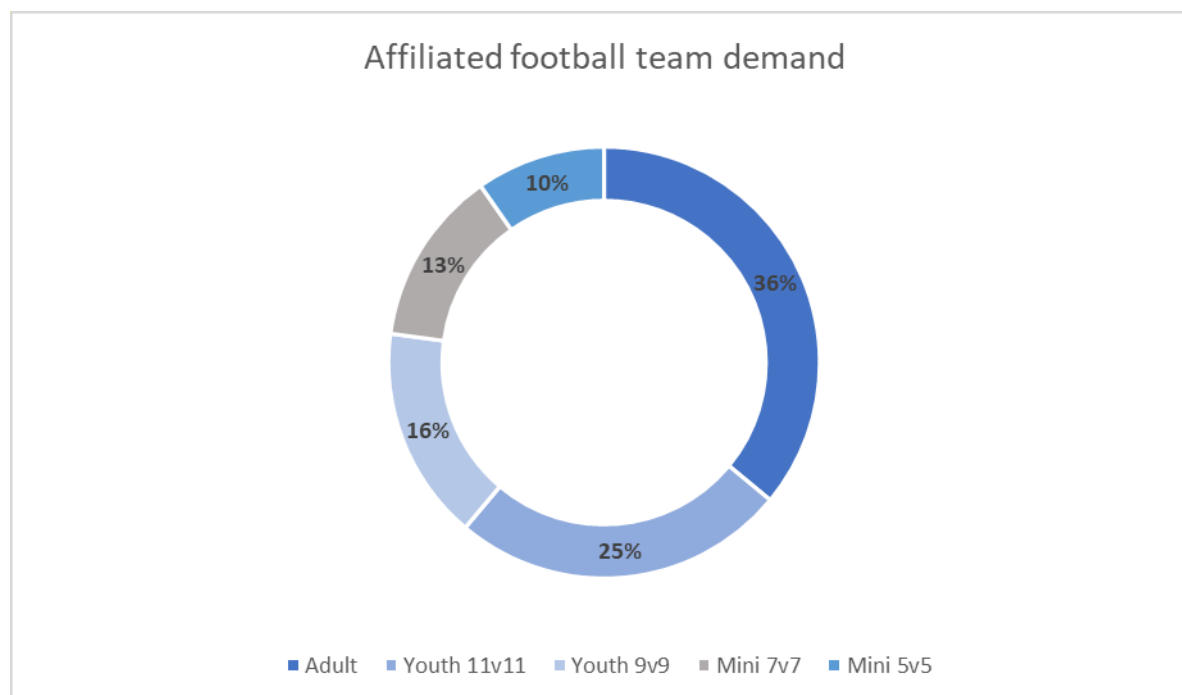
Gender	Number and type of teams					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Male	40	43	28	-	-	<b>111</b>
Female	23	1	-	-	-	<b>24</b>
Mixed	-	-	-	23	17	<b>40</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>175</b>

Adult teams make up most of the demand (36%). Mini soccer demand represents a relatively low proportion of overall demand, totalling 40 teams (23%).

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 2.4: Demand for affiliated football match play by format



## **Women's and girls' demand**

### *Clapham Women's Saturday Football League*

The Clapham Women's Saturday Football League (CWSFL) is an adult women's 11v11 league based at Clapham Common on Saturday mornings and afternoons, however, the league does not affiliate to either County FA. It is a three divisional structure of 19 teams, with eight teams in the Premier Division, seven teams in Division One and four teams in Division Two. Of the teams which play in this league, it is identified that both the league itself and 13 of its member teams are unaffiliated to either of the County FAs.

It aspires to continue the growth of the League and reports that Division Two will grow by approximately three teams for the 2022/23 season through teams approaching the league directly to join. The league reports it would prefer to continue to play at Clapham Common, however, it currently is unsure if it would be able to, due to requirement of additional pitches.

### *Ladies Super Liga*

The Ladies Super Liga (LSL) is a small sided open aged women's league. It has two divisions, one playing 7v7 format matches and one 5v5. The matches are based at Archbishop's Park and Hatfields Pitches, all of which, take place on 3G pitches, on Sundays between 2-6pm. In total there are 15 teams competing across the two divisions.

## **Exported & imported demand**

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of the Borough, for example, to meet facility needs which are not able to be met due to insufficient quality or access.

Likewise, imported demand is demand from neighbouring local authorities accessing pitches in the Borough to play competitive matches for the same reasons.



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Lambeth Tigers FC exports demand for 13 of its 14 teams to Griffin Sports Club (Southwark). The demand is exported due to club aspirations for a self-managed pitch site which it has now secured. The Club retains access to Myatt's Fields Park 3G pitch in Lambeth for its development centre activity as well as ad-hoc use for some match play when required due to waterlogged pitches at Griffin Sports Club. It reports it is not looking to move demand back into the Borough and that the rationale for export is due to a desire for self-management which is not available at public sites in Lambeth.

According to affiliation data from 2021/22 season, there are 25 Lambeth based teams playing matches at venues outside of the Borough. None of these teams report any issues with their current arrangements or that they explicitly want to meet this demand within Lambeth again.

*Table 2.6: Summary of exported match play demand playing in other local authorities*

Club	Team	Venue	Local authority
European Football Academy	1 x U7	Coram Fields	Camden
	1x U8		
	1 x U9	Market Road	Islington
	1 x U12	Barn Elms Sports Centre	Wandsworth
Junction Elite FC	1 x Adult	Wimbledon Common Extension	Kingston upon Thames
	2 x Adult	King's House School Sports Ground	Hounslow
Lambeth Tigers FC	2 x U6	Griffin Sports Club	Southwark
	1 x U7		
	1 x U8		
	1 x U9		
	1 x U10		
	1 x U11		
	1 x U12		
	1 x U13		
	1 x U14		
	1 x U15		
	1 x U16		
	Old Ardinian's FC		
1 x Adult		King's House School Sports Ground	Hounslow
Old Roehamptonians FC	1 x Adult	Griffin Sports Club	Southwark
St Matthew's Project (Youth)	1 x Adult	Tooting & Mitcham Community Sports Club	Merton
Wanderers FC	2 x Adult	Prince Georges Playing Fields	Merton

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

Latent demand is demand which is perceived to exist but is not presently realised, whereas unmet demand is demand which is known to exist but similarly is not able to be realised, in this case due to lack of access to or poor quality of facilities.

Several clubs across the Borough report that with additional access to training and match provision, there is considered to be existing demand to develop additional teams. These clubs currently cannot add additional teams and therefore are not actively trying to increase as they already have difficulty with securing training and match slots. Some clubs report not training throughout the winter months due to not being able to gain access to 3G pitch or other provision with sports lighting.

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## **Future demand**

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts.

### *Population increases*

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2035).

*Table 2.7: Population increases*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams (2035)	Additional teams generated from the increased population
<b>Affiliated teams</b>						
Adult Men's (18-45)	82,192	40	1:2055	83,781	40	0.8
Adult Women's (18-45)	77,055	10	1:7706	76,205	9	0
Youth Boys (12-17)	9,374	43	1:218	8,803	40	0
Youth Girls (12-17)	8,891	1	1:8891	8,421	0	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	3,482	22	1:158	2,975	18	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	3,259	0	0	2,817	0	0
Mini Mixed (8-9)	7,069	23	1:307	5,916	19	0
Mini Mixed (6-7)	6,982	11	1:635	6,034	9	0
<b>Unaffiliated teams (CWSFL &amp; Clapham Little League)</b>						
Adult Women's (18-45)	77,055	13	1:5927	76,205	12	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	3,482	6	580	2,975	5	0
Mini Mixed (8-9)	7,069	6	1178	5,916	5	0

Application of team generation rates based solely on population change, forecasts that there will be no increase in whole new teams at any format.

It is important to note that population growth does not account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups. For example, there is a focus on developing female football participation within London and nationally which, as mentioned previously, is likely to lead to more women's and girls' teams in the future and therefore increase demand for pitches as detailed below.

### *FA Wildcats centres*

FA Wildcats centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, which provide opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment. As part of the expansion process, organisations extending beyond affiliated clubs to include other providers or community groups were invited to apply in late 2017 to become one of the new centres. There are currently no Wildcats centres presently operating in Lambeth.

In light of both FA aspirations to double female participation in football through its Game Changer strategy and the establishment and foreseen future effect of the Wildcats programme, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girl teams may exceed that shown through population growth. To account for this, ten more women's teams and one more youth girls' teams are identified as future demand for female growth.

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## *Club driven participation increases*

There are 11 responding clubs which report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide by a total of 24 teams. Growth in teams would not only increase the demand requirement for pitches for match play but also training provision with sports lighting for team training.

*Table 2.8: Club growth aspirations (responding clubs)*

Club	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions per week <sup>11</sup>
AFC Balham	1 x men's	Adult	0.5
Afewee Urban FC	1 x youth boys	9v9	0.5
	1 x mini mixed	Mini 7v7	0.5
	1 x mini mixed	Mini 5v5	0.5
Athenians FC	1 x men's	Adult	0.5
Clapham Rangers FC	1 x men's	Adult	0.5
Fenwick Falcons FC	2 x youth boys	11v11	1
	2 x youth boys	9v9	1
	1 x youth girls	9v9	0.5
	2 x mini mixed	Mini 7v7	1
	1 x mini mixed	Mini 5v5	0.5
Junction Elite FC	1 x men's	Adult	0.5
Mighty Royale Elite FC	1 x men's	Adult	0.5
Rosendale Sports FC	2 x men's	Adult	1
Santley United FC	1 x youth boys	11v11	0.5
South London Kings FC	2 x youth boys	11v11	1
	1 x youth boys	9v9	0.5
Wanderers FC	1 x women's	Adult	0.5
	1 x youth boys	11v11	0.5
<b>Total</b>			<b>12</b>

## *Future demand summary*

On balance, it is considered that that total future demand in Lambeth Borough should account for club growth aspirations, on the basis that this figure exceeds TGR growth projections which are likely to be represented within this growth. Club growth aspirations are the figures applied in the supply and demand conclusions tables.

In total, clubs identify aspirations to develop future growth of one women's, one girls' youth 9v9 teams. National FA growth targets to double the existing number of female teams in line with its Game Changer Strategy and following the success of FA Wildcats Centres. Currently there is 10 affiliated women's teams and one affiliated youth girls teams. Therefore, taking into consideration both club aspirations and National FA targets future demand totals 10 women's teams and one youth 9v9 team.

<sup>11</sup> Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.



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Table 2.9: Summary of future demand from club growth aspirations and FA Game Changer female growth targets

	Number and type of teams					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Male	7	6	4	-	-	17
Female	10	-	1	-	-	11
Mixed	-	-	-	3	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>

To meet this increased demand for match pitches, there would be an additional capacity requirement (in match equivalent sessions per week) of 8.5 on adult pitches, three on youth 11v11 pitches, 2.5 on youth 9v9 pitches, 1.5 on mini 7v7 pitches and one on mini 5v5 pitches.

Where identified through club growth aspirations, future demand has been attributed at an Analysis Area level within the supply and demand analysis. Where not known, for example through growth strategy targets, it has been applied at a Boroughwide level.

## 2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times. As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality. The following ratings were used:

Table 2.10: Summary of carrying capacity for football pitches

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

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

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overplayed</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

## Match equivalent sessions per week

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

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## PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### ***Education sites***

There are no secondary school sites with onsite provision in Lambeth and several rely on community facilities, particularly local authority sites.

There are also some schools which have access to onsite artificial grass pitch provision which they may use or hire use of artificial grass pitches or court areas at other sites for curricular use. Those which do not, typically use grass pitches at local authority sites. School use of local authority grass pitches puts extra pressure on the pitch stock available for community use.

At present it is known that Westminster Sixth Form and Harris Academy Clapham both use Clapham Common for daytime school activity during the week, this demand has been captured within the capacity analysis below.

### ***Informal use***

All sites but one site with football pitches are open access sites. As such, these pitches are subject to informal use in the form of dog walkers, unorganised games of football and exercise groups. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime.

### ***Peak time***

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. The 161 teams playing matches in the Borough do so at the following times.

Peak time for adult men's play is Sunday mornings and for adult women is Saturday, this is due to the main league within the Borough being the Clapham Women's Saturday Football League (CWSFL) at Clapham Common, played across the whole day on Saturday's.

Peak time for youth 11v11 boys play is relatively evenly split between Saturday and Sunday mornings, though most play Saturday mornings 23 teams (53%). Saturday morning is the peak time for youth 9v9 play (16 teams – 73%).

Peak time for mini soccer match play at both 5v5 and 7v7 formats is Saturday mornings.

On occasion, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed, or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than the overall spare capacity that exists. This is because most or all of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period. Where this is the case, given that peak time usage should not be utilised over and above overall capacity, adjustments have been made.

A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for several regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

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The way spare capacity is represented in Table 2.11 is as follows:

Spare capacity per week (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have potential spare capacity across the week.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity.
1	Highlighted in red with a number denotes that the pitches are overplayed and have no spare capacity across the week. This includes at peak time, despite any availability at peak time which may exist.
Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity in peak period
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	With a dash, this indicates that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it were to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
1	Not highlighted by with a value, this indicates that the pitch has availability in the peak period; however, capacity has been discounted. This may be due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality, or the site has insufficient capacity across the week for this availability to be utilized.

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Table 2.11: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Match equivalent sessions per week			Spare capacity in peak period (Match equivalent sessions)	Comments
										Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance		
12	Brockwell Park	Brixton	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	4.5	1	3.5	-	Overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
						Youth	9v9	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
						Mini	7v7	1	Poor	0.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		9	Poor	52 <sup>12</sup>	9	43	-	Overplayed by 43 match equivalent sessions per week.
						Youth	9v9	2	Poor	7.5	2	5.5	-	Overplayed by 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
						Mini	7v7	1	Poor	4	2	2	-	Overplayed by 2 match equivalent sessions per week.
						Mini	5v5	1	Poor	3.5	2	1.5	-	Overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
27	Eythorne Park	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth Mini	9v9 7v7	1 2	Poor	4	1	3	0.5	Overplayed by 3 match equivalent sessions per week. Overmarked with two mini 7v7 pitches. Some peak time availability but no capacity due to overplay.
63	Rosendale Playing Fields	Norwood	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	9v9	2	Standard	4 <sup>13</sup>	4	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
64	Ruskin Park	Brixton	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	5.5	1	4.5	-	Overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
						Youth	9v9	1	Poor	3	1	2	-	Overplayed by 2 match equivalent sessions per week.
						Mini	7v7	1	Poor	4	2	2	-	Overplayed by 2 match equivalent sessions per week.
						Mini	5v5	1	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
79	Valley Road Playing Fields	Streatham	Yes - unused	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.

<sup>12</sup> Five match equivalent sessions per week added. Three to account for unauthorized training use by Junction Elite FC and two for school use.

<sup>13</sup> Four match equivalent sessions per week added to account for match play from Lambeth and Southwark Primary School Football League played on Saturdays.

## LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### **Match equivalent sessions**

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

At this stage, match equivalent sessions per week do not equate to a number of pitches. This is because an area might show three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity, however, this is likely to be spread across a number of sites. Further to this, minimal spare capacity on one site may be required to accommodate strategic reserve and as such retained. If the spare capacity is on one pitch, then it might indicate a need to create a different type of pitch to address a deficiency. This will be fully determined, and recommendations will be made accordingly within the Strategy and Action Plan.

### **Actual spare capacity**

To determine 'actual spare capacity', each site with 'potential capacity identified in Table 2.17 has been reviewed. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criterion has consequently been discounted.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for several regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Actual spare capacity totals 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week across two pitches, located at Brockwell Park and the unused Valley Road Playing Fields. This has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type below.

*Table 2.12: Summary of actual spare capacity on grass football pitches*

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Brixton	-	-	-	0.5	-	0.5
Clapham	-	-	-	-	-	-
Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Lambeth	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norwood	-	-	-	-	-	-
Streatham	1	-	-	-	-	1
Waterloo	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1.5</b>

Most actual spare capacity is identified on adult pitches, although some is also identified on mini 7v7 pitches. Most actual spare capacity is in the Streatham Area, with a total of one match equivalent sessions per week available on the unused single pitch at Valley Road Playing Fields.

There is actual spare capacity for mini soccer in the Brixton Area of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week each, on one pitch at Brockwell Park.

## LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity caused by poor quality).

In total there are 19 pitches across four sites overplayed by a combined total of 67.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

At an analysis area level, most overplay is within the Clapham Area with 52 match equivalent sessions per week, derived from critical and significant levels of overplay across 13 pitches at Clapham Common. The Brixton Area has overplay of 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week and the Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall Area with three match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.13: Summary of overplay of grass football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity balance (MES)
12	Brockwell Park	Brixton	Adult	1	3.5
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	Adult	9	43
			9v9	2	5.5
			7v7	1	2
			5v5	1	1.5
27	Eythorne Park	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	9v9	1	3
64	Ruskin Park	Brixton	Adult	1	4.5
			9v9	1	2
			7v7	1	2
			5v5	1	0.5
<b>Total</b>					<b>67.5</b>

Overplay is mostly on adult pitches (51 match equivalent sessions per week) with some on youth 9v9 (10.5 match equivalent sessions per week) and mini pitches (six match equivalent sessions per week).

Most overplay due to a combination of limited quantitative supply of football pitches in the Borough, limited carrying capacity of existing pitches due to poor quality across the stock, combined with significant levels of demand for formal and recreational match play and formal training.

It is likely that use exceeds that shown in the capacity analysis, with all football sites in public settings and subject to unquantifiable levels of regular informal use as recreation space for the public and other events. Overplay is therefore likely higher in practice than exhibited in the summary above.

# LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## 2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and any future demand) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions.

Future demand is based on team generation rates, which are driven by population increases, in addition, to club aspirational future growth plans for women's and girls' teams to reflect the strategic growth goals of the County FAs.

Exported demand has not been included within the analysis below since teams do not express a desire to return to access pitches within the Borough.

### Adult pitches

Table 2.14: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Brixton	-	8	8	1.5	9.5
Clapham	-	43	43	2.5	45.5
Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	-	-	0	-	0
North Lambeth	-	-	0	-	0
Norwood	-	-	0	-	0
Streatham	1	-	1	-	1
Waterloo	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>8.5<sup>14</sup></b>	<b>58.5</b>

Overall, there is significant current capacity shortfall on adult pitches totalling 50 match equivalent sessions per week. When taking into consideration future demand the shortfall is increased to 58.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

### Youth 11v11 pitches

Table 2.15: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Brixton	-	-	0	1	1
Clapham	-	-	0	2	2
Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	-	-	0	-	0
North Lambeth	-	-	0	-	0
Norwood	-	-	0	-	0
Streatham	-	-	0	-	0
Waterloo	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

<sup>14</sup> 4.5 MES added to overall boroughwide future demand on adult pitches from National FA growth targets.

## LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

There are currently no youth 11v11 pitches in the Borough, with all current youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches and youth 11v11 shortfalls are likely incorporated within the shortfalls for adult pitches shown above. There is future demand for three match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches, also likely to take place on adult pitches, exacerbating the future adult shortfall above.

### **Youth 9v9 pitches**

Table 2.16: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Brixton	-	2	2	2	4
Clapham	-	5.5	5.5	0.5	6
Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	-	3	3	-	3
North Lambeth	-	-	0	-	0
Norwood	-	-	0	-	0
Streatham	-	-	0	-	0
Waterloo	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>13</b>

Overall, there is current capacity shortfall on youth 9v9 pitches totalling 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week. When taking into consideration future demand the shortfall increases to 13 match equivalent sessions per week.

### **Mini 7v7 pitches**

Table 2.17: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Brixton	0.5	2	1.5	1.5	3
Clapham	-	2	2	-	2
Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	-	-	0	-	0
North Lambeth	-	-	0	-	0
Norwood	-	-	0	-	0
Streatham	-	-	0	-	0
Waterloo	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>5</b>

Overall, there is current capacity shortfall on mini 7v7 pitches totalling 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week. When taking into consideration future demand the shortfall increases to five match equivalent sessions per week.



# LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## Mini 5v5 pitches

Table 2.18: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Brixton	-	0.5	0.5	1	1.5
Clapham	-	1.5	1.5	-	1.5
Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	-	-	0	-	0
North Lambeth	-	-	0	-	0
Norwood	-	-	0	-	0
Streatham	-	-	0	-	0
Waterloo	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

Overall, there is current capacity shortfall on mini 5v5 pitches totalling two match equivalent sessions per week. When taking into consideration future demand the shortfall increases to three match equivalent sessions per week.

## 2.6: Conclusion

In conclusion there is insufficient capacity of grass football pitches to meet either current or future demand.

Table 2.19: Summary of supply and demand analysis for grass football pitches

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	1	51	50	8.5 <sup>15</sup>	58.5
Youth 9v9	0	10.5	10.5	2.5	13
Mini 7v7	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	5
Mini 5v5	-	2	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>79.5</b>

Most overplay due to limited quantitative supply of football pitches in the Borough, limited carrying capacity of existing pitches due to poor quality across the stock, combined with significant levels of demand for formal and recreational match play and formal training.

It is likely that use exceeds that shown in the capacity analysis, with all football sites in public settings and subject to unquantifiable levels of regular informal use as recreation space for the public and other events. Shortfalls are therefore likely higher in practice than exhibited in the analysis above. This public access and year-round use for other sports (e.g. Clapham Common, Ruskin Park) inhibits the level of off-season maintenance and remedial works that can realistically be undertaken to improve quality, whilst at the same time further compounding existing quality issues.

<sup>15</sup> 4.5 MES added to overall boroughwide future demand on adult pitches from National FA growth targets.

## LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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### Summary – football

- ◀ **There is insufficient capacity of grass football pitches to meet current demand, with a current shortfall across all pitches.**
- ◀ **Future demand would lead to further capacity shortfalls across all pitch types.**
- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 24 formally marked grass football pitches in Lambeth across six sites. Of these, all are reportedly available for community use.
- ◀ Of the 24 pitches in the Borough 13 are in the Clapham Area (54%), followed by the Brixton Area (seven pitches, 29%) and the Norwood Area (two pitches, 8%). The Streatham and Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall areas have one site. Whilst the North Lambeth and Waterloo areas accommodate no provision.
- ◀ Of the 24 football pitches, most (22 pitches – 92%) are rated as poor quality. There are two pitches (8%) rated as standard quality with no pitches in the Borough of good quality.
- ◀ A key issue is the perceived poor quality of pitches at local authority managed sites and particularly the quality of grounds maintenance works. Furthermore, the year round use for both summer sports and other uses, has led pitches to become compacted and worn in high traffic areas, with limited time available for rest and off-season maintenance.
- ◀ A PQS assessment was done at Clapham Common in June 2021. It was done across football pitches, Australian Rules pitches and Touch/Tag rugby pitches. The main issues to arise from the assessment across the site were poor grass coverage, surface undulations plus holes caused by foxes and other animals.
- ◀ There are 175 teams identified as playing football in the Borough. This is made up of 40 adult men's, 23 adult women's (13 of which are unaffiliated), 71 youth boys', one youth girls' and 40 mini teams.
- ◀ There is identified unauthorised demand for pitch use, with the Council parks service reporting anecdotal evidence of clubs sub-letting pitch bookings or using pitches for formal matches without booking.
- ◀ Likewise, there is identified unauthorised use of pitches for team training without hiring use through Lambeth Borough Council, for example using mobile sports lighting.
- ◀ Future club growth aspirations and participation targets total 33 potential new teams, resulting in additional capacity requirement (in match equivalent sessions per week) 8.5 for adult pitches, three for youth 11v11 pitches, 2.5 for youth 9v9 pitches, 1.5 for mini 7v7 pitches and one for mini 5v5 pitches.
- ◀ There are two pitches across two sites identified as having actual spare capacity, totalling 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week, one on adult pitches and 0.5 on mini 7v7 pitches.
- ◀ In total 19 pitches across four sites are overplayed by a combined total of 67.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ At a Boroughwide level there are current capacity shortfalls all pitches in Lambeth. Whilst future demand would lead to capacity shortfalls for all formats.

# LAMBETH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### PART 3: CRICKET PITCHES

#### 3.1: Introduction

Surrey Cricket Foundation (SCF) serves as the main governing and representative body for cricket across Lambeth. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the Borough. It is currently working with the ECB on delivering its Inspiring Generations Strategy which has been live since 2020.

#### Consultation

There are no affiliated community cricket clubs based within or playing within Lambeth. However, through consultation with SCF and the ECB three organisations were highlighted as key consultees. All three organisations responded to consultation request resulting in a 100% response rate.

Table 3.1: Summary of consultation

Consultee name	Interview type	Response
ACE programme	In person	Yes
African Caribbean Cricket Association (ACCA)	Telephone	Yes
Last Man Stands (LMS)	Video meeting	Yes

The African Caribbean Cricket Association (ACCA) does not directly deliver cricket activity within the Borough but works with SCF to encourage and develop opportunities for black and African Caribbean heritage players in inner London. The ACCA worked with and helped SCF in its establishment of the ACE Programme and continues to advocate it.

#### 3.2: Supply

There are no natural turf cricket squares in Lambeth. Instead, all provision is through non-turf pitches (NTPs), of which there are five. All five NTPs are available for community use and are located at publicly accessible park sites across Lambeth.

Table 3.2: Summary of NTPs in Lambeth

Site ID	Site name	Availability for community use	Analysis area	Number of NTPs	Position
12	Brockwell Park	Yes	Brixton	1	Standalone
17	Clapham Common	Yes	Clapham	1	Standalone
42	Kennington Park	Yes	North Lambeth	1	Standalone
64	Ruskin Park	Yes	Brixton	1	Standalone
90	Streatham Common	Yes	Streatham	1	Standalone

The Brixton Area has the most provision with two NTPs (40%), whilst the North Lambeth, Clapham and Streatham areas all have one NTP each. No sites have multiple pitches.

# LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## Non-turf pitches

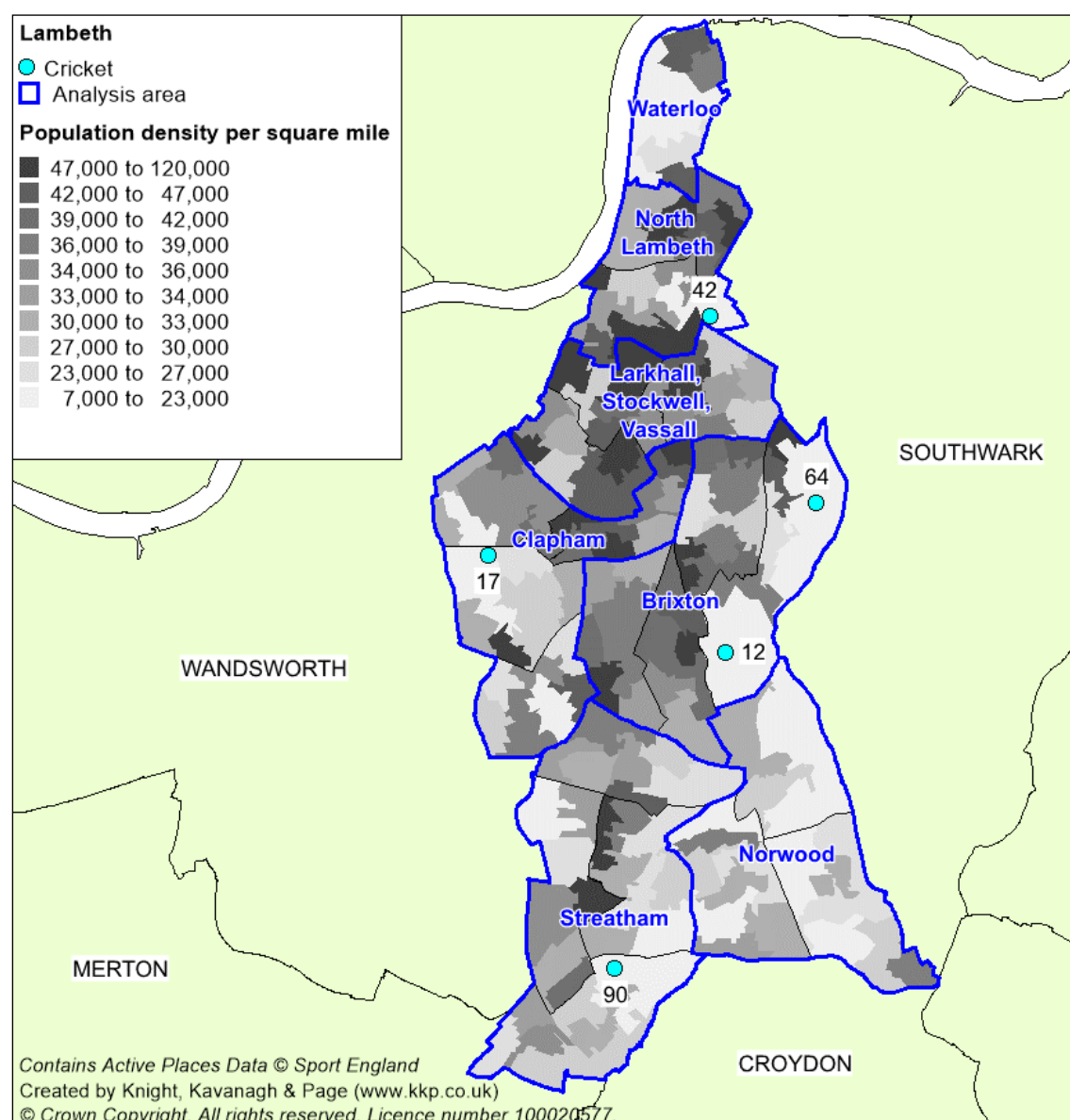
The ECB highlights that non-turf pitches which follow its TS6 guidance<sup>16</sup> on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to provide 60 match equivalent sessions per season, though this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets.

Not all leagues currently permit senior matches to be played on NTPs, limiting their use. However, work is being undertaken to encourage wider use of NTPs for senior cricket activity within leagues. They are increasingly used for lower level senior league, junior, short format evening league and school cricket activity.

There are five non-turf pitches across five sites in Lambeth, all standalone given there are no natural turf squares.

Figure 3.1 shows the location of all NTPs currently servicing Lambeth, for a key to the map, see Table 3.2.

Figure 3.1: Location of non-turf cricket pitches across Lambeth



<sup>16</sup> <http://www.cag.org.uk/docs/ecb-non-turf-pitches-ts6-final-328.pdf>

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### ***Disused sites***

Playing fields which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either.

There are no disused sites in the Borough, however of note is the former NatWest Sports Ground (Merton) which located directly on the southern boundary of Lambeth and which previously accommodated cricket pitch provision along with several other sports. Aerial imagery suggests that the site previously had four natural turf cricket squares, with the last prepared square maintained c2011.

### ***Future supply***

The ECB, SCF and Last Man Stands (LMS) all identified Clapham Common as a potential site for development of additional NTP provision. The site is located along good transport links and provides a substantial range of sport provision for Lambeth and clubs and groups in neighbouring boroughs, particularly Wandsworth as identified within the Wandsworth PPS. Last Man Stands identifies this site as having significant levels of unmet demand and the existing waiting list could significantly shorten if an additional NTP was added at this site.

The SCF and ECB has also identified Ruskin Park as potential location at which to develop a second NTP. At present the site has one NTP but there is identified potential for relocation of the existing pitch within the playing field so that two NTPs could be accommodated.

These projects have been presented to the Council for investment via the London Cricket Trust project, funded by ECB, to bring cricket back into London's parks, but have been paused whilst the PPOSS is undertaken. The ECB and SCF suggest they would welcome further discussions with the Council to deliver these new NTPs and other strategic opportunities to add further cricket capacity within the Borough given the high levels of local demand.

Both SCF and ECB identify a strategic focus to establish a community cricket club within the Borough. Kennington Park is perceived to be the preferred location a potential natural turf square and pavilion in future. The site is easily accessible and benefits from close proximity to the Kia Oval, from which cricket activity can be supported by SCF and some grounds maintenance support may be able to be accessed.

Given the high use of Kennington Park (as a public park), the ECB and SCF would also consider an enhanced non-turf (artificial) surface as this would be a lower maintenance option. As with Ruskin Park and Clapham Common, further discussions with the Council to progress enhanced cricket facilities would be supported by ECB and SCF.

### ***Ball strike issues***

ECB identifies a growing issue nationally in relation to potential ball strike issues (which can result in damage to properties) where there is either new cricket provision developed close to houses, or more commonly, a new housing development being built near to a cricket pitch.

As such, the ECB recommends that the clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken at an early stage of planning; further information can be provided by the ECB.

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### *The Kia Oval*

Although there are no amateur cricket clubs in Lambeth, the Borough is the location of elite stadium the Kia Oval in the North Lambeth Area. The venue is home to Surrey County Cricket Club, SCF and is used regularly for international matches, a regular home venue for the England senior and age group teams and world renowned stadium. It is also home to The Hundred franchise Oval Invincibles (men's and women's teams) and the South East Stars (women's professional team), as well as the indoor school which provides practice facilities servicing clubs/groups in Lambeth and other London boroughs.

The African-Caribbean Engagement (ACE) Programme operates from the offices within the stadium. Kennington Park is an approximate 10-minute walk from the site and in 2021 the programme stopped using cricket provision at the site due to reported poor quality. Sessions instead moved to the outfield over the main Kia Oval stadium pitch.

### *Pitch quality*

The quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments<sup>17</sup> as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%).

All NTPs within Lambeth receive a quality score rating based on a combination of non-technical assessments and NGB consultation as shown below.

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square/wicket is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to nearby players.

*Table 3.3: Summary of non-turf turf cricket pitch quality*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability for community use	No. of NTPs	NTP quality	Outfield quality
12	Brockwell Park	Brixton	Yes	1	Standard	Standard
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	Yes	1	Good	Poor
42	Kennington Park	North Lambeth	Yes	1	Poor	Poor
64	Ruskin Park	Brixton	Yes	1	Good	Good
90	Streatham Common	Streatham	Yes	1	Good	Standard

Three NTPs are rated as good quality (60%), whilst one is rated as standard quality (20%) and one at Kennington Park as poor (20%).

<sup>17</sup> See Appendix 2 for the non-technical assessment for cricket squares



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Both LMS and the ACE programme state that the pitch at Kennington Park has become unusable in recent years. The outfield at the site has reportedly become uneven and grass coverage is poor, resulting in it becoming unsafe for cricket, this is primarily due to the outfield being part of football pitches throughout the winter months. Last Man Stands indicates that having had discussions with the Council regarding quality of maintenance, it hopes work will be done to the site for it to be of suitable quality that it can access it again for the 2022 season.

Clapham Common is heavily used by LMS teams every day of the week through summer. The NTP there reportedly holds up to the level of use well and is of good quality. However, the outfield is reported to have issues with bare patches on certain parts, though is not considered unsafe overall and this only affects specific areas of the field.

The Pitch Advisory Service (led by the Grounds Management Association) assessed sites within the borough, having been commissioned by the steering group leading on the London Cricket Trust project. This report made a series of recommendations to support improvement of the quality of these pitches – the ECB recommends that this report is utilised by the council's grounds contractor to improve the cricket outfields within the borough.

### ***Overmarking of cricket outfields***

Several pitches are overmarked or share playing field with other sports pitches which are typically marked onto outfield areas seasonally, predominantly football and cricket pitches. Whilst making effective seasonal use of space and opportunities for multi-sport sites to share and maximise the likes of ancillary use and social facilities, this can also have a detrimental effect on pitch provision for cricket if not rigorously managed.

Overmarking can lead to issues with seasonal clashes when the cricket season begins and football and rugby union seasons have not finished, though cricket organisations in Lambeth do not report this as a key issue. This could be more of a concern at private sports club sites where some sports may have to seek alternative temporary venues due to seasonal clashes. The ECB states that joint use of outfields is acceptable if the maintenance programme ensures that the outfield is ready for cricket in the summer and there is a gap between seasons for pre-season and end of season works.

Furthermore, the use of playing field land year round and as cricket outfields during the summer limits the scope for off-season repair and rejuvenation, with any quality issues sustained as winter sports pitches unable to be rectified and likely to subsequently impact on cricket users. Without proper off-season maintenance or rotation of pitches this lack of scope for off-season works can lead to decline in quality over time, in the case of cricket presenting possible safety issues should outfields become undulating and bare.

Overmarking of cricket pitches takes place at the following sites shared with the following sports:

- ◀ Clapham Common (Football)
- ◀ Kennington Park (Football)
- ◀ Ruskin Park (Football)



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### **Ancillary facilities**

Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire, spectator facilities and boundary fencing. Provision of high quality ancillary facilities is a key aspect of the ECB 'Inspiring Generations' Strategy, to meet the expectations of the core participation base as well as key growth markets such as women and girls, South Asian and BAME communities and All Stars and Dynamos Cricket (detailed later in the section).

The extent of ancillary facilities required differs between times of play. For example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas this is often not required for junior and short format senior matches, where the need is more for access to suitable changing and/or toilet facilities.

Due to the nature of current cricket activity in Lambeth, mainly short-format leagues and community participation/engagement sessions, there is a greater need for access to toilet facilities to service cricket provision. Should an affiliated club be established in the Borough playing within weekend cricket leagues, there would be a future increased requirement for pavilion provision able to meet local league facility requirements.

None of the five sites with cricket provision are directly serviced by pavilion facilities. Across the park sites there are toilets which service all park users. Clapham Common and Brockwell Park have changing provision onsite, however at the current time these are not required, nor accessed by LMS. It should be noted that this may change as community cricket is developed in the Borough.

Development of a cricket clubhouse was previously proposed at Kennington Park to service the cricket NTP, however the project was not pursued due to public opposition in 2011. Having a community cricket pavilion at Kennington Park is still key in supporting the establishment of a community cricket club onsite.

### **Training facilities**

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs access both indoor and outdoor provision before the season commences. During the cricket season, outdoor training provision supplies most of the use.

Four sites in Lambeth are identified as having fixed net training facilities, as detailed in the table below. Of the four net facilities, one is rated as good quality, two as standard quality and one as poor quality at Brockwell Park.

*Table 3.4: Summary of current fixed net training facilities*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of lanes	Quality rating
3	Archbishop's Park	Waterloo	3	Good
12	Brockwell Park	Brixton	2	Poor
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	3	Standard
42	Kennington Park	North Lambeth	2	Standard

The net facilities at Brockwell Park are rated as poor quality due to high levels of use which has resulted in surface wear of certain areas. The netting itself has holes large enough for cricket balls to pass through, presenting a key safety issue. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the Council is prioritising the refurbishment of the nets at Brockwell Park ahead of the 2022 season.

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Similarly, net facilities at both Clapham Common and Kennington Park have similar identified issues with the quality and safety of netting.

The net practice facilities at Archbishop's Park were built c2016 and use can be booked through GLL access. This system helps to protect the quality of the facilities from public misuse. At present only Archbishop's Park operates this system, with the remaining three being fully open to public use without booking.

### **Management & security of tenure**

Clubs are generally considered to have secure tenure where they have freehold, leasehold or formally secured use of their site/s (for example, through a community use agreement) for the next three or more years.

Neither LMS nor the ACE Programme directly manage community cricket provision and both use Council managed provision by rental. Though operated through rental without long-term agreement, use of local authority cricket provision is considered to offer secure tenure as part of the Council's maintained recreation and leisure offer and to meet key outcomes of the Active Lambeth Strategy.

*Table 3.5: Summary of site management in Lambeth*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Users	Arrangement	Access for community users
12	Brockwell Park	Brixton	Last Man Stands ACE Programme	Formal rent agreement	Secure
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	Last Man Stands ACE Programme	Formal rent agreement	Secure
42	Kennington Park	North Lambeth	-	Unavailable to rent (Out of use)	-
64	Ruskin Park	Brixton	Last Man Stands	Formal rent agreement	Secure
90	Streatham Common	Streatham	Last Man Stands ACE Programme	Formal rent agreement	Secure

### **3.3: Demand**

Traditionally, the English cricket season runs between late march and early/mid-September each year. As there are no community cricket clubs competing in Lambeth, most competitive demand within the Borough is for short format cricket, mainly provided by Last Man Stands.

#### **Last Man Stands**

Last Man Stands (LMS) was founded in 2005. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on non-turf wickets. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the 'Last Man Stands' on his own. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and is increasing in popularity.

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Last Man Stands operates leagues using NTPs within Lambeth, although throughout the 2021 season it did not utilise Kennington Park due to quality issues. It highlights that across Lambeth it has approximately 80 teams playing across the different leagues. The franchise operates across several London boroughs and uses several sites in neighbouring Wandsworth.

Last Man Stands reports the need for both more provision and increased access to existing provision to be able to cater for current unmet demand. It cannot currently access all four NTPs on all days throughout the week, as some availability is retained for public bookings and informal cricket. The table below summarises LMS use of NTPs:

*Table 3.6: Summary of LMS access to NTPs*

Site ID	Site	Days of use	No. of days use a week
12	Brockwell Park	Monday-Thursday (Summer)	4
		Saturday-Sunday (Autumn)	2
17	Clapham Common	Monday-Sunday	7
64	Ruskin Park	Wednesday & Thursday	2
90	Streatham Common	Monday-Thursday	4

Last Man Stands states that from 2022 it hopes to again have access to the Kennington Park pitch and that this would help to meet some unmet demand. In addition, it believes that it could access and book additional NTPs if provided for the full amount of time made available.

The franchise aspires to continue growth across the Borough. At present it books all timeslots made available by Lambeth Borough Council, though some are retained from formal hire. It believes that the installation of additional NTPs is required and is key to growing cricket participation within Lambeth.

Council booking information was obtained and used to inform the current levels of use within the subsequent capacity analysis.

### ***The ACE Programme***

The ACE Programme is a charity which aims to inspire the wider game and was designed to engage young people of African and Caribbean heritage. The programme provides equal opportunity, equality for females, and looks to develop key strategic partnerships and capture key insights as the charity grows. ACE also appreciates the chance for sport to have a wider impact on the local community.

It operates as a Talent ID programme which is funded by Sport England, with additional funding from the Sir Tom Moore Foundation. It operates from the Kia Oval in Lambeth but also operates in different city hubs nationally.

Based at the Kia Oval, the programme works with the SCF in running All Stars, Dynamos, Chance to Shine and Street Cricket sessions across the Borough. The ACE Programme also operates in schools across the Borough, facilitating curricular and non-curricular based cricket coaching.

The programme also operates its own sessions at hub sites within the Borough. The outdoor sites it access are Clapham Common, Kia Oval, Streatham Common and Brockwell Park. It highlights that if it had access to more provision then it would be able to cater for demand by operating more sessions.

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#### ***All Stars cricket***

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine sites and clubs can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club/site can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket in the Borough. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ◀ Increase cricket activity for five to eight year olds in the school and club environment
- ◀ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition
- ◀ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle
- ◀ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment
- ◀ Use fun small sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game.

#### ***Dynamos cricket***

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos Cricket programme for 8-11 year olds which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars programme for 5-8 year olds and will develop the pathway to retain juniors progressing from All Stars Cricket into Dynamos Cricket.

Where All Stars Cricket seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos Cricket seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified soft ball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket. The programme will be strongly linked to The Hundred, a new short format competition which launched in 2021 for its inaugural season.

#### ***Softball cricket***

Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions are played on the outfield and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

It should be noted that All Stars, Dynamos and Softball cricket generally takes place on the cricket outfields rather than NTPs or actual squares. Although this does not impact the carrying capacity of the square it does influence the accessibility of the squares as whilst the outfield is in use the main square cannot be used to accommodate fixtures. Therefore, this may limit the potential spare capacity whilst these activities are taking place, generally on midweek evenings or Sunday mornings.

The table below summarises sites and organisations which are involved in All Stars and Dynamos and the participation figures for 2021.

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Table 3.7: Summary of Lambeth All Stars and Dynamos sign up data

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Delivery organisation	All Stars	2021 sign ups	Dynamos	2021 sign ups
12	Brockwell Park	Brixton	SCF/ACE	✓	37	-	0
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	SCF/ACE	✓	46	✓	21
90	Streatham Common	Streatham	SCF/ACE	✓	31	-	0
<b>Total</b>				<b>All Stars</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>Dynamos</b>	<b>21</b>

### **Street cricket**

Street cricket is an ECB initiative run through the Chance to Shine Programme. Chance to Shine Street brings cricket to thousands of young people in urban areas. It uses the game to increase aspiration, promote social cohesion and create opportunities in diverse communities. It's a fast-paced version of the game played with a tapeball - a tennis ball wrapped in electrical tape - in small, enclosed spaces, often courts or indoor sports halls. With six players per team and 20 balls per innings.

Street cricket sessions currently take place at Black Prince Community Hub, The Kia Oval, Clapham Leisure Centre and Streatham Common.

### **Recreational and informal use**

All NTPs are located at publicly accessible parks which service a variety of functions for residents beyond formal and informal sport. There is reportedly significant informal use of the pitches, both the NTPs for informal cricket and the outfielders for informal sport such as football. Due to their openness to public access, pitches are also subject to some public misuse on occasions.

### **Exported demand**

Exported demand refers to teams/groups currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of Lambeth, to meet facility needs which are not able to be met in the Borough due to insufficient quality or access.

Whilst none of the identified cricket delivery organisations based in Lambeth are identified as regularly exporting demand from the Borough, SCF and ECB state that it is likely that Lambeth residents access clubs and competitive opportunities at clubs in other London boroughs. For example, there is a strong cricket club network in neighbouring Wandsworth, whilst Croydon and Southwark also have affiliated clubs.

Some Lambeth based teams may play within LMS leagues which play matches within other London boroughs. This is not considered to be displaced because the venues are centrally chosen by the League rather than the individual teams, however the League itself does identify unmet demand for more provision within Lambeth.

### **Imported demand**

There is no formal cricket demand identified as into the Borough. However, it is believed that players and teams may import demand from outside of Lambeth to play within LMS leagues in the Borough, possibly due to preference for days of play.

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There is known imported demand to access the cricket net facilities at Clapham Common on Thursdays from 6.30pm to 8.00pm by Albamorphics CC, a nomadic club which plays matches at Beddington Park (Sutton).

### **Unmet demand**

Last Man Stands operates a waiting list for its Lambeth based leagues and states that it requires increased access to existing provision, as well as more NTP provision, to meet this unmet demand.

### **ECB growth priorities**

There is an emerging London Cricket Facilities Strategy which is a high level assessment of priorities and recommendations for deliver on the ECB 'Inspiring Generations' Strategy outcomes over future years. The findings should be incorporated into the PPS later in the process.

In addition, Surrey Cricket Foundation is also developing a countywide strategy. Lambeth has been identified as a Borough which is of strategic priority for the enhancement of cricket facilities.

Key focuses include the delivery of key pillars of the Inspiring Generations Strategy relative to the community game, such as inspiring participation through elite teams, making cricket accessible, supporting communities, engaging children and young people and transforming women and girls' cricket.

### **Future demand**

#### *Population increases*

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2035) based on population change.

*Table 3.8: Team generation rates forecasting future demand based on population change*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team generation rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams (2035)	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
<b><i>Last Man Stands - central venue format</i></b>						
Senior Men's (18-55)	101,226	80	1:1265	104,456	82	2

When applying population growth to LMS participation, based on population change exclusively there is forecasted growth of at least two new teams. Last Man Stands teams play 12 matches each on average, therefore there is a future requirement for capacity of at least 24 match equivalent sessions to meet this future demand.

This is based on population change within Lambeth only, whereas in practice, the League attracts teams from all over London, whilst it aspires to grow the number of teams more than this figure. On this basis, it is likely that growth in demand for LMS will exceed this forecast, though it did not quantify the level of its growth aspiration. The League already identified current unmet demand.



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Furthermore, there is a strategic driver and focus for SCF and ECB on the future creation of an affiliated cricket club in Lambeth playing weekend league cricket. There is some way to go to achieve this through increasing interest, capacity and volunteer resource, as well as identification of a suitable venue and facilities from which to develop. This would represent both increased future demand for cricket and the introduction of a weekend competitive cricket offer. The ECB and SCF believe that Kennington Park is the best suited site in the Borough at which to establish this new provision.

The ECB has also recently announced new five-year media rights deals, from 2020-2024. The new deals include a continuation of the ECB relationship with Sky Sports, now extending beyond broadcasting as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. The new deals also include a return to free to air television for live cricket, with the BBC to show coverage of some international and domestic matches. Such context may result in increased future demand.

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

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for cricket across three distinct time periods which are Saturdays, Sundays and Midweek (Monday to Friday).

Due to there being no formal league cricket played in the Borough. The main provider of competitive cricket in Lambeth is LMS, which mainly takes during the evenings in the week. In addition, ECB initiatives All Stars, Street Cricket and Dynamos also operate on weekday nights.

Cricket takes place on Saturday and Sundays primarily at Clapham Common during the summer and at Brockwell Park for two months during the autumn months. The sole user at peak time is LMS.

### **3.4: Capacity analysis**

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per pitch per day on weekday evenings, whilst up to four short format matches can be played on NTPs per day at the weekends).

This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per NTP. For good and standard quality NTPs, capacity is considered to be 60 matches per season, whilst for poor quality NTPs no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not safe for play.

The number of matches played on NTPs has been accounted for through consultation with main users Last Man Stands, whilst Council pitch bookings have helped to support consultation information in order to collate an accurate representation of overall matches played.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain



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## ***Spare capacity***

The table below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 3:10 in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and Midweek).

*Table 3.9: Spare capacity examples*

<b>Potential spare capacity in peak period (examples)</b>	<b>Explanation of spare capacity</b>
No	No means the pitch is played to capacity within this peak period and therefore cannot accommodate any further demand.
Yes	Yes - not highlighted - means there is spare capacity to accommodate further demand within this designated peak period however this is discounted due to unsecure tenure, poor pitch quality, the pitch not being available for community use or the pitch already being played to capacity or being overplayed so it cannot accommodate any additional demand.
Yes	Yes - highlighted in green - means there is actual available spare capacity within this peak period which can be utilised.

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Table 3.10: Capacity of non-turf cricket pitches in Lambeth

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Cricket users	Number of non-turf pitches	Non-turf pitch quality	Match equivalent sessions per season			Availability for additional Saturday cricket	Availability for additional Sunday cricket	Availability for additional midweek cricket
							Carrying capacity	Actual use	Capacity balance			
12	Brockwell Park	Brixton	Council	Last Man Stands ACE Programme	1	Standard	60	170	-110	Yes	Yes	No
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	Council	Last Man Stands ACE Programme	1	Good	60	300	-240	No	No	No
42	Kennington Park	North Lambeth	Council	-	1	Poor	0	0	0	No	No	No
64	Ruskin Park	Brixton	Council	Last Man Stands	1	Good	60	22	38 <sup>18</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
90	Streatham Common	Streatham	Council	Last Man Stands ACE Programme	1	Good	60	60	0	Yes	Yes	No

<sup>18</sup> Days available to hire reportedly limited throughout the week to retain time for non-cricket use of the space.

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## ***Spare capacity***

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual spare capacity' by which it is available at peak time. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

Kennington Park is unused presently due to reported quality issues. The pitch is rated as poor quality, thus is considered unsafe for cricket activity and offers no carrying capacity.

The pitch at Streatham Common is played to capacity, whilst the pitch at Ruskin Park has spare capacity of 38 match equivalent sessions across the season, including availability at both weekends and midweek. For both sites this is reflective of the level of access, with LMS use of these sites less than Brockwell Park and Clapham Common and reflective of the fact that some days are not made available for formal sporting hire.

Consequently, though Ruskin Park has spare capacity, this has been discounted from the subsequent analysis as it is likely that this policy of mixed use access in terms of number of days will be maintained by the Council.

## ***Overlay***

There are two sites in Lambeth considered to be overplayed by a total of 350 match equivalent sessions per season. It is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, however levels of overplay far exceed what can be sustained and there is a need for additional capacity.

The Brixton Area has overplay of 110 match equivalent sessions per season, whilst the Clapham Area has overplay of 240 match equivalent sessions per season. Last Man Stands has the most days of access through the week at Clapham Common and Brockwell Park, which is reflected in the levels of use at both sites and their subsequent overuse.

*Table 3.11: Summary of overplay*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of non-turf pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per season)
12	Brockwell Park	Brixton	1	-110
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	1	-240
<b>Total</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>-350</b>

## **3.5: Supply and demand analysis**

Midweek cricket is the peak time for competitive short format cricket within Lambeth. It is considered that one match can be facilitated per NTP each night of the week. On average, except for Ruskin Park, the three other used sites see NTPs used five evenings a week, hosting LMS matches for at least four evenings, whilst the ACE Programme and SCF typically run All Stars Cricket and Dynamos Cricket sessions one evening per week.

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Table 3.12: Supply and demand analysis (short format cricket)

	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per season)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per season)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand <sup>19</sup>	Total
Lambeth	0	-350	-350	24	-374

There is no spare capacity to accommodate additional cricket activity within Lambeth Borough based on the current quality and level of access to facilities.

There is opportunity for addressing of quality issues at Kennington Park and for the site to add to capacity of existing provision, to be explored further in Stage D: Strategy and Action Plan.

However, levels of existing use far exceed the quantitative level of provision in the Borough, therefore there is a need for additional cricket pitch provision to meet current and future demand. Whilst there is a significant current shortfall, LMS does not quantify the level of existing unmet demand on its waiting list, therefore in practice it is likely that these shortfalls exceed the analysis above.

### 3.6 Conclusion

Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity for cricket to meet current and future demand within the Borough.

Current provision is significantly overplayed and there are some restrictions to capacity such as retention of capacity for non-sporting use of sites and qualitative issues at Kennington Park. However, in practice the levels of current and future demand significantly exceed the quantitative extent of existing provision and there is a need for more pitches. Clapham Common and Ruskin Park are identified as sites for additional pitches by the ECB and SCF.

Given that the nature of current demand for cricket in the Borough is for short format cricket or developmental activity, this need is best met through non-turf pitches as the preferred surface choice for cricket. There are also identified issues for lack of ancillary provision to support use of NTP sites, specifically access to toilet facilities, which should be pursued for the benefit of cricket as well as other sporting or public users.

There is however a strategic desire to establish a club in the Borough playing weekend league cricket, at which time a natural turf square is likely to be required, a specific need which should be reviewed in line with this growth.

<sup>19</sup> Based on two additional Last Man Stands teams playing an average of 12 matches per season

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### Cricket summary

- ◀ **Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity for cricket to meet current and future demand within the Borough.**
- ◀ **Levels of existing use far exceed the quantitative level of provision in the Borough, therefore there is a need for additional cricket pitch provision to meet current and future demand.**
- ◀ There are no natural turf cricket squares in Lambeth.
- ◀ All cricket provision is non-turf, with five non-turf pitches at five sites in the Borough.
- ◀ Three non-turf pitches are rated as good quality, one as standard quality and one at Kennington Park as poor quality.
- ◀ Kennington Park is subject to reported quality issues affecting the safety and suitability of the outfield area for cricket, rather than the non-turf pitch itself. Consequently, the site is no longer used for cricket activity.
- ◀ All organisations delivering cricket activity in Lambeth are considered to have secure access through rental from the Council as part of its leisure and recreation offer and there is no foreseen threat to loss of access for existing cricket activity.
- ◀ None of the five sites with cricket provision (Brockwell Park, Clapham Common, Kennington Park, Ruskin Park and Streatham Common) are directly serviced by a cricket pavilion facility. Across the park sites there are toilets which service all park users.
- ◀ Four sites across Lambeth have fixed net training provision, at Archbishop's Park, Brockwell Park, Clapham Common and Kennington Park.
- ◀ Last Man Stands is the main provider of competitive cricket in Lambeth, operating leagues across four sites, totalling approximately 80 teams.
- ◀ Surrey Cricket Foundation and the ACE Programme is a key delivery organisation and in addition to Last Man Stands represents demand for outdoor cricket facilities in the Borough.
- ◀ Kennington Park was not used by Last Man Stands in 2021 and therefore less teams were able to be accommodated in the leagues. The franchise reports unmet demand and operates a waiting list but did not quantify how many teams on it.
- ◀ Based on population change exclusively, there is forecasted growth of at least two new teams for Last Man Stands, equivalent to 24 match equivalent sessions per season. In practice, the League reports that it could realistically exceed this level of growth but did not quantify by how much.
- ◀ There is no spare capacity to accommodate additional cricket activity within Lambeth Borough based on the current quality and level of access to facilities.
- ◀ Two sites (Brockwell Park and Clapham Common) are considered to be overplayed by a total of 350 match equivalent sessions per season.
- ◀ There is a strategic desire to establish a club in the Borough playing weekend league cricket, at which time a natural turf square is likely to be required.

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### PART 4: RUGBY UNION PITCHES

#### 4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for rugby union. It is split into four areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. A full-time Club Developer is responsible for Lambeth Borough (as part of the wider region) and works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures.

Locally, rugby union clubs in the area affiliate to either Surrey Rugby, Kent Rugby or Middlesex Rugby which each administer the respective local competitions. The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

#### **Consultation**

There are currently no affiliated rugby union clubs based within or playing within Lambeth. At present London Media RFC (based in neighbouring Wandsworth) uses playing field provision within Lambeth for summer training, whilst Battersea Ironsides RFC, based on the Clapham and Battersea border with Lambeth, was also consulted with. Consultation was undertaken via virtual online meetings.

Table 4.1: Summary of rugby union consultation

Affiliated club name	Response received
Battersea Ironsides RFC	Yes
London Media RFC	Yes

#### **Rugby union definitions**

Rugby union in England (as specified by the RFU) is played in the following formats and as such these references are used throughout this section to refer to supply (pitch types) and demand (team types).

Table 4.2: Rugby union age group and pitch format definitions

Team reference	Age group	Team type	Pitch type
Senior men	18+	Senior	Senior
Senior women	18+	Senior	Senior
Colts	17-18 years old	Under 18	Senior
Junior boys	13-16 years old	Under 14 - Under 16	Junior
Junior girls	13-16 years old	Under 14 - Under 16	Junior
Mini rugby mixed	6-12 years old	Under 7 - Under 13	Mini

#### 4.2: Supply

There are no formally marked rugby union pitches in Lambeth. At present the only formal markings for rugby activity are Touch/Tag rugby pitches marked at Clapham Common and Brockwell Park, whilst in previous years Larkhall Park has also been marked. Whilst these pitches are currently formally booked by the commercial organisations In2Touch Rugby and Try Tag Rugby (TTR), the pitches are also used informally without bookings. Touch and Tag rugby is detailed further in Part 9 of this report

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There is, however, some affiliated club rugby union activity in Lambeth. London Media RFC utilises unmarked grass playing field and football pitch areas for training throughout the summer months at Clapham Common, when extended daylight hours allow for the use of grass playing field without a requirement for sports lighting, though this use is reportedly not formally hired.

No formally marked rugby union pitches were identified through the audit. Rugby union pitch dimension sizes are listed in the table below.

*Table 4.3: Rugby union pitch dimensions*

Team type (ages)	Team reference	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) <sup>20</sup>
Under 8	Mini	45 x 22
Under 9	Mini	60 x 30
Under 10	Mini	60 x 35
Under 11	Mini	60 x 43
Under 12	Mini	60 x 43
Under 13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
Under 14-16	Junior	100 x 70
Under 17+	Senior	100 x 70

### **Future supply**

The RFU aspires to ensure all residents of Lambeth have access to appropriate training and match play opportunities through the existing network of affiliated clubs. To cater for existing unmet demand, additional dedicated pitch provision, either natural turf or a World Rugby Reg 22 compliant surface would be required.

There is interest in the development of artificial grass pitch provision at Clapham Common, where opportunity has been identified for redevelopment of the redgra area. This includes potential for either new 3G pitch or AGP surface provision and would require sports lighting. Both London Media RFC and Battersea Ironsides RFC report that having a World Rugby Reg 22 3G pitch would help to cater for training demand. Additional to the development of 3G pitches with sports lighting, opportunity for innovative or non-traditional pitch technologies and products (such as hybrid turf pitches) should be explored in future, where these may provide a capacity solution able to sustain greater levels of use beyond grass pitches.

Battersea Ironsides RFC (based in Wandsworth) reports a requirement for additional provision for its teams. At present it suggests that it does not have enough for current demand, with current pitches being overused and of poor quality. The Club aspires to develop its own site and indicates that it has the funding to support the development of its own multi-pitch site. If the opportunity was to arise within Lambeth, it reports that the Club would be open to relocation within the Borough to help support the growth and quality of its facilities.

### **Ancillary facilities**

Ancillary facilities refer to the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing.

<sup>20</sup> Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.



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Although there is changing provision at Clapham Common, quality is rated as poor. London Media RFC reports that it does not access the changing pavilion but that it does not require access to support current use of the site.

### **4.3: Demand**

Rugby union activity in Lambeth takes place through organised training. This is by London Media RFC training on Clapham Common throughout the summer months. The Club then reverts to training under sports lighting at Tooting Bec Athletics Track (Wandsworth) throughout the winter during the season.

There are no affiliated rugby union clubs based or playing within Lambeth. There is, however, a strong affiliated network of clubs across neighbouring authorities which provide opportunities for Lambeth residents and likely have players and members who reside in Lambeth. It is therefore likely that demand from Lambeth residents is part of clubs in other boroughs.

The Wandsworth PPS (2021) identifies shortfalls for rugby union pitch capacity. As recommended by the RFU, consultation was undertaken with two Wandsworth clubs based near to the Borough boundary, London Media RFC and Battersea Ironsides RFC, which have demand for additional capacity and would use provision at Clapham Common should there be opportunity for increased provision at the site.

Battersea Ironsides RFC reports that there are not enough rugby union pitches to meet club demand within neighbouring Wandsworth. It has significant levels of demand particularly within its mini and junior rugby section of over 1,000 members and uses several sites across the Borough. It reports needing additional pitches to cater for both match and training demand. Due to the proximity of its players to the Clapham Area, the Club is interested in potential to develop a rugby union pitch at Clapham Common.

### ***Competitive play***

Both London Media RFC and Battersea Ironsides RFC express demand for additional pitches for matches. Both clubs suggest that a proportion of membership reside within Lambeth and therefore are open to additional provision being provided within the Borough.

The pitches which Battersea Ironsides RFC use in Wandsworth are currently of poor quality and are overplayed due to heavy use. It reports that for the quality of play to improve and to allow the Club to continue to grow that additional provision is needed. It suggests that Clapham Common is an ideal location for additional provision, due to transport links to the site.

The Club also reports that it is looking for land to develop its own site. It reportedly has the funding to do so, however, cannot identify available land for this. It would be open to discussions with Lambeth Borough Council to discuss possible land where it could develop its own site.

London Media RFC currently accesses Battersea Park (Wandsworth) for match demand. The Club reports that due to a number of its players coming from the Clapham Area it would look at relocating its teams to Clapham Common if a pitch was to become available on the site.

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### *Training*

Throughout the Country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of sports lighting.

An alternative to training on grass pitches with sports lighting is via a World Rugby Reg 22 compliant 3G pitch. For an artificial grass pitch to be suitable for contact rugby, it must be an artificial surface and meet the criteria of World Rugby Regulation 22. A WR compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto artificial grass pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

Within Lambeth the only formal training takes place on unmarked grass playing field at Clapham Common. This takes place throughout the summer months when the light is suitable to do so. In winter, clubs revert to training at Tooting Bec Athletics Track on the infield grass area as it has sports lighting.

Both London Media RFC and Battersea Ironsides RFC require provision with sports lighting for training throughout the winter. Although some teams access sites with sports lighting, not all do and further clubs would be interested in taking up slots at Clapham Common for training if a 3G pitch was developed. These clubs believe that a WR compliant 3G would improve the quality of rugby training provision for their clubs.

*Table 4.4: Summary of rugby union club facility use for evening training*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Facility type</b>
Battersea Ironsides RFC	Battersea Ironsides Sports Club	Wandsworth	3G pitch with sports lighting – non rugby compliant pitch used for skills practice (non-contact). U15, U16, Colts and Women.
	Rosslyn Park Rugby Club	Wandsworth	3G pitch with sports lighting – World Rugby compliant pitch. Senior men’s training post-summer.
	Garratt Green	Wandsworth	Grass rugby union pitches with no sports lighting – used for senior training until end of summer.
London Media EFC	Tooting Bec Athletics Track	Wandsworth	Grass playing field with sports lighting – infield area of the athletics track.
	Clapham Common	Lambeth	Grass playing field with no sports lighting – used for senior training until end of summer.

### *Infrequent play*

The RFU has plans to encourage participants which have previously played rugby union to re-engage through participation as part of a more casual sporting offer. The league will provide opportunities for teams and players which are unable to play weekly or frequently for various reasons and will operate on an occasional basis. The league will also act as an entry point for newly created clubs and provide competitive opportunities. Matches will take place outside of peak time for senior rugby (Saturday PM), with Friday evenings or midweek being the most likely times for matches to take place.

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### ***Unmet and latent demand***

Latent demand is demand which is perceived to exist but is not presently realised, whereas unmet demand is demand which is known to exist but similarly is not able to be realised, in the case of the PPS due to lack of access to or poor quality of facilities.

Battersea Ironsides RFC provides for mini rugby using unmarked playing field at sites within Wandsworth because it cannot access marked pitches to do so at a dedicated rugby union facility. The Club has approximately 28 mini rugby teams using open space at King George's Park (Wandsworth). This demand is unmet in practice because of the lack of access to dedicated provision.

### ***Future demand***

#### ***Participation increases***

Battersea Ironsides RFC states that it is already operating at capacity with the number of teams it can run due to a lack of pitch provision. It would, however, be able to put some growth in participation into existing squads at U13-U15 and would in time like to have multiple teams at these age groups.

The Club wishes to continue its growth, however, this cannot be achieved until additional provision is found.

There are also elements that will have an impact on a potential increased demand for a rugby offer from a women and girls' perspective:

- ◀ Targeted initiatives as result of the Women's Rugby World Cup.
- ◀ The RFU team and Age Grade bandings will be changing for the Girls' game for the 2022/2023 season, this will further increase the demand for match play pitch space and overall pitch capacity at the beginning of 2022/23 season.

### ***Education***

Rugby union is traditionally a popular sport within independent schools, however, the RFU is also active in developing rugby union in local state schools through the All Schools programme launched in September 2012. This aims to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union, with such schools linking to the local RFU Club Developer, which delivers coaching sessions and offer support to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme.

### ***Touch rugby***

To actively encourage participation in rugby union clubs may provide alternative offers to traditional club competition. Touch rugby is one possible format which clubs can use; touch rugby is non-contact rugby sessions, during which participants compete in teams to score tries, following similar laws to traditional rugby union formats. Clubs, schools or community organisation can establish their own touch rugby sessions or can become hosts of Touch Union rugby sessions.

Touch Union sessions are 90 minutes long and combine music, fitness and rugby skills. Sessions are of mixed gender, ability and age and are based on touch rugby being a social activity. Although there are no RFU affiliated Touch Union sessions in Lambeth, there is a commercial league In2Touch played at Clapham Common from March-October, taking place on Monday-Thursday nights.

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Surrey Rugby runs touch rugby sessions twice each week, one being Touch for beginners and the other a women and girls' session to continue the initiative to engage more females with the sport.

Some other clubs and providers operate rugby variant sports, such as competitive touch rugby clubs affiliating to England Touch, or social touch or tag rugby leagues run by local commercial providers. More detail on this activity can be found in Part 9: Other Sports.

### ***Walking rugby***

Walking rugby is a slower game of touch rugby that is accessible for disability groups and older participants, generally aged 55 years and above. The game is less physical than traditional rugby, but the general aim remains the same, with passing and scoring laws applying; and tackling involves a two-handed touch to the waist or below. Sessions for over 55's are an opportunity for participants to become physically active and for others to re-engage with rugby at a less strenuous pace. At present there are no formal walking rugby sessions taking place in the Borough.

### **4.4: Conclusion**

There are currently no rugby union pitches within the Borough and only ad-hoc use of areas of Clapham Common for summer training by London Media RFC (based in Wandsworth). Whilst in principle there are no affiliated rugby union clubs currently based in Lambeth, in practice there is a shortfall in capacity which requires additional provision to meet demand from clubs on the Lambeth/Wandsworth border, which have a substantial proportion of Lambeth based players.

Both London Media RFC and Battersea Ironsides RFC are based on the boundary, though presently use formal rugby union pitches within Wandsworth only. Both clubs have demand for additional pitch provision, including unmet demand at the latter, which could be provided for through additional provision in the Clapham Area of Lambeth.

The Wandsworth PPS (2021) evidences significant capacity shortfalls for rugby union pitches, as well a requirement for additional pitches provision with sports lighting to service training and match play for several sports such as rugby union, football and lacrosse. There is identified opportunity at Clapham Common for the development of new artificial grass pitch provision and due to both the well-connected and equidistant nature of the site, it represents a key strategic opportunity for most pitch sport NGBs to help reduce local shortfalls, including for the RFU and potential development of new World Rugby Reg 22 compliant pitch provision.

Additional to the development of artificial pitches with sports lighting, opportunity for innovative or non-traditional pitch technologies and products (such as hybrid turf pitches) should be explored in future, where these may provide a capacity solution able to sustain greater levels of use beyond grass pitches.

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### Summary – rugby union

- ◀ **There are currently no rugby union pitches within the Borough, at present and only ad-hoc use of unmarked areas of Clapham Common.**
- ◀ **Whilst in principle there are no affiliated rugby union clubs currently based in Lambeth, in practice there is a shortfall in capacity which requires additional provision to meet demand from clubs on the Lambeth/Wandsworth border, which have a substantial proportion of Lambeth based players.**
- ◀ There are no formally marked rugby union pitches in Lambeth, nor are there any affiliated community clubs based in the Borough.
- ◀ There are pitches marked for touch and tag rugby at Clapham Common and Brockwell Park, though use is by non-RFU affiliated leagues and franchises.
- ◀ Current affiliated rugby union use in Lambeth consists only of ad-hoc training use of playing field areas at Clapham Common by London Media RFC, during summer when daylight hours allow for training without sports lighting.
- ◀ There is reported additional demand for both training and match demand for both Battersea Ironsides RFC and London Media RFC.
- ◀ Battersea Ironsides RFC reports that it requires additional pitch space for its current teams, it would also allow the Club to increase its teams, which it suggests it has demand for.
- ◀ London Media RFC reports that if a pitch on Clapham Common were to become available then it would look to relocate, as it reports the site would be easier for transport to matches, whilst a number of its members are located in and around the Clapham Area.
- ◀ Battersea Ironsides aspires to have its own site and suggests it would be open to take on management of and self-fund development of a land asset.
- ◀ Both clubs report they have demand for additional training capacity under sports lighting and that both would be interested in using new provision, especially if this was around the Clapham Area.
- ◀ The Wandsworth PPS (2021) evidences significant capacity shortfalls for rugby union pitches, as well a requirement for additional pitches provision with sports lighting to service training and match play for several sports such as rugby union, football and lacrosse. There is opportunity for new provision in Lambeth to help meet this demand for clubs based on the local authority border.
- ◀ There is identified opportunity at Clapham Common for additional capacity for rugby union activity due to both the well-connected and equidistant nature of the site between the two boroughs, it represents a key strategic opportunity for most pitch sport NGBs to help reduce local shortfalls. This includes for the RFU and potential development of new World Rugby Reg 22 compliant pitch provision and/or alternative pitch products (e.g. hybrid turf pitches) which will provide increased capacity.

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### PART 5: ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES FOR HOCKEY

#### 5.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and in Lambeth Borough is administered regionally by the Southern Counties Hockey Association and locally by Middlesex Hockey Association and Surrey Hockey Association.

Following a 2017 resolution, England Hockey has over recent year undertaken a review of the way the sport is structured locally. In September 2020, the membership of England Hockey took the decision to support the proposed structural changes set out in A Structure Fit for the Future<sup>21</sup>, which proposes a new structure of eight areas (increased from five currently) to divide the balance of clubs and players more equally in England. In future the area will be administered by London Hockey.

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation artificial grass pitches, some may be suitable for introductory level hockey, such as school curriculum low level hockey.

A typical artificial grass pitches pitch is constructed from a free draining, frost-free sub-base, one or two tarmac layers, a 15mm shock pad and an artificial grass carpet, either sand filled, sand dressed or water based<sup>22</sup>. Below is a brief summary of each type.

#### *Sand filled artificial grass*

On sand filled artificial grass the artificial grass fibres are infilled with sand. This is a low density durable carpet with sand infill to just below the pile for stability, these pitches are recommended for lower league hockey and more of a multi sports use rather than higher competitive hockey use.

#### *Sand dressed artificial grass*

The fibres on sand dressed artificial grass are much denser and therefore requires less sand to support the pile of the carpet and create stability. It is the most commonly used surface for hockey up to and including at a National level.

#### *Water-based artificial grass*

A very high-density carpet with no sand infill which requires irrigation via a sprinkler system to maintain a layer of water on the pitch. The water provides low slide resistance and reduces the risk of abrasions caused by coarse sand.

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

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<sup>21</sup><https://www.englishhockey.co.uk/governance/about-england-hockey/agm-resolution/governance-review>

<sup>22</sup> For more detail, please refer to: [EH artificial pitch guidance.pdf](#)



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Table 5.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

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

For senior teams, a full size pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides & three metres at the ends. England Hockey preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

The PPS guidance considers that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches (match equivalent sessions) on one day (peak time) provided that the pitch has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek and requires access to a pitch and sports lighting.

### Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with England Hockey to inform this section of the report, as well as with all five hockey clubs that access pitches within the Borough. Although the clubs access pitches in the Borough, all are predominantly based in Wandsworth or the Wandsworth/Lambeth border area around Clapham and Battersea. If more hockey facilities were to be available in Lambeth, it is likely the clubs would also make use of further provision. The clubs accessing pitches in the Borough are:

- ◀ Clapham Common HC
- ◀ London Edwardians HC
- ◀ London Wayfarers HC
- ◀ Spencer HC/Lynx
- ◀ Wanderers HC



# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

## 5.2: Supply

There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs in the Borough. Both are typically available for community in some capacity, though the pitch at Kennington Park is currently out of use, deemed unsafe due to poor surface quality.

The pitch at Streatham & Clapham High School does not have sports lighting and therefore cannot support midweek evening training during the hockey season.

There are eight small size sand based AGPs, all of which have sports lighting.

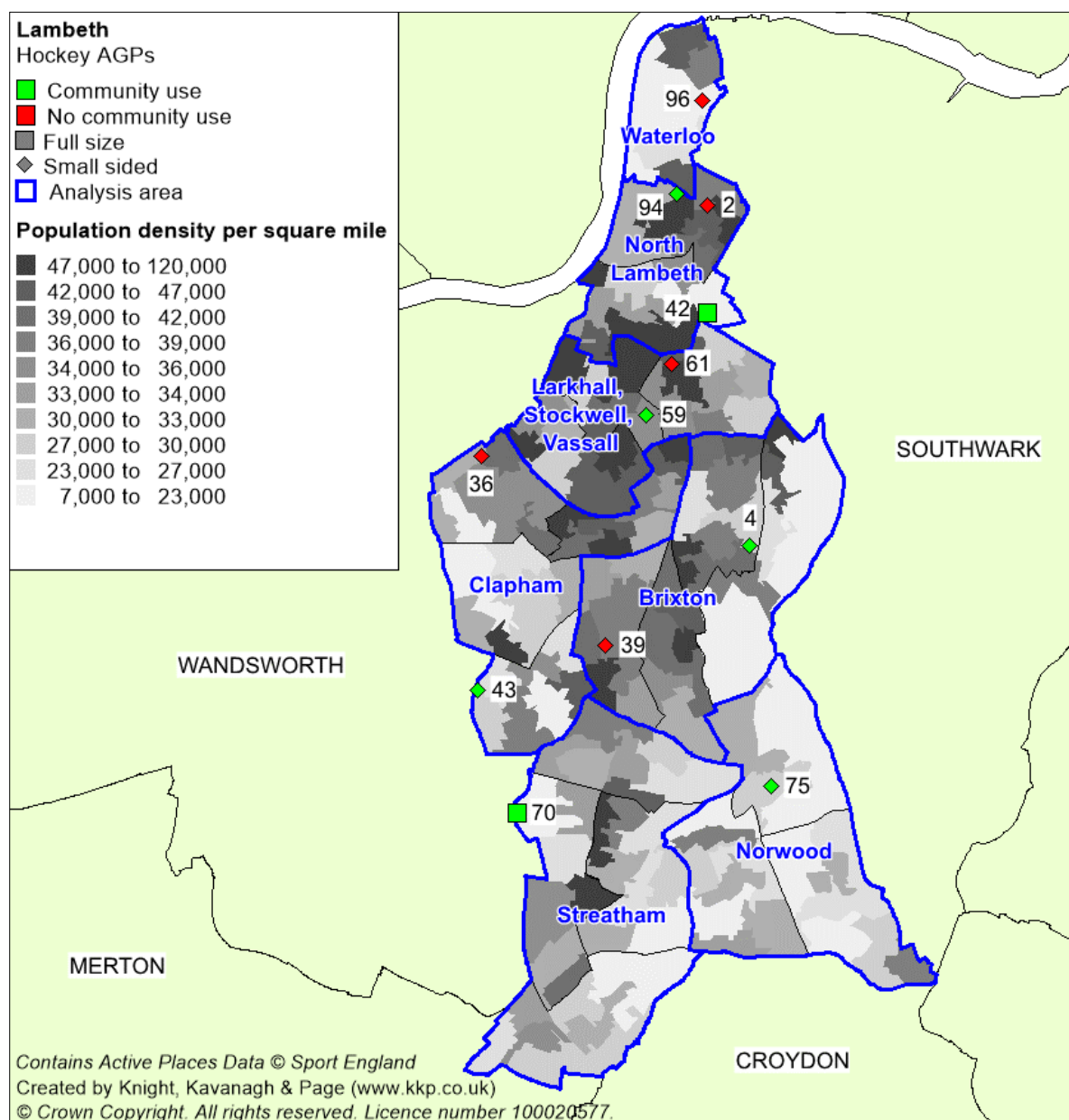
Table 5.2: Summary of AGPs in Lambeth

Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches	Analysis area	Surface type	Pitch size (metres)	Availability for community use	Sports lighting
<b>Full size pitches</b>							
42	Kennington Park	1	North Lambeth	Sand Filled	108x70	<i>Out of Use</i>	Yes
70	Streatham & Clapham High School	1	Streatham	Sand Dressed	97x61	Yes	No
<b>Small size pitches</b>							
2	Archbishop Sumner C Of E Primary School	1	North Lambeth	Sand Filled	30x20	Yes	Yes
36	Heathbrook Primary School	1	Clapham	Sand Filled	34x18	Yes	Yes
39	HMP Brixton	1	Brixton	Sand Filled	27x18	No	Yes
43	La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls School	1	Clapham	Sand Filled	55x36	Yes	Yes
59	Platanos College	1	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	Sand Filled	70x41	No	Yes
61	Reay Primary School	1	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	Sand Dressed	27x17	Yes	Yes
75	The Elmgreen School	1	Norwood	Sand Filled	60x40	Yes	Yes
94	Lollard Street Adventure Playground	1	North Lambeth	Sand Filled	24x16	Yes	Yes

For a key to Figure 5.1, please refer to Table 5.2.

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 5.1: Location of AGPs in Lambeth



## Future supply

There are several clubs using AGPs in Lambeth which are of a significant size and have such levels of demand to be able to sustain and utilise a full size AGP exclusively. On this basis, London Wayfarers HC, Clapham Common HC and Spencer HC (with Spencer Lynx) each aspire to develop their own full size AGP and would like to explore opportunities to do so. Clubs would need to acquire a land asset or work in partnership with an existing provider, though all three are potentially able to self-fund with the right opportunity.

Spencer HC has significant levels of demand and along with its associated charity organisation Spencer Lynx, as well as other sports under the wider sports club umbrella such as lacrosse and cricket. It could feasibly fill a week long programme of use on an additional full size AGP and has in the past had discussions with potential land partners in Wandsworth to deliver another pitch.

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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There is a substantially sized area of redgra at Clapham Common which may also hold opportunity for the development of new artificial grass pitch provision. The site has a significant level of existing demand for sporting use, whilst there are several sports in the Lambeth and Wandsworth area, particularly hockey, rugby union and lacrosse, which also have capacity shortfalls and high levels of demand for additional artificial grass pitch provision with sports lighting. The site represents a significant opportunity for sport and there is competing demand amongst sports for future use of the space.

Though the site is managed in entirety by the Council, part of the site where the sports pitches are located lies within the jurisdiction of Wandsworth local planning authority. Given that the site lies on the Lambeth administrative area boundary, it is important to note the potential impact the delivery of this project could have on facility use in Wandsworth, as the site is easily accessible and well connected for Wandsworth residents.

All five clubs consulted with identify interest in the potential development of a full size AGP at Clapham Common. The clubs suggest that a full size AGP at this site would be ideal due its proximity to transport links and club members coming from Lambeth.

### ***Conversion of sand based AGPs to 3G surfaces***

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way of replacing their tired sand-based carpet and generating money from hiring out a 3G pitch to football clubs and commercial football providers. This has often come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams being displaced from their preferred geographical area.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface should require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants will have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and EH should therefore be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing sports lighting and drainage to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

### ***Quality***

Taking the above into account, the quality of hockey suitable artificial grass pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by EH<sup>23</sup>) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (60-79%), Poor (<60%). The quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

In addition, depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an artificial grass pitch usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality.

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<sup>23</sup> See Appendix 3 for the non-technical assessment for artificial grass pitches

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 5.3: Summary of full size AGP quality

Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches	Surface type	Year built (refurbished)	Quality
42	Kennington Park ( <i>Out of Use</i> )	1	Sand Filled	c1989 (c2014)	Poor ( <i>out of use - unsafe</i> )
70	Streatham & Clapham High School	1	Sand Dressed	2008	Poor

Both pitches are poor quality, with one currently being out of use due to its quality. The carpet of an AGP pitch is considered to have a surface life of approximately 10 years with assumed maintenance of the required standard, though its lifespan can be prolonged in some cases where maintenance is of particularly high quality and rigor.

Whilst the Kennington Park surface is only seven years old, the site is heavily used for both hockey and football training. This has therefore, resulted in the accelerated deterioration of quality. The pitch is currently out of use and is due to be resurfaced with community programme restored again for use in June 2022. Wanderers HC, Clapham Common HC and London Wayfarers HC report that the pitch is not well monitored by staff and that there are anecdotal reports of use of unsuitable footwear with metal studs by football groups which damages the surface. This is perceived to be a contributor to the accelerated decline of pitch quality.

During consultation it was stated that the small sized AGP at La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls School is of poor quality. When it rains, the pitch is reported to produce a blue foam (the colour of the fibres) which lies on the surface and makes the pitch slippery and unsafe.

The pitch at Streatham and Clapham High School has recently undergone some repair works, however, is reported by London Wayfarers HC to be too sandy and therefore plays slowly, meaning it is used mainly for lower level league matches. The School reports that a full resurface of the pitch will be required in the next five years. The School has no sinking fund in place for this and would require external funding support, though it reports that Spencer HC (with Spencer Lynx) has expressed interest in helping support this pitch development.

Providers should be encouraged to have in place a mechanism for sustainability, repair and eventual replacement such as annually ringfencing a proportion of revenue as a sinking fund to fund future works.

## **Ownership & management**

None of the clubs in the Borough are asset owning and all rent use of facilities.

The pitch at Streatham and Clapham High School is owned by the School and it uses the site throughout the daytime midweek. Outside of school hours, community use of the pitch is available to use at evenings and weekends, however, is not available for hire during the winter evenings as it has no sports lighting. The pitch has a Community Use Agreement (CUA) in place with priority to community sports clubs for bookings outside of school use.

Kennington Park is managed by the Council as part of its sport and leisure provision offering. Use is on a rental basis, but the venue is a key strategic site for hockey, particularly at weekends for matches. At present the pitch is out of use due to poor quality, anticipated to be available again May/June time.

## LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

### Availability

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

Table 5.4: Summary of AGP pitch availability and use

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sports lighting	Pitch size (Metres)	Quality <sup>24</sup>	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period	Midweek				Weekend			
							Affiliated Hockey usage	Football usage	Other sports <sup>25</sup>	Spare capacity	Affiliated Hockey usage	Football usage	Other sports <sup>5</sup>	Spare capacity
42	Kennington Park	North Lambeth	Yes	108x70	Poor (out of use - unsafe)	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours	8%	67%	8%	17%	100%	-	-	0%
70	Streatham & Clapham High School	Streatham	No	97x61	Poor	Weekdays: 0 hours Weekends: 10.5 hours Total: 10.5 hours	N/A – no sports lighting				100%	-	-	0%

The AGP at Kennington Park is currently unavailable for use due to poor pitch quality. However, the pitch is due to be reinstated in June 2022. As per the previous operating hours, the pitch is expected to be available seven days a week, from 9am-10pm on weekdays and 9am-6pm on weekends, representing full availability in the peak period both midweek and at weekends. The table below represents usage of the Kennington Park pitch prior to its closure (due to poor quality), it is believed the same programme of usage will be utilised once use resumes. Although the Kennington Park pitch has spare capacity throughout the week, all of this time is from 5-6pm, which is perceived as a less attractive time for use, due to work commitments.

The full size AGP at Streatham and Clapham High School has no sports lighting and therefore throughout the hockey season the pitch is not available during the week. There is Community Use Agreement in place which limits the availability at weekends too, whilst the School uses the facility on Saturday mornings. The pitch is available on Saturdays from 11am-5pm and on Sunday's from 10am-2.30pm.

Spencer HC and Spencer Lynx use the small size AGP at La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls School for junior training and the indoor facilities onsite for some training on an ad-hoc basis. However, planning conditions as part of the initial application for creation of the pitch and sports lighting prevent use beyond 8pm. The School expresses that it has unmet demand and interest in additional bookings past this time and it plans to submit planning for additional usage. It should be noted that requests for variance of conditions have been submitted several times previously, all unsuccessful.

<sup>24</sup> Quality is assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments carried out by KKP but also take account of user views and opinions.

<sup>25</sup> Tag rugby, Lacrosse Usage

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

## ***Ancillary provision***

London Wayfarers FC reports that there are no changing facilities at Streatham and Clapham High School to serve the pitch for matches. Clubs using the site currently only have access to toilets during training and match days.

However, Streatham and Clapham High School has successfully achieved planning permission to develop an external pavilion to include new changing and toilet facilities onsite. The pavilion build is currently approaching completion and the School reports it should be open for use from February 2022.

## **5.3: Demand**

### ***Competitive play***

There are no hockey clubs based within the Borough, however, five clubs based in Wandsworth or the Wandsworth/Lambeth boundary access pitches in Lambeth for both training and match demand.

Community club senior hockey is generally played on Saturdays throughout the day in competitive leagues and on Sundays for juniors and within junior leagues. Mixed senior hockey teams generally play matches on Sundays.

London Wayfarers HC, Spencer HC and London Edwardians HC all have a men's team playing in the England Hockey Men's Hockey League Conference East. Given the standard of play, it is important that these teams have access to good quality facilities to meet this requirement. Facility requirements include the need for at least 500 lux sports lighting and access to a two hour booking timeslot rather than 1.5 hours sufficient for bookings at most facilities.

*Table 5.5: Summary of hockey demand at clubs using Lambeth AGPs<sup>26</sup>*

Club name	Number of teams				
	Men's	Women's	Mixed	Juniors	Total
Clapham Common HC	3	5	6	-	14
London Edwardians HC	5	5	2	-	12
London Wayfarers HC	9	9	1	43	62
Spencer HC	13	8	1	45	67
Wanderers HC	6	7	3	-	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>171</b>

All five clubs have both men's, women's and mixed senior teams, though only London Wayfarers HC and Spencer HC have junior teams. This is in part due to the size and resources of these clubs able to deliver junior activity across a number of venues, including Spencer HC linking to Spencer Lynx, but also that these clubs have existing access to timeslots and capacity across several pitches in and outside of the Borough.

<sup>26</sup> Not all of these teams play within Lambeth, however, these clubs all have teams using AGPs in Lambeth for matches and/or training



## LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### *Clapham Common HC*

The Club operates three men's, five women's and six mixed teams, It currently does not have a junior section and reports it won't be looking to develop one. Though members are based in and around the Clapham Area, the Club is unable to gain access to any pitches within the Lambeth Borough since the pitch at Kennington Park was condemned.

The Club reports that it operates a waiting list due to the lack of access to facilities that it currently has. The unmet demand totals to approximately four teams which it believes it would be able to accommodate with additional training and match provision.

### *London Edwardians HC*

The Club currently operates five men's, five women's and two mixed teams. The Club does not operate a junior section and does not intend to, its target demographic being young professionals aged 18-35. It reports that there is demand to be able to field more teams, however does not operate a waiting list but has had to turn away around 30 perspective members, due to having no pitch space to increase members.

It accesses Streatham and Clapham High School as an overspill venue when required for match play at weekends, previously having use of Kennington Park until the AGP was no longer accessible. Training is currently oversubscribed and although all its members train, sessions are generally full. It suggests requiring additional facilities to cater for current and unmet demand, as it looks to continue its growth.

### *London Wayfarers HC*

The Club runs nine men's, nine women's, one mixed and 43 junior teams. At present the Club reports having a shortage of training provision and has teams which do not train due to lack of access to facilities. The Club currently goes further afield for some training and matches, having recently developed a partnership with Kings House School to use its new AGP in Hounslow for matches and some training, though the Club would prefer for most training to be closer to Lambeth and Wandsworth boroughs.

It currently accesses Streatham and Clapham High School for matches, moving demand to this site from Kennington Park when the pitch was placed out of use. It plans to retain use of Kennington Park when use is reinstated as it can access the site for training demand during the week, something Streatham and Clapham High School cannot provide due to lack of sports lighting.

London Wayfarers HC also runs disability hockey sessions (Flyerz), launched in 2020. The Club aims to grow this provision. Sessions are held indoors in the sports hall at St Francis Xavier College (Wandsworth), where it also uses the small size AGP.

### *Spencer HC*

The Club has 13 men's teams, eight women's teams, one mixed team and 45 junior teams. At present the Club accesses the small sided pitch at La Retraite School on Sundays for junior training. All other activity takes place on pitches outside of the Borough.



## LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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It reports that there is a need for access to increased capacity for both seniors and juniors. The Club has total demand for eight hours for senior midweek training and nine hours for junior training, however, reports that it requires ten hours in total for seniors and 14 hours for juniors, representing a need for an extra seven hours midweek. At present it highlights an emphasis on requirements for it ladies training, which it is actively searching for additional provision.

### *Spencer Lynx*

Launched in 2019 by Spencer HC, Spencer Lynx is a registered charity which aims to deliver hockey to local children who have not had the opportunity to play hockey. It provides free hockey sessions on Sundays to state school children in South West London, primarily in Wandsworth and Lambeth.

The sessions are built around fun and enjoyment, whilst teaching hockey skills and nurturing general sporting ability. Its ultimate goal is to provide a pathway into Spencer HC, providing financial support if needed.

Spencer Lynx is funded by England Hockey, Surrey Hockey Association and Spencer HC funds, alongside donations by local sponsors.

Sessions take place at Chestnut Grove Academy in Wandsworth on Sunday afternoons, having relocated from La Retraite School, due to opportunity for free use of the pitch for Lynx sessions at Chestnut Grove Academy. Spencer HC and Spencer Lynx report that the pitch at La Retraite School is substantially more expensive than other sites in the area, at a cost of over £100 per hour for a small size pitch. Whilst pitch quality is reportedly worse at Chestnut Grove Academy, it comes at less cost and as a charity helps to make the programme more cost accessible.

In addition to weekly sessions, Spencer Lynx hosts five tournaments throughout the season on Sundays which are held in Lambeth at Streatham and Clapham High School.

### *Wanderers HC*

The Club currently has six men's, seven women's and three mixed teams. Wanderers HC previously had a junior section but had to put into operation a waiting list as it could not secure access to enough pitch capacity, so approached London Wayfarers HC to merge the junior sections as it already had access to more timeslots across more pitches. This saw 350 juniors merged into the London Wayfarers HC junior section. In addition, it reports that at the start of the season up to 200 new members look to join and come on trial with the Club. There is currently existing unmet demand and if it had access to additional provision would be to field more teams.

It reports that due to loss of use at Kennington Park, where a number of its matches and training sessions took place, it has struggled to access enough provision. It reports that due to most members living around the Clapham and Wandsworth border area, this site is the best suited location and it hopes to gain its slots when back when use returns. It currently accesses the pitch at Streatham and Clapham High School as well as other sites in neighbouring boroughs.

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### ***Displaced demand***

Displaced or exported demand refers to Lambeth Borough based teams that currently access pitches outside of the Borough for home fixtures (or training), normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met. This is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. Similarly, demand may be imported into the Borough from other local authority areas for the same reasons.

The five clubs active in the Borough all import demand from Wandsworth or are considered to be based across the two boroughs. Most club matches are held at venues in the two boroughs and they typically consider venues in either to be local, though there is some access of sites in boroughs further afield. Clubs report that they would ideally look for additional provision in either Borough, however, have to export demand to other boroughs across London.

The table below shows where clubs currently export demand to outside of Lambeth and Wandsworth. Sites used by the clubs in Wandsworth can be found in the 2021 Wandsworth Playing Pitch Strategy.

*Table 5.6: Summary of reported exported demand for use of AGPs for hockey activity*

Site name	Local authority	Pitch type	Activity	Club name
Alleyn's School	Southwark	Full size AGP	Matches	Clapham Common HC
Crystal Palace Sports Centre	Croydon	Full size AGP	Training	Clapham Common HC London Gamblers HC
Harris Academy Merton	Merton	Full size AGP	Matches	Clapham Common HC Spencer HC
			Juniors	Spencer HC
Honor Oak Park (Kings College Sports Ground)	Lewisham	Full size AGP	Matches	London Edwardians HC
Dulwich College Sports Club	Southwark	Full size AGP	Matches	London Wayfarers HC
Wimbledon High School	Merton	Full size AGP (no sports lighting)	Juniors	London Wayfarers HC
Ricards Lodge High School	Merton	Full size AGP	Juniors	Wanderers HC
James Allen's Girl's School	Southwark	Full size AGP	Juniors	Spencer HC
Kings School Sports Ground	Hounslow	Full size AGP	Matches	London Wayfarers HC Wanderers HC

### ***Unmet and latent demand***

Latent demand is demand which is perceived to exist but is not presently realised, for example when a club believes it could attract more players and subsequently field more players with better quality or increased access to facilities.

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Unmet demand is demand which is known to exist but similarly is not able to be formalised into teams due to lack of access to sufficient capacity or poor quality of facilities. For example, clubs may operate a waiting list to join squads for training or match play or may have squad sizes exceeding guidelines to provide opportunity for participation but cannot offer playing opportunities for these players.

Spencer HC plans to develop four additional teams; two men's and two women's. The Club reports that this is unmet demand currently being accommodated within existing training squads, of larger size than ideal. Creation of these new teams from existing players is restricted solely by access to sufficient capacity. At least two more match equivalent sessions would be required on Saturdays and five more hours to increase training for seniors.

Wanderers HC reports that it has unmet demand, with around 200 people asking to join each year. It believes that it would be able to add two further women's teams and one men's teams. However, due to having no additional access to pitches the Club are unable to increase teams.

Clapham Common HC currently operate a waiting list for unmet demand due to lack of pitch availability. The Club report that it would be able to increase by a further two men's and two women's teams if additional provision and time was found for both training and matches.

London Wayfarers HC state that it has a shortage of training provision and has teams which do not train due to lack of access to facilities. It requires additional provision for both current and any future/unmet demand which it has to turn away at present.

London Edwardians HC report that at the start of the 2021/22 season it had to turn away approximately 30 perspective members, as it was unable to gain additional access for both training and match provision to provide for additional teams/members.

All five clubs report through consultation that they have unmet demand, through either waiting lists, unmet training demand for teams and/or turning new members away. The main reason for unmet demand in is lack of pitch provision for both training and matches.

In total, unmet demand is considered to amount to 12 teams. This equates to demand of six match equivalent sessions on Saturdays, plus additional training requirement under sports lighting midweek.

### ***Future demand***

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

Though there remains a desire from EH to increase participation within the club/league based game, not all future demand may be realised entirely as new formalised teams playing at peak time. Some clubs may decide to offer pay and play opportunities to participants or offer small sided formats such in a bid to increase participation and club memberships by providing a different hockey offer.

## LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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Increased demand from new participants will lead to a requirement for increased capacity on available artificial grass pitches at peak time, but also midweek and on Sundays to deliver other formats of hockey activity. At present, it is not necessarily clear as to what format this may take or when it is likely to take place, however, it is clear that there will be a requirement for access to increased capacity on artificial grass pitches across the area. This should be considered when assessing future demand, as not only will this be needed for peak match play times and midweek training to accommodate increased participation within the formalised hockey environment, but also throughout the week and at non-peak times to offer wider opportunities for play.

Clubs in the Borough are growth minded and suggest they would look to grow the number of teams in the future, however, at present struggle to accommodate current levels of demand, whilst unmet and latent demand exists which would be a greater priority. None quantify future growth aspirations, mainly because short-term future growth would be in meeting existing unmet and latent demand.

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

For matches, all senior hockey matches in Lambeth take place on a Saturday throughout the morning and afternoon. There are also some teams playing mixed hockey in local leagues, with matches typically taking place on Sundays.

Junior matches typically take place on Sundays, as does some junior training if clubs have no fixtures. For the most part, like for seniors the peak time for junior training is midweek evenings.

### **5.4: Supply and demand analysis**

#### *Saturday – senior match play*

The Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance suggests that a pitch with sports lighting is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on a Saturday with teams playing in a home and away format, as such this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight “home” teams. Teams play matches on home vs away formats and therefore one team requires 0.5 match sessions per week on its “home” artificial grass pitch.

Streatham and Clapham High School has no sports lighting and therefore cannot support four matches on Saturdays. In addition, the School utilises the pitch in the mornings until 11am. In practice, capacity is reduced due to both of these factors, with club usage data showing that three matches are held on the pitch on Saturdays each week, with no capacity for additional use that day.

Total match play capacity in the Borough has been reduced from seven match equivalent sessions per week to three, due to the loss of access to the AGP at Kennington Park. Whilst some demand may move back to the site upon its reopening, it is likely that capacity released at Streatham and Clapham High School will be backfilled by clubs which report unmet and latent demand to grow the number of teams.

#### *Sunday – junior training & match play*

On Sunday afternoons the community use agreement and planning conditions in place at Streatham and Clapham High School restricts use after 2.30pm. The pitch is available from 10am, therefore has capacity of three match equivalent sessions on Sundays, used to capacity by mixed U8s, Boys U9-10 and Boys U11-12 age groups from London Wayfarers HC across three timeslots.

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With the pitch used to capacity and Kennington Park unavailable, there is no capacity on full size AGPs to accommodate additional Sunday activity.

Of the small size AGPs, La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls School is used to capacity and cannot accommodate further use. Other sufficiently sized pitches exist at Platanos College (68x40m, with sports lighting) and The Elmgreen School (60x40m, with sports lighting and hockey goals), though the former is unavailable for community use and availability is unknown at the latter. Other small size AGPs are considered too small to safely be used for junior activity or matches.

### *Midweek – team training*

With Kennington Park out of use due to quality issues and no sports lighting to service the pitch at Streatham and Clapham High School, there is presently no capacity on full size AGPs midweek. This has not only had an impact on hockey for midweek training, but also other sports which previously used the Kennington Park pitch such as football team training, recreational football and lacrosse.

The clubs in the Borough report that due to lack of access to provision across both Wandsworth and Lambeth there is significant unmet demand report from teams. With the support at Kennington Park, to be reinstated in June 2021, this would help to supply additional match and training demand. However, with clubs aspiring to grow teams from current waiting lists, there will still be unmet demand across both Lambeth and Wandsworth.

The access to current small sided AGP's such as Elmgreen School and La Retraite School help to support some training and junior match demand, however these sites are heavily used for football training, which effect both quality and level of access for hockey. The pitch at Platanos College is currently unavailable for community use, access to this would also support hockey training is made available.

### **5.5: Conclusion**

In conclusion, supply of hockey suitable AGPs in Lambeth is insufficient to accommodate either current or future demand from hockey clubs active in the Borough.

There is no capacity available on AGPs in the Borough, whilst surface quality is poor. There is significant demand for hockey, including unmet and latent demand, as well as for other sporting use of AGPs. Capacity to meet this demand is presently restricted, with Kennington Park unable to be used and limitations on capacity through lack of sports lighting and planning conditions at Streatham and Clapham High School and La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls School.

As evidenced by the 2021 Wandsworth Playing Pitch Strategy, there is also an insufficient number of hockey suitable AGPs in Wandsworth to cater for current and future demand. With clubs based across the two boroughs, the two should be considered together strategically and in meeting demand from local clubs, several of which consider themselves to be based across the two boroughs. There is a shortfall of capacity for hockey matches and training which should be addressed throughout the two boroughs in a strategic and coherent way.

Based on the findings of the supply and demand analysis, there is no scope to convert any of the full size hockey suitable in the Borough to 3G surfaces and all full size hockey suitable AGPs should be retained and protected.

## LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

As evidenced in Part 6 of this report, the shortfall of 3G pitch provision for affiliated football training means that many clubs and teams use hockey suitable AGP provision, utilising capacity that is sought by hockey clubs. With hockey only able to use AGP surfaces, there is scope for managed transfer of football demand to required new 3G pitches to release capacity to meet demand for hockey.

### Summary - Artificial grass pitches

- ◀ **Supply of hockey suitable AGPs in Lambeth is insufficient to accommodate either current or future demand from hockey clubs active in the Borough.**
- ◀ **There is a quantitative shortfall of hockey suitable AGPs in the Borough and therefore a need to develop additional pitches.**
- ◀ **There is a need to retain both full size hockey suitable AGPs**
- ◀ There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs in the Borough, both are sand based pitches, whilst the pitch at Kennington Park has sports lighting, the pitch at Streatham and Clapham High School does not.
- ◀ Both pitches are available for community use, with the pitch at Streatham and Clapham High School having a community use agreement, with priority on bookings for community sports clubs outside of school hours.
- ◀ London Wayfarers HC, Clapham Common HC and Spencer HC (with Spencer Lynx) each aspire to develop their own full size AGP. Clubs would need to acquire a land asset or work in partnership with another organiser with land to do so but both are potentially in a position to self-fund.
- ◀ Both pitches are of poor quality, with Kennington Park being taken out of use in summer 2021 as it was deemed unsafe. The pitch is due to be available for use again in June 2022.
- ◀ The pitch at Streatham and Clapham High School is reported by London Wayfarers HC to be too sandy and therefore plays slowly, meaning it is used mainly for lower level league matches. The School reports that a full resurface of the pitch will be required in the next five years.
- ◀ There are no clubs based within Lambeth, with five Wandsworth based clubs actively accessing pitches within Lambeth. In total these clubs' field 82 senior teams. There are 88 junior teams in total fielded by just two clubs, Spencer HC and London Wayfarers HC.
- ◀ All five clubs report through consultation that they have unmet demand, through either waiting lists, unmet training demand for teams and/or turning new members away. The main reason for unmet demand is lack of pitch provision for both training and matches.
- ◀ In total, unmet demand is considered to amount to 12 teams. This equates to demand of six match equivalent sessions on Saturdays, plus additional training requirement under sports lighting midweek.
- ◀ There is no scope to convert any of the full size hockey suitable in the Borough to 3G surfaces and all full size hockey suitable AGPs should be retained and protected.



# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

### PART 6: THIRD GENERATION (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES

#### 6.1: Introduction

Third generation artificial grass pitches utilise longer fibres with a combination of rubber and sand infill to offer heightened performance. They are predominately used for football matches but most commonly for football training but can also be used for rugby matches dependent upon having a shock pad.

Competitive football can take place on third generation artificial grass pitches that have been FIFA Quality Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA Pitch Register<sup>27</sup>. As such, a growing number of third generation artificial grass pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality (previously FIFA One Star), as well as for training purposes. Football training does, however, take place on hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (please refer to Part 5: Artificial Grass Pitches for Hockey for greater explanation on pitch specifications) but is not the preferred option.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby'<sup>28</sup>, more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any third generation artificial grass pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

England Hockey's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (updated June 2018) advises that third generation artificial grass pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based artificial grass pitches are available.

Table 6.1: Pitch definitions

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

<sup>27</sup> <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.world.rugby/handbook/regulations/reg-22/>



# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

## 6.2: Supply

For the purposes of this PPS, full size 3G pitches are defined as those which meet FA minimum dimension criteria for adult football (90x45 metres), albeit pitches should be constructed to 100x64m as per recommended adult dimensions where possible. It should be noted that within other external documentation, The FA typically refers to 3G pitches as '3G Football Turf Pitches' (FTPs).

Nationally, many 3G pitches do not meet recommended dimensions but meet the minimum, due to being converted from sand based surfaces for hockey, for which full size dimensions are smaller than for 11v11 football.

There are currently no full size 3G pitches within Lambeth, however, there are 25 small size 3G pitches of varying sizes across 19 sites.

Table 6.2: Summary of 3G pitch supply in Lambeth

Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches	Analysis area	Availability for community use	Sports lighting
<b>Small size pitches</b>					
3	Archbishop's Park	1	Waterloo	Yes	Yes
4	Ark Evelyn Grace Academy	1	Brixton	Yes	Yes
7	Black Prince Community Hub	3	North Lambeth	Yes	Yes
24	Dunraven School (South Side)	1	Streatham	Yes	Yes
30	Ferndale Community Sports Centre	4	Clapham	Yes	Yes
33	Granton Primary School	1	Streatham	No	No
35	Hatfields Pitches	2	Waterloo	Yes	Yes
41	Horizons Health & Fitness Club (Stockwell)	1	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	Yes	Yes
43	La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls School	1	Clapham	Yes	No
45	Larkhall Park	1	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	<i>Out of Use</i>	Yes
47	Lilian Baylis Technology School	1	North Lambeth	Yes	Yes
50	Marcus Lipton Youth Hub	1	Brixton	Yes	Yes
53	Myatt's Fields Park	1	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	Yes	No
56	Oasis Play	1	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	Yes	Yes
58	Park Campus Academy	1	Norwood	Yes	Yes
72	Streatham Vale	1	Streatham	Yes	Yes
73	Streatham Wells Primary School	1	Streatham	No	Yes
94	Lollard Street Adventure Playground	1	North Lambeth	Yes	Yes
96	Bankside Open Space Trust	1	Waterloo	Yes	Yes

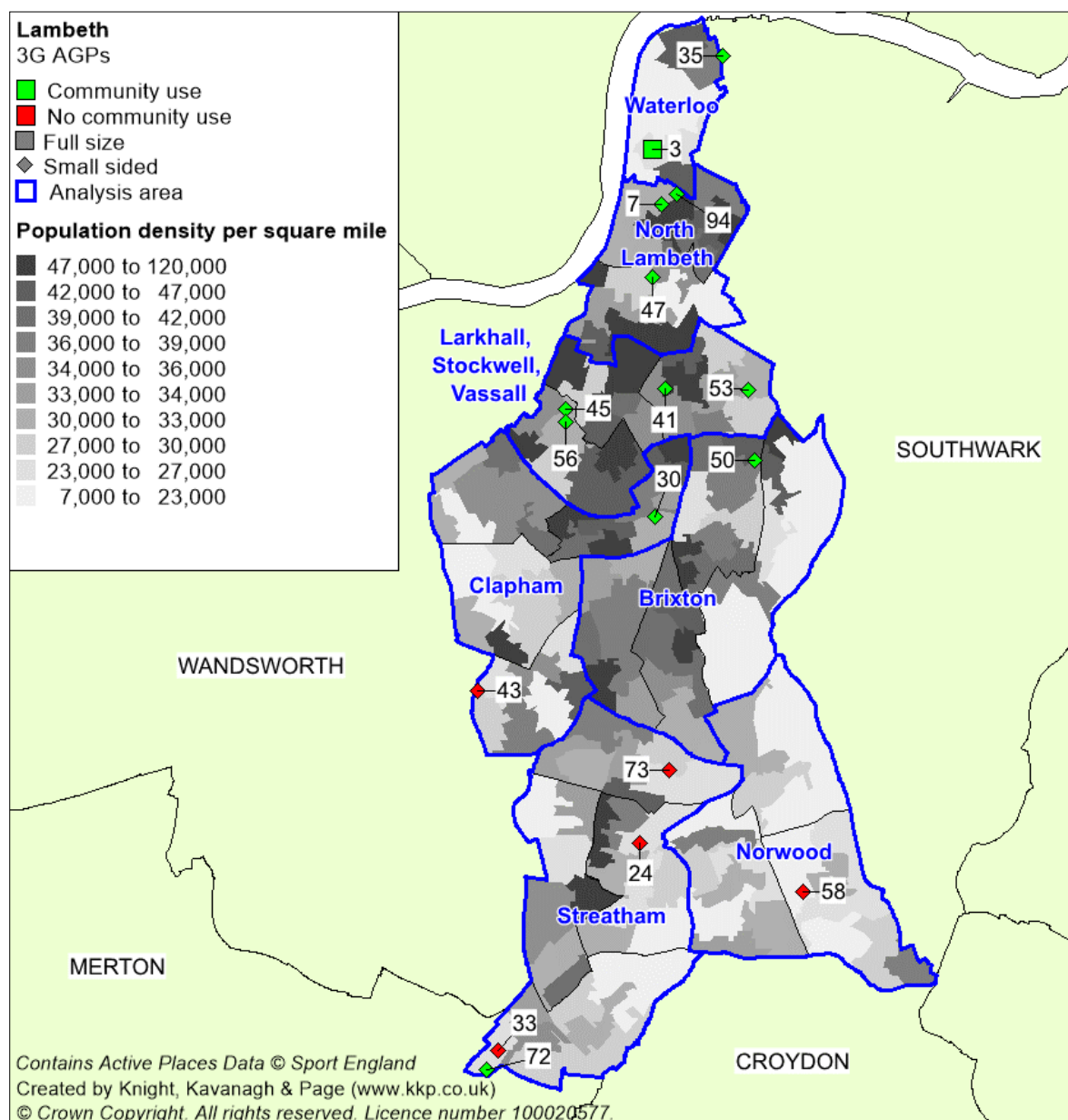
# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

The small size 3G pitches at Archbishop’s Park and Park Campus Academy were listed on the 3G Register for certified pitches, meaning competitive football was sanctioned to take place safely on the surfaces as well as training activity. Registration for both of these pitches expired in May 2021, consequently neither should be used for competitive football match play until registration is renewed.

There are no 3G pitches in Lambeth identified as having a shock pad or World Rugby Reg 22 registration to support contact rugby union activity, nor RFL Community Standard registration to support contact rugby league activity.

Many test contractors are able to offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity.

Figure 6.1: Location of 3G pitches in Lambeth



## LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Most 3G pitch provision (five pitches – 20%) are in Clapham and North Lambeth areas. Whilst there are four pitches in the Waterloo, Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall and Streatham areas. The Brixton Area has two pitches, with the Norwood Area having the least number of pitches with just one.

### ***Future supply***

Though full size 3G pitches are considered those which meet FA minimum pitch dimensions, it is recommended that any new 3G pitches built in future should meet FA recommended pitch dimensions so to ensure suitability for all formats of football and maximise opportunities for use.

*Table 6.3: FA recommended 3G pitch sizes*

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

The Council is presently working with the Football Foundation to deliver two new small size 3G pitch projects on now disused areas of redgra at Brockwell Park and Ruskin Park, expected to be delivered in 2022 and 2023 respectively and supported by Football Foundation funding.

Both projects are identified as potential opportunities in the Lambeth Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP), published 2020. The LFFP also identifies a substantially sized area of redgra at Clapham Common which may also hold opportunity for the development of new artificial grass pitch provision.

The site has a significant level of existing demand for sporting use, whilst there are several sports in the Lambeth and Wandsworth area, particularly hockey, rugby union and lacrosse, which also have capacity shortfalls and high levels of demand for additional artificial grass pitch provision with sports lighting. The site represents a significant opportunity for sport and there is competing demand amongst sports for future use of the space.

Though the site is managed in entirety by the Council, part of the site where the sports pitches are located lies within the jurisdiction of Wandsworth local planning authority. Given that the site lies on the Lambeth administrative area boundary, it is important to note the potential impact the delivery of this project could have on facility use in Wandsworth, as the site is easily accessible and well connected for Wandsworth residents.

The three aforementioned projects will be assessed as scenarios in the subsequent Strategy & Action Plan Report to ensure that they are supported by the evidence presented in this report and whether alterations or additions are required.

Junction Elite FC report that it has been approached by a private individual with funding support to build a 3G pitch. It currently has no site for this but would be open to working with the Council to build a 3G on Clapham Common redgra area in order to do so, establishing a community pitch available to clubs across the area.

# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### **Conversion to 3G surfaces**

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

Due to its potential to impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface may require planning permission and the applicants will need to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and EH should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

It should also be noted that, if the surface type is changed, it could require the existing sports lighting to be changed and in some instances noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place. Conversion to a 3G surface will likely require a size increase; along with sports lighting improvements, the addition of a shock pad, fencing and noise attenuation.

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

Given the findings of the analysis of supply and demand for suitable AGPs for hockey in Part 5 of this report, the conversion of hockey suitable AGPs in Lambeth should not presently be pursued as they are required for hockey. Unless this position can be evidenced to have changed then this should remain the case.

### **6.3: Quality**

It is considered that the carpet of a 3G pitch lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

In Lambeth there are nine 3G pitches rated as good quality, 11 rated as standard and five rated as poor as shown in the table below.

## LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 6.4: Summary of quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Pitch size (Metres)	Number of pitches	Quality rating	Year built (Refurbished)
3	Archbishop's Park	Waterloo	84x58	1	Good	2017
4	Ark Evelyn Grace Academy	Brixton	52x33	1	Good	2010 (2017)
7	Black Prince Community Hub	North Lambeth	54x30	1	Good	2009 (2015)
			30x16	2		2012 (2015)
24	Dunraven School (South Side)	Streatham	37x21	1	Standard	2015
30	Ferndale Community Sports Centre	Clapham	38x20	4	Standard	2005 (2010)
33	Granton Primary School	Streatham	37x18	1	Standard	2015
35	Hatfields Pitches	Waterloo	37x18	2	Standard	2005 (2013)
41	Horizons Health & Fitness Club (Stockwell)	Clapham	40x20	1	Poor	2004
43	La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls School	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	33x21	1	Standard	2015
45	Larkhall Park	North Lambeth	40x34	1	Poor (Out of Use)	2007
47	Lilian Baylis Technology School	Brixton	37x26	1	Good	2018
50	Marcus Lipton Youth Hub	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	37x17	1	Standard	2013
53	Myatt's Fields Park	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	45x26	1	Standard	1999 (2019)
56	Oasis Play	Norwood	24x16	1	Good	2018
58	Park Campus Academy	Streatham	35x23	1	Poor	2009
72	Streatham Vale	Streatham	59x31	1	Good	2020
73	Streatham Wells Primary School	Brixton	35x18	1	Poor	2009
94	Lollard Street Adventure Playground	North Lambeth	39x20	1	Good	2020
96	Bankside Open Space Trust	Waterloo	37x22	1	Poor	2016

## LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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The carpet of a 3G pitch is considered to have a surface life of approximately 10 years with assumed maintenance of the required standard, though its lifespan can be prolonged in some cases where maintenance is of particularly high quality and rigor.

The surface at Larkhall Park is currently poor quality, so much so that it has been deemed unsafe which has resulted in the pitch being withdrawn from use. It is expected that the pitch will be resurfaced and use restored from April 2022, a contractor having been appointed and works due to commence imminently.

The 3G pitch at Archbishop's Park is the largest in Lambeth (84x58). It is of sufficient size for use for youth 11v11 play (U13/14 age) and is use for match play by youth and mini teams. The pitch was on the 3G Register until May 2021 when registration expired. If the pitch is to be continued for use for affiliated football match demand, the pitch needs to be retested and re-registered for continued affiliated match use.

Providers should be encouraged to have in place a mechanism for sustainability, repair and eventual replacement. For Larkhall Park, Oasis Play and Park Campus Academy this is a condition of the partnership funding agreement in place with the Football Foundation which helped support development of the pitches.

### *Performance standard testing for football*

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FA or FIFA tested and approved and added to the FA Pitch Register, which can be found at: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>.

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

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

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



# LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## ***Management***

The pitches at Archbishop's Park and Ferndale Community Sports Centre are managed by GLL on behalf of the Council as part of its leisure contract. It manages bookings for the 3G pitches, with programmed use for local community clubs, commercial small-sided football leagues, private hire and use from schools during the day.

The 3G pitch developed at Streatham Vale in 2020 is managed by Streatham Youth and Community Trust. The Trust manages the whole site as well as running community programmes for youth in the local area.

*Figure 6.1: Coloured and branded small size 3G pitch at Myatt's Fields Park*



Myatt's Fields Park 3G pitch was redeveloped in 2019. Players and parents of local club Lambeth Tigers FC were witness to a murder incident in the park at an evening training session, with sports brand Nike and professional footballer Jadon Sancho helping to fund and design a new pitch to be installed at the park, in the hope that increased activity in the space would help to deter future incidents and restore confidence in the area.

The pitch designed for the Club is managed by community organisation the Myatt's Fields Park Project, with specific proportion of the programme for Lambeth Tigers FC.

The pitches at Black Prince Community Hub are managed by the onsite Black Prince Trust. The site is in the Ethelred Estate in Kennington, which is home to close to 4,000 residents in one of the most deprived wards in London. The Trust offers free sports sessions through community sessions and programmes it runs.

The Colombo Centre is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Hatfields Pitches. The Centre also offers free use of the pitches at certain times for local residents and community groups, to help promote physical activity in the local area. It is located in Southwark over the road from the 3G pitches, which fall just inside the Lambeth boundary.

The Kennington Association is an independent local charity manages the small sided 3G pitch at Lollard Street Adventure Playground. The money which is made from bookings is reinvested into facilities onsite to maintain the quality for users.



## LAMBETH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

### Availability and usage

The following table summarises the availability of full size AGPs for community use in Manchester. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). This 34 hour represents the peak period of usage (Midweek for training and Weekend for competitive fixtures).

Table 6.5: Summary of 3G pitch availability and use

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sports lighting	Pitch size (Metres)	Quality <sup>29</sup>	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period	Midweek					Weekend				
							Affiliated Football usage	Rugby usage <sup>30</sup>	School/College Usage	Informal / Recreational <sup>31</sup>	Spare capacity	Affiliated Football usage	Rugby usage <sup>5</sup>	School/College Usage	Informal / Recreational	Spare capacity
3	Archbishop's Park	Waterloo	Yes	84x58	Good	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours	22%	22%	6%	39%	11%	66%	-	-	31%	3%

<sup>29</sup> Quality is assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments carried out by KKP but also take account of user views and opinions.

<sup>30</sup> Touch and Tag Rugby Use

<sup>31</sup> Recreation usage includes demand from leisure football leagues, Active Communities and other similar organisations.

# LAMBETH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### Local demand

#### Football

The pitch at Archbishop's Park has been 3G registered in the past, however, needs retesting, but as well as training is still used for matches by local football teams. The European Football Academy and South London Kings FC are recorded as playing matches on the 3G pitch. Whilst the AFA affiliated small sided women's league, Ladies Super Liga also play matches on the pitch.

Access to affordable training facilities with sports lighting is a key issue for most clubs in Lambeth, particularly those with many youth and mini teams. Access to affordable 3G provision is also a priority for the FA as many multi team junior clubs have various teams training across various venues.

Of the 21 responding clubs, 17 report demand for additional training facilities and 12 specifically identify 3G pitch provision for training as the desired facility to meet this demand.

Several clubs also report training on sand based AGPs at venues such as La Retraite School, Elmgreen School, Kennington Park and the City of London Academy (Southwark).

Table 6.6: Summary of clubs/groups reporting using 3G pitches in Lambeth

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	User clubs/groups
3	Archbishop's Park	Waterloo	AFC Cubo ( <i>Imported</i> ) European Football Academy South London Kings FC Ladies Super Liga
30	Ferndale Community Sports Centre	Clapham	Clapham Rangers FC St Matthew's Project FC
35	Hatfields Pitches	Waterloo	Ladies Super Liga
47	Lilian Baylis Technology School	North Lambeth	Fenwick Falcons FC
53	Myatt's Fields Park	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	Lambeth Tigers FC
72	Streatham Vale	Streatham	Old Ardinian's FC ( <i>Imported</i> )
94	Lollard Street Adventure Playground	North Lambeth	South London Kings FC

Many small sided 3G pitches operate commercial small sided football leagues which limit availability for affiliated team training but deliver on wider football participation outcomes and demand for recreational and small sided activity:

Table 6.7: Summary of small sided football leagues using small size 3G pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	League operator	Days
3	Archbishop's Park	Waterloo	Ladies Super Liga	Sun: 2-6pm ( <i>Every other week</i> )
			Footy Addicts	Sat-Sun: 12-2pm
			Football567	Mon: 8-9pm Tues: 6-9pm Thurs: 6-9pm
			Any Time Football	Wed: 5-6pm Fri: 8-9pm Sat-Sun: 4-6pm

## LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	League operator	Days
4	Ark Evelyn Grace Academy	Brixton	We Play Football	Mon-Thurs: 6-9pm
7	Black Prince Community Hub	North Lambeth	Power League	Mon-Thurs: 6-10pm
30	Ferndale Community Sports Centre	Clapham	We Play Football	Weds-Thurs: 6-9pm Sun: 6-9pm
35	Hatfields Pitches	Waterloo	Powerplay	Mon: 6-7.30pm Tues: 6-7.30pm Weds: 6-8pm Thurs: 6-7.30pm
			Ladies Super Liga	Sun: 2-6pm ( <i>Every other week</i> )
43	La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls School	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	Go Mammoth	Weds 6.30-8.30pm
47	Lilian Baylis Technology School	North Lambeth	Powerplay	Mon: 6.40-8.10pm Tues: 6.30-9.30pm Weds: 6.30-9.30pm Thurs: 6.30-9.30pm
50	Marcus Lipton Youth Hub	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	5aside.org	Mon-Tues: 6.40-8.40pm

### *Rugby union*

There are no rugby union clubs based within Lambeth, however, the Wandsworth PPS evidences capacity shortfalls for rugby union pitches, including demand for increased access to training provision with sports lighting, including 3G pitches. The RFU states that potential for new World Rugby Reg 22 compliant 3G pitch provision in the Clapham Area would help to support clubs on the boundary with Lambeth, such as Battersea Ironsides RFC and London Media RFC which uses Clapham Common for grass pitch training in the summer.

### *Lacrosse*

Lacrosse is a popular sport in Wandsworth and Lambeth and is growing significantly however there is a level of unmet demand unable to be realised due to lack of access to pitch provision, including training provision with sports lighting. Further growth is expected for lacrosse in South London and to achieve this there is a need for greater access to provision.

Clapham Lacrosse Club is based in Wandsworth and access Kennington Park AGP for training in Lambeth. It reports a lack of sufficient access to provision with sports lighting such as half of a full size 3G pitch for training.

It is reluctant to relinquish training timeslots at facilities nonetheless unless a facility and operator was willing to mark an artificial turf surface with sports lighting for lacrosse and commit to accommodating lacrosse training and matches. There is need for a venue to base lacrosse activity in Lambeth and with line markings and sufficient level of access it is likely that Clapham LC and other clubs based in neighbouring authorities would be willing to be based onsite or use as a key venue.

## LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### *Touch/Tag Rugby*

Archbishop's Park is used for touch/tag rugby by Try Tag Rugby and Surrey Rugby for weekly sessions. Try Tag Rugby operates a commercial league and accesses the 3G pitch throughout the winter months to continue the activity all year round. Surrey Rugby runs sessions twice a week, one being touch for beginners and the other a women's and girls' session to continue the initiative to engage more females with the sport.

### ***Imported & exported demand***

Displaced or exported demand refers to teams that are currently based in Lambeth but accessing pitches outside of the authority regularly for home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met. This is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities.

In the same manner, imported demand refers to that displaced from other local authorities into Lambeth based on the same reasoning.

The table below summarises other 3G pitch venues reportedly used by football clubs for training and/or competitive matches:

*Table 6.8: Summary of reported exported demand for use of training facilities with sports lighting for football (specified sites)*

Site name	Local authority	Pitch type	Club name
Ark All Saints Academy	Southwark	Small size 3G	Lambeth Tigers FC
Burgess Park	Southwark	Full size 3G	Lambeth Tigers FC
City of London Academy	Southwark	Full size sand based AGP	Fenwick Falcons FC
Crystal Palace National Sports Centre	Bromley	Small size 3G	St Matthew's Project FC
Market Road	Islington	Full size 3G	Athenians FC
Harris Academy Bermondsey	Southwark	Full size 3G	Lambeth Tigers FC
Wandle Recreation Centre	Wandsworth	Small size 3G	South City FC

In addition to exported demand, affiliation data shows that both Old Ardinian's FC and AFC Cubo import demand for training midweek. Old Ardinian's FC is based in Hounslow and access Streatham Vale small sided 3G pitch. Whilst AFC Cubo imports demand to Archbishop's Park 3G youth 11v11 3G pitch from Wandsworth.

### ***Key trends and changes in demand for pitches***

#### *Football*

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

## LAMBETH COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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Many leagues around the Country now use 3G pitches as central venues where all play takes place. Mini soccer leagues especially are increasingly adopting this approach either for whole seasons or several months throughout the winter because they can continually offer a high-quality playing experience, in many cases beyond that of grass pitches which are generally of comparatively poorer quality. This trend is likely to increase in the future and more mini soccer, flexi and vets' leagues could be played exclusively on 3G pitches. At present the only known central venue for play is through the Ladies Super Liga at Archbishop's Park and Hatfields Pitches.

The recent RFU strategy and Rugby 365 programme (not presently active) of investment in artificial pitches both at club and community-based sites is indicative of the growing acceptance of artificial pitches amongst clubs nationally. Nationally clubs identify the use of artificial pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high-quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of artificial pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost.

#### *Rugby league*

Since rugby league switched from the winter to summer season in March 2012, most teams have transitioned to now playing in summer. The improved weather and longer daylight hours throughout the summer mean that clubs typically train on grass pitches or areas in order to reduce operating costs of hiring offsite facilities because they require less access to sports lighting. This often leads to overuse of grass match pitches by clubs through additional use for training, especially those which have several teams and train twice a week.

Nationally the use of 3G pitches for rugby league typically extends to pre-season or early season training when weather is often still poor and sports lights are required. It is likely that demand for 3G pitches for training will increase in future but that teams will continue to prefer grass training provision during most months of the season when weather is forgiving.

Rugby league is still played throughout the winter in schools, colleges and universities where 3G pitches are used often for both training and matches if certified. Rugby league in Lambeth played by Brixton Bulls RLFC takes place on grass pitches for both matches and training.

#### **6.4: Supply and demand analysis**

##### ***FA training model***

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

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on 3G surface with sports lighting, together with priority access for every England Football Accredited Club through a partnership agreement. The FA standard is calculated by using the latest Sport England research "AGPs State of the Nation March 2012" assuming that 51% of AGP usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch at peak times. It is estimated that one full size AGP can service 38 teams.

This analysis considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the analysis area in which they play. The 3G requirement is rounded down to the nearest whole number.

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The model assumes that all pitches are fully available for club use at peak time when in practice a number of pitches operate commercial small sided leagues which reduce capacity available. It also projects all football teams as training on full size 3G pitches when in practice a proportion of football training demand may be retained on sand based AGPs in order to maintain financial and commercial sustainability of these pitches.

#### *Application of the model*

There are 161 football teams based in Lambeth which require access to train once per week on 3G surface with sports lighting. This equates to a requirement for at least five full size 3G pitches to service this level of training demand.

This could be met in part with equivalent capacity in small size 3G pitches, though this limits the formats of competitive football matches able to be played on the pitch to junior or mini age groups on smaller areas. With land constraints across playing fields in Lambeth, this approach is likely to be pursued where full size pitches are not feasible.

At present there are no full size 3G pitches, however, the pitch at Archbishop's Park is of substantial youth 11v11 size and is utilised for training demand by both men's and youth football. There is also a small size 3G pitch at Larkhall Park, presently out of use but which was also programmed for team training.

Once Larkhall Park is again operational (planned in 2022), it is considered that together these two pitches contribute existing supply equivalent to one full size 3G pitch. Consequently, there is considered to be a current shortfall of four full size 3G pitches or equivalent.

There are also several small size pitches able to contribute towards meeting training demand. In Lambeth, though small size 3G pitch provision and sand based AGP provision play a role in supporting football training demand, there is also a significant level of recreational and small sided football activity reported in Lambeth for which facilities with sports lighting are the preferred and required facility type.

Demand for provision with sports lighting is highly competitive between football clubs and with other sports, particularly for hockey. Though sand-based provision plays a role in meeting football demand, there are capacity issues for hockey where transfer of football from sand based AGPs to 3G pitches can better help meet the needs of all sports.

Although there are 25 small sided pitches which may support training demand in some capacity, sites such as Black Prince Community Hub, Archbishop's Park, Ark Evelyn Grace Academy and Lilian Bayliss Technology School all operate small sided football leagues from Monday to Thursday 6-10pm, therefore offer negligible capacity in the midweek peak period to support team training.

Others such as Myatt's Field Park and some primary school sites do not have sports lighting therefore cannot facilitate evening community use, whilst some primary schools do not offer access. In total there are only seven pitches considered to offer any capacity midweek for community use for team, though this is likely to be minimal, due to additional levels of social and recreational football. Programmes of use are unknown for sites outside of Council management and further exploration is required.



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It is considered that the current supply and programming contributes negligible capacity for formal football, despite providing for other football outcomes, therefore there remains a requirement for five additional full size 3G pitches (or equivalent) for football to meet current affiliated training demand in Lambeth. When considering future demand of 33 teams, although demand for pitches is to increase, the number of pitches required remains for four additional full size 3G pitches with sports lighting or equivalent.

### 6.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, there is insufficient supply of 3G pitches to meet demand for affiliated football team training both now and in future.

Though there are many small size 3G pitches, community use of most is taken up by commercial small sided football leagues and recreational/social bookings meaning they contribute little effective capacity towards supporting training for affiliated formal sport. Others are unavailable for community use.

Furthermore, there are significant capacity shortfalls for grass football pitches and there is a need for greater pitch capacity which new 3G pitches can provide if registered and developed to required dimensions and specifications. Land constraints and a limited number of grass playing field sites means that the quantitative need for greater match play capacity for football cannot be met by grass pitches alone and that there is a need for additional 3G pitch provision to be registered to help meet both training and match play demand.

Whilst the development of small size 3G pitches would help support training demand if programmed accordingly, in practice there is a need for full size 3G pitch provision to help meet adult pitch shortfalls for football, or if not feasible then another form of supportive solution at Clapham Common such as hybrid turf products.

Hybrid turf is a mixture of natural grass supported by artificial fibres. This is typically either fibres stitched into the natural turf or laying an artificial grass carpet on top of the natural grass through which natural turf can grow, rather than a built facility. A hybrid turf pitch can offer greater usage hours than a natural turf pitch, with Sport England and NGBs presently pilot testing the durability and playability of hybrid turf pitches to ascertain greater understanding of optimal hours of use per week. There is regional example of this in Regents Park, where a hybrid turf pitch pilot is ongoing.

There is also a wider aspiration for access to suitable 3G provision with sports lighting in the region from other sports, particularly for rugby union and to a lesser degree lacrosse. There is opportunity for potential new 3G pitches to be multi-sport facilities where possible and to be maximised to meet the challenges of broad and significant sporting demand and limitations on available space in south inner London.



#### Summary- 3G pitches

- ◀ **There is insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand in Lambeth based on the FA training model for football and demand amongst other sports.**
- ◀ **Given the multi-sport nature of most playing field sites in Lambeth and competing demands from many sports for access to provision with sports lighting, there is a need for 3G pitches to also be multi-sport facilities where possible.**
- ◀ There are no full size 3G pitches in Lambeth. Although the pitch at Archbishop's Park is of youth 11v11 size.
- ◀ There are 25 small size 3G pitches across 19 sites.
- ◀ Both the pitch at Archbishop's Park and Park Campus Academy have previously been on the FA Register for certified pitches, however, both certifications expired in May 2021.
- ◀ In total, there are nine 3G pitches rated as good quality, 11 rated as standard and five rated as poor.
- ◀ It is considered that the current supply and programming contributes negligible capacity for formal football, despite providing for other football outcomes. The small sized 3G pitches are heavily used by small sided commercial football leagues throughout the week, reducing the capacity available for affiliated team training.
- ◀ The FA training model estimates that there is a need for five full size 3G pitches to service current and future football training needs from teams based within Lambeth. Therefore, there is a subsequent requirement for at least five additional full size 3G pitches for football (or equivalent small size pitches in part).
- ◀ Given the high level of competition amongst clubs, as well as other sports teams for training provision with sports lighting, there may be a case for development of more than five full size pitches to accommodate programming to meet demand from other sports such as lacrosse and rugby union.
- ◀ There is a proposed project for the development of new 3G pitch provision Clapham Common, Brockwell Park and Ruskin Park, all of which were identified in the Lambeth (2019) LFFP.
- ◀ The identified opportunity at Clapham Common for the development of new artificial grass pitch provision and due to both the well-connected and equidistant nature of the site, it represents a key strategic opportunity for most pitch sport NGBS to help reduce local shortfalls, including for the RFU and potential development of new World Rugby Reg 22 compliant pitch provision.
- ◀ There is no opportunity to convert sand based AGPs as all hockey suitable pitches at are presently required to meet demand for hockey.

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### PART 7: RUGBY LEAGUE PITCHES

#### 7.1 Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in England. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the UK. The RFL also administers the amateur and junior game across the country in association with the British Amateur Rugby League Association.

Most community club rugby league is now played throughout the summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is considered as a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training is required throughout the winter months.

#### **Consultation**

Brixton Bulls RLFC is the only RFL affiliated rugby league club in Lambeth and along with the RFL, was consulted with to help inform this part of the report, representing a 100% club response rate.

#### 7.2 Supply

There is only one dedicated rugby league pitch within Lambeth at Woodmansterne School. The pitch is junior sized (84m long) and does not meet the minimum (92x 55m) or preferred (100x 68m) dimensions for senior rugby league match play. The pitch has been reduced in size, previously measuring 94x55m.

The pitch is available for community use and is used by Brixton Bulls RLFC junior and women's teams.

#### **Pitch quality**

The quality of rugby league pitches has been rated via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the RFL) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%).

The carrying capacity of a pitch is dependent upon quality, as outlined below.

*Table 7.1: Carrying capacity of a rugby league pitch based on quality*

Category	Capacity
Good	3 match equivalent sessions per week
Standard	2 match equivalent sessions per week
Poor	1 match equivalent session per week

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Table 7.2: Summary of rugby league pitch quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Sports lighting	Quality rating
91	Woodmansterne School	Streatham	Junior	No	Poor

The rugby league pitch at Woodmansterne School is rated as poor quality.

Brixton Bulls RLFC reports that the pitch is poor quality, mainly due to reported drainage issues across the site. The Club states that these issues have come about since the rebuild of the School and believes that the rebuild has had some impact on the ability of the pitch to drain properly. The Club believes that significant work is needed to improve the quality of the pitch, foremostly resolution of the issues impacting on drainage ability.

The men's teams currently do not access this site because of the poor quality of the pitch. The Club is exploring other site options to relocate its junior and women's sections to if pitch quality isn't improved in the near future. The Club reports that it is open for relocation to another site elsewhere in the Borough if it is able to provide a better facility offer for the long-term development of rugby league.

### **Management and security of tenure**

Clubs are generally considered to have secure tenure where they have freehold, leasehold or formally secured use of their site/s (for example, through a community use agreement) for the next three or more years.

Brixton Bulls RLFC currently rents use of the pitch from Woodmansterne School. There is no formal agreement known to be in place and use is via annual rental. Consequently, tenure for the Club is considered to be unsecure.

### **Ancillary facilities**

The Club reports the ability to access ancillary provision at the school site, however provision is designed to meet school requirements and is not particularly suitable to meet rugby league needs. It identifies that facilities are suitable for current junior and women's use but would like to see a dedicated changing facility developed to meet aspirations for the men's team to again play at the site.

### **7.3: Demand**

Brixton Bulls RLFC is the only rugby league in the Borough and currently runs five teams, two of which play outside of the Borough at Streatham-Croydon RFC (Croydon, rugby union pitch). The Club highlights that most of its players from the men's senior teams are from within Lambeth and travel out of the Borough to play for the Club.

Table 7.3: Summary of rugby league demand

Club	Team type	Number of teams
Brixton Bulls RLFC	Senior men	2
	Senior women	1
	Junior – U12	1
	Primary – U7, U9 and U11	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>

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In addition to these competitive teams, the Club also operates a mini rugby group which runs from aged under five, with approximately 100 children. The Club reports that over the past two years it has seen an increase in playing members.

### **Exported demand**

Brixton Bulls RLFC currently exports all senior men's training and match demand outside of the Borough. In the past it has used Woodmansterne School for training and match play, however, due to a reduction in pitch quality the men's teams have relocated to Streatham-Croydon RFC in the neighbouring borough of Croydon. The Club aspires to relocate its men's teams back into Lambeth to meet demand within the Borough as most players are residents.

### **Future demand**

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts.

#### *Population increases*

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area. ONS population growth is applied to the TGRs to identify a predicted number of teams that will be generated up to 2035.

Given the relatively low participation no additional whole teams are forecast to be generated and it is likely that any new participants would join existing squads.

*Table 7.4: Team generation rates*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams (2035)	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population <sup>32</sup>
Senior Men's (19-45)	86,444	2	1:43222	88,368	2	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	82,957	1	1:82957	81,651	1	0
Junior Boys (12-18)	10,878	1	1:10878	10,648	1	0
Primary Mixed (7-11)	17,769	3	1:5923	15,127	3	0

#### *Participation increases*

Brixton Bulls RLFC reports that it aspires to develop teams at the older junior age groups at U14 and U16. It believes that if it is to progress, it needs to develop a more structured pathway for its junior section into its senior teams. It also highlights its ambitions to improve its women's and girls' section, putting an emphasis on trying to give opportunities to younger girls once they have passed the mixed age group teams at U11.

<sup>32</sup> Additional teams generated from TGRs are rounded down to the nearest whole number in order to represent the creation of an entire full team.

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### *Rugby League World Cup 2022*

The Rugby League World Cup is set to take place in 2022 between Saturday 15 October and Saturday 19 November 2022. The tournament was delayed by 12 months due to the Covid-19 Pandemic initially planned to take place between Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The tournament will have men's, women's and wheelchair competitions taking place concurrently. In total there will be 61 matches played across venues in Bolton, Coventry, Doncaster, Hull, Kirklees, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Lambeth, Newcastle, Preston, Sheffield, St Helens, Tees Valley, Trafford, Warrington, Wigan & Leigh and York.

Following the World Cup, the RFL plans to identify opportunities for investment and facility development through the Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme. This comprises of three key strands; volunteers, facilities and community engagement and will look to use the tournament as a catalyst to develop the game.

#### **7.4: Capacity analysis**

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

As a guide, The RFL has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

Pitch quality	Match equivalent sessions (MES) per week
Good	3
Standard	2
Poor	1

Table 7.6 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

For senior and youth teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 match equivalent sessions (MES) per week for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away). For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 MES per week for each match played across half of one senior pitch, based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.

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### *Peak period*

To fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. For senior rugby league matches the peak period is considered to be Saturday afternoon.

However, demand for rugby league pitches is highest on Sunday mornings, due to the number of junior (U13-U18) and mini teams playing at this time.

School pitches are used regularly to accommodate curricular use and school training sessions and matches. To reflect this, an additional one match equivalent session per week of play has been added per pitch at school sites where applicable.

*Table 7.5: Key to peak time spare capacity ratings*

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	With a dash, this indicates that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it were to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	Not highlighted by with a value, this indicates that the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, capacity has been discounted. This may be due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.
N/A	The pitch is junior or mini sized and therefore not suitable for play in the peak period

*Table 7.6: Capacity balance of grass rugby league pitches*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Tenure	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions per week		
					Current play	Site capacity	Capacity rating
91	Woodmansterne School	Streatham	Unsecure	Poor	2.75	1	-1.75

The pitch at Woodmansterne School receives demand totalling 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week from women's, junior and mini teams playing matches on Sundays, as well as one match equivalent session per week added to account for school use of the playing field. Consequently, demand exceeds carrying capacity of the poor quality pitch and thus the pitch is overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week.



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### 7.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity based on match equivalent sessions per week.

*Table 7.7: Supply and demand analysis for rugby league pitches*

	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Future demand	Current total
Lambeth	-	-1.75	2	-3.75	1	-4.75

The rugby league pitch at Woodmansterne School is overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week and there is no other provision, therefore no other spare capacity in the Borough.

To re-accommodate the two men's teams from Brixton Bulls RLFC to play and training again within the Borough would increase the shortfall by one match equivalent session, however this could not be achieved with existing provision as the pitch is junior sized and cannot accommodate senior play. Provision of another pitch, of senior size, would be required to achieve this. Unable to presently be met, this represents a current shortfall of 3.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

Brixton Bulls RLFC plans to create new junior teams at the U14 and U16 age groups which would require match pitch capacity of an additional one match equivalent session per week, exacerbating the existing shortfall to 4.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

### 7.6: Conclusion

In conclusion, there is insufficient capacity on grass rugby league pitches to meet both current and future demand for rugby league.

There is limited provision in the Borough, with just one poor quality pitch representing a limited capacity offer. Shortfalls derive from limited carrying capacity due to qualitative issues set against demand which exceeds capacity.

Compliance issues also exist, with demand exported and not able to be met in the Borough due to both the lack of a suitable senior sized pitch and qualitative issues meaning the junior pitch at Woodmansterne School is not suitable for men's training, already overplayed nonetheless.

There is need for additional rugby league pitch provision in the Borough, specifically a senior pitch, to both meet this competitive need and provide additional capacity to reduce shortfalls.

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### Summary – rugby league

- ◀ **In conclusion, there is insufficient capacity on grass rugby league pitches to meet both current and future demand for rugby league.**
- ◀ There is one rugby league pitch in Lambeth at Woodmansterne School. The pitch is junior sized, available for community use and used by Brixton Bulls RLFC.
- ◀ The pitch at Woodmansterne School is rated as poor quality. Brixton Bulls RLFC reports that this is mainly due to drainage issues across the site, perceived to be an impact of the school rebuild.
- ◀ Brixton Bulls RLFC currently rents use of the pitch from Woodmansterne School. There is no formal agreement known to be in place and use is via annual rental. Consequently, tenure for the Club is considered to be unsecure.
- ◀ Brixton Bulls RLFC is the only community rugby league club based within Lambeth and has one senior women's, one junior boys' and three primary mixed teams playing within Lambeth.
- ◀ The Club has two men's teams which currently export demand to use rugby union pitch provision in Croydon, reportedly due to the poor quality of the Woodmansterne School pitch.
- ◀ Brixton Bulls RLFC states that it is working developing its junior section for both boys and girls. It currently plans to add U14 and U16 boys' teams.
- ◀ There may be increased participation as a legacy result of the Rugby League World Cup to be held in the UK in 2022.
- ◀ The pitch at Woodmansterne School is overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week through school and club use.
- ◀ When accounting for exported demand, the current capacity shortfall totals 3.75 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Future demand from Brixton Bulls RLFC would exacerbate this shortfall to a total of 4.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

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### PART 8: TENNIS COURTS

#### 8.1 Introduction

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

#### **Consultation**

There are four affiliated tennis clubs based in Lambeth, all of which responded to consultation requests via video meeting or by telephone, representing a 100% club response rate. Consultation was also undertaken with the LTA to inform this section.

*Table 8.1: Summary of consultation response*

<b>Club name</b>	<b>Response received</b>
Grafton T&SC	Yes
Telford Park TC	Yes
Wigmore LTC	Yes
Woodfield Grove TC	Yes

#### 8.2 Supply

There are 92 tennis courts identified in Lambeth across 24 sites. Of these, 85 are considered to be available for community use, whilst seven are unavailable.

A further two courts at Hatfields Pitches (Columbo Centre) are located on the borough boundary but in Southwark, and have not been included within the audit, although the courts are considered to be directly accessible and able to service Lambeth residents, especially those in the Waterloo Analysis Area. The Columbo Centre also operates the two 3G pitches (within Lambeth at Hatfields Green) which are opposite the main centre and tennis courts (both within Southwark planning authority), with Hatfields road dividing the facility offer.

Of the 92 courts captured in the audit, 45 courts have sports lighting representing 49% of provision.

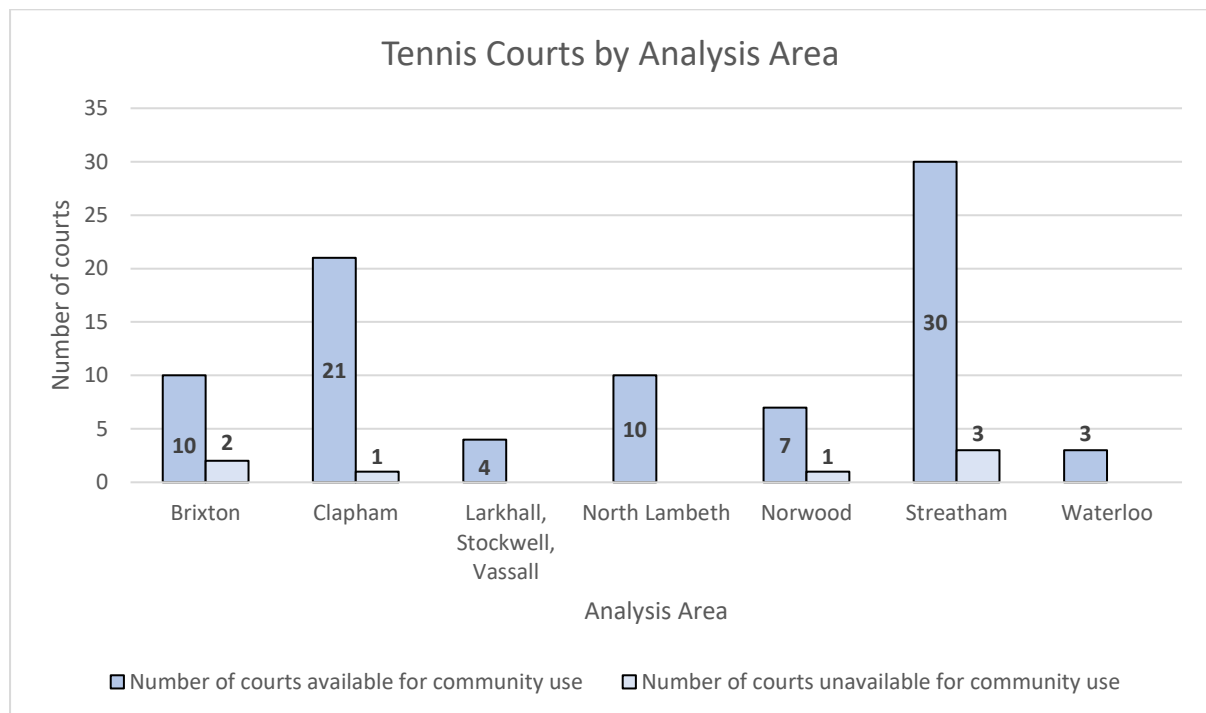
There were previously an additional three courts maintained at West Norwood Tennis & Squash Club. In 2018, planning permission was granted for a new residential development including the loss of one outdoor tennis court but retention of two, along with the development of new squash court facilities within the building.

The Streatham Area has the most courts (33 courts, 36%), whilst the Clapham Area also has a notable proportion of provision (22 courts, 24%).

Figure 8.2 shows the location of all courts currently servicing Lambeth, for a key to the map, see Table 8.2.

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Figure 8.1: Summary of the number of outdoor courts by analysis area



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Table 8.2: Breakdown of outdoor tennis courts in Lambeth

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Availability for community use	No. of courts	Sports lighting	Court type	Court quality
3	Archbishop's Park	Waterloo	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
					1	Yes		
4	Ark Evelyn Grace Academy	Brixton	School	No	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
7	Black Prince Community Hub	North Lambeth	Trust	Yes	2	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
12	Brockwell Park	Brixton	Council	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Good
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	Council	Yes	5 <sup>33</sup>	Yes	Macadam	Good
					3	No		Standard
30	Ferndale Community Sports Centre	Clapham	Council	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
32	Grafton Tennis Club	Clapham	Sports Club	Yes	3+1 <sup>34</sup>	Yes	Macadam	Good
					4		Clay	
38	Hillside Park	Streatham	Council	Yes	2	No	Concrete	Poor
					2		Macadam	
42	Kennington Park	North Lambeth	Council	Yes	5	Yes	Macadam	Good
					1 (Junior)			
44	Lambeth Academy	Clapham	School	Yes	3	No	Concrete	Standard
45	Larkhall Park	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	Council	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
53	Myatt's Fields Park	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	Community Organisation	Yes	2	No	Concrete	Poor
62	Rookery Park	Streatham	Council	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
63	Rosendale Playing Fields	Norwood	Council	Yes	5	No	Concrete	Poor
					2		Macadam	Standard

<sup>33</sup> Two of the courts are overmarked with four junior tennis courts

<sup>34</sup> One macadam court at Grafton Tennis Club is marked for singles play only

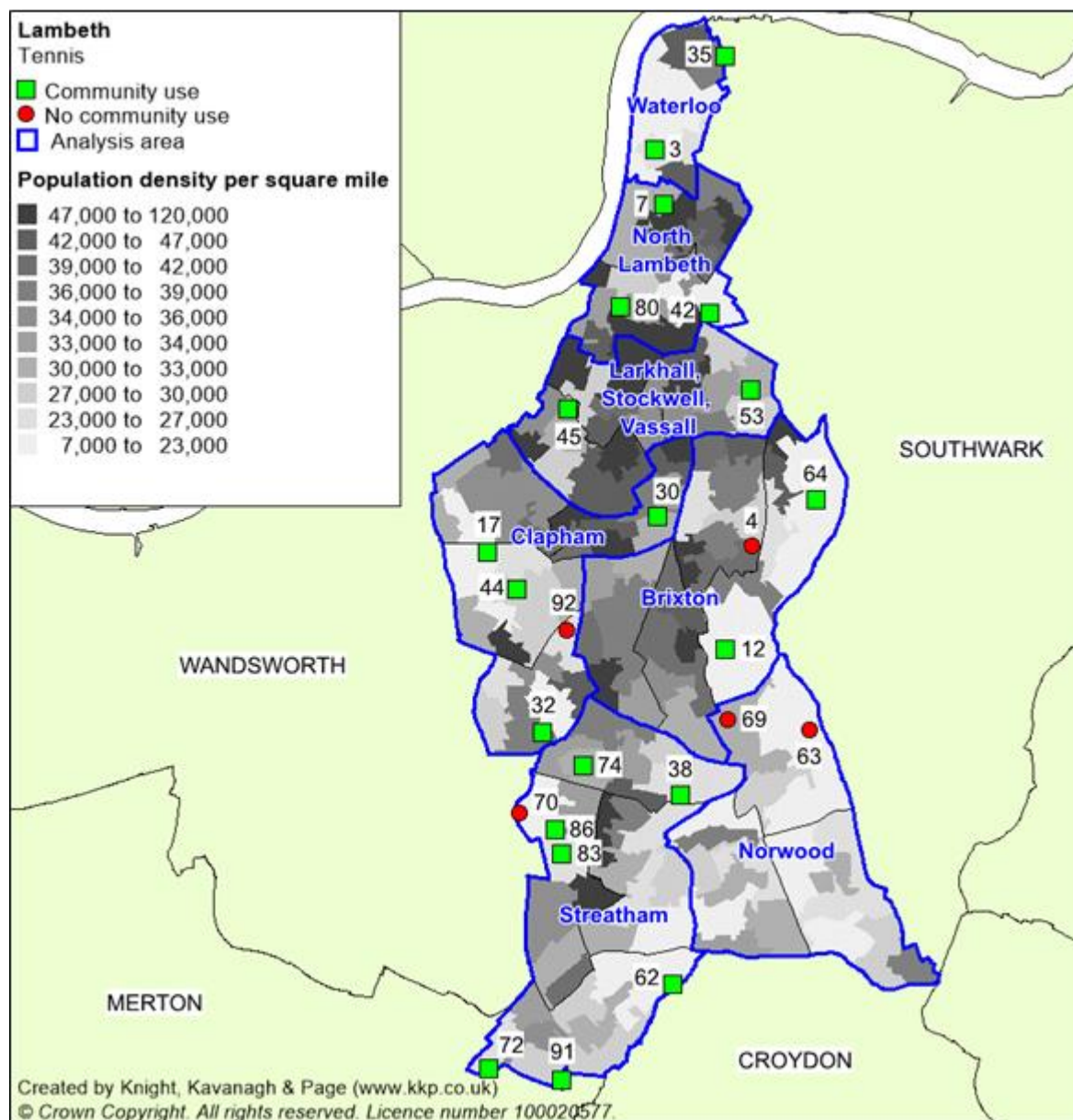
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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Availability for community use	No. of courts	Sports lighting	Court type	Court quality
64	Ruskin Park	Brixton	Council	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Good
69	St Martins In The Field Girls School	Norwood	School	No	1	No	Concrete	Poor
70	Streatham & Clapham High School	Streatham	School	No	3	No	Concrete	Standard
72	Streatham Vale	Streatham	Council/ Community organisation	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
					2			Standard
74	Telford Park Tennis Club	Streatham	Sports Club	Yes	5	Yes	Clay	Good
					2	No	Macadam	
80	Vauxhall Park	North Lambeth	Council	Yes	2	No	Concrete	Good
83	Wigmore Tennis Club	Streatham	Sports Club	Yes	1	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
					3		Macadam	
					1		Clay	
					3		Standard	
86	Woodfield Grove Tennis Club	Streatham	Sports Club	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
91	Woodmansterne School	Streatham	School	Yes	3	No	Concrete	Standard
92	Harris Academy Clapham	Clapham	School	No	1	No	Concrete	Standard



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Figure 8.2: Location of tennis courts in Lambeth



## Court type

Most outdoor tennis courts (54 courts, 59%) in Lambeth have a macadam surface and of the 87 community available courts, most are macadam surfaces (52 courts, 57%). The table below shows a breakdown of court surfaces. There are no grass tennis courts identified in Lambeth.

Table 8.3 Summary of tennis court surfaces across Lambeth

Court type	Available for community use	Unavailable for community use	Total number of courts
Artificial Turf	3	-	3
Clay	13	-	13
Concrete	14	5	19
Macadam	52	2	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>92</b>

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### Quality

The quality of tennis courts across Lambeth has been rated via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (70-80%), Poor (<70%).

Maintaining high court quality is an important aspect of tennis and therefore the non-technical assessment assesses several factors which evidence court quality. The criteria for the non-technical assessment consists of; court surface grip underfoot, damage to a court surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size for competitive tennis.

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

Most courts in Lambeth are assessed as good quality (56 courts, 61%), whilst 22 courts are assessed as standard quality (24%) and 14 courts are assessed as poor quality (15%). All good quality courts are available for community use.

*Table 8.4: Quality of community available outdoor tennis courts*

Availability for community use	Court quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	56	16	13
Unavailable	-	6	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>

Courts assessed as poor quality are located at the following sites:

- ◀ Hillside Park
- ◀ Myatt's Fields Park
- ◀ Rookery Park
- ◀ Rosendale Playing Fields
- ◀ St Martins In The Field Girls School
- ◀ Streatham Vale

Except for at St Martins In The Field Girls School, 13 of the 14 poor quality courts are located at park sites which reportedly receive limited ongoing maintenance works.

Improving park courts is a national priority for the LTA. Suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so should therefore be of focus. This is especially the case if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities, a café and sports lighting, whereby a sustainable tennis programme could be supported, although this is not a necessity, especially in more rural areas.

Wigmore Lawn Tennis Club reports that its three clay court surfaces need replacing within the next two to three years. It reports that the three macadam courts were resurfaced in 2014.

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Woodfield Grove TC reports that it has been forming a sinking fund over time to resurface its courts. It has been able to maintain court quality for several years but now suggests the courts will need resurfacing in the coming years.

In 2019 two macadam courts at Telford Park Tennis Club and four courts at Grafton Tennis Club were resurfaced from macadam courts to clay.

### **Ownership & management**

Local authority tennis courts are managed and maintained by the Council.

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Lambeth. Most courts are managed by the council with 48 courts (52%) and 27 (29%) are managed in house by tennis clubs. A total of two courts are managed by a community organisation located at Myatt's Field Park.

*Table 8.5: Outdoor tennis courts by management type*

Availability for community use	Number of courts					Total
	Club	Council	Education	Community organisation	Trust	
Available	27	48	6	2	2	85
Unavailable	-	-	7	-	-	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>92</b>

### **Security of tenure**

Of the four tennis clubs, three report that they own their sites. Telford Park TC highlights it has a 900 year lease agreement with the Council for use of its site rather than freehold. All four clubs are considered to have secure tenure of their home sites for the long-term.

### **Ancillary provision**

Woodfield Grove TC reports that its current ancillary facilities are of good quality. The Club were recipients of National Lottery Funding over 15 years ago which helped fund the building of a two-storey clubhouse. The bar has since been refurbished but due to regular maintenance of the clubhouse no work is needed at present.

Wigmore LTC refurbished its clubhouse in 2021 due to the growth of membership, it restructured the building introducing individual cubicles for changing to allow more changing space for its male, female and junior members. The Club has also made additional developments of club offices and storage onsite. It suggests that after renovations are completed the ancillary facilities will be of good quality.

Wigmore LTC also highlights issues with car parking as due to its location there is no car park onsite. Club members currently access car parking on surrounding residential roads and report that the Council is further restricting parking areas across the Borough and therefore parking for its members is becoming increasingly difficult.

Telford Park TC reports that its current clubhouse and office space is of good quality. It has a kitchen, changing and bar facilities and functions as a nursery during the week to generate additional revenue during non-peak hours for tennis.

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The clubhouse at Grafton Tennis Club has been through renovations over the past couple of years. The Club reports the ancillary provision to be of good quality and suggests that no additional work is required at present.

Changing facilities at non-club sites are available at Black Prince Community Hub, Rosendale Playing Fields and Ferndale Community Sports Centre, buildings at all of which are assessed as good quality.

#### ***Future development***

In October 2021, the Government and the LTA announced a package of £30 million for investment and improvements for public tennis courts. The Government are to put £22 million whilst the LTA invest £8.4 million into the package. The investment is to be made into public tennis courts which are currently accessed as poor or unplayable, to bring the courts back to a quality that will benefit the local community.

Telford Park TC identifies its aspirations for an additional court at its site. The Club believes it is oversubscribed and an additional court would help to cater for more demand reducing its waiting list. The Club is currently looking into the feasibility of developing an additional court on the open grass area in the centre of the site, which could be a full size, padel or junior court.

Although other clubs within the Borough state they would like additional courts on their respective sites, all three identify that there is no space to develop further.

#### ***Sports lighting***

Courts with sports lighting enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that sports lighting allows for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In total, 45 of the 92 tennis courts in Lambeth are serviced by sports lighting, representing 49% of provision. Of the courts available for community use, 43 of 85 have sports lighting, representing 51% of community available provision.

Of the 27 tennis courts located at tennis club sites, 25 are serviced by sports lighting. Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for more hours of use, which in turn can help accommodate more members.

Telford Park TC reports that five of its seven courts have sports lighting but that it aspires to add sports lighting to the remaining two courts in the coming years.

Wigmore LTC highlights that sports lighting onsite needs repair. Due to the columns of the sports lighting being relatively old, some of the sports lights have begun to lean towards surrounding houses. The Club is also working towards replacing all the bulbs to LED, whilst Woodfield Grove TC also reports it aspires to do the same at its site.

#### ***Overmarking***

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

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In addition to many school tennis courts, the following are also overmarked by netball courts: Archbishop's Park, Ferndale Community Sports Centre, Hatfields Pitches, Kennington Park and Rosendale Playing Fields. The courts at Hatfields Pitches are also overmarked with basketball courts.

### 8.3 Demand

In 2020, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, most formal sporting seasons were curtailed or postponed. However, in May 2020 the UK government permitted tennis and golf as outdoor sports to restart play due to being able to maintain two metre social distancing guidelines. Tennis was one of the first sports to resume with both recreational play and competitions following return to play guidance.

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

#### **Club demand**

There are four LTA affiliated tennis clubs in Lambeth. All clubs highlight that since 2020 they have all seen an increase in membership in line with the national trend since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

*Table 8.6: Summary of tennis club membership*

Name of club	Sites used	Number of members		
		Seniors	Juniors	Total
Grafton TC	Grafton Tennis Club	375	75	<b>450</b>
Telford Park TC	Telford Park Tennis Club	425	200	<b>625</b>
Wigmore LTC	Wigmore Tennis Club	450	450	<b>900</b>
Woodfield Grove TC	Woodfield Grove Tennis Club	140	20	<b>160</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,390</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>2,135</b>

Woodfield Grove TC highlights that although it has a low number of registered junior members, it runs a significant programme of coaching sessions available for junior ages where participants sign up for the sessions but not as registered members.

#### **Unmet demand**

All clubs report unmet demand as they all presently operate waiting lists for membership. Wigmore LTC reports a 300-400 person waiting list, whilst Telford Park TC reports of a wait between two to three years for club membership. Woodfield Grove TC and Grafton TC state that they have a waiting list in place but did not quantify of what size. Woodfield Grove TC is currently operating a waiting list for senior members, as it has put an emphasis on increasing its junior membership.

#### **Future demand**

At present all clubs report having no space to take on additional senior members, whilst the only club which stated it would be open to new junior members is Woodfield Grove TC, despite operating a waiting list at present.



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### *Latent demand*

The LTA has undertaken modelling work in conjunction with Periscope Data as part of a Digital Participation Project. The findings inform LTA decisions around investment into the gate access technology in park sites. The LTA has committed to improving access to park venues by agreeing to grant fund the installation of gate access systems across the country in locations that will make it easier for people to find and book at court.

The modelling has helped explore penetration of park sites across the Country and has identified sites with a high level of penetration and potential local demand. The model uses a ten minute drive time catchment area and identifies sites within areas of high demand, based demographic, population and LTA tennis segmentation data. The six tennis segments and representation within Lambeth are:

- ✦ **Tennis Titan (13%)** - Frequent players & tennis club members for whom tennis is their main sport and key.
- ✦ **Tennis Troupers (24%)** – Often club members, largely family-oriented, middle-aged players for whom tennis is a hobby; interested in playing with teams to partnering with their kids in the sunnier.
- ✦ **Seasonal Spinners (5%)** – Largely young women, they play sport in general for athletic reasons (often being gym-goers and joggers), and enjoy their tennis a lot, though tennis is very intertwined with friends and being social.
- ✦ **Wimbledon Warriors (1%)** - Largely young men who are keen athletes, they like tennis and want to play more, though are often held back by factors outside of the summer.
- ✦ **Social Butterflies (2%)** - Infrequent, younger and less experienced players for whom tennis is an occasional fun summer activity.
- ✦ **Senior Stalwarts (50%)** - An older group of players for whom tennis is a social habit and they play with a regular group as a way of keeping social and enjoyable gentle exercise.

A further 4% are considered to be within demographics which do not match a tennis profile.

Senior stalwarts have the greatest representation within current LTA affiliated membership, whilst traditional and committed tennis markets are also well represented through the Tennis Titan and Tennis Troupers segments.

*Table 8.7: Lambeth parks LTA penetration data*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Penetration
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	3,391
80	Vauxhall Park	North Lambeth	2,534
42	Kennington Park	North Lambeth	2,525
53	Myatt's Fields Park	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	1,734
3	Archbishop's Park	Waterloo	1,725
45	Larkhall Park	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	1,476
72	Streatham Vale	Streatham	1,474
38	Hillside Park	Streatham	1,178
12	Brockwell Park	Brixton	1,171
62	Rookery Park	Streatham	1,030
63	Rosendale Playing Fields	Norwood	1,004
64	Ruskin Park	Brixton	<1,000

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LTA modelling data suggests that Clapham Common has significant penetration potential to attract the local population to participate in tennis. This is supported by the reported levels of use at the site, it reportedly being heavily used for tennis.

Both Vauxhall Park and Kennington Park also exhibit a high level of penetration potential. This is of note, as these are the only two park sites in the North Lambeth Area, suggesting there may be demand and opportunity to increase participation through increased capacity in this area.

Myatt's Field Park and Larkhall Park are also identified as having a high potential penetration level. Park sites with three or more publicly accessible courts are considered by the LTA as strategically significant. These two sites have just two courts each but represent the only two park sites for tennis in the Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall area.

Overall, whilst complex to determine on a Borough wide basis, LTA modelling suggests that there is a wide possible market for tennis participation across the Borough. A proportion of this likely already participates, although there is also a likely latent demand for tennis participation and opportunities to increase participation.

#### ***Pair and Play***

Pair & Play is doubles tennis held weekly, the programme designed to help women improve their skills and confidence on the court. Built around six key themes, Pair & Play has been developed to help women master essential doubles tactics and skills within a social offer.

Pair & Play is for women only, particularly those who used to play tennis regularly but have lost touch with the sport. It is for players who can rally comfortably with a partner, know where to stand on court and know how to score. For women who are new to tennis there is the Tennis Xpress programme.

The Pair & Play programme, formerly known as Tennis Tuesdays, focuses on increasing women's participation in tennis and skill development with a key fundamental social element, to engage women in new and innovative ways to help break down barriers to female participation. There are presently no Pair & Play sessions in Lambeth.

#### ***LTA Youth Start***

LTA Youth Start<sup>35</sup> is a six week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

#### ***Tennis for Free***

Tennis for Free<sup>36</sup> is a community sports charity that work in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly coaching sessions for all ages and abilities in local communities across the UK, especially those in low income areas. Tennis For Free offer a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support. Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the charity have recently launched 'Tennis for Free Lite', to unlock the large number of two court community venues that could benefit from the offer. Through its offer it aims to:

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<sup>35</sup> <https://ClubSpark.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.tennisforfree.com/index.php>



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

### ***LTA Big Tennis Weekend***

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend (BTW)<sup>37</sup> is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs have the ability to sign up to host a GBTW open day, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts three dedicated BTWs a year, one each in May, July and September which are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running a BTW Open Day are asked to promote a follow on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

### ***Padel***

One of the LTA's key strategies is to find new ways to grow participation and padel is an innovative format of tennis that is fun, flexible, easy to play and extremely sociable. Padel is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities, as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

Padel has been integrated into the LTA and is recognised as a format of tennis. This has provided a platform to facilitate the growth of the sport, with tennis venues throughout Great Britain exploring the potential opportunities it can bring to a facility.

There are currently no padel courts within Lambeth.

### ***Informal and parks tennis***

It is generally considered that public courts are at their busiest during summer months, with less activity taking place outside of this, though tennis is a very popular sport in Wandsworth and increasingly so, the Covid pandemic having increased demand.

Following events such as Wimbledon, demand is likely to increase for recreational play and play. The LTA conducted some research to understand how the public feels about tennis and the main barriers to accessing the sport. The research was split into club, community and education sectors, the headline findings of which are below:

- ◀ Around 5 million people play once per year – majority of this in parks.
- ◀ 46% of tennis played by those 14 years or older in London is on park courts.
- ◀ 80% of those that do not play tennis but would like to, see parks as their first option.
- ◀ Barriers preventing use of courts located in parks include the quality of the courts, ease of booking and the number of courts available to play.
- ◀ Demand for tennis amongst those who stopped playing in the last five years is from 14 upwards.
- ◀ Although there is demand for tennis amongst working class individuals, the highest latent demand is from upper middle, middle and lower middle classes.

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<sup>37</sup> [www.lta.org.uk/gbtw](http://www.lta.org.uk/gbtw).

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The Sport England Active Lives Survey confirms that seasonal participation peaks in the Summer. This is particularly pronounced amongst non-club and occasional players. It is key to note that the correlation between the lack of 'community' tennis in the non-summer months is likely to be heavily influenced by the lack of sports lighting, which is often a characteristic of local authority owned courts.

Further research carried out by the LTA suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase demand.

Technology development is evolving, and it is now possible for an access gate to have a unit that is opened by keypad or swipe card. This keypad can be used to open the gate with a code, automatically generated by an online booking system. There are also now mobile phone and tablets applications that can allow customers to book and pay for courts.

It is hoped that increasing the awareness of facility location and availability, the ease of bookings and the security of facilities from petty crime and vandalism will increase the conversion of latent demand to actual demand across the country. The LTA is therefore keen to work with local authorities, especially those in areas of high population, to deliver fit-for-purpose projects at sites with community access.

Improving the quality, offer and experience of tennis in parks is a strategic priority for the LTA to open up tennis. It reports that the biggest barriers to participate in tennis are not knowing where the closest courts are, not knowing how to book or play on the courts and not knowing the condition of the surface. Park tennis courts can be opened up in a variety of ways to ensure greater use by local residents. This can range from booking courts to offering coaching programmes.

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

#### *ClubSpark – improving the booking process*

LTA insight has identified unclear, lengthy or analogue booking journeys to be a significant barrier to people getting on court more often. As a result, it has recently developed a venue management system called ClubSpark in order to improve the customer journey for people wanting to get on court at a club, community and education sites.

Instead of providing open access, an online booking system (ClubSpark) allows members and Pay & Play users (where relevant) access through the use of an access code system via electronic gates. Not only does this deter misuse use of courts but it also allows genuine tennis participation to be more effectively tracked and monitored, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed and used. This online booking system sends an automated email as evidence as part of a self-policing system for managing court bookings.

Another advantage of securing access is to make tennis courts revenue generating rather than open access, with the income generation forming a sinking fund for the repair and eventual resurfacing of the courts at each site, thus making courts more sustainable in the long-term.

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

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

The Council has recently moved across to ClubSpark to use as a booking system for a selected number of sites. The sites currently bookable through this system are:

- ◀ Archbishop's Park
- ◀ Brockwell Park
- ◀ Clapham Common
- ◀ Hillside Park
- ◀ Kennington Park
- ◀ Larkhall Park
- ◀ Ruskin Park
- ◀ Rookery Park
- ◀ Vauxhall Park

#### *Rally*

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

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

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### *Gate Access*

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

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

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

### *Parks tennis*

Parks tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are run by Local Tennis Leagues and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

There are three park leagues currently in operation in Lambeth at Clapham Common (men's league and women's league) and the Kennington and Brockwell Parks League.

## **8.4 Supply and demand analysis**

### *Club sites*

Based on club consultation responses detailing current demand and future growth aspirations, both Telford Park Tennis Club and Wigmore Tennis Club courts have no capacity for more tennis members and are considered to be significantly oversubscribed.

Although Grafton Tennis Club could accommodate more members, it is currently operating a waiting list and not looking to take on any new members to protect the current quality of its courts.

The courts at Woodfield Grove Tennis Club are considered to have capacity to accommodate more members. The Club identifies that it is currently operating a waiting list for senior members as it has put an emphasis on increasing its junior membership, however, capacity is considered to exist and this is instead a club development priority to ensure junior members can secure enough access time to courts.

### *Park sites*

It is considered that all Council managed park courts in Lambeth have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although current use is difficult to quantify because bookings have only transferred to the ClubSpark system in 2021 and therefore a sizeable sample of data is not yet available.

LTA modelling suggests that there is potential for park sites to have great impact on participation and that there is a market for increased engagement with the right offer.

#### 8.5 Conclusion

In conclusion, there is insufficient capacity at tennis club sites in Lambeth both now and in future.

This is evidenced by membership exceeding sustainable levels in three of the four club settings, particularly at Telford Park, Tennis Club and Wigmore Tennis Club which are considered to be far oversubscribed and require additional capacity to help meet demand.

To meet existing unmet demand there is a need for clubs to access additional capacity, however, all four tennis club sites are landlocked and surrounded by residential, therefore have no scope to expand the extent of court provision onsite. Consequently, there is a likely need for use of offsite courts, possibly within public parks, as satellite venues to help meet demand.

Across Lambeth, the greatest coverage of tennis courts is within park settings. With the Club landscape making up a small amount of area within the Clapham (1 club) and Streatham (3 clubs) areas. Parks are the most popular environment for participants to play tennis in London (46% of players play in parks – compared to 32% in the rest of the UK) and given the large area that is covered by only park courts, with very little space for clubs to expand. The park courts in Lambeth are identified as key for growth of tennis in the Borough by the LTA.

All remaining publicly available courts at park sites are deemed to have capacity for additional usage, however, there are qualitative issues which may impact on attractiveness and some do not have sports lighting. There is opportunity to access LTA programmes and products to improve quality and accessibility across the parks portfolio, to greater increase penetration of a latent market identified through LTA modelling.

Most poor quality tennis courts are located at park sites and as such focus should be on improving quality, both in terms of the courts and the accompanying ancillary facilities to utilise these courts more to meet unmet/latent demand.

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#### Tennis summary

- ◀ **In conclusion, there is insufficient capacity at tennis club sites in Lambeth both now and in future.**
- ◀ **Telford Park Tennis Club and Wigmore Tennis Club are significantly oversubscribed and there is a need for additional LTA capacity to meet demand, including unmet demand.**
- ◀ **There is opportunity to access LTA programmes and products to improve quality and accessibility across the parks portfolio, to greater increase penetration of a latent market identified through LTA modelling.**
- ◀ There are 92 tennis courts identified in Lambeth across 24 sites, with 85 of these being available for community use.
- ◀ A further two courts at Hatfields Pitches (Columbo Centre) are located on the borough boundary but in Southwark and have not been included within the audit, although the courts are considered to be directly accessible and able to service Lambeth residents, especially those in the Waterloo Analysis Area.
- ◀ Of the 92 courts captured in the audit, 45 courts have sports lighting representing 49% of provision.
- ◀ Most outdoor tennis courts (54 courts, 59%) in Lambeth have a macadam surface and of the 87 community available courts, most are macadam surfaces (52 courts, 57%).
- ◀ In total 56 courts (61%) are rated as good quality, 22 are rated as standard quality (24%) and 14 are rated as poor quality (15%). All 56 good quality courts are available for community use.
- ◀ Park Tennis Courts in Lambeth need improving in quality in order to accommodate unmet/latent demand, currently out of the 16 poor courts 15 (94%) are located in park sites.
- ◀ Clubs report that ancillary facility quality at club sites is good with no key issues highlighted.
- ◀ Most courts are managed by the council with 48 courts (52%) and 27 (29%) are managed in house by tennis clubs. A total of two courts are managed by a community organisation located at Myatt's Field Park.
- ◀ Telford Park TC has long-term leasehold of its home site, whilst the three other clubs report that they own their sites. All tennis clubs are considered to have secure tenure.
- ◀ There are four tennis clubs in Lambeth. Membership numbers where known totals 2,135, with 1,390 senior members and 745 junior members.
- ◀ Wigmore LTC is the largest club with 900 members, whilst Woodfield Grove TC is the smallest with 160 members.
- ◀ All clubs report unmet demand as they all presently operate waiting lists for membership.
- ◀ Telford Park TC believes it is oversubscribed and is currently looking into the feasibility of developing an additional court on the open grass area in the centre of the site.
- ◀ LTA modelling data suggests that 12 park sites in Lambeth have significant penetration potential, most of all Clapham Common, Vauxhall Park and Kennington Park.
- ◀ Both Telford Park Tennis Club and Wigmore Tennis Club courts have no capacity for more tennis members and are considered to be significantly oversubscribed. Grafton TC is also considered to be operating over capacity.
- ◀ The courts at Woodfield Grove Tennis Club are considered to have capacity to accommodate more members.



### PART 9: OTHER PITCH SPORTS

#### 9.1 Volleyball

##### *Introduction*

Volleyball England is the recognised National Governing Body for Volleyball, Beach Volleyball and Sitting Volleyball in England. Volleyball England is responsible for the development, promotion and delivery of Volleyball across England.

As a game for all ages, volleyball is one of the most popular non-contact team sports across the globe and has been part of the Olympic Games since 1964. According to the statistics from the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), 500 - 800 million people participate in either indoor or beach volleyball games and competitions worldwide, which is about 10% of the world population.

Although volleyball is the 2nd most played team sport in the world, it remains as the 29th of most participated sports in England due to the growth of the volleyball community strongly relies on the development of sport facilities and venues.

##### *Consultation*

Little Giants Volleyball Club (VC) is the only volleyball club within Lambeth and was consulted with via video meeting to inform this section of the report.

##### *Supply*

Little Giants VC currently operates from three venues in Lambeth. Of these, there is one outdoor venue at Clapham Common where the Club accesses outdoor playing field to temporarily form volleyball courts using mobile fabric to mark out the pitches. The Club also accesses indoor courts in Lambeth at Clapham Leisure Centre and Brixton Recreation Centre, as well as other venues in other London boroughs.

At present, the club's closest beach volleyball venue is at Wimbledon Park (3 miles, 15 mins drive) in Merton where there are two courts, or Crystal Palace National Sports Centre (6 miles, 25 mins drive) in Croydon where there are three outdoor beach volleyball courts with sports lighting. Little Giants VC reports that it has previously tried to access the courts at Wimbledon Park but that there is no spare capacity for the Club to do so.

The Club has a partnership with leisure operator GLL in Lambeth which allows it access to the north field of Clapham Common by Holy Trinity Clapham Church. The Club reports that the courts are temporary pitched up weekly in this grass area, which it rates as standard quality, however during the summer months the quality can be affected when the grass reportedly becomes burnt.

##### *Future supply*

The Club aspires to develop a beach volleyball venue at Brockwell Park on the old bowling green. It proposes to have three beach volleyball courts on the site, which could also be used for other beach sports such as beach football, beach rugby, beach basketball and ultimate frisbee during out of peak periods.

The Club reports that the results of an internal club survey indicated that members do not access beach volleyball courts often due to travel time and would be more likely to if this travel time was below 30 minutes.

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The Club would also like to develop an inflatable dome with lighting for desired new courts to make the courts available for longer through both summer and winter, no matter the weather. This would represent the only available indoor beach volleyball venue in the UK. The Club also reports that it would want to be responsible for all management and maintenance. The courts would be open for public bookings, schools, disabled groups and national/international competitions.

There is currently a building next to the bowling green at Brockwell Park which has facilities for both players and the public. A local football club currently holds the lease for this facility but the Club would like to consider joint access to service proposed beach volleyball courts adjacent.

#### ***Demand***

Little Giants VC has 6,000 registered members. The Club has both a men's and women's team which has recently started playing in the National Volleyball League (NVL). It also has men's, women's and junior teams playing in the London Volleyball League (LVL).

In recent years the Club has increased its membership significantly. It was established in 2015 and has increased its membership exponentially since. It aspires to increase its membership in the future and it reports that a lot of its venues are currently close to having no additional capacity for further participants.

The Club currently runs sessions across all seven days of the week at multiple venues each day. It currently exports some demand outside of Lambeth to the neighbouring boroughs of Wandsworth and Bromley. Although it is Lambeth based, it reports not all its members are Lambeth residents.

The Club reports that of its 6,000 members, 97% report through its club survey that they would like to have a beach volleyball venue within Lambeth. There is currently demand for this so the Club could develop another section, which it believes would encourage more members to join.

#### ***Conclusion***

In conclusion, there is a significant and growing demand for beach volleyball within Lambeth and the feasibility and potential to develop a specific beach court facility of two to three or more courts should be explored to meet this demand locally.

There is not currently a specific beach volleyball facility within the Borough and all activity otherwise takes place indoors. Whilst members do not regularly access a beach facility, it is reportedly due to travel time to other boroughs as a barrier and that they would, should there be a local facility in Lambeth.

### Summary – Beach volleyball

- ◀ **In conclusion, there is a significant and growing demand for beach volleyball within Lambeth and the feasibility and potential to develop a specific beach court facility of two to three or more courts should be explored to meet this demand locally.**
- ◀ There is not a beach volleyball facility within Lambeth. The nearest beach volleyball venue is at Wimbledon Park in Merton or Crystal Palace National Sports Centre in Croydon.
- ◀ Little Giants VC is the only volleyball club in the Borough and plays across a range of mainly indoor venues in Lambeth and neighbouring London Boroughs.
- ◀ The Club plays on an open playing field at Clapham Common north field where it pitches up temporarily courts and nets.
- ◀ The Club aspires to develop a beach volleyball venue at Brockwell Park on the old bowling green which it believes could accommodate three beach volleyball courts.
- ◀ Little Giants VC has 6,000 registered members, including men's and women's playing in the National Volleyball League and London Volleyball League.
- ◀ The Club reports that of its 6,000 members, 97% report through its club survey that they would like to have a beach volleyball venue within Lambeth.

## 9.2 BMX

### *Introduction*

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

- ◀ Track cycling – Velodrome
- ◀ Road cycling – Closed Road Circuits
- ◀ Mountain Bike – Trails
- ◀ BMX – Race/Pump tracks
- ◀ Cycle Speedway – Cycle speedway tracks
- ◀ Cyclocross – non-dedicated, non-permanent venues

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

### *Consultation*

Brixton BMX Club is the only club within Lambeth and was consulted with via video meeting to inform this section of the report. Information was also gathered via British Cycling.

### *Supply*

At present there is a one BMX track in Lambeth at Brockwell Park.

The site is owned by the Council, with Brixton BMX Club having a service level agreement which allows the Club to access the site for a set number of hours per week for training. As part of the agreement, it maintains the track on behalf of the Council. The track is open for public use at all other points of the week. The Club is considered to have secure tenure on the site.

Outside of Lambeth there are three BMX tracks which may be accessible to Lambeth residents, located in Merton (rear of St Mark's School, Acacia Road), Southwark (Burgess Park) and Croydon (Norbury Park). Further afield there is also a BMX track at Kimber Park (Wandsworth).

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#### **Quality**

The track at Brockwell Park is rated as standard quality. In 2017, a fund was secured to upgrade the track at Brockwell Park which saw a reported improvement from poor to standard. Brixton BMX Club now has plans for a new project for the site. At present it is in the process of raising funds for Phase One of this track improvement project.

The Club highlights that the track needs resurfacing and currently has issues with waterlogging and water often collecting at the end of the track. To improve the quality of the track, the Club plans to resurface and improve/repair the drains as the first phase of the track development plan. Upgrading both will make the track more useable during the winter as well as being of a standard to host races.

The remaining phases to the project include the following:

#### *Phase Two:*

- ◀ Addition of a second container next to the start hill, relocation of the start gate compressor and increasing storage capacity onsite.
- ◀ Establishing water and electric supply to the container to help the Club maintain the track better.
- ◀ Reshape and resurface the start hill, finish line and path up to the start hill.

#### *Phase Three:*

- ◀ Installation of fencing around the site to help reduce vandalism and provide secure environment while hosting events.
- ◀ Installation of timing loops to improve track to meet specification to host regional races.

The Club requires additional funding support to deliver the track development plan, whilst it continues fundraising to raise its own funds.

To allow increased access hours in winter months, the Club has long-term ambitions to install sports lighting.

#### **Demand**

Brixton BMX Club is mainly a junior club and has 130 members. Membership consists of 100 boys, 15 girls and 15 adult members. The Club highlights that in recent years it has seen a significant increase in its membership which has doubled. The Club also has participants attending sessions which aren't yet registered members.

The Club holds sessions on Saturdays between 9am-1pm and on Sundays between 9am-2.30pm. Its sessions include both a women's and girls' only session as well as a session for children and young people with additional needs.

After Team GB's BMX success at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the Club has started to see an increase in interest and membership and believes that demand for the sport will continue to increase. The Club aspires to increase its membership and hopes that the track development plan will help to do so.

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In addition, Brixton BMX Club highlights that both Peckham BMX Club (Southwark) and Merton Saints BMX Club (Merton) have highlighted they would look to access the track to help meet their demand once the track improvements have been made. The Club reports that hosting events and obtaining approval for events from the Council can be challenging due to the track location within a public park.

The Club aspires to host more events, however, is reluctant to do so because of the process. If the process was to become less complicated, the Club would look to host more events which in turn would make it more appealing.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, there is sufficient supply of BMX track facilities to meet current and future demand in the Borough.

There are however qualitative issues which require addressing to ensure that the track can continue to meet demand and future growth/events. There is a need foremostly to resolve issues which cause the track to drain poorly in places, to ensure that it can continue to be used safely. Thereafter, the Club should be work with stakeholders to improve the offer, both to be able to facilitate club growth but also to be able to offer more competitive opportunities from the site and meet NGB requirements.

#### **Summary – BMX**

- ◀ **In conclusion, there is sufficient supply of BMX track facilities to meet current and future demand in the Borough.**
- ◀ **There are, however, qualitative issues which require addressing to ensure that the track can continue to meet demand and future growth/events.**
- ◀ There is a one BMX track in Lambeth at Brockwell Park, owned by the Council
- ◀ Brixton BMX Club has access to a set number of hours per week for training, the track is otherwise open for public use.
- ◀ The Club maintains the track, rated as standard quality, on behalf of the Council.
- ◀ Outside of Lambeth there are three BMX tracks which may be accessible to Lambeth residents, located in Merton (rear of St Mark's School, Acacia Road), Southwark (Burgess Park) and Croydon (Norbury Park).
- ◀ The Club highlights that the track needs resurfacing and currently has issues with waterlogging and water often collecting at the end of the track.
- ◀ The Club plans to resurface and improve/repair the drains as the first phase of its three phase track development plan.
- ◀ Brixton BMX Club is mainly a junior club and has 130 members, with 100 boys, 15 girls and 15 adult members.
- ◀ The Club highlights that in recent years it has seen a significant increase in its membership which has doubled.

### **9.3 Australian rules football**

AFL England is the governing body for Australian Rules Football in England. It was formed in 2012 to succeed AFL Britain with the aim to be more effective in governing the game in England, as both Scotland and Wales had developed their own autonomous bodies.

The local competition for Australian Rules Football in London is AFL London. First formed in 1989, AFL London was formerly known as the British Australian Rules Football League. Long established over 20 years, AFL London is one of the oldest competitions outside Australia.

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The sport in London is played on full ovals with fixed upright goal posts and full 18 a side teams. This contrasts with the rest of England where a modified nine a side version of the game is played on smaller pitches, largely due to player numbers.

The League is currently made up of nine clubs, across three levels of competition (Premiership, Conference and Social) that participate in a competition running from April to August.

Consultation was undertaken with Wandsworth Demons to inform this section of the report. The Club also identifies junior club Clapham Cubs, also providing playing opportunities for residents within the Lambeth area.

#### **Supply**

Wandsworth Demons plays and trains at Clapham Common where there is a dedicated pitch marked onto playing field area shared with football pitches. The local authority border with Wandsworth intersects the site, with the pitch located in the area which falls within Lambeth Borough. The site is managed in its entirety by Lambeth Borough Council, including land within Wandsworth planning authority, the pitch available for rental from Lambeth Borough Council.

Wandsworth Demons states that pitch quality issues include unevenness, surface wearing and lack of grass coverage, mainly due to use of the area as football pitches throughout the winter and with little recovery time between the seasonal transition. Football goalmouth areas are notably affected.

A Performance Quality Standards (PQS) assessment was undertaken by the Grounds Management Association (GMA) at Clapham Common in June 2021 across all sports pitches onsite, with all sports pitches evidenced as poor quality. The main issues across the site were poor grass coverage, surface undulations plus holes caused by foxes and other animals. Being an open site, it is difficult to implement preventative measures to reduce the damage, increased public awareness of dog damage is an option, encouraging dog walkers to heel back and holes dug by their dogs through increased signage, but overall it requires increased vigilance to repair these by hand through a volunteer network prior to games kicking off.

The Club states that there is no access to ancillary facilities at Clapham Common and that on match days players set up pitch side marquees to change under, covering themselves with towels for privacy. Players use the toilets within the café building elsewhere within the park. The Club has access to a container which it shares with other sports clubs to share equipment.

#### **Demand**

There are two clubs which provide opportunities for Lambeth residents, Wandsworth Demons and Clapham Cubs, both based at Clapham Common.

Wandsworth Demons is one of four AFL London clubs which participated in the inaugural British Australian Rules Football League season in 1990, therefore is long-established. It has three men's and two women's teams playing in AFL London. Training takes place on Tuesday and Thursday nights, with matches held throughout Saturdays from 9am-5pm.

Wandsworth Demons states that the club is operating at capacity because it makes full use of the pitch on Saturdays and could not accommodate another adult team. The only capacity for growth would be for juniors at other times but this was not highlighted as an aspiration.



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Clapham Cubs is a junior club which uses the pitch at Clapham Common on Sunday mornings. Wandsworth Demons states that it has approximately 30 members but that the two clubs do not have formal links, Clapham Cubs instead linked to Wimbledon Hawks based in Merton.

### Conclusion

It is considered that current demand for Australian Rules Football provision can quantitatively be met within the Borough. There is however a need to improve pitch quality and access to ancillary facilities at Clapham Common.

#### Summary – Australian Rules Football

- ▶ **It is considered that current demand for Australian Rules Football provision can quantitatively be met within the Borough. There is however a need to improve pitch quality and access to ancillary facilities at Clapham Common.**
- ▶ There is one Australian Rules Football pitch in Lambeth at Clapham Common, marked in the summer over existing football pitches. The pitch is poor quality, with quality issues affecting the whole site which include unevenness, surface wearing and lack of grass coverage, mainly due to use of the area as football pitches throughout the winter and with little recovery time between the seasonal transition. Football goalmouth areas are notably affected
- ▶ There are two clubs accessing facilities in Lambeth at Clapham Common. Adult club Wandsworth Demons and junior club Clapham Cubs (linked to Wimbledon Hawks – Merton).
- ▶ Wandsworth Demons has three men’s and two women’s teams playing in AFL London. With Clapham Cubs, having around 30 junior members.
- ▶ Wandsworth Demons states that the club is operating at capacity because it makes full use of the pitch on Saturdays and could not accommodate another adult team. The only capacity for growth would be for juniors at other times but this was not highlighted as an aspiration.

### 9.4: Netball

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

Whilst often played indoors, nationally, EN reports that the challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility can also be problematic.

#### Supply

There are 44 outdoor netball courts identified in Lambeth across 20 sites.

Table 9.4.1: Summary of outdoor netball court provision

Site ID	Site name	Number of courts	Comments
3	Archbishop’s Park	2	Marked onto hard surface tennis courts
7	Black Prince Community Hub	2	Marked onto small sized sand based AGP
17	Clapham Common	2	Marked onto hard court area
21	Cotton Gardens Estate, Ball Games	1	Marked inside hardcourt MUGA
30	Ferndale Community Sports Centre	2	Marked onto hard surface tennis courts
35	Hatfields Pitches	2	Marked onto hard surface tennis courts
42	Kennington Park	3	Marked onto hard surface tennis courts
44	Lambeth Academy	5	Marked onto hard court area
63	Rosendale Playing Fields	5	Marked onto hard surface tennis courts

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Site ID	Site name	Number of courts	Comments
69	St Martins In The Field Girls School	1	Marked onto hard surface tennis court
70	Streatham & Clapham High School	3	Marked onto hard surface tennis courts
75	The Elmgreen School	3	Marked onto hard surface courts
91	Woodmansterne School	3	Marked onto hard surface tennis courts
92	Harris Academy Clapham	1	Marked onto hard surface tennis court
97	The Norwood School	1	Marked onto hard court area
98	Streatham & Clapham Prep School	2	Marked onto sand based surface
99	Vauxhall Primary School	3	Marked onto hard court area
100	Clapham Manor Primary School	1	Marked onto hard court area
101	Tefrerscot Primary School	1	Marked inside hard court MUGA
102	Crown Lane Primary School	1	Marked inside hard court MUGA

As part of the basketball courts development at Clapham Common one netball court was lost. The courts at Clapham Common are heavily used with Clapham NC a key user of the site, along with weekly leagues run by Go Mammoth. Clapham NC has a large junior section of around 130 members, which previously used the Clapham Common courts for weekly coaching sessions. It reports that it has now lost all access to courts at Clapham Common in recent months, as the netball court area has also been resurfaced, however, the courts have not been remarked. England Netball identifies Clapham Common as a key site for Netball in the Borough and suggests that it is pivotal that Clapham NC regains its access to the courts to support the Club's growing demand.

England Netball reports that it is working closely with other NGBs to ensure that communities can access good local multi-sport environments in parks and open space.

### Demand

England Netball identifies five affiliated netball clubs based in Lambeth. The following clubs are known to use outdoor court provision at the following venues:

- ✦ KCLA NC – Kennington Park.
- ✦ Aces NC – Streatham and Clapham High School and Streatham and Clapham Prep School.
- ✦ Alpha NC – The Elmgreen School.
- ✦ Crystal Palace NC – The Norwood School.
- ✦ Clapham NC – Clapham Common and Harris Academy Clapham

Table 9.4.2: Summary of club membership from 2019/20 season to 2021/22 season

Club name	19/20, 20/21 & 21/22 season		
	19/20	20/21	21/22
KCLA NC	56	54	59
Aces NC	94	164	165
Alpha NC	72	66	69
Crystal Palace NC	123	140	152
Clapham BC	<i>Unknown</i>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>445</b>

There is currently a total club membership of 445, which is a 29% increase in membership (100 members) boroughwide since the 2019/20 season.

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Go Mammoth! is a commercial league provider which operates a number of indoor and outdoor netball leagues across the Borough. Outdoor leagues are based at Archbishops Park, Vauxhall Primary School, Ferndale Community and Sports Centre, Clapham Common and Lambeth Academy.

Similarly, Netbusters operates an outdoor leagues at La Retraite School, Archbishop's Park and Ferndale Community Sports Centre, whilst it also regularly uses courts at Clapham Common though due to these going through renovations there are currently not being utilised. Powerplay also operate outdoor leagues at Kennington Park, Vauxhall Primary School and Hatfields Pitches.

In November 2021, England Netball launched a new 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' the strategy is a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years. The strategy outlines the intention to:

- ◀ Accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite
- ◀ Elevate the visibility of the sport
- ◀ Lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court

The Strategy look at achieving its goals by engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, England Netball pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age. In order to do this, it delivers four participation programmes to engage women in the sport:

- ◀ Back to Netball
- ◀ Bee Netball
- ◀ Netball Now
- ◀ Walking Netball

Back to Netball is a fun and friendly re-introduction to the sport. More than 110,000 participants have rediscovered their love for the game through Back to Netball and realised the many benefits of getting involved. It is targeted at participants of all ages and levels of experience but sessions will be specifically designed to cater for those who have not played for an extended period.

At present there are two outdoor venues which run Back to Netball sessions in Lambeth at Ferndale Community Sports Centre and Clapham Common.

The Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life, based around friendship, inclusion, fair play and playing together. Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport.

At present there are seven outdoor venues which run Bee Netball sessions in Lambeth at Vauxhall Primary School, Clapham Manor Primary School, Telferscot Primary School, Streatham and Clapham Prep School, Streatham and Clapham High School, Julian's Primary School and Crown Lane Primary School.

Netball Now is a simple and comfortable way to play netball. It is not a coached session or a competition led by regulations and scores recorded. It is simply a session where players turn up, pay a small fee and play netball. At present, there are no venues in Lambeth which run Netball Now.

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Walking Netball is a slower version of the game; it is netball, but at a walking pace the sessions have been designed so that anyone can play it regardless of age or fitness level. From those who have dropped out of the sport due to serious injury to those who believed they had hung up their netball trainers many years ago. At present, there are no venues in Lambeth which run Walking Netball.

### Conclusion

Although there is sufficient capacity for netball, there is an identified need to ensure there is no long term loss of courts at Clapham Common.

England Netball identifies Clapham Common as a key site for club training and commercial netball leagues. The site initially lost one court due to the redevelopment of the basketball courts onsite. The remaining two courts have been resurfaced, though have not been remarked.

In addition, there is a wider strategic need for a suitable competition venue in the inner London area south of the Thames. There may be scope to develop such a facility offer within Lambeth, but further investigation is required.

#### Summary – Netball

- ◀ **Although there is sufficient capacity for netball, there is an identified need to ensure there is no long term loss of courts at Clapham Common.**
- ◀ **There is a wider strategic need for a suitable competition venue in the inner London area south of the Thames. There may be scope to develop such a facility offer within Lambeth.**
- ◀ There are 44 outdoor netball courts identified in Lambeth across 20 sites.
- ◀ As part of the Clapham Common basketball courts development one netball court was lost. Clapham NC utilises the courts on site, however reports that it has now lost all access to courts in recent months. The netball court area has been resurfaced, however the courts have not been remarked.
- ◀ England Netball identifies Clapham Common as a key site for Netball in the Borough and suggests that it is pivotal that Clapham NC regains its access to the courts to support the Club's growing demand.
- ◀ There is currently a known total club membership of 445, which is a 29% increase in membership (100 members) boroughwide since the 2019/20 season.

### 9.5: Lacrosse

English Lacrosse (EL) is responsible for the governance and administration of lacrosse nationwide. Men's and women's lacrosse is played on different pitches with different field dimensions. Men's lacrosse in Britain is divided into North and South leagues. The men's game is governed by the South of England Men's Lacrosse Association (SEMLA). Women's lacrosse is governed by SWWLA (South West Women's Lacrosse Association) and SEWLA (South East Women's Lacrosse Association). The season runs from September to March. Match play is permitted to take place on grass, sand based and 3G surface pitches, though most club play across the region tends to take place on grass pitches.

#### Supply

There are no grass lacrosse pitches marked within Lambeth. Clapham Common is used for lacrosse training, though no formal pitch is marked, with Clapham Lacrosse Club using unmarked playing field for training.

There are grass lacrosse pitches used by local clubs at The Spencer Club (Wandsworth, Spencer Lacrosse Club), as well as pitches at Haydon's Road Recreation Ground (Merton, Clapham Common Lacrosse Club). Pitches are marked on cricket outfield at both sites.

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Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) rules state that the lacrosse playing field shall be a rectangular field of 110x60m. Club use is often shared between men and women on a 100x55m pitch with a three metre minimum recommended run off width, also subject to provision for a 36.58x6m zone for benching and penalty box for county/national /international standard competition located at pitch sides. Recreational and Club pitch sizes can be factored up to 60% depending on space available.

Lacrosse play and training can take place on grass, AGP or 3G surfaces. The AGP at Kennington Park was used for training by Clapham Common Lacrosse Club, though it does not have line marking for match play. The pitch is poor quality and has since been withdrawn from community use due to poor quality deeming it to be unsafe and is planned for resurfacing in June 2022.

### **Demand**

#### ***Club demand***

Clapham Lacrosse Club is the only active lacrosse club within Lambeth and considers itself to be based on the Lambeth/Wandsworth border.

Clapham Lacrosse Club plays matches at Haydon's Road Recreation Ground (Merton), though is somewhat nomadic and uses several venues across both Wandsworth and Lambeth too. Sites include Kennington Park AGP for training (until the pitch was taken out of use) and Clapham Common for some summer training, as well as sites in other Boroughs such as Wandsworth Common. The Club is not considered to be based in either Wandsworth or Lambeth but across both and does not recognise local authority borders, rather location is driven by venue and availability of provision.

The shares Haydon's Road Recreation Ground (Merton) with one team from Putney Lacrosse Club based in Wandsworth. Play is across four different leagues so not well co-ordinated and can see as many as three home matches played across a Sunday afternoon. The pitches are marked on a cricket outfield and the season finishes late September whereas lacrosse starts earlier in the month, therefore for the first three games the Club must negotiate with the leagues to play away matches to avoid clashes. The Club reports that changing and toilet provision at the site is poor and that they are not used by players so poor is the quality.

Choice of venue at Haydon's Road Recreation Ground is driven by the availability of grass lacrosse pitches. England Lacrosse reports that there is a lack of 3G or AGP provision in the region which has line markings to be able to host lacrosse matches, therefore although these facilities are permitted for use, play is typically on grass pitches. There are no grass pitches marked in Lambeth and none at municipal sites in Wandsworth, only The Spencer Club used by Spencer Lacrosse Club.

The Club states that in the last five years that it and local leagues have grown significantly. Five years ago the Club had one team but now has 100 players per year sign up to play and only three teams. There are 60 women attend training but the Club does not have a full time coach despite trying each year to get one.

The Club reports that it gets lots of sign ups and then participants drop out because the Club is not sufficiently able to make them feel valued and included. There is a need for more space to run more effective training with fewer numbers to give people increased contact time. The Club states that it is growing too quickly to meet demand and that it has existing unmet demand to create another two women's teams, unable to be established due to both coaching resource and access to facilities.

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### **Strategic growth**

In 2018 the International Olympic Committee took the first steps to allow lacrosse to potentially return to the summer Olympics by awarding it provisional recognition. World Lacrosse, the international governing body for the sport, is aiming to grow its membership by 60% in the next five years and hopes to return to the Olympic programme at the 2028 games.

To help drive growth in participation, England Lacrosse is seeking to develop several lacrosse hubs (Summer Lax Hubs) across the country over the next five years to 2025 in order to increase demand. Year one of the hubs programme in 2021 has five hubs nationwide, two of which are in London. England Lacrosse reports that it sought a venue in Wandsworth or Lambeth given the high level of existing demand in the area but was unable to find a suitable venue, so has instead done so in west London despite less existing activity.

The new lacrosse hubs will deliver a more social, less formal format and the vision is to attract 80% of hub participants from the non-lacrosse market who are completely new to the sport. Running in two blocks over the course of the summer, each venue will see 200 participants in the first year, with a view to scaling up over the next four years to achieve 1200 participants per hub by the end of year four. This could represent up to 1000 new participants per hub who are new to lacrosse, with the number of hub to increase each year.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion there is insufficient capacity to accommodate either current or future demand for lacrosse.

Clapham Lacrosse presently reports unmet demand and that it cannot field additional teams despite existing demand, due to a lack of both pitch capacity and coaching resource. The Club already was unable to meet this demand, prior to the loss of access to the AGP at Kennington Park which has put further pressure on demand for pitch provision for training with sports lighting. There is a need for additional supply of pitches, either grass pitches or on artificial grass surfaces (3G or AGP) to better meet current demand and facilitate growth.

A key issue for lacrosse both in Lambeth Borough and across inner London in general is the lack of line markings on artificial grass surfaces to allow for use for training but particularly for matches. Storage facility for goals would also be required to support this.

#### **Summary – Lacrosse**

- ◀ **There is insufficient supply of pitch provision across Lambeth Borough to meet current and future lacrosse demand.**
- ◀ There are no lacrosse pitches marked in the Borough, Whilst Kennington Park AGP was accessed for lacrosse training prior to its closure.
- ◀ Clapham LC is the only club which has accessed Kennington Park for lacrosse training in the past. It currently accesses Haydon's Road Recreation Ground (Merton) for matches where pitch quality is poor in peak season and ancillary facilities also poor.
- ◀ Clapham Lacrosse Club presently reports unmet demand and that it cannot field additional teams despite existing demand, due to a lack of both pitch capacity and coaching resource.
- ◀ Demand for lacrosse is expected to increase alongside increased strategic development activity led by England Lacrosse.
- ◀ The lack of line markings on 3G and AGPs is a key issue affecting range of available facilities for lacrosse across the Borough and the wider inner London area.



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### 9.6: Touch & tag rugby

England Touch Association (ETA) is the governing body of Touch (sometimes referred to as Touch Rugby) in England. Its role is to promote, encourage, foster, develop and grow the sport of Touch in England, under the Federation of International Touch (FIT) rules and guidelines. It is a non-profit organisation primarily funded by membership fees, led by a volunteer-run Executive Committee. The Association operates the National Touch Series (NTS) leagues as well as National squads and teams.

Try Tag Rugby (TTR) is the official UK delegate to the International and European Tag Rugby Federations. It is backed by the Rugby Football League and is an affiliate for participation. The organisation plans to launch leagues throughout all parts of the UK over the coming years. It organises the UK Tag Nationals competitions bringing the best Tag rugby teams and players together to compete. In addition, the UK Tag Nationals is a key part of the Great Britain selection process for the British & Irish Cup as well as the Tag Rugby World Cup, which takes place on a three year cycle.

Internationally Tag Rugby is organised and governed by the International Tag Federation (ITF). The ITF aims to assist developing countries in growing the game of Tag with the goal of getting their players to enjoy the game and to compete at Internationally sanctioned events.

#### Supply

In the summer months, a total of four touch/tag rugby pitches are marked across two sites, with two pitches each at Clapham Common and Brockwell Park. The pitches at Clapham Common were part of the site-wide Performance Quality Standards (PQS) technical sports pitch assessment undertaken by the Grounds Management Association (GMA) in June 2021, which evidence that all pitches across the site were poor quality. The main issues across the site were poor grass coverage, surface undulations plus holes caused by foxes and other animals.

Archbishop's Park (3G pitch), La Retraite School (sand based AGP pitch) and Kennington Park (sand based AGP pitch) are use throughout the winter months by Try Tag Rugby leagues.

#### Demand

##### *Touch rugby*

There are several clubs and leagues which provide a range of opportunities to play touch or tag rugby. There is two ETA affiliated club recorded as using provision within Lambeth, as well as two touch rugby leagues offering competitive and social leagues.

Galaxy Touch London and London Vipers affiliate to the ETA and play within the NTS leagues. Club training takes place at Clapham Common. Galaxy Touch London also access training midweek at World Rugby type 22 Compliant 3G pitch at Rosslyn Park (Wandsworth).

The current focus of ETA is supporting increased participation over the forthcoming years at all levels with a particular emphasis on youth participation and development. Demand for touch rugby is expected to grow in future years as the sport becomes more well known as an alternative to contact forms of rugby and with greater development activity within schools.

The In2Touch leagues are affiliated to both RFU and ETA. Matches take place at Clapham Common from March-October in the evenings from Monday-Thursday.

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Go Mammoth! is a commercial league provider which operates touch leagues across several venues within inner London. It runs leagues on Clapham Common touch pitches from 10am-4pm on Saturday's.

Surrey Rugby run touch sessions twice a week at Archbishop's Park 3G pitch, one being touch for beginners and the other a women's and girls' touch session to continue the initiative to engage more females with the sport.

To actively encourage participation in rugby union, clubs may provide alternative offers to traditional club competition. Touch rugby is one possible format which clubs can use; touch rugby is non-contact rugby sessions, during which participants compete in teams to score tries, following similar laws to traditional rugby union formats. Clubs, schools or community organisation can establish their own touch rugby sessions or can become hosts of The Touch Union rugby sessions.

RFU affiliated Touch Union sessions are 90 minutes long and combine music, fitness and rugby skills. Sessions are of mixed gender, ability and age and are based on touch rugby being a social activity. There are no Touch Union sessions in the Borough, linked to the fact that there are no affiliated rugby union clubs.

### *Tag rugby*

Try Tag Rugby (TTR) and RFL affiliated organisation runs mixed, men's and women's leagues and events in the sport of Tag Rugby throughout the UK. Tag Rugby is a minimal contact version of rugby, generally played in the 7-a-side format. It is the main provider of tag rugby in Lambeth and operates leagues at the following sites:

*Table 9.6.1: Summary of TTR leagues*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Access	Days
3	Archbishop's Park	Waterloo	All year round	Monday: 6.30-8pm
			September - April	Friday: 6.30-8pm
12	Brockwell Park	Brixton	April-September	Monday: 6.45-9pm Wednesday: 6.45-9pm
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	April-September	Monday: 6.45-9pm Thursday-Friday: 6.45-9pm
			April-November	Saturday: 11-2pm Sunday: 1-4pm
42	Kennington Park	North Lambeth	September-April	Monday: 6.30-8pm
43	La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls School	Clapham	September-April	Saturday: 11-2pm

The demand which previously took place at Kennington Park is currently likely to take place at Tabard Gardens (Southwark), which was a venue which shared the fixtures for the league taking place at Kennington Park.

The league report that it believes it could fill additional access and pitches were made available. In addition, it also reports it has aspirations to start a junior tag rugby league in the future but would need additional access to pitches in order to do so.

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### Conclusion

It is considered that the current supply of touch/tag rugby pitches marked during the summer, as well as the supporting range of facilities such as 3G and artificial grass pitches, cannot sufficiently meet current demand for touch and tag rugby.

Whilst current demand can be met in principle, grass pitches used at the likes of Clapham Common are poor quality with over eight hours use per week for summer leagues and club activity, are likely overplayed. Furthermore, the loss of access to Kennington Park has impacted on TTR leagues. Increases in capacity are required to better meet current demand, including improvement of quality at grass pitch sites and additional access to provision, including with sports lighting in winter, to grow demand in future.

Try Tag Rugby aspires to develop junior leagues and anticipates that there would be further demand if it offered additional times and leagues, it is likely that current supply would struggle to cater for this future demand.

It is likely that demand for both sports is likely to increase with increased exposure and development activity, including within schools, therefore there may be a future need to mark additional pitches at well used sites in line with increases in demand to continue to accommodate this use and facilitate growth in both club activity and social and recreational leagues.

#### Summary – Touch & Tag Rugby

- It is considered that the current supply of touch/tag rugby pitches marked during the summer, as well as the supporting range of facilities such as 3G and artificial grass pitches, cannot sufficiently meet current demand for touch and tag rugby.
- Whilst current demand can be met in principle, grass pitches used at the likes of Clapham Common are poor quality with over eight hours use per week for summer leagues and club activity, are likely overplayed.
- There are four Touch/Tag pitches marked in Lambeth, two each at Clapham Common and Brockwell Park.
- There are two touch rugby clubs active in Lambeth. Both of which play within the NTS and train at Clapham Common.
- There is reported latent demand for Tag rugby, as Try Tag Rugby report that with additional access it would likely be able to fill out this, although cannot quantify this due to operating no waiting list.
- Try Tag Rugby aspires to develop junior leagues in future year. It also anticipates that there would be further demand if it offered out additional times and leagues for adult activity.
- It is likely that demand for both sports is likely to increase with increased exposure and development activity. Therefore, there may be a future need to mark additional pitches at well used sites.

### 9.7: Multi-use Games Areas (with 3x3 Basketball)

Multi use games areas (MUGAs) are a reference to any sport or games areas which are often used for social and recreational sport in the community and are generally categorised into typologies, as seen in the table below. To qualify as a MUGA, a facility should be minimum of a five-a-side football pitch (two tennis courts) in size and be marked out for at least three sports.

An audit of basketball courts was also taken as part of this section to understand facilities to support outdoor basketball play, in line with the national increase of 3X3 basketball popularity.

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Basketball England is the NGB for all formats of basketball in England. Outdoor basketball and in particular the small sided format 3X3 is one of the fastest growing sports in the world. Elite outdoor basketball often requires multi court venues to put on comprehensive tournaments, whilst the recreational side of the game requires a hoop, a ball, line markings and six players. Ball Out UK is the national organisation which organises the National 3x3 UK Tour. The organisation oversees a number of competitions run across the country, with the National 3x3 UK Tour acting as qualifying events for international competitions.

*Table 9.7.1: Types of MUGAs*

Type	Surface	Characteristics	Preferred sports
Type One	Open textured porous macadam	Used for ball rebound sports. Suitable for wheelchair sports.	Tennis and netball.
Type Two			
Type Three			
Type Four	Polymeric surface over macadam base	Due to their greater shock absorbency and lower surface friction, these areas are not recommended for tennis or netball.	Football, basketball and recreational activity
Type Five	Sand based or third generation turf (3G)	Shockpad and either heavily doused with water before play or filled or dressed with sand or rubber crumb	Formalised sports including hockey, football, American football, lacrosse and rugby.

### *Consultation*

To inform this part of the report consultation was undertaken with Basketball England and Ball Out UK.

### *Supply*

Across Lambeth there are a total of 32 MUGAs and 14 basketball courts, totalling 46 courts. Most of this provision is located within Clapham with 11 courts (24%), followed by Brixton and Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall and Norwood each with eight courts (18%). Waterloo has the least amount of provision with just one MUGA (2%).

*Table 9.7.2: Summary of MUGAs and basketball courts in Lambeth*

Analysis area	Number of MUGAs	Number of basketball courts	Total
Brixton	5	3	8
Clapham	6	5	11
Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	5	3	8
North Lambeth	4	2	6
Norwood	7	1	8
Streatham	4	0	4
Waterloo	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>46</b>

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Table 9.7.3: Summary of provision

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of courts	Surface type	Sports lighting	Quality
<b>MUGA</b>						
5	Beacondale Estate	Norwood	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
8	Bowlands Road, William Bonney Ball Court	Clapham	1	Type One/two	No	Standard
9	Briant Estateball Court, Colwyn House	Waterloo	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
13	Canterbury Gardens Estate, Ball Court	Brixton	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
14	Central Hill Estate, Hawke Road (Opp Victoria Crescent)	Norwood	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
15	Charlotte Row, Clarke House (Ball Games)	Clapham	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
21	Cotton Gardens Estate, Ball Games	North Lambeth	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
22	Deronda Estate, Ball Games Area	Norwood	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
23	Dunbar Dunelm Estate Ball Court	Norwood	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
26	Etherlred Estate, Side Of Ward Point Tower (Play & Ball Games)	North Lambeth	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Standard
28	Fenwick Estate, Willets House Ball Court	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	1	Type Five	Yes	Standard
31	Gaskell Street Estate Ball Court	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
37	Hemans Estate, Darlington House Ball Games Area	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
38	Hillside Park	Streatham	2	Type One/Two	No	Poor
46	Lilford Estate, Tallyrand House Ball Games	Brixton	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Standard
48	Linton Grove Estate, Near Nursery	Norwood	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
49	Lyham Road Play And Ball Games Area	Brixton	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
52	Mursell Estate Rundel Tower Ball Court	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	1	Type Five	No	Standard
54	Notre Dame Estate, Ball Court	Clapham	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Good
55	Oaklands Estate Ball Court Behind Cubitt House Off Poynders Road	Clapham	1	Type Five	No	Standard
65	Sackville Estate, Ball Court	Streatham	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of courts	Surface type	Sports lighting	Quality
67	South Lambeth Estate, Sturminster House Ball Games	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
71	Streatham Hill Estate, Adare Walk	Streatham	1	Type Five	No	Standard
77	Tulse Hill Estate, Ball Court (Holdsworth House)	Brixton	1	Type Five	Yes	Poor
82	Westbury Estate Ball Games Area, Amesbury Tower	Clapham	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
84	Willard Estate, Ball Court	Clapham	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
87	Woodvale Estate, Behind Longmead House (Half Way Down)	Norwood	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
88	Wyvil Estate, Henry House Ball Court	North Lambeth	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
89	York Hill Estate, Easton House	Norwood	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
93	Angell Town Estate	Brixton	1	Type Five	Yes	Poor
95	Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens	North Lambeth	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
<b>Basketball</b>						
12	Brockwell Park	Brixton	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Good
			2 (Half court)	Type One/Two		
27	Eythorne Park	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Standard
29	Fern Lodge Estate	Norwood	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Poor
42	Kennington Park	North Lambeth	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
44	Lambeth Academy	Clapham	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Good
45	Larkhall Park	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
51	Mawbey Brough, Ball Court	North Lambeth	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
53	Myatts Fields Park	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	1 (Half court)	Type One/Two	No	Standard
64	Ruskin Park	Brixton	2	Type One/Two	No	Poor
66	Solon Estate, Ball Court & Outdoor Gym	Clapham	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor



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### ***Future developments***

#### *Local Football Facility Plans (LFFP)*

Five potential opportunities for MUGAs are identified within the Lambeth LFFP. In each case the rationale is based on the site being in an area with limited recreational provision with high local demand for informal football. The sites identified are:

- ◀ Crown Lane Primary School
- ◀ Hillside Park
- ◀ Loughborough Park
- ◀ Triangle Adventure Playground
- ◀ Roupell Park Estate

Informal players require facilities that are open and free to access as this enables play opportunities that are often spontaneous. In these circumstances MUGAs can be effective in areas of high urban population and limited green space. Such facilities can be modern, bright, creative and engaging. The facilities are often caged macadam courts with goals built in to the surrounding cage. MUGAs also have line markings for a number of sports such as football, basketball and netball and can often also have basketball nets built into the facility.

#### *Basketball courts*

During consultation with Ball Out UK it identified that as part of the legacy of 3X3 basketball and the organisation within the England, it aspires to support the development and/or refurbishment of single or multi court basketball facilities.

At present, it has not identified a location and would be open to discussions with the Council around this opportunity. Developing a facility big enough to stage its events (equivalent of six half courts) could lead to a national outdoor 3X3 hub. This would be utilised for national competitions, as well as potential FIBA 3X3 competitions in the future.

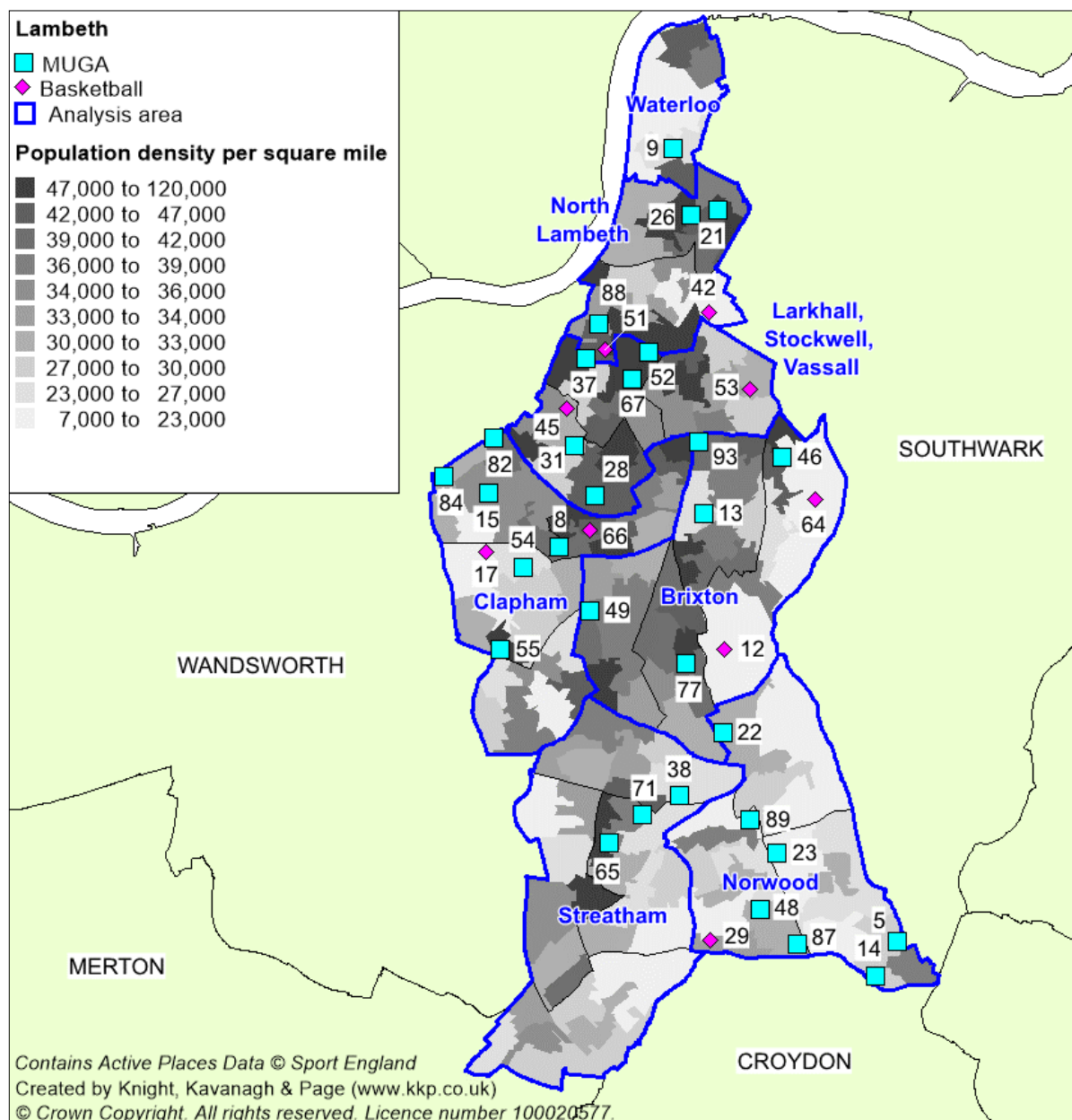
Ball Out UK suggests that due to high demand for basketball within Inner London, Lambeth could be an ideal location for such development.

#### *Management*

All MUGAs and basketball courts across Lambeth are owned by the Council and available as open access meaning they do not need to be booked. Anecdotal evidence suggests that they are well used in the summer months for activities such as informal football, however, can be prone to vandalism.

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Figure 9.7.1: Location of MUGAs and basketball courts in Lambeth



For a key to Figure 9.7.1, please refer to Table 9.7.3.

## Quality

The quality of MUGAs and basketball courts across Lambeth has been assessed via a combination of site visits, undertaken in August 2021, using non-technical assessments to apply quality ratings as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%).

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In total across Lambeth there is one MUGA assessed as good quality, 14 assessed as standard quality and 17 assessed as poor quality. Whilst there is a total of three basketball courts assessed as good quality four as standard quality and six as poor quality.

Table 9.7.4: Summary of MUGA and Basketball court quality in Lambeth

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
<b>MUGA</b>			
Brixton	-	3	2
Clapham	1	3	2
Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	-	3	2
North Lambeth	-	3	1
Norwood	-	1	6
Streatham	-	1	3
Waterloo	-	-	1
<b>MUGA Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Basketball</b>			
Brixton	-	1	2
Clapham	4	-	1
Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	-	3	-
North Lambeth	-	-	2
Norwood	-	-	1
Streatham	-	-	-
Waterloo	-	-	-
<b>Basketball Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>

MUGAs and basketball courts are deemed to be poor quality if they have inadequate grip underfoot, loose gravel and evidence of litter, glass and moss with maintenance of such provision also considered to be basic and infrequent.

The good quality courts are located at Clapham Common, Lambeth Academy and Notre Dame Estate Ball Court. Courts are deemed good quality when the surface is well maintained, has sufficient underfoot grip and for macadam surface regular painting of the surface. An example of newly developed good quality courts at Clapham Common can be seen below.

### Clapham Common

As part of Footlocker's basketball community campaign 'Raise the Game' Clapham Common basketball courts were refurbished in October 2021. The campaign aims to support and fund local basketball networks and organisations that are invested in driving change within their communities. The project was supported with funding from the Hoopsfix Foundation, which also engaged partners to allow the project to happen.

The courts were developed with a number of partners considered, with previous interests from brands such as Red Bull. The courts are to be used for 3X3 basketball tournaments by a range of organisations including drivers of this format of basketball Ball Out UK, which administers the national 3X3 com nationwide.



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### *Sports lighting*

The presence of sports lighting is considered to encourage more demand as it enables evening use all year round. However, it is also acknowledged that it also encourages higher levels unofficial use resulting in increased anti-social behaviour, vandalism and littering.

In total six MUGAs across Lambeth are accompanied by sports lights. Whilst six basketball courts have sports lighting.

### *Demand*

Given that demand for MUGAs falls into informal use it is difficult to assess and quantify demand. It is likely that the courts are utilised by residents of the Borough, as well as others which live in close proximity to provision from outside of the Borough.

To inform this part of the report, consultation was undertaken with Ball Out UK, in order to explore facility requirements for the 3X3 basketball format. 3x3 is deemed the number one urban team sport worldwide, whilst also being considered one of the fastest growing sports, the format is to be part of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Ball Out UK reports that an ideal venue for tournaments is six half courts, or the equivalent of three full size courts, in addition access to toilets is also a requirement for tournaments. It currently uses sites across London at Ducketts Common (Haringey) and Finnsbury Park (Haringey), the latter of which is currently used for the National 3X3 Championship Finals. The official court size is 15 meters in width and 11 in length. The court markings for the key and three-point lines are the same as on a standard court. This size allows for a full size court to host two pitches, with run offs as the length of the court falls shorter than half of a standard court. During matches, three players can be on the court at one time for each team, whilst one substitute is permitted.

Ball Out UK reports that demand for outdoor basketball is extensive, with courts (including MUGAs with hoops) regularly in use throughout the summer months. The courts in parks are identified as being used by community groups as well as groups of individuals all year round for basketball use.

It identifies that as a company, Clapham Common is a venue it would look to host events at, although does not supply the ideal six half courts, a smaller scale tournament would be held here. Further to this it suggests that all MUGAs with hoops can be utilised for recreational outdoor basketball as a pathway to playing on a bigger scale at 3X3 events. Across Lambeth the majority of MUGAs have basketball hoops installed and therefore are suitable to support outdoor basketball demand, with further requirements for play being a ball and line markings.

### *Supply and demand analysis*

In order to analyse the catchment for MUGA facilities in the Borough, a standards based approach has been taken from the Fields in Trust guidance<sup>38</sup>, unlike all other sections of this report, which take a non-standards based approach. The catchment guidance for MUGAs is set at 700m walking distance.

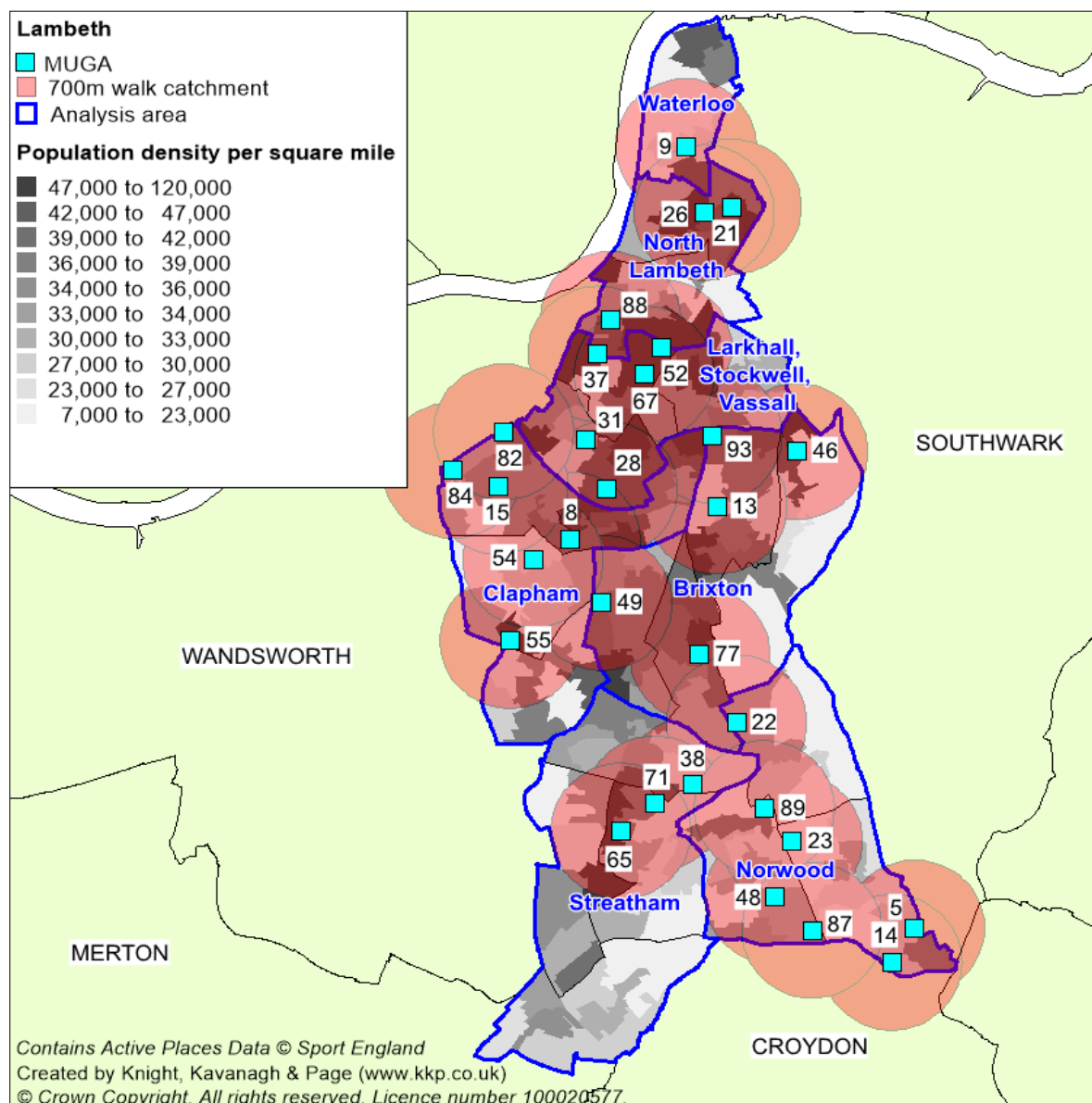
Taking this into consideration a total of 23% of the Borough's population (or 72,281 people) has no MUGA facility within the 700m metre catchment. The map can be seen below in Figure 9.7.2.

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<sup>38</sup><https://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/guidance/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-England.pdf>

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Figure 9.7.2: Coverage of MUGAs across all analysis area



As seen in the map above, both the Streatham and Waterloo areas have significant gaps in coverage of MUGAs. Analysis suggests that just over half (59%) of the Streatham Analysis Area population do not have access to a MUGA within a 700m walk, whilst just under half (45%) of the Waterloo Analysis Area population doesn't.

Table 9.7.5: Summary of MUGA population coverage in Lambeth

Analysis area	MYE 2020	Population within 700m walk of a MUGA	Population not within 700m walk of a MUGA		
Brixton	64,443	53,021	82.3%	11,422	17.7%
Clapham	54,593	48,319	88.5%	6,274	11.5%
Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	47,732	44,782	93.8%	2,950	6.2%
North Lambeth	33,852	31,411	92.8%	2,441	7.2%
Norwood	44,058	38,297	86.9%	5,761	13.1%
Streatham	64,018	26,478	41.4%	37,540	58.6%
Waterloo	13,117	7,224	55.1%	5,893	44.9%
<b>Lambeth</b>	<b>321,813</b>	<b>249,532</b>	<b>77.5%</b>	<b>72,281</b>	<b>22.5%</b>



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### Conclusion

Half of all 46 MUGAs/basketball courts are assessed as poor quality with most of these having inadequate grip underfoot, loose gravel and evidence of litter, glass and moss with maintenance also considered to be basic and infrequent.

Some significant areas of population in Lambeth are not located within 700m walking distance of a MUGA. Therefore, there could be considered an undersupply with 72,281 (23%) of the Borough's population being outside of the distance threshold applied.

In terms of basketball, Ball Out UK reports that demand for outdoor basketball is extensive, with courts (including MUGAs with hoops) regularly in use throughout the summer months.

Of the 46 MUGAs/basketball courts, 40 can support outdoor basketball. The six that are unable to have a 3G surface. Of the courts that can support basketball, just over half (21 or 53%) are assessed as poor quality.

Although Clapham Common is identified as able to support 3X3 tournaments of a certain scale, Ball Out UK identify that an ideal facility for larger scale events includes the equivalent of six half courts (three full courts). Lambeth currently does not accommodate such facility, therefore development of such facility would help to support growth and development of outdoor basketball.

#### Summary

- ◀ **Location of MUGAs and the catchment in which they cover results in 72,281 of the Borough's population being outside of the 700m walking distance guidance.**
- ◀ **There is a potential opportunity to develop a dedicated outdoor basketball venue suitable to host larger scale 3X3 competitions, due to Lambeth being identified as a hotspot for the sport.**
- ◀ There are 32 MUGAs identified in Lambeth across 31 sites. Along with 14 basketball courts across 11 sites.
- ◀ In total, five courts (11%) are rated as good quality, 18 are rated as standard quality (39%) and 23 are rated as poor quality (50%).
- ◀ Of the 46 courts, 40 are able to support Outdoor Basketball, due to six of these courts having a 3G surface. Of the 40 courts 21 (53%) are assessed as poor quality. Therefore, to support and engage more participation it is recommended to improve quality of courts.
- ◀ Clapham Common is identified as able to support 3X3 tournaments of a certain scale. Ball Out UK identify that an ideal facility for larger scale events includes the equivalent of six half courts (three full courts).
- ◀ Demand for outdoor basketball is extensive, with courts (including MUGAs with hoops) regularly in use throughout the summer months. The courts in parks are identified as being used by community groups as well as groups of individuals all year round for basketball use.
- ◀ A total of 23% of the Borough's population has no MUGA facility within the 700m metre catchment.



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### 9.8: Athletics

#### Introduction

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

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

#### Consultation

Although all clubs were all sent electronic surveys and chased via phone calls, none responded to these consultation requests. Therefore, information for these clubs was gathered through online research. Additionally, wider consultation also took place with England Athletics which also supplied data to inform this section of the report.

#### Supply

There are two purpose-built athletics tracks provided in Lambeth. Both are sprint tracks at Black Prince Community Hub and Ark Evelyn Grace Academy.

Table 9.8.1: Summary of supply

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Track length	No. of lanes	Sports lighting	Available for community use?
4	Ark Evelyn Grace Academy	Brixton	100m	5	Yes	Yes
7	Black Prince Community Hub	North Lambeth	70m	6	Yes	Yes

In addition to the two sprint tracks the facility at Black Prince Community Hub also has a sand jump pit and high jump area. Clapham Common and Brockwell Park are utilised for formal running training from clubs within the Borough.

Although there are no 400m outdoor venues in Lambeth, access to such facilities within a 30 minute drive time is comprehensive. Lambeth based athletes have access to five such facilities in Wandsworth at Tooting Bec and Battersea Park Millennium Arena, in Southwark at Southwark Park, in Bromley at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre and in Croydon at Croydon Sports Arena.

However, it should be noted that not all athletics demand currently identified in the Borough requires track facilities with a number of the clubs demand being accommodated through road running.

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

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### Quality

The quality of athletics tracks across Lambeth have been assessed via a combination of site visits using non-technical assessments and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed quality rating.

Of the two tracks, one is rated as standard quality and one as poor quality. The table below summaries the quality of tracks across Lambeth.

*Table 9.8.2: Summary of quality*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year built	Year refurbished	Track surface	Track quality
4	Ark Evelyn Grace Academy	Brixton	2012	-	Synthetic	Standard
7	Black Prince Community Hub	North Lambeth	2012	-	Synthetic	Poor

For the site assessment criteria, please see Appendix Two. Both tracks have issues around the prominence of the line markings and signs of wear and tear on the track, specifically at the Black Prince Community Hub around the edgings of the track.

### TrackMark

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

England Athletics reports that both tracks require a TrackMark Unit 1 track surface inspection to establish the condition/lifespan of the track surface.

### Management

The track at Ark Evelyn Grace Academy is an innovative track, developed as part of the new school development in 2012 which is through the centre of the School and goes under part of the School building, managed inhouse and maintained by the School.

The track and additional facilities at Black Prince Community Hub were developed as part of the site development in 2012. The site is managed and maintained by the Black Prince Community Trust.

### Indoor provision

Whilst not falling within the remit of this study, it is worth noting that there are also no purpose-built indoor athletics facilities within Lambeth. This being said, England Athletics reports that Lambeth is well serviced by the indoor athletic facilities at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Sutcliffe Park, and the David Weir Leisure Centre which are all within its recommended 60 minute drive time.

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### Demand

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

Please note that Covid-19 and subsequent restrictions have had and continue to have a significant impact on athletics and running demand, with clubs generally unable to hold training sessions and various events being cancelled. As such, this section considers what was taking place prior to the pandemic (and/or what would have been happening had there not been a pandemic).

*Table 9.8.3 Summary of club membership*

Name of club	Club type	Members
Clapham Pioneers	Off Track Only	88
Clapham Runners	Off Track Only	15
Clapham Chasers	Track & Field & Off Track	602
Dulwich Park Runners	Off Track Only	170
Dulwich Runners AC	Off Track Only	169
RunThrough	Track & Field & Off Track	113
Windrush Triathlon Club	Track & Field & Off Track	37
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,194</b>

In total across Lambeth, club membership totals 1,194.

Through consultation with England Athletics and the Black Prince Community Hub it is reported that neither sprint track are utilised by clubs, and are instead booked by individuals and as the Black Prince Community Hub, the boxing and basketball club onsite. It is likely that individuals which book the facilities could also be apart of formal club.

#### ***Clapham Pioneers***

Clapham Pioneers is a running club based at Clapham Common. Providing two training sessions weekly at Clapham Common, with on timed running session at Battersea Park monthly. The club's training night is on Tuesdays from 7.30pm, with two separate sessions, including interval training and 5km guided run.

#### ***Clapham Runners***

Clapham Runners is a small club based around the Clapham Area. The Club has two organised sessions on Tuesdays from 8pm at Battersea Millennium Arena (Coached speed and core work) and Thursdays at Clapham Common from 7pm (group interval session).

#### ***Clapham Chasers***

Clapham Chasers is the largest club in the Borough, sessions are based outside the Borough at Battersea Park both on the Millennium Track and around the park and at Trinity Fields. The Club runs four sessions weekly on Mondays (Club social run) from 7.10pm, Tuesdays (Track session) from 7.20pm, Thursdays (Tempo session) from 7pm and Sundays (Long run) from 9am. In addition, it runs a hill session every other Tuesday from 7.15pm.

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### ***Dulwich Park Runners***

Dulwich Park Runners is one of the larger clubs in the Borough, based out of Dulwich Park on the border of Lambeth in Southwark are likely to cater for a number of Lambeth residents. The Club runs sessions on Tuesday's (Social run), Thursdays (Speed or Hill session) and Sunday morning (Social run).

### ***Dulwich Runners AC***

Dulwich Runners AC is one of the larger clubs in the Borough, based across Southwark, Bromley and Lambeth at Brockwell Park. The Club run Tuesday sessions (endurance) at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre from 7pm, Wednesday sessions (road running) in Dulwich from 7pm, Thursday sessions (Hills and grass training) at Brockwell Park and Crystal Palace Park alternatively from 11am and Sunday sessions (longer distance sessions) starting at both Brockwell Park and Dulwich Park.

### ***Windrush Triathlon Club***

Windrush Triathlon Club is a small club based across a number of venues. Most running sessions are based across Battersea Park Millennium Arena and Brockwell Park. Running sessions are on Tuesdays (Social run) at Brockwell Park from 7.30pm and Thursdays (Intervals) from 7.30pm, it also has a monthly Social: The Pub Run on one Friday a month at Brockwell Park.

### ***RunThrough***

RunThrough is a running community with hubs across London and Lambeth with both social and competitive events throughout the year. The organisation runs regular events in Lambeth at Clapham Common.

### ***Run Together***

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

There are currently no Run Together groups in Lambeth, with the nearest event taking place at Burgess Park (based in Southwark). A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation programmes such as Run Together, meaning this could be something that is targeted moving forward, especially given the large number of clubs in Lambeth that could be involved.

### ***Park Run***

Park Run is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Park Run events. For those aged between 4 and 14, junior Park Run events are also available.

There are two Park Run events within Lambeth at Clapham Common and Brockwell Park with two further events bordering the Borough at Tooting Common and Dulwich Park. Whilst there are two junior park run events at Kennington Park and Brockwell Park, again with another event at on the border at Tooting Common.

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

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

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

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

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

Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in Lambeth, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity.

### ***Future demand***

England Athletics believes there is likely to be an aspiration across clubs to grow membership where possible, albeit we have been unable to quantify. It also suggests that demand for initiatives such as Park Run will continue to increase in the future.

### **Conclusion**

There are levels of current and future demand for athletics and particularly running in Lambeth, as evidenced by the information referenced above. As a result, priority should be placed on continuing to support activity, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation. In addition, the two track facilities should be monitored, protected and maintained to sustain levels of activity.

There is considered to be enough 400 metre and indoor provision in neighbouring boroughs within the driving catchment times and there is no need for any additional facilities.

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### Athletics summary

- ▶ **Priority should be placed on continuing to support activity, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation. Whilst the two current track facilities should be monitored, protected and maintained to sustain levels of activity.**
- ▶ There are two purpose-built athletics tracks provided in Lambeth. Both are sprint tracks at Black Prince Community Hub and Ark Evelyn Grace Academy.
- ▶ The track facility at Black Prince Community Hub is of poor quality, whilst the facility at Ark Evelyn Grace Academy is of standard quality.
- ▶ In total across Lambeth, club membership totals 1,194. Demand in the Borough comes from both Track & Field clubs as well as Off track running clubs.
- ▶ There are two Park Run events within Lambeth at Clapham Common and Brockwell Park with two further events bordering the Borough at Tooting Common and Dulwich Park. Whilst there are two junior park run events at Kennington Park and Brockwell Park, again with another event on the boundary at Tooting Common.



### APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Displaced demand** generally relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area (i.e. from residents of the study area) which takes place outside of the area. This may be due to issues with the provision of pitches and ancillary facilities in the study area, just reflective of how the sports are played (e.g. at a central venue for the wider area) or due to the most convenient site for the respective users just falling outside of the local authority/study area.

**Unmet demand** is demand that is known to exist but unable to be accommodated on current supply of pitches. This could be in the form of a team with access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. This could also be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement. League secretaries may be aware of some unmet demand as they may have declined applications from teams wishing to enter their competitions due to a lack of pitch provision which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

**Latent demand** is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. This could include feedback from a sports club who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision.

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

**Casual use** or other use could take place on natural grass pitches or AGPs and include:

- ◀ Regular play from non-sports club sources (e.g. companies, schools, fitness classes)
- ◀ Infrequent informal/friendly matches
- ◀ Informal training sessions
- ◀ More casual forms of a particular sport organised by sports clubs or other parties
- ◀ Significant public use and informal play, particularly where pitches are located in parks/recreation grounds.

**Carrying capacity** is the amount of play a site can regularly accommodate (in the relevant comparable unit) for community use without adversely affecting its quality and use. This is typically outlined by the NGB

**Overplay** is when a pitch is used over the amount that the carrying capacity will allow, (i.e. more than the site can accommodate). Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected.

**Spare capacity** is the amount of additional play that a pitch could potentially accommodate in addition to current activity. There may be reasons why this potential to accommodate additional play should not automatically be regarded as actual spare capacity, for example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below its carrying capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of friendly matches and training activity. This needs to be investigated before the capacity is deemed **actual spare capacity**.

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**Match equivalent sessions** is used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken.

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions.

Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket is able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

Therefore, for football, rugby union and rugby league, pitches should relate to a typical week within the season and one match = one match equivalent session if it occurs every week or 0.5 match equivalent sessions if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures). For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season and one match = one match equivalent session.

### APPENDIX 2: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

#### National context

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

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

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

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- ◀ **Recover and reinvent:** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
- ◀ **Connecting communities:** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
- ◀ **Positive experiences for children and young people:** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
- ◀ **Connecting with health and wellbeing:** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
- ◀ **Active environments:** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land 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 benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

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

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### ***Active Lambeth Strategy (2021-2026)***

Lambeth Borough Council is consulting on the draft Active Lambeth Strategy. The Strategy explains the health and wellbeing priorities set to tackle needs identified across the Borough. It will seek to ensure that the benefits of sport and physical activity can be accessed by all residents.

The strategy vision is 'To embed the benefits of physical activity and sport into the everyday lives of Lambeth residents.' It has six strategic objectives, employing the same five headings as Sport England's 'Uniting the Movement' strategy, adding a sixth 'Promote Safer Communities' which reflects the Borough's concern to reduce serious youth crime and anti-social behaviour. They are:

- ◀ Recover and Reinvent:
  - ◀ Increase the number of Lambeth Residents that are Physically Active to 80% and decrease those classified as inactive by 5% (19-20 baseline of 74.3% & 17.3%)  
Recover and then increase usage rates of Lambeth facilities and parks (Achieve 2,250,000 annual visits to our sports and leisure centres)
- ◀ Connect with Communities:
  - ◀ Provide a voice for Lambeth's volunteers by establishing the Lambeth Sports Partnership Board
  - ◀ Establish a mutually beneficial formal connection between the local authority and its outstanding community partners
  - ◀ Develop inclusive and innovative sports and activity programmes that engage those that are currently not involved
- ◀ Offer Positive Experiences for Young People:
  - ◀ Support Lambeth's work to become a UNICEF Child Friendly Community by facilitating sport programmes that improve the mental and physical health of young people
  - ◀ Support our most disadvantaged young people and demonstrate our corporate parenting responsibilities by offering free or low cost access to sports facilities and programmes
  - ◀ Reduce inequalities by providing talented Lambeth Athletes with specialist support to fulfil their potential
- ◀ Connect with Health and Wellbeing:
  - ◀ We will partner with Lambeth's public health agencies to use the Borough's assets to achieve health benefits for the vulnerable, inactive and people with disabilities
- ◀ Provide and Manage Active Environments:
  - ◀ We will maintain and develop attractive parks, sport and recreational facilities. We will develop proposals for inclusion in the Borough's capital plans
  - ◀ We will secure £2m of external investment into Lambeth's Sports and Parks Facilities
  - ◀ Improve Lambeth's environment and the personal health of residents by increasing the levels of Active Travel, the use of Healthy Routes and physical activity in outdoor settings
- ◀ Promote Safe Communities:
  - ◀ In partnership with specialist agencies, we will support 'Lambeth Made Safer' to engage vulnerable young people resulting in declines in anti-social behaviour and serious youth violence
  - ◀ Provide and support a range of opportunities that divert vulnerable young people into positive activity e.g. After School Sport Activity

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### ***London Sport – LDN Moving (2021)***

London Sports is the Active Partnership covering London. Active Partnerships are locally based strategic organisations which recognise that activity levels are affected by a complex system of influences and no single organisation or programme creates sustainable change at scale. Via adoption of a collaborative whole system approach, they seek to make active lifestyles the social norm for everyone and address levels of inactivity in society.

London Sport's stated strategy mission is to 'make London the most active City in the World'.

The Strategy is made up of six long-term goals which, when achieved, will make a fundamental difference to physical activity in London and to London itself.

The six goals have been designed to work as a single approach that, taken together, will get closer to making London the most active City in the world. At the heart are two main outcomes: getting inactive and less active adults active and helping young Londoners to develop positive physical activity habits for life. The other four goals are the tools to help make long-term, sustainable change to the ways that people get active now and for years to come.

The six goals are to:

- ◀ Increase physical activity levels among less active adults, reducing inequalities and inactivity.
- ◀ Give all young Londoners the best opportunity to form a positive physical activity habit for life.
- ◀ Improve policy, systems and investment to support active lives.
- ◀ Use tech, data and digital communications to support Londoners to get and stay active.
- ◀ Lead the way in bringing organisations together to create, develop, test, champion and scale innovative ways of supporting active lives.
- ◀ Ensure evidence, data and high quality insight inform the development of policy and practice of supporting active lives.

### ***Greater London Authority: Sport for All of Us (2018)***

Sport for All of Us is the Mayor of London's Strategy for Sport in London, adopted by the London Assembly, within which the Mayor Sadiq Khan states his aim is not only to make London the undisputed sporting capital of the world, continuing to host the biggest and best events, but also to get more Londoners involved by supporting grassroots sport. He states it is vital to nurturing the next generation of sporting talent, keeping Londoners fit and healthy, and building links between our diverse communities.

The work in sport is identified as having two distinct strands. First, the support of major sports events being hosted in London which has a long and proud tradition of staging sports events and in recent years have hosted some of the largest events in sport, including the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012 amongst others. These events have a significant ability to bring strong economic and social benefits to London, from promoting the City internationally, to offering mass volunteering opportunities for Londoners.

The second focus is on community sport, which has previously had a primary focus on increasing participation. The Mayor intends to broaden this focus to use the power of sport to improve social integration in London – a core priority of the Mayor's wider work. It is proposed that, central to work in community sport will be a new programme, 'Sport Unites', a new £8.8 million pound community sports programme. This investment will focus on three themes: Sport for Social Integration, Active Londoners and Workforce & Capacity Building. The programme will also provide investment via the Mayor's £45m Young Londoners Fund.



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### *Theme One: Sport for Social Integration*

The Mayor proposes making this an explicit goal and to bring it to the forefront of his sports programme. His ambition is to make London the first city in the world to maximise the potential of sport to increase social integration. To achieve this, intentions are to:

- ◀ Launch a partnership with Laureus Sport for Good Foundation to carry out three place-based pilots using its 'Model City' approach.
- ◀ Fund partnerships through Sport Unites between non-sport and sporting organisations to deliver community sports which improve social integration.
- ◀ Fund initiatives through Sport Unites that target socially isolated people.
- ◀ Fund initiatives through Sport Unites that combine sport with another activity.
- ◀ Support some of London's most talented young athletes to reach their full potential and act as role models in their communities.

### *Theme Two: Active Londoners*

The investment in this theme aims to provide more opportunities for Londoners to take part in a wide variety of sport and physical activity in their local area. Specifically, the programme intends to fund initiatives that cater for inactive Londoners and provide pathways for people to use sport to pursue their goals at all levels - whether that is simply improving fitness or making the transition into top level sports. To achieve this, intention is to:

- ◀ Provide more affordable, local participation opportunities for Londoners in places where demand outstrips supply.
- ◀ Promote programmes that target inactive Londoners.
- ◀ Invest in pilots which test innovative methods.
- ◀ Invest in organisations that cater for and support Londoners with mental health difficulties.

### *Theme Three: London - Workforce, Tech & Capacity Building*

Developing the community sports workforce and capacity building organisations is vital to ensuring the success of Sport Unites and the wider sport sector in London. Equally, unlocking the full potential of technology helps this. To achieve this, intention is to:

- ◀ Reward and recognise inspirational coaches for their contribution to community sport and give them the support they need.
- ◀ Invest in the Civic Innovation Challenge to develop sport-tech solutions to address physical activity challenges in London.
- ◀ Develop the next generation of paid and volunteer community sport workforce.
- ◀ Consider co-investment in London Sport's sport tech initiatives developing ideas, prototypes and products.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *Local Football Facility Plans*

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA commissioned a national project. A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) has been produced for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

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It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP does; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

### ***The FA: Time for Change Strategy (2020-24)***

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in January 2021 which aims to 'unite the game and inspire the nation'. It will do this in two ways, by 'changing the game to maximise its impact' and by 'serving the game to deliver football for all'.

To achieve this, the strategy will focus on six Game Changer objectives, to change the fabric of the game and tackle long-term issues, to make the largest possible impact in the years ahead:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Service > two million through a transformed media platform
- ◀ Ensure equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Delivery of 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free of discrimination
- ◀ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and BFAWSL

These are underpinned by eight Serve objectives, ensuring maintenance of brilliant business-as-usual services to support the growing and evolving needs of the game:

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

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

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

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

- ◀ ***Grow and nurture the core***
  - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
  - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
  - ◀ Invest in club facilities
  - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
  - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions

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- ◀ **Inspire through elite teams**
  - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
  - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
  - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
  - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
  
- ◀ **Make cricket accessible**
  - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
  - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
  - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
  - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
  - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
  
- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
  - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
  - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
  - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
  
- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
  - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
  - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
  - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
  - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
  
- ◀ **Support our communities**
  - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
  - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
  - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
  - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

### ***The Rugby Football Union Strategy (2021)***

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

#### ***Game Objectives***

- ◀ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◀ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◀ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◀ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

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### *Driving Objectives*

- ◀ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ◀ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ◀ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- ◀ Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

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

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Rugby Football League Strategic Plan (2015-2021)***

The RFL's most recent strategy aims to establish rugby league as "a growing sport, available throughout the country, that is recognised as providing positive experience for all participants and spectators, in environments that are welcoming, inclusive, vibrant, safe and comfortable - encouraging people to return again and again, featuring:

- ◀ Financially viable and sustainable professional clubs creating stable employment opportunities, showcasing local, national and international playing talent, and leading the sport's development - and making a difference - in their own communities;
- ◀ Welcoming community clubs, putting players first, offering recreational enjoyment for children and adults alike in a safe and inclusive environment;

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- ◀ A central organisation that stands out for excellence, innovation, mutual respect, integrity and inclusion that understands its role in servicing the wider sport;
- ◀ A sports that lives its values in all its decisions and actions.

This vision is underpinned by 13 core principles, including:

- ◀ **An integrated whole sport.** Each constituent part of the sport will have a responsibility to ensure the good health of the entire game;
- ◀ **Return on investment.** Investment will be targeted to ensure the sustainability of member clubs, and growth in the number and quality of players thus seeking an effective return for the game;
- ◀ **Financial parameters.** Financial distributions will be undertaken to ensure the whole of the game will move forward together;
- ◀ **Geographic expansion.** Geographic expansion of the sport should be carried out in a proportionate and sustainable manner.

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

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

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

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

#### ***England Netball***

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year ‘Adventure Strategy’ for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

England Netball’s ‘Adventure Strategy’ shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

The ‘Adventure Strategy’ outlines the intention to:-

- ◀ accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,
- ◀ elevate the visibility of the sport, and
- ◀ lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.



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The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

The elite game is in focus too, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority, focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events, and creating more careers in the sport.

Grounded in feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women's sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

#### *Facility Development*

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

- ◀ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- ◀ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- ◀ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.
- ◀ For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:-
- ◀ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- ◀ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ◀ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- ◀ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ◀ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ◀ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

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### ***Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy***

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

#### **Objectives**

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
  - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
  - ◀ The number of children playing tennis once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

#### **Strategies**

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

# LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## APPENDIX 3: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

### Grass football pitch non-technical assessment sheet

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

# LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## Cricket pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Cricket										
Please complete one form per pitch										
<b>Site reference</b>				<b>Site Name</b>						
<b>6 figure grid reference</b>				<b>No of Pitches:</b>						
<b>Pitch ID</b>				<b>No of wickets:</b>	Natural		Non turf			
<b>Weather at time of visit:</b>										
<b>Availability</b>										
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused										
<b>General comments/observations</b>										
*You will need a cricket ball and ruler to assess wicket quality as indicated										
<b>Assessment Criteria</b> (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer).										
Element	Rating				Guidance notes	Site comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)				
<b>About the cricket outfield</b>										
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Poor	<80% falls below the ECB basic standard					
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Poor	Ideally 12mm - 25mm					
Evenness	Even	Uneven	Uneven	Uneven	Ball should run without deviation or ramp					
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	Immediate action required	May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager					
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	Immediate action required	e.g. informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager					
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	Immediate action required	e.g. from vermin/animals - rabbit, gulls and foxes etc may also wish to refer to user survey					
<b>section total</b>										
<b>Artificial Wickets</b>										
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes	No	No	No	There should be no trip points					
Evenness of wicket	Even	Uneven	Uneven	Uneven	There should be no contours in surface levels					
Stump holes	Yes	No	No	No	Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball					
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes	No	No	No	There should be none					
Rips or surface lifting	Yes	No	No	No	If "yes" contact site manager					
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes	No	No	No	If "yes" contact site manager					
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes	No	No	No						
<b>section total</b>										
<b>Grass Wickets</b>										
Presence of line markings	Yes	No	No	No						
Evidence of rolling	Yes	No	No	No	i.e. is wicket smooth and uniform					
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes	No	No	No	3mm on match wicket/12mm rest of square					
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes	No	No	No						
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes	No	No	No	Scale: 80%+ = Yes, 80%> = No					
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound/bounce?	Yes	No	No	No	Please note that <80% falls below the ECB basic standard					
<b>section total</b>										
<b>Changing/Pavilion</b>										
Umpires provision	Yes	No	No	No						
Toilets	Yes	No	No	No						
Hot/cold water	Yes	No	No	No						
Heating	Yes	No	No	No						
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention	Requires attention						
<b>section total</b>										
<b>Non Turf Cricket Practice Nets</b>										
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes	No	No	No						
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even	Uneven	Uneven	Uneven						
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes	No	No	No						
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes	No	No	No						
No rips or surface lifting	Yes	No	No	No						
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes	No	No	No						
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes	No	No	No						
Is the steel frame/ posts upright?	Yes	No	No	No	Ideally assessed with a spirit level but can be achieved by eye.					
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes	No	No	No						
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes	No	No	No						
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes	No	No	No						
Is appropriate safety/ supervisory signage present?	Yes	No	No	No						
<b>section total</b>										
<b>Maximum score</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Scoring</b>		<b>Score</b>	<b>Percentage Score</b>	<b>Facility Present?</b>				
		0	0%	No						
		0	0%	No						
		0	0%	No						
		0	0%	No						
		0	0%	No						
		<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>							
		<b>Overall score</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>					
		<b>Potential Rating:</b>		<b>Poor</b>						

# LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## Grass rugby union pitch non-technical assessment sheet

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

# LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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

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



# LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## Grass rugby league pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Quality Assessment - Rugby League	
Please complete one form per pitch	
<b>Site reference</b>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
<b>6 figure grid reference</b>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
<b>Number of rugby league pitches on availability?</b>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
<small>Community Use - used, Community Use - reserved, No Community Use, Available but reserved</small>	
<b>Weather at time of visit</b>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
<b>Site Name</b>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
<b>Pitch ID(s)</b>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
<b>Pitch size</b>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/> (Senior, Junior, Primary)
<b>Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?</b>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
<b>Pitch Issues:</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>

**Assessment Criteria** (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments	Scores
<b>Playing surface</b>								
Grass Coverage	Good	Adequate	Fair	Poor	Very poor	>90% Good <80% Fair		●
Size of pitch	Prefered size	Meet minimum size	Not adequate			See RFL Pitch Size Guidance: <a href="http://www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk">www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk</a>		●
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Good	Adequate	Fair	Poor	Very poor			●
Length of grass	Good	Adequate	Fair	Poor	Very poor	20mm - 60mm: <a href="http://www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/">www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/</a>		●
Evenness of pitch	Flat	Moderate	Severe					●
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots					●
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots					●
Typical weekly usage (match equivalent sessions)	6 or less	7 - 9	10 plus			Refer to club survey & other information gathered		●
Does the maintenance schedule meet RFL requirements?	Yes	In part	No			See RFL Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch: <a href="http://www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/">www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/</a>		●
<b>Section total</b>								<b>0</b>
<b>Pitch ancillary facilities</b>								
Are goalposts safe?	Yes			No				●
Is the site secure at night?	Secure			Open				●
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes			No				●
Is the pitch enclosed by perimeter fence?	Yes			No				●
Is there a training area separate to match pitch(es)?	Yes			No				●
Is there a covered stand?	Yes			No				●
<b>Section total</b>								<b>0</b>
<b>Ancillary facilities</b>								
Is there a clubhouse or site?	Yes			No				●
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes			No				●
Adequacy of changing accommodation (exterior)?	Good	Adequate	Fair	Poor				●
Adequacy of changing accommodation (interior)?	Good	Adequate	Fair	Poor				●
Is there an officials room?	Yes			No				●
Is there a dedicated medical room?	Yes			No				●
Are accessible facilities provided?	Yes			No				●
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes			No				●
<b>Section total</b>								<b>0</b>

# LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## Bowling green non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green						
KKPref						
Site name:						
Number of greens						
Flat/crown		Community Use?				
Assessment Criteria						
(please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)						
Element	Rating			Comments		
About the greens						
Grass cover	Over 70%	<input type="checkbox"/>	40-69%	<input type="checkbox"/>	less than 40%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evenness of surface	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signs of wear and tear	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>
Condition of ditches/boarding	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ancillary facilities						
Changing Accomodation	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toilets	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car parking	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General comments about the site:						

# LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Tennis and netball court non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Courts											
KKPref	<input type="text"/>										
Site name:	<input type="text"/>										
Number of courts -	Tennis	Netball	Basketball	Five-a-side							
General Playground or specific sports court area?	<input type="text"/>										
Court surface	Management		Community Use?								
	Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale		Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School								
<b>Assessment Criteria</b> (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)											
Element	Rating						Comments				
<b>About the courts</b>											
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Grip underfoot	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Line markings - quality	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Surrounding fencing	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Size of courts	Yes - fully	<input type="checkbox"/>	No - but adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	No - not adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully	<input type="checkbox"/>	No - but adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	No - not adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Slope of courts	Flat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Slight	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gentle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Severe	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<b>Changing Accomodation</b>											
Changing Accomodation	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>							
<b>About the equipment</b>											
Posts and net	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Practice wall	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>							